I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA

Revelation 1:8

CHRIST THE KING
REMEMBERING THEM

During the month of November we especially pray for those who have died. This helps us remember them for what they meant to us when they were alive. It also benefits them because our prayers assist them in their final preparations before seeing God. **We don't hesitate to pray for one another while we are alive. That same eagerness should exist to take the needs of the faithful departed before God as well.** It's really what we mean by the “Communion of Saints.” It reflects the solidarity we have with other members of Christ’s body, the Church.

Our parish Scroll of Remembrance lists the names of those who were buried from our parish this past year. Our All Souls envelopes contain the names of many of our loved ones who have died. All through the month of November, these people are remembered at every Mass as an expression of our continuing love for them.

I ask you to add to your prayers the following priests and deacons who also died this past year:

- Reverend John Blaska
- Reverend Thomas F. Esper
- Deacon Charles Fosmire
- Deacon Douglas Jackson
- Reverend Arthur Jacobi
- Reverend Sigismund Kowalczyk
- Deacon Gary Krueger
- Deacon Frank W. Loafman
- Deacon Archie Noon
- Reverend William Petron
- Deacon Rafael Rivera
- Reverend Richard Schmidberger
- Deacon William Schmitz

Have a faith-filled week. Let's remember each other in prayer.

Msgr. Tom Rice

Creator of the Stars of Night
An Advent Masque

December 2nd at 7:00 PM will be our third annual Advent Masque. Please come and retreat from the busiest time of the year to enjoy an evening of relaxation and rejoicing of the anticipation or Christ’s return. **Creator of the Stars of Night. Creator alme siderum...Hoping, celebrating together, living the Gospel. Let us find our unity as Jesus-centered Catholic Christians.**

God bless us all!
Brian Foss

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

If you are interested in participating in the Mass by being a candle lighter for the Advent Wreath, please sign-up at the Information Counter or call the Parish Office at 248-647-2222.

A Special Thank You to the People of St. Thomas More

We received the following letter from The Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette who were here for our annual parish mission appeal the weekend of August 11 & 12.

Dear Msgr. Rice,

I received a check from the Propagation of the Faith Office of Detroit, MI in the amount of $8,685.38. We greatly appreciate the generosity of the people of St. Thomas More in response to the mission appeal given by Fr. Al Benedick Taguinod. His zeal is evident in the way he speaks of Christ’s Mission in the world today, and of how that Mission is being fulfilled in the missionary activity of the La Salette Fathers and Brothers.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring this awareness of our Church’s Mission to the people of St. Thomas More and to bring their love and support to the needy of the mission countries served by the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette.

Sincerely yours in our Lord and Lady,
Fr. Thomas Vellappallil, M.S.
Executive Director

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8th
Mass at 9:00 AM
PRAYER INTENTIONS

THIS WEEK’S EUCHARIST INTENTIONS

Saturday  
November 24  
4:30p  
For the People of St. Thomas More

Sunday  
November 25  
7:30a  
Jim & Kathleen Sheridan—50th Wedding Anniversary

9:30a  
Bob Jermstad—Special Intention  
Robert Lomax  
Margaret Ann McNally—46th Anniversary  
The Mikulski Family—Special Intention

11:30a  
Mary Kelly

Tuesday  
November 27  
9:00a  
Emily and Jerry Calkins—Special Intention  
George Sold—10th Anniversary

Wednesday  
November 28  
7:00p  
Emily and Jerry Calkins—Special Intention

Thursday  
November 29  
Mary Kelly

Saturday  
December 1  
4:30p  
Jack Saylor—15th Anniversary

Sunday  
December 2  
7:30a  
For the People of St. Thomas More

9:30a  
Joseph Chick—Birthday Remembrance

11:30a  
James F. Dunleavy  
John Dunleavy, Jr.

24 Hour Prayer Line

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

PRAYER TO CHRIST THE KING

Christ Jesus, I acknowledge You King of the universe. All that has been created has been made for You. Make full use of Your rights over me. I renew the promises I made in Baptism, when I renounced Satan and all his pomp and works, and I promise to live a good Christian life and to do all in my power to procure the triumph of the rights of God and Your Church. Divine Heart of Jesus, I offer you my efforts in order to obtain that all hearts may acknowledge your Sacred Royalty, and that thus the Kingdom of Your peace may be established throughout the universe. Amen.

