

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST



THOMAS AQUINAS ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF BEING:

In the philosophy of Thomas Aquinas, the study of "being" (or **esse** in Latin) is central to understanding the nature of reality and the relationship between creatures and God.

When teaching students about Aquinas' metaphysics, it's essential to guide them through the foundational concepts that underpin his thought.

This includes an understanding of the degrees of abstraction, the distinction between essence and existence, and the classification of being into real and logical categories.

1. DEGREES OF ABSTRACTION

Degrees of abstraction are critical in Thomistic philosophy. Aquinas borrowed this concept from Aristotle to explain how the human intellect understands reality. There are three degrees:

a. FIRST DEGREE OF ABSTRACTION – (Physical Abstraction)

- Explanation: At this level, the intellect abstracts the form of material objects from matter. It deals with physical entities and their properties, focusing on what is measurable and quantifiable, like shape, size, and motion. This is the domain of natural sciences, where the study concerns material beings as they exist in the physical world.

- Example: Consider a tree. The first degree of abstraction considers it in terms of its physical properties—its height, color, growth, and so on.

- Biblical Reference: Genesis 1:11-12 describes the creation of plants and trees, which can be studied in their material forms at this level of abstraction: "Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind.'"

b. SECOND DEGREE OF ABSTRACTION – (Mathematical Abstraction)

- Explanation: The second degree of abstraction deals with quantity and the mathematical properties of objects. Here, the intellect separates physical forms from particular matter and focuses on their quantitative aspects, such as numbers, geometrical figures, and proportions.

- Example: The same tree from the first example is now considered in terms of its numerical properties—its height

in meters, the circumference of its trunk, and the number of branches.

- Biblical Reference: Luke 14:28 speaks to this level of abstraction: "For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?"

c. THIRD DEGREE OF ABSTRACTION – (Metaphysical Abstraction)

- Explanation: The third degree of abstraction considers being (**ens**) itself. It abstracts from all material conditions, considering being as such, without reference to any particular physical or mathematical properties. This is the realm of metaphysics, where we contemplate the nature of existence and the essence of things.

- Example: Now, the tree is considered not in terms of its physical or mathematical properties, but in terms of its very existence. What does it mean for the tree to "be"? What is the essence of "treeness"?

- Biblical Reference: Exodus 3:14 offers a profound metaphysical insight when God reveals Himself to Moses as "I AM WHO I AM," highlighting the pure act of existence, which is the focus of the third degree of abstraction.

2. DISTINCTION BETWEEN ESSENCE AND EXISTENCE

One of Aquinas' most significant contributions to metaphysics is the distinction between essence and existence.

a. ESSENCE (Essentia)

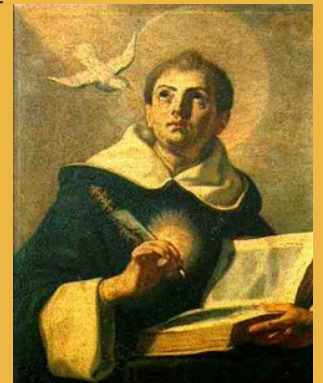
- Explanation: Essence refers to what a thing is—its nature or "whatness." It is the set of properties that make an entity what it fundamentally is. For example, the essence of a human being includes rationality and the capacity for language and community.

- Example: The essence of a triangle is being a three-sided figure. This essence is the same for all triangles, regardless of whether they exist physically.

- Biblical Reference: Genesis 1:26-27 describes human beings created in the "image of God," which can be understood as referring to the essence of humanity, distinguished by intellect and will.

b. EXISTENCE (Esse)

- Explanation: Existence, on the other hand, refers to the act of being, the "isness" of a



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thing. While essence defines what a thing is, existence determines whether that essence is actualized in the real world. Aquinas argued that in all created beings, essence and existence are distinct—essence does not necessarily entail existence.

- Example: A unicorn has an essence (a one-horned horse-

like creature) but lacks existence because there are no unicorns in reality.

