What’s Happening This Week

Children’s Nativity Mass
The Children’s Nativity Mass on Christmas Eve Initial meeting will take place this **Sunday, December 2nd**. The meeting will be held immediately after the 10AM Mass in the CSU Lounge. For more info, contact Jeanne O’Kon at 850-264-4903.

Holy Day of Obligation
**December 8th** is The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be Mass at **6pm on Friday 12/7 and 8am on Saturday 12/8**.
Attention High School Teens!

**Life Teen:** There is no Life Teen this Sunday due to the retreat at Camp Cherry Lake. Pray for all the teens on retreat this weekend. Life Teen will resume next Sunday, Dec. 9th at 5pm in the Parish Hall at Blessed Sacrament.

**Small Groups:** Come out to Small Groups and grow together as we talk about faith and life in our series on Truth. Small Groups meet from 7-8:45 pm on Thursdays in the Miccosukee Room at Blessed Sacrament.

Attention Middle School Teens!

**Edge:** Come out to Edge this Friday and join us as we continue to talk about healthy relationships with family. Edge meets at Blessed Sacrament on Fridays from 7:30-8:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

**Advent Food Drive**

Our Parish and St. Vincent de Paul are sponsoring a food collection drive for Catholic Charities this Advent. You have four weekends during Advent to drop off your non-perishable food donations at all three doors in the blue bins inside the church.

**Rejoice! Rejoice!**

The Annual Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 15th, 6:15-9:00 pm in O’Brien Hall. Entertainment provided by Colleen Nixon. The Pastoral Council will provide the main entree, dessert and beverages, including beer and wine. Please sign up on the parish website to bring an appetizer or a side dish to share. RSVP by Dec. 13th.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**

As we begin Advent we are called to “wait” in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Wherever you live in our parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell.

Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul poor box will help the poor celebrate the grace of God’s love this Christmas.

**The monthly collection will be next weekend after all Masses.**

Consider becoming an active member of the SVDP STM Conference. Come to a bi-monthly meeting to discuss volunteer opportunities like serving dinner at Kearney Center, make food bags for our neighbors at Casa Calderon and serving the needy in our community on home visits.

Conference meetings are the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month at 6pm, STM Parish Center. www.svdptally.org | svdptally@gmail.com

**Parish Advent Penance Service**

Enter the Christmas season reconciled and in peace! Advent penance service, December 13th at 7 PM in the main Church.

**Altar Flowers**

If you would like to donate sanctuary flowers for Christmas, as a memorial to a loved one, or in celebration of someone’s birthday or anniversary, please call the office 222-9630. Suggested donation $10.

**Assistance for Victims of Sexual Abuse**

Our Diocese has established Victim Assistance Coordinators to help anyone who has been abused by church personnel. Victims should call Dr. James Gagnon at 877-0205. To report a case, call the 24-Hour Child Abuse Hotline at 800-962-2873.

We pray for all our beloved dead and for those in our parish who are ill. Please email any prayer requests for those who are deceased or ill to: media@cocathedral.com.
**Religious Education**

Religious Ed. classes resume **Sunday Dec 2**. Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving! Parents please be sure to get your child’s missed lessons completed for this semester. Last class for this semester is **December 16**.

**Adopt-A-Family for Christmas:**

Christmas wish lists for our adopted families are posted on the R.E. bulletin board. All parishioners are invited to participate. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Lighthouse CD of the Week**

**A Journey Through Advent: Liturgical Cycle C**

Get the most out of Advent and Christmas by following along with Bishop Robert Barron's homilies as he unpacks the profound Scripture readings for Liturgical Cycle C. Start your Advent season with an inspirational faith filled audio CD from our Lighthouse display located by the Parking lot entrance. $3.00/CD. They make great stocking stuffers too.

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**Stewardship of Treasure**

**NOVEMBER 2018 Dates: 11/17 – 11/25**

- **Weekly Need:** $15,000
- **Weekly Giving:** $20,234
- **Year-to-Date Need:** $800,000
- **Year-to-Date Giving:** $828,291

To give online, visit www.cocathedral.com and go to the “Donate” page.

