GOD NEVER FORGETS US

The entire month of June is dedicated by the Church to Jesus under the title of Sacred Heart. Devotion to the Sacred Heart can be traced back to the Middle Ages, but it was the visions of the nun, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, which popularized the devotion to God’s Son whose heart radiates with love and devotion for us. Devotions provide an opportunity for us to give expression to some of our unique religious feelings in a way that other religious rites, such as a carefully regulated liturgy, cannot. Devotions speak more a language of the heart than of the head. That’s good – and very human – and thus they have an important role to play in deepening and enriching our personal and spiritual life. The heart, of course, is the symbol of love. It’s with this in mind that we recall God’s love for us. A love that is so total that it never forgets we belong to Him.

Perhaps a story can help bring this home. I remember hearing the story of a young man named Joseph Levy, whose sole ambition from early age was to be immortalized in some way. He wanted his presence to continue beyond time. So, as a youngster, he carved his name on a tree in the woods and thought, “Now, everyone who goes by this tree will know the name of Joseph Levy”. His family moved away, and years later when he came for a visit, he discovered the tree had been chopped down. His name went with it.

He then decided to chisel his name into something more enduring, like rock. He found one perched on a cliff. But when he came back again years later, he discovered that the rain and wind weathered the letters away, and his name could hardly be deciphered.

In time, Joseph became a successful businessman and declared, “I will erect an imposing building and will call it “The Joseph Levy Building”. And so he did, but some years later, a fire burned the structure to the ground.

Discouraged and despairing of ever perpetuating his name, he began to share his means with worthy causes and needy people. One day he went to the ward of a children’s hospital and brought toys for the poor and sick children.

One little girl looked up with gratitude in her eyes and said, “Mr. Levy, I will never forget you”. He smiled and said, “Thank you, dear. That is sweet of you to say, but I’m afraid that after a while, you will.”

“Oh, no,” the child responded. “I will never forget you because you see, your name is written on my heart.”

Have a wonderful week. Let’s pray for one another.

Msgr. Tom Rice

PATHWAYS TO PEACE
BY DEACON CHRISTOPHER STARK

Recently, I learned of a sad incident involving the daughter of some dear friends of mine. Allie is a vulnerable young adult who was born with Downs Syndrome. Like every young adult woman, Allie likes to have friends, to be a part of a group, to like boys...you know...everyday life kinds of stuff.

Allie was coerced by a young adult man (whom she considered to be her friend) to take photographs of herself and send them to her ‘friend.’ Had Allie been 17, or younger when this incident occurred...it would have been considered a crime. However, because Allie is legally a young adult – albeit vulnerable – her involvement in this matter – by current Michigan law – was considered consensual, and not illegal.

I’m sharing this story with you, because I think almost everyone – at one time or another – has come to know the grace, beauty, and innocence of a vulnerable adult person. Whether the person has Downs Syndrome or some other qualifier – you have known that they display a level of trust and vulnerability that tugs at your heart and makes you want to watch out for them and protect them. When I first heard of what had occurred with Allie...my heart sank. You see, vulnerable persons do not want to be considered ‘vulnerable’ – and they don’t want anyone’s pity or sympathy. Vulnerable folks just want to belong...to be a part of a community. To be treated ‘like everyone else.’ Knowing this...predators will coerce and persuade vulnerable adults to do things... ‘otherwise,’ they are lead to believe that they won’t be a part of the ‘in-crowd.’ The manipulation is sickening.

So what can we do about this? In my view...this is not a political matter to be debated between the competing parties. It doesn’t matter which side of the aisle you identify with...it’s not a matter of money...it’s strictly a matter of having the right law in place in Lansing, so that predators will be deterred from this behavior – and if not, then a reasonable level of accountability will be applied for their crime.

House Bill 4076 (HB 4076)… “Justice for Allie” is working its way through the legislature in Lansing. This bill is designed to simply put into place the same protections for vulnerable adults in these types of matters, as we already have in place for protecting minors.

continues on page 9
Kacey Eaton and Ronald Skala—3rd

Please keep this couple in your prayers as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage.

