

Third Sunday of Advent

Because God loved us and loves us so much,
God would do and continues to do
anything and everything
to help us, to guide us, and
to bring us home.



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
Senior Deacons David Kapala, KHS
Dr. Napoleon Tabion, OFS
Deacon Joseph Stodola, KHS
Director of Parish Mission Noreen Bickel; Ext. 2330
Director of Finance & Operations Charles Schimpf; Ext. 2329
Pastoral Care Coordinator Deacon David Kapala, KHS; Ext. 2315
Director of Music Angie Van Manen; Ext. 2338
Director of Religious Education Emily Hackett; Ext. 2232

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

Parish Office Staff

Hours: Mon-Friday 9:00 am-3:00 pm • Saturday 9:00 am –Noon
Email address: parish.office@stm-church.com
Email address for bulletin: bulletin@stm-church.com
Office Phone 836-8610 Office eFax (219) 533-4280
Bulletin Editor Pam Pasyk; Ext. 2309
Receptionist Phyllis Krizmanic; 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 James Kaspar 836-8610
Hospitality/Greeters Vicky Odegaard 322-6391
Lectors Richard Gard 836-8610
Nursery Kaaren A. Mashura 836-5079
St. Vincent de Paul Terry Oprinovich 836-8610
Vocations Guidance PJ & Margaret Caraher (219) 680-6775

2023-2024 Pastoral Council Members

Julius Ballanco Leslie Dernulc
Debra Harker, Co-Chairperson Katie Kordeck, Chairperson
Paul Liszewski Bill McCullough
Jean Nanos Joe Peters
Michael Popovich Patty Queroz
Michael Sajn 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 (219) 836-9151
Principal Dr. Samantha Francis; Ext. 2258
School Administrative Assistant Jennifer Gonzalez; Ext. 2200
School Reception/Office Associate Nereida Harretos; Ext. 2201
School Admissions Pam Pasyk; Ext. 2309
Director of Development Annette Czarobski; Ext. 2307
Business Manager Maria Vega; Ext. 2339

Parish Ministry Center 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 6:00 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 Cindy McMahon; Ext. 2236

Grades K through 8 • Wednesday or Thursday from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Pastoral Commissions Chairpersons

Formation/Education Tim Jevyak
Parish Life Katie Kordeck, Tamara Kozy
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/Donna Weidenfeller
..... STMCareerGroup@gmail.com
Circle of Prayer Carolyn Cenko 741-2509
..... carolynrealtor@sbcglobal.net
Cub Scouts Patricia Sinclair • plaessandrini@yahoo.com
Finance Barbara Shaver 838-9200
Gabriel Project Marilyn Glennon (219) 836-8610
Gifts of Love & Warmth Bernadine Nemeth 513-6544
Girl Scouts Cynthia Navarrete (773) 726-2411
Holy Name Society Bill Burke: sbburke3@att.net
Knights of Columbus Ralph Konkoly (219) 588-4559
Live Streaming Joann Hajduch (219) 836-8610, Ext. 2245
Mental Health Ministry Dr. Jean Nanos (317) 840-8963
Parish Garden Ministry Noreen Bickel (219) 836-8610
Respect Life Leslie Dernulc (219) 741-3739
Seniors of STM Judy Hamer (219) 836-7916
Ushers Club Jim Marmalejo 718-8704

Celebrants

Saturday, December 23

5:30 p.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

Sunday, December 24

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

Saturday, December 23

5:30 p.m. J. Dye, P. Werner/MC ~ Alex

Sunday, December 24 — Christmas Eve

8:00 a.m. H. Jorsch, J. Sajm/MC ~ Abi

10:00 a.m. N. Arman, C. Dagholor/MC ~ Nick

12:00 p.m. C. Aguilar, S. & E. Ramirez/MC ~ Francesca

5:30 p.m. J. Dye, X. Fonseca/Hunter

11:00 p.m. Midnight Mass Practice for All MCs

Monday, December 25 — Christmas Day

12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass — All MCs

6:30 a.m. T. Ogunyoye, R. Smola/MC ~ Jack

8:00 a.m. K. Karl, G. Knight/MC ~ Abi

10:00 a.m. G. & R. Santellano/MC ~ Nick

12:00 p.m. B. & D. Reynolds/MC ~ Francesca

Stewardship REFLECTION

*"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of
God for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

