



READING THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE DIOCESE OF GARY

The coat of arms of the Diocese of Gary was created in 1956 at the direction of the Most Rev. Andrew Grutka, its first bishop. Honoring the steel industry, which dominated the area, there are **seven alternating black and silver (white) bars or ingots**. The number seven was chosen to indicate the seven sacraments through which the Church offers grace.

Upon this background are two gold (yellow) **angel wings** to honor the titular patrons of the Cathedral – the Holy Angels. Dating back to 1906, Holy Angels Parish was the first Catholic Church founded in the city of Gary. The cornerstone for the current structure was laid in 1950. Six years later, Pope Pius XII named Holy Angels as the Cathedral when he established the Gary Diocese out of territory which was once part of the Fort Wayne Diocese. In what may be an homage to its mother diocese, the Seraphic Angel wings, which appear in the Fort Wayne coat of arms, were carried over in a simplified form to that of Gary.

Angels were made by God to watch over, guard and guide creation. As pure spirits, they do not actually possess wings, yet **wings** are used as a symbolic way of showing the higher realms in which they move as agents of God's will and voice. As we read in the last book of Scripture: "Then I saw another angel flying overhead, with everlasting good news to announce to those who dwell on earth, to every nation, tribe, tongue and people." Revelation 14:6 NAB

Beneath the angel wings is a **thurible emitting three tongues of incense** indicative of prayer to the three persons of the Blessed Trinity. From Old Testament times until now, incense has ritual significance. Its sweet aroma symbolizes something pleasing and acceptable offered to God. In the vision John has of the final heavenly liturgy, the elders hold harps and gold bowls filled with incense. The symbol appears in Revelation 8:3-4 "Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a gold censer. He was given a great quantity of incense to offer, along with the prayers of all the holy ones, on the gold altar that was before the throne. ... The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God from the hand of the angel."

The liturgy offered by the Church at prayer in their Cathedral with their bishop, gives us a foretaste of the great liturgy that will be celebrated before the throne of God.

READING THE COAT OF ARMS OF BISHOP McCLORY

The Church in the diocese manifests herself in the most visible way when the Bishop celebrates the Eucharistic Sacrifice in his cathedral church, with the concelebration of his priests, the assistance of the deacons, and the participation of the faithful (cf. Sacred Congregation for the Liturgy – Arinze; 2008). Appropriately the center of Bishop McClory's coat of arms is a (white) **host** and gold (yellow) **chalice**, signifying the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and the centrality of the Holy Eucharist in the life of the Catholic Church and in the life of a bishop. It is also a reference to Bishop McClory's priestly ordination in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Detroit, Michigan.

To the left of the chalice is a (brown) **pine cone**, acknowledging the Bishop's baptismal patron, Saint Robert Bellarmine (1542 -1621) an Italian, Jesuit Cardinal and one of the most important figures of the Counter-Reformation. This egg-shaped pine cone is native to the town of Montepulciano, the Italian birthplace of Bellarmine. For that reason, it is found on the Bellarmine Family's Coat of Arms. In Christian symbolism, the pine cone is seen as the crown of the Tree of Life.

At the right side of the chalice is a (red) **rose**. Roses are often used to reference St. Therese. Born in Lisieux, France in 1873, Therese was a Discalced Carmelite nun widely venerated in modern times. She is popularly known as the "Little Flower of Jesus". Upon her death bed Therese said: "After my death, I will let fall a shower of roses. I will spend my heaven doing good upon earth. I will raise up a mighty host of little saints. My mission is to make God loved...." Saint Therese is the patronal saint of the McClory family. Bishop McClory celebrated his first Mass as a priest and eventually became the pastor and rector of the National Basilica Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, in Royal Oak, Michigan. Bishop McClory was called to the episcopacy by Pope Francis in 2019 while serving as the rector of that same Basilica.

Girdling the base of the chalice is the (white) **triple-knotted cincture** which is used as an emblem of the Third Order of St. Francis. The knots stand for the cardinal virtues of Faith, Hope and Love as well as for the Holy Trinity. The Bishop's parents, James and Ann, met as members of the Third Order at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit. The cincture thus honors St. Francis of Assisi, but more significantly the Bishop's parents and the sacrament of Matrimony.

The bottom of Bishop McClory's Coat of Arms features a (brown) **key**, which in this case references the Order of Porter – the first of the former Minor Orders leading to Priesthood. The basic duties of "porter" were to care for the opening and closing of the church building as well as to care for the temporalities of the Church. It is used here to recall the "Porter of St. Bonaventure Monastery" in Detroit, the recently beatified Fr. Solanus Casey. His holiness was manifest in the large numbers of persons who came to the door of the Monastery seeking his guidance and prayers. Bishop McClory, while he was the Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia in the Archdiocese of Detroit, participated in the pre-canonization planning for the beatification of Blessed Solanus.

All of the above symbols are displayed against a **blue background**, which pays homage to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus. Shortly before receiving the call to the episcopacy, the Bishop had just completed a pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady in Lourdes, France. His ordination to the episcopacy was on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11, 2020.

Mission Statement : The Roman Catholic Saint Thomas More Parish Family welcomes and invites every person to join us on our journey in faith and celebration. With the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and through Sacred Scripture and Tradition, we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all, especially in loving service to those in need. As part of the Universal Church, we affirm the dignity of every person. All this we do to give glory and honor to God.

Pastoral Staff

Pastor Reverend Michael J. Yadron, KCHS; Ext. 2312
myadron@stm-church.com
Associate Pastor Reverend Declan McNicholas; Ext. 2314
dmnicholas@stm-church.com
Senior Deacon Dr. Napoleon Tabion, OFS
Senior Deacon Daniel Zurawski, KHS
Deacons David Kapala, KHS
..... Joseph Stodola, KHS
Director of Finance Noreen Bickel; Ext. 2330
Pastoral Care Coordinator Deacon David Kapala, KHS; Ext. 2315
Director of Music Angie Lorandos; Ext. 2338
Director of Religious Education Emily Hackett; Ext. 2232

Sacramental Information

Confessions

Saturdays **3:30 to 4:30 p.m.**
First Friday 1/2 hour before the 6:30 a.m. Mass
Baptisms First and Third Sundays at 1:00 p.m.

