



More News

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

Autumn 2021



From the Pastor



Dear Members & Friends,

After more than five years serving in an administrative capacity for Maria Kaupas Academy – our parish school – coordinating everything from book and furnishing purchases to student handbooks, Katy Kadonoff tendered her resignation over the summer. She will continue her work as our parish and school bookkeeper, but the rapid growth of MKA has made it impossible for her to fulfill an indispensable role in both the parish and the school. St. Thomas More Parish owes her a debt of gratitude for her labor, much of which was undertaken on a volunteer basis, and all of which was offered out of her great love for our Lord and the children He has sent us to shepherd and educate. Please join me in thanking her for her untiring service and prayers, which have been instrumental in both the establishment and success of the school.

Annie Lefler, our MKA Lower School Coordinator for the past three years, has also stepped down, though she will remain on staff as a teacher. The Leflers are one of our school's founding families, and Annie, also, has been constant in her prayer and work for Maria Kaupas Academy. How grateful we are for her devotion to our students and our mission to give them a Catholic education! Yet the twin departures of these two able women necessitated we find someone else to take over the administration responsibilities by which our school might continue to grow and prosper. Fortuitously, another parishioner involved in

the founding of our school ended on July 31st her employment at another Catholic educational institution.

Dr. Carmina Chapp, formerly a professor of theology at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia and the head of her department at St. Joseph's College of Maine, will henceforth serve St. Thomas More Parish under the title of School Administrator. Per Bishop Steven Lopes' insistence, I will continue in my role as the Principal of Maria Kaupas Academy and thus will have ultimate responsibility for the stewardship of this ministry. However, Dr. Chapp will assume the day-to-day oversight of MKA's operations and will be the first point of contact for parents, students, and teachers, as we work together to ensure the smooth and godly functioning of this fledgling gem. She has introduced herself to many of our families already and will shortly become an even more familiar face on campus Sundays and school days.

We must pay her justly for this work. In a recent Daily Office lesson for Mattins we read St. Paul's letter to the Galatians, "Let him who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches" (Gal. 6:6). Since the Academy's inception we have compensated our teachers, including Dr. Chapp, according to this principle, that the laborer deserves his wages. At the same time, we have intentionally kept tuition low, relying upon the generosity of donors to make the cost of this education affordable for our families. We shall rely on donations this year, as well, to employ Dr. Chapp, our first full-time employee since we hired Paul Campbell, our Music Director and Parish Administrator, in the summer of 2008. Please consider making a donation to MKA to help us defray the cost of this essential worker in the life of St. Thomas More Catholic Church. In anticipation of your generosity, I thank you for helping to advance our educational purpose.

As our school has become an engine of growth for our parish, even literally drawing to Scranton families from both the East and West Coasts to become a part of our ministries, it has become apparent that we must articulate

clearly our plans for the future. These plans include, but are not limited to, our short and long-term goals for our campus. For example, we have accommodated the growth of our student body thus far through the acquisition of neighboring properties, increasing classroom and administrative space, as well as gaining grassy recreational areas for recess and other outdoor events. What might we do to manage such growth going forward? How will we raise the money to restore our old school building, or conversely, tear it down and build a new structure in its place? What lots might be used to increase parking? How will we raise funds to build another parking lot? These and many more questions must be answered if we are to encourage investment in our mission and more easily convince others to join our missionary outreach.

Much as we recognize our inability, given the current circumstances, to administer Maria Kaupas Academy without hiring someone as competent and experienced as Dr. Carrie Chapp, we understand that the creation of a master plan for our parish's future likewise requires the assistance of others. To this end – and with normal meetings now resuming across the board – we will this month reconstitute the Parish Council and Finance Council. At the same time, we will start anew a School Council to work in conjunction with these other advisory bodies. In short, I recognize my own limitations, and I need help managing our parish's growth. Fortunately, our parish is full of talented people who share a desire to evangelize our neighbors and grow the works of mercy the Holy Spirit has inspired us to begin. I look forward to receiving again that help in a formal way. Those whom I appoint and who then accept the invitation to aid in this capacity will be listed in each Sunday leaflet, so to facilitate input and communication even more broadly.

