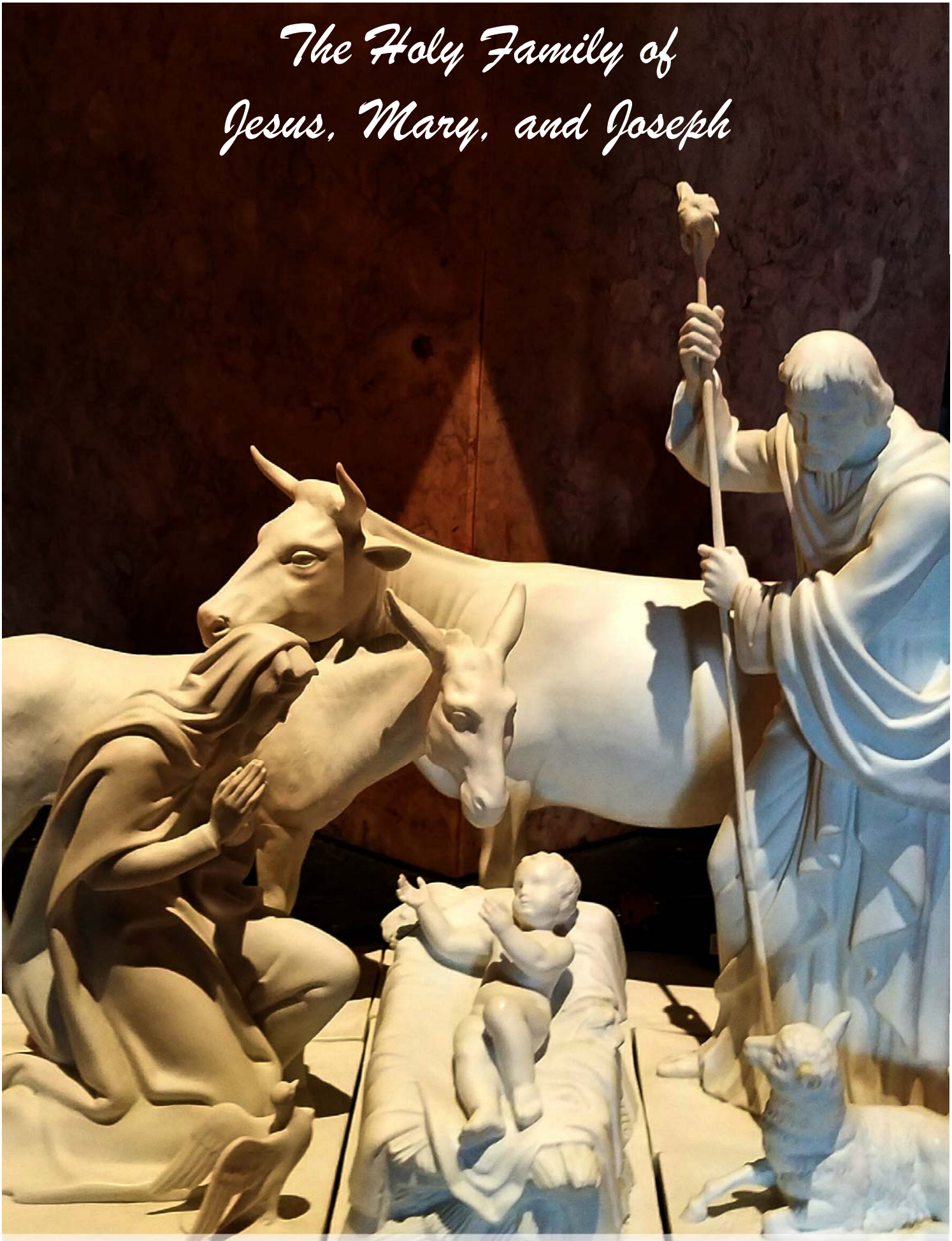


We are all one family in Christ and we need to show our care and concern for one another.