Sacrificial Offerings



December 3, 2023

Adult	\$ 20,591.00
Loose	\$ 1,991.00
Automated	\$ 4,935.00
TOTAL	\$ 27,517.00

*Thank you for your
generous support of
our parish.*

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, December 17 — Third Sunday of Advent

6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased

8:00 am Margaret Waters by Carol & Jack Waters

10:00 am Angela Bracich by Kay Neis

12:00 pm Dorothy & Paul Gorski by Gretchen & Kristin Gorski

MONDAY, December 18

6:30 am Alice Dillon (Ann) by Eleanor

8:30 am Vincent Gryn (Ann) by Mr. & Mrs. John Gryn

TUESDAY, December 19

6:30 am Mary Ann Magurany by Ann Bach

8:30 am Frances Zaitz Del Castillo by the Beird Family

WEDNESDAY, December 20

6:30 am Shannon Bramowicz by Husband

8:30 am Renee Bianchi (Ann) by Helen Drabac

THURSDAY, December 21

6:30 am Anne Radde by the Radde Family

8:30 am Hilda & Francesco Sessa by Lucia & Anthony Marchese

FRIDAY, December 22

6:30 am Nicholas P. Krizmanic II by Family

8:30 am Susan M. Burke by Mike & Jill Popovich

SATURDAY, December 23

8:30 am Dennis J. Keilman by Family

5:30 pm Carolina Alvarado (Ann) by the Garcia Family

SUNDAY, December 24 — Fourth Sunday of Advent

6:30 am Nancy Bossi by Jim & Jackie Pietraszak

8:00 am For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased

10:00 am Marilyn Rippey by Mike & Coletta

12:00 pm Walter J. Bracich by Joe Ontiveros

5:30 pm **Christmas Vigil**

For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased

Bulletin Deadlines

The holiday season requires altered printing deadlines and they will remain changed until the first part of January.

Please be sure to submit articles **at least two full weeks in advance** to insure your information is included: bulletin@stm-church.com.



Parish Office

Monday to Friday:

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Saturday:

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Closed:

December 23, 25, 26, 30
January 1 & 2

Automated Contributions



Make your life easier by contributing to the good works of our St. Thomas More Parish using our online system.

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".

Set-Up Automated Payment: Instruction/forms on parish website: <http://www.stm-cJoin hurch.com/>

Questions?

Contact Maria Vega, Business Manager at: (219) 836-8610, #2339 or mvega@stm-church.com

Pray for the sick of our parish...

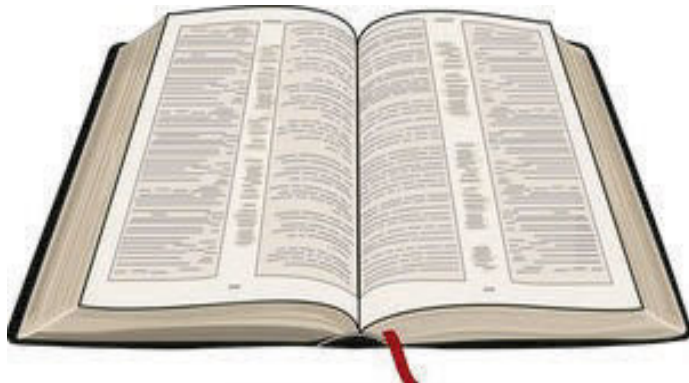
Joshua Alvarez
Chiara Andrzejewski
Doris Aurelio
Maria Aurelio
Pat Batchelder
Antonio Belmonte
Mary Berry
Michael Berry
Michael Billeo
Diane Bochnowski
Cheryl Bostrom
Marilyn Branco
Linda Braun
Bill Briney
Grace Briney
Stephany Burney
Kathleen Burns
Diane Butler
Dorothy Campbell
James Campbell
Janet Cattanaach
Jacqueline Morrow
Christian
Ursula Cichy
Charlie Clam
Loretta Clott
Joseph Clune
Willie Colby
Charlotte Conn
Vincent Corsello
Mike Curtain
Valerie Czapkowicz
Sarah Dalton
Aaron Dudek
Alex Eiland
Sherlon Evans
James Fletcher
Heriberto Flores
Maria Flores
John Forde
Bonnie Gabrione
Rich Gagliani
Christine Gajda
Andrea Garritano
Emily Gibson
Joan Glinski
Monica Gonzalez
Howard Gralewski
Margaret Gray
Susan Graff
Christine Greenberg
Mary Ellen Gullicks
Katie Kardes Hargett
Rosemarie Havran
Amy Hayes
Dick Hemingway

