“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

Luke 10:27
Resolve to make it a Summer of Gratitude

“Thank you” - two popular words we use to show our gratitude. The reason is simple: to say “thank you” is to acknowledge need for the help, for the courtesy, for the love of another.

St. Paul says gratitude is a form of reverence, a virtue. “Give thanks to God the Father always and for everything,” so Paul advised the Christians of Ephesus. “Defer to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Eph 5:20-21).

Summer is a great time of the year to practice giving thanks. An email, note, or phone call can say thanks, along with our prayers for those special people in our lives. Summer may also be the right time to practice thanking people who have been of service in some way. The pleasant sales person, the ever-cheerful bank attendant who knows your name, the energetic young men and women who wait on tables—to name a few. A quiet prayer offered for them can do more good than we can ever imagine.

But a little closer to home there are others who deserve our thanks; a parent, spouse, brother or sister, friend or neighbor. How about the co-worker who’s patiently listened to our woes more than we might like to admit?

Than there is Someone else so often forgotten: God. The Lord who gives us every breath we take...the gift of other people we love in our lives...the grace of sharing His own life.

“Present your needs to God in every form of prayer,” St. Paul advises, “and in petitions full of gratitude. Then God’s own peace, which is beyond all understanding will stand guard over your hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus.”

Good advice for any season, but especially good to ponder in summer when God’s gifts overflow in our lives.

So this summer season, take a moment, a grace-full, grate-full moment and remember others in your prayers and deeds.

Please find a place for me in your prayers.

Msgr. Tom Rice

“Homeward Bound.” You may be thinking... “What is it with this guy, and his ‘thing’ for titles?” It’s true, you know; before I came to STM – I had never written a weekly bulletin article, ever...anywhere. So, it seemed appropriate that my first attempt at a shared message from me to you would be something to the effect that, ‘we’re all in this thing, together.’ Which is why, my first title was, “Pilgrims on a Journey.” Together, we have been on a journey – a journey of growth. We’ve been growing in our knowledge and expressions of faith, growing in our experiences of God and worship of Him...and we’ve been growing together in a more profound relationship as friends, and as a parish community.

In addition to our growth as a people of God...we’ve also been challenged to withstand some extraordinary events here at STM, as well. Together, we’ve learned to navigate the unfamiliar landscape of new leadership; many staff changes, and new ways of doing things...everything around here has been new, new, new... For each one of us, and as a community – change is often very difficult. Getting used to all of that’s occurred here can take a toll on a person...and a community. With faith in God, trusting in our Pastor, Msgr. Rice, and in collaboration with one another; together we’ve charted a new course for the STM community. As a result, it seemed fitting to me, then, to adjust the title of my articles to more accurately reflect all that we have been experiencing. We’ve all been so busy casting aside those obstructions that have been keeping us apart from a more meaningful relationship with God and one another...“clearing a path,” if you will – that the title “Pathways to Peace” seemed to neatly capture our collective efforts and experiences.

If you’re one of my regular readers to these articles...you’ve come to know me on a more personal level – and you’ve discovered that my favorite word in the English language is ‘peace.’ Peace. Reading the word...saying the word out-loud...reflecting on its meaning... I love the sound of it, and all that it represents... Peace. Peace is what this pilgrimage that we call life is really all about. Finding peace often requires a journey – spiritual, emotional, and even physical in order to discover whatever – it – is, and represents to an individual.
Readings for the Week of July 14, 2019

Sunday Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Dt 30:10-14; Ps 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37 or Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Col 1:15-20; Lk 10:25-37

Monday Memorial of Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Ex 1:8-14, 22; Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8; Mt 10:34—11:1

Tuesday Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Ex 2:1-15a; Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Camillus de Lellis, Priest
Ex 3:1-6, 9-12; Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7; Mt 11:25-27

Thursday Saint Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr
Ex 12:37-42; Ps 136:1 and 23, 10-12, 13-15; Mt 12:14-21

Sunday Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gn 18:1-10a; Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 5; Col 1:24-28; Lk 10:38-42
Questions about Funerals

Are Catholics allowed to be cremated?
The Church still recommends, and prefers, the pious custom of burying the bodies of the Faithful, out of respect for the body that has given evidence of God’s spirit enlivening our souls which are destined to be raised on the great Day of Resurrection. Nonetheless, the Church allows cremation as long as it is not an intentional denial of the Church’s teaching regarding the Resurrection of the body. Note, however, The Order of Christian Funerals is arranged such that cremation of the deceased takes place after the funeral liturgy and not before it. However, when this is not possible, the cremated remains are permitted to be present for the Funeral Liturgy, either the Mass or outside of Mass.