St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church *8501 Calumet Avenue, Munster, IN 46321*

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
dmcnicholas@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

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

Parish Office Staff

Hours: Mon-Saturday 9:00 am-3:00 pm (until further notice)
Email address ..... parish.office@stm-church.com
Email address for bulletin..... bulletin@stm-church.com
Office Phone……. 836-8610 Office Fax..... 836-9185
Bulletin Editor ..... Pam Pasyk; Ext. 2309
Daytime Receptionist ..... Ext. 2300
Evening Receptionist ..... Ext. 2300
Building Maintenance……..Mike Popovich 836-8610, Ext. 2313
Custodial Supervisor……..….Kim Smith 836-8610, Ext. 2331

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

2020-2021 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

St. Thomas More School

Preschool 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
School Admissions…….. Pam Pasyk; Ext. 2309
Director of Development……..…Karen Leluga; Ext. 2307
Business Manager……Mike Gutchewsky; Ext. 2339

Weis Center

8635 Calumet Avenue • Munster, IN 46321

Phone 836-2660

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.

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 Saturday office hours.

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.

Pastoral Commissions Chairpersons

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

Parish Organizations

Altar & Rosary Society ..... Cindy Keilman 923-9862
Boy Scouts ..... Sergio Sanchez (773) 412-3109
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 ..... Tim Jevyak
..... 10596jevyakt@prodigy.net or (219) 644-8932
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

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

Celebrants

Saturday, January 2
5:30 p.m. Fr. Declan McNicholas

Sunday, January 3
6:30 a.m. Fr. Declan McNicholas
8:00 a.m. Fr. Declan McNicholas
10:00 a.m. Fr. Mike Yadron
12:00 Noon Fr. Mike Yadron

Servers

Thursday, December 31
Mary Mother of God Vigil
5:30 p.m. W. Arens, D. Brantley, K. Cipowski/MC ~ Nick

Friday, January 1
Mary Mother of God
8:00 a.m. M. Slivka, A. Tolnai, A. Buksa/MC ~ Mary
10:00 a.m. J., L. & S. Fugger/MC ~ Vanessa
12:00 p.m. B., I. & S. Ramirez/MC ~ Jacob B.

Saturday, January 2
5:30 p.m. K. & K. Cano/MC ~ Jacob C.

Sunday, January 3
8:00 a.m. A. Alvarez, A. Burzynski/MC ~ Gavin
10:00 a.m. M. Miller, J. Rock/MC ~ Vanessa
12:00 p.m. J. & M. Blanford/MC ~ Francesca

Sacrificial Offerings

Our parish needs and appreciates your continued contributions. As the pandemic continues, so does the need for contributions. There are many easy ways to make your contribution to St. Thomas More Church.

Mail Contributions:
8501 Calumet Ave • Munster, IN 46321

Donate Online:
Contribute securely online via PayPal or a debit/credit card via our parish website by clicking "Donate Now."

Automated Contributions:
Instructions are on the website.

December 13, 2020

Adult	**$ 15,000.00**
Loose	**$ 8,905.00**
Automated	**$ 4,542.50**
Children	**$ 0.00**
TOTAL	**$ 28,447.50**

Thank you for your contributions. Your support of our parish is greatly appreciated.

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, December 27 — *The Holy Family*
6:30 am Deceased Members of Biedron & Wolak Families by Theresa Biedron
8:00 am Catherine & Julian Oblon by Bob & Virginia Gauger
10:00 am Adele Christoff by Tom & Kathy Bassetto
12:00 pm For Our Parish Family Living and Deceased

MONDAY, December 28 — *The Holy Innocents*
6:30 am Mariane Magro (Ann.) by Tillie Fechalos
8:30 am Terri O'Brien (Ann.) by Family

TUESDAY, December 29
6:30 am Intentions of Dziekonski Family by Jim Pancheri
8:30 am Joseph Yadron by Family

WEDNESDAY, December 30
6:30 am Marie Reichett by Anne, Nancy, Lyndsay & Ryan
8:30 am John Popovich by Mike and Jill Popovich

THURSDAY, December 31
6:30 am Aria Anne Sefton by Altar & Rosary Society
9:00 am Bernice Christiana (Ann.) by Christiana Family
5:30 pm Lois Strain by Susan Strain

FRIDAY, January 1 — *Solemnity of Mary Mother of God*
6:30 am Maryann Reed by Elaine C. Fechalos
8:00 am Virgil Slivka (Ann.) by Slivka Family
10:00 am Judith Onda by Patti Pfister and Ken & Cindy Keilman
12:00 pm For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased

SATURDAY, January 2
Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
8:30 am Patricia Mazanek by Mr. & Mrs. Veldkamp
5:30 pm Petronilla Santucci by Milkovich Family

SUNDAY, January 3 — *The Epiphany of the Lord*
6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased
8:00 am Alice Wohler by Rose & Ken Jordan
10:00 am Louis Chronowski, Sr. by Wife, Marlene & Family
12:00 pm Bernice Christiana by Christiana Family

Praying For Our Parishioners

Reignited & the Circle of Prayer ministries are teamed up to offer prayers for our parishioners from home.
Send your prayer requests via email to: STMPrayerTeam@gmail.com.
If you or a family member are in need of prayers, please reach out by emailing us.

