

St. Thomas and St. Columban Parishes
810 Fifth Street
International Falls Minnesota 56649

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VISIONS



LENT

2011

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
International Falls
810 5th Street
and
St. Columban Catholic Church
1017 4th Ave
Littlefork

Phone: 218-283-3293

Fax: 218-283-3553

Email: stthomasa@frontiernet.net

Website: stthomasifalls.org

Pastor: Fr. Kris McKusky
Associate Pastor: Fr. Joe Sobolik
Deacon: Fran Zaren

St. Thomas Mass Schedule

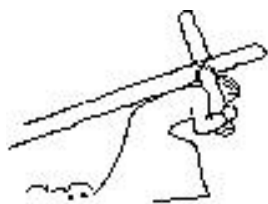
Sat: 5:00 pm

Sun: 10:30 am

St. Columban

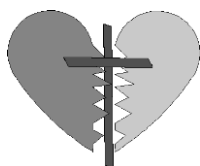
Sun: 8:30 am

2011 Lent and Easter Schedule



Stations of the Cross	March 11	7:00 pm	both parishes
Stations of the Cross	March 18	7:00 pm	both parishes
Stations of the Cross	March 25	7:00 pm	both parishes
Stations of the Cross	April 1	7:00 pm	both parishes
Stations of the Cross	April 8	7:00 pm	both parishes
Stations of the Cross	April 15	7:00 pm	both parishes

Lenten Mass	March 15	6:30pm	St. Columban
Lenten Mass	March 22	6:30pm	St. Columban
Lenten Mass	March 29	6:30pm	St. Columban
Lenten Mass	April 5	6:30pm	St. Columban
Lenten Mass	April 12	6:30p	St. Columban



Reconciliation Service	April 19	7:00 pm	St. Columban
Private Confessions	April 17	7:00-8:00 pm	St. Thomas
Private Confessions	April 18	7:00-8:00 pm	St. Thomas
Private confessions	April 20	7:00-8:00 pm	St. Thomas
Private Confessions	1/2 hour before every Mass		both parishes
Private Confessions	Saturdays	9:00 am	St. Thomas



Palm Sunday	April 17	5:00 pm	St. Thomas
		8:30 am	St. Columban
		10:30 am	St. Thomas

St. Thomas Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday Mass	April 21	7:00 pm
Good Friday Service	April 22	3:00 pm
Blessing of the Easter Food	April 23	10:00 am
Easter Vigil Mass	April 23	8:00 pm
Easter Sunday Mass	April 24	8:30 am
Easter Sunday Mass	April 24	10:30 am

St. Columban Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday Mass	April 21	7:00 pm
Good Friday Service	April 22	7:00 pm
Easter Vigil Mass	April 23	8:00 pm
Easter Sunday Mass	April 24	8:30 am



Parish Records

The following items were recently added to the parish records.

Baptisms



We welcome into our parish family, through the Sacrament of Baptism, the following:

Blair Marie Etienne
Jax Joseph McBride Donnell
Katherine Marie Beyer
Mason Harvey Marty
Matthew Thomas Lee Black
Gracie Michael Bahr-Jefferis
Ella Rae Bahr-Jefferis
Wyatt Richard Garbe
Owen Dewey Garbe

New Parishioners



We welcome into our Parish Family the following new parishioners:

Nicole Benson
Adam and Bobbie Jo Hanson
Jimmy and Amber Black
Donald Rolando
Nikki Peterson
Joe Donnell
Stephanie McBride
Amara Jean Tomevi
Jacob Marty
Makenzie Schafer
Danae Ferrari
Marie Talley
Jeff, Tracey, Olivia, Andrew, and Adam Trask

Funerals



Please remember in your prayers those who have passed away and their family and friends who are grieving:

David Rousseau	Jack Strain
Brenda Jerome	Gerald Perron
Philip Olson	Richard Ringwelski
Lucille LaPointe	Elize Toninato
Hazel Foyt	Bronko Nagurski

Weddings



We offer our prayers and congratulations to the following who were recently married:

Adam Hanson and Bobbi Jo Kaminski

Please let someone at the Parish Office know if:

- A family member is in the hospital so that visits can be made and the name added to the prayer list.
- You learn of a death in the church family.
- Your phone number or address has changed so that the church records can be updated.
- A new baby arrives in your family.
- You learn of someone who may be interested in learning more about our church/religion.
- You feel the church can assist you in any way.





Religious Education



Sunday School

A new program for prekindergarten through grade 2 has begun. We meet at 9:30 AM -10:15 AM on Sunday morning. Father Kris and Father Joe invite parents to stay and visit with them while the children are in class. This is an informal gathering, a time to questions answered and to learn more about our faith in a casual setting.

