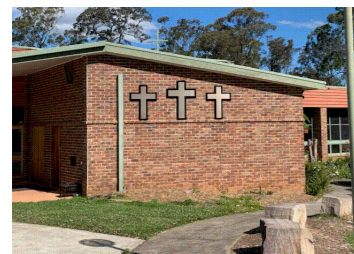


Reading Roster

Date: 3rd/4th November - Second Sunday of Advent
Mass Time: VIGIL 8:00AM 9:30AM
Priest: Fr Shinto Fr Shinto Fr Shinto
Acolyte: Roshan Rupesinghe Randall Noney Richard Merchant
Commentator: Colleen Baker Cecilia Hunt Peta Sparkes
First Reading: Margaret Smith Kim Crawford Phillip Saville
Second Reading: Lynette Boyd Jim Gresser Steve Bishop
Music: Andrew Wilson Chris Wilson

READERS:
 Please see the Acolyte rostered on when you arrive at Mass

Date: 10th/11th December - Third Sunday of Advent
Mass Time: VIGIL 8:00AM 9:30AM
Priest: Fr Paul Fr Paul Fr Paul & Bishop Vincent
Acolyte: Ian Miles John Belfanti Bernard Ellis
Commentator: Wilhelmina de Raadt Jim Gresser Matt Aldous
First Reading: Felix Kobus Cecilia Hunt Margaret Hickey
Second Reading: Lynette Boyd Ros Comfort Anne Ellis
Music: Chris Wilson E - Street Band



Bronze Crosses

Our Parish was generously donated some money which, upon consultation, we put towards the making of these beautiful crosses. A very big thank you to Lotza Designs, Springwood who made such a stunning job of them.

The bronze metal changes colour when you stroll past. Simply magnificent. Please take the time to sit on a sandstone block this weekend and reflect. These crosses will be blessed by Bishop Vincent on the 11th December.

Tuesday Advent Prayer

Almighty God, I hear it over and over: you are coming to me. I feel my heart stir in anticipation, and I sense that you are inviting me to enter more deeply into the mystery of your birth. Help me to feel renewed patience settle in my heart, and to lift my face in joy. I have been like a lost lamb, but I hear your voice calling me and I feel how deeply you want me to return. Somehow, I know that you rejoice in my desire to find you. Help me not to be afraid to say out loud, to believe: Here is God, coming into my life. Amen

Wednesday Advent Prayer

Loving and powerful God, some days I can only be in awe of your power and love. You never tire of supporting me. I constantly ask for help knowing you will always be there. From some place deep in my soul, I hear you calling me by name and I prepare with a joyful heart for your coming. Grant me the gift of hope, patience and waiting in these Advent days because I want the focus of my waiting to be on you. I want to praise and glorify you with my life. Let me live my gratitude to you, rejoicing! Amen

Thursday Advent Prayer

(Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
 God of us all, thank you for the gift of Mary in my life. I rely on her to intercede for me with her son, and to guide me, especially in my family. Help me to learn the grace of humility, and give me the courage to say "yes" to you without always knowing where it will lead. Release me from the fears that grip me, the pride and stubbornness that keep me from you and others. Let me turn to Mary, so human, for an example of how I might live my own life more freely, more loving, and more aware of you. Amen

Friday Advent Prayer

Jesus, in the darkness of these Advent nights let me be guided by the light of your word. Give me the humility to be led by you and the wisdom to learn from you.

I feel your light in my life and in the world. I am grateful for the Saviour who awaits us, and eagerly await the time of rejoicing. Let me look forward in hope and turn to you with great trust, knowing you will guide my steps along the unknown path of this day. Amen

Advent:

Week 2: The Advent season is all about reflecting, giving thanks, pausing and praying for the simplicity of the narrative as we highlight the true meaning of Jesus' birth.

