A vibrant floral arrangement featuring clusters of yellow, red, and pink flowers with green leaves, set against a light blue background. The flowers are arranged in a circular pattern around the central text.

**God wants us
to see ourselves
as He sees us:
as perfect
creations of
love.**

Mission Statement : *The Roman Catholic Saint Thomas More Parish Family welcomes and invites every person to join us on our journey in faith and celebration. With the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and through Sacred Scripture and Tradition, we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all, especially in loving service to those in need. As part of the Universal Church, we affirm the dignity of every person. All this we do to give glory and honor to God.*

Pastoral Staff

Pastor Reverend Michael J. Yadron, KCHS; Ext. 2312
myadron@stm-church.com
Senior Deacons David Kapala, KHS
Dr. Napoleon Tabion, OFS
Deacon Joseph Stodola, KHS
Director of Parish Mission Noreen Bickel; Ext. 2330
Director of Finance & Operations Charles Schimpf; Ext. 2329
Pastoral Care Coordinator Deacon David Kapala, KHS; Ext. 2315
Director of Music Angie Van Manen; Ext. 2338
Director of Religious Education Emily Hackett; Ext. 2232

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

Parish Office Staff

Hours: Mon-Friday 9:00 am-3:00 pm • Saturday 9:00 am –Noon
Email address: parish.office@stm-church.com
Email address for bulletin: bulletin@stm-church.com
Office Phone 836-8610 Office eFax (219) 533-4280
Bulletin Editor Pam Pasyk; Ext. 2309
Receptionist Phyllis Krizmanic; Ext. 2300
Building Maintenance Mike Popovich 836-8610, Ext. 2313
Custodial Supervisor Kim Smith 836-8610, Ext. 2331

Pastoral Ministries

Environment & Art Helen Jaworski 836-8610
Eucharistic Ministers James Kaspar 836-8610
Hospitality/Greeters Vicky Odegaard 322-6391
Lectors Richard Gard 836-8610
Nursery Kaaren A. Mashura 836-5079
St. Vincent de Paul Terry Oprinovich 836-8610
Vocations Guidance PJ & Margaret Caraher (219) 680-6775

2023-2024 Pastoral Council Members

Julius Ballanco Leslie Dernule
Debra Harker, Co-Chairperson Katie Kordeck, Chairperson
Paul Liszewski Bill McCullough
Jean Nanos Joe Peters
Michael Popovich Patty Queroz
Michael Sajn Daniel Straka

St. Thomas More School

Preschool through 8th Grade

Office Hours: Monday–Friday • 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Website: www.stm-school.com
School Phone (219) 836-9151
Principal Dr. Samantha Francis; Ext. 2258
School Administrative Assistant Jennifer Gonzalez; Ext. 2200
School Reception/Office Associate Nereida Harretos; Ext. 2201
School Admissions Pam Pasyk; Ext. 2309
Director of Development Annette Czarobski; Ext. 2307
Business Manager Maria Vega; Ext. 2339

Parish Ministry Center Weis Center

8635 Calumet Avenue • Munster, IN 46321

Phone 836-2660

Sacramental Information

Confessions

Saturdays **3:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

First Friday 1/2 hour before the 6:30 a.m. Mass

Baptisms First and Third Sundays at 1:00 p.m.

Parents must be registered parishioners and regularly attending at **least six months** before the Baptism. At least one of the godparents **must** be a practicing Catholic.

Pre-Baptism Class 2nd Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

Parents must call the Parish Office to schedule class and/or Baptism.

Marriage Must be a registered, practicing member of the parish at **least six months** before beginning the six month preparation program for marriage.

Communion calls and visits to Hospitals and Homebound:

Call the Parish Office for Sacraments at hospital or at home.



New Parishioner Registration

To make it as convenient as possible for you, new parishioners may register at any time in the Parish Office.

Stop in during the day, or take advantage of our convenient Saturday office hours.