THIS WEEK’S PRAYER INTENTIONS

PRAY FOR THE SICK

All powerful and everlasting God, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. Hear the prayers we offer for our sick brothers and sisters. May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease realize that they have been chosen to be saints and know that they are joined to Christ in His suffering for the salvation of the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Rosanne Bishop  
Maurine Brennan  
Jerry Calkins  
Ginny Carlise  
Chris Crocker  
Barbara Geis

Ann Henning  
Dan Mittelstaedt  
Carol Simmons  
Helen Walczak  
Greg Wise

PRAY FOR THE MILITARY

Major Matthew Altomari  
SSgt. Cory Borders  
Lt. Andrew Boschert  
Major Phil Brule  
Sgt. Maj. Patrick Corcoran  
Capt. Joel Cortright  
ENS Michael Dwyer  
Capt. Chip Evans  
Spc. Evan K. Fowler  
2nd Lt. Theresa Consentino  
SSgt. Daniel F. Jamison

M1st Class Megan Jamison  
1st Lt. Paul F. Kramarz  
PFC. Lane Luyckx  
Lt. Christopher Mitek  
OS2 Emily Muhlenbeck  
LTjg. Bradley Pienta  
Capt. Nick Pollock  
Sgt. Kyle Stout  
Capt. Ben VanHorrick  
Spc. Carl Voag  
ENS. Adam Weisgerber

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family of:

† David Allen Meagher  
† Timothy Wirkus

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

“The liturgical celebration is a sacred action not simply of the clergy, but of the entire assembly. It is a community action. It is therefore, natural that the task not proper to the ordained ministers be fulfilled by the lay faithful” (Christifidelis Laici 23 - St. John Paul II)

WORSHIP MINISTRY FORMATION EVENING

With Fr. Alex Kratz OFM
Thursday, November 29, 2018
7:00 - 8:00pm in the Social Hall

If you currently serve in a Worship Ministry or are interested in becoming a worship minister, please join us for an evening of fellowship and reflection on serving in the parish.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MINISTERS FOR MASS—FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT —DECEMBER 1 &amp; 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MASS TIME</strong></td>
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**Parish News and Events**

**The Week Ahead**
- **Weekday Masses, 9:00am**
  Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
- **Monday, November 26**
  The MEN of STM, 7p
- **Tuesday, November 27**
  Contemporary Choir Rehearsal, 6p
  RCIA, 6:30p
  Bible Study, 7p
- **Wednesday, November 28**
  Walking with Purpose, 7p
- **Thursday, November 29**
  Walking with Purpose, 10a
  Children’s Choir Rehearsal, 6:30p
  Choir Rehearsal, 7p
  SVdP Meeting, 7p
- **Friday, November 30**
  Euchre Party, 7p
- **Sunday, December 2**
  Coffee and Conversation after all Masses
  Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, 8:15a, 9:30a
  Faith Formation Program, 8-11:30a; 6:30-8:30p
  RCIA, 9:30a
  Advent Masque, 7p
  Youth Group, 7p

**First Tuesday Coffee**
- December 4
  Join us in the Social Hall following the 9:00am Mass for coffee, treats, and conversation with your fellow parishioners.

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Each moment that you spend in His Eucharistic Presence will increase His divine life within you and deepen your personal relationship and friendship with Him.

*I am the vine and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him shall bear much fruit because without me, you can do nothing.* (John 15:5)

Sunday, December 16 after 11:30 AM Mass
Ending with Vespers at 6 PM

To help assure that at least two people are present at all times, please sign up for a specific time at the Information Counter.

**Children’s Christmas Choir**

Rehearsal Thursday’s, 6:30 -7:15pm:
November 29, December 6 and 20

**Love to Play Euchre?? Love to Win Money??**

Join us on Friday, November 30th at 7:00pm in Room 2 to play Euchre with your fellow parishioners.

RSVP to stmhospitality@gmail.com
$5.00 to play
BEGINNERS WELCOME!!

**Advent Books Available**

This year we will be offering two options for daily reflection during Advent. *The Little Blue Book* from Diocese of Saginaw offers six-minute reflections on the Sunday Gospels for this year. This Advent we also have *Jesus – God’s Promise*. This book is Advent devotions inspired by Henri J. M. Nouwen.

Please look for the books on the counter in the gathering area. Either book will enhance your Advent and Christmas prayer experience. Donation of $1 is appreciated for each book to defray the cost.