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777
 PO Box 4410, Winmalee, NSW 2777
 Phone: 02 4754 1052



Parish Email: email: springwood@parracatholic.org
Parish Website: www.stchurchspringwood.org.au
Parish Facebook Page: St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood
Parish Priest: Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052 *Emergency ONLY:* 0418 461 316
Assistant Priest: Fr Shinto Francis - 4754 1052 *Emergency ONLY:* 0415 077 969
Parish Pastoral Council: email - springwoodppc@gmail.com
Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil Mass 5.00 pm, Sunday 8.00 am and 9.30 am
Weekday Mass: Tuesday - Saturday 9.30 am
Healing Mass: 1st Friday of the month, 9.30am
Rosary & Devotions: Tuesday-Saturday 9.00am
Adoration, Rosary: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month, 7.30 - 8.30 pm
Baptisms: 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 10.30am and by appointment
Reconciliation: Please Contact the Parish Office
Weddings: By appointment
Funerals: Please Contact the Parish Office

2nd Sunday Advent Prayer

Dear Lord
 Through the darkness, I look for your wisdom.
 I want my heart to be open to you.
 Help me to be awake and aware of the radiance you bring to my life.
 Help me to be grateful each day for the blessings of family and friends.
 Let me be a peacemaker in my own life, and in the world.
 Let me pray especially for this difficult world and those who are so in need of an end to violence.
 My heart yearns for this as my Advent prayer today.
 Amen

2nd Monday Advent Prayer

God of Strength,
 I need your courage.
 You offer to make firm the knees that are weak.
 Only you know how frightened I so often am.
 And you do offer me strength.
 There is the promise of your Son's coming
 And knowing that you will save me.
 I can't do this on my own
 no matter how often I think I can.
 Give me the humility to ask for your help
 and an open heart to accept
 your healing and love in my life.
 Amen

Today's Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12

Entrance Antiphon: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.



Sick: Brian Hickey, Baby Leonardo Diaz, Susie Ziino, James Wallace, Mischa Damaguc and family, Margaret Day, Adam McCully, Christopher Coombs, Kate Moore, Luca Hurley and all **Private Intentions.**

Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the express permission of the immediate family. Thank you.

Parish and Diocesan News

STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP RAFFLE TICKETS: The STA Ladies Fellowship will be selling raffle tickets to support the St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal at each of the Masses on the 3rd and 4th December. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5. There are wonderful prizes on offer and the money raised will buy fresh fruit and vegetables for the families that are being supported by our parish this year.

EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE: The parishes of the Blue Mountains Deanery will host the Epiphany Pilgrimage from 2-8 January 2023. You can be part of the celebrations & help welcome the pilgrims to our beautiful mountains by - Participating in the full pilgrimage or else joining for one or more days of bushwalking; Praying & celebrating with them at the Blue Mountains parishes along the way; Assisting with the festive meal when they visit us at STA on Tuesday, January 3 2023 & Writing prayer intentions for the pilgrims to pray on your behalf (see prayer box at side of church). Register or to find out more information at www.epiphanypilgrimage.org

FIRST CPR TRAINING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: The Diocese of Parramatta is participating in a program called First CPR that involves education and training in responding to cardiac arrest in the community. The program will provide you with CPR accredited training to parish staff and volunteers and is free of charge. Sessions will be organised across the Diocese and require a minimum of 10 people per session. For more information, and to express your interest, please visit <https://parracatholic.org/cpr-training-eoi/>

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL: For Catholic Care's Assistance with Care and Housing Service. No one should be homeless or without support. Your Christmas gift today will enable Catholic Care to give homeless people practical and emotional support, and a safe place to call home. Please stretch out your hand to the poor and give generously via the Bishop's Christmas Appeal envelopes, at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal. Thank you for stretching out your hand in compassion for our homeless community. Please use the envelopes on the pews and at the back of the church and then place into either the first or second collection baskets.

SYNODALITY-WALKING TOGETHER: As a church we are speaking carefully and frankly about the ongoing search for communication within our church. Synodality - what is it? It starts by paying attention to the active presence of the Holy Spirit, promoting active and prayerful participation of all baptised Catholics and is an experience shared with one another. Let us listen to one another, imagine a different future in our church. This is a process, not a one time event. <https://www.synod.va/en/what-is-the-synod-21-24/about.html>



ADVENT BOOKMARKS: The students of Year 6, St Thomas Aquinas Primary School have made Advent Bookmarks for each family to take home. On the back is a special message to each parishioner. **Thank you and God bless to each of these**

beautiful students who took the time to make these delightful bookmarks.

