## St. Mary's Catholic Church

Annunciation Church of B.V.M., Shumway, IL +Bishop Thomas John Paprocki

Fr. Adam Prichard, Pastor

aprichard@dio.org

"Office" Phone: 1-844-536-6514 (leave a message)

Website: <a href="www.stmaryshumway.org">www.stmaryshumway.org</a> Email: <a href="mailto:stmarysshumway@gmail.com">stmarysshumway@gmail.com</a> Address: PO Box 96, Shumway, IL 62461

To reserve the church basement please call

1-844-536-6514.

**Cemetery Committee** 

John Adams 618-322-2874 Matt Childerson 217-254-5896 Daphne Hoffman 217-821-7268

<u>Funeral Meal Coordinators</u> Leslie Kemme 217-821-3399 Dot Thomas 217-259-8560

Diocese Website: www.dio.org



Shumway Mass Times: Tuesday – 5:15 pm Adoration 4-5 pm Wednesday 8:00 am Saturday 4:00 pm Reconciliation-3pm

Sunday 8:00 am

Green Creek Mass Times: Thursday – 5:15 pm Adoration 4-5 pm Friday – 8 am Saturday – 6 pm Sunday – 10:00 am

No Adoration/Mass when it falls on a Holy Day

Victim Assistance Contact Information-To Report Child Sexual Abuse by Church Personnel or to inquire about Safe Environment Programs

in the Diocese of Springfield call 217-321-1155 or Children & Family Services Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-25-ABUSE

#### PRAYER LIST: Please remember them in your prayers!



Call: 1-844-536-6514 to add or remove someone. Thank You.

Eloise P.
Trevor Roy
Tony Bierman
Tori Schairbaum
Tom Laue
Jerry Worman
Mardell Sheehan
Elsie McKay
Kathy Miller
David Brown
Kathy Wakefield
Larry Nation

Norma Bloemer Beth Hewing Jim Gordon Don Kemme Don Clark Steve Moore Sally Wakefield Pat Kuhns Bill Hamilton Christie Dust Helen Kollinger Bill Nuxoll Cinda Held



**October Committee**: Teresa Tegeler, Brittany Nuxoll, Christine Niebrugge, Alyssa Pruemer, Barb Vonderheide, Kay Conder

SAT	Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 27	Oct. 4	Oct. 11
4pm					
Servers	Trey Brown	Tryston Brown	Aubrey Brown	Madalyne Brown	Anna Brown
	Isaac Wells	Madalyne Brown	Trey Brown	Issac Wells	Aubrey Brown
	Abby Brown	Anna Brown	Tryston Brown	Abby Brown	Tryston Brown
Lector	Doug Brown	Katrina Davis	Christy Brown	Mike Holland	Alaina Miller
Usher	Mike Holland	Don Brown	Mike Holland	Don Brown	Mike Holland
	Jason Wells	Doug Brown	Jason Wells	Doug Brown	Jason Wells
Ministers of	Katrina Davis	Donna Davis	Kathy Brown	Donna Davis	Don Brown
Holy	Kathy Brown	Rosemary Holland	Don Brown	Kathy Brown	Katrina Davis
Communion	Don Brown	Mike Holland	Howard Dust	Rosemary Holland	Beth Spannagel
Gift	Don Brown Family	Doug Brown	Jason Wells	Jesse Davis Family	Kathy Brown
Bearers		Family	family		
SUN	Sept. 14 Families in Faith	Sept. 21	Sept. 28 Families in Faith	Oct. 5 Right to Life Sunday	Oct. 12 Families in Faith
8am				,	
Servers	Rory Miller Wylie Miller	Wade Conder Zoey Conder	Garrett Hoene	Rory Miller Wylie Miller	Wade Conder
	Daisy Miller	Jacob Vonderheide	Braxton Hoene Olivia Vonderheide	Daisy Miller	Zoey Conder Jacob Vonderheide
Lector	Lisa Thompson	Terry Hoene	Kathy Adams	Lisa Thompson	Terry Hoene
Ushers	Josh Miller	John Neu	Jason Vonderheide	Larry Lieb	Roy Waldhoff
Oshers	Justin Conder	Don Antrim	Charley Vonderheide	Jim Vonderheide	Trevor Floyd
Ministers of	Linda Doedtman	Lisa Thompson	Timber Miller	Barb Vonderheide	Lisa Thompson
Holy	Barb Vonderheide	Roy Waldhoff	Vanessa Floyd	Lisa Waldhoff	Leslie Kemme
Communion	Lisa Waldhoff	Leslie Kemme	Linda Doedtman	Trevor Floyd	Timber Miller
Gift	Rodney Hoene	Charly & Rhonda	Jim & Marylou	Dan & Angela	Barb
Bearers	Family	Vonderheide	Vonderheide	Woods	Vonderheide
Greeters	Larry Lieb	Rodney Hoene	Don & Marcella	George & Diana	Joe & Kay Conder
		Family	Antrim	Conder	
Money	Kemme	Bales, Richards,	Stremming	Doedtman	Waldhoff
Counters	Adams	Sheehan, Hackman	Conder	Shadwell	Hoene
WED.	Sept. 24	Oct. 1	Oct. 8	Oct. 15	Oct. 22
8am	Linda Doedtman	Irene Koester	Alice Richards	Mike Holland	Linda Doedtman
Lectors					1