First Communion

Class for First Communion will start on March 16 and will run from 4 – 5 PM in the Parish Office. Student from West End Elementary School my ride bus 32 with a note from a Parent or Guardian. First Communion will take place at the 10:30 AM Mass on May 1, 2011.

Confirmation

We have 20 Students preparing for Confirmation. Bishop Sirba, will celebrate with us on April 10, 2011 at the 10:30 AM Mass. The Students will be meeting with Bishop Sirba at the Parish Office prior to this Mass. We are requesting Sponsors to be at the Church by 10:15 AM.

Religious Education

Our Religious Education Program is coming to an end. We have approximately 6 weeks left. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Teachers, Father Kris, Father Joe, Mary Harms, Mike Girard, Julie Hindman, Erin McCormick, Judy Potter, Jane Silvers, Kelly Langton, and Barb Youso for their dedication to the program and for sharing their faith and knowledge to the Students. A special thank you to the Parents for encouraging their children to attend classes.



St. Thomas Catholic School Update



7th grade is returning next year We have a good crop of students who wish to continue into the 7th grade. How wonderful to continue our strong tradition of 84 years of catholic education.

Cutting edge technology St. Thomas Catholic School has acquired our first smart board. A smart board is a large computer aided white board on which students can participate in hands on lessons. This board enhances our classes especially math and reading. Students gravitate to this technology and get instant feedback while the whole class learns. It makes learning fun!

Silent Auction Fundraiser April 9th at the AmericInn from 6:30-10pm. It is a wonderful evening of Hors d'œuvres, entertainment and great auction items. The live auction for big ticket items starts at 8:00. It is one of the most fun evenings of the year and we would love to see you there. We are also asking for donations to the auction. Call us to donate or for more information

Kindergarten and Preschool Roundup March 22nd. Miss. Jill and Miss. Brittany will host an open house from 4:00-7:00pm. Please spread the word about our wonderful school. We offer our students academic, religious and moral instruction to help them be the best they can be. Call the school for more information.

Thank you for your prayers and continuing support!

Easter Triduum



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Are you ready to faithfully follow Jesus through all of Holy Week? If you are, you will become part of some of the richest ceremonies and rites of the Church. In the liturgies of Triduum, the Church remembers the Passion, death, and Resurrection of the Lord. Even though these liturgies are full of drama and a powerful sense of history, liturgical remembering “is about eternity; it is about truly taking part in a past event made present in the Mystery of the church’s liturgy.”

The Easter Triduum

The Easter Triduum of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the entire liturgical year. What Sunday is to the week, the solemnity of Easter is to the liturgical year. The Easter Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, and concludes on Easter Sunday. Triduum, which comes from the Latin for “three days” is a single celebration. The emphasis is on the unity of the days and on the unity of the death and the resurrection of Christ.

Holy Thursday – The Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Lent ends rather quietly on Holy Thursday and Triduum begins. The evening celebration of the Mass of the Lord’s Supper commemorates the institution of the Eucharist, the priesthood and Jesus’ command to love and serve one another. The ritual of washing the feet is a symbol of this servitude, which stems from a devotion to the Lord in the Eucharist. The celebration ends with the Eucharist being removed from the church in procession to the altar of repose, while Eucharistic hymns are sung. The congregation exits in silent prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place until midnight.

Good Friday – Celebration of the Lord’s Passion

Good Friday is a somber day; the altar was stripped on Holy Thursday: no cloths, no candles, and no cross. This is the one day of the year when, ordinarily, no Mass is offered anywhere in the Church Universal. There is no Mass, just a simple, solemn service. We begin with a silent procession. There is no greeting, no genuflection, no entrance hymn; only humble submission. When the priest prostrates himself before the cross, the assembly will all kneel. We proclaim the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the Gospel of Mark. The cross, a symbol of our salvation, is brought forward for us to venerate. We humble ourselves before the awesome saving action of Christ. We participate in a simple communion service and then leave the church in silence. Although Good Friday is an uncomfortable service for some participants, it is an opportunity to pass through Jesus’ death and ponder what it means for us.

Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil is the most important liturgy of the year and should rank highest in the spiritual life of the faithful. It is unique, containing many traditional rituals, and filled with rich liturgy and music.

There are four parts to an Easter Vigil service. We begin with a **Service of Light**: we gather outside around a fire to light the paschal candle. The Easter candle is carried into the church, where the light spreads throughout the community as candles held by the assembly are lit. The Easter Proclamation, the *Exsultet*, is the splendid song of praise that the Church offers to Christ on the night of his rising. With the singing of the *Exsultet*, the Service of Light comes to an end. The second part is the **Liturgy of the Word**. After the readings we ring in the glorious Gloria – our celebration of Christ’s resurrection as we hear the Gospel.

