

Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

AUGUST 6, TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

An excerpt from the "Libellus" of Blessed Jordan of Saxony, Second Master of the Order of Friars Preachers
Concerning St. Dominic, Father of the Preachers (feast August 8)

But more splendid than Dominic's miracles were his sublime character and burning zeal, which indisputably proved him a true vessel of honor and grace, a vessel adorned with every precious stone. His mind always retained its usual calm, unless he was stirred by compassion and mercy; and, because a joyful heart begets a cheerful face, he manifested the peaceful harmony within his soul by his cordial manner and his pleasant countenance. So steadfastly did he adhere to a decision reached before God that he seldom, if ever, changed a resolve born of due reflection.

And, while the joy which shone in his features bore witness to a clear conscience, the light of his countenance was not cast down to the ground. This cheerfulness is what enabled him so easily to win everyone's affection, for, as soon as they looked at him, they were captivated. No matter where he happened to be, whether on a journey with his companions or in the house of a stranger, or even in the presence of princes, prelates, or other dignitaries, his conversation was always edifying and abounded with allusions which would draw his hearers toward love for Christ and away from love of the world. At all times his words and his works proclaimed him a man of the Gospel.

During the day, none was more affable, none more pleasant to his brethren or associates. At night none was more instant in prayer or watching. In the evening, tears found a place with him and, in the morning, gladness. The daytime he shared with his neighbor, but the night he dedicated to God, for he knew that, in the daytime, God has commanded His mercy, and a canticle to Him in the night. He wept frequently; indeed, his tears were his bread day and night. In the day he shed tears during his Mass and, at night, during his untiring vigils.

A certain discreet and virtuous friar declared that he had observed our blessed father for seven nights to see how he spent his nightwatches. He tells us that, standing at one time, then kneeling, then prostrating himself on the ground, he continued his prayer until he felt sleepy. Then he would rouse himself and visit one altar after another. This would go on until midnight. Then, quietly, he would go where the brethren were sleeping and cover anyone requiring it. After that he returned to the church and continued praying. The same friar said, also, that, often when serving him at Mass, he noticed the tears flowing from his eyes as he turned to take the wine and water after receiving the Body of the Lord. Often when the Lord's body was being elevated during Mass, he became rapt in spirit as though he saw Christ present in the flesh. For this reason, he did not hear Mass with the others for a long time.

It was his custom to spend so much of the night in the church that he hardly seemed to have a bed in which he rested. At night he continued his prayer and watching as long as his weak body could endure it. When sleep overcame his tired body and slackened spirit, he would rest his head, after the manner of the patriarch Jacob, upon a stone before the altar or some other place. After a brief rest, he would rouse his spirit and continue his fervent prayer. Using an iron chain, he administered the discipline upon himself three times every night; one was for himself, the second for sinners still living in the world, and the third for the souls suffering in purgatory.

All men were swept into the embrace of his charity, and, in loving all, he was beloved by all. His abundant piety spent itself in caring for his neighbor and in showing compassion to the wretched, for he claimed it his right to rejoice with the joyful and to weep with the sorrowful. What pleased everyone, too, was that, in the simplicity of his way, no word or work of his ever showed a trace of insincerity or pretense.

As a true friend of poverty, he wore shabby clothing. In food as well as in drink, he observed the strictest moderation, the firm mastery he held over the flesh enabling him to avoid delicacies and to be content with simple fare. He diluted the wine, so as neither to lose its benefit to the body nor to allow it to dull his fine and keen spirit.

Who would be able to imitate perfectly the virtue of this man? We can but admire his example and permit it to show us the inertia of our own times. But for anyone else to be able to accomplish what he accomplished would be a work, not of human power, but of a special grace of God's merciful goodness calling one to a like degree of holiness. Yet who would be worthy of that? Nevertheless we can, as far as possible, my brethren, walk in the steps of our father and, at the same time, give thanks to the Savior, Who has provided for His servants such a leader to follow in this road we travel and through him has regenerated us into the light of this religious state. Let us beseech the Father of mercies that, under the guidance of that Spirit by whom the children of God are led, we, too, by following the paths marked out by our fathers, may deserve to reach the same goal of perpetual felicity and eternal happiness which he has attained and enjoys forevermore. Amen.



Painting by Blessed Angelico (Fra Angelico) portrays St. Dominic holding his last will and testament. Translated, it reads: "Have charity, observe humility, possess voluntary poverty. May my curse and God's fall on him who brings possessions into this Order."

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MASS INTENTIONS

NEW SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE BEGINS

Sunday, Aug 6

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

5:00 pm Carolyn Awalt (+)
8:00am People of the parish
11:00am Gerry Kuhn (+)

18TH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME

Monday, Aug 7

9:00am Pat McLoughlin (+)

Tuesday, Aug 8

SAINT DOMINIC, PRIEST & FOUNDER (S)

9:00am Cecil Mary Soller (+)

Wednesday, Aug 9

St. Edith Stein (St. Benedicta a Cruce), Virgin & Martyr (Opt M)

9:00am William Heil Family

Thursday, Aug 10

ST. LAWRENCE, DEACON & MARTYR (F)

9:00am End to abortion

Friday, Aug 11

St. Clare, Virgin (M)

9:00am Fallen away Catholics

Sunday, Aug 13

19TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

5:00 pm Ernestine Dailey (+)
8:00am Louie Newsom
11:00am People of the parish

Please pray for the home-bound of the parish...