Weekly Offering	9-21-25	
Adult	\$1010.00	
Loose	343.00	
Solidarity Fund-Africa	275.00	
Total	\$1628.00	
Masses \$50.00		

An update ministry list with phone numbers will come out next month after the usher training. If anyone would like to be added to the ministry list or taken off, please contact Donna Davis 1-844-536-6514

# St. Mary's Catholic Church, Shumway MISSION

(who we are and what we do, our purpose)

Be a growing community of disciples, centered on the Eucharist, that imitates Jesus by proclaiming the Gospel and serving our neighbors with love.

#### VISION

(where we are going, our focus)

Building the Body of Christ through families of faith with vibrant spiritual formation, joyful community fellowship and service, and a welcoming presence to all.

Mission Month and World Mission Sunday – October is Mission Month and World Mission Sunday is October 26. On that day, every parish globally unites in prayer and generosity for the Holy Father's missions in 1,100+ territories where the Church is poor, young, and persecuted. Your gift helps train seminarians, support vowed religious men and women, and provides schools and clinics in the world's most vulnerable places. Be part of this global mission of hope—pray and give generously!

#### Opportunity to help the Community

The Enduring Freedom Ministries located at the Old Grade School in Shumway would welcome volunteers. They do have pantry dates in Oct if you can help in anyway on October 7 & 8 along with 14th & 15th. Then on Oct 25 which is also Dress for Success. They won't just put you anywhere, let them know what you are comfortable doing.(cooking, serving, just ask them) A wonderful way to be a part of the giving back in the community. If interested and have an hour or 2 to give reach out to Vicki at 217-868-5293. Please give them a call.

Dieterich Bank is offering a Budgeting & Bingo class hosted by Catholic Charities for those living on a fixed income on Tuesday, October 7 at 1 PM.

Dieterich Bank is offering a Financial Wellness class hosted by Catholic Charities on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 1 PM.

Both classes will be held at Catholic Charities at 1502 E. Fayette Ave, Teutopolis, IL 62467.

Getting Fat. Is There a Moral Line in Eating Junk Food and Not Exercising?- Father Dominic Rankin answers questions about not eating right, not exercising, and not taking medicine. Where is the moral line? Where does sin come in? What about if you are obsessed with exercising and eating healthy? Go to youtube.com/diospringfield or search "Dive Deep"

Mass Intention Book is open for 2026. We still have some days left in 2025. There is a calendar in the cry room with available dates for both the remainder of this year and 2026. There are mass intention envelopes in the cry room in the "mailbox" outside the bathroom. If you have multiple intentions, you may write them on a paper and put them in the envelope. Please indicate the date you would like and if it is okay to put it on the next available date, if your choice is not available. Please also include a phone number or email so I can contact you with questions and let you know the dates your masses will be said. If you have any questions, contact Donna Davis @1-844-536-6514.