- Biblical Reference: John 1:3 states, "Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made." This verse underscores that existence itself is dependent on God, who is the source of all being.

c. AQUINAS' DOCTRINE

- Explanation: According to Aquinas, only in God are essence and existence identical—God's essence is His existence. This means that God is the necessary being, the uncaused cause, whose essence is to exist.

In all other beings, essence and existence are distinct; a creature's essence does not guarantee its existence. Creatures must receive existence from an external source, ultimately from God.

- Example: Consider a statue. Its essence (the form or idea of the statue) is distinct from its existence (the physical bronze or marble statue). The statue's existence depends on the sculptor bringing it into being.

- Biblical Reference: Acts 17:28, where St. Paul says, "In Him we live and move and have our being," highlights that all created things depend on God for their existence.

3. CLASSIFICATION OF BEING: REAL VS. LOGICAL

Aquinas also classified being into real and logical categories, further subdividing these to clarify different modes of being.

a. REAL BEING (Ens Reale)

- Explanation: Real being refers to that which exists independently of the mind. It is the actual existence of things in the world.

Real being can be further divided into:

- Substance (which exists in itself, like a tree or a human being)

- Accidents (which exist in something else, like the color of a leaf or the temperature of the air).

- Example: The tree in your backyard is a real being (substance), while its green color is an accidental being.

- Biblical Reference: Genesis 1:31, "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good," refers to real beings, the actual things created by God.

b. LOGICAL BEING (Ens Rationis)

- Explanation: Logical being refers to that which exists only in the mind, as a concept or a mental construct. These are beings of reason, such as universals, mathematical entities, or negations. Logical beings do not exist independently of thought.

- Example: The concept of "nothingness" is a logical being. It is not something that exists in reality but is a product of the mind's ability to understand the absence of being.

- Biblical Reference: Romans 4:17 speaks of "the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist," alluding to the power of God to transcend the categories of real and logical being.

SUBDIVISIONS OF BEING

Aquinas also identified several subdivisions of being to categorize different types of entities:

1. Possible Being:

What could potentially exist (e.g., the idea of a unicorn).

2. Actual Being:

What currently exists (e.g., the actual tree in your garden).

3. Necessary Being:

That which must exist and cannot not exist (e.g., God).

4. Contingent Being:

That which may or may not exist and is dependent on something else for its existence (e.g., human beings).

CONCLUSION:

By understanding Aquinas' metaphysics through the degrees of abstraction, the distinction between essence and existence, and the classification of being, students can gain a deeper insight into the nature of reality as seen through the lens of Catholic philosophy.

Aquinas' thought serves as a bridge between reason and faith, helping believers to understand the world and their place in it more profoundly.

It highlights the contingent nature of created beings and points to God as the ultimate source of all existence, the necessary Being whose essence is existence itself.

This foundational knowledge equips students with the philosophical tools to engage deeply with theological truths, preparing them for the intellectual and spiritual challenges they will face in their vocation.





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

With great joy I wish you and your loved ones a blessed and peaceful Easter. This holy day is the heart of our Christian faith, the day on which we proclaim that life has conquered death, hope has overcome despair, and God's love has triumphed over sin. The empty tomb reminds us that no darkness in our lives is stronger than the light of the Risen Lord.

Easter is not only a remembrance of something that happened long ago. It is a living promise. The resurrection of Jesus assures us that God continues to work in our lives today — bringing healing where there is hurt, forgiveness where there is failure, and new beginnings where we thought none were possible. Each of us is invited to experience this new life.

On this Easter Sunday, I extend a special word of welcome and gratitude to everyone who lives within the boundaries of our parish. Whether you join us at Mass every week, occasionally during the year, or perhaps are visiting today for the first time in a long while, please know that you are an important part of this parish family. Our parish exists for every person who calls this neighborhood home. Your lives, your joys, your struggles, and your hopes are always held in our prayers.

The risen Christ meets people exactly where they are. He does not wait for us to be perfect before inviting us into friendship with Him. Instead, He comes with mercy, patience, and love. My hope and prayer this Easter is that every person within our community may experience the peace and encouragement that only Christ can give.