The third part is the Celebration of the **Sacrament of Initiation**. The Litany of the Saints is sung, the water is blessed; we make our profession of faith and renew our baptismal promises.

The **Liturgy of the Eucharist** is the climax of the Vigil as the RCIA candidates receive the body and blood of the risen Christ in the Eucharist for the first time.

Blessing of the Easter Food

Saturday, April 23 10:00 am

Everyone is invited!

The Easter blessings of food owe their origin to the fact that particular foods, namely, fleshmeat and milk products, including eggs, were forbidden in the Middle Ages during the Lenten fast and abstinence. When the feast of Easter brought the rigorous fast to an end, and these foods were again allowed at table, the people showed their joy and gratitude by first taking the food to church for a blessing. Moreover, they hoped that the Church’s blessing on such edibles would prove a remedy for whatever harmful effects the body might have suffered from the long period of self-denial. Why not start a new tradition with your family and bring a basket of food to be blessed!

Totus Tuus

This coming July, St. Thomas Aquinas will be hosting a wonderful summer program for elementary(grades 1-6) and junior and senior high students. The program is called TOTUS TUUS. The phrase "*Totus Tuus*" is Latin for "Totally Yours" and was the motto for Pope John Paul II's pontificate. It is a phrase that represents our desire as Catholics to devote our life completely to Jesus Christ through the hands of his mother Mary.

TOTUS TUUS is run by a group of four college students from our diocese: two women and two men. An elementary program takes place during the day and includes Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and lunch. The junior and senior high students are invited to help out with the elementary program and to participate in the high-school program that takes place in the evening. Both programs focus on the Eucharist, Marian devotion, catechetical instruction, vocational discernment, and fun. There will also be a parish pot-luck to during the week as well.

So put down July 17-22 (Sunday through Friday) on your calendars for TOTUS TUUS! You'll have fun and learn a little about the faith while you're at it. More details will be coming in the spring. Contact Fr. Joe if you have questions. Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us!

Pastoral Ministry

Baptism Preparation

We "welcome you with great joy," *Rite of Baptism*. Please contact the parish office to schedule a preparation course for this sacrament of initiation.

Wedding Preparation

"I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine." Song of Songs 6:3

Please contact the parish office at least six months prior to the date of the celebration.

FYI: Because our Saturday evening Mass is now at 5:00, the latest time available for Saturday weddings is 2:00. Those couples who prefer an evening wedding might consider a Friday evening wedding. It is our experience that guests who are coming from out of town find it just as possible to arrive for a Friday evening wedding as for a Saturday event.

Visits for Homebound, Sick, Elderly

Please give us a call at the parish office if you or someone you know would like to receive the Eucharist or go to confession at home and/or have a visit. We don't always know who is lonely or feeling neglected unless it is brought to our attention. Presently our priests, pastoral minister, deacon, and several parishioners make visits to homebound parishioners. Also, if your loved one is in the hospital and would like a visit, our staff is honored to do so. Please let us know by calling the office. Very often parishioners are admitted and discharged before we know they have been hospitalized.

If you are unable to attend Mass at church but would like to attend a communion service, you are welcome at any of the following locations:

- Wednesday 2:30 Woodland Apartments and 3:30 Falls Good Samaritan Center (Mass every other week)
- Thursday 11:00 Ranier Roost; 1:30 Ridgeview
- Friday 10:00 West Falls Apartments

Clothes Closet

Because of our limited clothing space, surplus clothing is shared with the Damiano Center in Duluth. If you are going to Duluth and would not mind dropping off a few boxes of clothing, please call the parish office. Your help is much appreciated in this needed extension of our shared clothing ministry. Small household items are also accepted for drop off and then available at the Community Clothes Closet. These are found in the old adoration chapel space in the parish office. Please watch the parish bulletin for Closet dates. A reminder: Please be sure that household items and clothing that are dropped off are in good, usable condition. Consider your donations a gift to those in need.

Homeless Shelter

The Servants of Shelter (SOS) program continues to house persons in need of shelter. This project has had a change in shelter sites and is presently operating without daily volunteers. We still rely on our volunteer list to occasionally provide food for our guests. As overnight space for our guests is now purchased at a low cost, SOS is often in need of monetary contributions in order to stay open. If you are interested in contributing or know of someone in need of shelter, please contact Pat at the parish office.

RCIA 2011

The RCIA is a process for catechumen (non-baptized), to become members of the Roman Catholic Church. It is also a process by which adults who have not yet been confirmed (candidates), prepare for Confirmation.