Marie Henke
Elaine Herrmann
Adelina Hernandez
Bertha Birdy Hernandez
Irma Hernandez
Marisol Hernandez
Robert Heseck
Becky Hill
Marie Hill
Joan Hoess
Sally Joy Hollingshead
Charlotte Hunt
Betty Ingretson
Joseph S. Iwan
Steve Izzo
Elizabeth Jacob
Barbara Jamrose
Stanley Jayjack
Kelly Jean
Margaret Jones
Kevin Karl
Dan Karulski
Mark Kenney
Irene Kerps
Janet Knight
Susan Kolodziej
Gregory P. Koscielski
Melvin Kostalik
Crystal Kurek
Annika LeMonier
Chris LeMonier
Debbie LeMonier
Nicklas LeMonier
Dorothy Lesnefsky
Kris Lisikiewicz
Jo Lisiniewicz
Edward Liskiewicz
Stanley Liskiewicz
Maria Lovell
James Malayter
Brady Martin
Paul Martin
Carolyn McGill
Larkin McKenzie
Jacob Mencilwicz
Jenny Mendoza
Faye Meny
Michael Mercier
Sandi Merlo
Erin Meyer
Benjamin Mikels
Madeline Mikolanis
John Mitchener
Andrew Moll
Thomas Mordaunt
Genevieve Mrvan
Bernadine Nemeth

Donna Nichols
Maria Novak
Steven Nowaczyk
Clare O'Brien
Donna O'Connor
Danny Ogren
James Pancheri
Marty Pavlovic
Lucille Perz
Judith Peterson
Dawn Petro
Johanna Petrich
Andrew Pieczyrak
Elizabeth Pilones
Sylvester Porras
Dennis Powell
Ronald Prus
Jackie Roach
Ann Sardella
George Sauer
Marie Schultz
Marianne Schwartz
William Schwartz
Zachery Scriff
James Secviar
Jim Seul
Renee Shehan
Nick Skinner
Laurie Slazyk
Karen Sliwa
Deborah Stareck
Georgianne Suto
Florence Stevens
Carol Storey
Charles Svitko
Rose Theis
Michele Thomas
Rosemary Thomas
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
Stephanie Wisniewski
Bill Wisniewski
Dick Wright
Cecilia Ziegler
Cody Ziemkowski

Readings Week of December 17

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/ 1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



Third Sunday of Advent

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church?

Why should we continue to do so?

We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume).

Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends.

Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist.

Early in John's Gospel we hear:

"There was a man sent from God, his name was John.

He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him."

The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus.

This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people.

And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this.

He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others.

In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life.

Consciously thank God for their testimony.

And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

Father John Muir

©LPI

Rejoice!

LONGING FOR OUR HOME

"Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home." ~ G.K. Chesterton

Christ is drawing closer. Today, we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, Rejoice Sunday: the midpoint of the Advent season. The ministers dress in rose vestments and stoles today and we breathe in the joy that awaits us in the Kingdom.

One of the reminders of the Kingdom, and one of the symbols on Jesse Trees, is Bethlehem. Bethlehem is "the place". It is where Jesus was born to us as a tiny, helpless, fragile infant. It has always blown my mind to think about that paradox.

How could the Almighty stoop, if you will, so low? What would possess the All-Powerful to become helpless? There is only one word, I believe, that would sum up the answer to that question: love. Yes. Because God loved us and loves us so much, God would do and continues to do anything and everything to help us, to guide us, and to bring us home.

