

# *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

The “magical moment” is about to happen once again as the clock strikes midnight and Christmas comes about.

We will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and remind ourselves that He will come again. Thus our Advent preparation will need to continue throughout the Advent of our lives.



**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](http://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](mailto:parish.office@stm-church.com)  
**Email address for bulletin:** ..... [bulletin@stm-church.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:STMCareerGroup@gmail.com)  
Circle of Prayer ..... Carolyn Cenko 741-2509  
..... [carolynrealtor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolynrealtor@sbcglobal.net)  
Cub Scouts ..... Patricia Sinclair • [plaessandrini@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 30**

5:30 p.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

**Sunday, December 31**

6:30 a.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

8:00 a.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

10:00 a.m. Carmelite Father

12:00 Noon Carmelite Father

## Servers

**Saturday, December 30**

5:30 p.m. X. Fonseca, P. Werner  
MC ~ Hunter

**Sunday, December 31 — New Year's Eve**

8:00 a.m. A. & I. Tolnai  
MC ~ Derek

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

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

## Rest in Peace

*Dolores Ray Reffkin  
Joan Potocky*



*"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"*  
LUKE 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward.  
Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ.  
Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

## Sacrificial Offerings



**December 10, 2023**

Adult \$18,636.00

Loose \$2,106.00

Automated \$4,935.00

**TOTAL \$25,677.00**

**Immaculate Conception**  
**\$4,963.00**

*Thank you for your generosity.*

# MASS INTENTIONS

**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

**MONDAY, December 25 — Christmas Day**

Midnight For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased

6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased

8:00 am For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased

10:00 am For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased

12:00 pm For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased

**TUESDAY, December 26 — St. Stephen**

6:30 am Claudia Pellar (Ann) by Husband, John Pellar & Family

8:30 am Stephen Bartkus by Family

**WEDNESDAY, December 27 — St. John**

6:30 am Mary Ann Magurany by Patricia Tomlonson

8:30 am Margaret Krizmanic by Helen Jaworski

**THURSDAY, December 28 — Holy Innocents**

6:30 am Mariane Magro by Elaine Fechalos

8:30 am Jose Del Castillo by Beird Family

**FRIDAY, December 29**

6:30 am Sue Burke by Krizmanic Family

8:30 am Joseph Yadron by Family

**SATURDAY, December 30**

8:30 am Donald Kopenec (Ann) by Carol Kopenec

5:30 pm Lois Strain by Susan Strain & Family

**SUNDAY, December 31**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living and Deceased

8:00 am Bernice Christiana by Christiana Family

10:00 am Claude Posilovich by Witkus Family

12:00 pm Ericka Hettich by Pauline Kovach Family & Ted Economou

## Parish Office Hours



**Monday to Friday:**  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Saturday:**  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

**Closed for Holidays:**

December 23-26

December 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](mailto:mvega@stm-church.com)

## Pray for the sick of our parish...

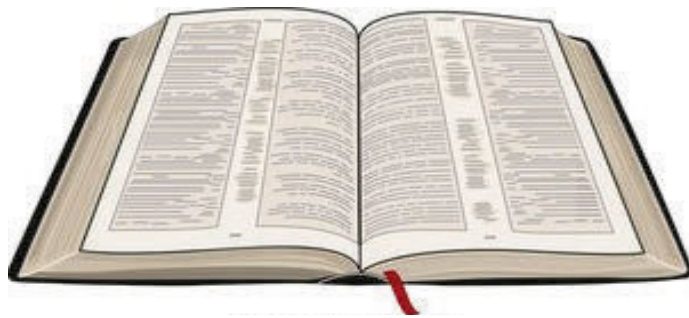
Joshua Alvarez  
Chiara Andrzejewski  
Doris Aurelio  
Maria Aurelio  
Marielva Banks  
Pat Batchelder  
Antonio Belmonte  
Mary Berry  
Michael Berry  
Michael Billedo  
Diane Bochnowski  
Cheryl Bostrom  
Marilyn Branco  
Linda Braun  
Bill Briney  
Grace Briney  
Stephany Burney  
Kathleen Burns  
Diane Butler  
Dorothy Campbell  
James Campbell  
Janet Cattanach  
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 Gliniski  
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 Ingbertson  
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 Menclawicz  
Jenny Mendoza  
Faye Meny  
Michael Mercier  
Sandi Merlo  
Erin Meyer  
Gino Michels  
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 Pilonis  
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 Ubane  
Tony Vanden Heuvel  
Raymond Vanderbok  
James Wachel  
Kathy Wachel  
Marilyn (Vrabel) Warda  
Mark Wein  
Ruth Williams  
Stephanie Wisniewski  
Bill Wisniewski  
Dick Wright  
Cecilia Ziegler  
Cody Ziemkowski

## Readings Week of December 24

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/  
Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38  
Monday: **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts  
13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
**Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11  
-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-  
12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
**Day:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/  
Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14  
Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab,  
16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18  
Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35  
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40  
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2,  
3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/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



## Fourth Sunday of Advent

Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, "But she was greatly troubled at what was said." An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since.

