

Date:	13th December/14th December 2025		Third Sunday of Advent	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Tanya Baldwin	Timothy Baldwin	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Jim Gresser	Vicki Walker	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Lisa Vaughan	Anne Ellis	Streeters
Date:	20th December/21st December 2025		Fourth Sunday of Advent	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Margaret Smith	Felix Kobus	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Kim Crawford	Domhnall MacCormac	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Katherine Mahns	Matt Aldous	Clemens del Rosario

KID’S CORNER



Jesus told John the Baptist’s followers to tell him all they had seen and heard. How did Jesus help the following people?

Draw Jesus bringing the good news to the poor

Blind People

Deaf People

Lame People

Lepers

Advent Wreath

Each Sunday during the season of Advent, we light a candle on the Advent Wreath. The candle which is lit on the third Sunday of Advent is pink. All the other candles are purple. Colour in the Advent Wreath.



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: springwood@parracatholic.org
Parish Website: www.stachurchspringwood.org.au
Parish Facebook Page: St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood
Parish Administrator: Fr Jack Elkazzi (jack.elkazzi@parracatholic.org)
Parish Pastoral Council: 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: Tuesday: 9:30 am & 7:00 pm; Wednesday - Saturday: 9:30 am
Adoration: Tuesday: 8:15 am & 6:00 pm; Wednesday - Saturday 8:15 am
First Friday Adoration: Every first Friday of the month 5:30 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.

Bulletin Reflection – 3rd Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Gaudete Sunday invites us to rejoice, not because our lives are perfect, but because the Lord is near. In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples of John to look at the signs of the Kingdom: the blind see, the lame walk, and the poor hear good news. God is already at work, often quietly, in the small places where hope seems fragile.

St James urges us to “be patient” and “stand firm,” trusting that God’s timing is always faithful. Advent teaches us that joy is not mere emotion—it is a deep confidence that Christ enters every situation with healing and light.

As we reach the midpoint of Advent, we are invited to pause, breathe, and recognise the quiet blessings that surround us: kindness offered, burdens shared, forgiveness given. These are the first rays of Christ’s coming.

May this Sunday’s rose-coloured joy remind us that **God is closer than we think**.

May God bless you all +
In Christ Jesus and Mary
Fr Jack Elkazzi

Events in December 2025

- ✚ STA Year 6 Graduation Mass is on Tuesday 16th December 2025 at 6:30pm. Please note the usual Tuesday night 6pm Adoration and 7pm Mass are cancelled.
- ✚ The Annual STA Christmas Carols is on Sunday 21st December 2025 at 4:30 pm followed by BBQ and light refreshment.
- ✚ Christmas Eve Mass Times: 5-6 pm and 8-9 pm
Christmas Day Mass Times: 8-9 am and 9:30-10:30 am



Entrance Antiphon [Philippians 4:4-5](#)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading [Isaiah 35:1-6, 10](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
‘Courage! Do not be afraid.
‘Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.’
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4](#)

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion’s God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading [James 5:7-10](#)

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord’s coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord’s coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation [Isaiah 61:1 \(Lk 4:18\)](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 11:2-11](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?’ Jesus answered, ‘Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.’
As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.’

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon [Cf Isaiah 35:4](#)

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



Recently Deceased: Peter Avery, Janette Green, Anthony Hastings (Joan Noney’s brother), Graham Downie, Helen Redman, Steve Bishop; **Sick:** Melissa Couch, Stan Pakulski, James Murray, Erlisa Argayoso, Allan Arias, Mary Coombs, Carl Johnson, John Hunia, Eva Fitzgerald, Philip Coggan, James Connor, Richard Ford, Julie Somerville, Fr Bob Bossini, Marama Watson.
We also pray for private intentions including the sick, dying and the suffering.
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: *Proceeds go to the Board of Management.* The fund supports the living expenses of the priests within our Diocese.

SECOND COLLECTION: *Collection is for the upkeep of 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.

