FEAST OF THE Holy Family

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Luke 2:40

by Raphael
Holy Family with the Lamb 1504
NEW YEAR, NEW HOPE AND PROMISE

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family. During this Christmas season it is especially significant to reflect upon the role of families and be grateful for the great gift of love which is nourished within them. Monday is also New Year’s Day. Happy and blessed New Year’s greetings to everyone! I don’t know whether the entrance into another year has come upon you as quickly as it has on me but ready or not, it’s here.

A new year is, of course a time of hope and promise. Anytime we are given the opportunity to start over we should see new opportunities and a hope that things will be better. This should be our attitude and our prayer as we enter into the Year of the Lord two thousand and seventeen.

I mention “Year of the Lord” (Anno Domini) because that is the way we, as people of faith, see the time given to us. This is God’s time what we are privileged to be able to use. If it is to be a happy new year, it will be largely because we make it a year of service to God and neighbor as Christ has commanded us to do.

Traditionally, New Year’s Day is also observed as the Feast of May, Mother of God. Because it is the “Octave if Christmas” it is an appropriate feast for this day. Mary loved God with all her heart and mind, and responded with trust when God invited her to be the mother of Jesus. Because of this she was able to say: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For He has looked upon His handmaid’s lowliness; behold from now on all ages will call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name.” (Luke 1:46-49)

If you and I live deeply in the love of God and seek to express this love in care for our neighbor, we too, will be happy and it will be a Blessed New Year.

A reminder that his year Catholics are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on January 1st, however, you are encouraged to celebrate Mass if possible. Our parish liturgy will be celebrated at 10:00am.

I thank you for your faithfulness to the Catholic faith and St. Thomas More Parish and I assure you of my prayerful remembrance. As we end 2017 and begin 2018 we have so much for which to give thanks! Among the many blessings for which I praise God, I thank Him for each of you. God bless you always!

Msgr. Tom Rice

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Thank you to the Choir, Cantors and Musicians for giving your time at Christmas to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord.

Brian Foos
Director of Music

Christmas Flower Honorariums and Memorials

Carl Cook
Daniel Gleeson
Michael Jarosz
Ann Meyers
Sally Ottenhoff
Ira Pack
Eleanor Wetherhold
Richard L. Wetherhold, Sr.
IN OUR PARISH

THIS WEEK’S EUCHARIST INTENTIONS
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  Genevieve Kawam
9:30a  John Balaz—Special Intention
11:30a  Jim Dunleav6
       Caroline Mayne—Special Intention

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

Tuesday  January 2
For the People of St. Thomas More

Wednesday  January 3
9:00a  Patricia Maloney

Thursday  January 4
9:00a  Edward and John Lyp

Saturday  January 6
Holy Souls in Purgatory

Sunday  January 7
7:30a  Julia Dopierala
9:30a  Lou Gervais
       Mildred Hannigan— 87th Birthday
11:30a  Wanda Kaptur

24 Hour Prayer Line
The Nuns of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament have initiated a 24 Hour Prayer Line. Even if the call goes to voicemail, the Sisters are attentive to begin the requested prayers promptly—248-626-8253 or email opnunsh@sbcglobal.net

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

♦ Monday, January 1
   Parish Offices Closed

♦ Tuesday, January 2
   Parish Offices Closed

♦ Wednesday, January 3
   Parish Offices Re-Open

♦ Thursday, January 4
   Choir Practice, 7p

♦ Saturday, January 6
   Middle School Ministry, 5:30p

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

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.”
Readings for the Week of December 31, 2017

Sunday
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17; Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40 or, for Year B, Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 105: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40

or Col 3:12-17; Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40

Monday
Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday
Saint Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday
The Most Holy Name of Jesus
1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34

Thursday
Saint Elizabeth Anne Seton, Religious
1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42

Friday
Saint John Neumann, Bishop
1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 1:43-51

Saturday
Saint André Bessette
1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Sunday
The Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

WORSHIP

Lord make the New Year a happy one...
Not by shielding us from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening us to bear it if it comes.
Not by taking hardship from us, but by taking all cowardice and fear from our hearts as we meet hardships.
Not by making our paths easy, but by making us sturdy enough to tread any path.
Not by granting unbroken sunshine, but by keeping our faces bright even in the shadows.
Not by making our lives always pleasant, but by showing us where others and Your cause need us most and by making us zealous to be there and to help...