Live-Streamed Masses

Watch the live-streamed daily Mass at St. Thomas More:

Monday-Wednesday & Friday at 8:30 a.m.
Thursday at 9:00 a.m.
Saturday at 8:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Watch Masses through Facebook or via our parish website: www.stm-church.com (or on YouTube).

Attending Weekend Masses

St. Thomas More is now offering a full Mass schedule. Before attending church, the CDC recommends checking to insure you do not have a fever, cough, sore throat, headache or are short of breath. If you have any of these symptoms, please stay home.

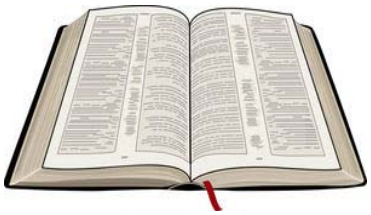
- Wear a face mask while in the church.
- Continue to leave immediately after Mass so that we can disinfect/sanitize the church for the next Mass.
- Continue to receive Communion in the hand.

Pray for the sick of our parish...

Joshua Alvarez
Margaret Amatulli
Doris Aurelio
Maria Aurelio
Pete Bambic
Antonio Belmonte
Mary Berry
Michael Berry
Michael Billedo
Michael Blazevich
Diane Bochnowski
Cheryl Bostrom
Dr. Arthur Branco
Linda Braun
Stephany Burney
Kathleen Burns
Paul Burns
Dorothy Campbell
James Campbell
Peter Castro
Janet Cattanach
Jacqueline Morrow Christian
Joseph Clune
Willie Colby
Charlotte Conn
Vincent Corsello
Mike Curtain
Valerie Czapkowicz
Doris Dabrowski
Sarah Dalton
Alex Eiland
Karen Esposito
Sherlon Evans
Martha Fetzko
James Fletcher
Heriberto Flores
Maria Flores
John Forde
Bonnie Gabrione
Rich Gagliani
Phyllis Garber
Andrea Garritano
Margaret Geary
Emily Gibson
Dorothy Gillespie
Joan Glinski
Margaret Good
Monica Gonzalez
Howard Gralewski
Margaret Gray
Susan Graff
Christine Greenberg
James Grunewald
Mary Ellen Gullicks
Rosemarie Havran
Amy Hayes
Dick Hemingway
Marie Henke
Bertha Birdy Hernandez
Irma Hernandez
Marisol Hernandez
Robert Hesek
Becky Hill
Joan Hoess
Charlotte Hunt
Shirley Huskey
Betty Ingbretson
Joseph S. Iwan
Steve Izzo
Elizabeth Jacob
Barbara Jamrose
Stanley Jayjack
Kelly Jean
Kevin Karl
Mark Kenney
Irene Kerps
James Klein, Sr.
Janet Knight
Susan Kolodziej
Richard Komyatte
Gregory P. Koscielski
Edward Kritzer
Crystal Kurek
Annika LeMonier
Chris LeMonier
Debbie LeMonier
Nicklas LeMonier
Mike Lewis
Kris Lisikiewicz
Jo Lisiniewicz
Edward Liskiewicz
Stanley Liskiewicz
Maria Lovell
Brady Martin
Paul Martin
Larkin McKenzie
Jacob Menclewicz
Jenny Mendoza
Faye Meny
Sandi Merlo
Erin Meyer
Ann Miskovich
Andrew Moll
Genevieve Mrvan
Bernadine Nemeth
Donna Nichols
Jim Nolan
Maria Novak
Steven Nowaczyk
Clare O'Brien
Donna O'Connor
Danny Ogren
James Pancheri
Marty Pavlovic
Judith Peterson
Johanna Petruch
Andrew Pieczyrak
Elizabeth Pilones
Sylvester Porras
Dennis Powell
Ronald Prus
Timothy Ribble
Jackie Roach
Ann Sardella
George Sauer
Marie Schultz
Marianne Schwartz
William Schwartz
Zachery Scriff
James Secviar
Jim Seul
Renee Shehan
Nick Skinner
Laurie Slazyk
Carolyn Smiley
Deborah Stareck
Georgianne Suto
Florence Stevens
Carol Storey
Charles Svitko
Rose Theis
Russ Thomas
Gerardo Trevino
David Trotman
Kathie Trudgian
Anthony Ubuane
Tony Vanden Heuvel
Raymond Vanderbok
James Wachel
Kathy Wachel
Marilyn (Vrabel) Warda
Courtney Warner
Mark Wein
Ruth Williams
Annette Wisniewski
Stephanie Wisniewski
Bill Wisniewski
Dick Wright
Josephine Zagrocki
Cecilia Ziegler
Cody Ziemkowski

