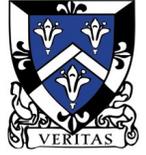




# St. Thomas Aquinas Church

September 21, 2014, 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time



## Pastor's Corner

I can't believe we're already more than halfway through September. I find myself saying the something similar each month. An adult's experience of time is much different than that of kids, who are impatient for their birthday or another Christmas to come around again. I'm especially sensitive to the rapid passage of time whenever I hear of the death of someone I know, especially in the parish.

There's a reason the Church has always counseled meditating on our natural frailty and mortality. It is meant to give courage and hope, not a morbid sadness—because, as the preface of funeral Masses states, “Indeed, for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven.” We were not made for this world only, but for immortality—this is something which bears continual pondering on our part, a pondering which can relativize the natural fear and repugnance we naturally feel for death—if we really do believe it. God didn't make us to die. He didn't stir up all sorts of hopes, and accustom us to love and friendship and good food and gorgeous sunsets so that they could be snatched away and give way to personal annihilation. *That's* a message that's clearly depressing—and it's one which many hold. But it's not the Gospel. Terrifying as death is, it's not the “last thing.” God did not make death. It entered the world through sin.

Yet even now, Jesus has swallowed up death by his own death and has rendered it, ultimately, toothless. Without Christ, death would be final, but now by his own resurrection he has made it something medicinal—something we, too, need to suffer, but which is *itself* conquered in our patient enduring of it, if we cling to Jesus all the way through it.

It's impossible to know what human existence would have been like had man never sinned—but it would have been much different. It would have been deathless, for one thing. Without suffering. We would have been nobler, more loving, more intelligent, more free. We would have been more akin to God in the unimpeded exercise of our natural powers (because sin wouldn't have been there to block them). But it's hard for us to imagine that, because all we know now is the sad *status quo* in which we're mired for now. Our horizons are limited; sin has handicapped us. Our imagination fails us, and it's quite easy to “picture” the afterlife as consisting of people wearing long white robes, with angel wings sprouting out their backs and playing harps. But that's a caricature of the tremendous promises of God whose attainment is yet future. We won't be *less* but *more* real than we are now—more fully ourselves, more substantial, wiser, more loving. That's Heaven, any-

way, which is by no means assured us as an outcome. The point here is that Heaven and its inhabitants are not wraiths or fairies, for Heaven is not a fairy tale. No one ever dreamt it up—no one could have. It had to be revealed to us by God, and even now, we need to be careful to check our imaginations of the ridiculous notions that make it hard to take seriously—the clouds and the harps and all treacly stuff.

One of our parishioners said something recently that amazed me. We had just celebrated a Mass on the anniversary of his wife's death for the repose of her soul. I expressed my condolences to him after the Mass, and said, “You must really miss her.” He said, “Oh, I do, but you know what? I'm still happy for her. She's with the living. I'm the one that's still among the dead.” I think I gasped. That was a perfect expression of Christian hope in the resurrection. “She's with the living; I'm still among the dead.” It's true. Those of us who are still on our way to death are, in a sense, the dead—“dead men walking.” It's only a matter of time before each one of us meets his maker. Christians who have already died—if found worthy of the Kingdom—are indeed more truly alive now than we, for they have followed the Lord in his passage through death to new life. They are with God, or will be after their period of purification. We on earth can only hope that we persevere in the race and merit a share in that blessedness.

*Tempus fugit*—time flies. And no matter when we expect to die, it's always sooner than we think or would like. This is supposed to sober us, not frighten us—because we believe that the Incarnate God has tasted death and removed its eternal poison. It is now a one-dimensional enemy. It's still an enemy, to be sure, for no one wants (or should want) to die. But it cannot separate us from the love of Christ. Nothing can do that. Nothing except our own lack of faith, hope, and charity. —Fr. Peter

**Altar server training.** Last week in this column I asked for input on a good day and time for scheduling altar server training. As of this writing, I have received one response. I am tentatively planning the training session for Saturday, October 4, at 10:00 a.m. Unless I hear from more people with alternative proposals, we'll stick with that. (That's the day of the Beauty of the Feminine Conference, if that makes any difference to family schedules.)

**Shut-ins.** Starting this week, I'm running the names of the shut-in/homebound of the parish, that people might pray for them. (Also, the names of the recently deceased.) This list no doubt needs updating, so if you can help me with that, please do (especially if someone on the list has died.) And if you know of anyone who should be placed on the list of the home-bound, please let us know. And as always, let me know if anyone you know has been neglected and needs the sacraments or a visit from a priest.