### † This symbol denotes-deceased.



Saturday, Sept. 27- †Larry Ferguson by Kathy Ferguson Sunday, Sept. 28 – ††Cecelia Willenborg by her Daughters Tuesday, Sept. 30 - †Eleanor Steber By Teresa Tegeler

Wednesday, Oct. 1- Special Intention by Barb Vonderheide

Saturday, Oct. 4 – †Bernard & Dorothy Ruholl by Tim & Patty Kessler

Sunday, Oct. 5- Parishioner of St. Mary's

Tuesday, Oct. 7 – †Henry Dust by Family

Wednesday, Oct. 8 - †Ron Kabbes by Duane Joyce Shadwell

Please call or email (info on front page) to schedule an intention or put an envelope in the collection basket with the information. Envelopes can be found in the mailbox in the cry room. There is a calendar of available dates located in the cry room.

### Happy Birthday



Ed Kemme 9-28 Justin Conder 9-28 Trevor Floyd 10-1 Irene Koester 10-7

## Happy anniversary

ED & LESLIE KEMME 9-28-1991 34 YEARS

James & Marylou vonderheide 9-30-1961 64 years

Brock & Jamie Vonderheide 9-30-2000 25 years

STEVE & SHARON MOORE 10-1-1966 59 Years

TOM & HELEN DOEDTMAN 10-1-1983 42 Years

St. Thomas Newton Harvest Picnic
Sunday, Oct. 12 4-7:30pm
Food Games Live Music Raffles
10% of proceeds go to Newton Family Life Center
Grand Prize Raffle-John Deere 1025 Tractor or
\$15,000 Tickets \$20 ea. or 6 for \$100
To enter raffle by mail, please send check payable
to St. Thomas Church, 404 W Jourdan St. Newton II
62448 and include name, address, phone and
number of tickets

#### Families in Faith

Next class Sunday, Sept. 28
If you have any questions,
contact Leslie Kemme 217-821-3399
CLASSES FOR ALL AGES...
PRE-K THROUGH ADULT!!!

Attention Ushers!! Father Adam would like to have a brief meeting with all current ushers and those who would like to be after mass on Saturday, Oct. 4 and Sunday, Oct. 5

#### Bible Study @ St. Mary's, Shumway

"A Journey Through Church History." We will meet again on Oct. 8. If you have any questions, contact Donna Davis 217-690-2640.

We will honor our newly baptized and young at heart after Mass on Sunday, Oct. 5. There will be refreshments in the basement and parishioners are asked to bring a favorite bread. fruit. etc.

The Flame of Love Rosary Prayer Group has begun meeting every Wednesday afternoon from 3:30-4:10 at Sacred Heart Church in Effingham. There is no commitment - come when it works for you. Introduction and prayer sheets are available. Please join us - everyone is welcome! www.flameoflove.us.

Effingham Catholic Young Adults Ages 21-35 Holy Hour Happy Hour Oct. 7 @ 7pm St. Michael's, Sigel 8pm @ The Midway

#### SonRise Fridays - All Men Invited!

This week SonRise Men's Breakfast will highlight the lives of King Solomon and Mother Teresa. We will see the power of clarity of thought and integrity of action. Our goal this session is to ponder our own lives to determine our fundamental purpose. It has the power to transform you into a saint!

Come for food, fellowship and faith 6:15 AM, Friday, at the St. Anthony Parish Center, Effingham. All men are welcome. Learn more at thatmanisyou.com, or Dan Woods, 217-821-1495.

**Millions of Monicas** meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00pm at Sacred Heart Church. This prayer group is a way we can come together as believers and lift up our children in prayer. For more information, visit www.millionsofmonicas.com.

**Men's Leadership Summit** on Saturday, October 18,2025 at St. Boniface Church in Edwardsville. Register at dio.org/events. Cost: \$30. Includes materials/food and drink. Deadline to register is Oct. 1. Contact: Gracie Ortiz, Director of Marriage and Family Life at gortiz@dio.org or 217-321-1124 for questions.

Faith Lutheran Church Shumway, is having their annual Soup Supper, Sunday October 19, 2025 from 4:00 to 7:00p.m.

