A key facet of stewardship has always been personal witness. Today’s readings deal in large part with the witness of John the Baptist. St. John the Baptist, according to historians, was a few months older than Jesus. It is also generally accepted that he began preaching about six months before Jesus came to him to be baptized and to begin His ministry.

St. John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. John the Baptist, through personal witness, raised a great sense of expectancy and excitement, the kind of expectancy and excitement that we associate with this season of Advent. John tries to awaken in people a consciousness of sin, the importance of conversion and change, and the need to become more holy in God’s eyes.

Those are the same goals we should have during this Advent season. The matter of witness is a serious and important thing. It establishes truth and a solid foundation for faith. When we personally witness, it means we make a commitment. We cannot be neutral when it comes to our faith. We are called to be disciples, witnesses of and for Christ. We best accomplish that by the ways we live our own lives and how we relate to and treat others.

Jesus can meet our every need. Now is the time for us to accept that and to place our total trust in Him. We can do that best by making our own commitment to be His disciple, a witness to Who He is and what He means to us and all people.

***Reflection from the Office of Stewardship and Development
In the last couple of weeks, you’re likely to have heard or read some misleading reports about the Pope proposing changes to the Lord’s Prayer. What the Holy Father actually said is quite different. Here is a synopsis from Jimmy Akin of the National Catholic Register:

What did the French church do?
They adopted a new translation of the Lord’s Prayer for use in the liturgy. It went into effect on the first Sunday of Advent (which is why Pope Francis was being asked about it). Basically, they changed the line that in English reads “and lead us not into temptation” to one that means “do not let us fall into temptation.”

What did Pope Francis say about this?
He reportedly said:

The French have changed the text and their translation says “don’t let me fall into temptation,” . . . It’s me who falls. It’s not Him who pushes me into temptation, as if I fell. A father doesn’t do that. A father helps you to get up right away. The one who leads into temptation is Satan.

Various accounts also report him saying that the “lead us not into temptation” rendering is not a good translation because it is misleading to modern ears.

So he isn’t about to impose a new translation on everybody?
No. Commenting that a translation can be misleading is not the same thing as mandating a new one. People have grown up with the Lord’s Prayer in English reads “and lead us not into temptation” to one that means “do not allow us to fall into temptation; we therefore ask our Father not to bring us into temptation.” The Catholic bishops thought it was worth making a change, but it’s up to local episcopal conferences what they want to do in this regard.

(The New York Times reports, though, that “the pope suggested that Italian Catholics might want to follow suit.”)

What does the “lead us not into temptation” line really mean?
It depends on what kind of translation you are doing. The Greek verb in this passage—eisphero—means “bring,” so “do not bring us into temptation” or “lead us not into temptation” are good, literal translations. However, that’s not all there is to the story. Theologically speaking, God does not tempt anyone. Thus the book of James states:

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted with evil and he himself tempts no one; but each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire (1:13-14).

The petition in the Lord’s Prayer thus needs to be understood as a request that God protect us from temptation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

CCC 2846 This petition goes to the root of the preceding one, for our sins result from our consenting to temptation; we therefore ask our Father not to “lead” us into temptation. It is difficult to translate the Greek verb used by a single English word: the Greek means both “do not allow us to enter into temptation” and “do not let us yield to temptation.” “God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one”; on the contrary, he wants to set us free from evil. We ask him not to allow us to take the way that leads to sin. We are engaged in the battle “between flesh and spirit”; this petition implores the Spirit of discernment and strength.

Mass Schedule & Intentions

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Psalm Response: Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54
9:00AM Allie Kunz
11:00AM Alexia Umberger

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 18**
Readings: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
11:30AM Poor souls in purgatory

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19**
Readings: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
11:30AM John Hutchinson

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20**
Readings: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
11:30AM Nathan Umberger

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21**
Readings: Sg 2:8-14 OR Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
11:30AM Ned Umberger

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22**
Readings: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
11:30AM Dorothy Umberger

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23**
Readings: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
11:30AM Carl Malatesta
5:30PM St. Thomas Aquinas Center

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Readings: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Psalm Response: Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29
9:00AM John Seiter
11:00AM Poor souls in purgatory

**CHRISTMAS MASSES**

5:30PM **SUNDAY VIGIL CHILDREN’S MASS**
Psalm Response: Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Nathan Umberger

**MIDNIGHT Mass - Mass During the Night**
Readings: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Psalm Response: Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
Brechenser Family

11:00AM **CHRISTMAS DAY MASS - Mass at Dawn**
Psalm Response: Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6
Vic, Annie, and Manuel Escasa

Liturgy of the Hours

Held in the Baptistry. All are welcome!