**2018 Stewardship of Treasure Update**

Our annual Stewardship Renewal is in full swing! So far, our results are:

- **# of Commitment Cards Mailed**: 900
- **# of Commitment Cards Received**: 105 (12%)

Support the mission of St. Thomas More & join your fellow parishioners in making a commitment! Please return your completed card into the Offertory basket today.

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**This Week at Our Parish**

**Sunday, December 2**

8:30am Religious Ed, 1-8gr. Upstairs/SL Classrooms
8:30am Religious Ed Mass, Gr. 1-8
10am Confirmation - Adults
10am RCIA
10am Religious Ed Prek4 - Kg Upstairs CR# 6 and 7
11am Children’s Nativity Mass meeting, CSU Student Lounge
11am Fellowship Sunday, after 10 AM Mass, O’Brien Hall, Coffee & Donuts
11:30am H.S. Confirmation Session #5

**Monday, December 3**

4pm CSU Adoration, Church

**Tuesday, December 4**

6:30pm Financial Peace University, O’Brien Hall

**Wednesday, December 5**

10am Amazing Parish Team Meeting, Msgr. Kerr Room

**Thursday, December 6**

**Friday, December 7**

6pm Vigil Mass

**Saturday, December 8** - **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

8am Mass

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**Cover art: The Powers of Jerusalem Will be Shaken - Titus destroying Jerusalem by Wilhelm von Kaulbach 1846**
Father John’s Corner

Adventus

It’s Advent! “Wait a minute, I thought it was the Christmas season?” It’s amazing how conditioned we are by our world and society we live in today. In this particular case, our capitalistic economy. As adults, we like to think we are more aware and more in control of how we think. More often than not, we are just like our kids; impressionable. Who can withstand the constant onslaught of commercials and music, piped out like the Pied Piper, who mesmerized and captivated the rats and people of Hamelin, Germany.

We are not bulletproof to the seduction of 50% off sales or no payments till 2019. It’s easy, for some, to confuse identity with what we consume. After all, to our economy, we are “consumers”. Capitalism is a monetary structure that is only good to the extent we “buy in.” Sadly, we “buy-in” during a season we should be a bit more reflective. This is certainly not a “bah humbug.” It’s not “bad” to buy things for people we love or appreciate, but let’s not get over consumed that what we purchase is an indicator of what we are about or what the season is about. Advent is a season of attentive waiting. Not waiting for the best sales, but waiting, once again, like our ancestors, for the voice of God and the presence of God to incarnate into our lives.

So, be joyful, be expectant and be vigilant to a God who will gift you this season. He’s the gift, He’s the reward of your pursuit of the “best buy” of this season!

Happy Advent,

Fr. John

Community Events

St. John Paul II Catholic High School

SJPII is now accepting admission applications for the 2019-2020 school year. We offer tours and shadow dates at your convenience. Worried about tuition? We can help you to secure financial aid and scholarships. Do you have a middle schooler? It is never too early to start exploring options for high school for your child. Visit our website www.sjpiichs.org. Please contact our Director of Enrollment for information and scheduling. Jillyann McGowan (850)201.5744 jmcgowan@jpiichs.org.

Invitation to Communion and Liberation: School of Community (SoC) Tallahassee Mondays 6:00-7:00 pm Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More, Community Room, Give Witness of Christ’s Ongoing Presence in Your Life in Relation to the Reading. Please contact Sonya Williams sonyaraebart@gmail.com or 724-674-4452 or to receive the Reading.

Employment Opportunities

The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops is looking for a full-time communications specialist. Experience with major social media platforms and a working knowledge of graphic design software is required. Writing and proofreading experience is preferred. Contact mtaylor@flaccb.org to submit a resume or for more information.

Open Door Women's Clinic is hiring a part-time registered nurse and/or ultrasound tech. If you are interested, please send your resume and cover letter to Tracy Melin at tracy@womensct.com For additional info, please contact Tracy via email or call 850-656-9177

Celebrate Faith 2019

As we begin this season of Advent and our preparations to celebrate the birth of our Lord, don’t forget to register for Celebrate Faith: Rejoicing in the Spirit held on February 9th. Register at: www.ptdiocese.org/celebratefaith2019
December 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our parishes will be conducting the Retirement Fund for Religious collection December 8/9, 2018. This annual appeal benefits 31,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests—women and men who have consecrated their lives to serving God and the Church.