This is the first year in many that our parish has not had RCIA catechumen or candidates for full membership in the Roman Catholic Church. We know that this happens occasionally in the ebb and flow of a parish. We do, however, so miss his rich growing aspect of being Church. If you, or someone you know is interested in RCIA for next year, please call the parish office. We will begin new classes in September 2011.

From Fr. Kris

I know this might make people think I'm weird, but Lent is my favorite time of the year. We give things up and do penance. We fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, as well as abstain from meat on Fridays. We take on a few extra works of charity, sometimes even giving up the things that we really feel like we want to do. We have practices where we work to set our own preferences aside. We become a little more introspective to 'die to the self' and more fully abandon ourselves to God's will.

From an outside perspective, this might make us fools. However, St. Paul reminds us that our call is to be fools for Christ. The world around us tells us that there is no need to confess our sins, because there is no sin. The Christian way of life tells us that the only way to be truly free is, with the grace of God, to rid ourselves of sin which enslaves. Lent is a time of becoming truly free in Christ through repentance, through turning our hearts, minds and souls away from sin and back toward God. When we reflect even further on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, when he spoke of Christians as the "light of the world", he called us to live in the light, and to see things as they are, turning away from the darkness of sin and death. He called us to see what is ultimately real; He ultimately called us to see Him.

This Lent, I hope and pray that we all take advantage of the opportunity to make a good Confession, to receive God's mercy and to live as His children in the light, seeing the deepest reality, which is life in God. May God grant all of us a truly faith-filled and blessed Lent as we cooperate with His grace to rid ourselves of the shackles of sin and death and to live in His most marvelous light!

Recently, as it was announced a couple weeks ago at Mass, the remainder of the renovation debt was paid off. This was a great accomplishment, and I'm honored to have been here when this milestone was reached. We're not quite finished with the parish debt however. Six months ago, St. Thomas had to purchase a house for the priests' residence, and acquired what used to be the Oblate house. We still owe a little over \$92,000 on the house (which is a great step) and slightly less than that on an old debt to the Diocese of Duluth. Our envelopes will reflect this as those that are labeled "renovation" will soon be labeled "debt" as we move toward being debt free.

I want to thank all of you for your financial generosity up to this point, and for your continued generosity. It is something that, to be honest, is very inspiring to me. My seminary training was certainly not in financial matters. My training was in spiritual matters (specifically, Church Dogmatics—what the Church teaches, and why.) So I am even more grateful for your financial generosity to the parish! It shows me, the deep theological reality, that as a parish, we are willing to acknowledge that everything is ultimately a gift from God and that parishioners are willing to share of those gifts. Thank you again, and may God's blessings continue to be abundant in your lives.

UCA Update

The UCA drive starts in May and is payable to the Diocese by the end of December. In the past, the Diocese has allowed us to collect and pay right through April. We have now been asked to pay this obligation by the end of the calendar year.

Our UCA obligation to the Diocese in 2010 was \$35,863.00. We were not able to pay this obligation by December 31st. We started weekly collections through the months of January and February to come as close as we could to the full amount of the obligation. We were able to collect \$29,881.71 but needed to pay \$5,981.29 from Parish funds.

In order to meet the 2011 UCA obligation in a timely manner, the following process will be followed:

- May 1, 2011 starts the drive for the 2011 UCA drive. Notification of the start of this drive and the amount needed to collect will be send by mail by early May, 2011
- Second collections on the third Sunday of the month will be allocated to the 2011 UCA obligation starting in March.
- Mailings to parishioners will be sent in early July, September, and November with status of funds collected toward the UCA obligation.
- If a large amount is still owed toward the UCA obligation in the beginning of November, second collections will be scheduled weekly through the end of the year in attempt to collect final amounts owing.
- Any deficit of the UCA obligation yet owed at the beginning of January will be paid from parish funds.
- Second collections on the third Sunday of the month will continue starting in January, to be allocated to the next year's UCA obligation.



St. Thomas Fish Fry

March 11, 18 and 25

April 1, 8, and 15

Each Friday during Lent

5-7 p.m. Aquinas Hall

Walleye Fillets, Baked Potatoes, Salad,

Milk, and Coffee

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED IF THE FISH FRY FRIDAYS ARE TO CONTINUE: As a parish we feel that this tradition should continue at St. Thomas, but **your help is desperately needed!** Volunteers are needed for March 18, 25, and April 8. Please call the parish office to volunteer. **We need you!** Call 283-3293 to sign up to be a part of one or more of these nights of fun, fish, and fellowship. We promise we won't put you in charge. (unless you want to be!) Thanks!

