

Date:	28th Dec/29th Dec 2024		The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Felix Kobus	Anne Maureen Scarff	No One
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Kim Crawford	Jim Gresser	
9:30 AM	Phil Saville	Katherine Mahns	Domhnall MacCormac	No One
Date:	4th Jan/5th Jan 2025		The Epiphany of the Lord	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Margaret Smith	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Tanya Graham	Georgia Cook	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Chris Wilson

KID'S CORNER

### The Holy Family Puzzle

Unscramble the letters to fill in the blanks.  
Use the letters in boxes to fill in the blanks with numbers part-way down.

Every year Jesus and His  (NTSPRAE) went to Jerusalem for the  (SVOPSARE) festival. When  (SUJES) was twelve, they went to the  (LFSETVIA) as usual, but Jesus stayed in the  (MPELET) afterwards.  (RMYA) and Joseph thought He was with their relatives in the caravan, but when they couldn't  (DNIF) Him they went back and  (CHDEASRE) for Him. On the  (HDRIT) day they found him. When they asked Jesus why He had done this, He replied, "Did you not  (WNKO) that I must be in my  (DSIWMO) and age and grace.



### St Thomas Aquinas Parish

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777  
PO Box 4410, Winmalee, NSW 2777  
Phone: 02 4754 1052; *Emergency ONLY*: 0474 631 168

**Parish Email:** email: [springwood@parracatholic.org](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org)  
**Parish Website:** [www.stachurchspringwood.org.au](http://www.stachurchspringwood.org.au)  
**Parish Facebook Page:** St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood  
**Parish Administrator:** Rev Christopher del Rosario (E: [christopher.del-rosario@parracatholic.org](mailto:christopher.del-rosario@parracatholic.org))  
**Parish Pastoral Council:** Email suggestions to [springwoodparishpc@gmail.com](mailto:springwoodparishpc@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:** Monday - Saturday 9:30 am  
**Adoration:** Monday - Saturday from 8:15 am - 9:15 am  
**First Friday Adoration:** Every first Friday of the month 7:00 pm  
**Reconciliation:** Saturday after 9:30 am Mass and 4:00-5:00 pm before the Vigil Mass  
**Children's Liturgy:** 3rd Sunday of every month, 9:30 am  
**Baptisms:** 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 11:00 am and by appointment  
**Weddings:** By appointment  
**Funerals:** Please Contact the Parish Office



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*We respect the Darug people and their elders both past and present, as the traditional custodians of this land on which we celebrate the Eucharist.*

### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH (by Pope Francis)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*Buongiorno!* Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth. God chose a humble and simple family by which to come into our midst. Let us contemplate in amazement the beauty of this mystery, also highlighting two concrete aspects for our families.

The first: *the family is the story from which we originate.* Each of us has our own story. None of us was born magically, with a magic wand. Each of us has our own story and the family is the story from which we originate. The Gospel of today's liturgy reminds us that Jesus too is the son of a family story. We see him travelling to Jerusalem with Mary and Joseph for the Passover; then he makes his Mum and Dad worry when they cannot find him; found again, he returns home with them (cf. Lk 2:41-51). It is beautiful to see Jesus inserted into the fabric of familial affections, which were born and grew in the caresses and concerns of his parents. This is important for us as well: we come from a story that was woven with bonds of love, and the person we are today was born not so much out of the material goods that we enjoyed, but from the love that we received, from the love in the heart of the family. We may not have been born into an exceptional family without problems, but this is our story — everyone must think: this is my story — these are our roots: if we cut them off, life dries up! God did not create us to be lone rangers, but to walk together. Let us thank him and pray to him for our families. God thinks about us and wants us to be together: grateful, united, capable of preserving our roots. And we have to think about this, about our own story.

The second aspect: *we learn how to be a family, each day.* In the Gospel, we see that even in the Holy Family things did not all go well: there were unexpected problems, anxiety, suffering. The Holy Family of holy cards does not exist. Mary and Joseph lose Jesus and search for him anxiously, only to find him three days later. And when, seated among the teachers in the Temple, he responds that he had to be about his Father's business, they do not understand. They need time to learn to know their son. So it is with us too: Every day, families have to learn to listen and understand one another, to walk together, to face conflicts and difficulties. It is a daily challenge and it is overcome with the right attitude, through simple actions, simple gestures, caring for the details of our relationships. And this too helps us a lot in order to talk within the family, talk at table, dialogue between parents and children, dialogue among siblings. It helps us experience our family roots that come from our grandparents. Dialogue with the grandparents!

