St. Thomas More Church MINISTRY MATCH

Match Each Ministry to Its Description and Purpose See Which Ministry Fits Your Interests & Talents Best



MINISTRY

Altar & Rosary Society •

Bible Study •

Environment and Art •

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist •

Gabriel Project •

Gifts of Love & Warmth •

Greeters •

Knights of Columbus •

Lectors •

Seniors of STM •

Society of St. Vincent de Paul •

DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE

- Club organized for members age 55 or older.
- Proclaim the Scriptures at Mass.
- Provide friendship and support to any woman facing a crisis pregnancy to choose life and avoid abortion.
- If you love to knit or crochet.
- An organization of parish women involved with fostering devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- Designing and implementing the visual aspects of the seasonal liturgical celebrations.
- Maintaining a food pantry and offering assistance with utility bills.
- Welcome all who enter our Church before each Mass.
- Experience the joy and knowledge that God has given us in His work.
- Assist at Parish Masses in the distribution of the Holy Eucharist.
- A Catholic men's organization involved in spiritual enrichment, social interaction, and fundraising for charitable causes.

Draw
a line to match the
Ministry to its
Description & Purpose

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

	<i>JJ</i>
Pastor Reverend M	ichael J. Yadron, KCHS; Ext. 2312
	myadron@stm-church.com
Senior Deacons	David Kapala, KHS
	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 Dea	con David Kapala, KHS; Ext. 2315
Director of Music	Angie Van Manen; Ext. 2338
Director of Religious Education	Emily Hackett; Ext. 2232
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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 eFax (219) 533-4280
Bulletin Editor	Pam Pasyk; Ext. 2309
Receptionist	
Building Maintenance	.Mike Popovich 836-8610, Ext. 2313
Custodial Supervisor	Kim Smith 836-8610, Ext. 2331
Email address for bulletin Office Phone836-8610 Bulletin Editor	Deffice eFax (219) 533-4280

Pastoral Ministries

Environment & Art	Helen Jaworski 836-8610
	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

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	336-2660
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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 regis	stered parishioners and regularly
attending at least six	months before the Baptism. At least
one of the godparent	s 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
	onths 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.

wednesday & Thursday	— 1:00 p.m. to 0:50 p.m.
Religious Education Phone	836-8610
Director	
Administrative Assistant	
	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	
Spirituality & Worship	Kaaren Mashura
Stewardship	
1	

Parish Organizations

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 • plalessandrini@yahoo.com
Finance	Barbara Shaver 838-9200
Gabriel Project	
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	
Live Streaming	Joann Hajduch (219) 836-8610, Ext. 2245
Mental Health Ministrry	Dr. Jean Nanos <u>drjnanos@stm-church.com</u>
Parish Garden Ministry	Noreen Bickel (219) 836-8610
Respect Life	Leslie Dernulc (219) 741-3739
Seniors of STM	Judy Hamer (219) 836-7916
	Jim Marmalejo 718-8704

Celebrants

Saturday, February 10

5:30 p.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

Sunday, February 11

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, February 17

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

Sunday, February 18

8:00 a.m. H. Jorsch, J. Sajn/MC ~ Abi 10:00 a.m. T. Ogunyoye, R. Smola/MC ~ Alex 12:00 p.m. S. & E. Ramirez/MC ~ Francesca



Jesse Peter Puente • Rose Marie Havran Margaret A. Grober

Parish Office Hours



Monday to Friday:

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday:

9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon

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.



"Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."

1 Corinthians 10:31

Do a quick check of your priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If He's not first, you have some work to do.
Putting God first in everything helps us from putting other "gods" (like our pride, ego, money and possessions) before God. Before making a decision, ask yourself, "I'm I going this for the glory of God or for the glory of me?"



