



# More News

The Seasonal Newsletter of  
St. Thomas More Catholic Parish  
Scranton, Pennsylvania



## Feast of St. James 2020

### From the Pastor

Dear Members & Friends,

Much has transpired since our last edition of *More News*. Rather than recount in detail the outbreak of the worldwide Coronavirus pandemic or the civil unrest that has occurred since the death in Minneapolis of George Floyd, I will simply relate how grateful I am that we are once again worshipping together in St. Joseph Church and that our campus has not been one of those properties affected by the mob violence we have seen in so many cities across our nation. I am grateful, as well, that so few of my parishioners have been sickened during this time of trial and that our church is an oasis of interracial comity and love in a world simultaneously stratifying and coming apart at the seams.

Our parish's hopeful reality will be on full display here on August 16<sup>th</sup>, when Bishop Steven Lopes will be in Scranton to administer the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation at the 10AM Mass that Sunday. He has placed no restrictions upon who may come, but if you are inclined to avoid the crowd, be assured that he will celebrate the 5PM Mass on August 15<sup>th</sup>, the Solemnity of our Blessed Mother's Assumption into heaven. A third opportunity to be present with our Bishop will take place Sunday evening, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 5PM, when Bishop Lopes will offer the inaugural Mass at our new location in the Lehigh Valley, Holy Ghost Church in the southside of Bethlehem. If you are getting out and about, please avail yourself of one of these opportunities to greet and thank the man who by God's grace has done so much these past four months to ensure his priests continuously provide access to the Sacraments, whatever the particular challenges in each of our locales.

Before he comes, I want to apprise you of a change he is making to our sacramental preparation. Bishop Lopes has asked – after these First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes of 2020 – that the original order of the administration of the Sacraments be observed. That is, restored order means our young people will be confirmed on the same day they receive First Holy Communion, shortly after

attaining the age of reason, which implies our typical Sunday School class levels will no longer obtain. Children who will be age 7 and above in August, 2022 will begin age-appropriate instruction for Confirmation this September. His Excellency's explanation for this change – of which I am fully supportive – was offered in the [pastoral letter on the Holy Ghost](#) that came to you in the mail just before St. Joseph's Day in the spring. In short, he desires that the Sacramental Grace of Confirmation be imparted sooner rather than later, that God's life within the faithful be strengthened as our children go forth into the world that is so in need of their witness.



Because this change will require a fundamental restructuring of our catechesis for our young people, we will have a **parish meeting** about this on **Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at our annual parish picnic at Lackawanna State Park, just after lunch is served at 1PM.** Please make every effort to attend.

At this meeting I will also talk about the tenth anniversary of the Dedication of St. Joseph Church, which will be observed when Bishop Lopes comes to visit us again in August, 2022. Not only will we have a confirmation class unprecedented in its size, I hope we will have completed several capital improvement projects that will augment the beauty of our campus. First among these, and somewhat urgently considering the global pandemic, we will consider the improvement of our lot at the corner of Theodore St. and Church Ave. After much prayer and research, in consultation with a good number of your fellow parishioners, I have concluded that our Marian shrine that

faces the intersection should have an altar immediately behind it which we could use to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass outdoors. Our parishioners could congregate on the lot dedicated to the memory of Jerry McGreevy on occasions when outdoor Masses are our best option for maintaining access to the Sacraments, with the added benefit that our campus would have another space fit for outdoor recreation. We also see that several of our buildings are in need of exterior improvements, most notably the stucco on the convent and the window frames on the church. Such a capital campaign would require the permission of the chancery, so we will work to gain approval, even as we explain to His Excellency the proposed scope of our plans for 2022.

