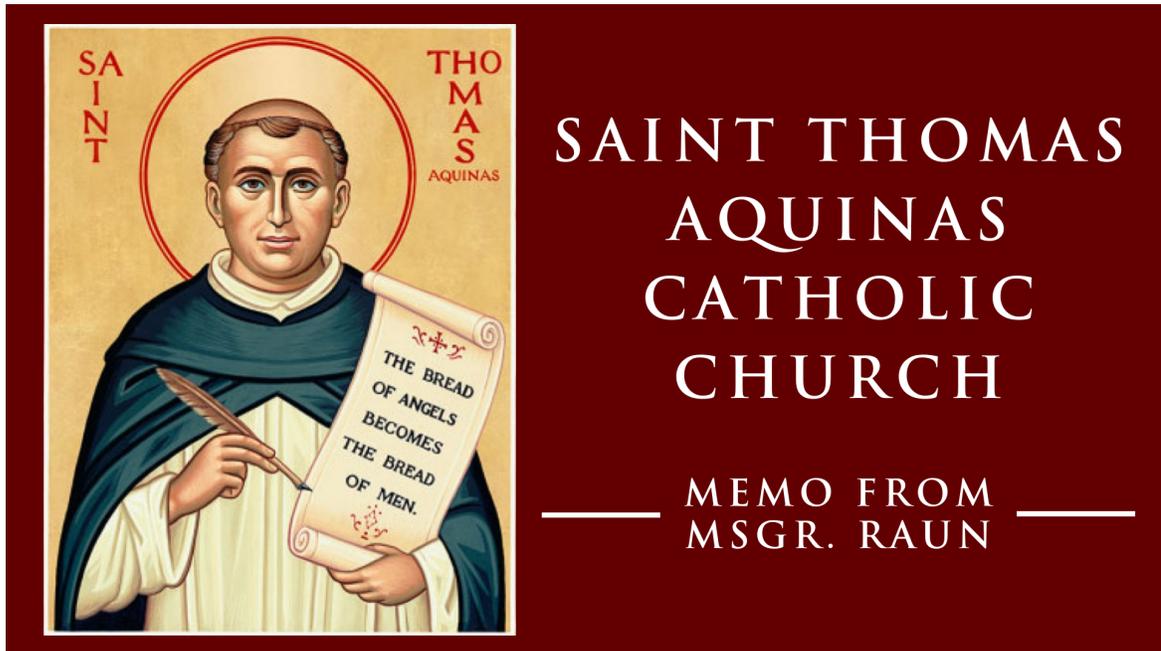


Subject: Fwd: Msgr. Raun Memo: Feb. 23  
Date: March 3, 2021 at 4:04 PM  
To: [REDACTED]



----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "St Thomas Aquinas Parish" <[news.subscription@stanm.org](mailto:news.subscription@stanm.org)>  
To:  
Sent: Tue, Feb 23, 2021 at 3:00 PM  
Subject: Msgr. Raun Memo: Feb. 23



My dear family,

Praised be Jesus Christ. We thank almighty God at the guardedly optimistic news we are hearing about the decline in COVID cases, and from this news we are making two changes:

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND USHERS OVER 60, if they have received both COVID vaccine shots, may ask their Heads of Ministry to be placed upon the schedule once again.**

**DISINFECTING THE CHURCH:** we have learned much about the COVID virus over the past eleven months. One of those things is that the virus is almost never spread by touch (this is why months ago the Center for Disease Control said you don't have to wipe down your groceries when you come home from the supermarket, and so forth.) So we will stop disinfecting the church after every service, and just do it once, at the end of the day.

This has two practical effects:

1. People, if they so wish, may return to their pew and pray after receiving Holy Communion.
2. We will return the weekday morning confessions to 8 am, a much more convenient time for most people.

**This will go into effect on Monday, March 1st.**

But we need to remember that the virus is spread by being close to another person, inhaling matter from an infected person's respiratory system. That is why it is very important that we continue to wear masks and socially distance at church!

**OUR NEW TOUCHLESS HOLY WATER DISPENSORS ARE IN !** Now we can resume our beautiful  
system of taking Holy Water before and after each Mass. The dispensers are in the hand positions

custom of taking Holy water when we enter and leave church. They work just like the hand-sanitizer machines that you see everywhere. Just place your fingers an inch or two below them, and you get Holy Water!

Thanks to the dear parishioners who donated them : Juan & Natalie Pacheco, Eloy & Marie S. Hernandez, Joan Chavez Garcia, M. Dolores Lucero, Claire Olona, Marla Griffith, Debra Schaff, Donna Franco, Michael Herrera, and Anonymous - HS.

Let us keep our benefactors in our prayers!

**PRAISE REPORT:** We had wonderful attendance on Ash Wednesday. Our idea of having hourly ashes seemed to work out well. And this past Sunday we had the best attendance at Mass that we have seen from the start of the pandemic. Let us thank God.

**2021 HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE:** based on the latest news, we are going to plan on it.

WHEN: October 11-22, 2021  
COST: \$4,250

**Israel (which has the best vaccination program in the world)** is opening up to pilgrimages on April 25.

Of course if it proves to be not yet safe to travel, we will not go. If we need to postpone the pilgrimage for any reason, you will receive all of your money back (minus a \$100 service fee), or, you can roll the whole amount into a 2022 pilgrimage at the same price.

You can get a brochure and registration form from the parish office.

Friends, if you ever want to go on a pilgrimage, the Holy Land is the most important and meaningful of all of them.

### **THIS FRIDAY, AND EVERY FRIDAY OF LENT**

#### **ABSTINENCE**

Every Friday during Lent is a day of abstinence from eating meat.

#### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND BENEDICTION**

will be every Friday of Lent at 3 pm and 7 pm. They will also be lived-streamed on our website each Friday.

#### **EXTRA LENTEN CONFESSIONS**

In addition to the usual times, there will be a priest in church every Friday at 7 pm to hear confessions during the Stations.

#### **FISH FRY**

The Knights of Columbus are having Lenten Curbside Delivery Pickup fish or shrimp Dinner this Friday 4:00 PM – 7:00 pm. See Parish website for call-in number. All Covid safety rules will be followed.

### **EVERY MONDAY OF LENT, 7 PM**

#### **LENTEN BIBLE STUDY 2021 - FORTY DAYS OF LOVE**

Our first Lenten Bible study went wonderfully, with many people listening, and over 100 people in small groups afterwards! Praise God.

You can still join in. Just go to the parish website or the app next Monday at 7 pm.

**PLEASE SHARE ALL THIS INFORMATION WITH THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET!**

**Laughing is the best medicine :**

How many of us have looked around our family reunion and thought “Well aren’t we just two clowns short of a circus?”

You won’t realize how old you are until you fall on the floor, then try to get back up again.

We all get heavier as we get older, but that’s just because there’s a lot more information in our heads.

**QUOTES FROM THE SAINTS** *to give you peace, hope, and strength...*

“Strive to preserve your heart in peace; let no event of this world disturb it.”

St. John of the Cross

**I send you my fatherly blessing, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen !**

**Msgr. Doug Raun**

**God Bless You**

CLICK TO DOWNLOAD OUR OFFICIAL  
APP



---

St Thomas Aquinas Parish · 1502 Sara Rd SE · Rio Rancho · New Mexico · 87124

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

[Click here to view the online version.](#)