Margaret Gladys Abbott, Nancy Arledge, William & Jan Barry, Mary Batteiger, Gertrude Bell, Madelyn Bronkar, Mathilda Clark, Bart & Josephine Cooper, Mary Cowden, Herman Crock, Michael Curtis, Evelyn DiVincenzo, Shirley Echemann, Betty Fedor, Beverly Foley, Mary Ellen Grafton, Sandra Honeywell, Patricia Huck, Eileen Johnston, Mike Kline, Dorothy Loewendick, Henry Long, Nancy Longstreth, David Macenko, Dolores Mahon, Josephine Marshall, Charles & Patricia Perone, George Phillis, Alice Pitcock, Mary Polascak, Mary Postlewaite, Mary Rosta, George and Barb Ridenour, Joe and Barbara Ritchey, Regina Ritchey, Mardy Ryan, Mary Lou Scott, Barbara Schumacher, Loretta Silfko, Terri Woods

Please remember

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH

in your will

DEAR PARISHIONERS, This is the last time I'll address you in this bulletin as pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church. I hope I can leave you with some useful thoughts. St. Dominic wanted his brethren to be above all else useful to the salvation of their neighbors. And if we're not useful, then we're...well, useless.

I arrived here October 16, 2013, so it's just shy of four years that I've been here—an olympiad, as it were. My time here has been a great blessing for me. I've enjoyed the fraternal companionship of good and holy priests such as Fr. Hayes and Fr. Luke Tancrell. I've also come to see deep holiness in the lives of so many of the people that I have been called to serve. Sometimes it seems ironic that the Lord should ask priests to minister to people who are holier than they are themselves. But really there's no irony to it at all. God doesn't call men to the priesthood because they're holy but to make them holy through the working out of their vocation—just as he uses marriage in the case of most people, to make them holy through the unselfish gift of themselves to one another and the children born to them. He wants to humble us by disabusing us of the notion that the gifts he gives us are our due. A gift isn't a gift if it's due—that would be justice. And God owes us nothing in strict justice. Everything we have and are is gift, and that's especially true of a priestly calling, with all its stresses.

I'm grateful for these years, this time, at St. Thomas Aquinas. I go out in a time of extraordinary transition, and this makes things all the more difficult and painful for me. I hardly feel worthy to be the last Dominican priest to serve as pastor of this parish. But God's providence is disclosed in strange ways, and—as the saying goes—it is what it is. I can assure you of this much: Fr. Sullivan is keen to preserve the parish's Dominican patrimony—and its patrimony entirely, in fact. When I first spoke to him about the possibility of his coming here to take the reins as pastor (before he knew for certain he was coming), he told me what an honor it would be to serve this parish, both because of the Dominican history, but also because of the dedication the parishioners of this place have had historically, and still do to this day. I think you'll find him a very wise and steady hand at the wheel.

But please pray for him, and for me. Pray for St. Thomas Aquinas parish, that it be alive with the love of God, in imitation of our great patron Saint, the Doctor of the Church and lover of our Eucharistic Lord.
—*Fr. Peter*



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Lector Schedule

In lieu of a full schedule for all liturgical ministers, here is one for lectors, through the end of September—subject to revision. As for servers, we invite them to check in before Masses to see if they're needed. We never have a surplus of servers, so that's welcome. Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion we will call up to the sanctuary as needed.

Weekend of Aug 12/13

5pm M. A. Ewart
8am E. Bucknam
11am A. Hoffman

Weekend of Aug 19/20

5pm A. Morris
8am B. Mirgon
11am K. Johnson

Weekend of Aug 26/27

5pm M. A. Ewart
8am L. Baughman
11am J. Von Gunten

Weekend of Sep 2/3

5pm A. Morris
8am J. Steiger
11am T. Cano

Weekend of Sep 9/10

5pm M. A. Ewart
8am H. Smith
11am A. Hoffman

Weekend of Sep 16/17

5pm A. Morris
8am K. Gates
11am B. Mirgon

Weekend of Sep 23/24

5pm M. A. Ewart
8am S. Maxwell
11am K. Johnson

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, Aug 7

7:00 p.m. Scouts (Parish Center)

Tuesday, Aug 8

6:00 p.m. Rosary for Life (church)

Wednesday, Aug 9

Eucharistic exposition following noon Mass
7:00 p.m. Benediction
7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal (church)

Thursday, Aug 10

6:30 p.m. Bible Study (Parish Office)

PARISH FINANCES

Weekend of July 30

Main collection total.....\$6,751.27*
Weekly Budget 11,538.00
This week's deficit -4,786.73

Thank you!

** This figure includes envelope and loose amounts. It does not include automatic electronic donations.*

Upcoming special collections

This weekend The Church in Latin America
Aug 27 Trinity Dome/Basilica of the National Shrine
Sep 3 Catholic University of America
Sep 17 St. Vincent de Paul Society

Catholic Social Services

is sponsoring a Lottery Golf Scramble
August 12, 2017

(check in starts at 7:30 a.m., tee-off at 8:30)
with \$1,200 in prize money (\$500 grand prize)
(All teams eligible for grand prize "lottery drawing"
at the end of the event)

1st place for Scramble: \$400

2nd place for Scramble: \$300

\$260 fee per team (includes green fees, cart, lunch, beverages, and skins game)

Proceeds support the Payee Program at Catholic Social Services. Send checks to: Dave Desender, Catholic Social Services, P.O. Box 3446, Zanesville, OH 43702-3446. Include Team name, team members' names, and contact phone number. For more information contact Dave Desender at (740) 452-5057 (ext. 102).

NEXT SUNDAY,
August 13, 2017, 11:00 AM
Mass with Bishop Frederick Campbell



*to welcome Fr. Jan Sullivan as pastor of
St. Thomas Aquinas
and bid farewell to the
Dominican friars*

**Don't forget the rummage &
bake sale this weekend!**

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. today!