St. Thomas More Religious Education

Kindergarten through 8th Grade

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday & Friday — 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday — 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Religious Education Phone 836-8610

Director Emily Hackett; Ext. 2232

Administrative Assistant Cindy McMahon; Ext. 2236

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

Pastoral Commissions Chairpersons

Formation/Education Tim Jevyak
Parish Life Katie Kordeck, Tamara Kozy
Peace & Social Justice Noreen Bickel, Mari Casas
Spirituality & Worship Kaaren Mashura
Stewardship Paul Liszewski

Parish Organizations

Altar & Rosary Society Cindy Keilman 923-9862
Boy Scouts Sergio Sanchez (773) 412-3109
Career Networking Group Jim Kaczka/Donna Weidenfeller
..... STMCareerGroup@gmail.com
Circle of Prayer Carolyn Cenko 741-2509
..... carolynrealtor@sbcglobal.net
Cub Scouts Patricia Sinclair • plalessandrini@yahoo.com
Finance Barbara Shaver 838-9200
Gabriel Project Marilyn Glennon (219) 836-8610
Gifts of Love & Warmth Bernadine Nemeth 513-6544
Girl Scouts Cynthia Navarrete (773) 726-2411
Holy Name Society Bill Burke: sbburke3@att.net
Knights of Columbus Ralph Konkoly (219) 588-4559
Live Streaming Joann Hajdych (219) 836-8610, Ext. 2245
Mental Health Ministry Dr. Jean Nanos drjnanos@stm-church.com
Parish Garden Ministry Noreen Bickel (219) 836-8610
Respect Life Leslie Dernule (219) 741-3739
Seniors of STM Judy Hamer (219) 836-7916
Ushers Club Jim Marmalejo 718-8704

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

Celebrants

Saturday, February 24

5:30 p.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

Sunday, February 25

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, February 24

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

Sunday, February 25

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

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

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

Rest in Peace

Joan M. Collins

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.

Stewardship REFLECTION

"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...."

MARK 1:14

Have you ever thought about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to go to Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that He was proclaiming. It took great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, living a stewardship lifestyle takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that He will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

MASS INTENTIONS

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 Tumillo

12:00 pm Bernie Vellutini by Zurawski Family

MONDAY, February 19

6:30 am Donald Costa (Ann) by Elaine Fechalos

8:30 am Marguerite & Leonard Grothouse by Family

TUESDAY, February 20

6:30 am Janice M. Speziale by Altar & Rosary Society

8:30 am Leroy Gauger by Bob & Virginia Gauger

WEDNESDAY, February 21

6:30 am William Smosna by Edward & Diane Smosna

8:30 am Diana Markey (Ann) by Family

THURSDAY, February 22 — Chair of St. Peter

6:30 am Michael G. Stodola by Alonzo Family

8:30 am Margaret Uhrin by Elaine Herrmann

FRIDAY, February 23

6:30 am Shirley O'Donnell (Ann) by Family

8:30 am Angela Speziale by Joseph Speziale

SATURDAY, February 24

8:30 am Richard Herrmann by Seniors of STM

5:30 pm Ann Pellar by Pagorek Family

SUNDAY, February 25 — Second Sunday of Lent

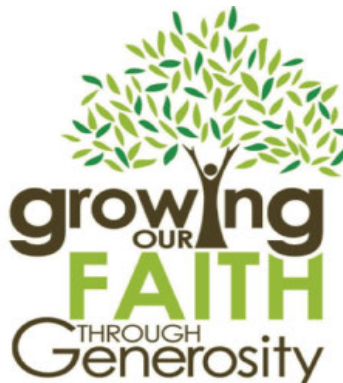
6:30 am Molley Lanham (Ann) by Grandparents Raymond & Leilani

8:00 am For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased

10:00 am Larry Suter by Laurene Viater

12:00 pm John & Lottie Spudic by Phyllis Rueth

Sacrificial Offerings



February 11, 2024

Adult	\$ 20,113.00
Loose	\$ 1,263.00
Automated	\$ 4,935.00
TOTAL	\$ 26,311.00

*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:

<http://www.stm-church.com/>.