SUNDAY, February 11 — Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased 8:00 am Renaldo Bianchi by Joe & Cynthia Sindall 10:00 am Rose Dudzik by Laura & Paul Benson 12:00 pm Michael G. Stodola by Mike & Jill Popovich

MONDAY, February 12

6:30 am James L. Klein, Sr. by Eli Zak & Margaret Zak

8:30 am James Chmara (Ann) by Family

TUESDAY, February 13

6:30 am Dorothy Dominik by Altar & Rosary Society

8:30 am George Cooney by Mardi Flynn

WEDNESDAY, February 14 — Ash Wednesday

6:30 am Michael Stodola by Rose Yothment

9:00 am Frank Markey by Family

5:00 pm Vincent Santucci by Milkovich Family

7:00 pm Laverne Femminella by Altar & Rosary Society

THURSDAY, February 15

6:30 am William Gerlach (Ann) by Wife & Family 8:30 am Helen McGrath by Jim & Jackie Pietraszak

FRIDAY, February 16

6:30 am
8:30 am
Intention of Holly Duffy by Family
Intention of Luciana Abraham by Juanita
Caraballo

SATURDAY, February 17

8:30 am Michael McConville by Mardi Flynn 5:30 pm Bernice & Al Hedke by Charlie Clam

SUNDAY, February 18 — First Sunday of Lent

6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living and Deceased

8:00 am Phyllis Ratkay by Karl Family

10:00 am James & Elizabeth McDonough (Ann) by Donna

Tummillo

12:00 pm Bernie Vellutini by Zurawski Family

Sacrificial Offerings



February 4, 2024

Adult \$24,459.00 Loose \$1,723.00 Automated \$4,935.00 TOTAL \$31,117.00

Thank you for your generous support of our parish.

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:

Genevieve Mrvan

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 Andrzejewksi Doris Aurelio Maria Aurelio Marielva Banks Pat Batchelder Antonio Belmonte Mary Berry Michael Berry Michael Billedo Allen Blocher Diane Bochnowski Cheryl Bostrom Marilyn Branco Linda Braun Bill Briney Grace Brinev 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 Glinski Monica Gonzalez Howard Gralewski Margaret Gray Susan Graff Christine Greenberg Mary Ellen Gullicks Katie Kardes Hargett Amv Haves Dick Hemingway

Marie Henke Elaine Herrmann Adelina Hernandez Bertha Birdy Hernandez Irma Hernandez Marisol Hernandez Robert Hesek Becky Hill Marie Hill Joan Hoess Sally Joy Hollingshead Charlotte Hunt Betty Ingbretson 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 Kolodzie 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 Menclewicz Jenny Mendoza Fave Meny Michael Mercier Sandi Merlo Erin Meyer Gino Michels Benjamin Mikels Madeline Mikolanis Robert Minnick John Mitchener Andrew Moll

Thomas Mordaunt

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 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 Ubuane 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 February 11

Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 (7)/1 Cor

10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45

Monday: Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76/Mk 8:11-

13

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

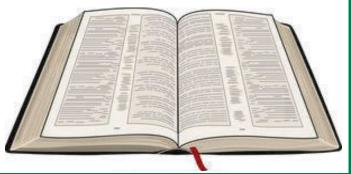
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Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-

13, 14 and 17/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25 Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15 Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32 Next Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (see 10)/1 Pt 3:18-

22/Mk 1:12-15



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Recently I had a skin rash, and it was awful. (Please don't tell anyone.) I am embarrassed to admit that I didn't handle it well. Complaining, whining, begging for sympathy, and crying were my responses to the merciless itching and burning. In the aftermath, a silver lining emerged. I feel a new heartfelt sympathy for all those vexed with chronic skin problems. If you've ever had a seemingly unending skin problem, you know how that sympathy flows up from deep inside. This gut-level compassion is something like what the Gospel describes in Jesus when the sore-covered leper says, "If you will it, you can make me clean." At this, just before the healing, Jesus was "moved with compassion." The Greek word used here is strong and earthy, closer to "his bowels and guts trembled with the deepest emotions of sadness, pity, and love." In Jesus, God heals our infirmities not from a divine distance but by learning what it feels like to be us. He acquires first-hand experience of what it costs us to be afflicted and still be faithful to God. He sympathizes with the burning, itching, and blistering of human existence in the deepest, first-hand way. To discover that is to touch Jesus' heart.