**MONDAY-SATURDAY**
8:30AM Morning Prayer

**SUNDAY-FRIDAY**
5:05PM Evening Prayer

Reconciliation

The confessional is in the northwest corner of the church, near the Marian niche. *Also available by appointment.*

**MONDAY THRU SATURDAY**
11:00AM—11:25AM Individual Reconciliation

**SUNDAY**
8:15AM—8:45AM Individual Reconciliation
10:15AM—10:45AM Individual Reconciliation

**EVERY DAY**
4:00PM—5:00PM Individual Reconciliation
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Baptisms
Are normally scheduled during or after the 5:30PM Mass on Saturday, or during or after the 11:00AM Mass on Sunday.
The next baptism preparation sessions will be:
All Classes are 6:00-7:30PM
Tuesday, January 23rd                      Tuesday, April 17th
Tuesday, February 13th                     Tuesday, May 22nd
Tuesday, March 27th                        Tuesday, June 19th

Please contact Eileen Strater in the Parish Office at 765-743-4652 or eileen@boilercatholics.org to register for the baptism class and/or place your child’s baptism on the parish calendar.

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, God’s children are welcomed into the Catholic faith family, which most commonly takes place at a very young age. In this case, it is extremely important for parents to know what they are asking when they ask to have their children baptized. St. Tom’s baptismal preparation program is for first time parents and godparents. Sessions are offered every other month. Please see the parish calendar or call the parish office for upcoming dates and times.

Marriage
Just got engaged? Want to have your wedding here at St. Thomas Aquinas? Please contact Matthew Andrzejewski in the parish office at 765-743-4652 or matthew@boilercatholics.org to start the marriage process and to reserve your date on the parish calendar. Our wedding ceremony guidelines can be found on our website under the Faith Life tab.

Welcome New Parishioners!
We welcome all who wish to join our parish family. You may register by visiting the parish office or by clicking on the link on our homepage at www.boilercatholics.org. We’re glad you are here!

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process is designed for those who wish to become full members of the Roman Catholic Church. These sessions are also a great way to learn more about the Church. The individuals in the process are involved in a journey of faith and conversion which includes learning about the beliefs, life, liturgy and apostolic work of the Catholic community. The RCIA process at St. Tom’s has two distinctly different tracks, and is geared around the Purdue calendar, with weekly sessions beginning in September. Participants can expect to receive Sacraments of Initiation during the Easter Vigil Mass. To determine which track of the RCIA process will best suit your needs, or for more information, contact Eileen Strater in the parish office at 765-743-4652 or eileen@boilercatholics.org.
Prayers of the Faithful

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need amid mental and physical suffering, may they find consolation in your healing presence. Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits. May these special people find lasting health and deliverance, and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts. We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed. Amen.

Patrick Hession
Donald Gray
Melissa Young-Spillers
Mike Moss
Dolores Pope
Eduardo Vogel
Gail Miller
Gina Boyd
George Owens
Kathleen O’Connor
Rosa Espinosa
Titis Cordova
Enrique Vaca
Mariana Gonzalez
Ashley Biesemeier
Mary Nichols
Sharon Downey
Ann Templeman
Dolores Houchin
Loan Lypham-Ferry
Elyabeth Navarre
Philip Funk
Gene Cattarina
Ashley Harrington
Tony Ghalab
Dionicia Mendoza
Paulina Gajewska

William Pope
Damianus Aditya
Bob Setele
Andrew McAlister
Bella Raffin
Dolores Dilling
Rosa Maria Santos
Joel Rivera
Tom Kendall
Thomas Paul Batz
R.A. DeSutter
Denny Gramman
Maryann Johnson
Mark Struck
Charlotte Droulos
Mike Patty
June Moss
Shelley Strong
Pete Clark
Lauren Weldy
Ed Knoth
Michele Strutz
Theresa, Dee’s Sister
Marybeth Yacovelli
Stanley Seretny
Carol Hobaugh
Judith Ryba
Mike Moss
Sandra Lehner
Bob Dwyer
Evelyn Ricci
Joseph (Jr.) Ricci
James Heinzen
Sandora Burke
Denise Walsh
Robert Rollin
Mike Powers
Seth Sullivan
Frank Joseph Bryja
Robert Whicker
Trish O’Connor
Martha Cabrera
Sean Gilheany
Francis Maguire
Roberto Colela
Jeanne Erbacher
Ferril Gibbs
Judy McKinley
Joel Rivera
Betsy Seabert
Suey Slayton
Caroline Walter