**5th Annual Children’s Christmas Party**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9
12:30-2:00 P.M.

JOIN US IN THE SOCIAL HALL FOR FUN, GAMES, AND A SPECIAL GUEST
CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - 2018

Planning for our 3rd Annual Children’s Pageant is under way! The pageant will be performed during the 4:00 pm 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 2nd at 10:45am in Room 2.

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 9th at the 11:30 Mass. Also a baby Jesus is needed under the age of one.

Rehearsals are required for participation and will be held on Sunday, December 9th at 12:30 pm and Sunday, December 16th at 6:30 pm with a pizza lunch provided.

We are also looking for 6th-8th grade Lectors, Altar Servers, and Ushers to serve during the Children’s 4:00 Mass. Sign up is available outside of the Faith Formation Office.

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.

Thank you to those who have donated globes in the past. We are still in need of a few more. If you have one that you’d like to donate please drop it off at the Faith Formation Office.

Merry Christmas

Please join us for the 5TH ANNUAL CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY following the 11:30am Family Mass hosted by the Youth Group

DECEMBER 9
12:30-2:00 P.M.

IN THE SOCIAL HALL FOR FUN, GAMES, AND A SPECIAL GUEST provided by Hospitality

#STMYG

INVITING ALL 9TH THROUGH 12TH GRADERS

• 12/02: Youth Group Meeting 7:00 – 8:15 pm
• 12/09:
  11:30 am Youth Group Mass and Advent Family, Party immediately following
  Signup for the 12/9 Advent Youth Group Mass is outside of the Faith Formation Office.
  7:00 – 8:15 pm in the Social Hall
• 12/16: Christmas Party/Dance! 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the Social Hall
  Sign up via email at pobrien@catholiccentral.net

Becoming Catholic

Come find out what the RCIA is all about. We would love for you to join us! We typically meet on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm in Room 1. We start off with dinner, so come hungry. No need to RSVP, just drop in any time. The topics for the upcoming gatherings are listed below.

♦ Nov 27 - Altar/Church Tour/Adoration
♦ Dec 2 - Rite of Acceptance/Welcome at 9:30 a.m. in the Church with dismissal
♦ Dec 4 - Advent
  Direct questions to Josylin@stmoffice.com
CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE PROGRAM
The annual St. Thomas More Christmas Giving Tree Program begins this weekend. The wooden trees with tags for the charitable organizations will be set up in the Gathering Area.

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

Snowflake—Vista Maria

Gingerbread Man—Crossroads of Michigan (Det.)

Christmas Tree—Ladies of Charity

Teddy Bear—Mary's Children Family Center

Snowman—Morse Elementary School

Red Circle—St. Elizabeth Briarbank for Women

Angel—St. Vincent de Paul at STM

Blue Star—Welcome Inn Homeless Shelter (Men)

Pink Star—Welcome Inn Homeless Shelter (Women)

Sunburst—Baldwin Center

Lamb—Wee Care, Right to Life-LIFESPAN

Apple—SVdP South Oakland Food Depot

Blue Circle—Crossroads Care Center, Auburn Hills

Yellow Star—SVdP Justice Initiative

PLEASE NOTE: All gifts, with tags securely attached, must be brought to the Social Hall no later than Sunday December 9th, so that the gifts can be delivered to the organizations that week.

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

THE FIRST OF THE MONTH COLLECTION
St. Vincent de Paul—December 1 & 2
We are asking for specially needed items. Some suggestions include—Kleenex, toilet paper, paper towel, cleaning supplies, bath soap, deodorant, dish soap, laundry detergent, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. These items are not covered in the Bridge Card programs that many of the needy use for purchases.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Christmas Flowers
Christmas Season is upon us so please consider making a donation in a loved one’s name toward the purchase of flowers to decorate the Church for Christmas.

Names will be listed in the Christmas Bulletin for donations received by December 14th. Due to publishing deadlines, names received after December 14th will be listed in the January 6th bulletin.

Flower envelopes are in the church pews.

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

Catholic Charities on the Ground in California Fire Zones
Catholic Charities USA is the official domestic relief agency of the U.S. Catholic Church. Its workers are on the ground as a first-line disaster team – utilizing the local knowledge and expertise of its agencies in California—as the wildfires continue to rage resulting in historic widespread damage and loss of life. Catholic Charities website respectfully asks for prayers and to “please consider providing support today to assist victims with immediate relief.”
If developing a deeper personal encounter with Jesus is a key theme of *Unleash the Gospel*, and it is, then we should approach Advent as a major liturgical season, which it most certainly is. Next Sunday begins Advent during which we remember Israel’s anticipation of the coming of the Messiah into the world. We prepare for Christmas this year, celebrating Christ’s birth now. Advent is also a time we prepare ourselves for the future, the Second Coming of Christ, our triumphant Lord, King of the Universe.