With a humble heart as our normal parish activities resume, in anticipation of the fruits they will bear, I am,

Gratefully yours,

The Rev. Eric L. Bergman

Worship

Fall Schedule Adjustments

With the arrival of each new Fall season and the resumption of Academy classes, it has become commonplace for the Parish to make minor adjustments to the Mass schedule in response to other developments. This season brings two such changes:

- Weekday “School Masses” will now be at **11:00 a.m.** (not 11:15 a.m. as last season).
- Saturday evening Vigil Masses will now be at **5:30 p.m.** – not 5:00 p.m. – aligning with the time of our other evening Mass, Wednesdays at 5:30.



Moreover, we have noted that since its inception, the Saturday Vigil Mass has not seen significant growth nor visitor traffic, serving instead as a convenient option for a few worshipers. Thus, we have decided to shift over to a **Said Vigil Mass**. In this way, our pattern of Lord’s Day Masses will resemble the pattern many will recall from our days in the Episcopal church, which often featured a Said Mass early on Sunday morning, and a Solemn Mass with music mid-morning. Our new pattern will shift that Said Mass to the preceding evening, but otherwise the idea of offering Said, Solemn, and Sung options for Lord’s Day Masses will be retained.

The remainder of our current pattern will remain unchanged; thus, our weekly liturgical schedule shall be as follows:

Lord’s Day Masses

- *Said*: Saturday Vigil, 5:30 p.m.
- *Solemn*: Sundays, 10:00 a.m.
- *Sung*: Sundays, 7:00 p.m.

Weekday Said Masses

- M-T-Th-F, 7:00 a.m.
- M-W-F, 11:00 a.m.*
- Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.
- Saturdays, 8:00 a.m.

*When Academy is in session

Daily Office

- Daily Morning Prayer: 7:30 a.m.
- Daily Evening Prayer: 4:30 p.m.

First Friday / First Saturday

Upcoming First Friday / First Saturday devotions will be offered on September 3-4 and October 1-2. Exposition of the Sacrament



and 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 call Kathleen O’Donnell at 570-947-7027 if you can serve as an adorer, as some time slots are still available.

October 1 will feature the return of our Maria Kaupas Academy Upper School Choir to sing Choral Evensong at 4:30 p.m., a pattern that will continue on most First Fridays throughout the academic year.

The Daily Office

On Monday evening, July 26, we were pleased to host Ordinatee Priest **Fr. Nathan Davis** – who oversees St. Alban’s in Rochester, NY – who offered a class on how to pray the daily offices of Morning and Evening Prayer. If you missed the session, there is a basic online video tutorial featuring Fr. Albert Scharbach of our fellow Ordinatee Parish in Baltimore – Mount Calvary – available [here](#).



The Parish has on hand a limited supply of the Ordinatee’s **Daily Office Book**, which you may either purchase for yourself for home use, or you may elect to purchase and donate one or more books to the Parish, in order to complete stocking our pews; a handsome plate affixed inside the cover will name a memorial or thanksgiving of your designation.

Office Books can also be ordered directly from the Ordinatee Chancery. Books are \$30 each, plus shipping. Bulk orders of 10 or more are discounted to \$25/book plus shipping. To place an order, send an email to secretary@ordinatee.net that includes your name, number of books, and shipping address. After receiving your order, the OCSF chancery will send a confirmation email asking for payment via their online payment portal. After the Ordinatee receives payment for your Daily Office book(s), you will receive an email with tracking notification for the package. Please direct any questions to secretary@ordinatee.net.

Choir Season Set to Begin

After a season disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Parish Choir is looking forward to launching a more normal season in the coming weeks; yet, there are exciting new improvements to the choir program which promise to set a new standard for “normal.”

First, rather than function as an extra-curricular, after-school activity, our choristers will now receive their rehearsal and instruction *fully incorporated into the school day* at Maria Kaupas Academy, following the **Choir School model** of our Anglican patrimony.