Invitation from our PPC to join new parish groups: Greeters, Maintenance and Fundraising Teams; Request to complete a Parish Survey; and Details on the upcoming construction of shaded outdoor space can all be found in the Parish News on our STA website (including the links to access more information). Visit: www.stachurchspringwood.org.au

STA Ladies Fellowship would like to thank all Parishioners who bought tickets in our Raffle to support St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal for food vouchers. 1st prize: Dawn, 2nd prize: A.M. Scarff, 3rd prize: Angla, 4th prize: Peter Thomas, 5th Prize: Helen Blattman, 6th prize: Wanda, 7th prize: Mary Rooney, 8th Prize: Elizabeth Farrar, 9th prize: Helen, 10th prize: Rayleen Daines. Thank you, Margaret for the beautiful cards to sell on the stall, and to all who donated prizes.

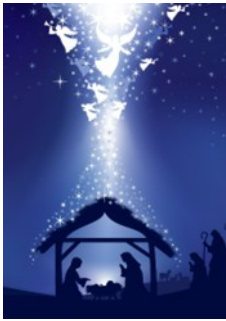


Congratulations to the STA Year 6 Students! Your graduation is a testament to your hard work and commitment. May all your future endeavours be successful.
Graduation Mass will be held on Tuesday **16th of December 2025 at 6:30pm**, St Thomas Aquinas Church.
Please note the usual Tuesday night 6pm Adoration and 7pm Mass are cancelled.

STA VINNIES CONFERENCE SAYS THANK YOU. It keeps happening. Every year parishioners and our school communities decisively respond to the call to help the less fortunate in our community. We Vinnies members are again truly grateful for the rapid uptake of all the Christmas hamper profiles we presented recently, each one representing a needy family or individual doing it tough in the Mountains. In addition, another group of generous people have provided cash and/or gift cards intended for these same needy people. Each of you have “put Christ back into Christmas”. God bless you. Please bring your hampers to Mass the weekend of Dec 20 & 21 so that Vinnies can distribute them before Christmas.

2026 Epiphany Pilgrimage will be on Saturday **3rd January**. If you would like to be involved by way of providing food or drinks also helping with the setting up and serving the food for dinner please contact Colleen Kime. On 0407 125 427 or k.kime@bigpond.com . Thank you to all parish members who have helped in past years - Colleen Kime.

The Epiphany Pilgrimage occurs only once a year (to coincide with the Feast of the Epiphany). The pilgrims begin their journey at Our Lady of the Way Parish in Emu Plains and complete their journey at the *Chapel of the Magi* at Bell. The pilgrims will arrive at St Thomas Aquinas Parish on Saturday **3rd January** and leaving on Sunday **4th January** following our 8am Mass. A prayer box is at the back of the church so parishioners can drop their prayer requests, which will be prayed by the pilgrims. To participate in some or all of the pilgrimage including walks, Mass, Adoration/prayer sessions and meals – visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org



St Thomas Aquinas Parish CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Come and join us for our annual Carol singing event led by our Parish Choir, the E Streeters and some special guests (including Santa).

This is an event for all the family, so children are encouraged to come dressed as angels or shepherds.

This will be followed by a BBQ and light refreshments.

Where: In Thomas Aquinas Church
When: Sunday 21st December at 4:30 pm

STA CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Tue 23 Dec
Adoration & Mass as usual
(morning & evening)

Wed 24 Dec – Christmas Eve
8:15am & 9:30am – Adoration
& Mass as usual

5–6pm – Children’s Christmas Mass
8–9pm – Family Christmas Mass

Thu 25 Dec – Christmas Day
No Adoration
8–9am – Mass
9:30–10:30am – Mass

Office Closure Notice

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Office will be closed from **Thursday, 25 December 2025 until Monday, 2 February 2026.**

During this time, all regular Adoration and Mass times will continue except on Tuesday evenings. Please note that Tuesday night Adoration (6:00pm) and Mass (7:00pm) are cancelled for the duration of the office closure. First Friday Adoration on **2 January 2026** at 5:30pm is also cancelled. For emergency matters, please call 0474 631 168. The Parish Office will re-open on Tuesday, **3 February 2026.**



ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC GIFTSHOP IS OPEN!

Please visit our shop located in the parish office building.

We are open:

Tuesday to Friday 9am – 3pm
Sunday 9am – 11:30am.

Show your support by purchasing sacramental gifts, religious gifts for families or for your own spiritual journey.



Copies of *God’s Word 2026*, the *Ordo 2026*, *Daily Mass Book 2026*, *2026 Franciscan Calendar* and *Columban Art Calendar* are now available for purchase from the Parish Office and Giftshop. For prices and orders, contact the **Parish office** or visit the **STA Giftshop**.