If you are searching for hope, for meaning, or for a deeper relationship with God, know that the doors of this parish are always open to you. There is a place for you here.

May the joy of the Resurrection fill your hearts and homes. May the peace of the Risen Lord remain with you throughout the Easter season and always. A blessed and joyful Easter to all.

In Christ's peace, Fr. Sam Conforti, Pastor

I AM ALIVE FOREVER AND EVER.



The **36th Anniversary** of the Holy Ghost Knights of Columbus Council will be celebrated Sunday April 26 at the 10:30 Mass.

Becoming a Knight of Columbus can transform your life.

No man is too busy to be an active Knight of Columbus. Spending just 24 hours per year can make an enormous difference in your life.

Serve the parish, give back to the community, grow in your faith, and access our optional top-rated insurance to protect your family. The Order was made for the moment we are in, as a Church, as a country, as families and as men.

The council's members include Father Sam and Deacon Robbie
Call Grand Knight Warren Wawczak 630-487-7925



An Easter Morning of Reflection: DISCOVERING GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE FACE OF JESUS

Fr. Sam Conforti and Susan Tutaj will guide you through the morning.

This Easter Season, join us to reflect on how we experience the presence of God in our lives, we will pray, reflect on scripture, journal, enter a guided meditation and have time for adoration.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026
9:30-NOON in the KOINONIA ROOM

(Please enter the Faith Formation Door in the circular driveway: Door#20)

To attend: please register with Joanne in the parish office at 630-860-2975



DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES



The Discipleship Committee has completed reading the Pastoral Letter: MAKE and have begun brainstorming ideas to put together a three-to-four-year plan for the parish. Please pray for the Discipleship Team as we formulate the parish plan.

The following is taken from the MAKE Pastoral Letter:

The shared elements of Discipleship are Conversion, Confession, Communion, Commission plus Prayer.

"Conversion is that moment when you realize that God is real and not just a theory, and when you personally understand that God is connecting with and loving you to the point that you respond by deciding to Follow him forever." (MAKE, p.6)

"Our faith will no longer feel like a matter of routine, but rather a joyful desire to participate"..... in our Church (MAKE, p.6)

Confession..."while we are sinners, let us strive to be saints. Only then will we begin to taste the fullness of being made into true disciples of Jesus. When we desire that for ourselves, we will naturally want it for others, too."

Communion: "The Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life, making disciples through personal transformation....You are what you eat! Therefore, the Eucharist is the food by which Jesus becomes alive in us. Transformed by Christ's true Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, we receive the grace and power to go on mission as his disciple-makers." (MAKE, p.8)

"If you already cherish the Eucharist, let your love for it shine brightly. Share it, adore it, and receive it with a joyful heart. If the Eucharist has not yet become a central part of your spiritual journey, I strongly invite you to make it a priority. Ask the Lord to kindle within you a deeper longing for His true Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, and experience the transformative grace it bring into your life."(MAKE p.9)

Commission: ..."The liturgy does not simply come to an end. Those assembled are sent forth to bring the fruits of the Eucharist to the world: 'Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!' This sending at the end of the Mass is, for each of us, our personal participation in the disciple-making mission of the Church." (MAKE p. 10)

Prayer: St. Therese of Lisieux "For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy. Prayer is the heartbeat of our journey to live in unison with Jesus today and always."

"We are called to shine the light of the Gospel for all to see. This is our mission and purpose, our daily task, and the source of our deepest joy." (MAKE p.13)

The first task for the Discipleship Team was to form a Prayer Team. We have the Monday-Thursday Adoration Group, a Home Group and a Group at the Radcliffe praying for our needs each month. This month we are asking them to pray for the committee as they formulate the 3-4 year

plan for the parish. If you would like to be included in one of these groups, please contact Susan.

Susan Tutaj

Coordinator of Discipleship
stutaj@holyghostparish.org
630-860-3691

FAITH FORMATION

Celebration of the Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist takes place here at Holy Ghost Parish on April 25, 2026. The children have been preparing and are anxious to receive the true Body and Blood of Christ. As Catholics we know that when we are fed by the Eucharist this strengthens us to live as Christ's witnesses and we grow closer to him, and we become more like Jesus!