One reason for the delay in the advancement of the Marian project about which we have been praying for more than 18 months was my uncertainty about the image of Our Lady that our shrine should represent. Recently my brother brought to my attention the image of Our Lady of Providence, unique in that Our Blessed Mother gazes upon the face of her Divine Son, whom she cradles in her arms. Just as she prompted His help at the Wedding at Cana, she has interceded on our behalf for Divine Providence since well before we established our missionary outpost here in the Providence section of Scranton. It is thus entirely fitting, and I am convinced, that this neighborhood, the oldest in northeastern Pennsylvania, which has been called Providence since at least 1770, should have an image of Our Lady of Providence to which the faithful of Scranton may flee for succor and at which we may give thanks for her many intercessions on behalf of our Parish and our city. May we by the grace of her prayers be provided with the conversion of heart, and conversions to the Faith, that will ensure the flourishing of this neighborhood for the next 250 years and beyond.

With prayers for your health and wellness, pleading as well for Scranton's preservation from the civil unrest afflicting so many of our nation's cities, I am, gratefully,

Your servant in Christ,

*The Rev. Eric L. Bergman*

# Worship

## Register for Weekend Masses

As the parish continues to do its part to battle the Coronavirus Pandemic, the seating capacity of St. Joseph Church is currently limited to 25%, or 75 persons. Every other row of pews is roped off to aid in social distancing, and household units are asked to sit together, and to kneel together at the altar rail. An additional Mass (the 5:00 p.m. Saturday vigil)



has been added to our weekend schedule to help spread our Sunday attendance across three Masses. Given these circumstances, **all Lord's Day and Holy Day worshipers must call the Parish Office at 570-343-0634 to reserve your household's place at your preferred Mass.** Please call every week – before the close of Thursday – so we have Friday to work out the seating. Notably, while we did reach capacity on just one occasion, we have never yet had to shunt any household from its requested Mass time to a less desirable one.

In addition to the measures mentioned above, please keep in mind the other efforts to mitigate the spread of the virus:

- The Sunday Obligation remains commuted, and we continue to record and post online our Masses for home worship, especially by those most vulnerable to the virus.
- No one with a fever or any of the other typical symptoms should come to Mass.
- The worship space and restroom are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected by a team of volunteers prior to each weekend.



- Communion is received on the tongue as always, but the Altar Rail and the Priest's fingers are disinfected in a reverent manner after each pass along the Altar Rail.
- Windows and doors are propped open to increase ventilation with outside air, aided by a powerful exhaust fan.
- Most choral and congregational singing is temporarily on hold until we know more about the propensity for singing to spread respiratory particles.

## Masses with Bishop Lopes August 15 & 16

Bishop Steven Lopes visits St. Thomas More Parish every two years on the anniversary of the dedication of our church, and this year will be no exception. Bishop Lopes will celebrate Mass for the **Annunciation on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.**, and then will confer **Reception into Full Communion** and the Sacraments of **Confirmation** and **First Ho-**



**ly Communion** to all our candidates on **Sunday morning, August 16.** Then he will travel south to the Lehigh Valley, where he will celebrate the inaugural Mass of our mission congregation (by then to have a new title) at their new home, Holy Ghost Church in Bethlehem. Please pray for safe travels for Bishop Lopes and a blessed weekend for all those anticipating his visit.

## 24-Hour Adoration, 8:00 a.m. Saturday Masses

Our monthly offering of 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration has resumed according to their regular pattern on the **First Friday & Saturday of each month.** We begin at **4:30 p.m. on Friday** with Exposition of the Sacrament, Evening Prayer, and Benediction, concluding at **4:30 p.m. on Saturday.** Mass punctuates the 24 hours on **Saturday at 8:00**



**a.m.** Adorers are asked to sign up for a time slot on the sheet at the back of the church.

Until such time as churches fully reopen, Fr. Bergman has also announced that the **Saturday 8:00 a.m. Mass** – normally offered only on First Saturdays – **will now be offered weekly.** All are welcome and encouraged to avail themselves of these opportunities for adoration and worship in our Lord's very presence.

