Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions.”

Luke 12:15
A Note From Our Pastor

CSA REPORT AND REQUEST

We are now entering into the 4th month of the annual Catholic Services Appeal (CSA). As of this writing we have raised by pledges/donations $168,528 toward our goal of $200,000. I want to thank all the parishioners who have contributed to CSA 2019. Your generosity is outstanding!

Recently, a second letter of request was sent to those parishioners who have not yet responded. And a third letter will be sent out in mid-August if necessary. Please join your fellow parishioners so our parish can reach its goal.

This year’s CSA theme is “Opening Doors to Witness Christ”. Archbishop Vigneron wrote in his pastoral letter, “We need to ensure that in ministering to the material needs of others we are also responding to their spiritual thirst for God. Every Catholic charitable work must also be an authentic expression of Catholic faith”.

The Archbishop, for the past three years, has asked the people of the archdiocese to “Encounter Christ” by “Unleashing the Gospel”. The CSA Campaign, in that same spirit, allows the larger Church of the archdiocese to minister to the needs of the parishes and people in ways that no individual parish could have the resources or the funding to do.

In the parable of the sower, Jesus teaches his disciples that the seed planted in rich soil is the one who hears the Word of God and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred sixty or thirtyfold (Mt 13:23). As we unleash the gospel throughout the archdiocese, we grow in love for Jesus as missionary disciples. That is why the theme for the CSA is “Witness Christ” and “to open doors” so that others would encounter the risen Lord in their lives.

Our support of the CSA gives each of us the opportunity to combine charitable work with our Catholic faith. The archbishop is asking us to seriously participate in supporting the many programs, ministries, and services throughout the archdiocese that “open doors” to Jesus Christ. The CSA funds programs that touches the spiritual needs of the people of southeast Michigan and beyond.

The CSA unites us as one people, as faithful stewards over God’s many gifts that will allow the Church to accomplish its mission and ministry.

Because of the CSA and all of the good it accomplishes, we grow with Jesus to become what Pope Francis calls, “joyful missionary disciples”.

“Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, as to win the life that is true life” (Timothy 6:18-19). As Christ’s disciples we have a spiritual obligation to be faithful stewards of God’s blessings, especially to bless others in mercy and love.

If you have not yet responded, I would ask you to pray and consider supporting our CSA Campaign. We are depending on you.

Enjoy a beautiful summer week and let’s remember each other in prayer.

Msgr. Tom Rice

CSA 2019 UPDATE

Goal—$200,000
Pledges - $168,528
Over (Under) Target—($31,472)
39% Response with 586 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!
Please keep this couple in your prayers as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

- Rosanne Bishop
- Duncan Brodie
- Chris Crocker
- Baby Jude Dulong
- Tim Jaeger
- Joe Mack
- Julia Miesiak
- Cynthia Nicolay
- Carol Simmons
- Richard Suminski
- Diane Thomas
- Kathleen Vuylsteke
- Helen Walczak

**PRAY FOR THE DECEASED**

- † Msgr. Ricardo Erwin Bass
- † Hayley Hagedorn—daughter of Bob and Christine Hagedorn
- † Earl Knauss—father of Keith Knauss
- † Sr. Joan Rice—cousin of Msgr. Tom Rice

**Banns of Marriage**

Erynn Stier and Jeffrey Brown—1st

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

**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.
Questions about Funerals

Can we plan our funeral arrangements months or years in advance?

Individuals are certainly encouraged to plan their funeral, just as they make arrangements for a will, and for the financial means to pay for their funeral. This relieves some pressure from the family during the emotional grieving process immediately after death. It also clarifies for the remaining family members or representative your wishes, e.g., the Funeral Mass, place of burial, music, readings, pall bearers, etc. Once these specifics for the funeral liturgy are known, the family then is left with arranging for the day of the funeral with the local parish church, funeral home and cemetery.

What is the difference between a Funeral Mass and a Memorial Mass?

A Funeral Mass has the body of the deceased or the cremated remains of the deceased present and has all the special prayers attributed to that Mass. When the body or the cremated remains are not present it is called a Memorial Mass.

Are Funeral Masses allowed in funeral homes?

Funeral Masses are not allowed in funeral homes. The Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass, as provided in the Order of Christian Funerals, is allowed in the funeral home.