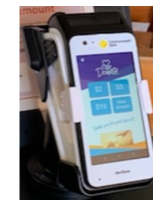
St Thomas Aquinas Parish Christmas Giving Tree

This year, our parish is again supporting **Wimlah Women's Refuge Outreach and Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service**, a specialist domestic violence service located in the Blue Mountains.

Wimlah offers a Domestic Violence Support Group, Family Law Support Group and residential crises accommodation for women and children.

We would love for our parishioners to wrap a gift for a woman and a child to open at Christmas, who might otherwise not be able to open anything. **We have been notified by Wimlah that they are currently housing 20 women, 16 x boys - 6 months through to 10 years, 4 x boys - 11 years through to 15 years; 19 x girls - 1 year through to 10 years and 3 x girls - 11 years through to 14 years of age. That is 20 women and 42 children who are relying on this refuge at this given time.**

Please leave this gift under our Christmas Tree and it will be hand delivered the Wednesday prior to Christmas Day to the women and children who will be relying on the refuge this year for a safe haven - **a place to call home.**



Please Tap to give and to support our parish.

This new tap and go machine is for the *second collection*

Simply tap on the device near the Commonwealth Bank logo.

There are four options: **\$2.00, \$5.00, \$10.00** and other amount

Thank you.



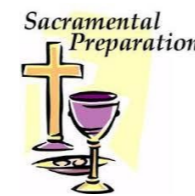
Thank you to those wonderful parishioners who have volunteered to support a family or individual this year for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal.

There are envelopes at the back of the church if you wish to support this appeal by way of a monetary contribution. St Vincent de Paul members ask that you bring your contribution to any Mass on the weekend of 17th & 18th December so they can be distributed to families before Christmas.

BISHOP VINCENT TO CELEBRATE MASS AT STA PARISH:

On Sunday, 11th December at 9.30am, Bishop Vincent will be celebrating Mass in our parish. Bishop Vincent and Fr Paul would be delighted for all family and friends in our parish community to join our Mass and then stay for a cup of tea and cake afterwards. *The Parish Pastoral Council would very much like our parishioners to bake a cake or biscuits, and to bring them along for all to enjoy on the morning. Thank you.*

2023 Combined First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Sacramental Program



6 Week Preparation: This program will be conducted as one combined preparation in 2023 instead of two separate programs. These sacraments will be in group sessions in a home or parish-based environment. Children in Year 3 or older in 2023, who have not yet received Reconciliation, are invited to attend. There will be two Parent Meetings: the 1st on Monday, 13th February and the 2nd Thursday, 16th February 2023 (same week) 7pm at St Thomas Aquinas Church. For further information, please contact the parish sacramental coordinator. **First Reconciliation will take place on Wednesday, 15th March at 7pm and Holy**

Communion will take place on Wednesday, 29th March at 7pm at St Thomas Aquinas Church. Enrolment forms are available at www.stchurchspringwood.org.au, at the back of the church or the parish office.

SPECIAL DECEMBER DATES:

Thursday, 8th December:	The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin
Saturday, 17th December:	Happy Birthday, Pope Francis
Sunday, 25th December:	The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. Merry Christmas
Wednesday, 28th December:	Feast of the Holy Innocents
Friday, 30th December:	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2022:

	<i>Springwood</i>	<i>Lawson (OLN)</i>
Christmas Eve, Sat 24 th Dec	5.00pm Children's Mass <i>(at St Thomas Aquinas Church)</i> 8.00pm VIGIL	5.00pm Children's Mass <i>(at OLN Cola if fine weather)</i> 8.00pm VIGIL
Christmas Day, Sun 25 th Dec	9.30am	8.30am
Boxing Day, Mon 26 th Dec	9.30am	
Tues 27 th - Fri 30 th Dec	9.30am	
Sat 31 st Dec	9.30am	
		2nd Rite of Reconciliation
		Monday, 19th December, 7.00pm - Lawson Tuesday, 20th December, 7.00pm - Springwood