## Assumption Masses

The **Assumption of Mary** (not a Holy Day of Obligation this year, as it falls on a Saturday) will be observed with **8:00 a.m. Said Mass** and **5:00 p.m. Solemn Mass** (the latter with Bishop Lopes) on **Saturday, August 15.** **As the Sunday obligation remains commuted, it is strongly suggested that those Parishioners without family members receiving Sacraments of Initiation on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> attend the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass that weekend, to reduce crowding on Sunday morning.**

## Sound System Upgrade

Noting some pronounced static on our audio recordings of weekend Masses, we have replaced and added several wireless microphones and upgraded the mixer of the church sound system. Not only should the quality of our recordings improve, but we are



now equipped to amplify all three sacred ministers (Celebrant / Deacon / Subdeacon), our Cantor, and the Lectern simultaneously at Solemn Masses, without clumsy microphone passing or unamplified segments of any Mass. Happily, having retained the older equipment replaced in the church, we are now equipped – for the first time ever – to install a wireless microphone system in the Parish Hall.

## Video: Toronto Conference Liturgies

Way back in November, a conference on the **Anglican Tradition in the Catholic Church** was hosted in Toronto by the *Anglicanorum Coetibus* Society. Videos of the beautiful litur-



gies have been uploaded to gradually since that time, and all are now available on YouTube. Online readers may view them at the links below:

[Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving](#)

[Choral Matins](#)

[Evensong & Benediction](#)

# Discipleship

## Sacramental Preparation Classes Resume

In anticipation of his visit to confer Sacraments of initiation – and under the stipulation of small class sizes – Bishop Lopes has granted permission for the children’s First Holy Communion class and the youth Confirmation class to resume, completing the instruction that



came to a halt with the cessation of public gatherings back in March. Typically, the First Holy Communion Class meets on Saturdays after the Vigil Mass, and the Confirmation class on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m.

Information on the resumption of Sunday School classes will be provided closer to the fall season, when we have a better picture of how the pandemic will affect our plans.

## Maria Kaupas Academy Gearing Up

Though keeping a close eye on the regional pandemic situation, Maria Kaupas Academy continues to plan full steam ahead for a fall reopening. The summer has been marked by a particular interest in the Lower School, with several new families each registering multiple children. Space will be a challenge, even in our recently acquired building at 115 Theodore Street. Creative thinking is underway to accommodate our burgeoning classes!

Meanwhile, the Upper School is making some adjustments of its own. After two years of holding fast to a comprehensive, all-or-none model, consensus of our families has led us to move to an a-la-carte pattern, whereby students may opt to take some classes and not others. Many will continue with the full class load, but the new model will enable greater participation by prospective families who have heretofore hesitated to commit to the rigid comprehensive plan.

One of our faculty, Mark Kelly, has also been busy getting the word out about the Academy, having crafted an attractive HTML email (pictured above right). That material is included in the email by which this newsletter has been sent to all our email subscribers, as well as on the MKA Facebook page. All readers are warmly encouraged to forward and/or share with your friends and contacts throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania!

Registration is open for 2020-2021 School Year



Maria Kaupas Academy  
Classical Education for Northeast Pennsylvania

## Sacramental Records Update

The Parish is updating and entering the Sacramental Records of all Parishioners in a centralized Ordinariate database. If you receive a call from Sandy Campbell requesting the



date(s) and location(s) of your sacraments, please provide the information at your earliest convenience, so we may comply with the charge of the Ordinariate to set the example for other Parishes.

## An Ordinariate Priest’s Homilies for Children

Fr. Doug Hayman – Pastor at [Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ottawa, Canada](#) (and Dean of the Ordinariate’s Canadian Deanery) has been offering on YouTube a weekly



series of messages for children and young people, which he began on the Fourth Sunday of Easter. Online readers can access the whole series on Fr. Hayman’s YouTube channel, [here](#).