Chesterton points out a great paradox. Jesus was homeless. He was powerless. He was poor. Yet Magi sought Him out and, ultimately, His birth would be celebrated throughout the ages by the homeless as well as those who have homes, by the powerless as well as those who have power, quite frankly, by the entire world.

We begin our third week of Advent by pondering so great a paradox and mystery. Open our eyes and hearts, Lord, to the wonders and reality of your great love for us!

FAITH ACTION: If you know someone in need, reach out to that person so that this season may be a blessing for him or her as well. If you know no such person, perhaps contribute to a homeless shelter or soup kitchen.

Fr. 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:

December 17: Deacon James Keough (2016)
Rev. Lawrence Kew (2019)
December 18: Rev. Andrew C. Topor (1993)
December 19: Msgr. Alfred Reinig (1963)
December 21: Msgr. Albert Van Nevel (2000)
December 22: Rev. Conrad Stoll (1956)

Lessons and Carols

The beautiful tradition of Lessons and Carols will continue this evening, Sunday, December 17th, at 6:00 p.m. in the church.

This is a wonderful way to begin the Third Week of Advent. I hope that you can join us.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE THIS WEEK TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 7:00 P.M.

We will have several visiting priests at our parish on Tuesday, December 19, for an Advent Penance Service.

Please try to go to confession on Tuesday if you have not already done so.

The last opportunity for confession before Christmas is this coming Saturday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. However, there will only be two priests available then and we will not be able to accommodate a large number of people.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24, we will have the regular weekend Mass Schedule of 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and 6:30, 8:00, 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon on Sunday. (The Sunday evening Mass at 5:30 p.m. is for Christmas and not for your Sunday obligation.)

Masses for Christmas are:

Sunday, December 24 at 5:30 p.m.

Monday, December 25 at Midnight, 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 Noon

Join the choir in singing Christmas carols before the Midnight Mass. Caroling will begin around 11:15 p.m.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Can you tell me...

- Why do banks charge a fee on insufficient funds when they know there is not enough?
- Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?
- Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?





Religious Education

Religious Education Classes

For info regarding St. Thomas More
Religious Education/Formation contact Emily Hackett:
ehackett@stm-church.com.

December Schedule

20/21 Class
27/28 *No Class — Merry Christmas*

January Schedule

3/4 *No Class — Happy New Year*
10/11 Class
12 *Confirmation Retreat for 8th Grade*
17/18 Class
31 Class

February Schedule

1 Class
7/8 *No Class — Munster No School*
14/15 *No Class — Ash Wednesday*
21/22 Class
28/29 Class

March Schedule

6/7 Class
13/14 Class
20/21 Class
27/28 *No Class — Holy Week*

April Schedule

3/4 Class
10/11 Class
17/18 Class
24/25 *Last Class for All Except First Communicants*

May Schedule

1/2 *First Communicant Practice — All Wednesday & Thursday Students* (all must attend both nights)
4 *First Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.*

Sunday Nursery

The Sunday Nursery is open during the
10:00 a.m. Mass in the Bride's Room
Located off of the Church Narthex (near main entrance).

December 17

Jennifer & Oliver Anderson • Kaaren Mashura

The Nursery Will Be Closed:

Sunday & Monday, December 24 & 25
Sunday, December 31 & Monday, January 1

We will re-open in January, weather permitting.
Would you like to volunteer? Call Kaaren at (219) 836-5079.

Greeters for the Week



Sunday, December 24

8:00 a.m. Mass

Main: Dennis & Karen McNeil
Chapel: Donna Weidenfeller
Choir: Christi & Katie Kordeck

10:00 a.m. Mass

Main: Kate Dagholer

12:00 Noon Mass

Main: Pat Batchelder

Saturday, December 23

5:30 p.m. Mass

Main: Carolyn Cenko
Chapel: Bill & Chris Retseck

Parish/Ministry Schedule

*St. Vincent de Paul Food Collection
After All Weekend Masses*

Monday, December 18

7:00 pm Emotions Anonymous — Weis Center Room 101

Tuesday, December 19

5:00 pm Girl Scouts #1547 — Weis Center Main Hall

7:00 pm Boy Scouts #542 — Weis Center Main Hall

Wednesday, December 20

9:30 am Bible Study — Weis Center Room 101

5:00 pm Daisy Troop — Weis Center Main Hall

Holy Name Society

All men of the parish are invited to join us for our next meeting

Monday, December 18

7:00 p.m. at the Weis Center

Guest Speaker:

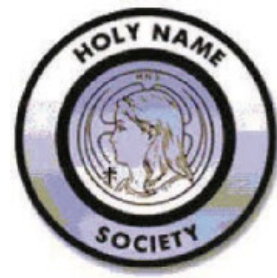
Deacon Zachary Glick

Topic:

Storyline of The Bible

Come and join us at this special time
of year.