Per Pope Francis, "The Eucharist is Jesus who gives himself entirely to us. To nourish ourselves with him and abide in him through Holy Communion, if we do it with faith, it transforms our life into a gift to God and to our brothers." Pope Francis stressed that the Eucharist is not a private prayer or just a beautiful spiritual experience and it's not simply a commemoration of what Jesus did at the Last Supper. Rather, he said it is a "Memorial, namely a gesture that actualizes and makes present the event of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the bread is truly His Body given, the wine truly is Blood poured out." We go to Mass as a whole community, we the Body of Christ, united with its Head, Jesus Christ. This is why it is so important that we all regularly attend Mass.

Please keep those receiving First Eucharist and their families in prayer, along with our OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) Candidates.

From The Wisdom of Fulton Sheen -Quote for April 29

"If you are really humble, if you realize how small you are and how much you need God, then you cannot fail."

Nancy Siemers Director of Faith Formation
630-766-4509



Easter Sunday Message
from Bishop Dennis E. Spies
April 2026

Happy Easter everyone! This is the greatest of all the celebrations. Everything we celebrate all year culminates Easter Sunday. Have you ever considered that the whole point of Christmas is that Easter Sunday needs to happen?
Sometimes we forget in our life that Easter Sunday is real. We think a lot about the passion that Jesus had to go through on Good Friday and how we participate in it. When life is difficult and we're struggling, we sometimes forget about Easter Sunday during the year. It's important for us to remember that any time we're going through something and we're struggling, and then somehow we get through it, and it's extraordinary afterwards—that's Easter Sunday in your life.
Our Lord Jesus participated in Easter Sunday to let us know that he has power over life and death. His life wasn't taken from him. He gave it away—the same with rising from the dead. He chose to rise from the dead. Why would he do that? To let us know that we're next. We get to participate in this resurrection when we follow Him throughout our whole life. And the whole point of the resurrection is the proclamation of eternal life, that we will rise from the dead when we die. Thanks be to God that He saw fit to give us such an example.
This witness is apparent as we enter into this Easter season when we see the apostles boldly testifying to the resurrection from the dead—most of them with their lives. They were martyred on account of their testimony, so it's not just an expression. Jesus actually rose from the dead, and they gave their lives to testify to it.
So, this year, remember that celebrating Easter is about celebrating Jesus' rising from the dead, and the hope that he gives us. Rather than filling up on chocolate Easter bunnies and eggs because you gave up chocolate for Lent, celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus in your life, rising out of the many challenges you face to give you hope in this life and in the life to come. Thanks be to God.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

Why Join? Protect Your Family

- As a member of the Knights of Columbus, you get:
- Access to our top-quality portfolio of life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability income insurance, and annuity products, backed by ethical and Catholic business practices, exclusive for yourself, your spouse, and your dependent children
 - A dedicated brother Knight field agent assigned to you and your family
 - A complimentary, comprehensive annual financial review
 - Free accidental death benefits up to \$5000 for you and your spouse

With a KC life insurance policy you get:

- Free death benefit of \$5000 on children stillborn or dying before age 61 days
- Guaranteed-issue insurability (up to \$10,000) for your children under age 19
- **Upon your death:**
Free accidental death benefits up to \$5000 for your widow
\$500 per month for each child up to the age of 19
College scholarships up to \$5000 per year (\$20,000 maximum) for each child

Why wait?
Call Grand Knight Warren Wawczak 630-487-7925
or join online at <https://www.kofc.org/get-involved/join-kofc/>

Baby Bottle Collection

April 9-10 the Knights of Columbus will be distributing Baby Bottles for donations for the Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland that assist women in crisis pregnancy situations.