The first point for us: the Lord is with her precisely when she is troubled.

Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love.

Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing. Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, "Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God."

*Father John Muir*

©LPi

## Bulletin Deadlines

Due to altered printing deadlines during this holiday period, printing schedules are altered until mid January. Please submit articles **at least 2 weeks in advance:** [bulletin@stm-church.com](mailto:bulletin@stm-church.com).

### AN INFANT LIKE NO OTHER

**"Born on straw at night  
under low stable rafters,  
Baby Jesus cried."**

~ Richelle E. Goodrich

Like no other, and yet no different. That is the great paradox of the birth of Jesus on Christmas. He was an infant like no other since He was the Son of God. Yet, by all appearances, He was like any other baby: tiny, fragile, and totally helpless. It was to you and me that Jesus came as an infant. He came to save us from our sins. And coming as a tiny infant, He came with an invitation.

What would that invitation be, you might ask? What do you think? Have you ever been around an infant? What is the very first thing that goes through your mind? For most people, the invitation of an infant is to pick the infant up, to cuddle the infant, to let the infant know that he or she is loved, cherished, and protected.

The touch of others is often enough to make an infant stop crying. Picking up and carrying an infant is enough to make the infant fall asleep. God came to us as an infant. He wants us to pick Him up, to hold Him, to cradle Him, and to love Him just as much as He loves us.

The "magical moment" is about to happen once again as the clock strikes midnight and Christmas comes about. We will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and remind ourselves that He will come again. Thus our Advent preparation will need to continue throughout the Advent of our lives.

Prepare to greet Christ, the Lord.

**FAITH ACTION:** Set aside time today to reflect upon the birth of Christ.

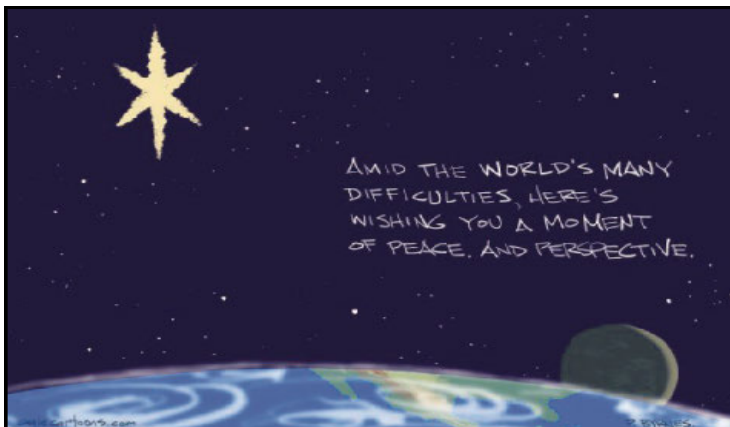
*In. Mike*



### 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:

- December 24: Rev. John Bargielski (2002)  
Rev. Alfred Dettmer (2013)  
December 25: Rev. Michael C. Gadacz (1971)  
Deacon John P. Beda (1972)  
December 26: Msgr. Francis J. Jansen, (1967)  
Rev. John P. Zubak (1976)  
December 27: Msgr. Francis X. Guerre (1956)  
December 28: Rev. Patrick J. Connolly (2002)



### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**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.

### CHRISTMAS DAY — THE ANGELS EXULT

**Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

~ Angels from the realms of glory



On this day, I wish you and yours a blessed, holy, joyful, and peace-filled Christmas. You deserve it. You have prepared diligently for this day through your Advent preparation. All that this day brings shall not be taken from you.

I just want to caution you about one thing: many people, when Christmas arrives, make the mistake of saying, "It's finally here. Now it's over." Uh, uh. No, no. Absolutely not. Christmas is here and will remain here for a while. Liturgically, Christmas is celebrated for an entire Octave. And when the eight days of Christmas are complete, we enter into the Christmas season which doesn't end until after the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord.

Christmas, therefore, is more than a day. It is more than an Octave. It is more than a season. It is a way of life. We should live the joy and peace of Christmas each day, letting people know of our great love for God and of God's great love for us.