What in your life, right now, is breaking out like diseased skin? What is getting worse the more you try to soothe it? Perhaps only you feel it. Or maybe it's exposed to all. A bad habit, broken relationship, loneliness, fear of failure, self-hatred? Name it, and then find a way to bring it confidently to Jesus who will feel what we are feeling, and thereby heal us. Father John Muir

OI Pi

Garden Club Ministry

It's hard to imagine gardening in the middle of winter, but warmer weather will be here before you know it!

If you love to garden, consider sharing your talents as a member of the STM Garden Ministry and be ready for springtime. Flexible schedule!

For info: nbickel@stm-church.com.

MINISTRY/STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." | Pt 4:10

Members of St. Thomas More's Stewardship Commission are speaking at all the Masses this weekend to promote and support Ministry Sunday which is also known as Stewardship Sunday. If you're a part of a Ministry here at St. Tom's, they thank you. If you're not a part of a Ministry, they invite you to be a Steward of your Faith and Church.

When your time comes when you meet God and He Asks: "What have you done with the gifts I have given you?" How will you respond?

God has given gifts to all of us to do well for ourselves and others. It is our responsibility in maintaining and using wisely the gifts that God has bestowed.

Jesus teaches us in Matthew Chapter 10 versus 7-15, "without cost you have received; without cost you are to give".

God has bestowed on us our talents and treasures and Jesus teaches us to love one another and to lovingly share our talents and treasures with others so that we may be one with Jesus. Being a Steward of the Lord is also being a Disciple of Jesus.

At the end of each Mass we attend, we hear "Go in Peace glorifying the Lord by your Life." What better way to glorify the Lord by being a good Steward of the Lord and being a loving Disciple of Jesus.

Again, if you're not a Steward of a Parish Ministry, please consider joining one and gain fulfillment of community and fellowship with other parishioners. If you're already a member of a Ministry, please invite others you may know who would be interested in being a member.

If you know of someone who is reserved and shy but may be a good fit for a Ministry, please personally invite them to join your Ministry.

All around the church are banners of the Ministries we have here at St. Tom's. The Ministries range from Altar Servers to our Parish Garden Ministry. There will be representatives from the Ministries by their banners. If you have any questions about joining a ministry, please ask.

We are distributing updated Ministry Directories today along with the Stewardship sponsored Lenten Books. With Valentine's Day coming up this week, please open your hearts to hear Christ's call for you.

FAITH ACTION: Make time to live your faith as fervently as possible.

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:

February 11: Rev. Louis M. Letko (1981)

February 15: Msgr. Lawrence T. Grothouse (1970)

Rev. Stanley J. Milewski (2002)



NOT A HOLY DAY, BUT...

This coming Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, is not a Holy Day of Obligation. It is, however, a day that many choose to attend Mass. To that end, Masses on Wednesday are at 6:30 and 9:00 a.m. as well as 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Don't forget, Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is a Day of Fast and Abstinence. The Fridays of Lent are Days of Abstinence. Good Friday is a Day of Fast and Abstinence.

<u>Fast</u>: Allows for only one full meal to be taken during the day. Two smaller meals are permitted, if necessary, to maintain strength according to one's needs. Eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Fasting is to be observed by all Catholics who are 18 years of age through to those who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. [Medical conditions may make it impossible to fast. The Church has never held its people to the impossible. If you have a condition that prohibits you from fasting, you are not obliged to do so.]

<u>Abstinence</u>: The practice of refraining from meat and meat products. Abstinence is to be practiced by all who are 14 years of age and older.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

After completing his annual physical checkup, Mr. Jones was informed that he was going to need a very expensive operation and then at least a year to recuperate.

Mr. Jones was desperate. "I just can't afford an operation like that. Especially if it means that I will be out of work for a year. Isn't there something else you can do for me?"

"Well," said the doctor after considerable thought, "We could always have your X-rays retouched."





