



God put us in our families for a reason. Yes, I understand, not all of our families are ideal. But, then again, neither are we. Take a good look at yourself and your relationship with your family and ask God to help you make some good, wise decisions regarding them for the upcoming year.

**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  
Deacon ..... Dr. Napoleon Tabion, OFS  
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, January 6**

5:30 p.m. Carmelite Father

**Sunday, December 7**

6:30 a.m. Carmelite Father

8:00 a.m. Carmelite Father

10:00 a.m. Carmelite Father

12:00 Noon Carmelite Father

## Servers

**Saturday, January 6**

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

**Sunday, January 7**

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

10:00 a.m. L. Patton, A. Monroy/MC ~ Hunter

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



*"...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.

## Sunday Nursery

The Nursery will be Closed:

**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.

## Sacrificial Offerings



**December 17, 2023**

Adult	\$ 21,513.00
Loose	\$ 2,378.00
Automated	\$ 4,935.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 28,826.00</b>

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



**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

**MONDAY, January 1 — St. Mary the Holy Mother of God**

6:30 am Virgil Slivka & Susan Burke by Slivka and Burke Families

8:30 am Merced Aquino (Ann) by Aquino Family

**TUESDAY, January 2**

*St. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen*

6:30 am David Speranza by Speranza Family

8:30 am Mary Ann Magurany by Patricia Tomlinson

**WEDNESDAY, January 3**

6:30 am Merced Aquino (Ann) by Aquino Family

8:30 am Belen Dizon by Joe & Helen Mapalad

**THURSDAY, January 4 — St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**

6:30 am Timothy Ribble by Constance Schmidt

8:30 am Frank F. Rapin, Jr. by William & Mary Catherine Straka

**FRIDAY, January 5 — St. John Neumann**

6:30 am Beverly J. Keilman by Altar & Rosary Society

8:30 am Herman & Anne Radde by Radde Family

**SATURDAY, January 6**

8:30 am Karen Rybicki by Ann Panek

5:30 pm Barbara Frigo by Pagorek Family

**SUNDAY, January 7 — The Epiphany of the Lord**

6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living and Deceased

8:00 am Virgil Slivka by Slivka Family

10:00 am Michael Cenko by Krizmanic Family

12:00 pm Linda Wartman by Laura Wartman Bloker

## 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  
December 24-26  
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...

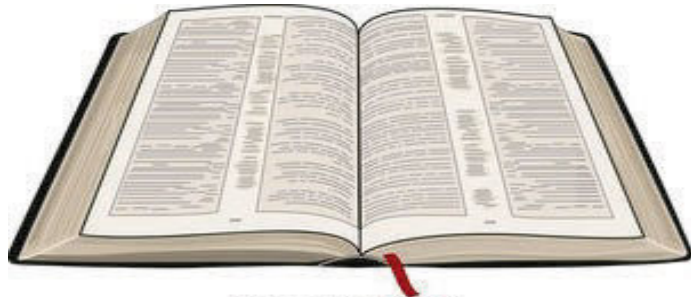
Joshua Alvarez  
Chiara Andrzejewski  
Doris Aurelio  
Maria Aurelio  
Marielva Banks  
Pat Batchelder  
Antonio Belmonte  
Mary Berry  
Michael Berry  
Michael Billedo  
Diane Bochnowski  
Cheryl Bostrom  
Marilyn Branco  
Linda Braun  
Bill Briney  
Grace Briney  
Stephany Burney  
Kathleen Burns  
Diane Butler  
Dorothy Campbell  
James Campbell  
Janet 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 Gabrielle  
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 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 Malayer  
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  
Robert Minnick  
John Mitchener  
Andrew Moll  
Thomas Mordaunt

Genevieve Mrvan  
Bernadine Nemeth  
Donna Nichols  
Maria Novak  
Steven Nowaczky  
Clare O'Brien  
Donna O'Connor  
Danny Ogren  
James Pancheri  
Marty Pavlovic  
Lucille Perz  
Judith Peterson  
Dawn Petro  
Johanna Petruch  
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 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 31

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  
Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34  
Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42  
Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51  
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38  
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea.

My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him.

I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him.

Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

*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).

### WHAT MATTERS MOST?

**“New Years Resolution comes in many forms. People wanting to get rid of bad habits, or develop a good habit. Why not begin by what matters most with our faith in the Lord?” ~ Jonathan Hayashi**

Today's quote dovetails with yesterday's quote from Bob Hope. He asked why we don't love every day instead of just at Christmas. Today, Hayashi turns our attention to New Year's Resolutions. We are all very familiar with those, especially on this New Year's Eve.

Resolutions come in many forms. People almost always make resolutions regarding their health. They decide that they are going to lose weight and engage in other healthy activities such as walking, bike riding, swimming, joining a health club, et cetera. Others make resolutions regarding their mental or emotional health. They plan to take days off more faithfully or go on vacations to rejuvenate themselves.

