A Note From Our Pastor

ANOTHER FAREWELL...WITH THANKS

Last Sunday our parish community bid a fond farewell to Deacon Chris Stark, who after five years at STM, has moved on to Guardian Angels Parish in Clawson. This weekend we say farewell to Michael Van Dyke who has for the past year served as a Deacon Intern at our parish.

Michael will be ordained a permanent deacon on Saturday, October 5th at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit. He will be returning to STM on Sunday, October 13th for a Mass of Thanksgiving at which he will serve as deacon. A reception will follow the 11:30 Mass in the Social Hall. Please mark your calendars now so you can congratulate the new deacon and wish him well.

Thank you Michael for your faithful service to St. Thomas More! It’s been a privilege helping you along the way and we wish you God’s blessings in the years to come.

WHY WE HAVE LABOR DAY

We call the fourth Thursday in November “Thanksgiving Day,” the second Sunday in May “Mother’s Day,” and the first Monday in September “Labor Day.” But Labor Day is not some sort of romantic celebration of human labor, in fact, it was no holiday at all until 100 years ago when a group of people in New York walked off their jobs to meet and march together and declared it a holiday. Their action was a critical moment in a long struggle for the rights of working people. When Labor Day finally became “official” it was declared the day to honor the sacrifice and courage of workers who had no standing at all until they stood together. Pope Leo XIII encouraged this right to solidarity in his encyclical Rerum Novarum (1891) and the pope’s teaching has been strengthened and expanded ever since.

What does the Catholic Church proclaim about human work? Basically this: The earth is the Lord’s, and the right to “own” something is limited by many other rights and duties. The “work” people do is meant to bring dignity and a just reward to the person and a benefit to society. Workers have the right to come together in solidarity and a right to a voice in matters that affect them.

I think it’s important that we know today the real meaning of Labor Day. We need to be reminded how important it is to stand together for the dignity of human labor.

continues on page 7

The Candidate’s Corner

MICHAEL VAN DYKE, DIACONATE INTERN

In today’s Gospel from Luke, Jesus gives us another lesson about the virtue of being humble. He addresses the behavior of those attending a banquet who were choosing positions of honor. This lesson was at the top of my mind nine months ago at the beginning of my internship when I first processed in at the start of Mass then sat next to Monsignor Rice in the Sanctuary. That night if I could have figured out a way to complete my internship from the “lowest place”, I would have!

But with the gracious help and support of Msgr. Rice, Fr. Spezia, Fr. Grimaldi, Dcn. Michael and Dcn. Chris, I made it through. Thank you! I pray that, while I am more at ease sitting and serving within the Sanctuary, I have not lost my humility.

Thank you as well to the staff, all the lay ministers, from Mass coordinators and lectors, to extraordinary ministers, ushers, and altar servers! Your welcoming and support have been so appreciated. And lest I forget all the parishioners! Your warmth, hospitality, and prayers have made my internship a joy – and moving on from St. Thomas More bittersweet.

In closing, I wanted to share this. I have fond memories of watching The Red Skelton Show with my father. Mr. Skelton’s comedy was polite, gentlemanly, humble, if you will. One of the most endearing parts of his program was the closing, and the song he sang. I thought it appropriate as I thank you again for this opportunity to praise and serve our Lord together these past several months. So, with some minor tweaks and a tip of my hat to Red Skelton...

The time has come to say good-bye,
My how time does fly.
We’ve had a laugh, perhaps a tear,
and now we hear good-bye.
I really hate to say good-bye,
for times like these are few.
I wish you love and happiness,
In everything you do.

The time has come to say good-bye,
And I hope I’ve made a friend.
And so we’ll say “May God bless”,
Until we meet again.