Religious Education Classes

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

February Schedule

14/15 No Class — Ash Wednesday

21/22 Class28/29 Class

March Schedule

6/7 Class13/14 Class20/21 Class

27/28 No Class — Holy Week

April Schedule

3/4 Class10/11 Class17/18 Class

24/25 Last Class for All Except First Communicants
 27 Sacrament of Confirmation at 10:30 a.m.

8th Grade Students of Our Parish

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.

Nursery

The Sunday Nursery is available to young children, ages infant to 4, during the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

The Nursery is located in the Bride's Room with access in the Narthex (main church entrance).

Volunteer Schedule

Sunday, February 11

Susie, Finn, Nolan & Kian Kinsella

Sunday, February 18

Jennifer & Oliver Anderson

Sunday, February 25 Closed

If you'd like to volunteer when we re-open, please contact Kaaren at 219-836-5079.

Advertise With Us!

If you have a business that you'd like to promote through advertising in our parish bulletin, please contact John Plagens at (440) 346-0753 or jplagens@4lpi.com. Parishioners in need of work or services usually contact the trusted advertisers in our bulletin first.

Greeters for the Week



Saturday, February 17 5:30 p.m. Mass

Main: Mack Family Chapel: Patty Pfister

Sunday, February 18 6:30 a.m. Mass

Main: Mary Jo Jez

8:00 a.m. Mass

Main: Paul & Jan Liszewski Chapel: Joe & Kathy Tolnai

10:00 a.m. Mass

Main: Sergio & Lisa Mendoza Chapel: Tim & Amy Jevyak

12:00 Noon Mass

Main: Pat Batchelder Chapel: Celeste Peltzer

Parish/Ministry Schedule

St. Vincent de Paul Food Collection After All Weekend Masses

Monday, February 12

7:00 pm Emotions Anonymous — Weis Center Room 101

Tuesday, February 13

4:00 pm Girl Scout Troop #15472

Grade 8 — Weis Center Room 104

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

Wednesday, February 14

9:30 am Morning Bible Study — Weis Center Room 101

Thursday, February 15

6:30 pm Evening Scripture Study — Weis Room 101

Saturday, February 16

9:00 am Live Christ Share Christ — Weis Center Main Hall

4:00 pm Girl Scout Troop #15499 — Weis Room 101

Ushers Club

A big thanks to the

parishioners, school families and friends of St. Thomas More for supporting our recent Pancake Breakfast, making it a huge success. Your support is much appreciated.

Business Meeting

All members of the Ushers Club are asked to join us for a

Tuesday, February 13

7:00 p.m. at the Weis Center

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Help our parish by becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Share the presence of Christ in the Eucharist with our parishioners. Consider becoming an

Extraordinary Minister.

If interested, please contact Jim Kaspar at 219-836-2343.



St. Thomas More School



Catholic Schools Week 2024

A WEEK CELEBRATING OUR

Faith, Academics, Service & Leadership

Each January, St. Thomas More School joins approximately 8,000 Catholic schools across the country to celebrate our faith, high academic standards, and dedication to serving others.

It is a week dedicated to all that Catholic schools represent, from our outstanding students and staff to the work we do in the community to the many attributes of a faith-filled education.

Our week began with our annual Open House, welcoming over 100 new prospective families to our school. Student led tours, provided by the STMS Student Council and Student Ambassadors, gave visitors a glimpse into our school family, as teachers and staff throughout the building spoke with

parents, current and new, about daily life at St. Thomas More School.



Thanks to our school Media Club, students viewed a video of interviews with Fr. Mike, Ms. Hackett, our Religious Education Director, and several retired priests and religious, who graciously shared their thoughts and reflections about their career vocation to serve God and His people. In preparation of the Sacrament of Confirmation this spring, STMS 8th grade students visited classrooms in costume, recanting the life of their chosen Saint. Later in the week, the STMS Choir attended Mass with

Later in the week, the STMS Choir attended Mass with other schools in the Diocese, celebrated by Bishop McClory at Bishop Noll. Our students then walked to the Albertine

Retirement Home in Hammond to sing for the residents.

