



“...a decree went out...that all the world should be enrolled...and all went to be registered.”

Dear Parishioners,

This Advent season, I invite you to follow in the footsteps of the Holy Family by formally enrolling as a parishioner at Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. As a parish served for 197 years by Dominican priests whose appointments most recently were an average of only three years, some administrative operations have inadvertently fallen by the wayside. One basic necessity we are missing is an accurate census. Some membership information is stored on one of the parish office computers; some registration forms can be found in dusty three-ring binders on a shelf in the parish office; we also refer to a decade-old directory. None of these sources are fully compatible with diocesan records. **This is a source of distress for me as your parish priest, for how can I effectively shepherd my flock if I cannot accurately identify my sheep?** The good news is that this situation is easily rectified!

Here's what I request you to do:

- **Please complete the enclosed Parish Re-Registration Form.** Print legibly and be as thorough as possible. The new computerized census program that we are investing in will have space for each piece of information requested; *the more information you provide, the more complete the record will be*, and the more useful our reporting will be (by demographic, by sacrament, by ministry, etc.). Sacramental information is especially important, as by Diocesan policy we must keep up-to-date information on the sacramental life of parishioners. If you do not have this information, you can obtain it from the church where the sacrament was celebrated.

To assist you in completing the new Parish Re-Registration Form, I have included the latest Parish Census Data Sheet (yellow) that we have available on you. This information is provided by the Diocese of Columbus. Chances are, it does not agree with your current information – so you can see why this re-registration is imperative! A few things to keep in mind:

- Should any children currently listed on the (yellow) form as part of your family be 26 years of age or older, they should be individually registered as their own family unit, separate from you. Do not include these adult children on *your* re-registration form. Please invite them to complete a new registration form separate from yours. I would be happy to mail them their own registration packet if you provide contact information; please call the Parish Office at 740-453-3301 to do so.
- Should any person listed on the (yellow) diocesan form be deceased, please accept our condolences. Indicate this by crossing through this form, writing the word “deceased” next to their name, and returning the (yellow) form to me. Include the year of passing if known. Their record will then be updated accordingly.
- If there is no (yellow) diocesan form included, this means that you are not currently a registered member of Saint Thomas Aquinas. I invite you to become one!

Information will be handled confidentially.

(more on reverse)

- **Insert your completed form into the envelope provided, along with your (yellow) diocesan form (if applicable) and bring it to our “RE-REGISTRATION RALLY” in Rosary Hall following each of the Masses on December 9 or 10.** Office staff will be on hand to help ensure that your form is completed correctly to be placed into our NEW OFFICIAL CENSUS.

Refreshments will be provided by the Knights of Columbus and each family who returns their form will receive two chances at valuable door prizes* to include:

- \$100 gift certificate to Old Market House Inn
- \$50 gift certificate to Cinemark Colony Square Cinemas
- \$25 gift certificate to Colony Square Mall
- “surprise” certificates to area merchants

You are also welcome to return your completed paperwork through the mail or by dropping it into the offertory baskets at any of our weekend Masses. Those families who return their paperwork in this manner will receive one chance at door prizes.*

PLEASE NOTE:

IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS MAILING, A RESPONSE IS REQUESTED.

I have been your Pastor for only a short time, and I need your involvement in helping us set our future direction. **This is a necessary and vital first step** in celebrating who we are as a parish family and what we plan to become. As we look to the future, there is so much potential and so many opportunities! Please join me in this journey of renewed faith and celebration. I look forward to hearing from you!

Peace & blessing,

The Reverend JCP Sullivan
Parish Priest

*Door prizes winners will be announced at Masses the weekend of December 16 & 17; re-registration forms must be received in the parish office no later than noon on December 15 to be eligible for the drawing.

Please note: Failure to re-register will move you to “inactive” status with both Saint Thomas Aquinas Church and the Diocese of Columbus.

Why Register at Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church?

We are a warm and welcoming community who:

- Seek to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior;
- Grow in knowledge and understanding of the riches of the Catholic Faith;
- Love God with all our heart, all our strength and all our soul and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Please join us for the many activities and experiences taking place at Saint Thomas Aquinas this Advent and Christmastide:

- Pick up your copy of The Magnificat Advent Companion for your daily Advent devotions and reflections, available in the rear of the church;
- Look in the bulletin each week for a new Advent insert with prayers, activities and reflections for the whole family as we make our way to Christmas.

December 2 Family Advent Wreath Craft Day

Make your own live Advent Wreath to celebrate the season of Advent with Greg Orofino of Florofino Flower Market. Bring your own pruning shears; all other supplies provided.
2 p.m. in Rosary Hall

December 3 First Sunday of Advent with Blessing of the Advent Wreaths

Place your wreath in front of the ambo prior to Mass
Saturday at 5 p.m. or Sunday at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Church

December 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

A Holy Day of Obligation; the Catholic Church teaches that from the very moment of her conception, the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from all stain of original sin
Masses at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the Church

December 10 Second Sunday of Advent

Masses Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Church

December 11 Advent Parish Mission

Reclaiming Catholic Culture: Our Lady of Guadalupe: The Invisible Made Visible
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Liturgy of the Word, Recitation of the Holy Rosary, and Benediction with Father Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA of the Tabor Life Institute
7 p.m. in the Church

December 12 Advent Parish Mission

Reclaiming Catholic Culture: Our Lady of Guadalupe: The Invisible Made Visible
Celebrate Mass with Father Loya on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
7 p.m. in the Church

(more on reverse)

December 17 Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)
Bring your figure of the Christ Child - the "Bambinelli" - from your family's Christmas crèche, to be blessed during Mass, following the tradition of Pope Francis Masses Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Church

Advent Lessons and Carols

A service of readings and music from the Church's Advent treasury celebrating the joyful and expectant waiting of the Advent season
4 p.m. in the Church with reception following in Rosary Hall

December 18 Parish Advent Penance Service
Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as we prepare our hearts and souls for Christmas; several priests will join us to individually hear confessions
7 p.m. in the Church

December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Masses Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Church

Christmas Vigil Mass

5 p.m. in the Church

Christmas Midnight Mass

12 Midnight in the Church; carols begin at 11:30 p.m.

December 25 Christmas Day Mass
9:30 in the Church

December 26 Baby Shower for Jesus
through Feb 2 Place your new baby items (onesies, disposable diapers, lotion, blankets, booties, binkies, diaper wipes, etc.) at the creche to honor our newborn King; items will be donated to Heartbeats for distribution to mothers and their newborns in need.

January 18-20 March for Life Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C.
Visit the Nation's Capital, celebrate the National Vigil for Life Mass at the National Shrine Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, visit the National Shrine of Saint John Paul II, participate in the Nation March for Life, Celebrate Mass at the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and pray at the Lourdes Shrine Grotto in Emmitsburg, Maryland; contact the Parish Office for further information

**We want you to be a part of us at
Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic
Church!**