In the peace of Christ,
(Just) Mike
**THIS WEEK’S EUCHARIST INTENTIONS**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>August 31</td>
<td>Marguerite M. Dwyer—55th Anniversary</td>
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<td>Frances Kowalczyk—14th Anniversary</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>For the People of St. Thomas More</td>
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<td>Bill and Grace Balaz</td>
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<td>Rick and Rita Vuylsteke—60th Wedding Anniversary</td>
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<td>Rick and Rita Vuylsteke—60th Wedding Anniversary</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>For the People of St. Thomas More</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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<td>Martha Wehrle</td>
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**THIS WEEK’S PRAYER INTENTIONS**

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

- Rosanne Bishop
- Chris Crocker
- Tim Jaeger
- Robert Luycxx
- Dan Majewski
- Gail Ritchie
- Elaine Rosen
- Carol Simmons
- Kathleen Vuylsteke
- Helen Walczak
- Baby Edward Zielinski

**PRAY FOR THE DECEASED**

*Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family of:*

- † Joseph Paul Beshara—father of Marc and John Beshara
- † Richard Drainville—husband of Dorothy Drainville
- † George Franceour—cousin of Jim Truba
- † Leonard Lewandowski
- † Cindy Marion
- † Mary Mazzetti

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

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

*August 24, 2019*

_Erynn Stier and Jeffrey Brown_

May God grant them a lifetime of love, health, and happiness.

**Back to School Prayer**

_Algmghty God We give you our school. We give you all the teachers and staff who work here. We give you all the children who study here. We pray our school would be a place of great discovery, adventure, and creativity. May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love. A place where every one is respected and all are deeply valued. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen._

**PRAY FOR THE MILITARY**

- Major Matthew Altmari
- 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
- Senior Airman Grant Pensa
- LTJg. Bradley Pienta
- Capt. Nick Pollock
- Sgt. Kyle Stout
- Capt. Ben VanHorrick
- Spc. Carl Voag
- LTJG. Adam Weisgerber

**KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS**

- The St. Thomas More Intercessory Prayer Service is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18 at 7:00 pm.
- Please join us to pray for intentions submitted by our parish members and for your own personal intentions.
WORSHIP/CHRISTIAN SERVICE

JAIL AND OUTREACH MINISTRY
As part of Christian Service at STM, we are starting a Jail and Outreach Ministry in September.

JOM serves the Oakland County Jail and those recently released from incarceration, victims of crime experiencing poverty and illness, and single parents and grandparents raising the next generation/s of those incarcerated.

Did you know... Approximately 25% of the inmates at Oakland County Jail are there because without adequate resources or representation after conviction, jail time must be served? When these people are released, many have only the clothes on their back. No bus fare or way to get to the area they call “home”, no phone, no way to find a job or reconnect with society.

Families of those incarcerated often live in fear. Picture the plight of a wife who finds that her husband has been convicted of molestation, or of having a son who commits homicide or is using or selling drugs. Families can be devastated by arrest and incarceration. Many grandparents find themselves suddenly responsible for, and caring for, grandchildren. These are the people JOM serves.

JOM is comprised of volunteers from many different faith communities and we are proud to now be part of that group!

Several times throughout the year we will request a special need of JOM. A basket labeled “JAIL AND OUTREACH MINISTRY” is in the gathering area. We will deliver these items as they are collected to the JOM offices in Pontiac. There will also be opportunities for those interested in adopting a family for the holidays (more on that another time).

SEPTEMBER’S SPECIAL REQUEST: MEN’S TEE SHIRTS SIZE L-3X AND MEN’S KNIT BOXER SHORTS
As always, Thank You, STM families, for your kindness and generous support of our Christian Service Ministry!

MINISTERS FOR MASS—TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—SEPTEMBER 7 & 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASS TIME</th>
<th>4:30 PM Saturday</th>
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<td>CELEBRANT</td>
<td>Fr. Joseph Grimaldi</td>
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<td>Fr. Bob Spezia</td>
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<td>Michael Stach</td>
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<td>Ronia Kruse</td>
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<td>Joan Reddy</td>
<td>Jack Withrow</td>
<td>Craig Como</td>
<td>Chuck Moss</td>
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<td>SERVERS</td>
<td>Avery Curcuru</td>
<td>Jim Schultz</td>
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<td>Claire DePorre</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>MASS COORD.</td>
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<td>Larry Jeziorski</td>
<td>Melinda Prucha</td>
<td>Tom Calnen</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECEPTIONIST</td>
<td>Margery Bruce</td>
<td>NEEDED</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

