

Imprimatur

A Publication of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church



What's Up?

New Youth Minister

Thaddeus Tsohantaridis (pron., Cho-han-tar-e-dees) was hired to be the new youth minister, starting next year. He and his wife Lindsay have two daughters (Ava and Eleanor), are expecting their third (a boy), and they are converts to Catholicism. Before taking up residence in Vancouver, Thad spent time in Newberg, OR and went to school at George Fox University. He is presently a part-time student at Portland State, getting his masters degree in English Literature. You may recognize his wife, Lindsay: she has been teaching at Camas High School for the last couple of years and starred as St. Thérèse in the movie *Thérèse—The Story of St. Thérèse of Lisieux*. Thad enjoys reading literature (especially C.S. Lewis and JRR Tolkien), all things Medieval, good conversation, soccer, the outdoors and being a father and husband.

Please take the time to welcome Thaddeus and his family to our Parish!!

About

Imprimatur is Written and Edited by Justin Nickelsen, Assistant for Religious Education, and serves as a medium for Catholic education and opinion

Farewell to Father Lappe

After announcements, meetings, news letters, *Summa* statements, homilies, the establishment of a "Transition Team", visitations from diocesan representatives, a "Prayer for Transition", etc. (*ad infinitum, ad nauseam*) the time is finally here: Fr. Lappe says goodbye to us all at St. Thomas.

Are we sad? Sure. Can we validly ask whether policies which possibly move priests every six years adequately reflect the fatherly role that a priest has in the parish? Absolutely. But do we, in the end, trust in the decision making of our Bishop, whom we believe as Catholics is successor to the Apostles, and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, prudentially pastors the flock entrusted to him by Christ? Most definitely, and by doing so we give honor and glory to God!



Spiritual Milk Towards Solid Food

We *have* been richly blessed with Fr. Lappe who has been a great spiritual father, helping our Parish move from "spiritual milk" towards "solid food". We aren't there yet ("solid food" comes in Heaven, for most of us at least), but we are on a good path and it is due to the hard work of Fr. Lappe, and many of those he inspired, that we *have* established (or,

with some things, re-established) "customs" and "traditions" which are distinctively and unashamedly "Catholic"; those things which reflect the glory of the Bride and the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. More, we have established a vibrant Parish life, where people are known and friends are to be made—something to take advantage of if you have yet to.

Being "Catholic"

While other short summations would apply, to be "Catholic" is to believe, without reservation, that Christ willed and established the Church to be our guide and to bring us to holiness and, eventually, to Heaven. And He didn't just found this Church and turn over the

controls to a Board or Committee—He *continues* to work in the Church, to guide it in all ways. When it comes down to it, *this* is why in am a "Catholic Christian". If I didn't believe it, I might be attending The First Church of Somethingorother down the street, the Fourth Church of God up the road, or, quite likely, *no church at all!*

I mention all of this because it seems to me that Fr. Lappe's "greatness" is in candidly being a "Catholic priest". He believes in *unam sanctam, catholicam, et apostolicam ecclesiam*. He applies it. That said, Fr. Lappe has simply been a channel, a "conduit", which has allowed the greatness of *the Church* to

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Thank you Fr. Lappe for your hard work, your dedication, your faithfulness to Christ and His Church. You have left this Parish better than you found it, you have been loved, you have taught us so much, and we are eternally grateful! We will miss you very, very much! Best wishes in Bremerton!

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shine through in an unclouded, undistorted manner. It is a sort of bittersweet irony that he *needs* to be recognized and applauded for doing what should, in all reality, be expected, mundane, ordinary.

Many may not recognize this because too many have allowed themselves to be spoon-fed the “*Spirit of Vatican II*” instead of the actual Council documents and subsequent papal commentary, especially that which came during the 26 years we were graced with John Paul II. Father Lappe isn’t “novel” in his leadership as a priest, nor is he “traditionalist”: he is simply *faithful*.

Should performing the Liturgy in the manner in which Christ’s Church desires be considered “novel” or even “rigid”, or should it be considered “loyal” and “obedient”?

Should Eucharistic Benediction, Adoration, Corpus Christi processions and a central place for the Tabernacle be “unusual” or “conservative”, or should they be recognized for what they are: logical and necessary actions and symbolic statements that both reflect *and* inform our central Catholic belief in the Real Presence of Christ, the God-man, in the Eucharist?

