



# St. Thomas The Apostle Catholic Church

## First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2023



## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"Be watchful! Be alert!  
You do not know when  
the time will come."  
- Mk 13:33

### Weekday Masses

Tues: 8am @ Ss. Peter & Paul  
Wed: 8:30am @ Ss. Peter & Paul  
Thurs: 8:30am @ Ss. Peter & Paul  
Fri: 8:30am @ St. Thomas  
Sat: 8:30am @ St. Thomas

### Weekend Masses

Sat: 4pm @ Ss. Peter & Paul  
5:30pm @ St. Thomas  
Sun: 7:30am @ St. Thomas  
9am @ Ss. Peter & Paul  
10:30am @ St. Thomas

### Confession

Tues: 7:15-7:45am @ Ss. Peter & Paul  
3:30-4pm @ Ss. Peter & Paul  
Wed: 7:45-8:15am @ Ss. Peter & Paul  
3:30-4pm @ Ss. Peter & Paul  
6:15-7pm @ St. Thomas  
Thur: 7:45-8:15am @ Ss. Peter & Paul  
Fri: 7:45-8:15am @ St. Thomas  
3:30-4pm @ Ss. Peter & Paul  
Sat: 7:30-8:15am @ St. Thomas  
3-3:45pm @ Ss. Peter & Paul

### Welcome Visitors And Parishioners

- St. Thomas the Apostle is part of a *parish cluster* with Ss. Peter and Paul in Loretto, meaning two or more parishes share a pastor. Clustered parishes may also share some staff and programming; parishes in a cluster arrangement retain their parish status and basic organizational structure; clustering does not necessarily lead to merger of parishes.
- To become a parish member, if you have a question or concern, or would like information about weddings or funerals, contact the Parish Office.
- Want to schedule a baptism? Please email the Parish Office and include a copy of the individual's birth certificate.
- Archdiocese's Victim Assistance Program at 651.291.4475.



/StThomastheApostleMN



/st.thomastheapostlemn

## MISSION STATEMENT

Leading all souls to  
Jesus Christ

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday  
9am - 4pm

## PARISH STAFF

### Rev. Glen Jenson

Pastor

[frjenson@saintsppta.org](mailto:frjenson@saintsppta.org)

### Rev. Sebastien Bakatu

Weekend Assistant

### Cindy Patnode

Parish Administrator

[cpatnode@saintsppta.org](mailto:cpatnode@saintsppta.org)

### Jenny Rogalski

Office Administrator

[jrogalski@saintsppta.org](mailto:jrogalski@saintsppta.org)

### Cate Dugan

Marketing + Promotions

[cdugan@saintsppta.org](mailto:cdugan@saintsppta.org)

### Julianne Leighton

Director of Religious

Education,

Safe Environment

Coordinator

[jleighton@saintsppta.org](mailto:jleighton@saintsppta.org)

### Jake Wieneke

Faith + Young Adult

Minister

[jwieneke@saintsppta.org](mailto:jwieneke@saintsppta.org)

### Dave Evensen

Director of Maintenance

[devensen@saintsppta.org](mailto:devensen@saintsppta.org)

### Carrie Ferdinandt

Music Coordinator

### Dianna Anderson

Organist + Choir Director

## Trustees

Roger Litchy,

Tom Hudinsky

## Pastoral Council

Cate + John Dugan, Brady

Day, Rick Dzurik, Andy

Levinski, Justin Leighton

## Finance Council

Carl Thelen, Rick Fadgen,

Mike Socha, John Ritz

# WORSHIP

notes from Fr. Jenson



The 1st Sunday of Advent begins the Church's new year, and as such, we switch Gospel reading cycles for Sunday masses from the Gospel of St. Matthew this past year to the Gospel of St. Mark. For daily personal bible reading, the Gospel of St. Mark would make for good spiritual reading as this will have the advantage of familiarizing one with the readings one will hear in Mass during the year.

