



More News

The Seasonal Newsletter of
St. Thomas More Catholic Parish
Scranton, Pennsylvania
Easteride 2021



[In this edition the Pastor's Letter is provided separately; please click here.](#)

Worship

May Crowning May 2

On **Sunday, May 2**, the girls of the Parish will lead our annual custom of the **May Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary** at the opening of the 10:00 a.m. Mass. When Sunday School concludes at 9:30 a.m., girls



desiring to participate should report the Parish Hall, where floral garlands for their hair will be distributed, and the process described to them and their parents, to ensure an orderly presentation at Mass. After the crowning, garlands will be collected, and girls should join their parents in the pews, or their fellow choristers in the choir loft.

Ascension Masses

The Ascension of the Lord is a **Holy Day of Obligation**, falling this year on Thursday, May 14. **Solemn Vigil Mass** will be offered on the preceding evening, **Wednesday the 13th**



at our usual Mass time, **5:30 p.m.** Said Masses will be offered on **Thursday the 14th at 7 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.**

Improved Coordination for Eucharistic Adoration

We are grateful to announce that two volunteers have taken charge of improving coordination of scheduling adorers for our monthly 24-hour Adoration. If you would like



to be an adorer – or to be available as a substitute should a time slot become vacant – please contact **Kathleen O'Donnell** (kodonnell613@comcast.net) or **Maripat Kovalkoski** (mkovalkoski@gmail.com).

First Friday & Saturday Evensong & Adoration

After a hiatus caused when Good Friday fell on the First Friday of April, our monthly First Friday / First Saturday devotions will return on **May 7 & 8. Solemn Choral Even-**



song and Benediction will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, with 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration continuing until that same hour on Saturday. Please sign up at the back of the church for a time to adore our Lord.

Corpus Christi Procession

On **Sunday, June 6** – the Solemnity of Corpus Christi – the Parish will undertake its annual outdoor Corpus Christi procession, filing out of church after the 10:00 a.m. Mass, singing Eucharistic hymns and bringing the Real Presence of Jesus to our neighbors, before



returning to the church for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please plan to take part in this annual opportunity for worship and witness in the midst of our neighborhood.

St. Thomas More Novena

The annual Novena to St. Thomas More will be held from **Monday, June 14 through Tuesday, June 22**, concluding on our Patron's



feast day with **Solemn Mass**. During the Novena, **all weekday Masses will be at 5:30 p.m., and morning Mass on Saturday the 19th will be at 10:00 a.m.** All are encouraged to make a discipline of attending the Novena Masses!

Summer Choir

Pulled apart by the pandemic to serve multiple weekend Masses this year, the Parish Choir will be reconstituted this fall. Children, Youth, **and Adults**, please plan to dip your toe in the water by way of **Summer Choir!**

Discipleship

Successful Event on Divine Mercy Sunday

On the Second Sunday of Easter, April 11 – Divine Mercy Sunday – the Parish offered an event that was well-attended by many from both the Parish and the community. Organized by parishioner Jerry Bauman (founder of divine-mercyforyouth.org), hot lunch was served from his food trailer after 10:00 a.m. Mass. A holy hour of Adoration and Confession began at 2:00 p.m., and then at 3:00 p.m. began “The Story of



Divine Mercy,” a narrated script telling the story of St. Faustina and the words spoken to her by Jesus, interspersed with several hymns reflecting on God’s mercy. Then followed the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, which was also said after all three Lord’s Day Masses.

Many thanks to Jerry Bauman for bringing this event to our Parish, which he has also produced in several others in our area.

Another Building Purchased

On March 3, the parish acquired yet another building on our block, the home at 119 Ferdinand Street (two doors up from the home



we purchased two years ago that now serves our Lower School). The building will eventually provide classroom, childcare, and/or office space for our expanding ministries, but the building (purchased at a “bargain basement” price) will require substantial renovation first. Please prayerfully consider a contribution to this end, making use of the materials concurrently mailed with this newsletter to homes of our contributors. Thank you for your support!