Celebrating Our Community Heroes

The day began with our weekly All School Mass, welcoming those who keep our school family and community safe. Mass was dedicated to all who serve: Police & Fire Personnel, EMTs, Veterans and Military Personnel. A reception followed for our distinguished guests.

Our week continued with many other faith and service related activities. Watch the bulletin for more soon. To complete our appreciation for those who serve our community, trays of sweets were delivered to over 20 locations throughout town, thanking our librarians, postal workers, hospital and ambulance staff.

CSW continued with more service and activities throughout the week; more coming soon.





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.

New members are encouraged to join!

The next Seniors of STM meeting will be

Wednesday, February 21 Pizza Party

12:00 Noon to 3:00 p.m. If you are a member, this will be a great afternoon to spend with your friends.

Please note the time change: Meeting will run from 12:00 Noon until 3:00 p.m. Hope to see all of our members there!

Wednesday, March 6 Business Meeting

Speaker: Terri Sakelaris Community Health Diabetes Center Topic: Healthy Aging

Sunday, March 24 Mass for Deceased Members

10:00 Mass • Breakfast to follow Advance reservations required for the Breakfast.

Mental Health Ministry

Food for Thought....

"Deep breathing is our nervous system's love language." Dr. Lauren Fogel Mersy

The Mental Health Ministry meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Our next meeting is scheduled for

Tuesday, February 27 7:00 p.m. at the Weis Center

If you are interested in helping those who struggle with anxiety, depression, isolation, and loneliness, come join us to learn how! No mental health training required.

The Ministry is formed by parishioners and mental health education will be provided by professionals. For more information, contact:

Dr. Jean Nanos at drinanos@stm-church.com

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

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Year End SVDP Update

Another year has passed and once again we have been amazed at the generosity of our parishioners to the St. Vincent de Paul Society!

We would like to express our gratitude for your generous financial assistance, as well as your ongoing support of our Food Pantry.

In 2023 we provided the following to our community:

 402 families were provided with food and/or utility assistance.

This number included 837 persons, both adults and children.. 47 families were provided with

Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets.

In addition to the Christmas food baskets,

• 96 children received toys from the STM Toy Drive. · Additionally, caps, gloves and scarves were provided.

These were contributed by the women of the Gifts of Love & Warmth Ministry and the Caps for Kids program.

In addition to the above named contributors, we would like to acknowledge the following organizations for their assistance:

- Knights of Columbus
 - Ushers Club
- Holy Name society
 - Seniors of STM
- Women of the Gifts of Love & Warmth Ministry
- St. Thomas More School students, parents and staff for their successful Toy Drive and ongoing donations of food.
- Lindsay Norman, St. Thomas More School mom, and her student volunteers who assisted with the Toy Drive at Christmas.
 - STM Boy Scouts for their assistance in distribution of holiday baskets.
 - Mike Popovich for assisting with holiday baskets. · Patti Davids and cafeteria staff
- Munster Donut for provision of refreshments during basket distribution.

What can we say?.....it takes a TEAM!

and we certainly have a big one at STM! We couldn't do it without all of you and your support! Thank you for helping us help the less fortunate!

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



Career Networking Group

The Career Networking Group will no longer hold regular meetings due to low attendance and difficulty in securing relevant speakers.

If you have employment questions or need a resume review.

Please contact D. Weidenfeller at

219-688-7597 or STMCareerGroup@gmail.com for assistance.

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. The final day is March 31, 2024.



AIM Ministry

AIM, the Abilities Inclusion Ministry of the Diocese of Gary, is working to set the foundation to welcome and include all of our brothers and sisters.

AIM's focus is to provide opportunities for our other abled parishioners who are called to participate in Masses as ushers, lectors, greeters and altar servers.

If you or anyone you know would like to participate in a parish ministry, please contactAIM:AIM4inclusion@gmail.com.