Go to "Donate" button in "Virtual Offering".

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

Questions?

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

Pray for the sick of our parish...

Joshua Alvarez
Chiara Andrzejewski
Doris Aurelio
Maria Aurelio
Marielva Banks
Pat Batchelder
Antonio Belmonte
Mary Berry
Michael Berry
Michael Billeto
Allen Blocher
Diane Bochnowski
Cheryl Bostrom
Marilyn Branco
Linda Braun
Bill Briney
Grace Briney
Stephany Burney
Kathleen Burns
Diane Butler
Dorothy Campbell
James Campbell
Janet Cattanaach
Jacqueline Morrow
Christian
Ursula Cichy
Charlie Clam
Loretta Clott
Joseph Clune
Willie Colby
Charlotte Conn
Vincent Corsello
Mike Curtain
Valerie Czapkowicz
Sarah Dalton
Aaron Dudek
Alex Eiland
Sherlon Evans
James Fletcher
Heriberto Flores
Maria Flores
John Forde
Bonnie Gabrione
Rich Gagliani
Christine Gajda
Andrea Garritano
Emily Gibson
Joan Glinski
Monica Gonzalez
Howard Gralewski
Margaret Gray
Susan Graff
Christine Greenberg
Mary Ellen Gullicks
Katie Kardes Hargett
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 Ingbreton
Joseph S. Iwan
Steve Izzo
Elizabeth Jacob
Barbara Jamrose
Stanley Jayjack
Kelly Jean
Margaret Jones
Kevin Karl
Dan Karulski
Mark Kenney
Irene Kerps
Janet Knight
Susan Kolodziej
Gregory P. Koscielski
Melvin Kostalik
Crystal Kurek
Annika LeMonier
Chris LeMonier
Debbie LeMonier
Nicklas LeMonier
Dorothy Lesnefsky
Kris Lisikiewicz
Jo Lisiniewicz
Edward Liskiewicz
Stanley Liskiewicz
Maria Lovell
James Malayter
Brady Martin
Paul Martin
Carolyn McGill
Larkin McKenzie
Jacob Mencilwicz
Jenny Mendoza
Faye Meny
Michael Mercier
Sandi Merlo
Erin Meyer
Gino Michels
Benjamin Mikels
Madeline Mikolanis
Robert Minnick
John Mitchener
Andrew Moll
Thomas Mordant
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 Petruch
Andrew Pieczyrak
Elizabeth Pilones
Sylvester Porras
Dennis Powell
Ronald Prus
Jackie Roach
Christina Rzonca
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 18

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (see 10)/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10



First Sunday of Lent

When I feel down, I sometimes watch the famous "Double Rainbow" video on YouTube to feel better. It's hilarious. A young man camping in Yosemite Park sees two rainbows stretching across the sky. He bursts into a kind of ecstasy. "Double rainbow, all the way! Oh my God!" he announces. Then he starts to weep. He cries out, "What does it mean?" Beneath the humor of his glorious overreaction is the deep intuition we all have, I think, when we see the colorful bow in the sky. This Sunday, God sends a rainbow to Noah, and to us.

What does it mean?

Long before YouTube had the double rainbow, Dante's medieval poem *The Divine Comedy* featured one in his image of paradise. Seeing two rainbows, he muses that one is born of the other. The bow is God's promise of peace. For Dante, it's even more: nature's encrypted image of the Trinitarian God.

One visible rainbow (God the Son) is begotten of another usually invisible one (God the Father) united by invisible light between them (God the Spirit). Like invisible light, Trinitarian glory surrounds us in every moment — but Jesus has made it visible in his glorious body.

Lenten challenge: This might seem silly, but this Lent I invite you to find a rainbow and meditate on it. You might have to make one yourself, like this current desert-dweller will. Gaze on it. See there a natural gift from the Creator, saying to you, "Here I am! I will love and protect you, surrounding you in My glory."

This Lent let's embrace that with confidence, rain, or shine.