Baccalaureate Mass

The annual Baccalaureate Mass for the Maria Kaupas Academy Upper School will be offered on **Friday, June 4 at 5:30 p.m.** The



Mass will be sung by our Upper School Choir, which will prepare a choral setting of the Mass in lieu of singing First Friday Evensong, which will be offered as said Evening Prayer at 4:30 p.m. as always, jumpstarting 24-hour Adoration. All are welcome to assist at the Mass as we pray for the graduating class of our Upper School.

Ordinariate Cathedral High School Being Pursued

Plans are well underway for a Classical Catholic High School at the Ordinariate’s Cathedral, Our Lady of Walsingham in Houston, TX. The mission of the school will be to build Catholic Culture through the “four pillars” of Sacred



Wisdom, Sacred Worship, Sacred Music, and Sacred Art. An impressive promotional video about the project can be viewed online [here](#).

The new Cathedral High School and our own Maria Kaupas Academy are very much a part of a growing movement of Catholic Classical Education, the topic of a recent article by Ordinariate member Peter Jesserer Smith in the National Catholic Register, available [here](#), which mentions yet another venture into Classical education by an Ordinariate community:

“Catholic parents [in Charleston, SC] started intensifying years of discussions on how to give their children a Catholic classical education back in 2019, and over the course of the pandemic, they made plans in earnest to open a new high school through Corpus Christi Catholic Church, a parish of the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, in the fall of 2021. [Nicole] Koopman came on board as head of school in 2020, having both personal experience of a Catholic classical education for high school and observing firsthand the need for it in college-age students she has taught. ‘Classical high schools provide tools which are ultimately useful in any field,’ she said, adding that this Catholic liberal arts formation affords students

a solid foundation as they specialize at the university level.

“The school’s first year will launch with a ninth-grade class as a homeschool hybrid. The following year will be completely in person and see a new grade added each year afterward until it is a full high school.

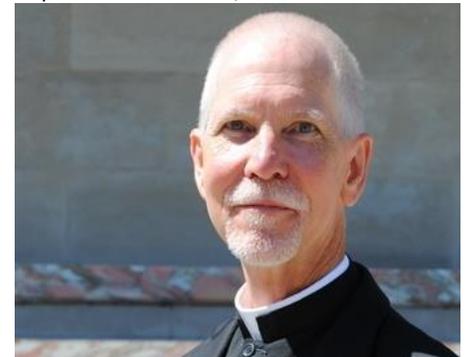
“Koopman explained that the school will emphasize ‘the rhythm of the Church,’ from homeroom teachers leading students in praying Morning Prayer from the Church’s Liturgy of the Hours to celebrating special feasts with Mass.”

Ordinariate Vicar General Named Monsignor

On February 25, Bishop Lopes released the following statement:

“It is my great pleasure to share with you the news that our Holy Father Pope Francis, has bestowed an honor on one of our priests, Fr. Timothy P. Perkins, naming him a Chaplain of His Holiness with the title of Monsignor!

Of coworkers in the vineyard of the Lord, Monsignor Perkins is the best. I have so often benefited from his wise counsel, his prayerful discernment, and most of all from his friendship. As Vicar General, he stands shoulder to



shoulder with me in service to you and in support of our priests and parish communities.

His contribution to the project of Catholic unity reaches back decades. I know that Monsignor would tell you the thing for which he is most grateful for God’s grace is the privilege of leading the community of St. Peter the Rock into full communion. This was actually the first community of faithful received into the Ordinariate (before there was an Ordinariate!) and now form part of the parishes of St. John Vianney in Cleburne and St. Mary the Virgin in Arlington [both in Texas]. Indeed, becoming a Chaplain of His Holiness honors the pioneering work of so many of our priests and people.

Please join me in offering a prayer of gratitude for this gift from the Holy Father. Congratulations, Monsignor Perkins!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Steven J. Lopes

Fellowship

Youth Group

Though the 2020-2021 season has largely been a wash with regard to the typical pace of Parish fellowship events (monthly Neighbor Nights, potluck birthday lunches, Epiphany and Shrove Tuesday suppers, and the like), one Fellowship ministry that has remained active – due largely to a disposition



toward outdoor activities – has been our Youth Group. Meeting on the fourth Sunday

of each month after the 10:00 a.m. Mass, young people ages 12 and up take a break from their otherwise rigorous studies in both Sunday School and Maria Kaupas Academy, and enjoy a fun social outing together. As the pandemic recedes, we look forward to a full return of all other Fellowship activities, following the unflagging example of our Youth!