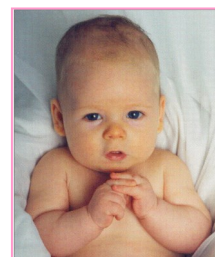
100% of your change, bills, and checks will help provide free ultrasounds that have spared many women from making the heart-breaking decision to destroy their unborn children. Please return the bottles May 9-10, even if they are empty.

The Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland

Crisis pregnancy counseling, medical and social referrals, material goods assistance 40,000 Moms and babies have been saved from the tragedy of abortion since 1984

www.womens-center.org 773-794-1313

CHICAGO - DES PLAINES - EVERGREEN PARK



WITH JOYFUL HEARTS,
WE WELCOME OUR
NEWLY BAPTIZED.

MARIANO DIANE FASANO

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

IN LOVING
MEMORY

DEARLY DEPARTED

ENOLA MELE
9/17/1931-3/10/2026

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and may the perpetual light shine upon
them. May the souls of all the faithful
departed, through the mercy of
God, rest in peace.



ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.



Mass Intention Information
\$10 stipend per Mass Intention.

Mass Intention requests, in compliance
with the Decree on Mass Stipends, began on
January 1, 2016: There will be one intention
for a Mass. Mass will be offered for all
parishioners in the parish on Christmas Eve,
Christmas Day, Holy Thursday, Easter Vigil,
Easter Sunday, and Holy Days of Obligation.
No other intentions will be taken
for the Masses on these days.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

4 pm Saturday
8 am Sunday
10:30 am Sunday

DAILY MASS

8:30 am Mon-Thurs

FIRST FRIDAY

8:30 am



PLEASE JOIN
THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS
TO PRAY THE ROSARY
AFTER THE 10:30 AM
MASS ON SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026



PLEASE JOIN US
TO PRAY THE ROSARY
MONDAY THROUGH
THURSDAY
AT 9 AM AND ON
THURSDAY
EVENINGS AT 7PM.

Lord, we ask you to bless all those who
serve; grant your heavenly protection to
these brave men and women. Please give
them and their loved ones strength and
peace. Amen.

AIR FORCE:

LT COL Anthony Calabrese
LT COL Patty Calabrese
MAJ Mary Dones
CAPT Joseph Piscopo
MAJ Jeremy Shimanek
1st LT Joshua Jalowiec
SSGT Robert W. Dones
SSGT Timothy Latvis
SRA Randall Petrbock
A1C Ryan Leider
A1C Nicholas Pfeifer
A2C James Kochanski III

ARMY:

LTC Robert Bowen
LTC Grace Gallagher
CAPT Elizabeth Gonzales
SFC Zack Cieslak
SPC Marco Garcia
SPC David Patcher
CW4 Anderson Mann
CW2 Carlos Contreras
PVT Steven Badgley
PVT Ian Schauchuk

MARINE CORPS:

CAPT Edward W. Miller
SGT Nicholas Reid
SGT Jack Rowley
LCPL Michele Giuseppe Bottalico
LCPL Vincent Anthony Eltman
PVT Cameron Andresen
PVT Gabriel Leon
PVT Billy Termine
SGT Jeremy Ames

NAVY:

LCDR Nicholas Lucania
Ryan James Ruizol
CTT2 Kurtis Ames

**LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK
OF OUR PARISH**

Cathy Alcozer
Bianca Marie Borowski
Michael Brann
Micah Casey
Ron Catalano
Ady DeLargarza
Aldegunda Diego
Thomas Franzen
Izcoatl Garcia Gonzales
Mike Kaiser
Sarah Kasab
Jerad Klint
Therese Kotecki
Michael Malek
Jose Joaquin Negrete Paz
Cindi Shea
Frank Staggs
Holly Staggs
Nancy Townsend
Larry Venere
Feliciano Vero
Gloria Villanueva
Salvatore Vivo
Joe Vocino
Matt Vocino
Joseph Yello
Cyndi Zwadlo

**And for those listed in our parish
book of prayers.**

Military and Prayer List

Please email:
hgbulletin@holyghostparish.org
or call the parish office at 630-860-2975
to add or remove a name from the list.

Thank you!