This weekend's Gospel reading theme is to be watchful and alert. The master has gone for an unknown length of time, and the servants are to remain active and alert in their duties lest they be unprepared for his return. The master, of course, is the Lord Jesus, and we are the servants awaiting His return. It's easy to become distracted from the Lord during the day, and we must remember to make time for Him. Once this happens more frequently, Mass attendance starts to fall off, we stop going to Confession, and before long, we no longer have an active relationship with the Lord. Sadly, this is the case for most baptized people left unprepared for the Lord's return.

We begin the season of Advent. Like Lent, Advent is a time of preparation to spiritually enter into one of the most significant moments in salvation history. This moment in salvation history is the birth of our Savior, born of Mary, to redeem us at Christmas.

Christmas shopping has little to do with preparing for Christmas as a Christian. That is about us and making ourselves happy. Nothing is wrong with that if it expresses our joy at the birth of God's only Son, who has become one of us by the power of the Holy Spirit at Bethlehem. But for most, all the shopping has little to do with Jesus or Christianity anymore. The unchurched do as much Christmas shopping as any church-going Christian. Gift-giving has lost its meaning.

Advent is a time just like Lent to sharpen our focus on our faith and how we live it. In so doing, we prepare our hearts and souls to honor and rejoice Jesus Christ come Christmas. Advent is when we try to create a gift for Him in our hearts. Our prayers and our actions with others figure into that. Ask Blessed Mother Mary to help develop a beautiful gift for her Son Jesus. Then, Christmas gift-giving can take on its actual meaning again. Have a blessed and faith-filled Advent.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Fri, Dec 8, is The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. See page 4 for Holy Day Mass dates and times.
- We will be having a 2nd collection next week, Dec 9-10, for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

## DONUT SUNDAY

All are encouraged to continue the Catholic community following Sunday Mass including coffee, juice, and donuts (free-will offering). Just take a few steps to the Parish Center located northwest of the church.



**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

JOIN IN

celebrating  
**CHRISTMAS**  
ALL ARE WELCOME

### CHRISTMAS EVE

Sun, Dec 24  
5 + 9pm

### CHRISTMAS DAY

Mon, Dec 25  
7:30 + 10:30am

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Holy Day of Obligation  
Sun, Dec 31, 5pm (vigil)

### CONFESSION

Sun, Dec 17, 3-4pm  
Wed, Dec 20, 6:15-7:15pm  
Fri, Dec 22, 7:45-8:15am  
Sat, Dec 23, 7:15-8:15am



# DONATE



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church has moved forward with plans to upgrade our campus to accommodate the expected size increases of our growing community. St. Thomas the Apostle officially launched its Capital Campaign in 2022. We're currently seeking to secure funding for the building project. Visit [churchofstthomas.org/future](https://churchofstthomas.org/future) for more details or to donate to the Capital Campaign. You may also contact, Susan Wieneke, Campaign Chair at [susan.wieneke3@gmail.com](mailto:susan.wieneke3@gmail.com) or 763.485.5441.

### HOW CAN I GIVE TO THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?

Gifts to our Capital Campaign can be made in a variety of ways that are tax efficient. Catholic Community Foundation (CCF) is our trusted partner to help facilitate many of these transactions at no fee.

#### Tip for Convenient and Tax-Efficient Giving

Give appreciated stock. With strong stock market performance in 2023, you may have shares you've held for over a year that have appreciated in value. Save on taxes by gifting your shares.



#### Key Year-End Dates

- **Dec 6:** Submit donor-advised fund grant recommendations before noon to ensure that your grants are mailed before the end of the calendar year.
- **Dec 8:** Initiate mutual fund transfers by this date.
- **Dec 15:** Initiate stock transfers before this date so stock gifts are received in CCF's trading account by year-end.
- **Dec 29:** CCF must receive cash gifts by this date.
- **Dec 30:** Contributions made by check to CCF must be dated and postmarked by the USPS no later than this date.

## CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

- Signage and envelope drop box located in the back of the church and in the Parish Center entry area.
- Christmas Memorial Mass Intention will be on Dec 25 at 7:30 and 10:30am.