What Scripture readings are allowed?
There are at least fifty-five various readings of Scriptures that the Church has specifically chosen for funerals. When you meet in your parish church to plan the funeral rites, they will be shared with you at that time or you can request the Scripture readings from the parish in advance of the meeting. Non-Scripture readings are not permitted.

Who can read the readings at the Funeral Mass?
Non-Catholics are not allowed to read the Scripture readings at Mass but may do so at the other rites in the OCF. All readers must be well prepared for the proclamation and believe in what they are proclaiming, engaging the gathered assembly through their eye contact, tone, rhythm and pace of the reading.

(Source: Directives for Catholic Funeral: Questions & Answers – aod.org)

MINISTERS FOR MASS—SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—JULY 20 & 21

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<th>7:30 AM Sunday</th>
<th>9:30 AM Sunday</th>
<th>11:30 AM Sunday</th>
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<td>CELEBRANT</td>
<td>Msgr. Tom Rice</td>
<td>Fr. James Grau</td>
<td>Msgr. Tom Rice</td>
<td>Fr. Thanh Nguyen</td>
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<td>Chris Stark</td>
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<td>Chris Mann</td>
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<td>Joan Reddy</td>
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<td>Maria Manzor</td>
<td>Jim Schultz</td>
<td>Keith Knauss</td>
<td>Dan Parente</td>
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<td>Alessandra Lee</td>
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<td>Norm Cicone</td>
<td>Zach Azzam</td>
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<td>Cary Sheremet</td>
<td>Mike Morrison</td>
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<td>Frank Sikorski</td>
<td>Andy Olson</td>
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<td>Jim Ward</td>
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<td>Greg Wise</td>
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<td>Larry Jezierski</td>
<td>Melinda Prucha</td>
<td>Tom Calnen</td>
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<td>RECEPTIONIST</td>
<td>Joy Callaway</td>
<td>Arlene Marcy</td>
<td>Barb Stevens</td>
<td>Joanne Brown</td>
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</table>
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN OUR PARISH

THE WEEK AHEAD

Weekday Masses
Tues, Wed, Thurs, 9a
Rosary before Mass

♦ Monday, July 15
The MEN of STM, 7p

♦ Tuesday, July 16
STM Book Club, 10a
Contemporary Music Rehearsal, 6p
Theology of the Body, 7p

♦ Wednesday, July 17
Intercessory Prayer Service, 7p

♦ Sunday, July 21
Coffee and Conversation after all Masses

Conversation with Catholic men…
Join the discussion!
Monday, July 15 @ 7:00pm
Church Conference Room
(Sacristy Hallway as you enter the Sanctuary)

The STM Book Club selection for July is, The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town by John Grisham. This is Grisham’s only non-fiction book. As the title indicates, it is the story of murder, trial, imprisonment, and exoneration in 1980s Oklahoma.
Please join us Tuesday, 7/16 at 10 AM in Room 2 for the discussion.

GRIEVING WITH GREAT HOPE
Due to a lack of response, the Grief Support Group scheduled over the summer has been canceled.

LOVE TO PLAY EUCHRE??
LOVE TO WIN MONEY??
JOIN US ON FRIDAY JULY 26
AT 7:00 P.M. IN ROOM 2
TO PLAY EUCHRE WITH YOUR
FELLOW PARISHIONERS
RSVP to stmhospitality@gmail.com
$5.00 to play
BEGINNERS WELCOME!!

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$5.00 to play
BEGINNERS WELCOME!!

2nd Annual Ladies Night Out
Summer Luau Party
Wednesday, July 24
6:30-8:30 PM
STM Women’s Ministry invites you to join us on the patio for an evening of fun, food, and drink with a tropical theme. If you had fun last year, come again and bring a friend. If you didn’t come last year, don’t miss out! There is no charge for this event, but a free will offering is appreciated to help fund future events.
RSVP forms are available in the Gathering Area on the Information Counter or email angela@stmoffice.com.

ChristLife™
IS COMING BACK TO STM!

See page 7 for more information
Did you know that there are two Creation Stories in the Bible? In the first story John Paul II (JPII) teaches that God did not create us as generic human beings, but as male and female and that our very embodiment reveals something significant about us, and thus about God.

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth...God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. (Genesis 1:1a; 2:7-28a)

The human body reveals that a male body has a unique capacity for union with the female body, and the female body with the male body in which new life can come from. The Spousal Meaning of the Body is a call to self-giving love that establishes a “communion of persons,” which a “third person” can come from. What does this sound like? The Trinity! The Catholic Church teaches the love between God, the Father and God, the Son “begets” the Holy Spirit.

