But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money.

Matthew 25:18
THANKSGIVING EVE FAMILY MASS

The STM Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, November 22nd at 7:00pm. We hope this will be a BIG event. Our Faith Formation students will be actively involved. All parishioners are asked to bring non-perishable items for the Cathedral Food Bank.

There will be no Mass on Thanksgiving Day.

PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY
By Deacon Christopher Stark

I thought that being a Dad was hard. Attempting to stay even-tempered when my children's behavior would make me want to lash out. "Modeling" what it meant to be a responsible adult...to be a husband, father, employee, and in my case - a deacon. I used to think that having to wear all of these 'hats' of responsibility...of trying to be a good Christian Father... was hard - rewarding!...but, hard.

Then, I presided at the grave-side committal of a 22 year-old man. Accepting his cremated remains from his mother for his proper Christian burial. Leading his mother...and their family...and their friends in the prayers and rites of a Christian committal. After watching a mother saying a final 'good-bye' to her son, and seeing her be the very last person to step away from his grave...made any challenges in my life seem insignificant.

Witnessing this sad scene, led me to reflect on the role of Mary - our Blessed Mother. What was Mary experiencing as she watched her son endure His passion and death? What were her fears, regrets, and hopes for the future, while watching her son's lifeless body being wrapped in His burial cloth? Was she pondering His infancy when she herself had wrapped Him in His swaddling clothes? What had led her, and Him, to this outcome...at this moment...? I cannot begin to fathom the gravity of that moment...just as I cannot imagine what any mother has to endure as she lays her child to rest.

Now more than ever...mothers and fathers are burying their children at a particularly alarming rate. Childhood diseases. The opioid epidemic. Suicide. War, terrorism, famine, forced refugee migrations, and senseless acts of random violence.

continues on page 5


**IN OUR PARISH**

**THIS WEEK’S EUCHARIST INTENTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>4:30p</td>
<td>John Evancho, Ann Henning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>November 19</td>
<td>7:30a</td>
<td>Jim Dunleavy—Special Intention</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:30a</td>
<td>Georgiana Asteriou, Michael Crookston—Special Intention</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>11:30a</td>
<td>For the People of St. Thomas More</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>November 21</td>
<td>9:00a</td>
<td>Michael Crookston—Special Intention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>9:00a</td>
<td>Catherine Callas, Nicholas Surowka—4 Month Anniversary</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>9:30a</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11:30a</td>
<td>Clare DeFauw, John Martin—25th Anniversary</td>
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**THIS WEEK’S PRAYER INTENTIONS**

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

- Rosanne Bishop
- Frances Booth
- Jessi Bush
- Clive and Frances Cooper
- Chris Crocker
- Jim Dunleavy
- Sharyl Dennis
- Dorothy Handrinos
- Bill Hyde
- Theresa Imbrunone
- Jeffrey Jeziorksi
- Katy Thompson
- Helen Walczak
- Margaret Wujek
- Robert Zemke

**PRAY FOR THE DECEASED**

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family of:

† Georgiana Asteriou
† Catherine McCabe—wife of Ralph McCabe
† Glenn Gardner—father of Sandi Gardner

“Happy are those who have died in the Lord, let them rest from the labors for their good deeds go with them.”

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

**November 11, 2017**

*Katherine Mecsey and Nawar Georges*

May God grant them a lifetime of love, health, and happiness.

**PRAY FOR THE MILITARY**

Capt. Matthew Altomari
Sgt. Cory Borders
Lt. Andrew Boschert
Major Phil Brule
Sgt. Maj. Patrick Corcoran
Lt. Joel Cortright
ENS Michael Dwyer
Capt. Chip Evans
Spc. Evan K. Fowler
SSgt. Kevin Hopp

SSgt. Daniel F. Jamison
M1st Class Megan Jamison
PFC. Lane Luyckx
Lt. Christopher Mitek
OS2 Emily Muhlenbeck
LTjg. Bradley Pienta
Capt. Nick Pollock
Sgt. Kyle Stout
Capt. Ben VanHorrick
ENS. Adam Weisgerber

Congratulations to the new member of God’s family, who was welcomed into the Catholic Church through the waters of Baptism on November 12, 2017

† Isabella Marie Cracchiolo
Daughter of Jamie and Amanda (Ball) Cracchiolo

*May God bless and keep this little one safe in His tender love and mercy.*
Readings for the Week of November 19, 2017