Father John Muir ©LPi

Garden Club Ministry

It's hard to imagine gardening in February, 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.

YOUR BEAUTY AND YOUR WORTH

"As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst. 'Repent and believe,' Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor — He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you." ~ Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Deciding what I wanted to be when I grew up was incredibly difficult to consider. While I was never given any instructions or expectations about what to be, it was clear that some choices appeared to be better than others in some people's minds.

Our teachers, for example, would never tell us what we should be (except for the nuns who thought each and every one of us should be either priests or sisters); however, they had no problem telling us what we should not be.

We often wonder what we should be and what we should do with our lives. We often wonder what God wants of us as well. What would make Him more happy with us? What are His expectations? What does He want us to do or not to do?

Mother Teresa of Calcutta knew the answer to this question. God wants us, pure and simple. He does not necessarily want us to be anything. He just wants us to be ourselves, the people that He created. He wants us to delight in the people He has made us to be. And He wants us to give ourselves completely to Him.

Some people do not feel that they have anything to offer the Lord, though. Too many people do not love themselves or, even, for that matter, like themselves. They have fallen into the trap of thinking that they are supposed to be something or someone that they are not. Failing to meet the expectations of others, their thoughts become extremely self-critical. Because of that, they often soften the pain by accepting what the world has to offer. That sends them on a continuing downward spiral.

God does not want that for us. He does not want us to feel bad about ourselves. He does not want us to dislike ourselves. He wants us to see ourselves as He sees us: as perfect creations of love.

When was the last time you looked in a mirror in the morning and said, "Hello, there, you perfect creation of God's love!" Yet, that is what He wants us to see: our beauty and our worth.

We are worth everything. God proved that by becoming one of us and dying for us. Think of that throughout Lent.

FAITH ACTION: Do something good for yourself today and remind yourself of how much God loves you and wants nothing but the best for you.

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 18: Rev. Theodore A. Janicki (1983)
February 19: Msgr. William E. Sweigart (1970)

Lenten Regulations

All the Fridays of Lent are Days of Abstinence. This is a reminder of what the guidelines of abstinence are in the Church.

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

YOU HAVE MUCH WORTH

A well-known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?" Hands started going up.

He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this." He proceeded to crumple the dollar bill up. He then asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air.

"Well," he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, all crumpled and dirty.

"Now who still wants it?" Still the hands went into the air. "My friends, you have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20.

Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless.

But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value in God's eyes. To Him, dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to Him."

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Believe it or not...

- American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first-class.
- Americans on average eat 18 acres of pizza every day.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds, dogs only have about ten.
- A snail can sleep for three years.





Religious Education

Religious Education Classes

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

February Schedule

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*
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 25 — Closed

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

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.

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.

Greeters for the Week



Sunday, February 25

6:30 a.m. Mass

Main: Julie Loza

8:00 a.m. Mass

Main: James & Nancy Kaczka

Chapel: Sandra Steele

10:00 a.m. Mass

Main: Kate Dagholor

Parish/Ministry Schedule

St. Vincent de Paul Food Collection

After All Weekend Masses

Monday, February 19

7:00 pm Emotions Anonymous — Weis Center Room 101

Tuesday, February 20

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

7:00 pm St. Dymphna Discussion Group — Weis Room 101

Wednesday, February 21

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

1:00 pm Seniors of STM — Weis Center Main Hall

Friday, February 23

9:00 pm Gifts of Love & Warmth — Weis Room 101

Holy Name Society

Join us for the next Holy Name Society meeting.
All men of the parish are part of Holy Name and we
encourage you to join us.

Monday, February 19

7:00 p.m. at the Weis center.

Live Christ Share Christ

Reignite your faith this Lenten Season by joining us for our next
Live Christ Share Christ meeting.

Saturday, March 9

9:00 a.m. at the Weis Center

Topic: The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Speaker: Jim Blakely

We hope that you'll join us!

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.





Catholic Schools Week 2024

Each year, a member of the St. Thomas More School alumni family is selected to receive the Distinguished Graduate of the Year award.

