



St. Thomas The Apostle Catholic Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24, 2023



“BEHOLD, YOU WILL
CONCEIVE IN YOUR
WOMB AND BEAR A
SON, AND YOU SHALL
NAME HIM JESUS.”
—LK 1:31

4TH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

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

Rev. Sebastien Bakatu

Weekend Assistant

Cindy Patnode

Parish Administrator

cpatnode@saintsppta.org

Jenny Rogalski

Office Administrator

jrogalski@saintsppta.org

Cate Dugan

Marketing + Promotions

cdugan@saintsppta.org

Julianne Leighton

Director of Religious

Education,

Safe Environment

Coordinator

jleighton@saintsppta.org

Jake Wieneke

Faith + Young Adult

Minister

jwieneke@saintsppta.org

Dave Evensen

Director of Maintenance

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



This weekend, we celebrate the fourth and final Sunday of Advent, the season we have prepared for Christmas and the Feast of Christmas itself!

Our first reading for Sunday morning's Mass speaks of King David's desire to build a house for the Lord, a temple. The Gospel contains the account of the Annunciation when the Archangel Gabriel came to Mary.

The news he brought that she would become the Mother of God meant that she would become a house for the Lord, a temple, for nine months. Mary's heart was a ready dwelling place for the Lord through faith, which was an ever-deepening love for God. This is our desire, as Christians, to have an ever-growing love for the Lord that makes our hearts a ready and warm dwelling place for Him.

Celebrating the birth of Jesus on Sunday night and Monday, we honor the profound fact of God's deep love for us, as shown in His son Jesus coming down and being born of Mary, who is truly one of us. We can take this for granted, as it has been so many centuries since that first Christmas. But most of the great heresies in the first several centuries after Jesus ascended back into heaven were about whether God could or would become one of us, his creatures.

Christmas is the expression of divine love for us.

God embraced humankind profoundly in sending His son, born of Mary, by the power of His Holy Spirit. Mary became a perfect dwelling place for Jesus as she bore Him. We seek to be like her by having a loving faith that opens our hearts to Him and His desire to love each of us perfectly. Are we willing to open to Him as did Mary?

My best wishes and prayers are for you all to have a blessed, warm, and Spirit-filled Christmas! May your hearts be delighted as we see how much Jesus delights in being one of us. May you be kept safe and have opportunities to be with friends and loved ones throughout this holy time! God bless you all, and have a Merry Christmas!

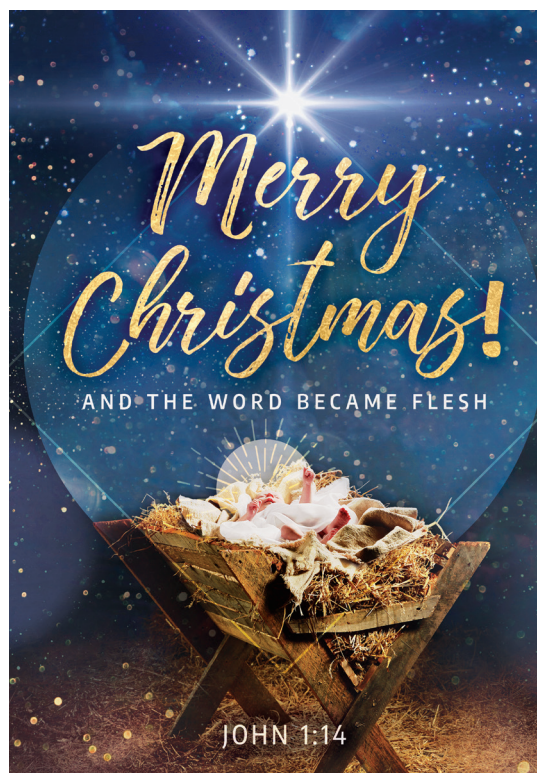
ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The Parish Center/Offices will be closed on Monday, Dec 25 and Jan 1.**
- **Offering envelopes:** if you're currently receiving offering envelopes and would like to stop due to electronic giving/etc. or if you're not receiving offering envelopes and would like to - please contact the Parish Office and they can help you.

THANK YOU FROM PAT TADYCH

Thank you to Father Jenson and the St. Thomas church community for all the love and support given during my son Marc Tadych's death and funeral. It meant so much. Blessings to you for a very Merry Christmas.

