“Simon, son of John, do you love me?”
He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”
He said to him, “Tend my sheep.”

John 21:16
A Note From
Our Pastor

SPECIAL PEOPLE/BIG DAY

Congratulations to all the children making their First Holy Communion today, and to their parents who are seeing to their religious education! It is my earnest prayer that they always find comfort and strength whenever they approach the Lord’s table in the years ahead. I would also like to thank the teachers in our Faith Formation program who share not only their time with St. Thomas More Parish, but their faith with the children entrusted to their care. May God bless you, who have so richly blessed us with your service.

The following is a beautiful prayer we can all say for the special boys and girls who today receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time.

“Lord Jesus, bless all those who are receiving you in Holy Communion for the first time. May each one of them know your love and mercy in a personal way. May all your people open their hearts to receive you and that they might be transformed by your love. Amen.”

CSA BEGINS

Today marks the beginning of our parish wide participation in the annual Catholic Services Appeal (CSA). By now I think everyone knows the importance of the CSA. Much is dependent upon the generosity of the people of the Archdiocese of Detroit and St. Thomas More is part of that larger picture of the Church. I hope that this year you will see your participation in the CSA as a real outreach of Christian caring. We are told by Jesus to look after the needs of others as a manifestation of the love we have for Him. We are to see the Lord in the hungry, thirsty, sick, and lonely. When others reach out their hands for help we must take hold of them. Such is an act of faith. Faith in Our Lord’s promise that to serve Him and faith in the Church as an instrument of God’s abiding presence in our world.

When you support the CSA you actively participate in works of true Christian charity. These works bring glory to God and help to those society can often forget. These good works also advance and build up the Church and strengthen it to become an increasingly effective agent of mercy, peace, growth, and reconciliation for all God’s children.

Please be generous to the Catholic Services Appeal. All that needs to be accomplished can only be done so with your support. And God bless you for witnessing to His love as you reach out to others!

Enjoy this beautiful Spring day.

Msgr. Tom Rice

Pathways to Peace
By Deacon Christopher Stark

Depending on what time you arrived for Mass this weekend…I’m hopeful that you will have noticed something different, and that you were able to join-in. What is different, is the fact that for each weekend Liturgy throughout the Month of May, either Mike Van Dyke (our diaconate intern), Deacon Michael, or I will be leading the praying of the rosary prior to the start of Mass. 25 minutes prior to the start – to be more specific. Please join us!

Why are we doing this? Because in our Roman Catholic tradition – the months of May and October have been dedicated to the intentions of our Blessed Mother. Mary is a great saint, the mother of Jesus, and a friend to all of humanity. When we pray the rosary, we join Mary in the supernatural adoration of God. We’re not worshipping Mary – we’re collaborating with her in the worship of God.

The plan is for us to begin the praying of the rosary at 5-minutes past the top of the hour, prior to Mass. (So, for the 4:30pm Saturday Mass…we’ll begin at 4:05pm. For the 7:30am Sunday Mass – we’ll begin at 7:05am…and so on.)

The rosary typically takes about 15 minutes to pray…so we’ll be done in plenty of time for the completion of mass preparation, announcements, etc. – so that Mass will start on-time. This opportunity simply means that for you to be able to fully participate…you will have to get moving to Church about a half-hour earlier than you’re used to! It’s worth it! And don’t worry if you’re late, just pick-up wherever we are when you arrive.

There are four weekends through the month of May, and there are four sets of mysteries of the rosary. We will pray one mystery each week – starting this week with the Joyful Mysteries. Next week we will pray the Luminous Mysteries…then the Sorrowful…and finish with the Glorious Mysteries at the end of the month.

What are the mysteries of the rosary? They are the selected scenes found in scripture that tell the story of God’s plan for our salvation through the life and ministry of Jesus. When we pray the rosary, we allow our knowledge and imagination to collaborate in helping us to see with our mind’s eye – the beauty and wonder of God’s plans to rescue us from certain death. The repeated recitation of the Hail Mary, is simply meant to be the background music to the narrative of the mystery being reflected upon.

continues on page 7
**THIS WEEK’S EUCHARIST INTENTSIONS**

**Saturday**

May 4
4:30p  Coleen Bell  
        Veronica Chick—Birthday Remembrance  
        Carl T. Cook—14th Anniversary  
        Ann Henning  
        Marilyn Somalski