During the 2018 World Day for Consecrated Life, Pope Francis remarked, “There is no growth without roots and no flowering without new buds.”¹ This analogy has certainly born out within the life of the Church in the United States. Senior religious were the roots that established Catholic schools, hospitals, and social service agencies—allowing generations of Catholics to flourish. Today, the example of older religious inspires younger members to persevere in mission and ministry.

Yet many religious communities struggle to provide for aging members. Most elder religious served for small stipends, leaving a large gap in retirement savings. Rising health-care costs and decreased income compound the struggle to provide adequate care. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more. It also helps religious congregations implement long-range retirement strategies, even as they continue to serve the People of God.

I recognize this is but one of numerous worthy causes in need of assistance; I ask simply that you give what you can. In thanksgiving for their faithful service, please join me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious and in praying for God’s blessing on our nation’s elderly religious.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William Wack, CSC
Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee
Mass Intentions
Sunday, December 2
8:30am †Jack and Phyllis Bowen by the Bowen Children
10:00am For the people of Saint Thomas More
11:45am †Joseph Vu Hoa by Vu & Thu Trinh
6:00pm The Collins Family by Cathy Collins

Monday, December 3
7:00am †Elizabeth Ryan and Family
5:15pm †Fernando Ruiz by Kaylee Gutierrez

Tuesday, December 4
7:00am †Elizabeth Ryan and Family
5:15pm †Elizabeth Ryan and Family

Wednesday, December 5
7:00am †Elizabeth Ryan and Family
5:15pm †Joseph Vu Hoa by Vu & Thu Trinh

Thursday, December 6
7:00am For the clients and staff at Open Door Women’s Clinic
5:15pm

Friday, December 7
7:00am Bill Woodyard by STM Family
6:00pm †Leonard Savary by Evelyn Savary

Saturday, December 8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00am
5:00pm The Strickland Family

We pray for our military men and women serving overseas. Please provide the names of military service members so that they and their families can be remembered at Mass and in the prayers of our parishioners. Call the office at (850) 222-9630 to have a name added to or removed from this list.

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS
Anthoney Medehue, Christopher Brian Jones, Joseph Legros, Matthew Pickles Chase Murray, Paul Rolston, Joseph Westberry, and Steven Vuis

Clergy & Staff
Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee:
Most Reverend William A. Wack, CSC
Rector: Rev. John B. Cayer, frjohn@cocathedral.com
Parochial Vicar & Campus Minister: Rev. Tim Holeda, frtim@cocathedral.com
Deacon: Andy Grosmaire, deaconandy@cocathedral.com
Campus Ministry: Brother Clinton Reed, broclinton@fsucatholic.org
High School Youth Director: Chris Ackerman, (615)945-4350, bsclifeteen@gmail.com
Director of Religious Ed: Maureen Brown-Muir, maureen@cocathedral.com
Music Ministry: Almira Malley, almira@cocathedral.com
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Registration Information
PARISH MEMBERSHIP: All Catholics who regularly worship at St. Thomas More should be registered as parishioners.
REGISTRATION: All parishioners are asked to return a completed registration form to the parish office and make identifiable contributions either through offertory envelopes or by personal checks.
MATRIMONY: Arrangements should be made with a priest at least six months in advance. Important guidelines for marriage at St. Thomas More Co-Cathedral can be found at our website: www.cocathedral.com or by calling the office.
BAPTISM: Parents must be registered members of our parish and attend Baptism Preparation Classes. To register and obtain further information, contact the church office.
TITHING: Our parish encourages parishioners to thank God for their material blessings by returning a percentage of their income to Him through charitable donations. God in return richly blesses those who tithe. The recommended distribution of tithing is half to the parish and half to other charities, including the Bishop’s Catholic Sharing Appeal and second collections. A household can begin tithing by returning 2% of their income to God, and increasing it to 10% over a period of years as household finances allow. Please make parish donations by writing checks to St. Thomas More. To give on-line, go to www.securegive.com.
PRIEST OR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER VISITATION: Those needing to have a priest or extraordinary minister visit them at home, hospital or prison, call the parish office.