Second – while all Academy students are welcome to register for music – those who intend to participate faithfully in our Parish Choir will do so *free of charge*. Moreover, thanks to a generous annual gift to the music ministry, fourteen **St. Cecilia Prizes** will be awarded to those choristers achieving an 80% attendance record, effectively functioning as scholarship awards to help defray their Academy tuition costs. These incentives have encouraged the registration of many new young choristers for the Parish Choir.

Third, a number of **new adult singers** have indicated their intention to join the choir when the season gets underway. Alongside our burgeoning treble and youth contingents, our choir stalls may be quite full this season!

And as the icing on the cake – in yet another homage to our patrimony – our younger boy and girl choristers will add a new feature to their vestments, the ruff collars (as



seen here on boy choristers of Westminster Abbey) nearly universal among all English cathedral choirs.

Thanks to these exciting developments, we look forward to a glorious season of serving the liturgical life of the Parish!

11:00 a.m. School Masses Begin September 8

With the resumption of Maria Kaupas Academy after Labor Day, “school Masses” will also resume on all days the Academy is in session (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays), moved slightly earlier this season to 11:00 a.m. Not merely for the students, all are wel-

come at these Masses. Keep in mind that they will not be offered during school breaks, snow days, etc., so please maintain an awareness of the Academy calendar.

Our Lady of Walsingham Masses: Scranton & NYC

Friday, September 24 is the Feast of our Lady of Walsingham... namesake of our sister Ordinariate in England & Wales, of our Cathedral in Houston, TX, and of our Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter. Here in Scranton, both Masses that day (7:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.) will be said for this important observance in the life of the Ordinariates worldwide.

Moreover, a splendid celebration of Solemn Mass in our Ordinariate use will take place that evening at 7:00 p.m. at the stunning **Church of St. Vincent Ferrer** in New York City, with several of our own St. Thomas More Altar Servers in support. The liturgy will be offered by Fr. Armando G. Alejandro, Jr. of St. Timothy's Ordinariate Catholic Church in Sykesville, Maryland. A superb program of



sacred music is being planned by the Schola Cantorum of St. Vincent Ferrer—one of the finest church choirs in all of New York City—under the direction of James Wetzel, with Clara Gerdes Bartz (Director of Music at Most Holy Redeemer, NYC) at the organ. All are welcome to make the pilgrimage to New York for this glorious occasion.

Bishop Lopes to Celebrate St. John Henry Newman Mass in Philadelphia

All are welcome to attend a Pontifical Mass in celebration of Saint John Henry Newman (1801-1890) according to the Ordinariate use at the Cathedral Basilica of Ss. Peter & Paul, Philadelphia on **Thursday, October 7 at 7:00 p.m.** The liturgy will be celebrated by



the Most Reverend Steven J. Lopes, Bishop of the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter. The homily will be preached by the Most Rev. Nelson J. Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia.

Discipleship

Discipleship Programs Resume After Labor Day

As usual, all Parish discipleship programs will resume after Labor Day, Sep. 6, including:



- **Maria Kaupas Academy** (M-W-F)
- **Sunday School** (thru age 10): Sun. 9:00 a.m.
- **Sunday School** (ages 11+): Sun. 8:30 a.m.
- **Youth Group** (ages 12+): 4th Sundays, 12 noon
- **Adults:** Advent & Lent, Sun. lunch & class
- **Women:** Lunch & study, 3rd Mon. 12 noon
- **Non-Catholic Adults:** Sun. 5 p.m. class

Fr. Bergman's Marriage Talks Available Online

Fr. Bergman recently gave a series of three online talks to the **Institute of Catholic Culture**, entitled "The End of Marriage: The



Crisis and the Restoration." These are available online in both video and audio formats [here](#). You will need to register (for free) with the Institute of Catholic Culture in order to access the talks, but this will also make accessible to you hundreds of other talks, some of them also by Fr. Bergman.