**Sunday**

May 5
7:30a  Leonardo Fermin  
9:30a  John Mills—Birthday Remembrance  
      The Mikulski Family—Special Intention  
      Stephen Stark  
11:30a  Joseph Chick—27th Anniversary  
       Joanne Elizabeth Christie  
       Rick Doyle—22nd Anniversary

**Tuesday**

May 7
9:00a  For the People of St. Thomas More

**Wednesday**

May 8
9:00a  For the Lonely and Forgotten

**Thursday**

May 9
9:00a  For the Poor and the Homeless

**Saturday**

May 11
4:30p  Eileen Clements  
       Shirley Watson  
       Martha Wrobel

**Sunday**

May 12
7:30a  Mary Jaworski  
      Barbara Milia  
      John Robertson  
      Nancy Soloy—5th Anniversary  
9:30a  Irene Bennick  
      Marion Debolski  
      Elizabeth Wieber—10th Anniversary  
      Doris Zink  
11:30a  Deb Carrey—Special Intention  
      Diane & Veronica Chick  
      Joann Elizabeth Christie  
      Germaine Sliney-Mack

---

**THIS WEEK’S PRAYER INTENTIONS**

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Rosanne Bishop  
Chris Crocker  
Wyatt Matthew Diehl

Elaine Rosen  
Carol Simmons  
Helen Walczak

**PRAY FOR THE DECEASED**

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family of:

† Raymond DeSantis—husband of Sherry DeSantis  
† Leonardo Fermin —father of Josylin Mateus

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

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The St. Thomas More Intercessory Prayer Service is Wednesday, May 15 at 7:00 pm.

Please join us to pray for intentions submitted by our parish members and for your own personal intentions.

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**Rosary to Honor**

**Our Blessed Mother, Mary**

Through the month of May – dedicated to our Blessed Mother – you are encouraged to come to Mass twenty-five minutes early, and join in the praying of the Rosary with Deacons Chris and Michael, along with our diaconate intern, Mike Van Dyke. Please join us and your fellow parishioners in the Church, 25 minutes before the start of the weekend Liturgies for a rosary to consecrate your day to the intentions of

“**Our Blessed Mother, Mary**”

---

**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 Corsentino  
Ssgt. Daniel F. Jamison  
M1st Class Megan Jamison  
Lt. Christopher Mitek  
OS2 Emily Muhlenbeck  
Pvt. Calen Nido  
LTjg. Bradley Pienta  
Capt. Nick Pollock  
Sgt. Kyle Stout  
Capt. Ben VanHorrick  
Spc. Carl Voag  
LTJG. Adam Weisgerber
New Altar Servers Needed

This ministry is open to children (2nd grade & up), teens, and adults.

Information and Training Session for New Altar Servers
Sunday, May 19, 2019
12:45- 2:30 pm in the Church

This is a wonderful learning experience for our young members of the parish and an excellent way to serve the Lord for adults. Please RSVP to Deacon Michael at dcnmichael@stmoffice.com or call 248-647-2222.

What is the Altar Server Ministry?
Altar Serving is responding to God’s call to serve at His table. It takes a special person to be an Altar Server. The Altar Server is invited by the faith community to assist the presider (Priest Celebrant) at Mass and other liturgies of the church.

“Serving at the altar is a privileged way to draw closer to Jesus, which in turn enables you to open yourselves to others, to journey together, to set demanding goals and to find the strength to achieve them.” – Pope Francis

Readings for the Week of May 5, 2019

Sunday Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13; Rev 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19 or Jn 21:1-14


Tuesday Acts 7:51—8:1a; Ps 31:3cd, 4, 6 and 8a, 17 and 21ab; Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a; Jn 6:35-40

Thursday Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51

Friday Saint Damien de Veuster, Priest
Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59

Saturday Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Jn 6:60-69

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 13:14, 43-52; Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5; Rev 7:9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30

MINISTERS FOR MASS—FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — MAY 11 & 12

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<td>Fr. Bob Spezia</td>
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<td>DEACON</td>
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<td>Chris Stark</td>
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<td>Joe Widina</td>
<td>Bridget Kavanaugh</td>
<td>Jack Withrow</td>
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<td>Chris Mann</td>
<td>Tom Catalano</td>
<td>Melinda Prucha</td>
<td>Ronia Kruse</td>
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<td>SERVERS</td>
<td>Johnny Jackson</td>
<td>Randy Skala</td>
<td>Sam Hern</td>
<td>Susie Klein</td>
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<td>Marcus Lee</td>
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<td>Lucie Rosati</td>
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<td>Gerry Gostomski</td>
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<td>Cary Sheremet</td>
<td>Mike Morrison</td>
<td>George Halter</td>
<td>Mark Parent</td>
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<td>Frank Sikorski</td>
<td>Andy Olson</td>
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<td>Ron Wlosinski</td>
<td>Jim Ward</td>
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<td>Greg Wise</td>
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<td>Larry Jeziorski</td>
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<td>RECEPTIONIST</td>
<td>Anne McAtee</td>
<td>Mary Jo Luyckx</td>
<td>Nancy White</td>
<td>Judith Parrott</td>
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THE WEEK AHEAD