♦ Tuesday, September 9
  First Tuesday Coffee, 9:30a
  Contemporary Music Rehearsal, 6p
  ChristLife, 6:30p

♦ Wednesday, September 4
  Baptism Class, 6:30p

♦ Saturday, September 7
  Bible Study Awareness, 5:30p

♦ Sunday, September 8
  Bible Study Awareness after all Masses
  Coffee and Conversation after all Masses
  Baptism Ceremony, 12:30p

FIRST TUESDAY COFFEE
September 3

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

SAVE THE DATES!

Friday, September 20
A Night of HOPE on the WATERFRONT
Saturday, September 21 & Sunday, September 22
STM Parish App Launch
Sunday, September 22
Faith Formation Kick-Off
Saturday, September 28
Friends Walk—Belle Isle Park

Bible Study Awareness Weekend
Sept 7-8
After All Masses

Unlock the mysteries of the Bible to learn the Word of God.

Just what goes on in a Bible Study class? To find out what’s planned for the coming year, please join us for Bible Study Awareness Weekend during “Coffee and Conversation” after every Mass September 7-8. “Students” from previous Bible Study groups will be there to answer your questions and share their experiences. Know your Bible so you can become a joyful Disciple of Christ ready to Unleash the Gospel!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
LABOR DAY
PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

Have a safe and happy Labor Day Weekend

STM BOOK CLUB

The STM Book Club selection for September is The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West by David McCullough. This is the story of the settling of the Northwest Territories after the Revolutionary War. These early settlers came with three conditions: freedom of religion, free universal education, and prohibition of slavery.

Please join us Tuesday 9/17 at 10AM in Room 2 for the discussion.
Faith Formation Activities

**RCIA / Christ Life**
 Begins Tuesday, August 13 at 6:30 pm

**Catechist Blessing and Training**
 Sunday, September 15th - 9:30 am Mass followed by training and brunch from 10:30 am–12:00 pm

**Parish Faith Formation Kick-off**
 Sunday, September 22
 Mary Wilkerson will be our guest speaker to help kick off the new year. Some of you may remember her from the Women’s Spring Tea or one of the Youth Group Retreats. All parishioners are invited to join us in the church at 7:00 pm for this event. You won’t want to miss it, Mary is a wonderful, vibrant, and engaging speaker.

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Ages 3-6)**
 Sunday, September 29th
 9:30-10:30 am

**First Day of Faith Formation Classes**
 Grades 1-5 (Parent/Child Session)
 Sunday, September 29th
 8:15-9:15 am
 or
 10:15-11:15 am

New Monday Class Offering for Grades 1-3
 Monday, September 30th
 4:30-5:30 pm.

**Grades 6-8**
 Sunday, September 29th
 7:00-8:15 pm

**Youth Group**
 Sunday, September 29th
 Intro Session, 7:00-8:15 pm in Room 2

Upcoming Faith Formation Activities

We are planning for classes and are looking for catechists to share their faith with our young parishioners. Do you enjoy working with Preschool students? Middle School students? Any age in-between? We would love to talk to you about possible opportunities. Contact the Faith Formation Office at 248-647-4680. Experience not needed. Resources, support, prayers are provided throughout the year! Also catechist receive discount on tuition.

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**
 We are adding the second Level of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program to our already existing Level I here at St. Thomas More.

The philosophy of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program is that even very young children have a religious life. God is present to them in their deepest being and they are capable of developing both a conscious and intimate relationship with God. The program balances exposure to our liturgy and the richness of our communal sacramental life with reading the Bible. Our program begins with presenting the New Testament to the children because it is the foundation of our faith. The youngest learn about Jesus and the beauty and wonder of the Kingdom of God through carefully chosen Bible verses that foster a deep love for Jesus. As they grow older they are encouraged to think about their personal responsibility to maintain this relationship with God and their social responsibility in the world. The oldest group studies the Old Testament in great detail and continues to deepen their understanding of the liturgy.