Sunday  Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; 1 Thes 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21

Monday  1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158; Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday  The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday  Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr
2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158; Lk 19:1-10

Thursday  Saint Clement I, Pope and Martyr; Saint Columban, Abbot; Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro, Priest and Martyr; Thanksgiving Day
1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1b-2; 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd; Lk 19:41-44; or Sir 50:22-24; Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19

Friday  Saint Andrew Dũng-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd; Lk 19:45-48

Saturday  Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr
1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19; Lk 20:27-40

Sunday  Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46-15, 19-21

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An Advent Masque

“Tomorrow shall be my dancing day”

A quiet Advent evening of song, poetry, and prayer.
Presented by St. Thomas More Music Ministry
Sunday December 3, 7:00 p.m.

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Thanksgiving Family Mass
Wednesday, November 22, 7:00 PM

Parishioners, Guests, Faith Formation Families and Alumni

Home for Thanksgiving and planning on meeting up with friends on Thanksgiving Eve? Start your evening giving thanks to God with your parish family and friends. This special Mass will be hosted by current Faith Formation students. Students are asked to bring non-perishable items to donate to a local food bank.

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MINISTERS FOR MASS—CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—NOVEMBER 25 & 26

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASS TIME</th>
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<th>7:30 AM Sunday</th>
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<td>CELEBRANT</td>
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<td>Monsignor Rice</td>
<td>Fr. Gerry Pehler</td>
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<td>Joe Widina</td>
<td>Bridget Kavanaugh</td>
<td>Cindy Hansen</td>
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<td>George Seroka</td>
<td>Craig Como</td>
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<td>Samantha Foley</td>
<td>Jim Schultz</td>
<td>Rory Knauss</td>
<td>James DePorre</td>
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<td>NEEEDED</td>
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<td>Clare DePorre</td>
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<td>T. Hemak</td>
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<td>J. Ward</td>
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<td>D. McKay</td>
<td>F. Sikorski</td>
<td>G. Wise</td>
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<td>G. Gostomski</td>
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<td>RECEPTIONISTS</td>
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<td>Franci Rose</td>
<td>Jean Dasch</td>
<td>Lynn Eschrich</td>
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</table>
STM BOOK CLUB

The STM Book Club will meet Tuesday, 11/21 at 10 AM in Room 2 to discuss The Sixth of Twelve by Collette Taube Dywasuk. It is a memoir about growing up in 40s and 50s Detroit as part of a large Polish Catholic family.

We hope to see you at the meeting on November 21.

IN OUR PARISH

Pilgrims on a Journey continued from page 2

It is good that we pause every year during the month of November, and remember the loved ones that we have lost during our lifetime. Parents. Children. Classmates. Colleagues. Spouses. Friends. When we remember our loved ones - we literally 're-member' them in such a way that helps us to make them 'present' to us, again. In our thoughts and in our words. In our stories, and in our actions that help us to re-create the experience of being in the presence of those who are no longer in our midst. May our loved ones enjoy God's beatific vision - and see Him, as He is! Eternal rest grant on to them O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all of the faithful departed - through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

It is fitting that the season of Advent so quickly follows this current month of remembrance. After pondering the lives of those we have lost - and also considering our own mortality - we become encouraged by the reality of the coming season of hope. Advent means for us, that there is hope beyond the grave! Because Jesus came into the world, death no longer has the final say! "For God so loved the world that He sent His only-begotten Son..." God's plan for our Salvation is His plan for you and me to live forever with Him, and our loved ones - for all eternity. That, my friends, is The Good News! Our proper response is to cooperate in His plan. To love, honor, and worship our God - and to demonstrate our love for Him, by how we love one another.