Should a priest’s insistence that a “Catholic” believe and practice what the “Catholic Church” teaches about issues of faith and morals be considered “judgmental” and “backwards thinking”, or is it, rather, part of being a good spiritual father?

Should expecting that a Catholic couple, wishing to marry in the Church, know and live out the teachings of that *same Church* on issues of sexual ethics, the indissolubility of marriage and child rearing be thought of as “hard line” and “intolerant”, or is it, rather, quite “reasonable” and “understandable” to expect Catholics to be... *Catholic*?

So, we *have* been blessed, but it is bitter-sweet irony that we have to find ourselves so impressed by something which should be so *ordinary*. And I suppose that until it is, Fr. Lappe will continue to get extra-ordinary applause for allowing the goodness of the Church to shine through his ministry. For those of us who recognize the unfortunate reality

that he is “extra-ordinary”, we have a great responsibility: prayer, fasting, stewardship, excellence in parenting, and we must continue to equip ourselves with the knowledge of *actual* Church teaching and Biblical principle—a *life long* process.

Longview Boy

But Father will be missed by many people for much more than his willingness to sacrifice popularity for *faithfulness*. Many will miss *who* Father Lappe is—his *personal* traits, his *isms*, which some may or may not have taken the time to get to know in the last many years.

Some things may not be appropriate to mention, but among the many here are a few: he was born and bred in Longview, WA and loves Bruno’s Pizza (1108 Washington Way, in Longview, if you are ever in the area); he likes to drink beer... good beer... and in healthy doses; he can play Texas Hold’em and he is actually good at it; he drives a truck and it is bigger (now) than mine; he works out a lot and follows some cultish-internet-workout-regiment-thing—I am younger, and probably thirty pounds heavier and I can say without reservation that he could probably knock me out cold in a fight; he can really laugh, and with a laugh that is addictive to those around him; he actually tells good stories and good jokes; he works overtime because he actually cares about you and this Parish; he likes to hunt and fish and it appears to be a sort of obsession, considering the extraordinary amount of accessories in his basement; he has an I-Phone and you would be surprised by some of the music on it.

The list could go on.

In short, Father Lappe is more than “faithful”, and he is anything but a “traditionalist” stuck on things of yesterday. He puts on display for all who are willing to hear and see that being a “Catholic”, without reservation, can and does cohabit with “fun”, and “life”, and “happiness”; that being Catholic truly informs us of what it means to *be human* and to *live* our life; that becoming a “slave to Christ” is to paradoxically be the *most free* we can possibly be.

Did I mention he has a GPS navigator?

Let’s be of good cheer for our neighbors to the north: Bremerton will be receiving a fun and faithful priest, one who will not allow inner-Parish pressure groups or cultural fads inform his action as a Catholic man, or impede his ministry. No, he allows the Church to do *its* job...

...Isn’t that crazy?

Now What?

As soon as you are done going through your mourning process, and you can shed the sackcloth and ashes, you should pick yourself up and be at Church next weekend for Fr. Gillette’s first Masses, and you should definitely set aside the time to come to our Parish Picnic at Hathaway Park on July 13th.

Fr. Peter Gillette is a good priest and deserves our welcome, smile, attention, docility and excitement. Try and imagine if you were a priest coming into this Parish. Yikes! He is probably a little nervous; I know that I would be. It is our job to make sure that these feelings don’t last any longer than they need to.

And for the love of all things divine: don’t look for the Exit sign. A parish is, always will be, and always should be much more than “the Priest”. Each and every one of us help to make this Parish the faithful House of Prayer that it is. Don’t you *dare* undermine the foundation! The greatest honor you could possibly pay Fr. Lappe is to play your part in continuing down the path of *faithfulness*, both to the Church and to our humble Parish in Camas, WA.

If you don’t... if *we* don’t allow his teaching and example become a lasting legacy among us, we must ask ourselves what it all was for in the first place.

Those of you who understand every word I am saying bear the great burden of responsibility: “For unto whomsoever much is given, of him much shall be required” (Luke 12:48, *Douay-Rheims Version*).

Blessed be God!

—Justin Nickelsen