Parents must be registered parishioners and regularly attending at least six months before the Baptism. At least one of the godparents **must** be a practicing Catholic.

Pre-Baptism Class 2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Parents must call the Parish Office to schedule class and/or Baptism.

Marriage Must be a registered, practicing member of the parish at least six months before beginning the six month preparation program for marriage.

Communion calls and visits to Hospitals and Homebound:
Call the Parish Office for Sacraments at hospital or at home.

St. Thomas More Parish Website: www.stm-church.com

Parish Office Staff

Hours: Mon-Friday 8:00 am-8:00 pm • Saturday 8:00 am-2:00 pm
Email address parish.office@stm-church.com
Email address for bulletin bulletin@stm-church.com
Office Phone 836-8610 Office Fax 836-9185
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Daytime Receptionist Ext. 2300
Evening Receptionist Ext. 2300
Building Maintenance Mike Popovich 836-8610, Ext. 2313
Custodial Supervisor Karla Baldwin 836-8610, Ext. 2331



New Parishioner Registration

To make it as convenient as possible for you, new parishioners may register at any time in the Parish Office.

Stop in during the day, or take advantage of our convenient evening and Saturday office hours.

Pastoral Ministries

Environment & Art Helen Jaworski 836-8610
Eucharistic Ministers Deacon Dan Zurawski 742-6005
Hospitality/Greeters Chris Shearman 923-1419
Lectors William McDunn 922-9459
Nursery Kaaren A. Mashura 836-5079
St. Vincent de Paul Terry Oprinovich 836-8610
Vocations Committee 836-8610

St. Thomas More Religious Education

Kindergarten through 8th Grade

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday & Friday — 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday — 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Religious Education Phone 836-8610
Director Emily Hackett; Ext. 2232
Administrative Assistant Rosemary Strimbu; Ext. 2236
Grades K through 8 • Wednesday or Thursday from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

2019-2020 Pastoral Council Members

Thomas Alexander Bernadine Barrett, Co-Chairperson
Carolyn Cenko Leslie Dernulc
Diane DeSoto Tim Jevyak, Chairperson
Jim Kaspar Christi Kordeck
Katie Kordeck Eric Miller
Joe Peters Daniel Straka

Pastoral Commissions Chairpersons

Formation/Education Allen Blocher
Parish Life Elaine Herrmann
Peace & Social Justice Mari Casas
Spirituality & Worship Kaaren Mashura
Stewardship Paul Liszewski

St. Thomas More School

Pre-School through 8th Grade

Office Hours: Monday– Friday • 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Website www.stm-school.com
School Phone 836-9151 School Fax 836-0982
President Noreen Bickel; Ext. 2330
Principal Dr. Samantha Francis; Ext. 2258
School Administrative Assistant Jennifer Gonzalez; Ext. 2200
School Reception & Office Associate Nereida Harretos; Ext. 2201
School Parent Association Heather Delgado; (312) 933-9208
Parish & School Offices Associate Maureen Walz; Ext. 2311
School Admissions Pam Pasyk; Ext. 2309
Director of Development Karen Leluga; Ext. 2307
Business Manager Mike Gutchewsky; Ext. 2339

Parish Organizations

Altar & Rosary Society Cindy Keilman 923-9862
Boy Scouts PJ Caraher (219) 838-2943
Career Networking Group Jim Kaczka (219) 201-0335
..... or Donna Weidenfeller (219) 688-7597
Circle of Prayer Carolyn Cenko 741-2509
..... carolynrealtor@sbcglobal.net
Cub Scouts Duane Schwemlein -Stmcubpack542@gmail.com
Finance Barbara Shaver 838-9200
Gabriel Project Marilyn Glennon 801-6586
Garden Club Paul Mazerik 644-8409
Gifts of Love & Warmth Bernadine Nemeth 513-6544
Girl Scouts Renee Whelan 796-6809
Holy Name Society Bill Burke: sbburke3@att.net
Knights of Columbus Ralph Konkoly (219)588-4559
Oblates Denise Gard (219)201-4103
Respect Life Leslie Dernulc (219)741-3739
Senior Citizens Marion Case (219)743-3543
Ushers Club Jim Marmalejo 718-8704
Venture Crew Fr. Ben Ross 322-4505

Weis Center

8635 Calumet Avenue • Munster, IN 46321

Phone 836-2660

Please remember St. Thomas More in your Will and Estate Planning

Celebrants

Saturday, February 22

5:30 p.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

Sunday, February 23

6:30 a.m. Carmelite Father

8:00 a.m. Carmelite Father

10:00 a.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

12:00 Noon Fr. Mike Yadron

Servers

MONDAY, February 17

8:30 a.m. H. Jorsch, D. Kenning

SATURDAY, February 22

8:30 a.m. J. Serrano, H. Hamer

5:30 p.m. E. Rodriguez, G. & I. Scalzo/MC ~ Ty

SUNDAY, February 23

6:30 a.m. D. & V. James, A. Korfiatis

8:00 a.m. K. Karl, J. Sajj, N. Thompson/
MC ~ Alyssa/Francesca

10:00 a.m. S. & L. Fugger/MC ~ Emmaline

12:00 p.m. A., B. & D. Reynolds/MC~ Jacob B.

Rest in Peace

Vick Darryl Brent

Pastoral Care Ministry

The Pastoral Care Ministry at St. Thomas More serves the sick, homebound and hospitalized of our parish family by bringing the Eucharist to those who cannot attend church.

If you or a family member is a hospitalized or homebound parishioner, arrange a Communion visit by contacting Deacon Dave Kapala: (219) 836-8610, ext. 2315 or dkapala@stm-church.com.

Sacrificial Offerings

February 9, 2020

Adult	\$ 16,376.00
Loose	\$ 3,061.00
Automated	\$ 3,662.50
Children	\$ 242.71
TOTAL	\$ 23,342.21

Thank you for sharing your treasure with our parish!