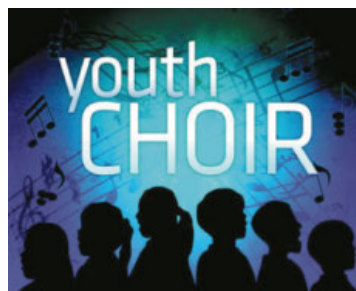
Spend an evening away from the
holiday chaos to reflect on the
reason for the season.



Join the Parish Youth Choral

Encourage your children to join our wonderful
St. Thomas More Parish Youth Choral.

The Youth Choral is open to all parish students in
Grade 2 and above.



The Choir will sing each
month at the
Saturday 5:30 p.m. Mass.
Rehearsals will take place at
4:00 p.m. in the Chapel
immediately
preceding Mass.

Contact

Michel Domingue at
mdomingue@stm-church.com
or 219-836-8610 x2340.

St. Thomas More School



Students "Caught Being An Eagle" in November



We are proud to say that STMS students consistently conduct themselves in a manner that reflects their respect and kindness towards each other, their teachers & staff and their community and who work hard every day to follow rules and be the very best version of themselves that they can be.

To stress the importance of these exemplary qualities and reinforce exceptional conduct, STMS works to reinforce all the "good" our students do. Each month, teachers add the names of students who go above and beyond to our giant "Caught Being an Eagle" board located in the main school hall, recognizing students for their positive, outstanding conduct, character, leadership, kindness and dedication to their studies.

At the last All School Mass each month, these distinguished students are acknowledged before the entire student body and all are added to a lottery. Five names, one from each grade group, are randomly selected to receive a small token of appreciation.

This has been an outstanding program for our school and we are thrilled that our students have excitedly embraced it.

Well done, students! We look forward to seeing our next group of exceptional students...after all, Excellence Happens on Purpose at STMS!

Save the Date Fun & Excitement in 2024!

All are invited to attend the next
St. Thomas More School

Mardi Gras Soiree Saturday, February 10



Villa Cesare • Schererville
Cocktails
Dinner
Live Band & Dancing
Online Auction
Lots of Fun Surprises

Tickets will go on sale soon. Watch the bulletin.

Making Christmas Bright

There is nothing more festive than a Christmas tree filled with bright lights and sparkling ornaments. Each year, St. Thomas More School 2nd & 3rd Grade Girl Scout Troop 15574 selects a town or venue to decorate their community tree.

This year's location was at Fox Pointe in Lansing.



Please Consider a Donation to the STMS Annual Fund

The 2023-2024 St. Thomas More School Annual Fund is now underway.

Why Give to the Annual Fund?

Each year, our A-rated school depends on the generosity of parishioners, alumni, current & past school parents/relatives, and our community to keep our outstanding programs in place, to continue upgrading and improving our facilities, to help close the gap in teachers' salaries and to maintain the highest quality education possible.

St. Thomas More School continues to grow thanks to your help and currently boasts an enrollment of 550 awesome students. Now in our 75th year, we continue to graduate students of the highest character, our leaders of tomorrow, our faith-filled community servants. Help maintain our legacy for the next 75 years by donating to the Annual Fund now: <https://2023annualfund.givesmart.com>



LESSONS & CAROLS

A Beautiful Christmas Event!

Join us this evening for this moving service.

Tonight!

Sunday, December 17

6:00 p.m.

St. Thomas More Church

What is Lessons & Carols?

Nine Lessons & Carols, also known as the Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols, is a service of Christian worship traditionally celebrated near Christmas Eve. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings or "lessons" from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir anthems.