## Archbishop Di Noia on the Pandemic in ‘First Things’

Archbishop J. Augustine Di Noia OP serves as Adjunct Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and is Chairman of the

Working Group *Anglicanae traditiones*, which was formed in 2011 to compile the liturgical provision of the Ordinariate, most notably *Divine Worship: the Missal*. Archbishop Di Noia



has written a striking article in the esteemed periodical *First Things* back in May, considering the Pandemic in light of the Paschal Mystery. Here is an excerpt:

"It is Eastertide now, but the enforced penance endures. We don’t really know when this long Lent will come to an end. What is the properly Christian meaning of the providential concurrence of the pandemic with Lent and Eastertide? What light can our faith shed on the darkness that otherwise prevails during these days? The paschal experience of our crucified and risen Lord shows us the path of grace that turns our own experience of suffering into an opportunity for conversion and transformation, a passage from death to life with our Redeemer who suffered and died for our sake.

"These temporary conditions have allowed wild animals to wander at will on the streets of our cities. What does it mean that God permitted (or willed) these conditions? This is surely a Lenten warning that carries a divine judgment. Perhaps, through the charming antics of these freely roaming beasts, God is



saying something like this to us: ‘You are not invincible. See how suddenly you have disappeared from the highways and byways of twenty-first-century urban centers which are now occupied by creatures who normally live far from human contact, in the woods, in burrows deep in the ground, in the hills, in the rocks, on mountain tops, in the air.’

"Since we find ourselves at the moment not of the last things, but of the next to last, Anglican theologian Joseph Mangina writes, ‘this means there is still time—time to acknowledge the crucified not as our enemy but as our hope... One of the ways in which the Apocalypse subverts our expectations is that it shows us a God who, although decidedly impatient with evil, is extraordinarily patient with his creatures... He executes judgment on the world precisely in order to reclaim the world from the powers of death and hades...God’s judgment of the world is a sign that he has not abandoned it.’" The full essay is [here](#).

# Fellowship

## Parish Picnic

Though regrettably for many this will come as an 11<sup>th</sup> hour announcement, **the annual Parish Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 1 at Lackawanna State Park.** (We were recently surprised to learn that our pavilion reservation remains in effect, though masking will be required when social distancing is not possible.) Despite the last-minute



announcement, all are welcome to join us if you can for a day of food, fun, fellowship, swimming, fishing, boating, and biking. We'll be at the "Pine Pavilion" starting at 11 AM, with food served at 1 PM. Meat and drinks will be provided; please bring a side dish to share. Fr. Bergman will also conduct an outdoor congregational meeting with several updates in anticipation of the Bishop's visit.

# Outreach

## New Name, Location, & Priest for Mission Congregation

At the beginning of 2020, the Parish's missionary outpost in the Lehigh Valley ceased worshiping at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Bath, PA. At Bishop Lopes' suggestion, the group began celebrating Mass in the homes of members. Then, the pandemic put a halt to those gatherings as well.

We are pleased to announce that Bishops Lopes and Schlert (of our Ordinariate and the Diocese of Allentown, respectively) have identified a new home for the congregation: the stunningly beautiful **Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Bethlehem**; moreover, worship will recommence with the Bishop's visit at **5:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 16**, and will proceed



thereafter *every week* at that time. What's more, by that time the group will have prayerfully selected a new name for itself, and will also be under the new leadership of the newly ordained **Fr. Matthew Hummel**. Fr. Hummel hails from our sister Parish to the south, St.



John the Baptist, Bridgeport, from which he will travel north to minister to the mission congregation in Bethlehem. All of these developments portend an exciting future for our outpost in the Lehigh Valley!