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

Ascension of the Lord

In prayer we discover what we already have. You start where you are and you deepen what you already have, and you realize that you are already there. We already have everything, but we don’t know it and we don’t experience it. Everything has been given to us in Christ. All we need is to experience what we already possess. “The Art of Thomas Merton: A Divine Passion in Word and Vision.”
### Readings for the Week of June 2, 2019

**Sunday**  
The Ascension of the Lord  
Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23; Lk 24:46-53 or  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Acts 7:55-60; Ps 97:1-2, 6-7, 9; Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20; Jn 17:20-26  

**Monday**  
Memorial of Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs  
Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33  

**Tuesday**  
Memorial of Saint Boniface, Bishop and Martyr  
Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19  

**Wednesday**  
Saint Norbert, Bishop  
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Jn 17:20-26  

**Thursday**  
Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a  

**Friday**  
Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19  

**Saturday**  

| MINISTERS FOR MASS—PENTECOST SUNDAY — JUNE 8 & 9 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| **MASS TIME**   | **4:30 PM Saturday** | **7:30 AM Sunday** | **9:30 AM Sunday** | **11:30 AM Sunday** |
| **CELEBRANT**   | Msgr. Tom Rice | Fr. Bob Spezia | Fr. Bob Spezia | Msgr. Tom Rice |
| **DEACON**      | Chris Stark | Chris Stark | Michael Stach | Michael Stach |
| **COMMENTATOR** | NEEDED | NEEDED | Dan Parente | Joan Reddy |
| **LECTOR**      | NEEDED | Jack Withrow | Ed Demerly | Keith Knauss |
| **SERVERS**     | Hannah Hern | Jim Schultz | Claire DePorre | Reagan Feld |
| **Sam Hern**    | Pat Schultz | Lucie Rosati | Anna Schultz | Keara Schultz |
| **USHERS**      | Carol Glowacki | John Gielniak | Norm Cicone | Zach Azzam |
| **Jim Hager**   | Dan Hayden | Jim Duhart | Frank Biondo | Frank Biondo |
| **Don McKay**   | Tom Hemak | Gerry Gostomski | Marv Olane | Marv Olane |
| **Cary Sheremet** | Mike Morrison | George Halter | Mark Parent | Mark Parent |
| **Ernesto Tuazon** | Frank Sikorski | Andy Olson | Richard Schmitz | Richard Schmitz |
| **Ron Wlosinski** | Ron Wlosinski | Jim Ward | Mike Tauscher | Mike Tauscher |
| **MATT INC.**   | Cathy Mitchell | Larry Jezierski | Melinda Prucha | Tom Calnen |
| **MASS COORD.** | Anne McAtee | Mary Jo Luyckx | Nancy White | Judith Parrott |
| **RECEPTIONIST** | Anne McAtee | Mary Jo Luyckx | Nancy White | Judith Parrott |

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**Eucharistic Ministers are needed for all Masses. Thank you for serving at St. Thomas More Parish**
Geraniums for Pentecost

In the Catholic Church red is the liturgical color for Pentecost, as depicted in Acts 2:33-36, red symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit as he descends upon the Apostles. We would like to have red flowers on the altar and in the gathering space again this year to enhance the worship environment and make visible the joy of the Holy Spirit. Please consider making a donation of geraniums. The pots can be any size, single geraniums to bigger pots—preferably in pots that can be planted. Please bring to church during the week before Saturday, June 8th or to Mass on Saturday and Sunday, June 8th & 9th. People will be present to assist in placing the plants. If you are available on THURSDAY, June 13th, join us at 6:00pm at the parish to plant the geraniums—your donation will be part of the summer landscaping! Many hands will make light work of planting the flowers in specific areas around the parish grounds. There will also be a light dinner (hot dogs & chips) served for volunteers. Hope you can join us for planting. Let the parish office know if you will attend so we have an approximate count for dinner. If inclement weather Thursday, June 13th we will plant on Tuesday, June 18th.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Weekday Masses
Tues, Wed, Thurs, 9a

♦ Monday, June 3
The MEN of STM, 7p

♦ Tuesday, June 4
First Tuesday Coffee, 9:30a

♦ Wednesday, June 5
Grief Support, 6:30p

♦ Thursday, June 6
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 10a
Evangelization Committee, 7p
SVdP Meeting, 7p

♦ Friday, June 7
Parish Offices Closed
Wedding Rehearsal, 5p

♦ Saturday, June 8
Wedding Ceremony, 1:30p

♦ Sunday, June 9
Coffee and Conversation after all Masses
Baptism Ceremony, 12:30p

First of the Month Collection June 1 & 2
Thank you for your generosity and support in helping those in need!

the men of
SAINT THOMAS MORE

Conversation with Catholic men...
Join the discussion!