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

MINISTERS FOR MASS—NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—AUGUST 10 & 11

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<th>MASS TIME</th>
<th>4:30 PM Saturday</th>
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<td>Joan Reddy</td>
<td>Cindy Hansen</td>
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<td>Pat Schultzs</td>
<td>Barbara Lepri</td>
<td>Chris Mann</td>
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<td>Randy Skala</td>
<td>Claire DePorre</td>
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<td>John Gielniak</td>
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<td>Larry Jeziorski</td>
<td>Melinda Prucha</td>
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<tr>
<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
Rosary before Mass

- **Monday, August 5**
  Vacation Bible School Week
  The MEN of STM, 7p

- **Tuesday, August 6**
  Contemporary Music Rehearsal, 6p

- **Sunday, August 11**
  Coffee and Conversation after all Masses
  Baptism, 12:30p

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What's Happening In Our Parish

**FIRST TUESDAY COFFEE**

Due to VBS the first week of August, the First Tuesday Coffee will be on August 13th

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

**First of the Month Collection August 3 & 4**

Thank you for your generosity and support in helping those in need!

After all Sunday Masses

Stop in the Social Hall and enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation with your fellow parishioners.

(Free will donations are greatly appreciated!)

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The STM Book Club selection for August is *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict. This novel fills out the story of Albert Einstein's wife, Mileva, a physicist in her own right, who may have collaborated in formulating the theory of special relativity.

Please join us Tuesday, 8/20 at 10 AM in Room 2 for the discussion.

**ST. THOMAS MORE VACATION BIBLE CAMP**

Once again, we will be collecting new school supplies during Bible Camp to donate to Morse Elementary School in Troy. Items needed are:

- Pocket Folders
- Pens
- Paper
- Markers
- Pencils
- Composition Books
- Crayons
- Rulers
- Boxes of Tissues...

And, especially, **backpacks**

Please help by dropping off supplies in the Social Hall from August 1 to August 11

**THANK YOU!!**

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**SAVE THE DATE**

Deacon Chris Stark's Farewell Reception
August 25th after the 9:30 a.m. Mass in the Social Hall
Please stop in and wish him well!
**FAITH FORMATION**

**2019-2020 Faith Formation Registration NOW OPEN**

We are excited to announce we are accepting online registration this year until August 30th. Classes offered are pre-k through 8th grade and high school youth group. Please visit our website [https://stthomasmoretroy.org/](https://stthomasmoretroy.org/) to register online. Also traditional registration forms were sent to families who attended faith formation last year. Additional forms are available online and in the Faith Formation office. New and current families are welcome to register. Walk in registration is available in the Faith Formation Office during the summer (Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm).

Also we always need Catechist, Co-Catechists and Assistant Catechist at every grade level. We provide you with the lesson plans and materials.

**Faith Formation Program Options:**

- **Pre K** (ages 3-6): Sunday 9:30-10:30 am
- **Grades 1-5:** Sunday 8:15-9:15 am or 10:15-11:15 am
- New this year, **Grades 1st-3rd** on Mondays from 4:30-5:30 pm.
- **Grades 6-8:** Sunday 7:00-8:15 pm
- **High School Youth Group:** Sunday 7:00-8:15 pm

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Angela by calling the Faith Formation office at 248-647-4680 or email angela@stmoffice.com.

**Please join us for our upcoming Event**

**Summer Women’s Ministry Breakfast Social**

Saturday, August 17 2019 at 8:30 AM
Kerby’s Koney Island
5407 Crooks Rd, Troy

This is open to all women who want to have a connection this summer. You are welcome to join us at the last minute but it would help with planning if you could RSVP.

If you are planning on attending please contact our event organizer, Laura Gabriel at z1080zee@yahoo.com.

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**Ask. Seek. Knock.**

**Discovering Christ** sessions runs six Tuesday nights beginning August 13th plus a “Retreat Day,” Saturday, September 7th. Come share a meal, offer praise in song and prayer, watch brief DVD teachings, join in small-group discussions, and ask questions. Come to **Unleash the Gospel** in your life. Come for the community.

The Retreat Day focuses on the Holy Spirit in our lives and includes an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and more.

There is no charge for the **Discovering Christ** program. To register, contact Faith Formation at 248-647-4680 or write [evangelization@stmoffice.com](mailto:evangelization@stmoffice.com)

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If you did **Discovering Christ**, before, you can come again and come to help. Also invite others.

**Following Christ**, next in the ChristLife series, will be begin in November.
In our Diocese

Catholic Night at Comerica Park
September 10

Come join us for a relaxing night of faith, fun and fellowship at the ballpark! The Archdiocese of Detroit is hosting a Catholic Night at Comerica Park and all are welcome.

On Tuesday, September 10th, the Tigers will take on the Yankees at 6:45pm and we'd love to see you there.

All parishes and parishioners in the archdiocese and beyond are invited for a night of fun and fellowship.

Each ticket purchased includes a donation to Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan and also a limited-edition Detroit Tigers + Unleash the Gospel hat.

Don't miss this great event, get your tickets today at mlb.com/tigers/tickets/specials/catholic-night.

New — or newer — youth ministers interested in receiving more information about youth ministry resources and programming will gather for a Youth Ministry Orientation at Sacred Heart Major Seminary on Saturday, August 17.