# Evangelization

## A New Program for Inquirer's Class

For several years, the parish's Inquirer's Class – for adults ranging from the curious to those actively seeking confirmation in the Catholic Church – has met on Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m. with Paul Campbell and (when not visiting our mission in the Lehigh Valley) Fr. Bergman. The class has typically made use of two video-based courses, first giving inquirers a broad look at the Christian faith with the 10-week Alpha Course, and then a deeper dive into the Catholic Church with the 20-week Symbolon program. This arrangement has had its drawbacks; 30 weeks often takes the class past the Easter Vigil with some material still unconsidered by the Confirmation date. The Alpha Course – while containing nothing contrary to the Catholic faith – is not Catholic in origin or ethos. And Symbolon, while fully Catholic, can be a bit dry in its presentation. Neither course has featured any deliberate tie-in with the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

We are pleased to announce the enlistment of a new course – replacing both of the prior courses – which promises to address these various shortcomings. **Sycamore** – so



named for Zacchaeus' famed climb up the tree to get a better view of Jesus – is a new course in the Catholic faith written and hosted by Fr. Stephen Wang, a priest who serves at Newman House, a chaplaincy for university students in central London. As such, the course is hosted throughout by a Catholic Priest in his clericals, yet who offers a robust, vibrant, and winsome presentation of the Catholic faith in a deeply post-Christian setting. The course provides citations to the sections of the Catechism being addressed in each episode, enabling home study during the week to reinforce the topics

discussed in the class. And there's even a taste of the "Anglican patrimony," with the charm of the English accent, and filming locations in British cities, churches, and countrysides. Online readers can view a brief trailer [here](#).

In addition to the new program, Paul Campbell is considering other new directions for the class... perhaps a new evening, a new setting, and emphasis on bringing students into contact with the energy of the Sunday morning congregation at an earlier date. **Most of all, the class can only gain students by being invited by you, our parishioners.** Please pray about whom you may invite, and stay tuned for further details.

## Ordinations to the Diaconate, Permanent Diaconate, & Priesthood

With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God, the Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter joyfully announced the Ordination of David H.

(continued...)

(“Evangelization,” continued...)

Delaney, Stephen Hilgendorf, Samuel Keyes, and Scott Wooten to the Sacred Order of Deacon on Thursday, May 21, 2020. The Mass can be viewed [here](#).



The Ordinariate also joyfully announced the Ordination of Rev. Mr. Armando Alejandro, Jr., Rev. Mr. Nathan Davis, and Rev. Mr. Matthew Hummel to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ on Monday, June 29, the Feast of St. Peter & Paul. The Mass can be viewed [here](#), and Solemn Choral Evensong on the same day can be viewed [here](#).



All were ordained through the Imposition of Hands and the Invocation of the Holy Spirit by the Most Rev. Steven J. Lopes S.T.D., Bishop, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham in Houston, TX.

Finally, the Ordinariate also joyfully announces the Ordination of Mr. Randall King, Mr. Patrick Simons, Mr. Arthur Stockstill, Jr., and Mr. Scott Woloson to the Sacred Order of Deacon on Monday, 10 August A.D. 2020. This is the first cohort of permanent deacons for the Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter.

## Toronto Conference Talks

In addition to the liturgies offered at the *Anglicanorum Coetibus* Society's Toronto conference on “**The Anglican Tradition in the Catholic Church**,” online readers can now



view all four of the excellent and informative talks given by the noteworthy speakers at the conference:

[Bishop Steven Lopes:  
Identity & Mission of the Ordinariates](#)

[Fr. Jack Barker:  
How Anglicans Got an Ordinariate](#)

[David Warren:  
Anglo-Catholicism for Real](#)

[Fr. Derek Cross:  
St. John Henry Newman  
and the Anglican Patrimony](#)

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pastoral Provision and the Anglican Use

Writing on June 16 for the *Anglicanorum Coetibus* Society, Christopher Mahon wrote,

“Just a few months ago, ordinariate members spread across multiple countries celebrated the tenth anniversary of Pope Benedict’s legislation establishing diocesan jurisdictions for us characterized by our Anglican patrimonial liturgical forms. But this coming week, on June 20<sup>th</sup>, Anglican Catholics will celebrate an even older anniversary of a key papal act that explicitly paved the way for the Anglican ordinariates.