Monday, June 3 @ 7:00pm
Church Conference Room
(Sacristy Hallway as you enter the Sanctuary)

FIRST TUESDAY COFFEE
JUNE 4
Join us in the Social Hall following the
9:00am Mass for coffee, treats, and
conversation with your fellow parishioners.

REMANDER
SUMMER OFFICE HOURS
During the summer months, the Parish and
Faith Formation office hours will be Monday
through Thursday from 9 am to 5 pm.

The STM Book Club selection for June is The Nazi Officer’s Wife by Edith Hahn Beer. This is a memoir of the author’s experience as a Jewish law student imprisoned by the Nazis. She takes the identity and lives as a gentle, even marrying a German Army officer. She survives the war and its aftermath to write the memoir a few years before she died in her nineties. Please join us Tuesday 6/18 at 10 AM in Room 2 for the discussion.
FAITH FORMATION

Congratulations to our newly confirmed students!
This is not the end, but rather the beginning to a more mature faith life. Our church community looks forward to your continued spiritual growth as we all work together in bringing others to Christ.

GOT LIFE QUESTIONS?
Ever stop and think, “There has to be more to life than chasing my ‘to do’ list.” Well, there is. Bring your questions, and discover how Jesus has a plan for each one of us individually that leads to the fullness of a life well lived. Or do you know someone not baptized or baptized in a different faith tradition, who is thirsting for what it means to become Catholic? Do you know someone already Catholic but has not yet received Confirmation and/or Communion? Call Josylin Mateus for more information at 248-647-4680 or email at josylin@stmoffice.com.

GOT FAITH?
We are planning for fall and are looking for catechists to share their faith with our young parishioners. Do you enjoy working with Preschool? Middle School students? Any age in-between? We would love to talk to you about the possibilities. Contact the Faith Formation Office. Resources, support and prayers are provided!

Faith Formation Registration
Our mailing for fall registration will go out early July. If your children were enrolled in the program this year, you will automatically receive this information. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Angela@stmoffice.com or 248-647-4680. We look forward to another faith filled year with the families.

Congratulations to our 2019 Graduates!
Please keep them in your prayers.

Katherine Banas from University of Michigan
Bachelor of Science Electrical Engineering, summa cum laude

Louis Craig from Bishop Foley Catholic High School will attend Xavier University

Veronica Kuzdowicz from Troy High School will attend Michigan State University

Evan Tondera from Troy High School will attend Arizona State University

Louis Craig from Bishop Foley Catholic High School will attend Xavier University

Veronica Kuzdowicz from Troy High School will attend Michigan State University

Evan Tondera from Troy High School will attend Arizona State University
St. Thomas More Blood Drive

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
to donate Blood on
**Wednesday, June 12**
12:00 – 6 pm in the Social Hall

*Together, we can save a life.....* Please volunteer to be a donor at the STM American Red Cross Blood Drive.

**To sign-up to be a Donor:**
- Visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code - stthomasmore or
- Sign up on the schedule at the Information Counter

*RapidPass* offers donors a way to complete the pre-reading and donation questions online from the comfort and privacy of your home or office the day of the blood drive, thus reducing the time spent at the blood drive by as much as 15 minutes.

**To complete the pre-reading online:**
- Please visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org):
- Go to the Light Blue Box on the left hand side that says *Access RapidPass*; click “Start Now “(you may have to scroll down a little bit to see the box)
- Get Started - Answer the questions
- Print the pass or email it to yourself

For more information, or if you have any questions, please call Chris Reynaert at 248-645-2663.

For more information about using the American Red Cross online sign-up process, please contact Bridget McCormick at 313-549-7017 or bridget.mccormick@redcross.org

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**Christian Service Stewardship**

**Do You Have a Few Hours?**

Do you have some extra hours on Monday morning that you could donate to help those in need? The St. Thomas More St. Vincent de Paul Organization is in need of someone to pick up donated food from Whole Foods on Maple Road and deliver to Lighthouse of Oakland County in Pontiac. If a few people would volunteer, this wouldn’t be an every week commitment.