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, February 16 — Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living and Deceased

8:00 am Margaret Uhrin by Elaine & Richard Herrmann

10:00 am John & Lottie Spudic by Ed & Carolyn Smiley

12:00 pm Michael Holmes (Ann.) by Kinser Family

MONDAY, February 17

Seven Founders of the Order of Servites

6:30 am Andrew Holinga, Jr. by Irene Holinga

8:30 am Daniel Mach by Michele Mach & Family

TUESDAY, February 18

6:30 am Carol Keilman by Altar & Rosary Society

8:30 am Richard Lasky by Carole & Joseph Janusonis

10:00 am For all the Souls in Purgatory

(MASS AT MED-INN CHAPEL, Group 4)

WEDNESDAY, February 19

6:30 am Helen B. Artim by Rose Yothment

8:30 am Jerome Baker (Ann.) by Gus & Kathy Georgelas

THURSDAY, February 20

6:30 am Carol Oleski by Len Grzelak

9:00 am Ruth Rasala by Altar & Rosary Society

FRIDAY, February 21 — St. Peter Damian

6:30 am Sherman O. by Rose Forinas

8:30 am Leroy Gauger by Bob & Virginia Gauger

SATURDAY, February 22 — Chair of St. Peter

8:30 am Greg Drobac (Ann.) by Mother, Helen Drobac

5:30 pm Marian Veldkamp (Ann.) by Family

SUNDAY, February 23 — Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living and Deceased

8:00 am Shirley O'Donnell (Ann.) by Family

10:00 am John Rybicki (Ann.) by Wife & Family

12:00 pm Jack L. DeBoer (Ann.) by Wife Patricia

Stewardship REFLECTION

“For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” MATTHEW 5:20

The scribes and Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear—it's the love that you have in your heart that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules out of obligation, not love, does not put you on the path to heaven. Attending Mass on Sunday and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner in the parking lot is an example of a modern day Pharisee.

Readings: Week of February 16

Sunday: Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 [1b]/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

Monday: Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76 [77a]/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Mk 8:14-21

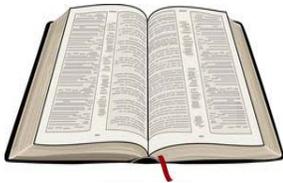
Wednesday: Jas 1:19-27/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5 [1b]/Mk 8:22-26

Thursday: Jas 2:1-9/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [7a]/Mk 8:27-33

Friday: Jas 2:14-24, 26/Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 1b]/Mk 8:34—9:1

Saturday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19

Next Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 [8a]/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-4



Bulletin Articles

All bulletin articles must be submitted at least two (2) weeks in advance via email to: bulletin@stm-church.com.

Please pray for the sick of our parish...

Joshua Alvarez
Margaret Amatulli
Doris Aurelio
Maria Aurelio
Antonio Belmonte
Mary Berry
Michael Berry
Michael Billedo
Michael Blazeovich
Laverne Blumka
Diane Bochnowski
Cheryl Bostrom
Linda Braun
Stephany Burney
Kathleen Burns
Paul Burns
Dorothy Campbell
James Campbell
Al Carollo
Peter Castro
Janet Cattanaach
Jacqueline Morrow
Christian
Willie Colby
Charlotte Conn
Vincent Corsello
Mike Curtain
Valerie Czapkowicz
Doris Dabrowski
Sarah Dalton
Eleuterio Del Real
Irene Dettmer
Jeanine Doescher
Alex Eiland
Sherlon Evans
James Fletcher
Heriberto Flores
Maria Flores
John Forde
Bonnie Gabrione
Phyllis Garber
Andrea Garritano
Margaret Geary
Emily Gibson
Dorothy Gillespie
Margaret Good
Monica Gonzalez
Howard Gralewski
Margaret Gray
Susan Graff
Christine Greenberg
James Grunewald
Mary Ellen Gullicks

Arthur Halpin
Rosemarie Havran
Amy Hayes
Dick Hemingway
Marie Henke
Irma Hernandez
Marisol Hernandez
Robert Heseck
Becky Hill
Charlotte Hunt
Shirley Huskey
Betty Ingbreton
Joseph S. Iwan
Steve Izzo
Elizabeth Jacob
Barbara Jamrose
Stanley Jayjack
Robert Kalka
Kelly Jean
Mark Kenney
Irene Kerps
James Klein, Sr.
Janet Knight
Susan Kolodziej
Richard Komyatte
Gregory P. Koscielski
Paul Kostalik
Edward Kritzer
Crystal Kurek
Annika LeMonier
Chris LeMonier
Debbie LeMonier
Nicklas LeMonier
Jean LaPeer
Mike Lewis
Kris Lisikiewicz
Jo Lisiniewicz
Edward Liskiewicz
Stanley Liskiewicz
Maria Lovell
Marilyn Madsen
Brady Martin
Larkin McKenzie
Jenny Mendoza
Faye Meny
Sandi Merlo
Erin Meyer
Ann Miskovich
Andrew Moll
Genevieve Mrvan
Donna Nichols
Jim Nolan

Steven Nowaczyk
Clare O'Brien
Donna O'Connor
Danny Ogren
James Pancheri
Marty Pavlovic
Judith Peterson
Johanna Petruich
Andrew Pieczyrak
Elizabeth Pilones
Ron Plewniak
Sylvester Porras
Dennis Powell
Ronald Prus
Jerry Reach
Timothy Ribble
Jackie Roach
Ann Sardella
George Sauer
Marie Schultz
Marianne Schwartz
William Schwartz
Zachery Scriff
James Secvian
Jim Seul
Renee Shehan
Nick Skinner
Laurie Slazyk
Carolyn Smiley
Deborah Stareck
Georgianne Suto
Florence Stevens
Carol Storey
Rose Theis
Russ Thomas
Gerardo Trevino
David Trotman
Kathie Trudgian
Anthony Ubuane
Tony Vanden Heuvel
Raymond Vanderbok
James Wachel
Kathy Wachel
Marilyn (Vrabel) Warda
Mark Wein
Ruth Williams
Annette Wisniewski
Alice Wohler
Dick Wright
Josephine Zagrocki
Cecilia Ziegler
Cody Ziemkowski

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

People are not property. We cannot exchange them at will or simply use them for our own designs and purposes. What does the word "commitment" mean to you? We can begin to understand its meaning by looking at some synonyms: dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, fidelity, and bond. Commitment is primarily about relationship, and Jesus is all about relationships. How our lives affect others, how we treat our brothers and sisters, how we resolve conflict, and how we view the vows of marriage.