It can be tempting to get caught up trying to figure out the reckoning of time during Advent. We recall the time before Christ was born and sing “O Come! O, Come, Emmanuel” calling Him to be with us even when we know He is already here today. Jesus is in the Scriptures; in the Church, the Body of Christ; and especially, in the Eucharist. If we think about it, even that great, classic hymn seems to confound us. We sing “Come” as if He isn’t here now, and “Emmanuel” which literally means “God with us,” here and now!

We look to the future during Advent. It is a season of anticipation of our encountering Jesus at the end of time. These aspects of a simultaneous past and present and future reflect the reality that the Liturgy is eternal, out of spacetime. Yet, the “time warping” is even deeper than that. Notice that during Advent we remember the coming birth of Jesus who is already in the world by the reckoning of the Church’s liturgical calendar. That is, He was incarnated by the Holy Spirit and become a living human being in the womb when Mary said her “fiat”, her “Yes” to Gabriel. That harkens back to the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, traditionally celebrated on March 25th, nine months before Christmas.

As we prayerfully approach Advent this year, let us reflect on all the ways and in all the “time-lines” in which we anticipate and encounter Jesus Christ. Let’s strive to find and keep quiet restful, time in this hectic season, and always remember the “Reason for the Season:”

“Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight His paths” (Mark 1:3), yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

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**EVANGELIZATION**

**UNLEASH THE GOSPEL**

**TIME FOR ADVENT**

by John Hannigan

**STEWARDSHIP**

**TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE**

**CHRIST THE KING**

November 24 & 25

For the Solemnity celebration of Christ the King, today’s Scripture readings profess Jesus’ kingship. In St. John’s Gospel, Jesus makes clear to Pilate that His kingdom does not belong to this world. In Revelation, the Lord God proclaims that He is the Alpha and the Omega — the “first and the last” — and will reign for eternity. The Prophet Daniel tells of his vision: one like a Son of man coming, on the clouds of heaven verifying Christ’s dominion and glory. How should we venerate our Lord and King? As Christian stewards, we acknowledge Christ’s true Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, present in the Most Holy Eucharist. During Mass, we strive to partake of Him in a prayerful, reverent, and respectful manner. The Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our faith. Through consumption of the Eucharist, we encounter Jesus in a personal way, and we are healed and strengthened to do our Lord’s work, especially for our needy brothers and sisters. As we internalize our Lord and Savior, may His joy and peace reign in our hearts, and may that joy and peace overflow to everyone we meet.

Please take time to attend the next Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction at St. Thomas More on any or all of the following dates: Sundays: December 16, 2018; April 28, 2019; June 23, 2019, 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. During Lent on Fridays: March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

**Readings for the Week of November 25, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</td>
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<td>Dn 7:13-14; Ps 93:1, 1-2, 5; Rv 1:5-8; Jn 18:33b-37</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5; Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 21:1-4</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Rv 14:14-19; Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13; Lk 21:5-11</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Rv 15:1-4; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 7-8, 9; Lk 21:12-19</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Lk 21:20-28</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Saint Andrew, Apostle</td>
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<td>Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 4:18-22</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Rv 22:1-7; Ps 95:1-2, 3-5, 6-7ab; Lk 21:34-36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>First Sunday of Advent</td>
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<td>Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14; 1 Thes 3:12—4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36</td>
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Parish Finance

Report from Business Manager

There have been a few unexpected maintenance projects this summer and fall. A new repair was added last week when the HVAC (Heating & Cooling Units) had a general inspection. The inspection uncovered 6 of the 13 units had cracked heat exchangers that had to be replaced along with minor maintenance repairs to other units. With the other items we have dealt with, here is an update and costs for projects that have been completed.

- Siding & Trim on Rectory $18,480.
- HVAC Repairs $17,875.

**TOTAL $60,238.**

These repairs were not budgeted or planned for this year. Quotes to replace the entrance doors to the church are still being reviewed. The current quotes are in the $79,000 ballpark. As we haven’t received that amount in CSA this year – we will look to possibly using funds from the maintenance savings account at the Archdiocese.