Sadly, Christmas is often tainted by the world around us. We have been inundated by Christmas carols on the radio since Halloween. On Christmas Day, the radio stations resume their former broadcasting. Now that Christmas has arrived, the stations ignore it. In the stores, we will see Valentine's specials and maybe even Easter sales. On television, "Christmas" will be celebrated with airings of Nakatomi Plaza in Die Hard, The Santa Clause, The Christmas Story, Scrooged, and other parodies/comedies about Christmas.

Don't fall for the trap that the world has set. Instead, embrace Christmas for all that it is worth, celebrating it with family and friends.

**FAITH ACTION:** In your own way, worship Christ, the newborn king!

### ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

#### Questions, questions, questions

Why didn't Rudolph get a good report card?  
Because he went down in history.

What is a vegan's favorite Christmas carol?  
"Soy to the World."

How do Christmas trees get ready for a night out?  
They spruce up!





# Religious Education

## Religious Education Classes

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

### December Schedule

**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.

## Greeters for the Week



**Saturday, December 30**  
**5:30 p.m. Mass**  
Main: Carolyn Cenko  
Chapel: Bill & Chris Retseck

**Sunday, December 31**  
**8:00 a.m. Mass**  
Main: Dennis & Karen McNeil  
Chapel: Donna Weidenfeller  
Choir: Christi & Katie Kordeck  
**10:00 a.m. Mass**  
Main: Kate Dagholor  
**12:00 Noon Mass**  
Main: Pat Batchelder

## Parish/Ministry Schedule

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

### Tuesday, December 26

7:00 pm Boy Scouts #542  
Weis Center Main Hall  
7:00 pm Mental Health Ministry  
Weis Center Room 101

### Wednesday, December 27

9:30 am Bible Study  
Weis Center Room 101

## Join the Parish Youth Chorale

Our Youth Chorale sounds amazing and we always welcome new students to join our wonderful group.

### St. Thomas More Parish Youth Chorale.

The Youth Chorale 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](mailto:mdomingue@stm-church.com)  
or 219-836-8610 x2340.



## Sunday Nursery

### The Nursery Will Be Closed:

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

We will re-open in January, weather permitting.  
Would you like to volunteer?

We love adults and teens to volunteer in our Nursery. If interested, please contact Kaaren at (219) 836-5079.

## 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.*

### Merry Christmas from the Seniors of STM!

Enjoy a blessed holiday season, with health and happiness in 2024.

See you all at our first 2024 meeting on January 24..

### Interested in joining our active group?

Studies show that being socially active in our senior years is the most effective way to deter mental decline.

So come join us!

Make new friends!

Learn something!

Have fun!

New members are encouraged to attend and join in!

### Wednesday, January 24

#### *Social Meeting*

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.

Watch the bulletin for updates and further information.

### Wednesday, February 7

#### *Business Meeting*

Speaker: Officer James Ghrist—Munster Police Department

### Wednesday, February 21

#### *Pizza Party*

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

### Wednesday, March 6

#### *Business Meeting*

Speaker: Terri Salelaris—Community Health Diabetes Center

Topic: Healthy Aging

### Wednesday, March 20

#### *Pot Luck Luncheon*

12:00 Noon — 3:00 p.m.

Please bring a dish to share:

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

### Sunday, March 24

#### *Mass for Deceased Members*

10:00 Mass • Breakfast to follow

**Advance reservations required.**

### Wednesday, April 3

#### *Business Meeting*

Election of Officers for the 2024/2025 Year

### Wednesday, April 17

#### *Social Event*

## Hurry: Market Day for the Holidays

Simply create an account and shop...it's that simple.



## Market Day

Everything is delivered right to your door in coolers packed with dry ice, so it stays cold

for up to 8 hours after delivery.

There's no pick-up or hauling heavy groceries and everything is flash frozen for optimum deliciousness.

### *Anyone can order!*

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

## St. Vincent de Paul Society

### 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](http://www.emotionsanonymous.org)

*Mental Health Ministry meetings will resume in January.*

Contact: Dr. Jean Nanos at [drjnanos@stm-church.com](mailto:drjnanos@stm-church.com)



# St. Thomas More School



## Upcoming Events: St. Thomas More School



## Open House 2024 Sunday, January 28 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Visit St. Thomas More School, tour our facilities, meet some of our outstanding students and of course, our teachers & staff and discover why A-rated STMS is the happy home of 550 students. The application window for the 2024-2025 school year begins January 28, too! Contact Pam Pasyk, Admissions Coordinator at [ppasyk@stm-school.com](mailto:ppasyk@stm-school.com) for info.