Jesus' teachings on obeying the commandments, murder, reconciliation, marriage, divorce, and adultery all stem from the sacredness of commitment. All of this has a God connection.

We can easily see one another as interchangeable and dispensable. We treat so much of our lives this way. What works today may not be what I want tomorrow. We search and search for the right thing only to find our hearts still restless in the end. Is real happiness achievable this side of the grave? Sometimes we expect too much out of others and want our relationships to fill a hole that we must figure out how to fill ourselves. Any seasoned married couple will tell you that their love for one another changes as time passes. Even though the understanding of romance changes as life changes, the dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, and fidelity all remain and even deepen.

Some relationships can be hurtful, and God does not want us to live with abuse or pain. Also, how a relationship develops is sometimes out of our control, and we become the victim of someone else's decision. But we can't be self-focused in our relationships and see them exclusively as self-fulfilling ends. We are companions on life's journey with varying depths of relationships being enjoyed by all who are with us along the way. We have the freedom to choose. God asks us to do so wisely, with right judgment and thinking. ©LPI

Weekly Schedule

MONDAY, February 17

6:30 pm Marian Rosary ~ Chapel
7:00 pm Schola Choir ~ Church
7:00 pm Holy Name Society ~ Weis Center
7:00 pm Religious Formation ~ Weis Center

TUESDAY, February 18

9:15 am Eucharistic Adoration ~ Chapel
1:00 pm Prayer/Vocations ~ Chapel
5:30 pm Parent Association ~ Teachers Lounge
6:00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet ~ Chapel
7:00 pm RCIA ~ Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, February 19

9:30 am Bible Study ~ Weis Center
1:00 pm Seniors ~ Weis Center
4:30 pm RCIC ~ Conference Room
4:30 pm Religious Education Classes (until 6:00 p.m.)
6:30 pm Handbells ~ Church

THURSDAY, February 20

4:30 pm Religious Education Classes (until 6:00 p.m.)
6:30 pm Scripture Study ~ Weis Center
6:45 pm All Season's Chorale ~ Church

FRIDAY, February 21

9:00 am Gifts of Love & Warmth ~ Weis Center
5:00-9:00 p.m. STMS EagleFest Family Fun Night ~ Gym

SUNDAY, February 23

Mass with Your Class ~STMS 3rd & 4th Grade
St. Vincent de Paul Food Collection After All Masses

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU KNOW. IT'S WHAT YOU SHOW.

"Children learn more from what you are than what you teach." ~ W.E.B. DuBois

Bishop Grutka, the first bishop of the Diocese of Gary, was known for saying "It's not what you know. It's what you show." He would use that phrase at homilies, at speeches, in presentations, and at all sorts of meetings. It was a mantra for him and he tried to live by it as well as speaking it to others.

DuBois states the same thing when writing that "Children learn more from what you are than what you teach." We all know that children are great watchers. They take the time to watch and examine situations and people. They learn from doing so.

If someone they watch sends them mixed messages, saying one thing but doing another, they will almost always opt for what the person is doing rather than what the person is saying. That is why it is so hard for a parent to instruct a child not to smoke if the parent smokes on a regular basis. It is hard to tell a child not to indulge in alcohol if the child sees a drink in the parent's hands every day and at a variety of occasions.

As I quote from the first bishop of our diocese, I am thinking about our fifth bishop. His coat of arms, as well as the coat of arms of the diocese, appears on the cover of today's bulletin. After the evening prayer the day before his ordination, I texted him, "If tonight's homily is any indication of what we're going to be hearing from you on a regular basis, I'm all in." His homily was very personable as well as welcoming and hopeful. It was also very sound in its theology.

There were all sorts of visiting bishops and clergy at the evening prayer as well as the ordination this past Tuesday. It was a wonderful day, a day of promise and hope. And just as we have done with all of our other bishops, I am sure that we will engage in a period of watching to see if his actions indeed reflect his words.

I am confident that they will do so. He is a man who is grounded solidly in the faith and in prayer. He is a man who loves his vocation and who loves his people. He is a person we will come to know and trust and love in return.

While watching him to see if his actions reflect his words, let us turn that same watchful eye inward. Do we do what we say? Do we live as people of the faith? Do we show others the way to the Lord by all that we say and do? People will learn more from us by what we say and do rather than what we claim to be.

FAITH ACTION: Do not be afraid to reflect the faith that you claim by doing works of compassion, mercy, and love. You will draw others closer to God by doing so.

In. Mike



PLEASE REMEMBER THEM

Please pray for the priests and deacons who have served the Diocese of Gary so faithfully and whose anniversaries of death are this week:

- February 18: Rev. Theodore A. Janicki (1983)
- February 19: Msgr. William E. Sweigart (1970)



FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART

Last week I had a couple of wonderful days. On Monday, we celebrated Evening Prayer at St. Michael the Archangel in Schererville and on Tuesday, the ordination of Bishop Robert McClory at Holy Angels Cathedral.

There are many people who have ensured that the days went as planned. Thank you to volunteers who helped to direct others at the events, who helped with set ups or tear downs, who sang in the choirs or acted as cantors, or who served in any number of functions to make sure that the events went smoothly. Thank you, as well, to the deacons who helped at the Ordination Mass and our parishioners who are a part of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre for acting as honor guards for the processions.

The feedback that I received from visiting bishops and priests, as well as Bishop McClory's family, was that you succeeded completely in making them feel welcome and at home.

"Thank you" does not seem to be enough; but, that is all that I can give. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

"George is so forgetful," the sales manager complained to his secretary. "It's a wonder he can sell anything. I asked him to pick me up some sandwiches on his way back from lunch, and I'm not sure he'll even remember to come back."

Just then the door flew open, and in bounced George. "You'll never guess what happened!" he shouted. "While I was at lunch, I met Old Man Brown, who hasn't bought anything from us for five years. Well, we got to talking and he gave me this half-million dollar order!"

"See," sighed the sales manager to his secretary. "I told you he'd forget the sandwiches."