The second Creation Story is found in Genesis 2. God created Adam and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for the earth and said “it is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him.” God presented Adam with all the animals to be named. Adam realized that none were like him. When God presented Eve to Adam, he knew that “this one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called ‘woman.’” (Genesis 2:23) Adam cries out in a hymn of joy, happy to encounter the body of another person—a body like his own, yet wonderfully different. Eve shares his human nature, yet it is embodied in a different way.

JPII’s teaching also emphasizes the fact that humans are created with a body and a soul (Genesis 2:7) and in their sexual union they express exteriorly what is true in their minds and hearts; they make visible what is invisible (their love for each other). This makes me recall St. Augustine’s definition of a Sacrament: an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace (God’s love for us).
Homeward Bound continued from page 2

“So, Deacon Chris...what’s with the new title? Why *Homeward Bound*?” Well…it’s really more of a statement, than it is a title. I am homeward bound. I have asked for a new diaconate assignment to go and serve at Guardian Angels Catholic Church, in my hometown of Clawson. Guardian Angels (GA) is where I was baptized and confirmed...it’s a parish that my grandparents literally helped to build. GA is the parish that I brought my bride home to, when we were first married...and it’s where we had our first baby baptized. It’s also where I said my final good-byes – until we meet again – to my parents, to two of my siblings...and to many other family members and friends over the years. You see, the roots run deep between GA and me. GA is a part of my DNA. So...in a very real sense - I’m going home.

My last weekend here at St Thomas More, will be the Saturday and Sunday of August 24th/25th.

I have loved being your deacon. I love STM...Msgr. Rice, the team, and I love you. It has been my honor to serve here. I hope you will see that this was not an easy decision for me to make, and that I am forever grateful to God for you, and the ministry that we have accomplished here...together. You have been, and will always remain in my prayers and within my fondest memories. God bless you, friends!

*

St Thomas More – Pray for us! Holy Mary, Mother of God – Pray for us! +Peace

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June 2019 Monthly Giving Report

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FISCAL YEAR TOTALS 2018-19

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Weekly Offertory Received

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Envelopes Issued 1365  Electronic Contributors 57

(*June 30, applied to July 2019)

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**Scam Alert**

If you have received an email that seems to be sent from Monsignor Rice, please ignore and delete. This scam has been happening to parishes nationwide. We are not sure how the scammers received your email address, but they are sending emails in pastor’s names requesting iTune or Google gift cards. This is NOT a request from Monsignor Rice – it is a scam.

Here is a link to the article https://detroitcatholic.com/news/catholic-news-service/scammers-in-emails-posing-as-pastors-ask-faithful-to-buy-them-gift-cards and if you know anyone that has purchased the cards, here is the link to the Federal Trade Commission to report the purchase of cards and possibly retrieve your funds. If you have any questions, please contact Lois Sokolowski in the parish office.
Listening to the Sublime
by John Hannigan

After 29 years in Michigan, Mary Ann and I finally vacationed in the UP. We enjoyed driving through long stretches of forest, farms and marshes. We took a Pictured Rocks boat tour on a perfect day and gawked at the form, color and majesty of the high cliffs. Late one night on a secluded beach on Lake Superior we hoped to see the Milky Way, but twilight hung on and clouds blocked the view. On the way though, a large owl swooped and a small fawn skipped across our path. It was all very beautiful.

We also visited Tahquamenon Falls. From a distance we could hear the rush of the Upper Falls. Our first view of them from the hillside above was framed through cedar and the hemlock with a sharp blue sky above and the glittering river beyond. Climbing down to the Upper Falls, we passed dozens of chatting teens on camp outings and tourists speaking French or German.

On the viewing platform right at the brink of the Upper Falls, I felt we ought to be silent. It was not that the roar of the brown and russet and golden cascade drowned out voices. The kids nearby still laughed and jockeyed for selfies. It was the beauty of the falls that led me into silence. We gazed and wondered, communing with God’s creation. It was sublime.

Later I remembered an essay by C.S. Lewis titled “Men without Chests” in his The Abolition of Man, one of my very favorite books. Lewis comments on a poet’s reaction to waterfalls in Scotland. A true poet knows falls are sublime, not just pretty. Our response to natural beauty in our hearts, deep in our chests, is not mere sentimentality. Lewis wrote that “the feelings which make a man call an object sublime are ... feelings of veneration.” In the presence of the reality of God’s creation we feel humble. In beauty we see the Truth within creation. I think our encounter with something sublime is what inspired our silence at beautiful Tahquamenon Falls. It was reverence.

Contact me at unleashSTM@gmail.com to comment or to learn more about Evangelization at STM.