## Mardi Gras Soiree Saturday, February 10 6:00 p.m. • Villa Cesare

All are invited to join us for an evening of fun, fun, fun! Enjoy cocktail hour, a delicious dinner, live band & dancing, libations throughout the evening, an auction and some special surprises throughout the evening. For tickets, please contact Annette Czarowski at [aczarowski@stm-school.com](mailto:aczarowski@stm-school.com) or use the link on our Facebook page or QR in upcoming bulletins. Don't miss it!







## A Busy Month *Celebrating the Joy of the Christmas Season*

Here are just a few of the  
happenings at STMS in December:

### *Mass of the Toys*

Over 500 toys were donated by  
students for area children in need.

### *School Choir Sang at Hartsfield Village*

### *St. Nicholas Day*

"St. Nick" visited classrooms and left a  
special treat in each student's shoe.

### *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students created a video  
in Spanish depicting the life of this saint  
in readings, song & prayer.

### *Feast of St. Lucy*

"St. Lucy" stopped in each classroom,  
telling students about her earthly life and  
delivering treats throughout the building.



*Merry  
Christmas*

FROM THE STUDENTS & STAFF OF  
*St. Thomas More  
School*

WE MAKE EVERY  
DAY MERRY & BRIGHT!

## Stay Informed/Keep Informed

The staff and bishops of the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) invite you to sign up for the Indiana Catholic Action Network (ICAN), which exists to form and update the faithful on the Church's legislative priorities to advance the common good. During each annual meeting of the Indiana General Assembly, the ICC brings the teachings of our Catholic faith to Indiana's legislators and needs your help to amplify the Church's witness.

Sign up for communications and action alerts by going to:  
indianacc.org/register



**THE PUBLIC POLICY VOICE  
OF THE CHURCH  
IN INDIANA**

Join the Church's efforts to  
uphold her teaching through  
advocacy in Indiana.

Scan here to register for updates  
Or visit [indianacc.org/action-alerts](http://indianacc.org/action-alerts)

## Support St. Thomas More

*with an*

### **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](mailto:cschimpf@stm-church.com) or 219-836-8610 ext. 2329 or Noreen Bickel, STM Director of Parish Mission [nbickel@stm-church.com](mailto:nbickel@stm-church.com) or 219-836-8610 ext. 2330 for more information on how to direct a QCD to St. Thomas More Church.

## Right to Life

Please join Lake County Right to Life for these upcoming 2024 events:

**January 19**

National March for Life

**January 22**

Indiana March for Life

**February 19**

Oratory Contest Deadline

**April 19**

2024 Fundraising Banquet

For more information and details on any of these events, please contact:

Lake County Right to Life.

PO Box 267 or 110 W Main Street • Griffith, IN 46319  
219.838.1138 • [lakeloveslife.org](http://lakeloveslife.org)

## March for Life Indianapolis

*Be a Voice for the Voiceless*

The Diocese of Gary ProLife 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

## 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.







## 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 & our community to help us continue:

1. Our outstanding educational programs & extra-curriculars
2. Upgrading and improving our facilities
3. Closing the gap in teachers' salaries to maintain the highest quality education possible by retaining great staff

St. Thomas More School continues to grow thanks to your help!

We currently boast an enrollment of 550 awesome students.

Now in our 75<sup>th</sup> 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>

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mvega@stm-church.com).

# CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

## REMEMBERING THOSE WE LOVE WITH FLOWER MEMORIALS THIS CHRISTMAS



Helen Dijak  
Stanley Dijakl  
Dennis Dijak  
Albert & Martha Gallagher  
Ray Maple  
Michael Maple  
Katelyn & William  
Gallagher  
Michael & Helen Safko  
Thomas & Bernice Kubie  
Steve Mayernik  
Chuck Mayernjik  
Tillie Wojdula  
Joan Klein  
Frances Dudek  
LuAnn Burns  
Roland Kwasny  
John & Helen  
Kwasny

Andrew & Alma Novotny  
Arnold Novotny  
Dick E. McLaughlin  
Stephen & Melvina  
Shondel Family  
The William & Gertrude  
McLaughlin Family  
Friar Roger A. Shondel, O.P.  
Mrs. Marie Borowiec  
Mrs. Elizabeth Noworyta  
Everett Meier  
Edwin Nadratowski  
Alan Gustaitis  
Madlyn Udowski  
Ursula Gustaitis  
Anthony Udowski  
Dr. John W. Gustaitis  
Josephine Booth  
Behland Family  
Lesniewicz Family  
Lesniewski Family  
Pawlowski Family  
Mike & Ida Gelbolingo &  
Family  
Ceil & John Albizati  
Lois Strain  
James W. Strain, Sr.  
Fox Family  
Johnson Family  
Eugene & Aileen Walczak  
Harry & Margaret Kender  
The Pannitto Family  
Dennis Trelinski, Sr.  
Teliga Family  
Trelinski Family  
Ngo Seng Joseph  
Simplicia Ngo  
Doling Yee  
Deceased Relatives of  
No Seng Family  
McIntosh, Kukta &  
Visovatti Families & Friends  
Mrs. Mary Thomson  
Tommy Thomson, Jr.  
Richard M. Monak  
Irene Kwiecien  
Stefan Kwiecien  
Mary Ann Magurany  
Ray Halas  
Edward Rudakas