Readings for Week of December 27

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/ Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



Monday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/ Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

The Holy Family

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death.

Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God.

Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world.

At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us! ©LPi

THE BLESSING OF FAMILY

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior
When half-spent was the night.

Just a couple of days after Christmas and at the beginning of the Octave of Christmas, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The birth of Jesus was the fulfillment of a promise made to God's people long ago. It was a reason for great joy in the world as seen by the angels singing God's praises to the shepherds in the field.

That fulfillment of a promise also created a family. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus were bound by a unique love. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus and Mary the Mother of Jesus had reason to sing God's praises. However, they also had reason to worry.

Almost from the time of Jesus' birth, bad news kept arriving at their doorstep. Herod wanted the child killed as he perceived Jesus to be a threat to his kingship. The family would have to flee to Egypt. As Jesus grew, word would spread about people who hated Jesus and wanted to kill Him.

I am sure that this put great stress on the family. They knew what stressors are all about. Our own families, as perfect or imperfect as they may be, also experience stress many times. We need to turn to God and ask Him to protect our families, to bless them, and to bring them peace.

If you live in an intact and wonderful family, count your blessings and be there for friends who may not be as fortunate. If you live in a dysfunctional family, entrust yourself and your family to God and ask Him to give you the grace that you need to deal with one another.

We are all one family in Christ and we need to show our care and concern for one another. Let us attempt to do so today.

FAITH ACTION: Ask God to bless your family with Christmas joy, love, and peace.

Fr. Mike

MANY THANKS

I cannot let this moment go by without taking time to thank so many people who helped to make our Advent season and Christmas Masses bright. Thank you to those who decorated the church, those who prepared the music for our many celebrations, those who sang, those who rang bells, those who livestreamed our Masses, and those who had other roles in our celebrations to bring Christmas joy into our hearts. Thank you, as well, to all who came to Mass.

I pray that each and every one of you has a Happy, Healthy, and Holy New Year!

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:

December 27: Msgr. Francis X. Guerre (1956)
December 28: Rev. Patrick J. Connolly (2002)
January 1: Deacon George Modrak (2007)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

This Friday, January 1, 2021, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. It is a Holy Day of Obligation yet, as was discussed for the Immaculate Conception, I want to remind you that all the faithful have a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation at the present time because of the pandemic.

We will, however, have all the Masses for New Year's that we usually have. New Year's Day follows the regular Sunday Mass schedule: Thursday at 5:30 p.m. and Friday at 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon.

As we do for the weekend, Thursday's 5:30 p.m. Mass and Friday's 10:00 a.m. Mass will be livestreamed in case you are uncomfortable coming to church.

As we gather in prayer on the New Year, let us implore God to be with us in 2021 and heal us from all that we have gone through in 2020. For those who have perished because of COVID-19, may God grant them eternal peace and may He bring consolation to those left behind.

"We all need a fresh start every year. It's important that we go into the New Year with an open mind and a new way of thinking."

~ Tony A. Gaskins Jr.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A collection of New Year's Humor

- My resolution was to read more so I turned on the subtitle feature on my television.
- I was going to quit all my bad habits for the New Year and then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.
- At the beginning of 2020 I made a resolution to lose ten pounds. Only fifteen more to go!
- What did the little champagne bottle call his father? Pop!
- I can't wait for New Year's Day 2021. Then I can say that hindsight really is 2020.
- What is a New Year's resolution? Something that goes in one year and out the other.
- My New Year's resolution is to break my New Year's resolution. That way, I succeed at something.