Weekday Masses
Tues, Wed, Thurs, 9a

♦ Monday, May 6
Education Commission, 7p

♦ Tuesday, May 7
First Tuesday Coffee, 9:30a
Contemporary Choir Rehearsal, 6p
Knights of Columbus Meeting, 6p
RCIA, 6:30p
Matthew Kelly Book Study, 7p

♦ Wednesday, May 8
Matthew Kelly Book Study, 9:45a
Grief Support, 6:30p
Women’s Spring Tea, 6:30p

♦ Thursday, May 9
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 10a
Choir Rehearsal, 7p
SVdP Meeting, 7p
Confirmation Student Meeting, 7p

♦ Saturday, May 11
Rosary, 4p

♦ Sunday, May 12
Rosary, 7a, 9a, 11a
Baptism Ceremony, 12:30p

THE FIRST OF THE MONTH COLLECTION
St. Vincent de Paul—May 4 & 5

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 have to purchase.

Thank you for your generosity!

FIRST TUESDAY COFFEE
May 7

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

Get the Book. Join the Discussion!

The STM Book Club selection for May is Educated by Tara Westover. This New York Times best seller is a memoir of the author’s life growing up in a family of survivalists in Idaho, first entering a classroom at age seventeen, then finally studying at Cambridge.

Please join us Tuesday, 5/21 at 10 AM in Room 2 for the discussion.

THE BIGGEST LIE IN THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY
New York Times best-selling author
MATTHEW KELLY

Each family will be offered a gift of Matthew Kelly’s book at Easter. We hope you enjoy it! It follows on the theme of the parish mission: Becoming the Saint Next Door. Read it and join in small-group discussions about the book. It will help you grow in holiness!

Tuesday evenings, 7:00 – 8:00 pm
May 7: Chapters 6 to 10
May 14: Chapters 11 to 15

Sessions repeated Wednesday mornings after the 9:00 am Mass (about 9:45 or so)
May 8 and May 15

Books were donated by members of the Parish Pastoral Council and Evangelization Committee

Save the Date!
STM – Red Cross Blood Drive will be held
Wednesday, June 12
12 Noon – 6 pm
Questions? Call Chris Reynaert
248-645-2663

Students needing service hours can help in the “Canteen”
2019 HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

High School and College Graduates and their families are invited to attend the Baccalaureate Mass and Reception to honor our graduates at the

11:30 am Mass on Sunday, June 2nd

RSVP Please! Drop off or mail this form along with a wallet-size picture no later than May 23

Graduate Name: ________________________________
Graduate E-mail: ________________________________
School graduating from: ____________________________
School destination in the fall or other plans: ____________________________
_____ Graduate will attend Mass
_____ Total number of people attending reception

Drop off or Mail to:
St. Thomas More Faith Formation Office
4580 Adams Rd Troy, MI 48098
or email angela@stmoffice.com

SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - MAY 5, 2019
Congratulations to the children and their families on this special occasion. Please keep our students in your prayers. Thank you to everyone who helped make this day special for our First Holy Communion students and families.

Matthew Azzam  Jolie Farquhar  Sophia Pollak  Jake Sowinski
Evelyn Bezuska  Jack Hafner  Samantha Rico  Van Szura
Erin Christensen  Alexandra Hernandez  Aiden Rozek  Roman Talia
Sebastian Davila Hernandez  Stephen Knight  Francis Ruthenberg  Frida Titran
Elizabeth Deel  Michael Malinzak  Margaret Ruthenberg  Leonard Wilhelm
Allison Downs  Hudson Panozzo  Samuel Ruthenberg

2019 HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

INVITING ALL 9TH THROUGH 12TH GRADERS

♦ May 5: Final Meeting of the Year – Dinner at Red Robin in Troy from 5-7 pm
♦ June 2: Graduation Mass at 11:30 am
For more information contact Patrick at pobrien@catholiccentral.net