Stewardship Reflection
Summer Prayer

As we enjoy the summer warmth and time with family and friends, don’t forget about prayer. Prayer time can be in the morning, evening, driving in your car, or any time during the day when you have a few minutes to say, ‘Thank you Lord’. An even better idea is to join our faithful STM prayer group on Wed. evening July 17th at 7:00PM outside in the garden area. As we listen to birds and gather to pray, we know God is with us.

If you haven’t attended a monthly intercessory prayer service, please make time to join us one evening. You will not be disappointed. The evening starts with an opening prayer then a shorty gospel reading with reflection sharing by all. We then move into our prayer requests. This is a chance for you to share your deepest prayer requests as we all pray with you to ask the Holy Spirit to answer your prayer. After everyone has had a chance to share their individual prayer requests, we pray for the intentions of others. A spirit filled closing prayer ends the service. You will leave with a warm blessed feeling that God has heard you and is working on all prayer requests.

Diane Claeys, Stewardship Commission
claeysdl@aol.com

Catechesis
Vacation Bible schools allow children to have fun while growing spiritually.

Through the archdiocesan Department of Evangelization, Catechesis and Schools, your gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal support the work of catechists, who plan vacation Bible schools in parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit. These faith-filled weeks during the summer help children encounter Christ in a relaxing way. Dedicated catechists also teach the Catholic faith in parishes and Catholic schools. Their mission includes helping others to reflect on their faith and understand its purpose in today’s secularized world.

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

ST. THOMAS MORE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
August 5-9th 9:00 A.M. to Noon
See page 6, Faith Formation
Aquinas College Open House
Friday, July 19
Aquinas College invites any high school students interested in getting the inside scoop on academics, athletics, scholarships, service learning, study abroad and more! Our next AQDay is Friday, July 19th from 8:45 AM to 12:30 PM
Details/registration can be found at aquinas.edu/aqday.

Married Couples Weekend Retreat
July 26 - 28
Manresa Jesuit Retreat House
1390 Quarton Road
Bloomfield Hills 48304
Join retreat director Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ on this silent weekend retreat for traditionally married couples under the patronage of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Couples will enjoy the conference talks, prayer, reflection and quiet walks amid the beauty and serenity of Manresa’s 39 acres. The retreat begins with dinner on Friday, July 26 and ends with lunch Sunday, July 28.
Register @ www.manresa-sj.org/072619-mc or call 248-644-4933 Ext. 0

Catholic Biblical School of Michigan
Ever wonder about the Biblical roots of the Catholic faith? Looking for in-depth, live teaching on the entire Bible?
Join “Created for Covenant,” a Catholic Biblical School of Michigan (CBSM) class starting this September in St. Clair Shores, Grosse Pointe Park, Novi, or online. Through donations, CBSM classes are accessible to all with 100% of requests for financial assistance met.
Find out more by attending an Information Night on:
• Tuesday, July 16, 7:15 pm at St. Clare of Montefalco in Grosse Pointe Park
• Wednesday, July 22, 8:30 pm via video conference at inspireddiscipleship.org/meet
• Tuesday, July 30, 7 pm at Church of the Holy Family in Novi
Contact: cbsmich.org | info@cbsmich.org | 586-438-3085

Detroit Catholic Young Adult
Summer in Detroit Series
Young adults are invited to downtown Detroit for a four-week series inspired by beauty, goodness and truth. Each weekly event will focus on one facet of our Catholic faith and offer time for formation and fellowship. Visit facebook.com/groups/aodyoungadult/ for more information.

Service
Wednesday, July 17 | 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | St. Aloysius | 1234 Washington Boulevard
Experienced service leaders will help participants in two service opportunities: bringing sandwiches, snacks and water to the homeless and poor around downtown Detroit or praying and speaking, in small groups, with anyone in downtown who needs prayers or has questions about God.

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"No greater love has a man than to lay down his life for his friends.” —JOHN 15:13
SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2019, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Pray Graveside / Clean Headstones / Bring Flowers
Refreshments will be served
Join our faith community as we honor our beloved deceased by cleaning headstones of hundreds of priests, deacons, and religious sisters who have given their life in service to the Lord.
St. John Vianney T-Shirt for all participants
(must RSVP to receive T-Shirt)
Holy Sepulchre Catholic Cemetery
Our Lady of Hope Catholic Cemetery
For more information: 313-447-0314
### 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
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dcnmichael@stmoffice.com

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Brian Foos, *Director*
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bjfoos@gmail.com

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lois@stmoffice.com

Kathy Strong, *Parish Secretary/Bulletin*
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Angela Seba, *Secretary*
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angela@stmoffice.com

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

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

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Debbie Knauss, Website and Facebook
stmwebsite@stmoffice.com

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248-647-2222 x. 4422