



More News

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

Trinitytide 2021



From the Pastor



Dear Members & Friends,

I write to you in the midst of our annual St. Thomas More Novena, which has gotten off to an excellent start and which will be punctuated by three special events: a showing of *A Man for all Seasons*, (about St. Thomas More) on Friday, June 18; the annual English pub lunch on Sunday, June 20; and the Solemn Mass upon our conclusion on our Patronal Feast Day, June 22. Through the years many graces have flowed from the prayers offered by the faithful during our Novena. I encourage you to join in this pious devotion, and assist at Mass during this time as often as you can.

Last newsletter's focus was upon the many kindnesses extended to my family and me during our recent time of trial. We would like to reiterate our gratitude for your presence at Damian's funeral, burial, and reception in the Parish Hall. The crowds present that day, our first overflow gathering since the pandemic started, were a great consolation to all who mourned our son's passing. We are likewise grateful for your help during Kristina's six weeks of physical recovery and also for the meals that were offered well into the month of May. The light gold vestments given in memory

of Damian Alfonso Bergman and Matteo Benedict Donnelly, another parishioner who died too young, were blessed last week, so an enduring memorial has already been given, for which we are also thankful. Thank you, finally, for your openness. So many of you shared with us, on the occasion of Damian's death, the losses you yourselves have suffered, tragedies in many cases about which we had heard nothing until April 22, the day of the funeral. We pray that in this outpouring of grief you experienced the Lord's comfort, as you mourned with us.

We intend to help comfort our entire neighborhood, and part of our outreach in this regard will be the Our Lady of Providence Shrine, which we will erect on the McGreevy Memorial Green at the corner of Theodore St. and Church Ave. Andrew Smith, a parishioner who is also a professional sculptor, has prepared renderings of the artwork he proposes for that intersection, a more precise articulation of a presentation he made to Bishop Steven Lopes in August. On Sunday these renderings may be viewed in the Parish Hall after Mass in conjunction with our annual Novena English Pub Lunch. The drawings will serve as the basis for the fundraising we will undertake to erect this shrine, which we hope to dedicate next summer, when Bishop Lopes makes his pastoral visit. Our Lady of Providence Shrine, which will include behind it an altar for outdoor Masses, will serve as a memorial to our loved ones who have gone before us, and will simultaneously offer a place for respite and prayer for all who pass by – or intentionally make it a place of pilgrimage. Plus, the rest of the McGreevy Memorial Green will be restored to complete an additional spacious play area for the children of our parish and school. Please come see what we have in mind and learn about Our Lady of Providence, while enjoying the fellowship of your fellow parishioners.

Upon the conclusion of the St. Thomas More Novena Kristina and I will take our family on a vacation to the Midwest, and we will be gone for two weeks. However, for this time away we have arranged for Fr. Matthew Hummel, the chaplain of St. John Paul II Ordinate Community in Bethlehem, to say all the regularly scheduled Masses, save for the 7PM Mass on Sunday July 4, which we must cancel for lack of a substitute, while he is in Bethlehem saying our Mission Mass. Since he will reside here at the Rectory, he will also be available to handle whatever pastoral emergencies might arise. Please greet him and his wife warmly, and thank them for their dedication to growing the Church in the Lehigh Valley. On July 1 he will be joined by our parish seminarian, Christian Franck, who will intern here until July 31. I anticipate your hospitality to our guests will be as generous as you have lately been to us and ours, and, in advance, I thank you.

I will conclude this month with an appeal to our many school families. Because of Damian's untimely death, we were late in distributing our registration materials for the upcoming Maria Kaupas Academy school year. I apologize. Nevertheless, it would be very helpful to our administration if, for planning purposes, you sent in your paperwork sooner rather than later. As I mentioned in my homily on Sunday, we believe we will have larger classes for 7th, 8th, and 9th grades than ever before, and this will require intense activity upon my return from vacation. You will aid us immensely if we have everything in hand when I come back refreshed and ready to work hard preparing for the 2021-2022 MKA year.