Join the St. Thomas More Staff

If you, or someone you know, is interested in working in a great environment, apply today!

Director of Maintenance

St. Thomas More Parish

The Director of Maintenance will provide maintenance leadership to our parish facilities and grounds through organizing, planning and implementing programs to support preventative & corrective maintenance improvements.

The successful candidate must be able to:

Work to prioritize, delegate, supervise, and instruct as needed the maintenance staff in areas such as plumbing, electrical, carpentry and HVAC. Prioritize emergency, corrective and preventive maintenance. Perform daily, weekly, monthly & yearly building inspections with attention to detail to identify necessary repairs. Develop routine systems to ensure constant monitoring of problem areas & develop long/short range maintenance plans.

Be responsible for budgeting and purchasing for maintenance department. Assist with planning and implementation of capital projects. Oversee vendor activities, including scheduling of repair & maintenance needs as required; closely monitor progress to ensure quality of work. Manage life/fire safety systems and emergency protocols, maintain functionality of all fire safety equipment. Oversee building security.

Work as a team with the custodial department/supervisor.

Communicate well & provide clear, concise details.

Perform tasks safely with tools/ladders/lifts.

Qualifications Include: Minimum 5 years' experience in general maintenance with supervisory experience. High School Diploma or equivalent. College degree or other training desired.

Also must be: Flexible to changing priorities and conditions, especially taking care of off hours emergency situations. Able to demonstrate initiative and creativity.

Organized & able to multi-task. Able to communicate effectively verbally and in writing, utilizing Microsoft Excel and Word. Technology proficient. Team player.

Strong problem solver with good interpersonal skills.

Open to feedback; committed to quality. Practicing Catholic.

Cover letter & resume: jobopenings@stm-church.com

Part-Time Custodian

St. Thomas More School

This is a perfect job for a retiree, student or someone looking for part-time evening work.

Responsibilities include cleaning offices, classrooms and restrooms with occasional set-ups for church/school events. Experience in commercial cleaning & floor machines preferred.

Must be able to follow written directions and have reliable transportation w/ valid driver's license.

Hours: Monday to Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and occasional Sundays.

Apply in person at the STM Parish Office, 8501 Calumet Ave. in Munster or email: jobopenings@stm-church.com.

Bookkeeper

St. Thomas More Parish

The bookkeeper is responsible for supporting the accounting department ensuring that the parish's financial operations are cost-efficient and in compliance with accounting standards.

Bookkeeper will also cover the parish office reception desk three evenings per week and on Saturday, welcoming all who come into, or telephone the office and provides administrative and related office services to staff and members of

St. Thomas More.

Minimum Qualifications

- Proficient in using various databases, accounting software (QuickBooks preferred) and Microsoft Office (MS Publisher, MS Word, MS Excel, MS Outlook, and MS PowerPoint).
- Strong organizational skills with the ability to multi-task and prioritize work.
- High School degree.
- Minimum of two years bookkeeping experience. Church or non-profit bookkeeping experience preferred.

Please email your resume to:

Maria Vega at mvega@stm-church.com.

Seniors of STM



Are You 55 or Older?

Join our fun group of active Seniors. You *do not* need to be a St. Thomas More parishioner to join... anyone 55+ is welcome!

All Meetings:

1:00 p.m. • Weis Center

Unless otherwise noted.

The next meeting of the Seniors of STM will be on **Wednesday, January 24, 2024.**

Mark your calendar to start off the New Year with a resolution to join this fun loving organization. The meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. in the Weis Ministry Center and this will be a social meeting. Check the bulletin for updates and further information.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

SVDP Caps for Kids

The cold weather is upon us, and it is time to don hats and gloves! We are currently

Collecting New Hats and Gloves

for children who need them.

Please consider donating a pair of gloves or a hat to the Caps for Kids.

Place donations in the box in the church vestibule.

Donated items will be distributed to people in our community and school who are in need of warm weather gear. We truly appreciate your ongoing generosity!



Our SVDP Pantry Needs:

Cereal
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Cake Mix & Frosting
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Snacks
Hamburger Helper
Instant Potatoes
Mac & Cheese
Pork & Beans
Canned Fruit
Canned Peas & Green Beans
Spaghetti/Pasta & Pasta Sauce
Rice
Shampoo
Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
Dish Soap
Toilet Paper

Thank you for your continued generosity for our neighbors in need.