Our menu will consist of Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup, Chili, Hot Dogs, Ham & Cheese Sandwiches, pies, cake, and drinks. This will be a FREE will offering. All proceeds will go ALIS of Altamont for maintaining and repair of the facilities at the

#### **Upcoming DeColores Fall Weekends:**

Men's Weekend: October 16-19; Lay Leader: Tim Hodge. Call or Text him at 217-821-0113

Women's Weekend: October 23-26; Lay Leader: Sandy Deters. Call or Text her at 217-259-2417

The weekends are held at Camp Walter Scott south of Effingham (Must sign up prior to attending.) Call or text for an application.

Volunteer for the Sacraments! – The Office for Education is looking for individuals to volunteer to help with the Sacraments at the Cathedral events throughout the year. Around 1,300 students, along with their

families, come to the Cathedral each year to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and first holy Communion. It is an honor to serve them and welcome them to the Mother Church of the diocese. Help is needed for registration, greeters, ushering, and hospitality. For more information you can contact the Parish Liaison for the Restored Order, Sister M. Clementia, FSGM at ctoalson@dio.org. You must be Safe Environment trained and background checked. More information is on the sign-up webpage.



Register using the QR code.

#### TREASURES OF ITALY PILGRIMAGE

school.

12 Days: April 13-24, 2026 Hosted by Fr. R. Dean Probst Visiting Venice, Florence, Assisi, Monoppello, Lanciano, San Giovanni Rotundo, Monte Sant'Angelo, Sorrento, Pompeii, Monte Cassino, Rome with Papal Audience..\$5299 from St. Louis. Contact Fr. Dean 217-494-6326 or rdprobst@gmail.com for more info or brochure.

#### St. Isidore Parish Fall Breakfast

St. Joseph Hall, Island Grove Sun. Oct. 5 7:30am-noon Free will donation. Country Store and Raffles, also

Sacrament of Marriage-Please contact our parish office (1-844-536-6514) at least 9 months before your anticipated wedding date to begin your spiritual preparation. One or both persons must be registered and actively living their faith. All couples planning to be married at our parish must attend a Pre-Cana program, Natural Family Planning program and FOCCUS evaluation.

Sacrament of Baptism - A family must be registered & actively living their faith. Godparents must also be registered in a Catholic parish or other Christian church & actively living their faith. A Baptism Class is required for all parents. We ask that both parents attend this class together. Godparents are also encouraged and welcome to attend. For more information, please call the parish office (1-844-536-6514).

As Catholics, we know that as we hear in the Letter to the Hebrews 12:1, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us, and persevere in running that race that runs before us" that the Saints are interceding for us and are encouraging us onwards in our faith. We also know, at times, that the concept that we could be saints is, baffling or wild to think about. Yet, all the souls in Heaven are saints. It's true, they may not be canonized by the Church, but the process of Canonization is, in one sense, the Church being able to say with certainty, "this particular person is in Heaven. We know so after examining his or her life, and the fact that due to the person's intercession, these two miraculous events have happened and there is no medical reasoning for these healings to have occurred." Our goal is life with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; both in this life here on earth and after we die. And, again, the Saints encourage us and intercede for us, and it is important to call on their assistance, just as we ask our friends and family members here on earth to pray for us.

Now, some people have a particular fondness or devotion for St. Anthony of Padua, given their reliance on his help for finding lost items. Some have a fondness for St. Jude, as the patron saint of hopeless cases, particularly when overwhelmed and at wit's end. However, it can be intimidating to, in one sense look at all the canonized saints and try to develop a devotion to one or a few of them. After all, we don't want to insult the other saints; and what if a person or group of people finds out that we don't have a particular devotion to one saint that the rest of them do? Well, we're not going to insult any of the other saints that we don't develop a special devotion to; and not every person is going to find a particular saint relatable or resonate with that saint.

If you want to develop a devotion to a saint, but aren't sure where to start, or with whom, a good first step would be to think back to your Confirmation name. You chose that particular saint's name for a reason. You admired the saint or found something similar in his or her life at one point. It could be helpful to reexamine why you chose that saint, and even as your life has changed and developed, to see if you have a fondness for the saint. Another possibility is to look at your hobbies, your interests, or even your job. The odds are in your favor that there is one or more saint that is the patron saint of that aspect of your life. And that goes for if you're struggling with a particular situation or illness, as well, there's a saint for people going through most anything. Or if you want to find a picture book of the saints like my family has when I was a kid, those have good short and sweet summaries of saints, and beautiful illustrations. The saints pray for us, intercede for us, and want to help us. So, let us not be afraid of asking for their help.