Religious Education

Religious Education Classes

The Religious Education Program is holding classes remotely at this time. We will reassess the situation soon for the upcoming semester. For more information about Religious Education, please contact Emily Hackett at ehackett@stm-school.com.

"…as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." - COLOSSIANS 3:13

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do.
We can't give what we don't have.
We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

Automated Contributions

We pray for the safety & good health of you and your family during this pandemic.
Our staff is working hard to maintain facilities, serve our parishioners, keep up with our school/parish technological needs and teach our students, all thanks to your generous contributions.

If you can, please make your continued offering contributions to St. Thomas More to support our parish!

Mail/Drop-Off Your Contribution: Drop-off at Parish Office or mail: 8501 Calumet Avenue, Munster, IN 46321.

Make a Payment Online:
Donate online through our parish website by using PayPal/debit/credit card: http://www.stm-church.com/. Go to "Donate" button in "Virtual Offering" section.

Set-Up Automated Payment:
Instruction/forms on parish website: http://www.stm-church.com/

Questions?
Contact Mike Gutchewsky: (219) 836-9151, ext. 2339 or mgutchewsky@stm-church.com or
Noreen Bickel: (219) 836-8610, #2330 nbickel@stm-church.com

Holy Name Society

All men of the parish are invited to join the Holy Name Society and new members are welcomed any time. Enjoy being part of a dedicated, spiritual group of men who serve the parish and community. All men are invited to join us for our next meeting:

Monday, January 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Weis Center

Our meeting will begin with the Rosary at 7:00 p.m. and a business meeting will follow. Meeting is subject to change due to Covid (please check with the Parish Office beforehand).

St. Vincent De Paul Society

The Need in Our Community is Great

Families are struggling now more than ever and the St. Vincent de Paul Society is working hard to feed as many in need as possible.
If you can, please help so that these families have food on their tables this winter.
Thank you, as always, for your generous support.

Items Needed for Our Pantry:

Peanut Butter	Pasta Sauce	Canned Corn
Jelly	Rice	Canned Fruit
Cake Mixes	Boxed Potatoes	Toothbrushes
Frosting	Meal Helpers	Toothpaste
Jell-O	Pork & Beans	Shampoo
Pancake Mix	Canned Meat	Dish Soap
Syrup	Canned Fish	Toilet Paper
Noodles	Mac & Cheese	Laundry Detergent
Pasta	Cereal	Bar Soap
	Canned Green Beans	

Please check the expiration dates before donating. To learn more about SVDP please call Terry at (219) 836-8610.

Thank You!

Thank you from the St. Vincent de Paul Society for the generous donations of food for our pantry and for warm hats, gloves/mittens and scarves this Christmas during our Caps for Kids drive.
Donated items were distributed to those in need in our area.
Thank you for finishing out 2020 by graciously contributing to the warmth and well-being of our neighbors in need.

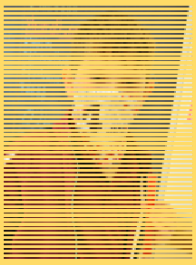
Parish Office Holiday Hours

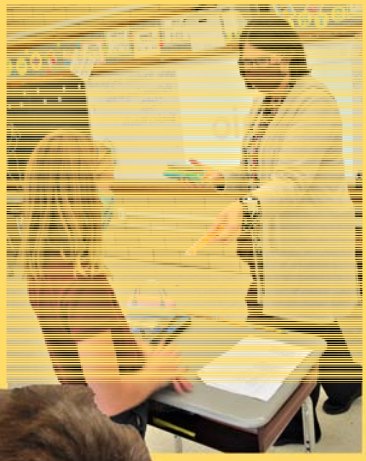
Please note the changes below in Parish Office hours for the week of December 27 and the New Year's holiday.

The Parish Office will be closed:
Thursday, December 31, 2020 — New Year's Eve
Friday, January 1, 2021 — New Year's Day
Saturday, January 2, 2021

The Parish Office will be open for normal business, with the exception of the dates above on Mon-Sat —9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

St. Thomas More School





Over 250 Mile Logged

Since the beginning of the school year, STMS students have participated in "The Daily Mile".

Every day, when school is in session, you will find St. Tom's students and their teachers going for a walk through nearby Community Park.