Religious Education

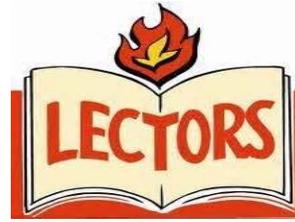
February Schedule

19/20 Class
26/27 **No Class** — *Ash Wednesday*

March Schedule

4/5 Class
7 **First Penance at 10:00 a.m. in the Church**
11/12 Class
15 **Family Formation • 1:00-2:00 p.m. • Gym**
18/19 Class
25/26 **No Class** — *Spring Break*

Lectors & Greeters for the Week



Sunday, February 23

6:30 am Mass
Jayne Gardner &
Angela Kvasnica

8:00 am Mass

Judy Buksa & John Kovach

10:00 am Mass

Kevin Connelly & Bill McDunn

12:00 Noon Mass

Maryanne Topor &
Timothy Christiana

Saturday, February 22

5:30 pm Mass

Louise Younkers &
Jill Hasiak



Sunday, February 23

8:00 am Mass

Main: James & Nancy Kaczka
Chapel: Sue Walker

Choir: Christi & Katie Kordeck

10:00 am Mass

Main: Pischner Family
Chapel: Diane Adley & Joan
Mucha

12:00 pm Noon

Chapel: Susan Anglin
Choir: Pat Batchelder

Saturday, February 22

5:30 pm Mass

Main: Dagmar Reay
Chapel: Dick & Nancy
Hemingway
Choir: Tom & Louisa Jurich

Stewardship Thoughts



Your talent is God's gift to you.
What you do with your talent
is your gift to God.

Blessings Prayer:

Generous and loving God, You call us to be disciples of your son Jesus and good stewards of all your many gifts.

Open our minds and hearts to a greater awareness and deeper appreciation of your countless blessings.

Transform us through the power of your Spirit to nurture a stewardship way of life marked by faith-filled prayer, service to our neighbor and generous sharing. Teach us to be faithful servants of your gifts. With Mary's help, may we return ten-fold the gifts entrusted to us. Bless our Parish with a deepening devotion to prayer, a growing commitment for service, and increasing levels of generosity as we work to advance the mission of both our parish and diocese. We pray through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

If you are not a part of a Ministry at St. Thomas More Church, please consider joining and sharing with others.

Calling All High School Teens!

All high school-aged teens are invited to join us as we begin a new ministry at St. Thomas More designed specifically for teenagers:

ACT: Active Catholic Teens

This dynamic, fun teen ministry group will offer area teens an opportunity to take part in fellowship, faith and service.

Open to all teens: both Catholics and non-Catholics are invited to join.

Meetings will be held on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the Weis Center.

Our first meeting:

Sunday, March 1st at 6:00 p.m.

Find us on Instagram at @act_stm or text to learn more: Students:@act-stm to 81010 • Parents:@act-parent to 81010

Learn more this weekend after all Masses. Stop by our info table!



ACTIVE CATHOLIC TEENS

Nursery Schedule

All children, infant to age 5, are welcome in our parish Nursery during the Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Virtus-trained teen/adult volunteers are always needed! Contact Kaaren: (219) 836-5079 or kaarenann@aol.com.

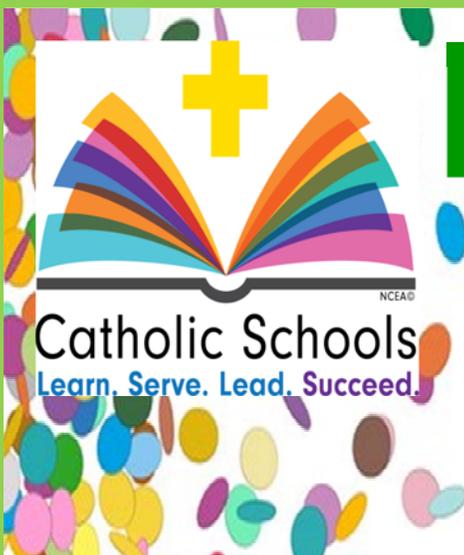


Sunday, February 23

Jennifer Anderson & Rachel Perezchica



St. Thomas More School



Celebrating Those Special to St. Thomas More School Catholic Schools Week 2020

Catholic Schools Week is a national celebration of Catholic education and an opportunity to recognize the importance, the value, and the contributions of Catholic education to the Church and the world.

Each year during CSW, St. Thomas More School honors individuals who have contributed greatly for the benefit of our students and our school.

We thank these individuals for their vast contributions.

Kevin Kish 2020 Distinguished Graduate



St. Thomas More School is proud to announce Kevin Kish as its 2020 Distinguished Graduate!

Kevin, a member of the STMS Class of 1976, is the father of three STMS alumni and lives his faith daily through his work and community service.

An active member of both our parish and school, Kevin has been a member of the Athletic Commission, a boys and girls basketball coach and a member of the parish Festival



Committee. He attributes his St Thomas More School education with providing a strong scholastic and faith base. Congratulations, Kevin!



Jeff Novacich 2020 Above & Beyond Recipient

The Above & Beyond award is presented each year to an individual who has shared an extraordinary amount of their time and talent to benefit St. Thomas More School. The 2020 recipient of the Above & Beyond award is Jeff Novacich, a former STMS student, Eagle Scout and previous member of the school's maintenance department. Jeff has been instrumental in seeing our recent building improvements to fruition and continues to work on furthering campus projects.

He is a current member of the STM Knights of Columbus and a member of the parish Facilities Committee.

Thank you, Jeff, for your many hours of service to our parish and our school.





Friday, February 21st

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

St. Thomas More School Gym

Fun Fair with Games & Fun for Kids of All Ages!

Everyone is invited! Bring your friends!

EagleFest has something fun for everyone:

3 Inflatables:

65-Foot Obstacle Course • Double Slide • 5-in-1 Bouncy House

'Money Machine'

8 Carnival Games:

Speed Pitch • Pig Racing • Ring Toss
Waffle Ball • Troll Game • Boom Blasters
Snowball Fight • Big Freeze

Cake Walk

Sand Art

The Candy Shoppe

Wristbands: \$15/each • Individual Tickets: Only \$.50

Visit our Eventbrite page to place your Pre-Sale Order.

Pre-Sale ends **Tuesday, February 18th at 11:59 p.m.**

<https://eaglefest2020.eventbrite.com>

Redeem all your winning tickets at the Prize Redemption Center!