# St. Thomas Aquinas Church

September 21, 2014, 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time



## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Sun, Sep 21</b>	<b>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
5:00pm	Bob & Bette Mattingly (+)
7:00am	Beverly McLoughlin (+)
9:00am	People of the Parish
11:00am	Roger Arnold (+)
<b>Mon, Sept 22</b>	
8:00am	Ryan & Tom Montgomery (+)
Noon	Poor Souls in Purgatory
<b>Tue, Sept 23</b>	St. Pio of Pietrelcina, priest (M)
8:00am	Leo & Mary Louise McLoughlin & Family
<b>Wed, Sept 24</b>	
8:00am	Fallen-away Catholics
Noon	Charles & Leota Schaumleffel (+)
<b>Thu, Sept 25</b>	
8:00am	Ralph & Kay Mils (+)
<b>Fri, Sept 26</b>	
8:00am	Virginia Scheltz (+)
Noon	Leo Burkhart (+)
<b>Sat, Sept 27</b>	St. Vincent de Paul, priest (M)
9:00am	Beverly McLoughlin (+)
<b>Sun, Sep 28</b>	<b>26th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
5:00pm	Don Frame & Family
7:00am	Fr. Luke Turon O.P. (+)
9:00am	Jeannette Harnetty (+)
11:00am	People of the Parish

(Incense will not be used at 7:00am Masses; it may be used at other Sunday Masses, as well as evening Masses on Holy Days of Obligation.)

## 2nd Collections

September 20/21: Church in the Middle East  
September 27/28: Muskingum Valley Right to Life

## Parish Finance

### Week of September 15, 2014

Envelopes (267).....	\$7,721.00
Loose.....	858.25
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>8,579.25</b>
Weekly Budget.....	11,538.00
Deficit .....	2,958.75

Thank you!

## Please pray for the home-bound of the parish:

Margaret Gladys **Abbott**, Maxine **Anders**, Fred & Mary Ann **Baker**, William & Jan **Barry**, Josephine **Basalla**, Dorothy **Beaver**, Gertrude **Bell**, Nydia **Bermudez**, Virginia **Bichard**, Madelyn **Bronkar**, Paul **Bryson**, Graycee **Burkhart**, Donna **Carpenter**, Rita **Christ**, Mathilda **Clark**, Betty **Colopy**, Golda **Cornell**, Mary **Cowden**, Michael **Curtis**, Ernestine **Daily**, Agnes **Dillon**, Jeanne **Dittmar**, Paul & Marcy **DuBeck**, Helen **Duplinsky**, Getty **Fedor**, Richard **Finan**, Fred **Finnen**, Jenni **Finnen**, Claude & Beverly **Foley**, Rita **Fouch**, Marcia **Fulk**, Rose **Geiler**, Dorothy **George**, Isabel **Gilchrist**, Mary Ellen **Grafton**, Elizabeth **Green**, Marguerite **Green**, Evelyn **Grywalski**, Em-sley **Hall**, James **Hall**, Moses **Hall**, Thomas **Hall**, Nancy **Hamler**, Joseph **Hammersly**, Tommy **Hardwick**, Mr. & Mrs. Jack **Hartnett**, Virginia **Helbling**, Laura **Hemmer**, Florence **Herbert**, Gabrielle **Hinkle**, Jerry **Hoffman**, Leona **Hohman**, Ruth **Hohman**, Patricia **Huck**, George **Huth**, Helene **Imlay**, Mary **Imlay**, Mary Carolyn **Johnson**, Eileen **Johnston**, Evelyn **Kapple**, Margaret **Kinney**, Blaine & Josephine **Kocolowski**, Teddy **Kolometz**, Josephine **Lanzillotta**, Mary **Lawrence**, Floyd **Lemon**, Patricia **Lineman**. Henry **Long**, Betty **Longfellow**, Dorothy **Lynn**, David **Macenko**, Farida **Mach**, Kathleen **Mansfield**, Josephine **Marshall**, Carl **Master**, John **Mattingly**, Virginia **Mbiad**, Alice **McGonagle**, Betty **Mercer**, Gene **Michael**, Irene **Mingus**, Michael **Overstreet**, Daniel **Paul**, Joann **Paul**, Joe **Paul**, Loretta **Paynter**, Patricia **Perrone**, Gerald and Glenna **Pfeifer**, Alice **Pitcock**, Mary **Polascak**, Mary **Postlewaite**, Dorothy **Pruden**, George & Barb **Ridenour**, Georgia **Robinson**, Sarah **Robinson**, Mae **Saad**, Joan **Schaffer**, George **Scherba**, Myrna **Schneider**, Edith **Schramm**, Barbara **Schumacher**, Charles & Mary Lou **Scott**, Loretta **Sfliko**, Elaine **Smith**, Rosemary **Tenent**, Theresa **Tracey**, Teresa **Woods**, Terri **Woods**, Charlie **Weaver**, Patricia **Weizbiski**, Patricia **Yurich**

## Please pray for the recently deceased of the parish:

Tri Thien Nguyen

## Weekly Calendar

### Sunday, Sep 21

10:00 a.m. CCD (School)

Coffee and doughnuts after 9:00 and 11:00 (Rosary Hall)

### Monday, Sep 22

7:00 p.m.: Children of God prayer group (Parish ctr.)

