23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"WHOEVER DOES NOT CARRY HIS OWN cross AND COME AFTER ME CANNOT BE my disciple."

LK 14:27
A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

PRAYERS NEEDED

Recently I had the opportunity to get together with a number of priests at St. Hugo Parish in Bloomfield Hills. Msgr. Tony Tocco invites the priests for an annual barbeque dinner. I try to be present each year because it’s one of those special occasions to enjoy the company of fellow priests. Each year I notice that our numbers are getting smaller, the hair is getting grayer (or less), wrinkles are more noticeable and the number of younger clergy are fewer. It is all a sign of the times.

The present median age of priests in the Archdiocese of Detroit is well over 60. As our numbers continue to thin I have come to realize how important it is to have occasions when we get together, share a meal, enjoy each other’s company and give each other support. I am as aware as anyone that today the Catholic clergy does not always receive “rave reviews” in the secular press and other forms of the media. But when priests come together it is a good reminder for me of our common purpose, of our sharing together in the one priesthood of Jesus and the mission of the Church. It is also a reminder of the need for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

The need for good priestly leadership in the Church is as great as it has ever been. But it certainly doesn’t come about by magic. It takes effort on all of our parts and it especially takes prayer. Jesus himself told his disciples: “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the Master of the harvest to send our laborers for his harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38). So please pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The future of the Church depends on your prayers, your efforts, and the response of men and women to the Call of the Lord to be the generous and creative ministers we so urgently need.

Have a faith-filled week. Let’s pray for one another.

Msgr. Tom Rice

Michigan Values Life: Petition Drive to Prohibit Dismemberment Abortion

PETITION DRIVE MEETING

Volunteers are needed after every Mass the weekend of September 14-15 to help signatures on the Abortion Petition Forms. If you are able to help, please sign up at the Information Counter and indicate which Mass you could help with.

There will be a meeting for all volunteers on Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00pm in Room 1. We will be discussing the form and how to instruct the signers as to the correct way to sign the petition.

If you can help or if you have any questions, please call 248-642-8887.

Thank you!
Anne Byrne

Readings for the Week of September 8, 2019

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

Monday Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, Priest
Col 1:24—2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b—2; 3, 10-11, 12-13ab; Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday Col 3:1-11; Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab; Lk 6:20-26

Thursday The Most Holy Name of Mary
Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 6:27-38

Friday Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11; Lk 6:39-42

Saturday Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

Sunday Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19; 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32 or Lk 15:1-10

When people wish to destroy religion, they begin by attacking the priest because where there is no priest, there is no sacrifice.

- St. John Vianney
The Nuns of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament have initiated a 24 Hour Prayer Line. The Sisters are attentive to begin the requested prayers promptly.

You can reach the Prayer Line at 248-626-8253 or email opnunsfh@sbcglobal.net

THIS WEEK’S EUCHARIST INTENTIONS

**Saturday**  September 7
4:30p  For the People of St. Thomas More

**Sunday**  September 8
7:30a  Carol Black—Special Intention
       Lynn Bonney—Special Intention
       The Geering Children—Special Intention
       Bob Jermstad
       Kathryn Wlosinski—Special Intention
9:30a  Ann Henning
       Earl Knauss
       Genevieve Rothwell—Special Intention
11:30a  Hayley Hagedorn
        Martha Wehrle

**Tuesday**  September 10
9:00a  Marion Debolski—1st Anniversary

**Wednesday**  September 11
9:00a  Ron Lepri—4th Anniversary

**Thursday**  September 12
9:00a  Marion Debolski
       Patrick Feeney

**Saturday**  September 14
4:30p  Anne Byrne—Special Intention

**Sunday**  September 15
7:30a  Linda Grospe
       Kathryn Wlosinski—Special Intention
9:30a  Glenn Harbert
11:30a  Ana Jermstad
        Martha Wehrle

**THIS WEEK’S PRAYER INTENTIONS**

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Rosanne Bishop  
Chris Crocker  
Robert Luyckx  
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:

† 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."

**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.

**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 Vaag  
LTJG. Adam Weisgerber

**PRAYERS IN OUR PARISH**

The St. Thomas More Intercessory Prayer Service is 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.

**24 Hour Prayer Line**

The Nuns of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament have initiated a 24 Hour Prayer Line. The Sisters are attentive to begin the requested prayers promptly.

You can reach the Prayer Line at 248-626-8253 or email opnunsfh@sbcglobal.net
### REFLECTIONS ON SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

One way to show others the mercy of God is through the Spiritual Works of Mercy. The **Spiritual Works of Mercy** have long been a part of the Christian tradition, appearing in the works of theologians and spiritual writers throughout history. Just as Jesus attended to the spiritual well-being of those he ministered to, these Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us to “help our neighbor in their spiritual needs” (USCCA).