I encourage us all to align our prayers with those of our Blessed Mother, Mary. May we come to grow in our appreciation of the role of the women in our lives - particularly our mothers. As we pray for those we have lost in this life - let us remember to have hope for us all in the life to come. Parents...love your children. Children...love your parents. Be kind - listen - and together, let us look forward with great anticipation to the arrival of our Savior with the coming of the Holiday season. God bless! Dcn. Chris

THE WEEK AHEAD

♦ Weekday Masses
  Tues, Wed, Thurs., 9a
  (Rosary before Mass)

♦ Monday, November 20
  Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, 10a
  The MEN of STM, 7p

♦ Tuesday, November 21
  RCIA, 6:30p

♦ Monday, November 21
  Thanksgiving Eve Mass, 7p

♦ Thursday, November 23—NO 9:00am MASS
  Parish Offices Closed

♦ Friday, November 24
  Parish Offices Closed

♦ Sunday, November 26
  Coffee and Conversation after all Masses
  RCIA, 10a
  Children’s Liturgy of the Word, 11:30a

RECEPTIONIST MINISTRY REACTIVATED

Weekend Receptionists are among the first to welcome all who enter the doors of St. Thomas More, and the last to leave the desk offering service to current and potential parishioners. Mass Intentions, assisting with new registrations, and answering questions, best describe this ministry.

We are in need of volunteers for the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Saturday 4:30pm Masses, and the 1st and 3rd Sunday 7:30am Masses. On the job training provided. Please contact Judith Parrott at 248-594-6303 for further information.

...to be at the service of others is part of a Christian's duty....Pope Francis

STM BOOK CLUB

The STM Book Club will meet Tuesday, 11/21 at 10 AM in Room 2 to discuss The Sixth of Twelve by Collette Taube Dywasuk. It is a memoir about growing up in 40s and 50s Detroit as part of a large Polish Catholic family.

We hope to see you at the meeting on November 21.
THANKSGIVING FAMILY MASS

Wednesday, November 22nd
7:00 p.m.

Students: Please bring non-perishable items to donate to a local food bank. Students will be called up to the sanctuary during the offertory at the Mass.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY NIGHTS

6th, 7th and 8th Graders are invited to our monthly gatherings.

Our next gathering will be on Saturday, December 2nd.

Come join us for dinner and a fun evening! Meet in the Gathering Space at 4:20 pm until 6:30 pm. Registration not necessary, but would help us to prepare.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - 2017

Planning for our 2nd Annual Children’s Pageant is under way! The pageant will be performed during the 4:30pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

If your child is in Kindergarten-5th Grade and is interested in participating, please join us for an informational meeting on Sunday, December 3rd at 10:45am.

We have multiple parts for each age group available and costumes will be provided. 5th Graders will be eligible for the Mary and Joseph roles. These roles will be randomly selected by Msgr. Rice at Mass on Sunday, December 10th at the 11:30 Mass.

Rehearsals are required for participation and will be held on Tuesday, December 12th at 6:30pm and Sunday, December 17th at 12:30pm with a pizza lunch provided.

We are also looking for 6th-8th Grade Lectors, Altar Servers, Ushers, and Children’s Choir to serve during the Children’s 4:30 Mass. Look out for the sign-up email.

We look forward to another amazing pageant celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Please contact Shauna Haras with additional questions at shaunaharas@yahoo.com.

ST. THOMAS MORE YOUTH GROUP INVITING ALL 9TH THROUGH 12TH GRADERS

We have TWO gatherings this Sunday, November 19th

RAKE AND RUN:
(meet at the St. Thomas More Social Hall at 10:45)
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

TRIVIA NIGHT at the St. Thomas More Social Hall
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

On Saturday, November 11th, eight confirmation candidates spent the night away from the comfort of their homes to raise awareness and funds for homeless young people. The candidates slept out in cardboard boxes on the grounds of St Thomas More in support of Covenant House, the largest provider of services to homeless youth in North America.

The following students raised over $1000. to support Covenant House:
Nathan G., James H., Hayden H., Rory K., Bennett K., David L., Joe S., Max S., Sophia U.

Special thanks to Deacon Chris who came in to pray with our young people and our parent chaperones, Kurt Haras, Chuck Korotko and Felix Urbina who stayed outdoors with our kids on a very cold night.

We will be taking donations until Monday, November 20th. Stop by the Faith Formation Office.

To learn more about Covenant House or to make a donation go to www.covenanthouse.org

Contact the Faith Formation Office at 248-647-4680
or visit the LEARN section of our website: stthomasmoretroy.com
IN AND AROUND OUR PARISH

THANK YOU!

Over 280 people enjoyed a pancake breakfast on November 12th. Delicious home baked goods went like “hot cakes” as well. All this deliciousness was to benefit St. Thomas More’s St. Vincent de Paul Society. Thank you to the Middle School Faith Formation students for baking so many goodies. The Youth Group served up the food to the folks in grand style – great job! The Vincentians were hard at work making sure everyone was fed and King Pancake Company kept the cakes coming.