St. Tom’s Guest Apartment

We are offering our guest apartment above the offices all year round as sort of an AirBNB (for rent). It’s a fully furnished apartment that sleeps two and even comes with a reserved parking spot. So students, let your parents know that they could stay at the best location on campus for their next visit. Please contact Matthew at matthew@boilercatholics.org.

Shop AmazonSmile!

You can earn money for St. Tom’s on every dollar you spend on Amazon. Simply go to smile.amazon.com and either sign in or create a new user account and search for “St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center”. It’s as easy as that, and now every time you shop at Smile.Amazon.com, St. Tom’s will benefit.
Support us when you shop this holiday season

Buy your gifts and holiday essentials
at smile.amazon.com.
You shop. Amazon donates.

Parish News and Notes

HowTo Festival 2018
In Need of Presenters

January 27, 2018 | 10:00AM-3:00PM

Have an interesting talent or skill? St. Thomas Aquinas is putting on their annual HowTo festival on January 27th from 10:00AM-3:00PM in the lower level of the church. The HowTo-festival gives individuals the chance to showcase and teach their skills to the Greater Lafayette. It’s a day full of learning, fellowship, and fun!

We are currently searching for presenters for the 2018 HowTo-festival. So, if you have a talent or skill you would like to present, such as how to use a potters wheel or how to juggle, please contact Nate and Lizzy at howto@boilercatholics.org.

The Gift of Giving - Thank You!

To the incredibly generous Parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the outpouring of support that St. Tom's has shown the St. John's/LUM Food Pantry this past year. Over the past 12 months, your congregation has donated a total of 5,907 pounds of food and household items to help the underserved population in our community. Each month we serve over 700 households made up of more than 2,000 individuals, and I can assure you that each one of their lives have been blessed by your kindness. Many of the items St. Tom's donates are either not available or are too expensive for us to purchase for our pantry. Your contributions truly make the difference between our clients arriving with feelings of despair and then leaving with a little bit of hope and reassurance. Thank you for helping make our community a better place to be.

Warmest wishes for a joyous and peaceful Christmas Season,
Donna Barker
Director, St. John's/LUM Food Pantry

Religious Education

Registration for Religious Education is ongoing! You can still sign-up for the Spring semester. We would love to have you!

John, the Director of Religious Education, Allie, our Special Education Intern, Bess, our Elementary School Intern, Julia, our Middle School Intern, and Hannah, our Confirmation Intern, will all be available if you would like to set up an individual meeting. All children between the ages of three years old and 12th grade are welcome! Please contact John Strong, Director of Religious Education & Youth Ministry, at john@boilercatholics.org for more information.

Christmas is coming - Advent is Shorter This Year!

If you have looked at the calendar, you probably saw that Christmas is on Monday this year. That means, Christmas Eve is on a Sunday. What are we to do? Here are your obligatory choices for the Dec. 23-25 schedule:

**CHOOSE ONE FROM EACH COLUMN TO ATTEND:**

**4th Sunday of Advent**
- [ ] SAT DEC 23 - 5:30PM
- [ ] SUN DEC 24 - 9:00AM
- [ ] SUN DEC 24 - 11:00AM

**Christmas Mass**
- [ ] SUN DEC 24 - 5:30PM
- [ ] MON DEC 25 - MIDNIGHT
- [ ] MON DEC 25 - 11:00AM

**NOTE:** Parish Offices are closed Dec. 25th & 26th.

December 17, 2017 • Third Sunday of Advent 5
2018 Interfaith Leaders Meetings

The January 11, 2018 meeting from 11:30AM-1:00PM will be a brown bag lunch meeting on mental health and addiction at Trinity United Methodist Church (corner of 6th and North Streets, Lafayette). Bill Lindblom, investigator with Tippecanoe County Public Defenders Office, and Amy Brinkley, Bureau Chief at Office of Family and Consumer Affairs, Division of Mental Health and Addiction, will be joining us as we learn about a new program for women and families who deal with mental health and addiction issues and discuss how we as faith communities engage with these issues and support those who deal with them. This is a really important meeting, as it’s a tangible opportunity to shape how our community is addressing these issues and there will be ways to get involved. Anyone is encouraged to attend.