The recipient of this award is an individual who consistently goes above and beyond, lives their life in regard to the values and principles taught at St. Thomas More School and maintains a strong relationship with their faith, their alma mater and their parish.

And this year's honoree does all of that... and more! We are proud to announce the 2024 recipient.

2024 Distinguished Graduate

Jacob Biscan



A 2004 graduate of St. Thomas More School, Jacob Biscan has continued practicing his Catholic faith and modeling his early education now, in his every day life. Lessons taught, observed and now implemented have led Jacob to an adult life of giving back.

Beginning as an STMS student, Altar Server for nine years at St. Thomas More, and a member of the school's summer maintenance and custodial staff for eleven years, Jacob has been a hard working, integral member of our school and parish family for nearly two decades.

After graduation from Munster High School and his tenure at Indiana University-Bloomington, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, Jacob returned to the area and accepted a teaching assignment at St. John Bosco School, as well as two years back at his alma mater, teaching Physical Education and SELF classes at St. Thomas More School while earning his Master of Science in Education/School Counseling at Purdue University NW.

Currently, Jacob is a middle school counselor in Schererville, where he helps young people find a path to academic and social/emotional success, putting his vast training and steadfast life experiences to work every day to benefit his students.

Jacob's Thoughts on the Importance of His Catholic Education:

"As I look back on my time at St. Thomas More, especially as someone who works now in the education field, I really feel grateful for not only receiving a quality education, but one that was provided through the teachings of Christ.

I not only learned a plethora of knowledge about Math, English, etc. to prepare me for high school and beyond, but I also learned how to be a kind person and how to serve others as a disciple of Christ. I have no doubt that my entrance into a helping profession was most certainly influenced by the teachings I received at STM. When I was given the opportunity to come back to St. Thomas More as a teacher, I jumped at the opportunity. It was an honor to uphold the tradition of providing a wonderful education based in Catholic teachings that

STM continues to carry on."

How Jacob's Education at St. Thomas More School Impacted His Life "

"My education at St. Thomas More significantly impacted my life by giving me the guidance and tools to not only be successful personally and professionally, but spiritually as well. My teachers were great mentors that provided a rigorous and high-quality education while also teaching me to embrace my faith and be a

Catholic role model of society. As someone who went to a public high school and is currently working in a public school, I can look back and really feel grateful for the family atmosphere that STM provided. You just can't replicate that at a public school. I'm still friends and keep in touch with some of my St. Tom's friends. The memories I hold from STM, both as a student and as an employee, are forever cherished in my heart. I truly appreciate all of my years here at St. Thomas More and they definitely have molded me into the person I am today."

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!
Senior members will enjoy their annual

Pizza Party

Wednesday, February 21

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

Come spend time with your fellow members.

Please note the time change:

Meeting will run from 12:00 Noon until 3:00 p.m.

Altar & Rosary Society

Chili Bingo

Wednesday, March 13

6:00 p.m. at the Weis Center.

Doors Open at 5:00 pm for volunteers to help set up Bingo.

We will begin with the Rosary at 6:15 pm.

Altar & Rosary will provide chili, hot dogs, chips & beverages.

Ladies attending are asked to bring the desserts and a New Door Prize valued at \$10 or more.

Please call the Parish Office by March 9, 2024

with your reservation: (219) 836-8610.

For info: Call Kathleen Pagorek at (219) 972-0539.

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 drjnanos@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. Thomas More Church Answers to the MINISTRY MATCH

MINISTRY

DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE

Altar & Rosary Society

• Club organized for members age 55 or older.

Bible Study

• Proclaim the Scriptures at Mass.

Environment and Art

• Provide friendship and support to any woman facing a crisis pregnancy to choose life and avoid abortion.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

• If you love to knit or crochet.

Gabriel Project

• An organization of parish women involved with fostering devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Gifts of Love & Warmth

• Designing and implementing the visual aspects of the seasonal liturgical celebrations.