God, make our year a happy one!

MINISTERS FOR MASS—THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD—JANUARY 6 & 7

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<tr>
<th>MASS TIME</th>
<th>4:30 PM Saturday</th>
<th>7:30 AM Sunday</th>
<th>9:30 AM Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>CELEBRANT</td>
<td>Monsignor Rice</td>
<td>Monsignor Rice</td>
<td>Fr. Spezia</td>
<td>Fr. Spezia</td>
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<td>COMMENTATOR</td>
<td>Cindy Hansen</td>
<td>Pat Schultz</td>
<td>Joan Reddy</td>
<td>Donna Mann</td>
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<tr>
<td>LECTOR</td>
<td>Phil Kotwick</td>
<td>Jim Schultz</td>
<td>Bridget Kavanaugh</td>
<td>Chris Mann</td>
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<tr>
<td>SERVERS</td>
<td>Sydni Wood</td>
<td>Randy Skala</td>
<td>Rory Knauss</td>
<td>Duarte Bobone</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Johnny Jackson</td>
<td>Victoria Kuzdowicz</td>
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<tr>
<td>USHERS</td>
<td>E. Tuazon</td>
<td>R. Calice</td>
<td>N. Cicone</td>
<td>Z. Azzam</td>
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<td>P Vercammen</td>
<td>J. Gielniak</td>
<td>J. Duhart</td>
<td>F. Biondo</td>
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<td>C. Sheremet</td>
<td>D. Hayden</td>
<td>G. Halter</td>
<td>M. Olane</td>
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<td>J. Hager</td>
<td>T. Hemak</td>
<td>A. Olson</td>
<td>R. Schmitz</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C. Glowacki</td>
<td>M. Morrison</td>
<td>J. Ward</td>
<td>M. Tauscher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D. McKay</td>
<td>F. Sikorski</td>
<td>G. Wise</td>
<td>M. Parent</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R. Wlosinski</td>
<td>G. Gostomski</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECEPTIONISTS</td>
<td>Joy Vercammen</td>
<td>Mary Jo Luyckx</td>
<td>Joann Harrison</td>
<td>Margery Bruce</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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IN OUR PARISH

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We the Christian Community of St. Thomas More, in an atmosphere of hospitality, are dedicated to proclaiming the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ through excellence in worship, education, and service to others. We believe that the nurturing of the community around the Eucharistic Table is extended through gatherings which further strengthen and support us. We shall pursue this mission faithfully through the power of the Holy Spirit and the gifts and talents of our members.

STM BOOK CLUB

The St Thomas More Book Club will meet Tuesday 1/16 at 10 AM in Room 2 to discuss the January selection, Wolf’s Mouth by John Smolens. This is a work of fiction about an Italian soldier in WW2 who is captured by the allies and sent to a POW camp in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. There is an evil fellow prisoner, a German officer. Italian American young women are also part of the story and the drama. See you January 16 at 10 AM!

2018 CALENDARS ARE HERE

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

We Welcome the New Members who have Joined Our Parish

Richard and Charlene Davis

Marc and Rayleen Orsini and children, Geoffrey, Dominic, Giancarlo, Ava, and Stella

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

Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, January 1st and Tuesday, January 2nd.

FIRST TUESDAY COFFEE
January 9

Join us following the 9:00am Mass for coffee, treats, and conversation with your fellow parishioners.

SAVE THE DATE!

STM FUN BUNCH
FOOTBALL FANS AND FOODIES

Saturday, January 13th, after the 4:30 Mass. Football and Potluck!

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CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE FOR:

Parish Registration - Baptism - Communion to Sick for a home or hospital visit

**Marriage Preparation**
Arrangements with priest at least 6 months prior to date
FAITH FORMATION

THANK YOU

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT
Thank you to the amazing volunteers and parents who helped make the Children’s Christmas Eve Pageant such a success, especially to the children who participated, you were AWESOME! A special thank you to Shauna Haras, Sharon McManus and Leslie Ward, for your dedication coordinating this beautiful Christmas Pageant.

