At last, after weeks of Advent waiting, the beautiful Feast of Christmas has arrived. All the cards have been written and sent. People we hear from only once a year have touched base with us. Gifts have been given and received. Now we gather at Christ-Mass, in this great prayer of praise, to give thanks to God for Jesus who is the “reason for the season.”

When I look at the congregation at our Christmas liturgies I know that many people are happy and contented. Life has been good. It’s easy to thank God for His many blessings. But for some people Christmas is a difficult time, a lonely time. For whatever reasons members of the family are at a distance or estranged and there is a real sadness of heart. Some people in our parish family have experienced the loss of a loved one. This Christmas is difficult and painful because that loving presence is greatly missed. So Christmas is a day of mixed emotions, of mixed hopes and dreams and acceptance of losses.

The first Christmas day was a day just like this. Mary and Joseph cradled their infant Son in their arms but they were in a far away place, away from their loved ones and in surroundings far from ideal. What helped them through that day is the same thing that can help us, too. Jesus, the long awaited Messiah, came into our world to bring us hope. It is through this Jesus that peace and comfort, love and joy also come. When we “tie in” our lives with Jesus, when we remain faithful to Him, then our lives are worthwhile. It is through Him that we can bear our pain, endure loneliness, enjoy the laughter and festivity of this season, extend a hand to someone needy or listen to a friend who is having a difficult time. Christmas in varied ways is a culmination of the many events of our life.

My prayer for you this Christmas Day is that you will join your heart to God in whatever space and circumstances you find yourself. May the peace of Christ fill your heart so that you will reach out to others. May this day be filled with joy and the assurance that God loves you so much He sent His Son for you. There is no greater gift. All we have to do is share it.

Let’s remember each other in prayer and have a wonderful Christmas!

Msgr. Tom Rice

Merry Christmas from Msgr. Rice and the Staff of St. Thomas More
IN OUR PARISH

THIS WEEK’S EUCHARIST INTENTIONS

Saturday
December 23—4th Sunday of Advent
4:30p
Catherine Callas
Jerome Walczak

Sunday
December 24—4th Sunday of Advent
9:30a
Nellie Calice
Joe Samyn

Sunday
December 24—Christmas Eve
4:00p
Phil Curnow
Mary and John Debolski
Deceased Members of the Jakinovich Family
Deceased Members of the Lynn Family
Josephine Motyl
Bill Nebel
Eileen Vanderbeck

7:00p
Cecelia Beste

10:00p
Frank and Jeffrey Kwolik—given by family
Gary Mishark

Monday
December 25—Christmas Day
9:30a
Bruce Callas
Jim Dunleavy
Debolski and Zink Families
Edward and Frances Kufel
Frank and Jeffrey Kwolik—given by the family
Leonard and Veronica Wesolowski

11:30a
Joseph, Veronica, and Diane Chick
Jim Dunleavy
Robert O’Hara

Tuesday
December 26
No Mass

Wednesday
December 27
9:00a
Patricia Maloney
In Thanksgiving, the Mac Family

Thursday
December 28
9:00a
Linda L. Rodgers

Saturday
December 30—Feast of the Holy Family
Fr. Edward Belczak—Special Intention
John DiCicco
For the People of St. Thomas More

Sunday
December 31—Feast of the Holy Family
7:30a
For the Lonely and Forgotten

9:30a
For the People of St. Thomas More

11:30a
Caroline Mayne—Special Intention

Monday
January 1—The Octave of Mary
10:00a
William Kendall

THIS WEEK’S PRAYER INTENTIONS

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 Fowler

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

PRAY FOR THE SICK

John Balaz
Rosanne Bishop
Chris Crocker
Sharyl Dennis
Gino DiClemente
Bob Jermstad
Joseph Nuculaj
Katy Thompson

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family of:

† Louis Gervais— husband of Eleanor
† Corinne Glowacki—mother-in-law of Carol Glowacki
† William E. Hoerauf
† Robert Horvath
† Fr. Matthew Kafka

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

Open your ‘Christmas Present’ from Archbishop Vigneron today
read Unleash the Gospel!