- Pat Tadch



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 for more details or to donate to the Capital Campaign. You may also contact, Susan Wieneke, Campaign Chair at susan.wieneke3@gmail.com or 763.486.5441.

EXTREME FAITH CAMP FUNDRAISER

Send a kid to camp! The youth of our parishes are working hard this year to fundraise for Extreme Faith Camp—a weeklong summer faith camp for middle and high school students. You can help our youth by donating to help offset their costs. (Learn more about Extreme Faith Camp on page 5.)

SAT FEB 3 @ 6:30PM
ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

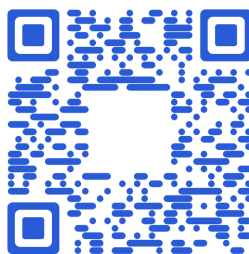
Spaghetti Dinner

FUNDRAISER
All Proceeds go to the Youth of both parishes to help fund Extreme Faith Camp
Tickets \$12/person or \$40/ family

Handmade Art for sale!

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



YEAR END GIVING

To make a contribution for the 2023 tax year, checks must be postmarked by December 31, 2023, or dropped off to the Parish Office by December 28, 3pm. Checks received or post-marked in January will be counted towards 2024 contributions.

Thank you for your generous support.

Coat Drive

Donation Deadline:
January 12, 2024

Drop-off Location:
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Hall
20000 County Road 10
Corcoran, MN 55340

Please Donate
New or Gently Used Coats, Hats, Mittens and Gloves
All donations go to Cross Services

For more information:
763.420.2385
hello@saintsppta.org
churchofstthomas.org

Thank You for Your Donation!

No time to shop? Cash donations are welcome! Mail to: St. Thomas the Apostle, 20000 County Rd 10, Corcoran, MN 55340 or drop off in the Parish Office.

INVITE *community opportunities*

BASKETBALL

The St. Thomas Faith + Young Adult Minister, Jake Wieneke, is starting weekly pickup basketball at 9am on Saturday mornings **starting January 13, 2024** at Ave Maria Academy in Maple Grove. There is an open invitation for anyone who wants to play and have some community. All skill levels are welcome. If you have any questions call or text Jake at 763.742.2015.



INVITE

parish cluster opportunities

JANUARY

- Family Intercessory Hour (formerly Grandparent Ministry) at **St. Thomas** | Jan 5
- Well-Read Mom Book Club at **Ss. Peter & Paul** | Jan 9
- Faith Formation and Parish Dinner at **St. Thomas** | Jan 10 | Menu: Tacos
- Women's Club meeting at **St. Thomas** | Jan 15
- Faith Formation and Dinner at **St. Thomas** | Jan 17 | Menu: Tator Tot Hotdish
- **Cana Dinner** at **St. Thomas** | Jan 20 (see details below)
- Men's Club meeting at **St. Thomas** | Jan 21
- Holy Apostles Youth Group at **Ss. Peter & Paul** | Jan 21
- Faith Formation and Parish Dinner at **St. Thomas** | Jan 24 | Menu: Sloppy Joes
- Holy Apostles Youth Group **Blaster Battle** at **Ss. Peter & Paul** | Jan 26
- Holy Apostles Youth Group at **Ss. Peter & Paul** | Jan 28
- Faith Formation and Parish Dinner at **St. Thomas** | Jan 31 | Menu: Spaghetti

EXTREME FAITH CAMP

Registration for Extreme Faith Camp 2024 is now open! Extreme Faith Camp is a week-long summer faith camp for middle and high school students. It's a high-adventure "extremely" fun camp packed with outdoor activities like archery tag, laser tag, a climbing wall, 9-square, gaga ball, volleyball, swimming, canoeing, and fishing. It's based in the sacraments, with daily Mass, perpetual Adoration, and Confession available. Many students who attend say it is a life-changing experience. Registration forms available at churchofstthomas.org/efc. **Registrations are due May 10.**

Save the Date Extreme Faith Camp

**EXTREME
FAITH**

JUNE 8-14, 2024

for middle school + high school youth

Registration now open!

churchofstthomas.org/efc

HOLY APOSTLES
YOUTH GROUP

January, 26 | 5-8pm | Ss. Peter & Paul

**Blaster
Battle**

RSVP by
Jan 19



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

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).