The Cast
Lily Aul
Kelsey Block
William Borschke
Andrew Borschke
Avery Curcuru
Reagan Feld
Ava Fleming
Marco Fleming
Johnny Green
Holly Haras
Johnny Jackson
Hedi Jackson
Peter Johnson

Preston Johnson
Miriam Krueger
Ella McAllister
Adam McManus
Daniel McManus
Lucinda Rosati
Kitty Samuelson
Christian Schneider
Hannah Schneider
Stephanie Schneider
Amy Surowiec
Audrey Taylor

Student Liturgical Volunteers
Nolan Block
Ethan Block
Duarte Bobone
Alex Fleming
Nathan Green
Natalie Haras

Hayden Haras
Perry Johnson
Johnny Jackson
Anna McManus
Caroline Samuelson
Stephanie Schneider

FAITH FORMATION NEWS
♦ 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.

Upcoming First Reconciliation/First Communion Events
♦ January 17 – 7 pm Reconciliation practice in the church
♦ January 23 – 7 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation in the church

ST. THOMAS MORE YOUTH GROUP
INVITING ALL 9TH THROUGH 12TH GRADERS
♦ January 7: Regular Session 7:00-8:15pm
♦ January 17: NO STMYG (MLK BREAK)
♦ January 20-21: Lock-in (10pm Saturday, leading into 7:30am Mass Sunday)

4TH ANNUAL CHILDREN’S ADVENT PARTY

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS
Thank you to the volunteers who helped make the Children’s Advent Party a success!!

Joanne Brown
Kelley Demiryan
Jacinta Grooms
Mary Krakowski
Arlene Marcy

Patty Orlowski
Emma Peck
Kathryn Shetler
Nichelle Slazinski
Collette Stager

Thank you to all who attended.
See you next year!!

Thank you to all the students who submitted a poster for the Knights of Columbus “Keep Christ in Christmas” poster contest. Winners will be announced on January 7.

#STMYG
Don’t just GO to Church
BE the CHURCH

OPEN MY EYES
Open my eyes that I may see the deepest needs of men, women and children.
Move my hands that they may feed the hungry;
Touch my heart that it may bring warmth to the despairing;
Teach me the generosity that welcomes strangers;
Let me share my possessions with people in need;
Give me the care that strengthens the sick;
Help me share in the quest to set prisoners free;
In sharing our anxieties and our love,
Our poverty and our prosperity;
We partake of your divine presence. Amen.

Blankets for Beaumont Children’s Hospital
Being in the hospital is very traumatic for children. At Beaumont Children’s Hospital the staff attempts to provide a fleece blanket to every child in the hospital. The blankets help to decrease the children’s anxiety due to their illness.

To assist Beaumont Children’s in their efforts, I am seeking donations of fleece that I along with other students at Notre Dame Prep can use to make blankets. The blankets will be donated to the hospital on behalf of St. Thomas More.

Requirements for one blanket:
* 2 yards of fleece fabric-patterned
* 2 yards of fleece fabric-solid color
  (to coordinate with the pattern)

Can be purchased at Joann’s, Michael’s or any fabric store. I would greatly appreciate if you would consider purchasing fleece and bringing to the church over the next several weeks, to benefit the children. While any theme of fleece is accepted, the patterns most needed are popular titles and teen appropriate.

Thank you!
Alec Gaboury
Parishioner

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
FIRST OF THE MONTH COLLECTION
BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

During the weekend of January 6-7, 2018, the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be collecting used books for children up to the age of 12, in addition to food, household products, toiletries, and financial donations regularly collected to help families who need assistance. Children in poverty are less likely to have books of their own or even have an opportunity to borrow from a school library, which in some schools no longer exist. The books will be distributed locally to children of all faiths.

Thank you for you continued support.

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.

Computers Needed For Welcome Inn
Welcome Inn, the day time warming shelter for homeless is in need of computers. Visitors to Welcome Inn use computers to send resumes, check benefits and also receive training form volunteers. If you have an older computer that you would like to donate, please contact Carol Dunleavy at 248-641-5185 or email to caroldunleavy@aol.com.

Make sure when donating a computer you have “scrubbed” your personal information from the hard drive!
The Pastoral Letter Unleash the Gospel is about how we can cooperate with the Holy Spirit to rebuild the Church. The point is conversion of hearts and changing “our culture such that every person... through personal encounter with Jesus Christ, embraces his or her identity as a son or daughter of God and... is sent forth as a joyful missionary disciple.” This is a broad view. The focus is on the family. Words like “family,” “children” or “father/mother” appear 125 times! This Sunday celebrating the Holy Family is a perfect time to consider the vision for families in Unleash the Gospel and ask, how can we act to help make our families holy families?

