

*First Sunday of Advent ~ December 2, 2018*

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# St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

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*321 N Van Eps Ave ~ Madison, SD 57042*



## *Kayser Line*

A song has been rattling in my head as we start the Advent season. The song is "O Come All Ye Faithful." This is a song that we sing about this time of year and well into the Christmas season. What comes to my mind is that the fact that the song is calling all of the faithful to come to Christ. I find it fascinating that the words say nothing about the spiritual people to come to Christ. I have come across people that have said that they are spiritual people and because of that they don't have to come to church because they go directly to God for their prayers. However in my experience I have had no one who has faith tell me that. I would like to define each of these words if you don't mind. Let me start with the word "spiritual." Spiritual is defined as "relating to or affecting the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things." Now I would like to define the word Faith. Faith is defined as "strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof."

These two words are designed to be in conjunction with one another. So when someone tells me that they are not a faithful person but a spiritual person they then have defined themselves as relying solely upon themselves. Where a person who has Faith trusts in a God that is above them and they believe that this God will help them in their lives.

I know for myself I truly rely upon my faith in God. My parents handed on to me this faith in God. I have come to rely upon this faith to sustain me in my life to get me through the difficult times. I sometimes feel that I can do nothing without my faith and wonder how those who have no faith get by in life. When things get difficult for me I have fallen on my knees and have asked God to help me and I have truly come to believe that He will answer my prayers. Then when I get to the point that I feel that He has forgotten me, He has come and humbled me with an answer. Almost as if He has said to me "I told you that I will answer your prayer, just be patient." Does this feel familiar to anyone?

You see it is important to me that I have faith in someone other than myself. The reason for that is because I know that I have disappointed many people in my life and I also know that I have disappointed myself. I have learned that I do not put my faith in man because I get disappointed each time but when I put faith in the God above each and every time I am never disappointed.

So the differences for me between the two words are quite clear. A spiritual person only relies upon their own will while people who have Faith rely upon someone other than themselves. So there is a difference on how these words are used and how people define themselves in this world.

Please know of my prayers for you and I pray that your faith will grow and your belief in God may guide and help you in this world. God bless all of you and Happy Advent. I am not in the parish this weekend because of the winter meeting of the Knights of Columbus in Sioux Falls.

Love in JM&J

Fr. DeWayne Kayser

**MASSES THIS WEEK**

Monday	12/03		No Mass	
Tuesday	12/04	5:00 PM	Advent Weekday	†Scott Pedersen
Wednesday	12/05	8:00 AM	Advent Weekday	†Monica Huschle
Thursday	12/06	9:00 AM	Advent Weekday	†Tom Callahan
Friday	12/07	8:00 AM	St. Ambrose (First Friday)	For the reparation of sins
		<u>7:00 PM</u>	Vigil: Immaculate Conception	†Jack Zimmer
Saturday	12/08	<u>9:00 AM</u>	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin	†Charles Short
		5:00 PM	Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Advent	†Patricia Jacobsen
Sunday	12/09	8:00 AM	Second Sunday of Advent	Pro Populo
		10:00 AM		†Lois Zerfas

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT~ DECEMBER 2, 2018**



**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

for December 9, 2018  
 Second Sunday of Advent  
 Bar 5:1-9 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3:1-6

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE ~ NOVEMBER 25**

Support needed each week:	\$	8,654.
Total offering last week:	\$	8,821.
Difference to meet budget:	\$ +	167.
Needed budget accumulative:	\$	190,388.
Actual accumulative:	\$	180,623.
Difference to meet budget:	\$ -	9,765.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

**OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

December 8 is a **Holyday of Obligation**. Vigil Mass is at 7:00 PM on December 7, Holyday Mass at 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 8. This Mass does not fulfill the Sunday obligation.



**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

Classes are held in the parish office on Thursdays at 7:00 PM. The topic this week is *Sacraments of Healing — Reconciliation and Anointing*, next week Father will discuss *Examination of Conscience/ How to go to confession*.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Are available in the church entries or in the parish office. These memorial offerings will be used to purchase Christmas flowers and garland for the church. Names will be listed in the December 23 bulletin and need to be returned to the parish office by **December 17**.



**YDISCIPLE/HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Wednesday, December 12 beginning at 5:30 PM at the St. Thomas House. All YD groups and High School students are invited to join us for pizza, activities, a movie and more!

**FAMILY ADVENT NIGHT**

Instead of CCD/EDGE, a Family Advent Night will be held on Wednesday, December 5 from 6:00-7:00 pm in the gym. All parish families are invited, please join us for this fun evening!

**CONGRATULATIONS**

To those who received their First Holy Communion last Saturday: *Alejandra De La Torre, Jordan Frausto and Charles Aldana*. May the Holy Eucharist always be the center of your life.



**SHOWERING CHRIST'S LITTLE ONES**

Beginning December 2 and continuing through Christmas, you are invited to bring new, unwrapped baby gifts sizes newborn-12 months and place them in the crib in either entry of the church.

**THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

We welcome *Knox Michael Ruhd*, son of Tyler & Jill (Molstad) Ruhd. May God bless Knox and his family.



THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS

Sunday	12/02		First Sunday of Advent Fr. Bill Osborn here for both Masses Scrip sold & CDA Christmas Cookie walk after all Masses
		2:00 PM	STS Christmas Concert (gym)
		4:30 PM	MasterSingers Concert (church)
		6:30 PM	Rosary (chapel)
Monday	12/03	1:15 PM	Bible Study (CB)
Tuesday	12/04	7 AM-7 PM	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
		10 AM-2 PM	Fr. Kayser at DSU
		6:00 PM	CDA Christmas party (Nicky's)
		7:00 PM	Newman (PO)
Wednesday	12/05	7:00 AM	Men's Faith Group (PO)
		8:30 AM	Women's Faith Enrichment (CB)
		12:55 PM	STS Early dismissal
		6:00 PM	Advent Family Night (gym)
		6:00 PM	Confirmation class (CB)
		7:00 PM	Choir
Thursday	12/06	11:25 AM	Rosary (church)
		1:00 PM	Quilters (RB)
		7:00 PM	RCIA (PO)
Friday	12/07		Fr. Kayser on home visits
Saturday	12/08		Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
		4:00 PM	Confessions
		4:20 PM	Divine Mercy Chaplet
		4:35 PM	Rosary
			Scrip sold after all Masses
Sunday	12/09		Second Sunday of Advent
		10-11:30 AM	Newman Pancake feed (gym)
		6:30 PM	Rosary (chapel)
		7:00 PM	Confessions



**HOLIDAY MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Ellsworth & Willoughby Funeral Homes will be hosting their 31st Annual Community Holiday Memorial Service on Sunday, December 9 at 1:30 PM in their chapel. This memorial service is open to all families who have lost a loved one, regardless of funeral home preference. If you plan to attend, call 256-2221 to have your loved one included in the service bulletin. Refreshments and homemade holiday treats will follow the service.

**GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A SPOUSE**

For those who are trying to cope with the pain of separation and loss. Six Tuesday evenings—January 8-February 12 at Catholic Family Services in Sioux Falls. Call 988-3775 to register.

**LECTOR WORKBOOKS**

For the new Liturgical Year beginning on Sunday, December 2 are available in the sacristy.

**Parish App Feature-of-the-Week**



Giving

- Access to online giving
- Quick and convenient
- Help support our parish with the tap of a button

Learn more or download our parish app at [myparishapp.com](http://myparishapp.com)

\*Available on Apple and Android Phones.

## ALTAR SERVERS

Weekday 12/4-7 Reese Klein & Troy Klein  
Fri 12/07 7:00 PM Ember & Ashlyn Rustand  
Sat 12/08 9:00 AM Adam & Lexie Roemen  
5:00 PM Emersen, Ryland,  
& Lucas Johnson  
Sun 12/09 8:00 AM Hannah Vogel,  
Nathan & Johnny Ricke  
10:00 AM Mason Avery,  
Jessie & Tyler Tappe

## LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Fri 12/07 7:00 PM Dan Sherban  
\* Susan Foster  
Sat 12/08 9:00 AM Darrel Simon  
\* Patti Simon  
5:00 PM Wayne Grad  
\* Alex Nurnberg  
\* Shirley Ebsen  
\* Pam Libby  
Sun 12/09 8:00 AM Tammy Miller  
\* Nancy & Ken Falor  
\* Tom Bernard  
10:00 AM Carol Kleibacker  
\* Sandy Tappe  
\* Tom Nielsen  
\* Kevin Jaspers

## USHERS

Sat 12/08 5:00 PM Dan & Shirley Barker,  
2 Volunteers  
Sun 12/09 8:00 AM Brice Franken, Paul Hoff,  
Tom Heirigs, Volunteer  
10:00 AM Mike & Joanne Wheeler,  
Jack Kieffer, Volunteer

## COFFEE & ROLLS ~ PLEASE JOIN US!

CDA Cookie Walk this week.  
Group 5 serves next week.

## MUSICIANS

Sat 12/08 5:00 PM Kay Genzlinger  
Sun 12/09 8 & 10 AM Choir & Monica Pickard

## OVERDUE FOR A CLEANSING?

Why is it that the outside is readily acknowledged to need a regular cleaning, and the inside is allowed to be ignored for the most part? It is the inside where the bacteria of sin accumulates and is rationalized and does its damage. The Sacrament of Reconciliation releases the cleansing power of Jesus Christ. He refreshes. He renews. Are you overdue for an internal cleansing? There are many confession times available during Advent, check out the schedule on the back page of the Advent letter.

## PARISH STAFF

Pastor ~ Rev. DeWayne Kayser.....256-2304  
or 256-9252....[dkayser@sttha.org](mailto:dkayser@sttha.org)  
Finance ~ Michele Beck.....256-2304  
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Monica Pickard.....291-6264  
School Principal ~ Catherine Luvaas.....256-4419  
[Catherine.Luvaas@k12.sd.us](mailto:Catherine.Luvaas@k12.sd.us)  
School Business Manager ~ Lucy Splonskowski  
256-4419.....[Lucy.Splonskowski@k12.sd.us](mailto:Lucy.Splonskowski@k12.sd.us)  
Parish Maintenance ~ Cindy Meyer & Gina Peak

## PARISH PHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office .....256-2304  
Fax.....256-4135  
St. Thomas School.....256-4419  
Church Basement.....256-3039

## PARISH OFFICE SCHEDULE

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM (closed from 12:00-1:00)  
Bookkeeper - Tuesday & Wednesday  
Secretary - Monday, Thursday & Friday

## BAPTISM

Pre-Baptism Class required, held as needed.

## MARRIAGE

Diocesan regulations require six months preparation prior to the wedding. At least one partner must be a registered parishioner of St. Thomas Parish and be actively practicing the faith. Saturday weddings are scheduled no later than 1:30 PM. Please contact the priest before setting a wedding date.

## PARISH REGISTRATION

If you are new to the community, please register at your earliest convenience at the parish office. We look forward to meeting you!

## PARISH WEBSITE

[www.sttha.org](http://www.sttha.org)