Each Level of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd encompasses a three-year time frame. In Level I for children ages three through kindergarten, the theme is the Good Shepherd who loves his sheep and gives everything for them. The child is introduced to Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and discovers who the sheep are. The enjoyment of the gift of God’s own self to the child is the foundation of further religious insight and moral development. This Level could be characterized as a “time of joy and wonder” in the lives of the children.

In Level II the overall theme for these years is the image of Christ as the True Vine, focusing on both relationship and responsibility. The History of the Kingdom of God is an important tool in introducing and illustrating God’s work and planning on behalf of humanity. As the children begin to discover the vast history of God’s plan of salvation, they begin to realize that they have something to contribute to it. Moral sensitivity/awareness begins here and grows as the work is presented.

Our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd classes will begin on Sunday, September 29th from 8:15 am-9:15 am for Level II (6-9 year-old) and from 9:30 am-10:30 am for Level I (3-6 year-old). Starting this year we will also have a Level II class on Monday afternoons from 4:30pm-5:30pm.

Love in the Lord,
Sandi Gardner
248-647-4680 / sandi@stmoffice.com
A Note from Our Pastor continued from page 2

We need to know what it means that what hurts one will hurt us all, that what benefits one can be of benefit to us all. Here’s a good prayer for Labor Day:

God our Creator, we are the work of your hands. Guide us in our work, that we may do it, not for self alone, but for the common good.

Make us alert to injustice, ready to stand in solidarity, that there may be dignity for all in labor and labor’s reward

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Have an enjoyable and safe holiday. Let’s remember each other in prayer.

Msgr. Tom Rice

Donations to St. Thomas More

Recently the parish has been receiving donation checks from Sunday offertory that are postdated for a future date. Given the volume of envelopes counted every week, the volunteers are not able to look at every check to make sure the date is accurate. If we deposit a check that is postdated, the bank removes the check from our deposit and returns it to the parish. This is a bookkeeping problem, as we then need to adjust the deposit and pull the envelopes for the parishioner that postdated the check. In recent weeks we have received calls every Monday from the bank letting us know they are deducting checks from our deposit for incorrect dates.

If it is more convenient for managing your funds, you may consider giving electronically. You can sign up with the current e-giving company the parish offers by accessing through the website or contact your bank to issue an e-check to the parish. With either option giving can be done weekly, monthly or other timing that works for you.

Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish. For questions please contact me at the parish office or by email: lois@stmoffice.com.

Lois Sokolowski
Business Manager

PARISH OFFICE RE-OPENS ON FRIDAY’S
Beginning September 6

Office Hours
Monday—Friday, 9:00a-5:00p
(closed 12:30-1:00p for lunch)

First of the Month Collection September 7 & 8
Thank you for your generosity and support in helping those in need!

Michigan Values Life: Petition Drive to Prohibit Dismemberment Abortion

The Michigan Constitution allows the people to initiate legislation through a petition. Citizen’s Initiative petition drive is underway to prohibit the dismemberment abortion procedure in Michigan. This petition drive, operating under the committee named Michigan Values Life, is organized by Right to Life of Michigan and is supported by Michigan Catholic Conference (MCC) and our own Archbishop Vigneron.

As your parish representative for Right to Life/LifeSpan, I am requesting some volunteer help for our upcoming parish activity on the Petition Drive to Ban Dismemberment Abortion.

The Goal of the Petition

We will be holding an informational meeting on Wednesday, August 28 at 1:00pm in Room 2. I need as many volunteers as possible to help get signatures on the petition forms. This will be conducted the weekend of September 14-15 after all Masses.