*In Memory of*  
Jay Harker  
Anna & Andy Furjel  
Ann Lessie  
Liz & Herman Rueckert  
Bev Carbonare  
Julia Gacik  
Ann Gaspar  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wohadle  
Eugene & Virginia  
Ulanowski  
Robert & Eleanor Ulanowski  
Matthew & Hattie Ulanowski  
William & Celia Bender  
Roger J. Glennon  
Harley & Irene Zwolanek  
Anthony & Caroline Glennon  
Patricia & Jarred Rymill  
Marcos, Marcila & Robert  
Perez  
*In Memory of*  
Grace Bickel  
Delbert Bickel  
Richard Hennel  
Bridget Hennel  
Chet Nordyke  
Jay Harker  
*In Honor of*  
Barbara Franzen  
Eli & Mildred Smoltz  
Miller & Rose Krizmanic  
Edward & Alvina Huttle  
Raymond Brzezinski  
Cecilia Brzezinski  
Jerry Brzezinski  
Mariann Wesolowski  
Michael Hodor  
Marianne Hodor  
Maria Ebert  
Connie Cox  
Elsie Reay  
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Margaret Janostak  
Al Cieslak

Stella Cieslak  
Mr. & Mrs. Boutin  
Robert Noe  
Georges Robert  
Luce Musca  
Paul G.  
Denise Murray  
Sylvester Pacanowski  
Nettie Pacanowski  
Rudolph Frigo  
Erminia Frigo  
Barbara Frigo  
Rodolfo Delgado  
Salvador Salazar  
Andrew Hanusin  
Mary Hanusin  
John Baran  
Susie Baran  
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Piekarczyk Family  
Martin & Jean Nemeth  
Family  
Genevieve Liszewski  
Walter Liszewski  
Dolores Koch  
William Koch  
Mr. Frank McIntyre  
Bill Vansomeren  
Adeline McIntyre  
Pearl Vansomeren  
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*In Memory of*  
Adrian & Florence  
Kozy  
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Francis Kenney  
Bernice Rogan  
Robert Rogan  
Courson Family  
Donna Harney  
Tucker Family  
Laurena  
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*In Memory of*  
Michael Cenko  
*In Memory of*  
Gerlach Family  
*In Memory of*  
Abelseth Family



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Mary Ann Bogielczyk  
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Ann Popovich  
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Michael & Amelia Benko  
Robert Solivas  
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Brandner  
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Joseph Balon  
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Margaret Mueller  
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Edward Ballanco  
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Claude Posilovich  
Sandra Witkus  
Dernulc Family  
Sajn Family  
Danculovich Family  
Barberich Family  
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Domenico Costantino  
Amelia Mercier  
Robert Mercier  
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Shelley Mays  
Mark Hall  
Jim Folta  
John & Sue Stribiak  
Pauline & Bruno Folta  
Charlene Idzik  
Marian Carney  
Gustavo Apolo  
Luz Victoria Cuenca  
Nered Araya  
Piedades Mesen  
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Louis Malewich  
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Joe Blakeley  
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Banik & Piniak Families*  
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 Raquel Bermejo  
 Trinidad Alonzo  
 Wydrzynski Family  
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 Sheila Bouton  
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 Joe Lorenc  
 Anne Kateri Schafer  
 James Joseph Massura  
 Mary Dobrzynski  
 Janet Misiak  
 Maria Ebert  
 Sonja Mendosa  
 The Medina Family  
 Gryn Family  
 Ramanna Family

Eddie Czarobski  
 Carol Piccirilli  
 Ralph Piccirilli  
 Jeanette Simoncelli  
 Gerry Cieclanski  
 Dennis Valade  
 Oscar Odegard  
 Marion Fulte  
 Sajdyk Family  
 Wolak Family  
 Havran Family  
 Fitzpatrick Family  
 Avgerinos Family  
 John & Julia Kruk  
 Joseph & Frances  
 O'Drobinak  
 Richard Pihulic  
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