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL SPRING TEA
Wednesday, May 8th 7:00-9:00pm
St. Thomas More Social Hall
“Living Joy in our Daily Lives”
Guest Speaker: Mary Wilkerson

Call the Faith Formation Office at 248-647-4680 or email angela@stmoffice.com to register.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)
SAVE THE DATE: August 5-9, 2019
May 5, 2019

IN OUR PARISH

Catholic Services Appeal
Chance to Win $100 Target Gift Card

You should have received your pledge card for the 2019 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA). Please consider making your gift online this year. Last year the post office lost an envelope that had CSA gifts being mailed to the Archdiocese of Detroit for processing. Most parishioners were kind enough to replace the checks that were lost but we did not receive replacement for approximately $3000 in pledges. In order to avoid that issue again, I ask that you make your pledge online at: http://stmtroy.aodcsa.org. This is the Archdiocese – CSA site so gifts will be posted direct. Gifts must be made by June 1, 2019 to be eligible. Only online gifts are eligible.

We will receive a list of those that made their gift online, but you may return the pledge card to the parish with ONLINE written on it. If you have any questions, please contact me at the parish office.

Thank you for your generosity, it is most appreciated.
Lois Sokolowski, Parish Business Manager
(lois@stmoffice.com)

St. Thomas More Parish is in need of 2 new members for the Parish Council. Term of service is 3 years. Please read below for a description of the positions and requirements. If you have questions, please contact the parish office.
Parish Council is the primary consultative body to the parish pastor, working directly with him in the area of pastoral planning. Council is the primary visioning body of the parish, assisting the pastor in determining the overall mission of the parish.

The role is to assist the pastor in:
• Soliciting the wisdom of the parish community
• Forming a consensus about pastoral planning
• Communicating the pastoral vision to the parish
• Involving the parish commissions in implementing the vision

Parish Council is not the body that implements the programs and activities to carry out the strategic plan for the parish. That is the work of the parish commissions.

The following requirements should be met to be considered for Parish Council:
• Fully initiated, active, practicing Catholic and parish member
• Equipped with the gifts or charisms for serving in this capacity
• Able to work in groups
• Prayerful with an awareness of God being active in one’s life
• Open to the Spirit, to spiritual growth and being formed in the evangelizing mission of the Church
• Capable of relating to people from varied backgrounds, able to listen to the needs of people
• At least 16 years old
• Not a member of parish staff

If you are interested in serving in the capacity of Parish Council Member, please complete a nomination slip available on the counter in the Gathering Area and drop in Parish Council Nomination box. New members will be drawn on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th at the 11:30am Mass. Please consider serving the parish in this very important ministry.

The Results from the Gallup Survey taken at St. Thomas More in September 2018 were reviewed at a Town Hall Meeting on February 24, 2019. Monsignor Rice, Parish Staff, and forty-seven Parishioners discussed the Survey, and a list of Suggested Actions and Activities was created in response to five of the survey questions. This list is available on the counter in the Gathering Area this weekend. Please take a moment to review the list and see the ideas that were generated by your fellow parishioners at the Town Hall Meeting. These ideas are being considered by Parish Commissions & Committees to build the Parish of St. Thomas More!

If you have questions, please contact Lois Sokolowski at 248-647-2222, or George Seroka at 248 840-5476.
“HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING”  
by John Hannigan

I was thinking of the Easter Sunday attacks against Catholic Christians and other innocents in Sri Lanka as I read the Scriptures for this 3rd Sunday of Easter. The 19th century hymn by Baptist preacher Robert Lowry came to mind: “How Can I Keep from Singing.”

My life flows on in endless song;  
Above earth’s lamentation,  
I hear the sweet tho’ far-off hymn  
That hails a new creation.

The Resurrection is the ‘new creation.’ The Risen Christ promises hope and life that can seem far off when we lament tragedy and loss of life, when we worry about how our world can go so wrong. Yet...

Tho’ all the tumult and the strife  
I hear the music ringing;  
It finds an echo in my soul—  
How can I keep from singing?

Today the Apostles are ordered by the Sanhedrin not to proclaim the Resurrection and forgiveness. But Peter declares boldly, “We must obey God... We are witnesses” (Acts 5:29-32). Today we see the world deny Christ and reject the Father’s love. Yet...

No storm can shake my inmost calm  
While to that Rock I’m clinging;  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
How can I keep from singing?