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE +
SAINTS PETER & PAUL

INVITE YOU TO A

Cana Dinner
for
Engaged + Married
Couples

JAN

SATURDAY

20

AT 6:30 PM

2024

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE | PARISH CENTER
20000 COUNTY ROAD 10, CORCORAN, MN 55340

SOCIAL HOUR | CATERED DINNER
INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER | MARRIAGE BLESSING

\$50 PER COUPLE*

Kindly RSVP by January 12:

Online at churchofstthomas.org/events-1/cana
or 763.420.2385 | hello@saintspspta.org

*Scholarships Available

REFLECT ON THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE



First Reading

We hear how God established his covenantal promise with King David to raise up a son after him and ensure that David's house and kingdom will stand firm forever. What promises have you kept with family or friends?

Second Reading

Paul concludes his letter to the Romans with a hymn of praise to God. As Advent draws to a close, for what can you praise God?

Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading is the annunciation to Mary of the upcoming birth of Jesus. Mary's unconditional acceptance offers us a model to follow. How open are you to God's work in your life?

PERSON OF THE WEEK



Saint of the week

Servant of God Michelle Christine Duppong worked as a FOCUS missionary and a lay parish minister in the early 2000's. Her life was a testament to her commitment to God and social justice work. She died at age 31 in 2015 but her legacy lives on today in those whose lives she touched.

Prayer

Jesus, I praise and thank you for the life of your servant Michelle Duppong. In her life and suffering, she joined you in your thirst for souls and embraced the cross offered to her. Following her example, I ask for the special grace of [personal intercession] and, if it brings you greater glory, that she be honored by your Church. Jesus, I ask this in your Holy Name.

Amen.

-With ecclesiastical approval of Bishop David D. Kagan, Diocese of Bismarck

(Prayer Source: <https://bismarckdiocese.com/prayer-of-intercession>)

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question:

Why do Catholics light candles in church?

Answer:

Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints.

QUESTION + ANSWER

Q: How many times a day can a person receive communion?



A: We need to turn to the Church's Code of Canon Law to find an answer to this question. Here we read, "One who has received the blessed Eucharist may receive it again on the same day only within a Eucharistic celebration in which that person participates ..." (no. 917). This tells us that the standard answer would be that we can receive communion twice in a day.

Having said that, we also want to be sure that we pay attention to the entire instruction. The phrase "within a Eucharistic celebration in which that person participates" is important. It means a) that we always have to think of receiving communion as being within a celebration of the Mass and b) we have to be participants in that celebration — we can't simply show up "in time" for communion.

So, when would this rule apply?

For example, if you attend Mass on a Saturday morning and then take part in the Sunday Vigil Mass on Saturday evening, you could licitly receive communion at both celebrations. Or, another example, if you receive communion at a wedding or funeral Mass, you could also receive communion at a daily Mass or Sunday Vigil celebrated on the same day. We always want to be sure that we observe the rules for fasting from food and drink before receiving the Eucharist (see Code of Canon Law, no. 919).

We should also remember that the Code of Canon Law instructs that anyone who is in danger of death or seriously ill may also receive communion a second time (no. 91, §2).

VOLUNTEER *be a hero*

2024 PARISH FESTIVAL PLANNING

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 cdugan@saintsppta.org 763.420.2385 or to sign up!

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



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS *Council 9601*

Our Mission Statement: We are a Catholic family, fraternal, service organization dedicated to the values and faith of the Roman Catholic Church through our activities that promote Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. To join the Knights of Columbus, contact Grand Knight, Greg Dvorsak at 612.840.2400 or Financial Secretary, Loren Spurzem at 612.423.6401. You can also check the website at KC9601.mnknights.org.

ADORATION

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. *Another way to help is to pray the Memorare (see below) to open more hearts to Adoration.*

COUNTERS

A Counter is someone who counts and logs cash and checks after a weekend services, fills out deposit slips, and places them in sealed bags. St. Thomas could use a few more parish member volunteers to be substitute counters (Monday mornings). Please contact Cindy Patnode if interested at cpatnode@saintsppta.org.



PRAY FOR

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.