If you can help, please call or email me as soon as possible.
Phone: 248-642-8887 or 248-318-4458
Email: a_roses@comcast.net

Thank you!
Anne Byrne
“My Lord and My God” – Eucharistic Devotion
by John Hannigan

Last week I wrote about surveys that show too many Catholics do not believe the bread and wine at Mass really become the Body and Blood of Christ. I was talking with some parishioners about the surveys and the Real Presence. They too were concerned about people not knowing that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist. This led to discussion about how people do or do not show reverence and devotion before the Eucharist and at Mass. Actions during Holy Mass can be a compelling witnesses to God’s Real Presence on the altar and in the tabernacle.

A challenge for those of us who do believe is to evaluate our devotion to the Eucharist and our witness to our belief that the Host is the Body of Christ by how we act in church and at Mass. Do we acknowledge Jesus in the tabernacle either by action or interiorly when we pass the Eucharistic Chapel?

There are dispositions of heart and disciplines of action that anticipate and accompany faithful reception of the Sacrament. Do we properly prepare ourselves to receive by going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year (CCC 1457)? Do we order our hearts for a few quiet minutes before Mass, leaving behind the “world” and conversations? Are we attentive to the Eucharistic Prayer and the words of the priest at the consecration? Do we show reverence before stepping up to receive? Do we attend to the minister who holds up the Host to us and declares “The Body of Christ” by responding with “Amen” meaning “I do believe.” If we do not receive Communion on the tongue (still an option), do we reverently receive the Host into our hands by holding them forth cupped like a throne for our Lord? After receiving, do we consume the host immediately and reverently? When we return to our seat do we take the opportunity to kneel in silent worship of God Who is now in us, and contemplate and give thanks for this great gift of substantial unity with Jesus?

When we pass the chapel at the back of the church where Jesus is present in the tabernacle, do we ever bow, genuflect or make the sign of the cross to pay our respects to our Lord? And outside of Mass, do we take the opportunity to spend some time with our Lord and seek out Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction?

All of these actions witness to Christ’s present in the Eucharist. And if anybody asks why you do any of these things, tell them it’s because “Jesus is there!”

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today’s readings remind us of a chief virtue that characterizes the Christian steward: humility. This is a virtue that is widely thought of as a form of self-abasement. That understanding, however, is off the mark. Humility is simply the awareness of who (and Whose) we truly are.

On one hand, we are children of the Most High God who loved us into existence and who, by virtue of our Baptism, have the Holy Trinity dwelling within us. On the other hand, we are children who are completely dependent on God for our existence and for every breath we take.

Our Lord speaks of true humility in our Gospel passage from Luke, telling the parable of the guests invited to a wedding banquet and instructing us not to seek a place of honor at the banquet table, lest a more distinguished guest arrives and we are asked to move to a lower place.

Jesus has much more in mind here than an etiquette lesson. He is reminding us that all glory belongs to God. The visual image He offers in having to slink down to a lower seat at the table points out how silly we are when we forget to give God the credit for our blessings and talents.

On the other hand, when we live in humility —recognizing that all we have is a gift from God and using those gifts to serve Him and others — then God “exalts” us by filling us with even more of Himself and His grace.

Jesus goes on to encourage us to serve and share our blessings with people facing circumstances that would make it impossible for them offer us any worldly advantage or prestige— “the poor, the crippled, the lame.”

Our attitude and the way in which we serve and share should be centered on true humility — recognizing that we are all “little” ones in the eyes of God. We are all His children; brothers and sisters invited to our Father’s heavenly banquet.
Readings for the Week of September 1 2019

Sunday  Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
  Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Ps 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7-14  
  Monday  1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1 and 3, 4, 11-12, 13; Lk 4:16-30  
  Tuesday  Memorial of Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
  1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37  
  Wednesday  Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10, 11; Lk 4:38-44  
  Thursday  Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6; Lk 5:1-11  
  Friday  Col 1:15-20; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Lk 5:33-39  
  Saturday  Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8; Lk 6:1-5  
  Sunday  Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
  Wis 9:13-18b; Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17; Phmn 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33
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
Deacon Michael Stach, Pastoral Associate
248-647-2222 x. 5555
dcnmichael@stmoffice.com

MUSIC MINISTRY
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