Principal, Dr. Samantha Francis, instituted The Daily Mile program to help our students engage in a fun, health-inspired activity that gets them out of the classroom and into the fresh air.

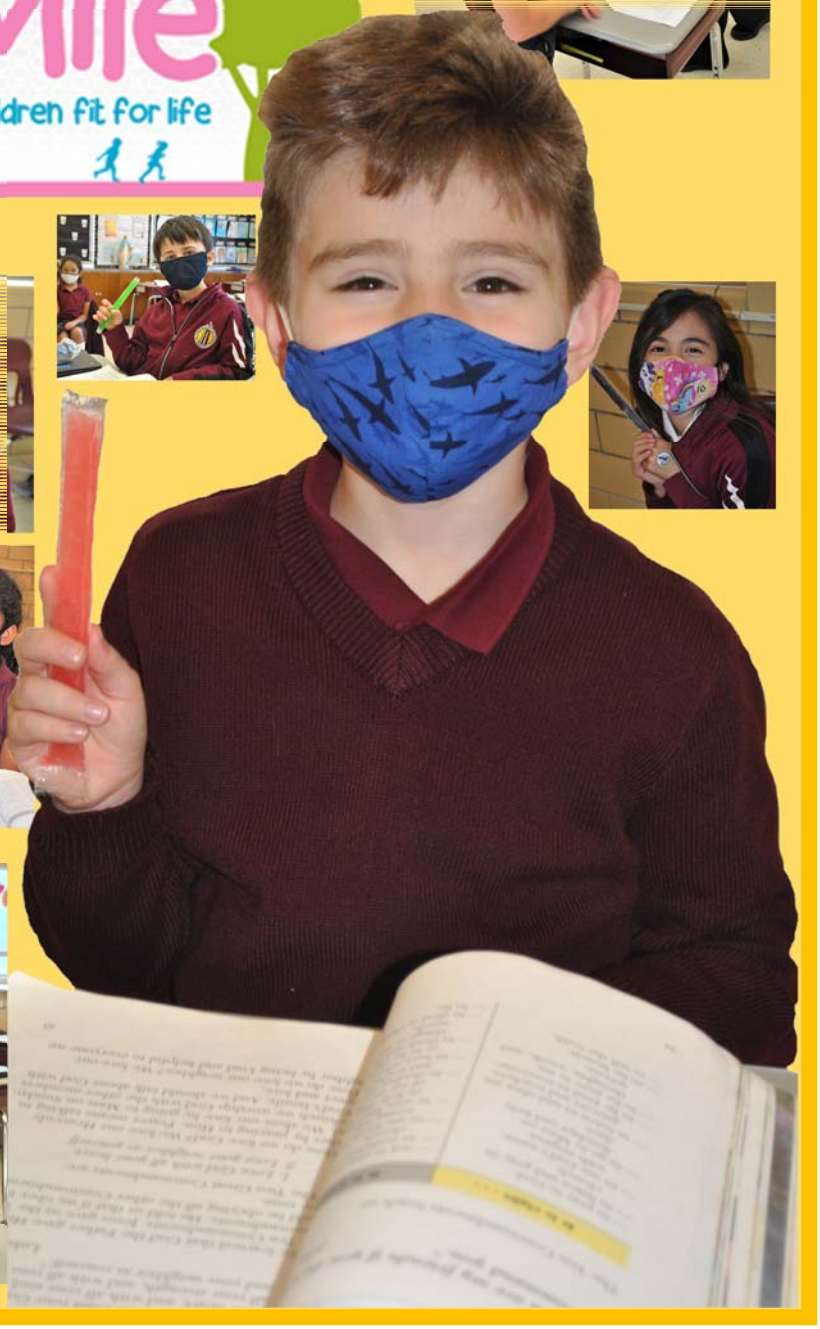
The Daily Mile has become a favorite activity of both students and teachers alike, as everyone has enjoyed the midday "brain break" of going for a brisk walk to the Munster Social Center or Community Pool and back to school again.

Students are able to chat and laugh while keeping a safe social distance and get some much needed cerebral and physical exercise all at the same time.

In October, students crossed the collective 250 mile marker.

In celebration of this milestone, students school-wide were treated to an allergy-free popsicle.

The next few months will hold more challenges for outside activities, as inclement weather approaches, but we know that our kids will still be walking whenever possible, on their way to their next goal of 500 miles.