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)
- Bridgette O'Brien (thru 1.5.24)
- Scott + Cecilia (thru 1.5.24)
- Jackie Langenberger (thru 3.24.24)

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

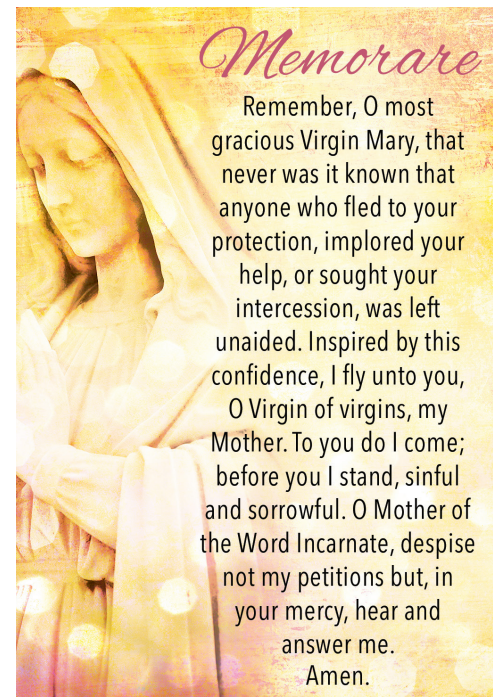


CHRISTMAS

Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lit four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.

Let us pray...

God, you became human through the obedience of a simple young woman named Mary. Mary is our model of faith. May we be faithful to your word as Mary was. Give us the courage to face each day with the yes that Mary gave to you. We ask this through the incarnate God, who comes to us again during this Christmas season. Amen.



Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you do I come; before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions but, in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

LOOKING AHEAD

LITURGICAL MINISTERS December 30-31

Ushers

Sat 5:30pm	Kurt Koshiol, Mike Socha
Sun 7:30am	Ben Barron, Rick Dzurik, OPEN
Sun 10:30am	Jerry + Dee Cain, Dave Kramer, Steve Schmitz
Sun 5pm	Brian Crane, Greg Dvorsak, OPEN, OPEN

Lector

Sat 5:30pm	Donna Socha
Sun 7:30am	Barbara Dzurik
Sun 10:30am	Mary Catino
Sun 5pm	Brian Dixon

EMHC Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Sat 5:30pm	Donna Socha
Sun 7:30am	Shirley Dorcy
Sun 10:30am	Kerry Feehan
Sun 5pm	Rosemary Dixon

Hospitality

Sun 7:30am	Tom + Brenda Hudinsky
Sun 10:30am	Jamie + Denise Heuton

Priest

Sat 5:30pm	Fr. Jenson
Sun 7:30am	Fr. Bakatu
Sun 10:30am	Fr. Jenson
Sun 5pm	Fr. Jenson

THANK YOU
TO ALL OF THE
LITURGICAL
VOLUNTEERS
FOR DONATING
YOUR TIME
AND TALENT,
SO MASS
CAN RUN
SMOOTHLY FOR
THIS PARISH.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon, Dec 25 (STA)	7:30 + 10:30am: Christmas Memorials
Tues, Dec 26 (SsPP)	† 8am: Gary Lyons
Wed, Dec 27 (SsPP)	† 8:30am: Lorelie Yager
Thu, Dec 28 (SsPP)	8:30am: Kristin Beaudry
Fri, Dec 29 (STA)	† 8:30am: Darwin Kuehn
Sat, Dec 30 (STA)	† 8:30am: Reverend Stephen R. O'Gara 5:30pm: Parish Cluster
Sun, Dec 31 (STA)	7:30am: Members of the John + Cate Dugan Family 10:30am: Jack Dixon (Birthday) † 5pm: Glen Milless

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF December 24, 2023

Sunday:	4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve
Monday:	The Nativity of the Lord
Tuesday:	St. Stephen, First Martyr
Wednesday:	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Thursday:	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Friday:	St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
Next Sunday:	The Holy Family; New Year's Eve



MINISTRY SCHEDULER PRO

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

Visit 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 24, 2023

Sunday:

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday:

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/
Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps
97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 *Day:* Is
52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn
1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and
8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday:

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday:

1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/
Mt 2:13-18

Friday:

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/
Lk 2:22-35

Saturday:

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps
128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12,
17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

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.

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