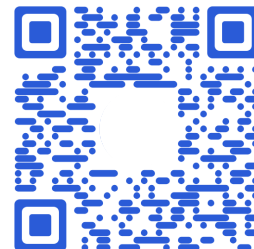
### Choose how and when to give

- Check or Electronic Giving
- Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA
- Appreciated Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds
- Donation of Assets
- Gifts from the cash value of life insurance
- Corporate Matching Gift
- Donor Advised Fund (DAF)
- Bequest in a Will or Estate Plan
- Labor or Materials donation



### WAYS TO GIVE

- Place donation in offering basket during Mass
- Donate online (scan QR code)
- Set up automatic bank payments
- Mail check to: St. Thomas the Apostle, 20000 County Road 10, Corcoran, MN 55340



## Christmas Memorials

Make a donation in memory of a loved one for Christmas flowers. Please clearly write your loved one's name and your name on the front of the envelope and place it in the box.

# INVITE

parish cluster opportunities

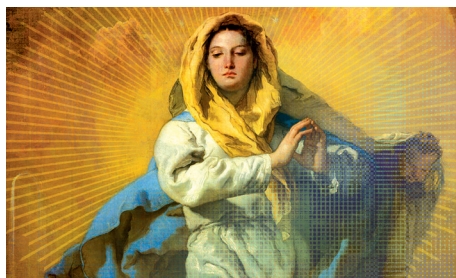
## DECEMBER

- Women's Club Cookie Bake + Exchange at **St. Thomas** | Dec 4
- Faith Formation and Dinner at **St. Thomas** | Dec 6 | Menu: Chicken Tenders + Corn
- **Holy Day of Obligation:** The Immaculate Conception | Dec 8
- Second Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious at **St. Thomas** | Dec 9-10
- **Holy Apostles Youth Group** at Ss. Peter & Paul | Dec 10
- Nourishing Hope at **St. Thomas** [ourfatherschurch.org/nourishing-hope](http://ourfatherschurch.org/nourishing-hope) | Dec 11
- Well-Read Mom Book Club at Ss. Peter & Paul | Dec 12
- Faith Formation and Parish Dinner at **St. Thomas** | Dec 13 | Menu: Domino's Pizza
- **Holy Apostles Youth Group** at Ss. Peter & Paul | Dec 17
- Men's Club meeting at **St. Thomas** | Dec 17
- **Holy Day of Obligation:** The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) | Dec 25

## JANUARY

- The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God | Jan 1
- Family Intercessory Hour (formerly Grandparent Ministry) at **St. Thomas** | Jan 5

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



FEAST OF THE

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

"Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing!" **December 8th** is one of our feasts celebrating Mary - the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. From the beginnings of the Church, spiritual writers, and theologians have acknowledged the innocence and holiness of Mary. St. Irenaeus called her the "new Eve." Both faced with the pure freedom to accept or reject God, Mary began with work of redemption with her yes to Christ! The Church began to celebrate the feast of Mary's conception in the early Middle Ages. In 1854, Pope Pius IX infallibly declared that Mary was free of original sin from the first moment of her conception. On this feast day, we celebrate the beauty and goodness of Our Lady!

## WELL READ MOM (WRM) BOOK CLUB

on Tuesday, December 12, the WRM book club will be discussing the book *Charis in the Word of Wonders* by Marly Youmans and the book *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence.

The group meets in the Ss. Peter & Paul dining room from 6:30-7:45pm (hosted by Meg Clemens).

## UPCOMING HOLY DAY MASSES

### Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- Dec 7, 7pm, Ss. Peter & Paul
- Dec 8, 8:30am, St. Thomas

### Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

- Dec 24, 4pm, Ss. Peter & Paul
- Dec 24, 5pm, St. Thomas
- Dec 24, 9pm, St. Thomas
- Dec 24, 10pm, Ss. Peter & Paul
- Dec 25, 7:30am, St. Thomas
- Dec 25, 9am, Ss. Peter & Paul
- Dec 25, 10:30am, St. Thomas
- Remember also to fulfill the Sunday obligation (Dec 23 vigil or Dec 24 in the morning).

### Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

- This is *not* a Holy Day of Obligation for 2024. However, masses will be available.
- Dec 31, 5pm, St. Thomas
- Jan 1, 9am, Ss. Peter & Paul
- Remember also to fulfill the Sunday obligation (Dec 30 vigil or Dec 31 in the morning).

# INVITE

community opportunities

## Academic Excellence Grounded in FAITH



## You are invited!

### Discover the Difference of OLL

November 13 @ 6:30 pm ~ Kindergarten Info Night  
December 1 @ 3:00 pm ~ Middle School Info Night  
January 8 @ 6:00 pm ~ Kindergarten Roundup  
January 20 @ 9:30 am ~ Preschool Roundup

**Praise God ~ Work Hard ~ Love One Another**



OUR LADY  
OF THE LAKE  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

<https://schoololl.com>





## REFLECT ON THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE



### First Reading

In prayer, the prophet Isaiah grieves over our sins that separates us from God. What sorrow or distress have you experienced over the past week?

### Second Reading

Paul offers up a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the many gifts the believers have received because of their faith in Jesus. As we begin the season of Advent, for what are you thankful?

### Gospel Reading

Each Advent, the Gospel reading begins with Jesus instructing his disciples to watch carefully for the end times. How often do you think about the Second Coming of Jesus and judgment day?

## WHY DO WE DO THAT?

### Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

Why haven't Catholic Churches gone the way of disposable cups for wine distribution?

#### Answer:

If a Catholic has ever attended a Protestant worship service and saw the communion service that was offered for that community, one of the things that might have stood out was the use of small, disposable cups for distributing the wine or grape juice. This is in stark contrast to the precious metal chalices used in Catholic churches during the Mass.

Although practices for Protestant Christians can vary (ranging from large shared chalices, to personal-use cups, to dipping the bread in the wine/grape juice), the norms governing Catholic practices are fairly direct: "Sacred vessels are to be made from precious metal. If they are made from metal that rusts or from a metal less precious than gold, then ordinarily they should be gilded on the inside. In the Dioceses of the United States of America, sacred vessels may also be made from other solid materials that, according to the common estimation in each region, are precious ... they are to have bowls of nonabsorbent material" (nos. 328-330). Rather than being a commentary on the beliefs or practices of those other communities, these rules are intended to highlight the reverence that Catholics have for the bread and wine consecrated at Mass, which become the Body and Blood the Lord.

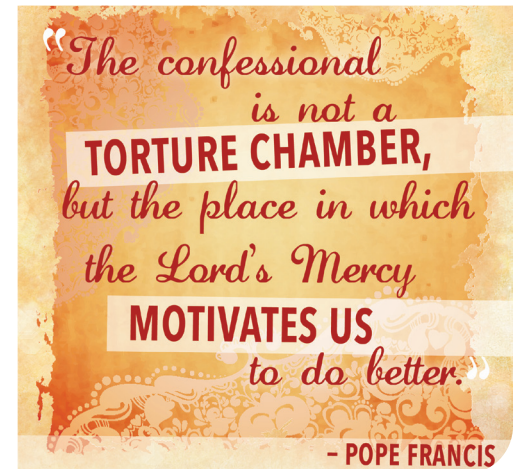
## QUESTION + ANSWER

**Q:** If God knows everything we do, why do we need to go to Confession?



**A:** Another term for the Sacrament of Confession is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We go to this sacrament not only to confess our sins, but to be reconciled with God. Of course, this begs the question, "If I can pray to God on my own, why can't I be reconciled to God on my own?" In the seven sacraments, we recognize the importance of community. Sacraments like baptism or matrimony happen in the context of the wider church to remind us of the communal impact of our lives. We are not alone in our walk of faith!