### Tuesday, Sep 23

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

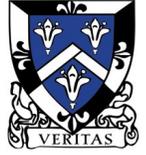
### Wednesday, Sep 24

7:00 p.m. Women's Conf Mtg. (Library)



# St. Thomas Aquinas Church

September 21, 2014, 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time



## A History of St. Thomas Aquinas Church Part XVI – Consecrated to the Worship of God – Part II

The article from the local newspaper dated from May 1929 continues: *The ancient altar, which no one in the parish can recall having seen, is about eight feet long and three feet wide. It was built of brick, covered with plaster and painted with a flaming heart, symbolical of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is of crude construction and not particularly beautiful, but stands as a memorial to the long dead workmen who, with the crudest of materials, brought forth a work which has already lasted almost a century. The heavy stone slab covering the top was broken by the pressure exerted upon it and for this reason, although a consecrated altar, it may again be consecrated by Right Rev. J. J. Hartley, bishop of Columbus.*

*The exact date when the wooden covering was built over the original structure is a matter of conjecture. The oldest members of the church cannot recall any change in the appearance of the altar, but it is thought that it was erected about the period of the Civil War.*

*St. Thomas church is one of the oldest and most beautiful in the city. The present structure was built in 1842, and at the time of construction was the only church of true Gothic architecture in the state. Recently examined by experts, it was found that the heavy wooden beams supporting the church were giving way under the constant strain, and steel girders were installed in place of wooden supports. The upper and lower churches were also renovated and placed in better condition, so that at present time the church is even stronger than when first constructed. Then the new marble altar is erected, the dreams of Rev. Fr. J. P. Roach, O.P., pastor of the church, will be finally realized.*

*The original altar was built before the days of the railroads and the brick was either made here or brought here overland or by boats. The brick and masonry are both in excellent state of preservation, no decay being apparent in the bricks. In the sepulcher of the altar a solid tin box was found, containing relics of the saints. There was not a sign of rust on the box after all these years. The box is being preserved and will be returned to its resting place of nearly 100 years during the erection of the new altar.*

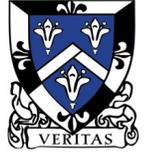
*That the idea of marble decoration, seen frequently of late, is not entirely new, is evident from the decoration on the old altar where a very crude imitation of marble, red onyx, was employed to decorate the sides. The miters were also crudely drawn and while it is evident that the people of that day lacked artistic and creative ability, it can be said of them that they had good materials to work with for all the colors are bright and well preserved after all these years.*





# St. Thomas Aquinas Church

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## Parish Life

### The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Fall is rapidly approaching with changes all around us. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults sessions have already begun. We may recognize some changes within us as well, as God invites us to draw closer to Him in the Catholic Faith. For those who are interested in becoming Catholic, or for those who may have been baptized Catholic, but never raised or fully initiated in the Catholic Church, why not join us for the RCIA process? If you have any questions, please call Melanie Von Gunten at (740) 453-3301, extension 15.

**Neighbor Helping Neighbor** Saturday, September 27th. 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. High School Students will be available to help with fall projects and minor home repairs. If you have a job for our students, call Patty Boggs at (740) 453-5173. We will be happy to put you on the list.

**Beauty of the Feminine Conference** All women of Saint Thomas Aquinas parish and friends are invited to a day of fellowship, fun, food, and faith for women. Please join us for the 3rd annual *Beauty of the Feminine: Fruitful Vine Catholic Women's Conference*, Saturday, October 4th, at the Saint Thomas Activity Center. Registration and breakfast 7:15am, and the first talk is 8:00am. The conference ends at 4:30pm. Cost is \$20 for those registering before September 27th; after that, \$25. Special fee for students and religious is \$10. Please send checks to the attention of Maria Horn at the parish office with "Beauty of the Feminine Women's Conference" in memo line, along with the names of those registering. For more information, call the parish office or visit [www.thebeautyofthefeminine.weebly.com](http://www.thebeautyofthefeminine.weebly.com). "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1: 38).