Greeters

• Maintaining a food pantry and offering assistance with utility bills.

Knights of Columbus

• Welcome all who enter our Church before each Mass.

Lectors

• Experience the joy and knowledge that God has given us in His work.

Seniors of STM

• Assist at Parish Masses in the distribution of the Holy Eucharist.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

• A Catholic men's organization involved in spiritual enrichment, social interaction, and fundraising for charitable causes.

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
Canned Green Beans

Spaghetti/Pasta
Pasta Sauce
Rice
Shampoo
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Dish Soap
Toilet Paper



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:

Oratory Contest Deadline

March 12:

General Meeting

April 19:

2024 Fundraising Banquet

For more information about these events:

lcrtlevents@lakecortl.org or to learn more about our us:

Lake County Right: 219.838.1138 • lakelo-veslife.org

St. Thomas More Openings

Director of Maintenance

The Director of Maintenance provides maintenance leadership to our parish facilities & grounds through organizing, planning and implementing programs to support preventative & corrective maintenance. **The successful candidate must:** Prioritize, delegate, supervise & 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 identifying necessary repairs. 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.

Must Also: 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

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.



St. Thomas More School

Now Seeking Great Teachers

The mission of a St. Thomas More School teacher is to

***“Educate the Whole Child
in the Values of Jesus and Mary through
Faith, Academics, Service and Leadership.”***



What we are looking for new teachers and staff:

Faith

- Practicing Catholics who are committed to lighting the fire of our faith in the minds and hearts of young people.
- Organized adults who can inject the love of their faith into their lesson plans.
- Building relationships with the school community through the teachings of Jesus.

Academics

- Licensed teachers who are experts in education and passionate about sharing that knowledge with students.
- Engaging educators who know how to stimulate young minds through active learning.
- Firmly believe in fostering an educational environment where academic excellence is not only expected but celebrated.

Service

- Participates in various student and parent activities which occur in school including student clubs and after-school activities.
- Generously share your time, talents and treasures with the community, fostering a spirit of stewardship and collaboration.
- Embody Jesus' values of compassion, humility, and understanding through following directives to the school's leadership.

Leadership

- Enthusiastic leaders who are willing to continue their own learning and apply that new knowledge with all whom they encounter.
- Responsible problem solvers who are able to utilize technology and data to make creative decisions in their daily activities.
- Devoted to cultivating young minds and hearts, empowering students to embrace truth, choose goodness, and live virtuously in the service of others.

Application Instructions

Please send letter of interest, resume, copy of teacher's license, and references to sfrancis@stm-school.com.

Events in the Area...

Munster Lions Club Pancake Breakfast

Munster Lions Club host its 67th Annual Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, March 3, 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Munster High School Cafeteria, 8808 Columbia Avenue. Tickets at the door (\$10 Adults/ \$5 Children) or from parishioners Mike Mezey at mwmezey@hotmail.com or Chris Ylo at ecylo@yahoo.com. Raffle tickets available, too. <https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/munster>.

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. Day includes lunch, prayer, reflection and connection from Noon to 4:00 p.m. Info: (219) 663-2201 or sign-up at pastorstoolbox.com by 2/22/24.

Wounded Healers

Dealing with the loss of a loved one? Join Wounded Healers to help you work through your grief. All sessions meet Wednesdays at St. James in Highland, 9640 Kennedy Ave (corner of Kennedy & 45th) from 7:00-8:30 p.m. 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

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.



Council of Catholic Women

Indiana(polis) Spring Retreat – April 13, 2024 Spring Retreat on

April 13, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

St. Mary Cathedral • 1207 Columbia Street • Lafayette

All Indiana women are invited.

Retreat Focus: The Eucharist; Guided Adoration

Day includes:

Inspirational Speakers • Guided Spiritual Painting

The cost of the retreat is \$20 and includes snacks, lunch and painting supplies.

Please RSVP to ICCW, Tammy Metzinger,
1236 N 800 W. Delphi, IN 46923
or (765) 427-4441 by 4/7/24.

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