Find amazing raffle baskets, too!

Raffle tickets only \$1/each and available at EagleFest on 2/21/20.

T.R.I.P. Dates for 2020

2020 Processing Dates:

February 24

March 9 • March 30

April 14 (Tuesday) • April 27

May 11 • May 26 (Tuesday)

Tuesday, May 26 is the last order date for school year.

Orders must be submitted to the School or Parish Office no later than 8:30 a.m. on each Monday Processing Date.



2020/2021 Tuition Assistance

The application window for the 2020-2021 Diocese of Gary tuition assistance is open. FACTS Management will continue to provide and process the online tuition assistance applications that can be found at the Diocesan website, www.dcgary.org.

Find the application by clicking on the "Schools" tab and then clicking on the blue rectangle labeled "Tuition Assistance Application". Tuition assistance is only open to Catholic families who are active registered members of parishes within the Diocese of Gary. You may complete an application if you have children entering grades kindergarten through Grade 12 (Preschool/Pre-K students are not eligible for tuition assistance). There is a \$35 fee per family to apply and only completed applications will be considered.

If you need help with the application, FACTS will have an e-mail address, phone number, and chat line on the application website for customer service. The Diocesan Office will not be able to help you.

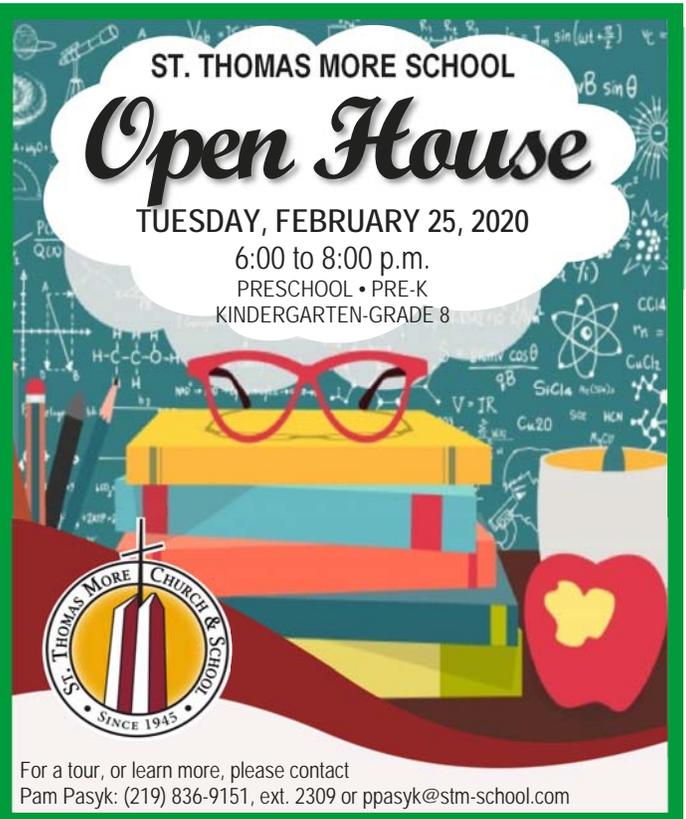
Get your tuition assistance application in as soon as possible, before funding runs out!

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL Open House

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

PRESCHOOL • PRE-K
KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 8



For a tour, or learn more, please contact
Pam Pasyk: (219) 836-9151, ext. 2309 or ppasyk@stm-school.com

Amazon Smile

When you shop online, please remember St. Thomas More School while shopping online at Amazon Smile.

amazon

If you designate St. Thomas More School as your preferred organization on Amazon Smile, STMS will earn .5% of your total purchases. How easy is that?

Shop at:

smile.amazon.com/ch/35-0900733.

smile

Thanks, in advance for your support and happy shopping!

Speakers Needed

for the STM Career Networking Group

The Career Networking Group has proven to be a very valuable group and has worked diligently over the past 11 years assisting St. Thomas More parishioners and members of our community strengthen their job searching skills, fine-tune their resumes and have provided a platform to help all job seekers in our area.

Donna Weidenfeller and Jim Kaczka, chairpersons for this important group, would like to continue with this monthly ministry, but they need your help!

Would you be able to help us secure speakers?

We need speakers, with a variety of backgrounds, to help us at upcoming St. Thomas More Career Networking events. We meet monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Weis Center in Munster, IN. For those interested in speaking, you would be required to give a twenty minute presentation regarding job searching and/or career assistance. This would be a one-time speaking event. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact us if you can assist by emailing us at stmcareergroup@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your valuable assistance.

Festival 2020

The Festival Committee is already hard at work to make the 2020 Festival the best and safest ever!

As always, we need your help!

We are hopeful many will volunteer early. This is especially important for those who need yearly state licenses in order to participate. This includes those who work the Beer Garden, Bingo, Wheel, Tip-boards, or any other form of gambling. Go to the festival website at www.stmfundays.weebly.com and follow the volunteer link.

Senior Citizens

Senior citizens of our parish are welcome to join. All are welcome! Attend one of our meetings to check us out. Meetings are held at the Weis Center at 1:00 p.m., unless noted.

Wednesday, February 19

Pizza Party

12:00 Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Please bring a dish to share according to your last name:

A to L: Dessert

M to Z: Side Dish or Salad

Wednesday, March 4

Business Meeting

Guest Speaker: Audiologist Susan Macckin

Wednesday, March 18

Pot Luck Luncheon

12:00 Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Please bring a dish to share according to your last name:

A to L: Side Dish or Salad • M to Z: Dessert

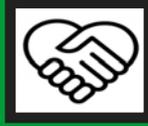
Sunday, March 29, 2020

Mass & Breakfast Honoring Deceased Members

Join the entire STM Seniors group as they meet for 8:00 a.m. Mass with breakfast to follow.

Advanced reservations are required.

Please watch the bulletin for updates about upcoming events.



STM Career Networking Group

80% of Jobs are Unadvertised

82% of Jobs are Found Through Networking

15% Found Want Ads

4% Create Their Own Jobs • 2% Blindly Send Resumes

March 11, 2020

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Recruiters, Robots & Resumes

What Recruiters & Robots Look for on Resumes

Presented by:

Jim Kaczka

STM Career Networking

Where: STM Weis Center
8635 Calumet Avenue • Munster
When: The 2nd Wednesday of Every Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.– 8:30 p.m.
Email: STMCareerGroup@gmail.com

Regular Meetings are Free! Open to All!