St. Vincent de Paul is also looking for new members. The role of a member is to work with those in need that contact the organization for assistance. For more information on the role of a St. Vincent de Paul member, please contact Caroline Dunleavy at 248-641-5185.

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**Community Connection**

Morse Summer Nights 2019

Morse Elementary has again requested help with their Summer Nights Program. Summer Nights has three goals. The first goal is to give all Morse students access to a free lending library. The second goal is to provide food, both perishable and non-perishable, to students and their families. (The STM conference of St. Vincent dePaul provides the needed 90 gallons of milk per week and supplies bread products from Whole Foods and Panera.) The final goal of Summer Nights is to build community. Last year many of our parishioners volunteered for food prep and set-up. This year Morse has also asked for our help in food service set-up and clean up, activity set-up and clean up, and tending their garden. Summer Nights is every Wednesday beginning June 19th and continuing through August 21st. Each task requires only about two hours. Individuals, families, or students in need of community service are welcome to participate. To volunteer you must use Sign-Up Genius. Email Patty Orlowski at porlow@sbcglobal.net to have the link sent to you. Please consider volunteering one or two Wednesdays this summer. You won’t regret it!

Cookies and fruit are also needed for the Red Cross Blood Drive donors and working volunteers. Please bring donated cookies or fruit to the Parish Kitchen on Tuesday, June 11 or Wednesday, June 12. Thank you!

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**EVERY 20 SECONDS**

**SOMEONE NEEDS BLOOD**

**SPREAD THE WORD**

- Less than 5% of eligible adults donate blood for the entire southeastern Michigan population.
- Our community needs 1,000 blood donors every day to help the needs of sick or injured people. On average, only 500 people donate blood each day.
- One unit of blood can be separated into components and used to treat up to 4 patients.
- You can donate blood if you are healthy, 17 years of age or older and weigh at least 110 pounds.
- It takes 24 hours for your body to replace one pint of your blood.
Witnessing to the Gospel of Life: Part One
by John Hannigan

Reacting to several states enacting laws protecting the unborn from procured abortion, and others celebrating lifting all legal restrictions to abortion, last week a parishioner asked me, “How do I have a conversation about abortion without it becoming a shouting match?” This is a hard one that will take a couple weeks to cover properly. Passions run high and vitriol abounds. But since we are called to be loving witnesses to the Truth, we should be prepared to talk calmly and respectfully to others about abortion. Opportunities to do so will certainly find us these days.

There is a logical incontrovertible argument against abortion, even before appealing to Church teachings, teachings your interlocutors may not want to hear.
- From conception, the embryo is a human being.
- It is wrong to kill an innocent human being.
- Therefore, killing a human embryo (or fetus) by procuring an abortion is wrong.

Proponents of legalized abortion will raise objections. One of Thomas Aquinas’ very effective ways of engaging difficult discussions about truths was first to clearly understand opposing views before trying to respond. We can do this by asking respectful questions that seek to understand another’s concerns. We should ask them to clarify the problems they are trying to solve or prevent through abortion. We will find that proponents of abortion deflect from the core argument above to other issues like personhood, autonomy, justice and gender. These are important issues, relevant to human flourishing. People deserve respectful consideration of these concerns. Harsh rhetoric makes it difficult to discuss the real needs of pregnant women. Taking care to know what they are, we can then ask more deeply how these concerns can justify or be addressed by abortion. For example:
- Legal abortions allow safe health care for women. Yes, women need safe health care, including prenatal care. But, can you see that pregnancy is not a disease and that abortion is not health care for the baby?
- The woman has a right to control her own body. Yes, people have autonomy, the right to make informed decisions for themselves and to act in their own best interest. But can you see how the unborn baby, although inside and dependent on the mother’s body, is not the woman’s body?
- Poor women cannot provide for another a baby. Yes, poverty can be devastating. But can you see how abortion does not lift a woman from poverty?