We don't need to confess our sins in front of the whole community – thank God! But going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a tangible reminder that our sins affect not only ourselves and our relationship with God, but others as well. Jesus gave his Apostles authority to forgive sins in his name. Through this sacrament, we are really, truly forgiven by God Himself. We receive an outpouring of grace and strength to sin no more and our relationship with Christ and his Body, the Church, are restored.



### Saint of the week

Servant of God Walter Ciszek was a Jesuit priest and theologian who spent 23 years as a prisoner of war during the World War II and the Cold War. His endurance of suffering for his beliefs and his writings reminds us of the importance of religious freedom and the power of faith.

### Prayer

We adore You, Most Holy Trinity, and we thank You for the exemplary life of Your Servant, Father Walter Ciszek. We pray that his strong faith in Your loving providence, his great love for You, and his kindness to all people be recognized by the Church. If it be Your will, may he be given to us as a saintly model of these virtues so that we too may be better motivated to dedicate our lives to Your greater honor and glory. We commend our petition through the prayers of the holy Mother of God. For to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship, now and forever. Amen.

(Prayer Source: <https://www.ciszek.org/Prayers.html>)

# VOLUNTEER *be a hero*

## ADORATION



### Adoration Open Hours

#### NIGHT TIME HOURS:

Sunday..... 2 AM, 5 AM  
Wednesday..... 2 AM  
Saturday..... 1 AM, 3 AM

#### MORNING HOURS:

Saturday..... 6 AM, \*9 AM, 10 AM

#### AFTERNOON HOURS:

*All hours are filled!*

#### EVENING HOURS:

Thursday..... 10 PM  
Friday..... 9 PM, \*10 PM  
Saturday..... 8 PM, 10 PM

\* Just a Prayer Partner is needed.

Our Lady of Loretto Chapel, is located in the old convent building near Ss. Peter & Paul church. To sign up for an hour, contact the Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Office at 763.479.0535.

### Interested in getting involved?

- Volunteer within Mass
- Help with fundraising
- Pack and/or distribute food
- Join choir
- Volunteer at parish events
- Help with funeral luncheons

To get involved, contact Cate Dugan at 763.420.2385 or [cdugan@saintspspta.org](mailto:cdugan@saintspspta.org).

## PARISH FESTIVAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Join the FUN!

The success of the 2024 Parish Festival depends on the support of volunteers! Before we start planning, help is needed in many areas. See below for positions that need to be filled immediately. By volunteering, you will join a fun group of people, learn new skills, and meet new friends. Contact Cate Dugan at 763.420.2385 or [cdugan@saintspspta.org](mailto:cdugan@saintspspta.org) to sign up!

- Festival Co-Chair
- Raffle Chair
- Sponsor Chair
- Kid's Area Chair
- Silent Auction Assistant
- Cake Walk Chair



# PRAY FOR

## THE SICK

To respect privacy, individuals may only request to add a name from their own family. Names will be removed after three months unless the requester notifies the Parish Office.

- Gene McMahon (thru 1.5.24)
- Scott + Cecilia (thru 1.5.24)
- Bridgette O'Brien (thru 1.5.24)

## THOSE IN THE MILITARY

To have a member of the U.S. Military listed or removed, please contact the Parish Office.

- Luke Hartwig | Army
- Tony Ramminger | Air Force
- Sara Schiller | Army National Guard

## OUR SEMINARIANS + THOSE DISCERNING RELIGIOUS LIFE

- Deacon Jonathon Hank, OMV | Oblates of the Virgin Mary in Boston
- Cory Plotts | Institute of Diaconate Formation, St. Paul Seminary

## BEING OPEN TO GOD'S WILL

Good and gracious God,  
I know that life can be unpredictable. Sometimes I know what is good and right, but I don't have the courage to do it. Sometimes, I am so busy with my affairs that I forget to see the needs of the people in front of me. Sometimes I am set in my own ways and resist growing and learning. Help me, Lord, to be open to Your will. When You prompt me to do the right thing, give me the courage to do it. When those around me need my help, give me Your heart to love them. When I'm stuck in my ways, give me the grace to grow closer to You daily. Give me the trust and confidence of Mary. Let it be done unto me according to Your word! Amen.