Support St. Thomas More School Through the Annual Fund Drive

Our thanks to the generous parishioners, school parents, alumni and friends of St. Thomas More School who have already contributed to the 2020 Annual Fund Drive. We have now reached $30,000 or our $100,000 goal.

Can you help?

Thanks to the Annual Fund Drive, STMS students benefit from a continuum in their outstanding, A-Rated education, program enhancements and additional opportunities to both educational and a wide range of extracurricular activities. In addition to a strong educational foundation, STMS students personally benefit from school-wide faith-development, service to others and many leadership opportunities not found in other schools. Our students learn to give back and become the young leaders in our community.

Remember, no gift is ever too small!

Mail, drop your gift at the Parish Office or use this link: https://www.stm-school.com/support-stms/ by December 31. Thank you!

Tax Benefits of the CARES Act? Can it help you?

On March 27, 2020 the House and Senate passed the Coronavirus Aid Relief & Economic Security (CARES) Act. There are three big changes that came out of the CARES Act that you should be aware of:

Cash Gifts

Individuals may deduct $300 above-the-line for gifts of cash to a public charity in 2020. This charitable deduction enables a taxpayer who takes the standard deduction to also benefit from his or her charitable gifts.

100% Charitable Deduction Limit

For 2020, gifts of cash to charity (excluding donor advised funds and supporting organizations) are deductible to 100% of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), up from 60%

Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) Waiver

The RMD is waived for IRA and other qualified retirement plans owners for the year 2020. For donors who still wish to use IRA funds to make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), the QCD is available up to $100,000 for individuals who are over age 70.5.

Please contact Karen Leluga, Director of Development with questions or for more information at kleluga@stm-school.com or 219-836-9151 ext. 2307

Hello STMS Alumni!

Are you a St. Thomas More School Alumni?

All St. Thomas More School Alumni are asked to update their contact info today. It only takes a moment to send us your current information and receive next "More Good News" newsletter coming out soon. Keep up with former classmates & connect to your STMS past https://www.stm-school.com/alumni/updatealumnirecord.cfm

AmazonSmile & Post-Holiday Sales

Looking to scoop up some great after-Christmas sales? Or need a new winter coat, boots and hat? Or was there something that you really wanted for Christmas, but didn't get? Then shop AmazonSmile and be sure to designate St. Thomas More as your preferred charity; STMS will earn .5% of your purchases. Go to *smile.amazon.com/ch/35-0900733*.

Apples for Students

Send Your Strack &VanTil Receipts to STMS!

STMS students can earn valuable equipment and supplies with your grocery receipts! Simply send your Strack's receipts to the **Parish Office until March 31st.** Be sure to mark your envelope accordingly.

Please Make Your Contribution to the 2020 CSA Now!

2020 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF G

Follow-up calls will begin soon!

Donate Today! It's Not Too Late to Be a Partner in Christ's Work.

The programs, services and ministries supported by CSA serve the needs of others in the Diocese of Gary and throughout the Universal Church. You can now contribute to the Catholic Services Appeal via credit card. For details on how gifts are used, or to make a gift online: https://dcgary.org/csa (or complete form below & mail to the Diocese or drop-off at STM)

If you have not yet made your contribution to the 2020 Catholic Services Appeal, why not add this to your holiday donation list? Your help supports many, many ministries and programs in our Diocese, as well as our parish.
Donate Today!

PLEDGE FORM: Mail or make a gift online at www.dcgary.org/csa

Parish _____

First Name:_____
(Primer Nombre)

Last Name:_____
(Apellido)

Spouse:_____
(Esposo/Esposa)

Address:_____
(Domicilio)

_____

City:_____ State:____ Zip:_____
(Ciudad) (Estado) (Código Postal)

Email:_____
(Correo Electrónico)

Phone:_____
(Número De Teléfono)

Total Pledge: $_____
(Cantidad de Promesa)
Paid Now: $_____
(Pagado ahora)
Balance: $_____
(Saldo a pagar)

Return to:
(devuelva:)
Diocese of Gary
P.O. Box 10160
Merrillville, IN 46411

☐ **My Employer Matches Gifts**
☐ **Check enclosed — Check #**_____
Checks payable to: *Catholic Services Appeal*
☐ **Charge my credit card:**
(Carga mi tarjeta de crédito:)
☐ **One Time $**_____ ☐ **Monthly $**_____
(Donación única) (Mensual)

Acct #: _____
(Numero de cuenta)
Exp Date: _____ **CSV:**_____
(Fecha de expiración) MM/YY *Last 3 digits on back of card*
Los últimos 3 dígitos en la parte posterior de la tarjeta)

Signature:_____

Bulletin Articles

Please be sure to submit articles via email to bulletin@stm-church.com at least 2 weeks in advance.