All that is good, Hayashi would agree. But what often gets left out, what matters most he would say, is matters regarding our faith in the Lord. Shouldn't we resolve to live better as Christians? Shouldn't we resolve to pray more, to read the bible more, to attend Mass more regularly? Those are all things that matter most in Hayashi's opinion.

On this day, the Feast of the Holy Family, I would daresay that family matters as well. Perhaps some of our resolutions should revolve around family. Maybe we should be in contact with other family members more often. Maybe we need to forgive other family members rather than holding grudges. Maybe we need to visit and/or care for family members.

God put us in our families for a reason. Yes, I understand, not all of our families are ideal. But, then again, neither are we. Take a good look at yourself and your relationship with your family and ask God to help you make some good, wise decisions regarding them for the upcoming year.

**FAITH ACTION:** Make sure your resolutions take in the things that matter most.

*Fr. Mike*

**“The charity which burned in the household at Nazareth should be an inspiration for every family. All the Christian virtues should flourish in the family, unity should thrive, and the example of its virtuous living should shine brightly.” ~ St. John XXIII**



### 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:

January 1: Deacon George Modrak (2007)  
January 3: Msgr. John A. Sullivan (1972)  
January 4: Msgr. H. James Conway (1968)  
Rev. Richard R. Grunenburg (1969)

### JANUARY 1 - MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

Because January 1st falls on a Monday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. Therefore, Masses for Monday will be the regular weekday Mass times: 6:30 & 8:30 a.m.

The Solemnity will still be celebrated on that day. However, you do not have an obligation to attend.

Happy New Year!



As always, there are so many people to thank for their help and participation in the past several weeks of Advent and Christmas.

Thank you to all who decorated the church throughout the season. The church, during Advent, had a simple grace and noble dignity to it.

The church, at Christmas, was absolutely beautiful! Thanks to all who made it look so lovely.

Thank you who led our worship. Our musicians, cantors, and choirs filled the church with much joy and peace. You always help us lift our hearts in prayer.

Thank you to all who participated in ministry around the altar. Our deacons, lectors, MCs, servers, ushers and greeters provide wonderful examples of selfless leadership.

Finally, thank you to all of you who attended the many Masses of the seasons. All that we do would be for naught if we did not have a congregation giving praise and thanks to God.

May your New Year be filled with Peace & Joy!

### ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

#### Technology-related resolutions for 2024

- Watch more cute and cuddly kitten videos on YouTube.
- Check my work e-mail account at least once this year.
- Switch my username to “password” and my password to “username” to make each a lot harder for hackers to figure out.
- Stop buying worthless junk on eBay because QVC has better specials.
- Talk with a robot voice all the time.





# 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.

## Parish/Ministry Schedule

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

### Tuesday, January 2

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

### Wednesday, January 3

9:30 am Bible Study — Weis Center Room 101

### Thursday, January 4

6:30 pm Evening Scripture Study — Weis Room 101

## Greeters for the Week



**Saturday, January 6**

**5:30 p.m. Mass**

Main: Cathy Delgado

**Sunday, January 7**

**6:30 a.m. Mass**

Main: Tanya Vasquez

**8:00 a.m. Mass**

Main: Michael Cardone

Chapel: Maria Rodriguez

Choir: Donna Weidenfeller

**10:00 a.m. Mass**

Main: Michelle Walker

Chapel: Dwight Reed

## Live Christ Share Christ

Live Christ Share Christ will  
**not meet during the month of January**  
 due to the Boy Scout Pinewood Derby.  
 We will resume meetings in February.  
 We wish everyone a happy, healthy New Year to all!

## Thank You!

The Msgr. Weis Knights of Columbus Council 10596 is delighted to announce that we have successfully completed our annual  
**Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale.**

Thanks to your generous support and participation, we completed our sale early this year, as our inventory was sold.  
 We are truly grateful for your kindness and generosity and hope you enjoy your fresh trees and wreaths.

## 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.**

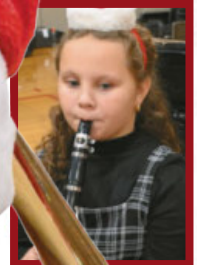
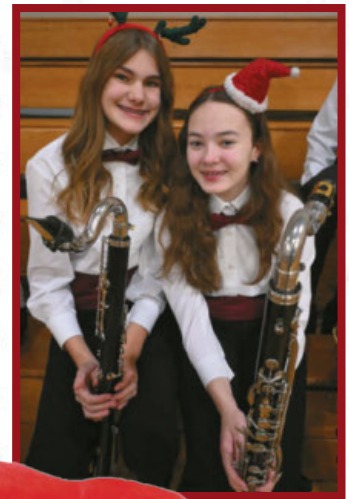
The Choir will sing each month at the Saturday 5:30 p.m. Mass.