In anticipation of the happy answers to prayer we shall receive through the intercession of our Patron during this, our 14th Novena, to him, I am,

Gratefully yours,

The Rev. Eric L. Bergman

Worship

St. Thomas More Novena

Our annual Novena to St. Thomas More will be held from **Monday, June 14 through Tuesday, June 22**. Please note, *all weekday*



Masses will be at 5:30 p.m., and morning Mass on Saturday the 19th will be at 10:00 a.m. Guest homilists will preach at several of the liturgies. All are encouraged to make a discipline of attending the Novena Masses!

Solemn Feast Day Mass June 22

The concluding Mass of our Novena will be **5:30 p.m. Solemn Mass** on our Parish's Solemnity of Title, the Feast of Ss. Thomas



More and John Fisher, **Tuesday, June 22**. Please join us for the pinnacle liturgy of our annual Novena!

First Friday / First Saturday Devotions

Upcoming First Friday / First Saturday devotions will be offered on July 2-3 and August 6-7. Exposition of the Sacrament and

Discipleship

Summer Break

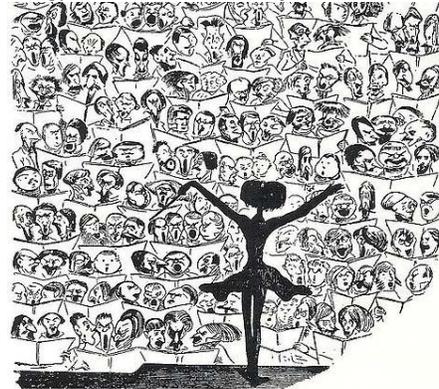
Though Sunday School, Maria Kaupas Academy, and Youth Group have soldiered on throughout the past season despite the pandemic, many other of the Parish's discipleship ministries have been on hold. With the summer



Evening Prayer will be at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, with 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration continuing until that same hour on Saturday. Mass will be offered Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. Please sign up at the back of the church for a time to adore our Lord.

Summer Choir Underway

With Sunday school now concluded, Summer Choir got underway on Sunday, June 13. All children (grades 2+), youth, *and adults* are welcome to join us in the choir loft at 9:30 a.m. on any (or all) Sundays to run through the music for that day's Mass, and to sing the liturgy. **A trained voice, a formal audition,**



and previous training/experience are not required. And, the choir loft is air conditioned! No obligation to continue in the Parish Choir in the fall is implied, though Summer Choir does provide an ideal opportunity to "dip your toe in the water" to discern whether you might enjoy singing with us year-round.

Class on Praying the Daily Office Monday, July 26

We are pleased to announce that as a mid-summer adult formation opportunity, we will host a class on **Monday evening, July 26** on how to pray on your own the Daily Office (the daily services of Morning and Evening



Prayer) using our Daily Office Book. Our special guest teacher will be Ordinariate Priest **Fr. Nathan Davis**, who oversees St. Alban's Catholic Church in Rochester, NY, who visits the Parish periodically for mentoring with Fr. Bergman. **Free supper** will be offered in the Parish Hall at **6:00 p.m.**, with the class getting underway at 6:30. If you have purchased a Daily Office Book, please bring it; if not, copies will be available for purchase on site.

Assumption of Mary

Usually on a weekday, the Assumption of Mary (August 15) falls on a Sunday this year, and thus supersedes the normal Trinitytide Sunday propers. Thus, our celebration of the



Assumption this year will follow our typical Sunday Mass schedule: 5 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass, Solemn Mass on Sunday morning at 10 a.m., and Sunday evening at 7 p.m.

months now upon us, we will take the annual summer respite from all these programs, looking forward to hitting the ground running at full strength in the fall. Another newsletter late in the summer will outline the panoply of opportunities for Catholic formation available within the Parish.