Thank you everyone who enjoyed breakfast and purchased baked goods – your continued generosity and support is amazing!

Advent Tea by Candlelight

Wednesday, December 6th
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
In the Social Hall

“Women at the Well: Encountering Love”
Presentation by Marian Bart, Evangelization Coordinator
Blessed Sacrament Cathedral

RSVP by November 30, 2017. Please call 248-647-4680 extension 1, email to julie@stmoffice.com, or fill out form and return to the Faith Formation Office.

Registration Forms are available on the Information Counter.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE PROGRAM

The Annual St. Thomas More Christmas Giving Tree Program begins the weekend of November 18 and 19. The wooden trees with the charitable organization’s tags will be set up in the Gathering Area next weekend.

Please take a tag from the organization(s) that you would like to sponsor.

- Snowflake—Care Net Pregnancy Center
- Gingerbread Man—Crossroads of Michigan
- Green Tree—Ladies of Charity
- Teddy Bear—Mary’s Children Family Center
- Brown Snowman—Morse Elementary School
- Red Circle—St. Elizabeth Briarbank
- Yellow Angel—St. Vincent de Paul at STM
- Star—Welcome Inn Day Care for the Homeless

PLEASE NOTE: All gifts, with tags securely attached, must be brought to the Social Hall no later than Monday, December 11th, in order for us to deliver gifts to the organizations.

The Christian Service Commission thanks you for helping those in need have a merrier Christmas.

Adopt a Family for Christmas

You can relieve some of the financial burdens for needy families throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit and make their Christmas a little brighter through the CCSEM Adopt a Family for Christmas program. Nominated by Catholic parishes throughout the Archdiocese, these families are in need of help with basic necessities like food, rent, utilities and medical care. Go to ccsem.org/adoptafamily to see the list of families and donate online, or mail a check to the address below. Make checks payable to CCSEM with “Adopt a Family” in the memo line. To help a specific family, put their number in the memo line as well. The deadline to donate is December 7. Questions? Contact Kelly Luttinen at 248 548-4044 x3621 or luttinenk@ccsem.org.

FEARLESS

Q: Where are the signs the Holy Spirit is active in the world today?
A: All around us! Come and see.

View the film and join the discussion!
St. Thomas More Parish Social Hall
Friday, December 1, 2017 – 6:30 pm

Pizza, popcorn and pop provided. All are welcome though the film may not appeal to younger children.
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thank You for Volunteering!!

Thank you all who had the Holy Spirit move you to volunteer your time and talent to the needs of your St. Thomas More parish during last week’s Volunteer Ministry Weekend.

If you have not submitted your completed volunteer form you still have time. They will be available on the counter in the Gathering Area. Take it home, pray about what you are being called to do. Your parish needs you to make our parish community a family. If you just want information on a particular area, feel free to complete the top information area and then write in your question. Someone will respond to you.

WHAT WOULD DO IF JESUS CHRIST SHOWED UP AT ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH DURING MASS TODAY?

No, really. Think about it a minute. Jesus Himself shows up, walks down a side aisle, stands in the flesh near the altar, and says something really... ordinary, like “Hi. Here I AM.” What would you do?!

Gasping in speechless awe and wonder is likely. Calling out “Oh, my God” and meaning it, literally, could be common. Falling down in adoration before the Lord God would be very natural. We kneel at Mass when the Blessed Sacrament held up before us because Jesus IS here. We kneel because:

- We adore the King of the Universe.
- We behold the Lamb of God.
- We love the Lord our God.
- We are encountering Jesus Christ.

Unleash the Gospel declares that we are to undergo a “conversion... such that every person at every level of the Church, through personal encounter with Jesus Christ, embraces his or her identity as a son or daughter of God” (p.3). The Christian life is “…a series of encounters with Jesus, especially through prayer and the liturgy, which continually deepen our relationship with him” (p.13). We encounter Jesus in a very special way during the Sacred Liturgy of the Mass.

When we look upon the Consecrated Host, we can imagine it as a window to heaven. Some saints had mystical experiences before the Sacrament, seeing Jesus and being graced with a sure knowledge of His Real Presence.