Fr. Adam and Jesse Davis are offering OCIA this year. What is the OCIA? The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is designed for non-Catholics who wish to learn more about the Catholic Church.

The OCIA process explores the meaning of faith and how Catholics express that faith in the community and in the world. It offers a chance to ask questions, raise doubts, acquire information, share, learn and grow. What's the commitment? First of all, you're not making a commitment to join the Catholic Church. You won't be pressured into making any decisions; you can stop attending the meetings at any time. You will continue to be welcome at the meetings and in the parish no matter what your decision.

You might want to share this information about the OCIA with anyone to whom you wish to offer an invitation. Perhaps to give them support and encouragement, you might offer to accompany them to one of the meetings.

If you have any questions or an interest, please email Fr. Adam at <a href="mailto:aprichard@dio.org">aprichard@dio.org</a> or Jesse at <a href="Jrdavis6698@gmail.com">Jrdavis6698@gmail.com</a> or call the parish office and leave a message."

#### Prayer Campaign for LIFE Sept. 24 – Nov. 2

We will be joining people of faith across our nation to pray, fast, and serve to end abortion and to fight assisted suicide during the "Prayer Campaign for Life", 40 days focused on building a pro-life culture. This will take place from Sept. 24 to Nov. 2. Please consider participating in all 3 parts of this pro-life campaign:

- Part 1: Commit to an hour of prayer on Tuesday, Sept. 30 and Tuesday, Oct. 7. Come to the church for an hour or pray at home if you can not get to church. 4-5pm each of those days is our normal hour for adoration with mass afterwards. SIGN UP IN THE CRY ROOM.
- Part 2: Commit to fast for an end to abortion (no sign-up required).
- Part 3: Choose an hour or more to volunteer at the Silk Purse Thrift Store in Effingham. Choose any hours between 9 am 4 pm, Monday through Friday. Contact Valerie Kemme (217) 663-2738 to get on the schedule.

Life Chain
Oct. 5 (Sunday), at Sacred
Heart Parish Center. 1:30
prayer service, Life Chain from

All ladies of the parish you are invited to St. Anthony CCW annual fall soup supper on Oct. 6 @ 6pm.

#### October—Month of the Holy Rosary

The rosary will be said before each mass during the month. Please plan on arriving early to participate in praying of the rosary. The Choir usually leads on Sunday mornings and volunteers take care of Saturdays. If you would like to lead the rosary let Donna Davis know.

2025 Respect Life Mass, Rosary Walk, and Luncheon--Saturday, October 11 | 9 a.m. | Holy Family Catholic Church, Granite City Mass at 9 a.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church (2606 Washington Ave, Granite City). Following Mass, participants will take part in a Rosary Walk through the community. A complimentary luncheon will follow, featuring guest speaker Kristi Hofferber, Executive Director of A Beacon of Light. All are welcome—families, youth, clergy, parish staff, and members of the community. No registration or fees are required. For more information, contact: Michael Carlson: mcarlson@dio.org

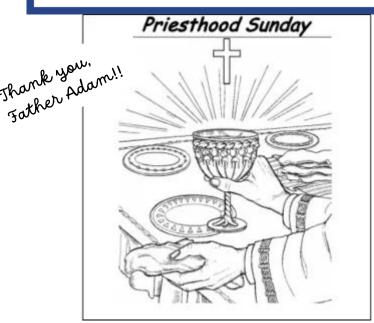
St. Charbel's First Class Relic and relics of other saints coming to Vandalia/Springfield in October – A First Class relic of St. Charbel Makhlouf, the miraculous Maronite priest, monk, and hermit from Lebanon, is coming to our diocese for the first time from his homeland—and Catholics across Illinois are invited to this rare spiritual encounter. The relic will be available for public veneration at two locations: the Sanctuary of the Sorrowful Mother in Vandalia on October 7–8 (Mass at 5 p.m., veneration from 4–8 p.m. both days) and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield on Sunday, October 19, following the 10 a.m. Mass. Additional relics of holy men and women—including St. Padre Pio, St. Carlo Acutis, the three Fatima children, and a piece of the True Cross—will also be present. Come bring your intentions and experience the powerful intercession of the saints. No RSVP required. For more information, visit OSMM.org or email KeckVanessa7@gmail.com.