Bishop Lopes Celebrant, Keynote Speaker at National Catholic Prayer Breakfast

Peter Smith [reports](#): [Our own] Bishop Steven J. Lopes is this year's keynote speaker at the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast held in Washington, D.C. on September 14, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, at the Marriot Marquis hotel. Bishop Lopes is also celebrating

the Monday Sept. 13th 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass at the St. John Paul II National Shrine for the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast. The bishop



will celebrate the Vigil Mass for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross according to the Ordinariate Use of Roman Rite. A worship aid will be provided to all attendees. The National Catholic Prayer Breakfast will provide significant exposure for the Ordinariate to more than 1,000 Catholic leaders who gather for the event. The main event begins at hotel on Tuesday, Sept. 14th at 6 a.m. Catholic evangelist and author, Jeff Cavins, will also speak before Bishop Lopes gives his keynote address to the assembly.

Fellowship

Youth Group Resumes After Labor Day

The Youth Group (for young people ages 12 and up, and any guests they invite) will resume its fourth-Sunday-of-the-month gath-

erings on **Sunday, September 19** after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. With excellent religious catechesis already available to them in Sunday

YOUTH GROUP

School and Maria Kaupas Academy, the focus of the Youth Group is upon fun social outings such as hiking, go-kart racing, sledding, games, and meals. Adult chaperones are welcome and encouraged to assist. Join us for a new season, beginning September 19!

Second Sunday Potlucks Resume September 12

After a year off during the pandemic, this fall we resume our Parish tradition of a monthly



potluck lunch after the 10:00 a.m. Mass to celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries that fall within that month. (If desired, anniversaries may include not only wedding anniversaries, but of other Sacraments as well.) Please join us for these monthly celebrations of milestones in our fellow parishioners' lives. Please bring a dish to share – and parents of children celebrating a birthday, please bring cake, cupcakes, or some other treat to share, so we may regale our each youngster with "happy birthday" and blow out candles!

Outreach

"Neighbor Nights" to Resume September 18

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.

Evangelization

Inquirer's Class

The Parish's weekly Inquirer's Class, "Questioning Faith," will be offered each Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m., starting after Labor Day and concluding before Easter. The course – which includes free light supper, an engaging video presentation, and lively discussion –



is open to any adult with questions about the Catholic faith, ranging from the curious to those seeking Confirmation. Please pray about which family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues you will invite to the course!

New Ordinariate Priests Ordained

With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God, the Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter joyfully announced the Ordination of Stephen A. Hilgendorf, Samuel N. Keyes, and Patrick S. McCain to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ through the Imposition of Hands and the Invocation of the Holy Spirit by Most Rev. Steven J. Lopes, S.T.D., Bishop, at the Cathed-

edral of Our Lady of Walsingham in Houston. A video of the Ordination Mass can be viewed online [here](#).



Fr. Hilgendorf is a former Episcopal minister and father of four whose story can be read [here](#), with an audio interview is available [here](#). And a video introducing **Fr. Keyes** – first a Baptist, then an Anglican – is available [here](#). Prior to his priestly ordination, **Fr. McCain** – a seminarian at the Pontifical North American College in Rome – was ordained to the Diaconate at St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, and served in his first Mass at the Papal Basilica of St. Lawrence outside-the-walls (photo gallery [here](#).)

New Home for English Ordinariate Nuns

From the UK, [The Tablet reports](#): "The nuns of the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary are moving into one of the properties owned by the Benedictine monks of Prinknash Ab-

bey. The sisters, an autonomous community of nuns who are part of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, were formerly part of the Anglican Community of St Mary the Virgin. After leaving the Church of England the nuns were left homeless and without any means of support as they sought to live out a new vocation as Catholic nuns.



"Prinknash Abbey, Gloucester, was a Benedictine foundation going back to the time of William the Conqueror. After the suppression of the monasteries under Henry VIII the site passed through the hands of various aristocratic owners until Thomas Dyer-Edwardes, a Catholic convert, willed the estate to the monks of Caldey Island. Like the sisters of the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary, they were Anglican Benedictines who chose to become Catholics, and in 1928 arrived at Prinknash and began the work of converting the aristocratic estate back into a monastery. More than 400 years after the Reformation Prinknash was again a Benedictine Abbey."

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