With our hearts open to Our Lord, we can look through the Host, beyond the image of the crucified Christ hung above our altar, and also know the loving gaze of the Father.

What would you do? Embrace the encounter with the Real Presence of Christ the King with all your heart. Respond with awe knowing that Jesus, accepting His Father’s will, was born a man to suffer, die and rise for the salvation of each one of us. Give thanks for the gift of the Bread of Life. Kneel in wonder that the Risen Christ, who now sits in majesty at the Father’s right hand, is also here with us just as he had promised:

“And behold, I am with you always”

(Matt 28:20)

Mass of Thanksgiving

Archbishop Allen Vigneron will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for the beatification of Father Solanus Casey at Most Blessed Sacrament Cathedral from 4-6 p.m. next Sunday, November 26.

The Beatification Mass for Father Casey is this Saturday at Ford Field. A member of the Capuchin Franciscan Order of St. Joseph, as well as one of the founders of Detroit’s Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Father Casey was renowned for his miraculous cures, compassionate counsel, and service of the poor. Pope John Paul II declared him as “venerable” in 1995. His beatification, at the direction of Pope Francis, is a significant step toward his canonization as a saint.

Everyone is invited to this Mass of Thanksgiving at the cathedral, thanks to your gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal.
IN AND AROUND OUR PARISH

Weekly Offertory

**November 12, 2017**

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**FISCAL YEAR TOTALS**

- Offertory Budget to Date: $345,200
- Actual Offertory Received to Date: $305,473
- Over/Under for Fiscal Year 2017-18: ($39,727)

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND BAKE SALE—NOVEMBER 12, 2017

St. Joseph Mercy Oakland knows that healing body, mind, and spirit is good for one’s overall health. The peace of Advent offers us space for quiet and reflection—so necessary for healing to occur.

You are warmly invited to join the community of St. Joe’s as we create space in our lives for the healing presence of God.

**Tuesdays in Advent**

**November 28, December 5, 12 and 19**

3 - 4 p.m. Hospital Chapel

Enjoy fellowship after prayer with light refreshments. All are welcome. Free parking is available in our visitor lot, and valet is available. For information, 248-858-3710.

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## PASTORAL STAFF

- Monsignor Thomas G. Rice, **Pastor**
  248-647-2222 x. 1111
- Weekend Mass Assistance
  Monsignor Michael Dylag  
  Fr. Robert Spezia  
  Fr. Gary Tierney  
  Christopher Stark, **Deacon**  
  248-647-2222 x. 8888

## WORSHIP and CHRISTIAN SERVICE

- **MUSIC MINISTRY**
  Brian Foos, **Director**
  248-647-2222 x. 4444  
  bjfoos@gmail.com

## PARISH OFFICE

- Lois Sokolowski, **Business Manager**
  248-647-2222 x. 7777  
  lois@stmoffice.com

- Kathy Strong, **Parish Secretary/Bulletin**
  248-647-2222 x. 3311  
  kathy@stmoffice.com

- Lisa Miner, **Bookkeeper**
  248-647-2222 x.3333  
  lisa@stmoffice.com

- **FAITH FORMATION**
  Religious Education
  Josylin Mateus, **Director**
  248-647-4680 x. 2  
  josylin@stmoffice.com

- Angela Seba, **Secretary**
  248-647-4680 x. 1  
  angela@stmoffice.com

- Sandi Gardner, **Section Head**
  248-647-4680  
  sandi@stmoffice.com

- Patrick O’Brien, **Youth Minister**
  stmygroup@gmail.com

## COUNSELING AND SUPPORT

- Andrea Harral  
  Therapist (family, grief, etc.)  
  Home Office 248-601-4315

## MAINTENANCE

- Ben Olar, Pete Whiting  
  248 -647-2222 x. 4422

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St. Thomas More Parish Directory  
4580 Adams Rd., Troy, MI  48098

**PARISH OFFICES:**  248-647-2222  
**FAX:**  248-647-8192  
**FAITH FORMATION:**  248-647-4680

**Hours:**  Monday - Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Closed for lunch 12:30 to 1:00 pm

inquiry@stmoffice.com  
www.stthomasmoretroy.org

**MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday at 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday at 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 9:00 a.m. - Rosary before Mass  
Holy Days: 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday at 3:00 p.m.