Stewardship Reflection
The Ascension of the Lord

On this Feast of the Ascension, we celebrate Christ’s triumphant return to the Father after perfectly accomplishing His mission on earth. But we also can also view this Feast as a celebration of the “launch day” of our commissioning as Christ’s disciples.

Today’s Gospel draws our attention to the clear instructions that Jesus gave His disciples (and to us) just before ascending to the Father: “Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

Embracing a stewardship way of life, with its emphasis on the use of time, talent and treasure, helps us to live in such a way that our very lives speak as a witness of the Good News of the Gospel. While we take time to reflect and renew our commitments in these three areas annually as a parish family, it is of great benefit to take some time individually throughout the year to take stock of the commitments we have made — looking at both our strengths and our need for continued growth in each area.

On this Feast of our “launch day,” take some time to celebrate your victories as Christ’s disciples and renew your commitment to remain faithful to Him and the unique mission He has entrusted to you!

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.
Pathways to Peace continued from page 2

I am asking that you consider joining me in helping to make this bill to become a law, here in Michigan. Here’s how you can help: 1. Pray for this bill to be passed in the State House of Representatives and the State Senate. 2. Write to your State Senator and State Representative, and ask them to support this legislation. Below, find two links to websites that will help you to find your State Senator and State Representative.

http://senate.michigan.gov/fysbyaddress.html

Allie is a courageous, loving, sweetheart of a young woman. Please say an extra prayer for her well-being, and for the strength and fortitude her parents need as they lead the drive to move this legislation forward. Their incentive for pursuing this legislation is not about retribution...but as a deterrent to protect potential ‘future’ victims of this senseless criminal conduct on the part of predators.

Together, let’s flood Lansing with kind and considerate letters to our elected officials asking them to do the right thing. Please protect our vulnerable adults... Please support HB 4076!!!

Peace!
Deacon Chris

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CSA 2019 UPDATE

Goal—$200,000
Pledges - $104,038
Over (Under) Target—($95,962)
23% Response with 348 Contributors

Thank you to all who have made a pledge or donation. If you have not yet made your pledge, please drop off your CSA card in the Parish Office, in the offertory basket, or return it in the envelope provided. If we don’t make our target of $200,000, the shortage will come out of our working budget.

Thank you for your support!

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Please take care driving through the neighborhood when arriving for or leaving Mass. There has been concern voiced by neighbors that the traffic on Saturday evening and Sunday morning has been driving faster than the speed limit on Black Pine Tr. and Red Fox Tr. Speed limit on a residential street is 25 mph. Please observe this limit and keep everyone safe. Thank you

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May 20, 2019

Dear Members of St. Thomas More, and Carole and Jerry Sugrue,

On behalf of Crossroads’ mission and the wonderful people we serve, I am writing to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude for sponsoring the Sunday, April 7th Crossroads Soup Kitchen Meal. You were great partners with us in feeding the hungry. Graciously you purchased, prepared, and served a delicious, nutritious meal in a clean, safe, welcoming environment for all who came hungry and in need of help, and you engaged many volunteers in this important work!

Your meal was delicious and the special dessert was marvelous. You brought hard-working volunteers. The teams worked diligently and got the tasks done. The size of the teams really helped to make for a beautiful day. Our guests felt welcome and respected and they were well nourished.

We are so very grateful. Your presence, service, and meal were a blessing for the hungry and destitute people who came to Crossroads. The number of meals served was 614, counting everyone who came during the serving and after 3:00 PM until the staff departed.

For me it was a gift and a blessing to work with you.

The wonderful people we serve needed you on April 7th, and you came through for them mightily. We do hope and pray that you will be able to come back again next year!

Gratefully,
Elizabeth Walters, IHM (Sister Liz)
For Crossroads
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
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
dcnmichael@stmoffice.com

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

Eva Ashor, Bookkeeper
248-647-2222 x. 3333
bookkeeper@stmoffice.com

FAITH FORMATION
Josylin Mateus, Director
248-647-4680
josylin@stmoffice.com

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

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

Patrick O’Brien, Youth Minister
pobrien@catholiccentral.net

COUNSELING AND SUPPORT
Andrea Harral, Therapist
Home Office 248-601-4315

SOCIAL MEDIA
Debbie Knauss, Website and Facebook
stmwebsite@stmoffice.com

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