## REQUESTS

Add prayer requests to the Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain is composed of parishioners dedicated to praying for others. To submit a Prayer Chain request, please contact the Parish Office.

## Blessed Virgin's Rosary Ministry

Prayer Intention for  
**December 2023**

For the participants of the Blessed Virgin's Rosary Ministry and their families; and  
**that families will gather together this  
Christmas season in the spirit of  
love and forgiveness.**

*Each member is assigned a mystery of the Rosary to pray each day. New members are always welcome. To join, contact Sherry at the Parish Office or Joanne Schumacher at 763-360-2639.*



# LOOKING AHEAD



## LITURGICAL MINISTERS

### Friday, December 8, 8:30am

Usher(s) Brian Crane, Ben Barron, Greg Dvorsak, **OPEN**  
Lector Mary Catino  
\*EMHC Mary Catino  
Priest Fr. Jenson

### Saturday, December 9, 5:30pm

Usher(s) Michael Cain, Brian Dixon  
Lector Rosemary Dixon  
\*EMHC Rosemary Dixon  
Priest Fr. Bakatu

### Sunday, December 10, 7:30am

Usher(s) Lisa Adolphson, Steve Marsden, **OPEN**  
Lector Barbara Sesvold  
\*EMHC Shirley Dorcy  
Hospitality John + Seonaid Ritz  
Priest Fr. Jenson

### Sunday, December 10, 10:30am

Usher(s) Jerry + Dee Cain, Dave Kramer, Steve Schmitz  
Lector Cory Plotts  
\*EMHC Elaine Kramer  
Hospitality Jerry + Dee Cain  
Priest Fr. Bakatu

*\*Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Tues, Dec 5 (SsPP)** † **8am:** Ron Arens

**Wed, Dec 6 (SsPP)** † **8:30am:** Allistair Tang

**Thu, Dec 7 (SsPP)** † **8:30am:** Rick Gunderson  
**7pm:** Parish Cluster

**Fri, Dec 8 (STA)** † **8:30am:** Jim Sesvold

**Sat, Dec 9 (STA)** **8:30am:** Ronnie Peterson (son of Ruby + Pete)  
**5:30pm:** Members of the Jordan Family

**Sun, Dec 10 (STA)** † **7:30am:** Pat Fadgen  
**10:30am:** Members of the Andy + Kim Levinski family

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF December 3, 2023

**Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Advent

**Monday:** St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

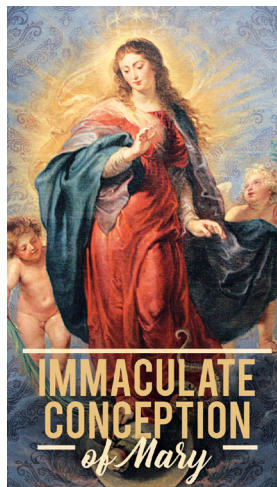
**Wednesday:** St. Nicholas, Bishop

**Thursday:** St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

**Friday:** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Saturday:** St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

**Next Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Advent



## MINISTRY SCHEDULER PRO

Ministry Schedule Pro (MSP) is the application used to schedule Liturgical Ministers.

Visit [churchofstthomas.org/volunteer](http://churchofstthomas.org/volunteer) to access MSP, its User Guide, or view a short video on how to use the MSP mobile app.

Please contact the Parish Office to be added to the Liturgical Minister volunteer list.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 3, 2023

### Sunday:

Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

### Monday:

Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

### Tuesday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

### Wednesday:

Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

### Thursday:

Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

### Friday:

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

### Saturday:

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

### Next Sunday:

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

## BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for weekend bulletin submissions are 9am Mondays. Please contact the Parish Office at 763.420.2385 or email [hello@saintsppta.org](mailto:hello@saintsppta.org).



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