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.



# St. Thomas More School



Another outstanding STMS Band Concert entertained friends and relatives Thursday night with sounds of the Christmas season.

The performance was repeated on Friday morning for the entire student body to huge applause.

Thanks to Band Directors, Angie Van Manen and Bob Gloppen and to all our talented student musicians for bringing us a fun and lively Christmas concert.

## 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 New Year is almost here!  
Make that resolution a reality and plan to join us at our social  
meeting on Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.

### It's not too late to join 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.

## Market Day for the Winter Months

*Who wants to go shopping when it's frigid outside?*

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



**Market Day**

### Anyone can order!

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

## 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. 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.



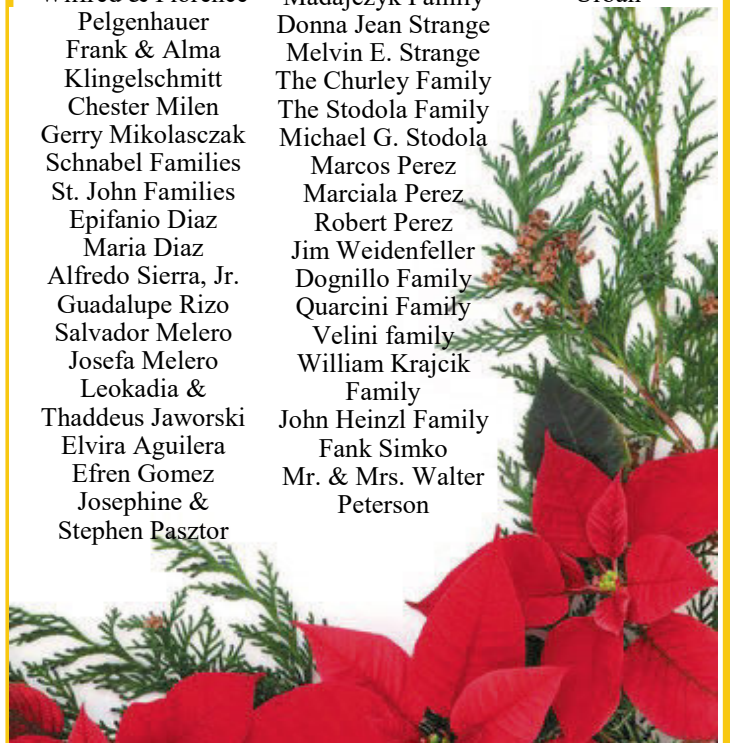
## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Our thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas Flowers  
in memory or honor of a loved one, adorning  
our church and altar beautifully this Christmas.  
Please remember those who have been honored, including these  
individuals who were not included in last week's listing.

Bernice Christiana  
Julia Dillos  
Wilfred & Florence  
Pelgenhauer  
Frank & Alma  
Klingelschmitt  
Chester Milen  
Gerry Mikolaszczak  
Schnabel Families  
St. John Families  
Epifanio Diaz  
Maria Diaz  
Alfredo Sierra, Jr.  
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Salvador Melero  
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Stephen Pasztor

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Schulte  
Madajczyk Family  
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# Make an Investment That Makes a Difference! Contribute Now to the St. Thomas More School Annual Fund Drive!

The 2023-2024 St. Thomas More School Annual Fund Drive 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-curricular activities, adding exceptional experiences for our students.
2. Upgrading and improving our facilities.
3. Closing the gap in teachers' salaries to retain the highest quality education possible by retaining exceptional staff.

St. Thomas More School continues to grow, thanks to you!

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. Won't you help by donating today?



Help maintain our legacy for the next 75 years by donating to the Annual Fund now: <https://2023annualfund.givesmart.com>

## Right to Life

January 19

National March for Life

### 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

**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=auyfgkva>

## Support St. Thomas More

### 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.

## 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](http://indianacc.org/register)



## Apples for Students

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

### Save Your Strack's Receipts

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



## 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 & grounds through organizing, planning and implementing programs to support preventative & corrective maintenance improvements. **The successful candidate must:** 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.

Be responsible for budgeting and purchasing for maintenance department. Assist/oversee implementation of capital projects & vendor activities. Manage life/fire/security safety systems and emergency protocols. **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/conditions. Organized & able to multi-task. Able to communicate effectively; 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

Great 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:** Mon-Fri from 5:30 pm-11:00 pm & occasional Sundays. Apply in person at STM Parish Office, 8501 Calumet 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 & financial operations. Hours: evenings & Saturday, reception duties and support staff. Must be proficient in various databases, accounting software (QuickBooks) and Microsoft Office Suite. Strong organizational skills with the ability to multi-task and prioritize work. High school degree. Minimum 2 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).

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