Unleash the Gospel (Guidepost 7) says that families are “the very heart” of all our efforts. “They are the first and most important setting... the ‘domestic church’ - the primary social unit in which life in Christ, the life of the Church, is experienced and lived.” The family is also the primary social unit of parishes, no matter how a “family” is made up: a person or persons living in a single household, homes with or without children, with one or two parents, multigenerational households, or extended families: All become holy when Jesus is at the center of the relationships among family members.

Unleash the Gospel outlines priorities for ministry to families, to help parents in their calling to raise children in the Faith and Sacraments, and to help care for families in all their needs. Families are called to live in and witness to the Gospel, “to exercise radical generosity in inviting others to share in your family life, even if you are well aware that it is not perfect. For instance, consider engaging in a ministry or ongoing service project as a family, so that others can witness how you relate to one another and how you raise your children.” Consider making that a family new year’s resolution!

A long list of proposed Action Steps in Unleash the Gospel for parishes and the AOD will help families as steps are implemented. Yet the path to holiness in families begins now with simple daily gestures of love. In this new year, let our families reclaim their Christian identity by committing to: attending mass as a family; creating time for the “family meal” without distraction to reclaim its sacred nature; regular family prayer and scripture reading; making reconciliation a lived reality in our homes through sacrifice, forgiveness and mercy; and modeling Christ’s love by reaching out to neighbors with a welcoming spirit and generosity in service to others and in sharing our faith.

The theme of family connects today’s Scripture readings. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and those who revere their mother store up riches, the passage from the Book of Sirach teaches us. Those who care for aging parents are not forgotten, and their kindness is planted as an offering against sin. In St. Luke’s Gospel, Jesus is presented to the Lord in the Jerusalem Temple, in accordance with Mosaic Law. The Holy Family then returns to Nazareth, where Jesus grows in strength and wisdom. In his Letter to the Colossians, St. Paul stresses bearing with one another and forgiving one another... as the Lord has forgiven you. ... Christ’s peace must reign in our families’ hearts. As St. John Paul II emphasized, the family is the “Domestic Church.” Vocations are born in families that embrace the Catholic faith. May we, as faithful stewards, continue to strive, build, and pray for solid Christian families in an increasingly antifamily world. To strengthen your family, make a daily habit of praying and eating at least one meal together. Most important, attend Sunday Mass as a family and partake of Holy Communion.

Yes, it is what you think! We sit in pretty much the same pew every Mass we attend, but how many of us can say “Hello!” to the person sitting near us, in their same pew, by name?

The weekend of January 13th and 14th we will make it a little easier for us to get to know each other better. Volunteers and staff will have name tags available before Mass. We ask everyone to participate and allow fellow parishioners to get to know those around us by name.

We are creatures of habit. But it is entirely reasonable that even at Sunday Eucharist we can begin to take the first step towards building a more welcoming parish and more meaningful community. Just like in the Cheers theme song, we all really do have a deep desire to be “where everybody knows your name, and they’re always glad you came.”
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.

Marriage and Family Ministry
This Sunday marks the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph — and is a celebration of the family. Gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal help support families at all stages.

Catholic marriage is a vocation, a calling from God. Programs and services of the archdiocesan Marriage and Family Ministry Office include marriage preparation, Natural Family Planning, and Women’s Ministry. Resources are also available for family and marriage support, those experiencing separation and divorce, and the culture of life.

For more information about CSA-funded ministries, programs, and services, please go to aod.org.

Weekly Offertory

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<td>Weekly Budget/Goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Weekly Envelope</td>
<td><strong>$15,222.00</strong></td>
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<td>Regular Weekly Loose Donations</td>
<td><strong>$1,316.00</strong></td>
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<td>Electronic Contributors</td>
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<td>Mass Attendance</td>
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**FISCAL YEAR TOTALS**

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<td>Offertory Budget to Date</td>
<td>431,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actual Offertory Received to Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Over/Under For Fiscal Year 2017-18</td>
<td>(<strong>$43,127</strong>)</td>
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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.
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  
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lisa@stmoffice.com

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