For those who are *unemployed* (in transition), new to the job market, employed but changing careers or those who can offer employment opportunities through their current professional connections.

Have your cover letter, resume or thank you critiqued.

Live Christ/Share Christ

Live Christ/Share Christ will not meet during the month of February.

See you all in March. Watch the bulletin for meeting details.

All are invited to join



Join the Marian Rosary

All are welcome to join the

Marian Rosary Prayer Group.

The Marian group will pray the Rosary, Chaplet and offer prayers to Mary. We meet every Monday evening in the Chapel from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please call Tom Mordaunt at (219) 922-6604 to learn more. Plan to start 2020 by joining this meaningful prayer group. All are welcome.

Religious Formation/Education

All are welcome to join us and find spiritual enrichment through our meetings and programs.

Next Meeting:

Monday, February 17, 2020

7:00 p.m. at the Weis Center

Holy Name Society

All men of the parish are invited to join us in 2020 and new members are always welcomed!

Monday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. at Weis

We will begin with the Rosary, followed by our meeting, a video presentation and refreshments to follow.

Lenten Fish Fry

Join the St. Thomas More Holy Name Society for their annual Fish Fry & Raffle in the Gym

Friday, March 6, 2020

4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Battered Cod: \$10

Baked Cod: \$10

Shrimp: \$10

Children's Dinner: \$5

Dinners include French fries, cole slaw, salad, pickled beets, bread & butter, coffee & condiments.

Pop, milk, beer & wine also available.



Altar & Rosary

It's not too early to save the date for our next fun event:

Pizza Bingo

Wednesday, March 11

6:00 pm

Weis Center

The Rosary will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Please make your reservation at the Parish Office: (219) 836-8610. All women of the parish are invited to attend.

Those attending are asked to bring a new prize, valued at \$10 and give to Therese Sons upon arrival.

Altar & Rosary will provide both pizza and desserts.

For more information, please contact:

Cindy: (219) 923-9862 • Kathleen: (219) 972-0539

Therese: (219) 844-7715



Annual Mass with Altar & Rosary Society

8:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 26, 2020

All members of the Altar & Rosary Society, in conjunction with the Holy Name Society, are invited to join us for our annual Mass, followed by coffee, donuts and fellowship in the Cafeteria afterwards. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us.

For more information about upcoming events, please call:

Parish Office at (219) 836-8610

Kaaren: (219) 836-5079 or Kathleen: (219) 972-0539.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry



Items Needed for Our Pantry:

Jelly	Canned Fruit	Pasta Sauce
Cake Frosting	Pancake Mix	Boxed Potatoes
Canned Meat	Syrup	Rice
Canned Fish/Tuna	Canned Pasta	Meal Helpers

It takes many hands to make the St. Vincent de Paul Society and our parish Food Pantry operate to serve our community. New members are always welcomed with open arms.

If you would like to join SVDP, or just want to learn more about the work we do, please call Terry at (219) 836-8610.

Praying For Our Parishioners

*Upcoming medical procedure? Changing jobs?
Family crisis? Loved one leaving the Church?*

Whatever your needs, let us pray for you! Our parish Synod group, Faith Reignited, will now offer prayers for our parishioners in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Send your prayer requests in to STMPayerTeam@gmail.com. One member of the Faith Reignited team will be in the chapel on Tuesday and will include your requests in their holy hour prayers.

We will also pray for the intentions that the Circle of Prayer members receive during the month.



Parish Appreciation Dinner

Save the Date!

Annual Parish Appreciation Dinner

Saturday, April 18, 2020

6:30 p.m. -10:00 p.m. • Gym/Social Center

Dinner provided by Lencioni Catering
Candy Buffet • Photo Booth

Music by Andy Sutton's 7-Piece Band
Theme:

"Holidays Are For Sharing"

We will be celebrating eight annual holidays at our event.

What's your favorite holiday?

Watch the parish bulletin for more information coming soon.

NWI CATHOLIC

Show support for Catholic communications through the NWI Catholic Subscription Drive

We want to thank our annual subscribers — you are the foundational supporters of Catholic communication in our Diocese. We believe you will continue to find your subscription to the Northwest Indiana Catholic a great value and great way to support diocesan communications.

We are excited to continue to partner with you to share the “good news” of the Diocese of Gary. **Your one-year subscription comes at the low-cost of \$26,** with the e-edition available at \$13, or you can receive both the online and print versions for the reduced rate of \$30. You can **subscribe now through March 18**

using the envelope in your collection packet, making your check out to your parish. You may also renew or begin a new subscription online (nwicatholic.com).

We thank you for your ongoing support of Catholic communications and invite you to join us in our evangelizing mission. If you are inspired to do so, any extra gift received with your subscription will support Catholic communications. You may also donate a subscription to a friend, business, to your parish to have on hand for general distribution. Contact Erin by phone (219)769-9292 ext. 251 or email (eciszczon@dcgary.org) to set up a gift subscription today.

Lake County Right to Life

(219)838-1138 • www.lakecortl.org

Oratory Contest Preparation

The Pro-life Oratory Contest for middle school and high school students in public, private, or home schools will take place **Saturday, March 14th from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.**

Highland Public Library • 2841 Jewitt Avenue • Highland, IN
We would like to expand our reach. If you would like us to contact your school, please provide the contact information of the English/Speech teacher who would be coaching students.

Moms and Tots Resale Shop Update

We have some exciting changes coming soon!
At this time, we are currently only accepting donations of new clothing size 7 and women’s maternity clothing. The tags must still be on the clothes. If you have donations, be sure to call (219) 838-1138 to make an appointment.

Marriage Date Night

Couples wishing to deepen their relationship and have a great evening together are invited to attend the **Marriage Date Night on February 28, 2020.**

The date night will be taking place at the Don Quijote Restaurant in Valparaiso, IN.

Dinner starts at 5:45 p.m. and will last until 8:30 p.m.
Enjoy a superb meal, great speakers, and time to socialize with other Catholic married couples.