And how is this done? Let us look to Mary, who in today's Gospel says to Jesus: "Your father and I have been searching for you" (v. 48). *Your* father and I; it does not say, *I* and *your* father. Before the "I", comes "you"! Let us learn this: before the "I", there's "you". In my language, there is an adjective for people who put the "I" before the "you": "Me, myself and I, for myself and my own good". People who are like this — first "I" and then "you". No, in the Holy Family, first "you" and then "I". In order to protect harmony in the family, *the dictatorship of the "I"* has to be fought — when the "I" inflates. It is dangerous when, rather than listening to one another, we blame one another for mistakes; when, rather than showing care for each other, we become fixated on our own needs; when, instead of dialoguing, we isolate ourselves with our mobile phones. It is sad to see a family at dinner, with everyone on their mobile phone, not speaking to each other; everyone speaking on their own phones; when we mutually accuse each other, always repeating the same phrases, restaging an old scene in which each person wants to be right and that always ends in cold silence, that sharp, cold silence, after a family discussion. This is horrible, really horrible! I repeat a piece of advice: in the evening, when everything is over, always make peace. Never go to bed without making peace, otherwise there will be a "cold war" the next day! And this is dangerous because it initiates a series of scoldings, a series of resentments. How often, unfortunately, do conflicts originate and grow within the domestic walls due to prolonged periods of silence and unchecked selfishness! Sometimes it even ends up in physical and moral violence. This lacerates harmony and kills the family. Let us convert ourselves from "I" to "you". What must be most important in a family is "you". And please, each day, let us pray a little bit together — if you can make the effort — to ask God for the gift of peace in the family. And let us all commit ourselves — parents, children, Church, civil society — to sustain, defend and safeguard the family which is our treasure!

May the Virgin Mary, the spouse of Joseph, the mother of Jesus, protect our families.



**Entrance Antiphon** [Lk 2:16](#)

The shepherds went in haste,  
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

**First Reading** [1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28](#)

A reading from the first book of Samuel

*For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be lent to the Lord.*

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull, and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

There she left him, for the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm** [Ps 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10, R. v.5](#)

(R.) How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

- How lovely is your dwelling place,  
Lord, God of hosts.  
My soul is longing and yearning,  
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.  
My heart and my soul ring out their joy  
to God, the living God. (R.)
- They are happy, who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.  
They are happy, whose strength is in you;  
they walk with ever growing strength. (R.)
- O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,  
gave ear, O God of Jacob.  
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,  
look on the face of your anointed. (R.)

**Second Reading** [1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24](#)

A reading from the first letter of St John

*He calls you his own children, and that is what you are.*

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,  
by letting us be called God's children;  
and that is what we are.  
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,  
therefore it does not acknowledge us.  
My dear people, we are already the children of God  
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been  
revealed,  
all we know is, that when it is revealed  
we shall be like him  
because we shall see him as he really is.

**Second Reading (continuation)**

My dear people,  
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,  
we need not be afraid in God's presence,  
and whatever we ask him,  
we shall receive,  
because we keep his commandments  
and live the kind of life that he wants.  
His commandments are these:  
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ  
and that we love one another  
as he told us to.  
Whoever keeps his commandments  
lives in God and God lives in him.  
We know that he lives in us  
by the Spirit that he has given us.

**Gospel Acclamation** [Acts 16:14](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our heart, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel** [Lk 2:41-52](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men, listening to them.*

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

**Communion Antiphon** [Bar 3:38](#)

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.



**Recently Deceased:** Jim Wallace

**Sick:** Colleen Baker, John Hunia, Eva Fitzgerald, Philip Coggan, James Connor, Richard Ford, Julie Somerville, Fr Bob Bossini, Dane San Pedro, Marama Watson, Margaret Munro, **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****FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING OUR PARISH AND ITS WORKS:**

Please support our Parish and its projects.

- Direct Debit:** Please contact the Parish Office for more details.

- Direct Deposit:** Details are as follows:  
Bank Account Name: Springwood; BSB: 067-950  
Bank Account Number: 00000560  
Reference: Your name in full.