Today we hear the Risen Lord, seated on His throne with power and glory, is worshiped by every creature in heaven and earth (Rev 5:11-14). In today’s Gospel, the disciples heed Jesus, cast nets into seemingly empty waters, and make a great catch. Today, Jesus shows how much He desires us to be reconciled with Him when three times He forgives Peter and commands him to feed His lambs and sheep. So...

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
A fountain ever springing;  
All things are mine since I am His—  
How can I keep from singing?

We are meant for joy. We are called to forgive; even terrorists. We are called to care for God’s flock, and the wolves among them. We are called to be bold witnesses for Christ among non-believers. We are called to cast our nets into a seemingly empty world and Unleash the Gospel. All because Christ is Risen!

How can I keep from singing?

Stewardship Reflection
Third Sunday of Easter

In today’s Gospel, we find the Apostles dejected and discouraged following the death of our Lord. Poor Peter decides to throw in the towel on the whole disciple thing and go back to his old way of life, declaring, “I’m going fishing.” Upon hearing this, the other disciples follow him.

How easy it is for all of us to backslide on changes we have made in our lives, especially when it comes to our spiritual lives. But look how Jesus treats the disciples during their “backslide.” He is right there with them in the midst of it, already waiting for them on the shore when they come back from their unsuccessful return to the fishing business (after abandoning their mission as disciples). Our Lord greets them tenderly, gives them some fishing pointers, and then prepares their breakfast. How gracious He is to them!

He is just as gracious today. When we find ourselves “out at sea” — discouraged by our failures or for squandering the gifts God has given us, or simply by a lack of progress in our faith life, Jesus is with us! He is calling to us from the shore to come back to Him without shame or embarrassment, but with hope-filled trust in His steadfast love. He never tires of offering “do-overs” if we just keep returning to Him.

This constant process of turning back to the Lord, of reevaluating our goals and priorities as we aim for Heaven, is the essence of a stewardship way of life. Let us take heart as we continue our journey today, secure in the knowledge that Jesus is beside us every step of the way.

Save the Date!

June 1, 2019 presentation on many aspects of Catholic funeral planning and Planned Giving to your Parish. This will be a Vicariate sponsored event. Please plan to attend after Saturday Mass for light dinner hospitality and a brief presentation with time for discussion with our funeral and planning experts.
Pathways to Peace continued from page 2

For example, ‘the first Joyful Mystery’ – The Annunciation – the moment when God’s Archangel, Gabriel, visited the young girl, Mary, and asked her to be the mother of Jesus...the mother of God! Consider what that experience must have been like for her...how did she react...how would you react? What does it say to us that God chose to cooperate with humans in His plan to save us from sin and death? What was it like for her family, friends...fiancé...to consider that she was a virgin...yet pregnant with God’s child?

There’s so much to consider with each mystery of the rosary...I discover new insights and wonder at God’s profound love for you and me, each time I pray the rosary. Mary’s prayers are heard by God...and so are the prayers offered to God in her name. When we pray the rosary – we fulfill the dying wish of Jesus as He hung upon the cross, “…behold your mother.” (John 19: 25-27)

Bring whatever burdens you carry in your heart, your mind and your soul. Bring the challenges you face with your health, your relationships...your doubts about God and religion. Bring whatever is dragging you down...and let it go. Let it go, throughout the month of May...and ask Jesus and Mary to carry it away. The weapon that God gives us to combat the challenges we face in life is Love. The beads of the rosary are Love’s ammo-belt.

Peace,
Deacon Chris

CSA Weekend

This weekend is CSA Weekend, which marks the beginning of our annual Catholic Services Appeal. The theme of the 2019 Catholic Services Appeal is Opening Doors to Witness Christ.

As we unleash the Gospel throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit, we witness Christ, and in turn, we open doors so others may also develop a deeper relationship with Him.

Your gift to the CSA helps fund more than 100 ministries, programs, and services that meet the spiritual and physical needs of parishes and countless people throughout the Archdiocese. No one parish or individual could provide all of these blessings alone.

The CSA is a pledge program, which allows you to spread your gift over several months. Please prayerfully consider the most generous gift possible to support the 2019 Catholic Services Appeal.

You may pledge a gift to your parish online at give.aod.org.

For information about the Catholic Services Appeal, please go to aod.org/csa.

Monthly Giving Report

April 2019 Offertory

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FISCAL YEAR TOTALS 2018-19

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Weekly Offertory Received

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<td>Electronic Contributors</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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