Evangelization

Inquirer's Class Members Receive Sacraments of Initiation

The parish's Inquirer's Class – for adults ranging from the curious to those actively seeking confirmation in the Catholic Church – began in the Fall with only one student, but grew as the season progressed. At the Easter Vigil, five students received (according to their individual situations) the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Reception into Full Communion,



OFFER, STRENGTHEN, SUSTAIN

Confirmation, and First Holy Communion. Our largest crowd ever gathered for the Easter Vigil, which exceeded three hours for the first time in our history.

Hailing from a wide range of backgrounds and walks of life, our students included:

- A young Protestant man pursuing a career in aviation, who felt at home when he and the Catholic young woman he is dating visited our Parish last summer;
- A new mother who lost her Catholic faith in her youth, but was newly confronted with the reality of God upon the birth of her baby;
- A young man with a Mormon background, brought to us by an Eastern Rite Catholic Deacon;
- A young man from upstate New York – a relative of one of our Parishioners – whom Fr. Bergman catechized over the phone;
- and, a retired Lutheran Pastor who began attending St. Thomas More after reading his way into the Church.

As we give thanks for the full incorporation of these lovely souls into the Catholic faith, please being praying about who you can invite to next season's Inquirer's Class!

New Ordinariate Community Begins Masses in Guam

Writing for the *Anglicanorum Coetibus* Society Blog, Peter Smith [reports](#):

"The Santa Cruz (Holy Cross) Community in Guam has just planted deeper roots into the Pacific island with the launch of regular Ordinariate Masses, held at 7 PM on the Saturday Vigil at the Father Dueñas Memorial School Chapel in Chalan Pago, Guam.



"According to the Our Lady of the Southern Cross newsletter, the Santa Cruz community has enjoyed the support of the Latin Rite Archdiocese of Guam, with some Catholic priests learning how to celebrate Mass with *Divine Worship: the Missal* with the blessing of Archbishop Michael Byrnes.

"When the U.S. seized Guam from the Spanish Empire after the 1898 Spanish-American War, Episcopalian and other Protestant missionaries came in its wake forming sizeable congregations in the majority Catholic country. Today, approximately 18% of Guam belongs to a Protestant congregation. The Ordinariate provides another pathway for these Christians, either as individuals or congregations, to come into full communion with the Catholic Church.

"While Guam is a U.S. territory, the Santa Cruz community falls under the jurisdiction of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, which serves Australia, Japan, and other Pacific Rim countries, rather than under that of the U.S. and Canada-based Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter."

Priest Reflects on Benedict XVI's 2010 UK Visit

[Writing in The Catholic Herald](#), English Priest Fr. James Bradley reflects,

"It was 10 years ago, during the Papal Visit, when I was still an Anglican curate in Kent. I went with a group of about 25 parishioners to Hyde Park to greet Pope Benedict XVI, and to attend the vigil the night before the beatification of John Henry Newman.

"After the introductions and welcome, Pope Benedict appeared on the platform before us. He began with a reflection on vocation; about the call to respond to the truth, and he encouraged us to be open to God's voice 'resounding in the depths of your heart'. These words resounded loudly in my ears.

"A little later the Blessed Sacrament was exposed for adoration. The sight of the Holy Father kneeling in prayer before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, surrounded by the bishops and priests, and with the rest of us all kneeling in equally silent adoration before the monstrance; it was to me a vivid sign of all that the Catholic Church truly is. To experience that in Hyde Park, in that most English of places, and to be celebrating the life and holiness of an Englishman who had in his own time experienced much of the confusion that we as Anglicans in our day had also found, showed us the need for a clear and determined way forward.

"On that dark September evening the kindly light of truth that Newman had so clearly found and followed was given also to us. I'm not sure it's true to say it was a 'Damascus moment', but it was certainly a time that changed us, and that made very certain the path we would later take.

"I wonder now and again whether Pope Benedict knew the real impact that all of these various elements would have on people like me. I like to think he did, but perhaps I'll never know. What I do know is this: that God has created me to do him some definite service, and that night he began to show me how."

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