The first of the Spiritual Works of Mercy is **Counseling the Doubtful**.

We do not need a degree in theology or catechetics to counsel the doubtful. We all know that some of the most convincing people of faith have been the simplest individuals we’ve known. They just love God and their neighbor and live straight from the heart. Counseling the doubtful means not turning away from people’s questions, misgivings, or fears. It means being a solid rock in the midst of the storms of others’ intellects, wills, and emotions that cause them to be “blown and tossed by the wind” (James 1:6). It means painstakingly researching what we ourselves are unable to answer, in order to explicate and reassure, or simply to find and recommend the very best resources.

Everyone has moments of doubt in their faith journey. Nevertheless, we should always remember that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and turn to him along our way. Try asking yourself the following:

Have I freely given advice to someone who requested it? First of all, we should not look at this as a situation to be “fixed” ... it is instead a person who needs to be healed. We should engage in the “ministry of presence,” just being with the person, acknowledging their doubts, reminding them that they are loved simply for who they are and not because of what they do or don’t do. When they are ready to hear the words, orient your response to Christ.

Do I consider my life a good example of my Catholic faith? As we make our way along our faith journey, there are those who stand out as examples of what it means to be Christ-like, whom we try to emulate. You never know who may be watching you! What do you want them to see? Follow Christ with the witness of your life, so that others may see God’s love revealed in your action. Have I helped someone who is struggling with their faith? We’ve all been there at some point in our life. Doubt isn’t necessarily a bad thing. It can open us up to an honest pursuit of truth. Accompany that friend to join a small parish group – think Scripture or book study, a service project, or Faith Formation. Share a book you found useful in dealing with your own faith concern. Invite them to worship at Sunday Mass.

*In Christ, Deacon Michael*
THE WEEK AHEAD

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

- **Monday, September 9**
  Hospitality Committee, 7p
  The MEN of STM, 7p

- **Tuesday, September 10**
  Contemporary Ensemble Rehearsal, 6p
  ChristLife, 6:30p
  Worship Commission, 7p
  Petition Drive Meeting, 7p

- **Thursday, September 12**
  Handbell Choir, 10a
  Adult Choir Rehearsal, 7:30p

- **Saturday, September 14**
  Michigan Values Life Petition Drive

- **Sunday, September 15**
  Catechetical Sunday
  Michigan Values Life Petition Drive
  Coffee and Conversation after all Masses

**First of the Month Collection September 7 & 8**

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

**Conversation with Catholic men...**

Join the discussion!

**Monday, September 9 @ 7:00pm**

Church Conference Room
(Sacristy Hallway as you enter the Sanctuary)

**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.

**Weekend Receptionists Needed**

Weekend Receptionists are among the first to welcome all who enter the doors of St. Thomas More and the last to leave the desk offering service to current and potential parishioners, including Mass Intentions, new registrations and assistance to those with special needs.

We are in need of volunteers for the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sunday 7:30 a.m. Masses. On the job training will be provided. Please contact Judith Parrott, Receptionist Coordinator, at 248-918-3492, for further information.

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

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  Michigan Values Life Petition Drive

- **Sunday, September 15**
  Catechetical Sunday
  Michigan Values Life Petition Drive
  Coffee and Conversation after all Masses

**Music Ministries are beginning rehearsals. Come and get involved!**

**Contemporary Ensemble**
Tuesday, September 10 at 6:00 PM in church.

**Handbell Choir**
Thursday, September 12 at 10:00 AM in classroom #6.

**Adult Choir**
Thursday, September 12 at 7:30 PM in the church.

I look forward to a wonderful year!
Brian Foos

**Friday, September 20**

**A Night of HOPE on the WATERFRONT**

- **Saturday, September 21 and Sunday, September 22**
  STM Parish App Launch

- **Sunday, September 22**
  Faith Formation Kick-Off

- **Saturday, September 28**
  SVdP Friends Walk—Belle Isle Park

**Save the date!**
Faith Formation

Your Parish Needs You!

We have students registered for our Faith Formation Program, but not enough teachers/catechists to teach them. This is a good problem to have, but a problem none-the-less. If you are reading this perhaps God is calling you to share your faith. Be a part of a small group in which you will find support in your personal and spiritual lives while sharing it with the next generation. Experience not needed. Resources, support, and prayers are provided throughout the year! If you are a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or any family member your student will receive a discount on their tuition. Please pray about it and contact the Faith Formation Office at 248-647-4680 with any questions or trepidations you may have.