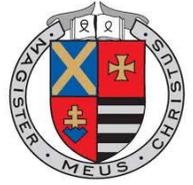
Rosanne Kouris— rkouris@dcgary.org
219-769-9292 ext. 259

Andrean High School News

Schedule Your Shadow Day Now!

Contact Andrean’s Director of Enrollment Management, Mr. Jim Nohos, at 219.887.5959 ext. 260 or jnohos@andreanhs.com to schedule your visit. **Apply Today!**

Andrean High School invites families to apply for enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year. The application can be completed online at andreanhs.org/apply.



Bishop Noll Events

1519 Hoffman • Hammond • (219) 932-9058 • bishopnoll.org

Entrance Exam for Fall 2020 Admission

All prospective 8th grade students are invited to take our Entrance Exam

Saturday, February 22 at 8:00 a.m.

Students should enter the school at Door A by 7:45 a.m. Pre-registration exam fee is \$20.

Reserve your spot by stopping in the main office or emailing Jeff Stur, Admissions: jstur@bishopnoll.org or calling the school.



Vocation Summit

The Vocation Summit on

Saturday, February 22, 2020,

is a half-day workshop to help create a culture of vocations in the Diocese of Gary. The gathering will reignite our focus on helping young people hear and respond to God’s call. Mass at 8:00 a.m. with newly-appointed Bishop Robert McClory. Workshop is from 9:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat

Rachel’s Vineyard is a safe place to renew and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Retreat exercises are based on Scripture, and the retreat includes Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Mass. All inquiries and attendees are kept confidential.

To learn more, contact Rachel’s Vineyard directly at (219) 552-2944 or contact Rosanne Kouris at the Diocese: (219) 769-9292, ext. 259 or rkouris@dcgary.org.

**Upcoming Retreats held in Michigan City, IN:
March 6-8, 2020 & October 23-25, 2020**

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Give your spouse the gift of love & renewal!

Don’t miss out on the upcoming enrichments for married couples and religious during February 2020.

The enrichment begins with a private weekend experience with presentations and practical tools for growing in your loving relationship. Ongoing enrichments after the weekend are provided from the WWME community. Join us in 2020:

February 22-23 (Crest Hill, IL)

September 11-13 (Geneva, IL)

October 24-25 (Mundelein, IL)

For information or application, go to wwme-chicagoland.org and say “yes” today to God’s call to love one another!

Events in the Area...

Pierogi Sale

Order delicious pierogi from St. Josaphat in Munster. Order no later than 9:00 a.m. each Thursday by calling (219) 838-9811. Pick-up that Friday, between Noon & 3:00 p.m. Kraut, potato, cheese or prune: \$12/dozen or \$6/half. Order & freeze.
Thank you for your continued support.

Defeating Assisted Suicide

February 29, 2020 at St. Mary Byzantine Banquet Hall luncheon & film screening beginning at 12:00 Noon. Presentation by Alex Schadenberg with a 2:00 p.m. screening of *Fatal Flaws: Legalizing Assisted Death*. Q & A period to follow with Vespers in the church at 2011 Clark Street at 4:00 p.m.
For more information visit: www.stmarywhiting.org or call 219-659-0277.

Munster Lions Pancake Breakfast

The Munster Lions Club will be hosting their 64th Annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 1 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Munster High School Cafeteria.
Donations—Adults: \$8.00 and Children: \$5.00. Join us!

St. James the Less Book Club

The St. James the Less Book Club will meet each Thursday during Lent (starting March 5 and concluding on April 2) from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book, *Time for God*. On February 20, 2020 there will be a sign-up and a limited number of books will be available for purchase. The cost of the book is \$13. For more information on the Book Club, please contact Phyllis Steiner at 219-934-0967.

Wounded Healers Grief Support

Our Spring series of grief support groups will begin March 4, 2020. Learn more about our grief support at <http://woundedhealers-nwi.com/news.htm> or <http://woundedhealers-nwi.com/programs.htm>.
If you are struggling with grief now, please seek help prior to our March sessions by reaching out to obtain grief counseling. Many local churches also provide help for those who are grieving. Don't go it alone!

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

Meals on Wheels is in need of volunteer delivery persons for the Hammond & Griffith communities. Make a difference in your community by delivering meals for our clients. Training is twice a month in our office at 8446 Virginia Street, Merrillville. Call Joan, Manager, at (219) 756-3663 to register for training.

AYCE Soup & Salad

St. Stephen Martyr Women's Club is having an AYCE Soup & Salad Dinner at their location on March 7, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Jacob Hall. The cost is \$8 per person.

Saint Matthias Events

Mardi Gras Family Fun Fair

St. Matthias will host Mardi Gras, A Family Fun Fair on Tuesday, February 25th 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The event will feature games, prizes, a King and Queen Contest, and meals starting at \$5.00. Bring the family and enjoy Fat Tuesday! Inquiries are welcome by calling St. Matthias Parish at 219-663-2201 or by emailing familylife@stmatthiasparish.net.

Carnivale: "A Vegas Night Experience"

Saint Matthias Parish in Crown Point will host *Carnivale* featuring Vegas Night game tables, Jersey Raffles, Texas Hold 'Em, Roulette. \$1 Black Jack and \$1 Bingo, plus basket raffles, Paczki Parade, open bar and much more! A buffet featuring a variety of foods will be served every 2 hours. Saturday, February 22 from 5:00 to 11 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Inquiries are welcome by calling St. Matthias Parish at 219-663-2201 or emailing jackiemgentry@yahoo.com.

Safe Haven Baby Box Fundraiser

The Saint Pope John Paul II Council 16008 Knights of Columbus is hosting a fundraiser for the Safe Haven Baby Box on Saturday, March 7 at the St. James Parish Hall, 9640 Kennedy Avenue, Highland from 6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.

Cost is \$20/person if you purchase before March 1, 2020. Enjoy a homemade dinner buffet, silent auction and the opportunity to meet CEO & Founder Monica Kelsey of Safe Haven Baby Box.

Purchase tickets on eventbrite.com, search "Safe Haven" or you can send money to St. James Parish Office
Attn: Knights of Columbus.

Contact Chris Vickery at 219-743-6753 for more information.