**Are you registered in our parish?** Sometimes it is the one thing people don't think to do when they attend Mass. If you are new to our Parish or are a person who was born into our Parish, but never registered, we may not have you listed as a member. Please contact the Parish Office and we will be glad to send out a registration form, because we don't want to miss you. If you are already registered, but your address or phone number has changed, please call the Parish Office to update your information. Thank you!

## Varia

**Birthday Open House** Come celebrate Joe Pishner's 90th birthday! Sunday, September 21st from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Join us out at the Knight's of Columbus Hall, Sunrise Center, Zanesville. Light refreshments will be available. No gifts - your presence is your gift.

**Life Chain** The 13th Annual National Prayer Chain to raise public awareness and to lift our prayers to God to end abortion will be held on **Sunday, October 5th from 2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** We will line the streets of Maple Avenue. Parking and sign-pick up at Dr. Kevin Colopy's parking lot (across from Taco Bell). Please come and publicly pray with us for life, while we still have the freedom to do so. If unable to stand for that length of time, feel free to bring a lawn chair. Life Chain is a national pro-life event and is sponsored locally by Muskingum Valley Right to Life. Please feel free to call Helen at (740) 454-7529 or Bernie at (740) 454-1882. Please join us for an hour of prayer.

### A word of thanks from Sr. Maureen

Words cannot begin to express how grateful I am for the opportunity of serving you here at St. Thomas for the past fourteen years. I am humbled by your loving concern and can only promise you my continued prayers and thoughts. I am grateful, too, for the Dominicans who saw the needs of the sick, the elderly and the bereaved which gifted me so richly. Thank you. I leave you with the blessing of St. Clare.

*May almighty God bless you.*

*May almighty God bless you.*

*May God look upon you with the eyes of great mercy,  
And give you much peace.*

*May God pour forth all graces on you abundantly,  
And in heaven, may God place you among the Saints.*

*Sr. Mary Gloria, of*

*In loving gratitude.*

### Knights of Columbus breakfast

On Sunday September 28th the Knights of Columbus will be offering hot breakfast in Rosary Hall after all Masses. There is no cost for the breakfast, but donations will help support Heartbeats of Muskingum Valley to purchase a new ultrasound machine. Come out and support this great cause.



# St. Thomas Aquinas Church

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## Catholic Community News & Events

**Breakfast with the Bishop** Friday, October 3, 2014  
7:45 - 9 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High Street, Columbus. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Speakers for the event are Bishop Frederick F. Campbell and Jodi Pfarr, Minneapolis, MN, *Bridges Out of Poverty* certified trainer, advocate, and teacher. All proceeds from the breakfast will support the programs and services of CSS. For tickets or event sponsorship call Peggy Welch at (614) 857.1254 or visit the website: [www.colscss.org](http://www.colscss.org).

**Healing for the divorced** A Catholic Divorce Survival Guide Training will be offered Thu., Oct 2, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Grove City. Keynote Speaker is Rose Sweet, author and frequent speaker on divorce and annulments. Registration fee: \$45. Contact the Marriage & Family Life Office of the Diocese at [familylife@colsdio.org](mailto:familylife@colsdio.org) or at (614) 241-2560.

**Diocesan Family Rosary Day** will be celebrated this year on Sunday, Oct 12, at 3:00 p.m. at Saint Joseph's Cathedral. Bishop Frederick Campbell will preside. Success for this celebration requires your prayers, but also your material support. Please consider making a donation of \$20 or more. All contributors will be named in the Family Rosary Day program booklet. Printing deadline is Sep 19, so please respond by then to have your name included.



Checks should be made out to Diocese of Columbus, and all donations should be sent to: Family Rosary Day, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215.

—Deacon Thomas M. Berg, Jr., Chancellor of the Diocese

## Around the Diocese

**The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women** will be having their 69th annual convention on Saturday, October 25, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Grove City (3720 Broadway). The theme of this year's convention is "Blessed are the Poor," and speakers include Valerie Horton, Maggie Weeks, Brooke Gaberle, and Bishop Frederick F. Campbell. Registration fee is \$30; fee for the Pre-convention dinner is an additional \$20. Registration forms available online at [dccw.colsdio.org](http://dccw.colsdio.org). Questions can be addressed to the DCCW office at (614) 228-8601 or by email at [dccwmailbox@colsdio.org](mailto:dccwmailbox@colsdio.org). Reservation deadline is October 1.



**The 8th annual Diocesan Marian Dinner** will be Wednesday, October 8, at 6:00 p.m., at the Bryce Eck Center at St. Andrew's, 3880 Reed Road, Columbus. Come for an evening of prayer, friendship, learning, and discerning about vocations for women. Presentations will be given by Bishop Frederick F. Campbell and Sr. Eileen Fitzsimmons, O. Carm. To register or get more information, call (614) 224-2251.