Upcoming Faith Formation Activities

Catholicism 101
Tuesdays, 6:30 pm in room 1 led by Josylin Mateus. All are welcome!

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

Parish Faith Formation First Gathering
Sunday, September 22 Mary Wilkerson will be here as 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. For more information visit https://2019stmfaithformation.eventbrite.com

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

Welcome Back

2019 First Faith Formation Gathering
Sunday, September 22

Join us for dinner and a talk by Mary Wilkerson on our theme this year “Encountering the Risen Christ.” Mary Wilkerson is a graduate of Franciscan University who has worked in the Archdiocese of Detroit for 20 years. Using a unique style of humor, storytelling and faith-infused witness, Mary hopes she is answering the call to be a Joyful Missionary Disciple. Along with the work she does for the Church, Mary’s greatest love is raising her five children with her best friend and husband, Aaron.

Mary was our guest speaker at the Women’s Spring Tea last May and she was very engaging and dynamic. You won’t want to miss this opportunity! For more information and to RSVP go to https://2019stmfaithformation.eventbrite.com.

STM
YOUTH GROUP

INVITING ALL
9TH THROUGH 12TH GRADERS

FIRST GATHERING IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH AT 7:00 PM IN THE SOCIAL HALL. BRING A FRIEND!
**THE CREED**
*And the Early Christians*

St. Thomas More Adult Bible Study invites you to join us this fall for a closer look at the early years of The Church when the first followers of The Way of Jesus were struggling to guard Christian beliefs found in Scripture, leading to development of the Apostles and Nicene Creeds.

*In this study, you will learn about:*
- **Movement from worship in synagogues to house churches to physical churches**
- **Spread of The Word by roads, ships, and, most importantly, disciples**
- **Earliest New Testament scriptures and notable non-canonical writings**
- **Development of Rites of Baptism and Celebration of the Eucharist**
- **Scriptural foundations of the Apostles and Nicene Creeds.**

*Tuesdays, beginning Sept 24, 7:00 – 8:30pm, Room 2*

$5 for study materials

**To register, visit the St. Thomas More website, or contact Angela in Faith Formation Office angela@stmoffice.com, (248) 647-4680**

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**GRIEVING WITH HOPE!**
**BEGINs WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH**

St. Thomas More offers a new on-going group support program! Like life, grief is a journey. No matter where you are in your journey, you need not travel alone. Join us. Share your story. Learn from others as you navigate unchartered waters.

**Participants:** Adults who have experienced loss  
**Location:** St. Thomas More Parish, Troy. Room 1  
**Time:** 6:30 - 8:00PM  
**When:** The second and fourth Wednesday of each month  
**NOTE:** This is a “drop in” program. No pre-registration required.

**Grief Support**

Come once, or come often - whether your loss is recent, a year ago, or several years ago.

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**St. Thomas More presents Bible Study for Faith Formation Parents**

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible helps you to get the “big picture” of the Bible by showing how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church.

*8 Sundays, one per month, Sept 29–Apr 19*  
7:15 – 8:15pm, Room 1  
**To register, visit the St. Thomas More website, or contact Angela in Faith Formation Office angela@stmoffice.com, (248) 647-4680**

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Join fellow parishioners on Belle Isle for the Friends Walk organized by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul on Saturday morning, September 28. The three-mile walk takes you through the beautiful paths of the island. The event helps us serve more of our neighbors in need. If you can’t make it yourself, please consider supporting our Parish walkers. Sign-up and sponsorship detail is available at the information counter in the Gathering Area. Thank you for all you do to help us help others!

Any questions email kdn3241@gmail.com or contact Karen at 248-227-6291.
“It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!”
by John Hannigan

I love that old joyful TV ad for school supplies where parents dance and kids bemoan the end of summer. September is a wonderful time of new beginnings, renewed challenges and many activities. Kids have new teachers and more homework. They catch up with old friends, make new ones, and start after-school sports, music lessons, scouting, clubs, etc. The challenge for busy families to keep schedules balanced and priorities straight is enormous. Parents, caregivers, grandparents and extended families want our children to do well in school, on playing fields, and in friendships. We strive to do all we can to help then thrive, and rightly so. But I know from personal experience that in setting family priorities it is all too easy to let slip the most important lessons and activities for children: developing a discipline of worship, growing in friendship with Jesus, and discerning God’s call for their lives - their vocations.