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: <u>indianacc.org/register</u>

Right to Life

40 Days for Life

Spring Campaign Kick-Off

February 13 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Our Lady of Consolation Church 8303 Taft Street • Merrillville, IN 46410

The following Lake County Right to Life events are upcoming:

February 19:

of

Oratory Contest Deadline

March 12: General Meeting

April 19:

2024 Fundraising Banquet

For more information about these events: lertlevents@lakecortl.org or to learn more about our organization, please contact:

Lake County Right: 219.838.1138 • lakeloveslife.org

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

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.

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.

Events in the Area.

Bunco & Blessings

Join St. Edward Catholic Church, 216 S. Nichols in Lowell for their Altar & Rosary Bunco & Blessings event on Sunday, February 18 beginning at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25/person and includes a light lunch. Cash prizes, 50/50 drawing, raffle baskets and more. Both men and women are encouraged to come. For more information, please contact Vicki at (219) 713-8979 or June at (219) 476-6735. See you there!

Munster Lions Club Pancake Breakfast

The Munster Lions Club is hosting their 67th Annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 3 from 7:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. at the Munster High School Cafeteria, 8808 Columbia Avenue. Tickets at the door or from parishioners Mike Mezey at mwmezey@hotmail.com or Chris Ylo at ecylo@yahoo.com. Tickets: \$10 Adults/\$5 Children. Raffle tickets available, too. Munster Lions club has been serving Munster & the community since 1938. For more information club: https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/munster.

Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes

Please join Queen of Heaven Tours on a pilgrimage with Fr. Charles Robinson, F.I. to Fatima and Lourdes, with a stops in Avila & Azpeitia, Spain where St. Ignatius of Loyola was born,

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and more! Daily Mass. September 10-19, 2024. \$3595/person. \$150 early bird discount if registered by Feb. 15th, 2024. Info: www.QoHTours.com or call 1-800-213-4295.

Embrace the Garden: Lenten Tea

All women are invited to a Women's Lenten Afternoon Reflection, presented by Paula Burrell, on Sunday, February 25 at St. Matthias Parish Center Lobby/Chapel. The day includes lunch, prayer, reflection and connection from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 p.m. For info, call (219) 663-2201 or sign-up at pastorstoolbox.com by 2/22/24.

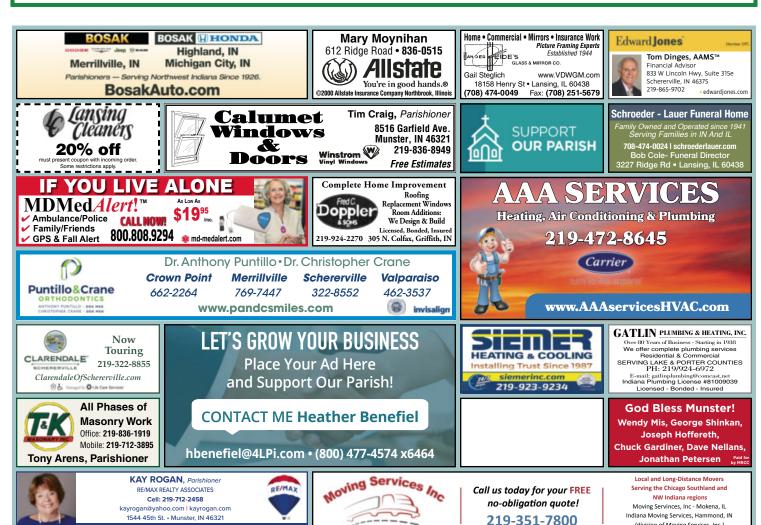
Wounded Healers

Spring Sessions

Join Wounded Healers to help you work through your grief from the loss of someone close to you.

All sessions meet on Wednesdays at St. James in Highland, 9640 Kennedy Avenue (corner of Kennedy & 45th Street) from 7:00-8:30 p.m. If you are grieving, we encourage you to join. Separate Beginning Groups for those dealing with the loss of a Spouse or Significant Other, Parent, Sibling or Friend or Child or Grandchild. Advanced Groups: "Coming Back" & "Parents Moving Forward". Meeting dates:

February 21 • March 6 • March 20 • April 3 (Speaker) April 17 • May 1





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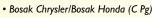
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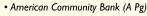
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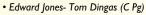


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