‘Re-gift’ it to family and friends!!

The Letter and commentaries are at:
www.stthomasmoretroy.org/unleash-the-gospel

Come, Holy Spirit! Inspire us to unleash the Gospel in 2018, in our lives, in our families, and in our parish.
Readings for the Week of December 24, 2017

Sunday  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38  
Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  

Monday  
The Nativity of the Lord  
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20; Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14  

Tuesday  
Saint Stephen, The First Martyr  
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd, 4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Mt 10:17-22  

Wednesday  
Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist  
1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8  

Thursday  
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs  
1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18  

Friday  
Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord / Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr  
1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35  

Saturday  
Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord  
1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Lk 2:36-40 5-6, 8-9; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40

Please Note: There is no daily morning Mass on Tuesday, December 26th.

Coffee and Conversation will not be available after Sunday Masses Christmas weekend and New Year’s weekend. The Hospitality Committee wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
IN OUR PARISH

Christmas Flower Honorariums and Memorials

John & Eva Abdoo
Fr. Joe Anthony
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Antonelli
Art Antonelli
Bernard Aretha
Kathleen Aubuchon
Mary Jane Aubuchon
Catherine Aylward
Geronimo & Frances B.
John & Mary Balaz
Alba Balderi
The Barc Family
Tony Barraco
Maria Sarta Bechtel
Richard Bechtel
The Birkholz and Watt Families
Frank & Primrose Bliss
Tom & Michelle Bonin
Boomer Borschke
Mark Bradley
Cecil Breen
Mary & John Burke
Tony & Nellie Calice
Nell Calise
Julie Campbell
John Capp
Mary Ann Carroll
Sam Carroll
Edith & Claude Casey
Nicholas & Mary Chapley
Alex & Sam Cococcetta
Audrey Coghlan
Dan Coppens
Mary Czanstke
Bernard Danan
Dee
The Dombrowski Family
Edward Drobek
Elenor Drobek
Richard Drobek
Robert Etue
Ty Folgman

George Funds
Julia Funds
Glenn E. Gardner
George T. Gaston
Gary Gerlach
Janet Gerlach
Lynville Gerlach
William Gerlach
Patricia Gerlach (McCauley)
Gregg Glowacki
Edward Golden
Joseph Golden
Josephine Golden
Timothy Golden
Beatrice Gosine
The John Gostomski Family
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gostomski
Mr. Raymond Gostomski
Frank Gromak
Dorland Dean Grubaugh
Nancy Lynn Grubaugh
June Grubaugh Zinsser
Robert & Helen Haddon
Thomas & Lucy Hannigan
Gin & Perry Hascall
George Hawke, Jr.
The Hemak Family
Edith Hubbard
Alice Isom
Leonila Javier Mendoza
The Jeziorski Family
Bob Jones
Barbara & Robert Kelly
Karen Kechorski
Matthew Krawczak
The Kruchmal Family
Shirley Kucharski
Alexander Kuzdowicz
Anastazja Kuzdowicz
Helen & Harry Kwitt
The Kwitt Family
Frank Kwolik

continues on page 6
Pilgrims on a Journey continued from page 2

it's not about the transaction of justice (She owes me an apology, and then I'll forgive her!)...it's about the relationship of mercy. (Offering forgiveness to even those who have failed to apologize. It's not about what is owed to you, it's about what you are willing to offer the transgressor. Want peace? - then forgive those who have hurt you...without waiting for them to apologize, first. It'll be liberating for you - and the world will be transformed through your Christian witness of mercy!) Holiness literally means to be unique...different than the ways of the world. Offering someone the gift of forgiveness is certainly a powerful way of setting yourself apart from how the rest of the world operates. You see - that IS what makes Christianity unique...it's not about how the rest of the world operates...it's about how God wishes that it would operate. Above all else, God delights in witnessing us humans being kind and merciful to one another. May God grant you the courage and power to forgive and to love - and in doing so, may you find peace and enjoy the gift of holiness.