We need paper grocery bags!

Please donate your extra paper bags with handles.



Emotions Anonymous

Emotions Anonymous is a 12-Step program, based off the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Anyone experiencing emotional difficulties who is willing to try this recovery program is welcome to attend our meetings.

Every Monday • 7:00 p.m. • Weis Center

For more information: www.emotionsanonymous.org

Mental Health Ministry meetings will resume in January.

Contact: Dr. Jean Nanos at drjnanos@stm-church.com

Hurry: Market Day for the Holidays

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You can find an instruction packet in the Parish Office or the Chapel & Main church entrances. Happy shopping!

Support St. Thomas More

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IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

Donors age 70½ or older may qualify to make a charitable gift directly from an IRA to St. Thomas More Church.

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity, such as our parish. As long as certain requirements are met, QCDs can fulfill your required minimum distribution (RMD), avoid paying income tax on the distribution, and provide a significant gift to support the work and mission of our parish.

A few points when considering an IRA QCD:

- The donor must be 70½ years old or older.
- The distribution must transfer directly from your IRA to St. Thomas More Church
- Each individual can donate up to \$100,000 from an individual IRA
- The donor can designate where the funds are to go – Sunday Collections, CSA, St. Vincent De Paul, etc.
- The gift would not be eligible for a charitable income tax deduction

Please consult your tax adviser to determine if this charitable giving strategy is an option for you.

Contact Charlie Schimpf, STM Director of Finance, at cschimpf@stm-church.com or 219-836-8610 ext. 2329 or Noreen Bickel, STM Director of Parish Mission nbickel@stm-church.com or 219-836-8610 ext. 2330 for more information on how to direct a QCD to St. Thomas More Church.

Baby Banks are Back!

Please Help Our Moms and Families

If you'd like to take part in the Gabriel Project's **Baby Bank Fundraiser**

extra banks are available to pick up in the Parish Office.

Once the bank is full, return it to the

Parish Office and we'll take it from there.

It's a very simple way to do something kind for others, and it has the bonus of keeping annoying change out of your purse or pocket.

Thanks for your continued prayers for our moms & their babies.



March for Life Indianapolis

Be a Voice for the Voiceless

The Diocese of Gary Pro-life Activities and Lake County Right to Life invite you to join us at the

Indianapolis March for Life

Monday, January 22, 2024

We will be leaving the Our Lady of Consolation parish parking lot at 7:00 a.m. CST on premium coach buses.

The day starts with Mass, celebrated by 4 Bishops from Indiana, continues with the March and a Rally afterwards.

The trip home includes a box lunch. Space is limited.

Registration & prepayment are required. Take a stand for life!

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ek34o9ug9523a355&llr=auyfgkvab>

Apples for Students



Every year the Apples for the Students program helps St. Thomas More School receive valuable educational equipment at no cost through this excellent program.

Save Your Strack & Van Til Shopping Receipts

every time you shop, place them in a marked envelope and drop off at the Parish Office.

Events in the Area...

Sharing Meadows Camp Helpers Needed

The Share Foundation is seeking staff, volunteers & campers, for our 2023-2024 Mini-Camps for adults with intellectual & developmental disabilities. Camps include activities, community & prayer.

Held at St. Timothy Center in LaPorte, IN:

December 15-17, 2023

March 1-3, 2024

April 26-28, 2024

May 10-12, 2024

Each session runs from 7:00 p.m. (CDT) on Friday to 2:30 p.m. (CDT) on Sunday. For more info contact Corinne at (219) 778-2585 or camp@sharefoundation.org.

Love, Inc. Helping Families This Holiday

Those who would like to help area families in need, please contact Love, Inc. in Griffith for any last minute needs at (219) 923-2775 or clearinghouse@loveincgrtham.org. To learn Love, Inc., visit their website at www.loveincgrtham.org.

Meals on Wheels

If you have some free time to spare and would like to make a difference in our area helping to deliver meals in our area, please contact Meals on Wheels at (219) 756-3663 to volunteer.

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