## **Prayer for Priests**

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. **Amen.** 



Courtesy of USCCB.org



Sunday, September 28, 2025

#### **Explore Graduate Theology at Saint Meinrad**

Laity and deacons are invited to an Open House for the Graduate Theology Program of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. In-person Sat Oct 11 OR online Wed Nov 19 at 6:30pm CT.

Discover how our Master of Arts and certificate programs in theology can deepen your understanding of the faith and support your call to ministry or discipleship.

discipleship.
Visit saintmeinrad.edu/openhouse.



## Dear Padre,

#### Why does my parish priest preach about love practically every Sunday?

"Through the course of the liturgical year, the homily sets forth the mysteries of faith and the standards of the Christian life on the basis of the sacred text" (Lectionary, 24). A translation of the English word "love" appears in the Bible more than 500 times; by comparison, "sin" appears approximately 400 times. Thus, insofar as the homily "should be an explanation of some aspect of the readings from sacred Scripture" (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 65), God's word on "love" is far too prevalent to overlook.

Pope Francis called God's word "a love letter, written to us by the One who knows us best." In the Bible, this God who desires to bestow his love on us (See 1 John 3:1), is essentially telling us, "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." How we love God in return may be likened to two partners in a committed relationship.

Over time, they become so intertwined that they can even assume each other's speech patterns, mannerisms, and views. Likewise, for those who love God, over the years we can begin to internalize the words from God's "love letter" and reflect them in our Christian speech, actions, and outlook! "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him" (John 14:23). •

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

#### Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.



#### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In our day, there is a widespread thirst for justice, a desire for authentic fatherhood and motherhood, a profound longing for spirituality, especially among young people and the marginalized, who do not always find effective means of making their needs known. There is a growing demand for the Church's social doctrine, to which we need to respond.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 17, 2025

#### Monday

September 29 Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab Jn 1:47-51

#### Tuesday

September 30 St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church Zec 8:20-23 Lk 9:51-56

#### Wednesday

October 1 St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church Neh 2:1-8 Lk 9:57-62

#### Thursday

October 2 The Holy Guardian Angels Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12 Mt 18:1-5, 10

#### Friday

October 3 Weekday Bar 1:15-22 Lk 10:13-16

#### Saturday

October 4 St. Francis of Assisi Bar 4:5-12, 27-29 Lk 10:17-24

#### Sunday

October 5 Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Hb 1:2-3: 2:2-4 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14 Lk 17:5-10







September 28, 2025

#### Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Amos 6:1a, 4-7 / 1 Timothy 6:11-16 / Luke 16:19-31



Woe to those who are complacent.... [T]hey shall be the first to go into exile. Amos 6:1,7



#### FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

n A Christmas Carol, Ebenezer Scrooge found himself confronted by the person he had become: someone forced to accept the reality painted by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come. Scrooge hadn't realized how he had slowly drifted into becoming an uncaring and greedy person, unable to show compassion because he never really saw someone else's pain. The story of Ebenezer Scrooge is the story of the rich man in this Sunday's gospel who was unmoved by poor Lazarus, sitting at the gate of the rich man's sumptuous life. They are both stories of human beings drifting into emptiness.

St. Thomas Aguinas suggested that our motivations in life can ultimately be reduced to eight different categories. If we're interested in understanding what sort of people we are becoming, we might ask

ourselves which of these questions best describes our motivation: Am I making my decisions and choices about life based on wealth? Or am I looking to be admired by others and be praised? Is it lasting glory that I seek? Or power so that I can be noted for "making a difference?" Is what I seek a life of ultimate pleasure and comfort? Is it health that I look for? Or perhaps something related to my inner life-some intangible good, like virtue or knowledge? Or is it to see God already in this life what I truly want? It is always a challenge to know our true selves because all too often we may be adrift, unaware of who we are becoming.

#### Reflect

Which of St. Thomas Aquinas' questions describes me and my choices?