Merry Christmas!
Deacon Chris
Merry Christmas! I pray for a blessed celebration of our Lord’s birth for all our STM families. The following is from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (525):

“Jesus was born in a humble stable, into a poor family. Simple shepherds were the first witness to this event. In this poverty heaven’s glory was made manifest. The Church never tires of singing the glory of this night.”

Every year the Catholic Church celebrates Jesus’ birth for fifteen days. The Christmas Season begins on Christmas Day and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 8th. It is in Jesus’ birth that we find the One who was born to die for us. Having received the gift of Christ, we naturally want to pass this gift to our loved ones. Our culture promotes the way to do it is through many presents under the Christmas tree, and sometimes we can lose sight of celebrating the true gift.

Here are some suggestions on how to keep CHRIST in Christmas to help your family experience the true Christmas Season:

* Your child was given a bookmark in class with the words, “Read the Nativity Story with Your Child.” During the Christmas Season gather around your nativity, and read the Bible verses listed on the bookmark together as a family.
* Volunteer together at a soup kitchen as a way to remember about the difficult circumstances surrounding Jesus’ birth.
* Give small gifts to one another on the Feast of Three Kings (AKA The Epiphany).
* Try not to take the Christmas tree down until January 9th.

I’d like to hear the many ways you and your family kept CHRIST in Christmas. Post a picture on our Facebook page St. Thomas More Faith Formation.

Josylin Mateus
Director of Faith Formation

**FAITH FORMATION NEW OFFICE HOURS**

- Sunday 8:00am - 11:30am
- Monday 9:00am - 4:00pm
- Tuesday 9:00am - 5:00pm
- Wednesday 9:00am - 5:00pm
- Thursday 9:00am - 4:00pm
- Friday and Saturday - Closed

**FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

There will be NO Faith Formation classes during Christmas Break. Have a blessed Christmas!

December 24 and December 31 - No Classes
January 7 - Classes resume
January 14 - No Classes (MLK weekend)
January 21 - Classes Resume

**Upcoming 8th Grade Confirmation Events**

- Sponsor/Student Meeting on Thursday, January 11 at 7pm in the Social Hall.
- Retreat at Subiaco on February 11. Forms due by Jan 11.
- 8th grade confirmation candidates please turn in completed service project forms to the Faith Formation office.

**RCIA Exploring Catholicism**

Please pray for our RCIA candidates as they go through the process of becoming fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Prayer cards are available for each candidate on the information counter in the gathering space.

Ashley Fry
Laura Gabriel
Carissa Handrinos
Keith Knauss
Aidan Knauss
Ronia Kruse
Melinda Prucha
Lennie Wilson

Do you know anyone interested in learning more about their faith or wanting to belong to a faith community? Please have them contact Josylin Mateus at Josylin@stmoffice.com or 248-645-4680.
In today’s Scripture readings from the Second Book of Samuel and St. Luke’s Gospel, God vows that David’s line will be everlasting. Nathan’s prophecy to David prefigures our Virgin Mother Mary’s consent to God’s great plan of salvation. The archangel Gabriel proclaims to Mary that by the power of Holy Spirit, the Messiah would be conceived in her womb and born of David’s house. The Blessed Virgin Mary fully embraces God’s call and sacrifices all to do His will. Are we, as Christian stewards, willing to pay the price of true discipleship by striving to follow Mary’s example? One way to deepen our discipleship in Christ is through the daily praying of the Rosary. Instructions for this powerful Scripture-based, Marian prayer can be found on the Archdiocese of Detroit’s website.