Schoenstatt Holy Hour

All are invited to the Schoenstatt Holy Hour with Father Cassian Sama O.P. On Tuesday, December 19th, 2017 at 7:00PM in the Church. It will Include adoration, rosary, a homily, and benediction.

First Communion - Rent St. Tom’s

Rent rooms (except for Newman Hall) for your First Communion celebrations! First Communion is here at St. Tom’s on Sunday, May 6th. Please contact Mari at mari@boilercatholics.org. Rental rates can be found at boilercatholics.org/rentals.

Dr. Carolyn Woo To Lead St. Tom’s Parish Retreat

Save the dates February 23-24 (Friday and Saturday)

Dr. Woo is a former member of St. Tom’s parish, a former vice president of Purdue, the former Dean of the Mendoza College of Business at Notre Dame, and the former president & CEO of Catholic Relief Services, the official overseas humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States.

Indiana March for Life

Greater Lafayette Catholic Parishes are coming together to offer travel to the Indiana March for Life on Monday, January 22, 2018. If interested, please contact mailbox@boilercatholics.org.

DETAILS

- January 22, 2017
- Imperial Travel Company
- $20 per person (includes water and snacks)
- Participants are responsible for themselves; parents responsible for children
- Each bus will have a bus leader with emergency contact and information

ITINERARY (ROUGH)

9:30AM Depart Lafayette (location TBD)
11:00AM Arrive at St. John the Evangelist, Indianapolis; eat packed lunch
12:10PM Opening Mass
1:30PM March to Indiana State House
2:15PM Speeches
4:00PM Closing prayer service; time for dinner
5:30PM Depart Indianapolis (location TBD)
7:00PM Arrive at Lafayette (location TBD)
Caregiver Companion

**Offer a helping hand to the elderly, or a caregiver in your community**

Make a meaningful difference by coming alongside an elderly or homebound individual who lives near you! Volunteer as often as your schedule allows and make a lasting difference in a neighbor’s life.

There are many ways to assist based on your God-given gifts and interests:

- Drive an elderly man or woman to their doctor’s appointment
- Visit a lonely and homebound individual
- Provide a break for a caregiver to get refreshed
- Grocery shop for an aging veteran
- Perform simple home repairs for a frail woman who lives alone

Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Lauren Wedly at (765) 423–1879 or e-mail caregiver95@gmail.com today to discuss volunteering!

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**Maggie’s Place - YEAR OR SUMMER OF SERVICE**

Love Lives Here

Maggie’s Place is currently accepting applications for a year of service starting this January or July in Phoenix, AZ or Cleveland, OH.

MissionCorps members live in community with pregnant women and newborns, supporting them as they work toward independence. This opportunity is for women searching for a meaningful, challenging, and immersive service experience. Summer commitments also available. Contact Lucy Miller at missioncorps@maggiesplace.org for more information, or visit www.maggiesplace.org/missioncorps.

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**LCSS Job Post**

The Lafayette Catholic School System is hiring for the following positions:

- Reading Resource Teacher at St. Boniface
- Response to Intervention Specialist at St. Boniface
- Lunch Supervisor at Central Catholic
- Bus Driver at Central Catholic

To apply, please visit www.lcss.org/about/workforlcss/.

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**JOIN OUR TEAM**

**JOB POSTING**

Secretary/Administrative Assistant (part-time)

St. Lawrence Church – Lafayette, IN

We are currently seeking candidates for the position of Administrative Assistant (part-time) at St. Lawrence Church in Lafayette, IN. This person will provide administrative and office support in our parish office.

A high school diploma or equivalent is required with at least 2 years related experience. Proficiency with Microsoft Office applications is required and a working knowledge of Adobe Photoshop and Google Calendar is preferred. Strong organizational skills and ability to honor and maintain confidentiality is necessary.

Qualified candidates may submit their resume to tr.eunderwood@bol-in.org