Unleash the Gospel recognizes that “families today face unprecedented challenges” that frankly make it difficult to be “the first and most important setting for evangelization.” Families are the “domestic church,” the primary place where “life in Christ, the life of the Church, is experienced and lived.” Families are meant to help children encounter Jesus and learn to live in Christian discipleship. Unleash the Gospel calls on families to take concrete steps to reclaim their Christian identity and embrace their first responsibility, one that can be too easily squeezed out of family life by the competing demands of modern daily life.

Unleash the Gospel lists some Action Steps to take:

1. **Attend Mass as a family every Sunday.** Family life is nourished by participation in the sacraments.
2. **Have regular family meals** without distraction to “reclaim its sacred nature,” especially on Sundays. Build a habit of saying Grace before all meals.
3. **Commit to family prayer time,** seeking simple, regular ways to pray that fit your family.
4. **Place Scripture at the center of family life.** Share its love and power by reflecting on Sunday readings as a family fellowship.
5. **Reclaim the Sacrament of Reconciliation** as a lived reality in the home. Heal wounds in our families through sacrifice, forgiveness and mercy.

Family life is made wonderful at all times of the year when lived as a domestic church. Children and families flourish, and faith grows in communities, when we meet the challenges of living our discipleship within the rhythms of day-to-day family interactions.

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**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

A New Idea for Charitable Giving

I recently retired, and am working through the usual retirement topics: Medicare, deciding on when to draw Social Security, organizing legal documents and the like. The Planned Giving and Funeral Planning presentation held at St. Thomas More this past June assisted with me greatly. After evaluating my retirement plan with my financial and tax advisors, I have decided to move forward with a Donor Advised Fund.

A Donor Advised Fund is a charitable giving vehicle to which a donor makes an irrevocable contribution of personal assets. Any time thereafter, the donor can donate to qualified charities from the fund.

Some of the benefits include:

1. Opportunity to personalize the fund - donor can name a Donor Advised fund for himself, in honor of a family, in memory of someone, or after a specific cause.
2. Ability to donate a wide variety of assets
3. Income tax deduction - taken in year of donation, subject to limits based on donor’s adjusted growth income.
4. Potential to increase over time - assets in Donor Advised fund grow tax free
5. Ability to create a legacy - if indicated by donor, future generations can advise on the fund.

I plan to donate from my new Donor Advised Fund, contributions I would make to St. Thomas More as I would my regular parish contributions. The donations to my favorite charities and St. Thomas More will not come from my monthly budget, but the Donor Fund. This will assist me in budgeting monthly. In addition, I should receive the full contribution to the fund as a tax deduction for 2019 tax year.

For future planning, I should have my Donor Advised Fund used in full by the time I have to take a Minimum Required Distribution (MRD) from my IRA. If you are already taking your IRA MRD, you can allocate funds be sent directly to St. Thomas More Parish or other charities of your choice to help reduce the taxable amount of the IRA distribution. Contributions from your IRA when you reach 70 ½ years of age are not taxable to your income.

There are creative ways to donate and be a good Steward to your parish. Contact your financial advisor or tax consultant for information. It is important not to forget your parish that has served you for many years.

Diane Claeys
Stewardship Commission
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

Crossroads of Michigan

Invites You To
A Night of HOPE on the WATERFRONT
on Friday, September 20, 2019
At the Roostertail
100 Marquette, Detroit, MI
Enjoy a Strolling Dinner
An Open Bar
A Silent Auction
Live Entertainment
Tickets: $100
To purchase tickets, contact Jerry and Carole Sugrue at 248-644-6853

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 5— Blessing of Pets—2:00 PM
October 5 & 6—SVdP Fall Clothing Drive
October 9—STM Blood Drive—12:00-6:00 PM
October 12 & 13—K of C Tootsie Roll Drive
October 25
Family Night Square Dance & Western Grub
6:30-9:00 PM

Christian Worship

The Sunday Experience, a conference about developing transformational liturgies through dynamic preaching, engaging hospitality, and helping the assembly sing, will be held next Monday and Tuesday, September 16 and 17. The keynote for the event’s first day, which is focused on musicians, is on liturgical intentionality. The second day will feature three tracks designed specifically for clergy, musicians, and hospitality ministers, and keynotes on full, active, and conscious participation, and hymns of Eucharistic amazement. Your gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal support the work of the Christian Worship Office, which is presenting The Sunday Experience at a low cost to parishes.

For more information about CSA-funded ministries, programs, and services, go to aod.org.
| **PASTORAL STAFF** | Eva Ashor, Bookkeeper  
248-647-2222 x. 3333  
bookkeeper@stmoffice.com |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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  
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dcnmichael@stmoffice.com | |
| **MUSIC MINISTRY** | |
| Brian Foos, Director  
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248-647-2222 x. 3311  
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