There are many opportunities to share prayer with others. Did you know as a baptized Catholic you have the power to heal through prayer? The documentary, Fearless, explains how this powerful prayer is alive and active in our faith. Another opportunity is to drop off a prayer request in the gathering space where the St. Thomas More prayer group at the monthly prayer service prays for these intentions.

As good Stewards to your parish, please keep in mind St. Thomas More for your end of the year donation consideration. All funds received at Christmas 100% go to St. Thomas More parish. Please be generous in your Christmas donation this year.

Christmas (Nativity of the Lord) - December 25

The Prophet Isaiah’s ancient prophecy speaks of the Christ-child as Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-forever, and Prince of Peace. St. Paul professes Christ is our Savior, while the Gospel readings describe the glory of God in Christ, as the Word became flesh. The Child is truly Emmanuel: as the shepherds testified, God is with us. He is the Light of the World who penetrates the darkness by giving us hope and strength. On this Christmas Day, let us, as faithful stewards, stand in awe and total gratitude for God’s gift of His Son, Jesus. He is our path to eternal salvation. As Jesus was born in humble surroundings, let us offer a prayer and be mindful of our brothers and sisters in need among us.
IN OUR PARISH

THE WEEK AHEAD

- **Weekday Masses**
  NO TUESDAY MORNING MASS
  Wed, Thurs., 9a *(Rosary before Mass)*
- **Wednesday, December 27**
  Parish Offices Open, 9a-3p
- **Thursday, December 28**
  Parish Offices Open, 9a-3p
  SVdP Meeting, 7p
- **Friday, December 29**
  Parish Offices Open, 9a-3p

### SVdP Help Needed
SVdP is in need of someone to pick up food at Panera Bread in Bloomfield at 2125 Telegraph Road. The food should be picked up between 7:30am and 8:00am on Friday’s and dropped off at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 13500 Coolidge Road, Oak Park.

If you are able to help with this Christian Service Ministry, please contact Carol Dunleavy at 248-641-5185 or email to caroldunleavy@aol.com

*Thank you for helping us help those in need*

### WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Due to the early Holiday Bulletin deadlines, the weekly offertory for December 17th, 24th, and 31st will be in the January 7th Bulletin.

### 2017 CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions for “2017” must be received in the Parish Office no later than **Friday, December 29th by Noon**, to be included in your annual statement. Contributions received after this date, including the weekend of December 30th, will be credited to your “2018” donations. Your annual Contribution Statement for the year 2017 will be mailed out before the end of January 2018.

### Electronic Giving Reminder

If you are using the Parish MyEOffering for your electronic giving, please check your account to make sure your contribution won’t be ending. If you entered an end date for your contribution, please check that the date is not coming up soon. If so, please change the year so the contribution will continue (2019 is a good year!). It is the one problem with the electronic giving site – it needs to have the end date for contributions. You may access the electronic giving site through the parish web site (stthomasmoretroy.org), scroll down on the home page to the green box.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Lois Sokolowski at the parish office. Phone: 248-647-2222 or Email: lois@stmoffice.com.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Thomas More Parish.

### 2018 CALENDARS ARE HERE

Pick up a 2018 Calendar. They are available at the Information Counter.

### Giving from your IRA

Just a reminder that Congress made a permanent provision in the Consolidated Appropriations Act that allows those 70 ½ and older to contribute from their IRA’s without paying tax on the distribution. If you are a once a year contributor, would like to make a special donation, or during the CSA drive, your IRA contribution may be right for your situation. Please consult with your tax professional for more details.
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.

PASTORAL STAFF
Monsignor Thomas G. Rice, Pastor
248-647-2222 x. 1111

Weekend Mass Assistance
Monsignor Michael Dylag
Fr. Robert Spezia
Christopher Stark, Deacon
248-647-2222 x. 8888

WORSHIP and CHRISTIAN SERVICE
Deacon Michael Stach, Pastoral Associate
248-647-2222 x. 5555

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
sand@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