“For generations leading up to the pontificate of John Paul II, Anglicans had engaged in prayer, hope, and discussion focused on the eventual healing of our schism and our return to full communion with Rome and the rest of the Catholic Church. The formal manifestation of this took expression in the ARCIC dialogue with the Holy See which began in 1967. In the mid-late 1970s, Anglican approaches to Rome by groups culminated in the Holy See crafting a pastoral response that would provide a way for Anglicans to become fully Catholic while retaining their corporate integrity, their common identity, and their liturgical tradition’s distinctiveness. What resulted was a concrete demonstration of how seriously the Holy See took these Anglican approaches, and its respect for the Anglican tradition.

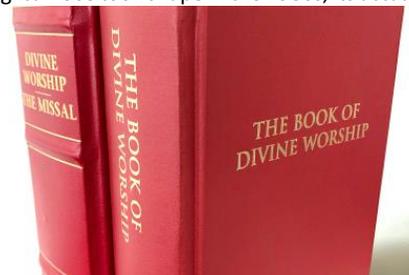
“On June 18<sup>th</sup>, 1980, the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith finalized a decree for papal approval that responded to the Anglican approaches and their desire to retain their distinctive identity in becoming Catholic. The decree comprised various decisions that would form the framework for a ‘Pastoral Provision’ that, would enable Anglicans in the United States entering full communion to form Catholic parishes belonging to them and characterized by their Anglican liturgical distinctiveness. It would also enable married Anglican priests to continue leading those congregations as Catholic priests, the precedent for which had been set back in the early 1950s under Pope Pius XII.

“Two days later these decisions were presented to the Holy Father, and on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1980, Pope John Paul II gave his formal authorization to the provisions and signed the decree into law. This groundbreaking event,

however, did not make headlines in the way *Anglicanorum Coetibus* did a generation later. In fact, the interested Anglicans weren’t even to learn of the pope’s act for months!

“This announcement would state that Rome would make pastoral provision for former Anglicans thereby ensuring their identity and the preservation of elements of their worship and would consider for Roman Catholic priesthood even those Anglican priests who were married.

“In due course authorization was given and an Anglican Use Catholic mass became a reality, based on the American Book of Common Prayer and incorporating material from the Sarum and Roman liturgies. The first parish dedicated to the Anglican Use was Our Lady of the Atonement in San Antonio, established in 1983, and more followed, including Our Lady of Walsingham in Houston, now the Cathedral of the North American ordinariate. While the Anglican Use took shape in the 1980s, its actual



publication in the Book of Divine Worship didn’t occur until 2003, and as is now well known, it has developed even further and exists in a more fulsome form in Divine Worship: The Missal.

“But all of this began with Pope John Paul II’s authorization of the creation of a Pastoral Provision in the first place on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1980. His historic decision even noted that, while the Anglican Use parishes were to be placed in the local Roman dioceses, ‘the possibility of some other type of structure as provided for by canonical dispositions, and as suited to the needs of the group, is not excluded.’ Prayers for just such another type of structure were to be answered in the ordinariate. So in many respects St John Paul II’s act was prophetic. Many things can be said about what it accomplished for the first time in history, but it is indisputable how very far-sighted it was, laying the groundwork for what is even now only beginning to be glimpsed.

All ordinariate faithful have cause to give thanks for what St John Paul II did for us 40 years ago. It is easy for us to thank God for Pope Benedict XVI and his *Anglicanorum Coetibus*, but on this occasion let us recall to mind the necessity to always give thanks for what St John Paul II gave to us a generation earlier. For it was indeed the framework on which Cardinal Ratzinger would later build.

“Thanks be to God and may his holy name be praised!”

**St. Thomas More Catholic Parish**  
**116 Theodore Street**  
**Scranton, PA 18508**

[www.stmscranton.org](http://www.stmscranton.org)

[contact@stmscranton.org](mailto:contact@stmscranton.org)

570-343-0634



Still receiving our newsletter by US Mail? Send your email address to [contact@stmscranton.org](mailto:contact@stmscranton.org), and receive our electronic version sooner each month, with full-color photos, internet links, and in a format free and easy to forward to family and friends!