Thank You Burns-Kish!

Our thanks to Burns-Kish Funeral Home for providing 2021 Calendars. Pick one up in the Parish Office today.

St. Thomas More Position Open

Part-Time Custodian

Responsibilities: cleaning offices & restrooms and event set-ups for church & school. Must have cleaning experience (commercial setting), able to work with various types of floor machines, read & follow directions, and have reliable transportation w/ valid driver's license. Evenings/some weekends.
To apply: jobopenings@stm-school.com or in person at the STM Parish Office: 8501 Calumet • Munster, IN 46321

Christmas FLOWER MEMORIALS

Remembering those we love with memorial flowers.

Sally Joy Hollingshead
June Hollingshead
Pearl Bennett
George Burns
Fran Burns
Rose & Debra Copenhaver
Wendell & Elva Elsas
Raymond & Irene Gottardo

Jose Gonzalez
John Salin
Ann Buck
Clara Macak
Steve Macak
Bettina Hefner
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Petersen
Chip Petersen
Mr. Frank Simko
Mrs. Julia Urban
Theresa Pallotto
Ngo Seng Joseph
Simplicia Ngo
Doling Yee
Deceased Members of the Ngo Family

Jim Weidenfeller
Catherine Ploszaj
Boleslaw Ploszaj
John Popovich
Ann Popovich
Walter Bogielczyk
Juze & Vytautas Sidlauskas
Nunzia & Gennaro Capranica
Peg & Maury Barron
Marge and Leo Sheehan
Floro Montenegro, Sr.
Luis de Asis
Esperanza de Asis
Basilio Montenegro
Donna Mae Writt
Jim Weidenfeller
Weidenfeller Family

Dagnillo Family
Frank & Albina Voss
David Rozmanich
Bob Cirrincione
Katherine & Steve Mardjetko
Marcia Ross
Deceased Members of Carney Family
Deceased Members of Sabella Family
Deceased Members of Coppolillo Family
Fitzpatrick Family
Averinos Family
Edward Rudakas
In Honor of Miskovich Family
William Simants
Pablo Rodriguez
John Macak

Events in the Area...

Give the Gift of Life Blood Drive

Knights of Columbus Council 3631is hosting a Blood Drive on Tuesday, December 29 from 1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Marquette Council Hall, 1400 South Broad Street in Griffith. To register: www.redcrossblood.org (use group code "kofc3631") or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.
A long sleeve t-shirt will be given to all donors, while supplies last.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

Start the new year off right and turn your compassion for others into action by becoming a Meals on Wheels volunteer. Volunteers needed in both Lake and Porter Counties. To learn more, or to volunteer, contact Charlie at charlie@mownwi.org or (219) 756-3663.

ABC-7 Blood Drive Needs Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming ABC-7 Blood Drive. January 13, 2021 shifts available from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at locations throughout Chicagoland. Invite your friends and family to support the mission of blood collection in our community. Volunteer locally in Munster at the Centre for Visual & Performing Arts or in Orland Park at Georgios Banquets. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact: BioVols_IL@redcross.org and sign up today.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The Chicagoland area Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) is pleased to announce that we are offering

Virtual Marriage Encounters

All sessions are on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

February 4 • February 11 • February 18 • February 25

For more information or to apply:
www.wwme-Chicagoland.org or (630) 577-0778.

Andrean High School Events

Apply Today!

Andrean High School invites families to apply for enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year.
The application can be completed online at andreanhs.org/apply.

Zoom Niner Night

Thursday, January 28, 2021 • 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Upcoming Entrance Exams:

Sunday, January 17, 2021 • 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 13, 2021 • 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Open House

Sunday, January 31, 2021 • 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Schedule Your Own Shadow Day!

Contact Director of Enrollment Management, Mr. Jim Nohos: 219.887.5959 ext. 260 or jnohos@andreanhs.com.

Andrean High School: (219) 887-5959 or andreanhs.org