The Youth Ministry Office will provide an overview of its suggested materials for evangelizing and accompanying teens, tips for starting youth ministry programming, and a summary of essential youth ministry documents.

Your CSA gifts help fund the work of the Youth Ministry Office, allowing it to offer events like these at a very low cost to parishes. The Youth Ministry Orientation is $20 and includes breakfast and lunch for attendees. Registration is required by August 9.

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

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today’s Gospel passage comes as a pat on the back from Heaven for all of us striving to live a stewardship way of life. It reminds us why we live the way we do and why we make the choices we make. Let’s face it, if we truly embrace this way of life, there will be people who find our choices — based on serving God and others — downright foolish. But let’s see what God thinks. Spoiler alert: turns out Christian stewards are not the fools!

In this passage, Jesus makes it clear that life is not about “stuff” as he tells the parable of the wealthy businessman who thought he had everything figured out. The man had such an abundance of stuff that he didn’t have room to store it all. So, thinking of earthly things and not on what is above, he decided to build a bigger place to store all that stuff. Patting himself on the back, he thought about what good times he would have in the years ahead. But, Jesus tells us that day would turn out to be the man’s last day on the earth. And he had spent it thinking only of himself. How foolish!

Don’t be ashamed of living differently from the people around you. Be confident as you set priorities based on what is above. You are wise in God’s eyes, Christian steward. And you will be rich in what matters most.

**Stewardship Prayer**

Loving God, You alone are the source of every good gift. We praise you and thank you for the gift of life and the redeeming love of your son, Jesus Christ.

You invite us by our baptism, to be stewards of your abundance. Help us to open our hearts in gratitude, so that we may open our hands in love and service to your Kingdom.

Please send your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously.

Lord, the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—model for us the perfect example of sacrificial love. May we imitate them so that our lives bring glory to You and advance Your Kingdom here on earth.

We pray this with grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God both now and forever. Amen.

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**Bishop Barron’s Letter to a Suffering Church**

by John Hannigan

Imagine you are diagnosed with a terminal illness. Your physician prescribes a medicine that cures you. But you later learn the physician committed heinous crimes against innocent people. You’re outraged and cry for justice. But would it make sense if, because of the physician’s crimes, you stopped taking the medicine?

By analogy, this is what some Catholics are doing in turning away from the Church because of sexual abuse by clergy and cover-up by bishops. What the Church has is not changed by the wickedness of a few men any more than a physician’s crime poisons a powerful medicine. As we would stay in treatment to be healed, so should we stay in the Church and fight for holiness.

Bishop Robert Barron of Los Angeles reminds us of this in his powerful *Letter to a Suffering Church*. This very short book is not from the Vatican or the USCCB. It is Barron’s own apology to the victims, his reflection on the horror of the scandal and wickedness of religious leaders, his synopsis of all the Church has to offer us, and his proposal for how we ought to move forward. He tells concisely how sinful clerics cooperated in a “devil’s masterpiece” to lead God’s people astray and compromise our “unleashing the power of the gospel.” Barron draws “light from scripture” to show that when religious leaders fall into infidelity the people become strengthened in the aftermath of the “purging.” He pulls from Church history the vivid truth that we have been here before, not to excuse but to offer hope for renewal.

Bishop Barron gives reasons to stay but notes there are no good reasons to leave the Church. He elaborates treasures found nowhere else. The Church “speaks of God” who is the transcendent Mystery, is the Mystical Body of Christ who is the Way and the Truth, is made holy by the Holy Spirit, the power and love of God who vitalizes us, has the Sacraments that give life, healing and order, and has the Saints, who set for us an example of true friendship with Jesus.

Bishop Barron calls us not just to stay and pray, but to fight and demand continuing faithful institutional reform, reinvigoration of the priesthood, and full legal episcopal accountability. He writes that we should expect sound reformers to arise, as they have in the past, men and women who will help us grow in holiness, form holier families, and build holier parishes. Out of such families and parishes, holier priests will come.

Reach me at unleashSTM@gmail.com to comment and to learn more about Evangelization at STM.

---

**Evangelization**

**Unleash the Gospel**

**Stewardship**

**Time, Talent and Treasure**
Puzzle Fun!

Noah’s Ark

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Find your way to Jesus!

Start

Finish

NAHO
FOLDO
WOT
KAR
RIAN
REZBA
GATO
ONWAIRB

SundayKidz

SUMMER

Find the correct fit for each word.

FAN
FUN
BALL
PLAY
PARK
CAMP
SPADE
SHORTS
PICNICS
SUMMER
HOLIDAY
CAMPING
ICE CREAM
SWIMMING
SUNGLASSES
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 - Thursday 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
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dcmichael@stmoffice.com

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Kathy Strong, Parish Secretary/Bulletin
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Patrick O’Brien, Youth Minister
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