Summer Drama Camp

Dear Friend, faithful Catholic, and highly qualified teacher Geri Featherby is offering a



week-long (July 19-23) Drama Camp this summer in the parish hall which will culminate in a performance on Friday, July 23, featuring selections from "Annie" and "Oliver." All children age 8-13ish are welcome! Fees (\$10/student, \$25/family max) will benefit Maria Kaupas Academy. You *must* register for a July 13 audition by Sunday, July 4 by emailing Mrs. Featherby at gbyazzsinger@yahoo.com.

Fellowship

Novena Movie Night Friday, June 18

A potluck supper and movie night will follow the 5:30 p.m. Novena Mass on **Friday, June 18**. Our film will be, “**A Man for All Seasons**,” the 1966 film adaptation of Robert Bolt’s highly



regarded play about **St. Thomas More**. The movie won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1967. Bring a dish to share, and join us for a superb classic film about our Parish’s patron Saint!

Novena Potluck Feast Sunday, June 20

Our annual potluck feast in honor of St. Thomas More will as usual take place **after 10:00 a.m. Mass** on the Sunday within the Novena... **Sunday, June 20**. Please bring a dish



to share, preferably **English Pub fare**. English Beer will be provided by the Parish for those of legal age.

Parish Picnic August 14

The annual Parish Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 14 at Lackawanna State Park. Please save the date for a full day of food, fellowship, outdoor games, swimming, fishing,



and boating. Visitors are always welcome, so feel free to bring along family, friends, or neighbors from outside our Parish. Meats and beverages are provided, but please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

Outreach

“Neighbor Nights” to Resume This Fall

On hold for well over a year due to the pandemic, our monthly Neighbor Nights will resume after the summer break. Offered on the **third Saturday of each month starting at 6:00 p.m.**, these are monthly low-threshold opportunities for parishioners to invite their non-Christian / non-Catholic friends to experience the hospitality and fellowship of our Parish



in a *non-worship* setting, featuring free supper, pool, ping-pong, board games, wi-fi, conversation, and a movie on the big screen. Please begin praying about friends and neighbors whom you might invite this fall.

Also Outreach related: Work continues on the Parish’s most recently acquired property (119 Ferdinand Street – henceforth, the Darrin Bloch House) – in anticipation of housing our seminarian, Christian Francke, throughout July.

Evangelization

Inquirer’s Class

It is never too early to begin praying about whom you may invite to our Inquirer’s Class, set to start again this fall. The weekly Sunday evening class offers free supper, excellent instruction in the Catholic faith, and lively discussion about the topics covered. The class is for adults from a wide range of perspectives, ranging from the merely curious, to those ready to sign up for confirmation at the Easter Vigil.

The class will under-go some tweaks as we continue to hone the course to address an



increasingly skeptical culture. It will take on the title “**Questioning Faith**,” a play on words indicating that while the class is indeed for those with questions about faith, the Catholic faith itself is open to questions and does not shut down inquiry. Its start time will move a little earlier to **5:00 p.m.** each Sunday, allowing more ample discussion time. And – time permitting this summer – facilitator Paul Campbell has begun work on editing together the very best material from the several superb video-based resources we have used for the class, resulting in a comprehensive presentation of the Catholic faith that is orthodox, attractive, and persuasive.

The flyer supplied with this newsletter is not intended just for you... it is meant to be handed to a friend or neighbor you’d like to invite! Please do so, and alert us if you know someone who might be interested.

Bishop’s Pentecost Message

Bishop Steven Lopes has released a video message to the Ordinariate faithful, likening the coronavirus pandemic to the insularity of the Upper Room prior to Pentecost. With the pandemic waning fast, Bishop Lopes calls up-



on us to “burst out of the upper room, preaching the risen Christ” as on the first Pentecost. “Can you imagine if each of our Ordinariate parishes responded to the pandemic now like the apostles at that first Pentecost?” Online readers can view the video [here](#).

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