**FIRST COLLECTION: This goes to the Board of**

**Management.** The fund supports the living expenses of the priests within our Diocese.

**SECOND COLLECTION: This goes to our Parish of St Thomas Aquinas**—directly funding operational costs, pastoral activities and various programs that enrich our community.

**MASS OFFERING ENVELOPES** are also available which can be used to express your ongoing generosity and support. Thank you.

**ST THOMAS AQUINAS FEAST**

**FUNDRAISING EVENT:** The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is excited to announce our upcoming Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas & Australia Day Fundraising Event, taking place on Sunday, 26th of January. This special day will feature fun activities for children and families alike.

To make the event a success, we kindly ask for your support in contributing prizes for our raffle. Donations of any non-perishable items would be greatly appreciated. If you're able to help, please drop off your donation at the Parish Office, or let any members of PPC know after mass. Thank you in advance for your generosity, and warm regards from the PPC!



We welcome into our Catholic Christian family

*Marlowe June Wannenburg*

who was recently baptised here.

**BIG THANK YOU** Our Parish simply cannot function without the amazing volunteers who each contribute in so many ways and for that, we are eternally grateful. We would like to sincerely thank these people for their tireless work in making our parish the beautiful place that it is: our Acolytes; Junior Servers; Musicians; Chris Wilson, The Streeters; Andrew Wilson; STA Choir; Florist (Rowena); Ironer Extraordinaire (Margaret Gresser); Ministers of Holy Communion to the Age Care Homes/Private Homes; SRE Teachers; our Weekly Readers; our Lovely Cleaners; Servers at our Sunday Morning Tea; Facilitators and Volunteers for our Children's Liturgy; our Gardener (Rob Trinjstic) and the Team at St Columba's College; Collection Counters; the Parish Pastoral Council and our Parish Finance Committee.



**SAVE THE DATES!** **PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE:** STA Parish Office will be closed for the holidays from **Wednesday 25th December 2024** and will reopen on **Tuesday 14th January 2025**. Masses and Confessions will continue as normal during this period.

**FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION:** To be held on **Friday 3rd January 2025 at 5:30pm**. All are welcome!

**FEAST DAY OF ST THOMAS AQUINAS:** On the **26th of January** we will celebrate the Feast of St Thomas Aquinas and Australia Day. Details of the celebration are to follow.

**SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS / Acolytes, Readers, Musicians:** on **Saturday 8 February 2025 from 10.15am**. EVERYONE who did their Safeguarding training two years ago is required to renew these modules. Please contact the parish office via email to confirm your attendance. If you do not attend this training you will NOT BE ABLE to volunteer in the parish as per the Diocese of Parramatta Safeguarding requirements.

**EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE 2025 MEAL:** You can be a part of the celebration and help welcome the pilgrims to our beautiful mountains by assisting with the festive meal when they visit us at STA Parish on the **3rd-4th January**. Please contact Colleen Kime on 02 4754 4335 / 0407 125 427 or leave your details at the parish office.

**EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE 2025:** STA Parish will be hosting the Epiphany Pilgrimage group again in 2025 as they journey up the mountains from **2 - 9 January** and celebrate 10 years of pilgrimage through our deanery. In preparation for the pilgrimage, you are invited to write any prayer requests on the cards provided and place them in the Epiphany Pilgrimage prayer box to be prayed each day by the pilgrims. Please join the pilgrimage group for Adoration at **5.30pm** followed by a festive meal on **3 January** at St Thomas Aquinas, and Mass on **4 January at 6.30am**. To participate in some or all of the pilgrimage - including walks, Mass, Adoration / prayer sessions and meals - visit [www.epiphanypilgrimage.org](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org).

**2025 Confirmation Sacramental Program**

**Parent ONLY Sessions:**

Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

**Children and Parent Sessions:**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church (**and practice**)  
*Confirmation will take place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church*

**2025 Reconciliation Sacramental Program**

**Parent Information Sessions:**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

**Children and Parent Information Sessions:**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Aug at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church (**and practice**)  
*Reconciliation will take place on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 6.30pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church*

**2025 First Holy Communion Sacramental Program**

**Parent Information Sessions:**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Parish  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Parish

**Children and Parent Sessions:**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Parish  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Parish (**and practice**)  
*First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, 5pm Vigil Mass, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025, St Thomas Aquinas Church*