There is still the matter of replacing the siding on the Church building. The plan is to have that work done in phases over 3 years, which would cost approximately $25,000 per year. Repairs to the building roofs, in order to keep it in good shape, comes in at $15,000. Outdoor lighting needs to be addressed and those quotes are coming in between $14,000 to $20,000 dependent on whether the rusting light poles get painted. The lighting replacement with LED fixtures will save the parish in electric expense over the long run.

All these costs in addition to the annual lawn maintenance of $16,000 and snowplowing – which last year was $17,000, and utilities, are part of the maintenance expenses annually. As the parish is dependent on contributions to support programs, staff and maintenance, please keep these costs in mind when deciding your annual support and Christmas contribution to the parish. Finance Council continues to discuss how to fund a monthly deposit to our maintenance fund for future repairs and replacement of assets as the campus ages, but as offertory fails to meet the budget weekly and maintenance expenses continue to “pop-up” we are lacking the funds to set aside.

The task now is to review the list of building assets: HVAC, roofs, appliances, etc. to begin to plan for the future. Decide what items need to be prioritized for replacement over a period of time to minimize emergency expenses. As we continue to develop a good maintenance plan, we will have a better idea of what will be needed monthly for the maintenance fund and develop a plan for funding.

Lois Sokolowski, Business Manager

Community Interest

The Cathedral Cultural Series presents Singing in the Season Advent Vespers Sunday, December 2, 4pm. Free-will Offering

The Cathedral Chorale offers the church’s ancient evening prayer with chants, psalms, and hymns. Prepare for Christmas with candlelight, reflection, peace, and grace.

St. Thomas More Bulletin Sponsor of the Week

Higher Ground Landscaping

(See their ad on the back cover of the bulletin)

Thanks to the advertisers the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the Parish. We ask parishioners to please support the businesses that advertise in our bulletin.

Advent/Christmas Concert at Manresa Jesuit Retreat House

Please join us on Sunday, December 9, 3:00 PM Caitlin Lynch, Soprano and Jonathan Lasch, Baritone, accompanied by Jean Schneider.

Afterglow follows. Information and tickets at: www.manresa-sj.org/120918-concert

Holiday Open House Catholic Charities Adult Day Center in Auburn Hills

Next door to Sacred Heart Parish on Adams Rd Saturday, Dec. 1, 4:00 to 6:30 pm Sunday, Dec. 2, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

You are invited to enjoy some Christmas-themed refreshments and discover what Catholic Charities’ Adult Day ministry has to offer you and the loved-one you care for. Our Adult Day program serves seniors with dementia, cognitive disabilities, and other conditions requiring supervision. We provide caregivers the opportunity to work, or just take a well-deserved break. Hope to see you there!

Questions? Call Holly Snodgrass at 248-537-3300 ext. 3803.
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       | Eva Ashor, **Bookkeeper**  | 248-647-2222 x 3333  
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<tr>
<td>Monsignor Thomas G. Rice, <strong>Pastor</strong></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:bookkeeper@stmoffice.com">bookkeeper@stmoffice.com</a></td>
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|                       | Weekend Mass Assistance    | 248-647-2222 x 1111  
| Monsignor Michael Dylag | Fr. Robert Spezia         |                      |
| Christopher Stark, **Deacon** |                           |                      |
|                       | WORSHIP and CHRISTIAN SERVICE | 248-647-2222 x 8888  
| Deacon Michael Stach, **Pastoral Associate** |                           |                      |
|                       | MUSIC MINISTRY             | 248-647-2222 x 5555  
| Brian Foos, **Director** |                           | dcnmichael@stmoffice.com |
|                       | PARISH OFFICE              | 248-647-2222 x 7777  
| Lois Sokolowski, **Business Manager** |                           | lois@stmoffice.com    |
| Kathy Strong, **Parish Secretary/Bulletin** | 248-647-2222 x 3311  
|                       | FAITH FORMATION            | 248-647-4680  
| Josylin Mateus, **Director** |                           | josylin@stmoffice.com |
| Angela Seba, **Secretary** |                           | angela@stmoffice.com  |
| Sandi Gardner, **Section Head** |                           | sandi@stmoffice.com   |
|                       | COUNSELING AND SUPPORT     | 248-647-4680  
| Andrea Harral, Therapist |                           | pobrien@catholiccentral.net |
|                       | SOCIAL MEDIA               | 248-647-2222 x 4422  
| Debbie Knauss, Website and Facebook |                   | stmwebsite@stmoffice.com |
|                       | MAINTENANCE                |                      |
| Ben Olar, Pete Whiting |                           |                      |