



RETURN TO KNEELING AFTER THE LAMB OF GOD

On November 25, 2023, the vigil of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, the Diocese of Gary will return to the liturgical posture wherein the faithful kneel after the Lamb of God (Agnus Dei). Since my arrival in 2020, many clergy and lay faithful have spoken to me

about the desire for our diocese to return to the norm of kneeling so that we are in union with the other dioceses throughout the country. This decision comes after prayerful consideration and with the support of the Priest Council.

For two decades our diocese has adopted the permissible posture of standing after the Agnus Dei and throughout Communion. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) specifically allows for this: "In the Dioceses of the United States of America...The faithful kneel after the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) unless the Diocesan Bishop determines otherwise." (cf. GIRM, 43).

Since all the other dioceses around us (and almost all in the United States) follow the US norm of kneeling after the Lamb of God, there are moments of disunity as people from other dioceses come to Mass in our churches and they are confused why everyone else doesn't kneel. The same confusion happens when our faithful go to Mass in other dioceses.

In light of the Eucharistic Revival, this is a fitting time for us to rediscover how our bodily posture is symbolic of our interior disposition. Standing is an ancient posture of respect, attention and readiness. One stands at attention when the judge enters the court. In Exodus the Israelites are instructed to eat the Passover standing, like people ready to move. We always stand for the Gospel as a sign of reverence for the words of the Lord. Standing is also a posture that has a symbolic connection to the resurrection. For this reason, when praying the Litany of Saints during the Easter Season we stand, while during the rest of the year we kneel.

Depending on the context, kneeling can be considered a penitential sign, but kneeling is also a reverential act toward our Lord: "at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth" (Philippians 2:10).

We believe the liturgy we celebrate here on earth is a participation in the heavenly liturgy. The Book of Revelation describes worship in heaven. While standing is certainly recognized as a posture during worship (Rev. 7:15), when the Lamb of God is presented initially before the throne of heaven, everyone falls down in worship before Him (cf. Rev. 5:1-14).

As we kneel, we acknowledge that Jesus is truly present in the Holy Eucharist, and we kneel down in worship before Him because Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. That is why it is particularly fitting that we institute this change on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

Finally, a word about silence in the liturgy: Silence is a most difficult activity for us today. Our daily life is full of sound, some good, but most just noise of one sort or another. Silence is golden because it allows us to be recollected, to wonder about God's loving presence in our lives. At Mass we also need time to reflect in silence about the Word proclaimed and the Sacrament received. Some silence after each scripture reading and after the homily and after all have received communion allows each person and the community to collectively reflect on the ever-abiding presence of God in our midst.

Here are some of the practical implications:

After the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) is sung/spoken, the faithful will kneel, as they are able, until it is time to rise and join in the Communion Procession.

Upon returning to their place after receiving Holy Communion, the faithful are free to kneel, sit, or stand.

When all have received Communion, the faithful are encouraged to kneel or sit for a period of sacred silence and prayer.

The liturgy is a great gift in which we are guaranteed an encounter with Christ. Pope Francis reminds us of the richness of our encounter with the Lord in the Eucharist and all the sacraments:

For us a vague memory of the Last Supper would do no good. We need to be present at that Supper, to be able to hear his voice, to eat his Body and to drink his Blood. We need Him. In the Eucharist and in all the sacraments we are guaranteed the possibility of encountering the Lord Jesus and of having the power of his Paschal Mystery reach us. The salvific power of the sacrifice of Jesus, his every word, his every gesture, glance, and feeling reaches us through the celebration of the sacraments. (Pope Francis, *Desiderio Desideravi*, 10-13).

My prayer is that this change in posture will enhance our unity and give us a deeper appreciation for the gift of our Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

Your servant,
Most Reverend Robert J. McClory,
Bishop of the Diocese of Gary



Mission Statement : *The Roman Catholic Saint Thomas More Parish Family welcomes and invites every person to join us on our journey in faith and celebration. With the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and through Sacred Scripture and Tradition, we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all, especially in loving service to those in need. As part of the Universal Church, we affirm the dignity of every person. All this we do to give glory and honor to God.*

Pastoral Staff

Pastor Reverend Michael J. Yadron, KCHS; Ext. 2312
myadron@stm-church.com
Senior Deacons David Kapala, KHS
Deacon Dr. Napoleon Tabion, OFS
Joseph Stodola, KHS
Director of Parish Mission Noreen Bickel; Ext. 2330
Director of Finance & Operations Charles Schrimpf; Ext. 2329
Pastoral Care Coordinator Deacon David Kapala, KHS; Ext. 2315
Director of Music Angie Van Manen; Ext. 2338
Director of Religious Education Emily Hackett; Ext. 2232

St. Thomas More Parish Website: www.stm-church.com

Parish Office Staff

Hours: Mon-Friday 9:00 am-3:00 pm • Saturday 9:00 am –Noon
Email address: parish.office@stm-church.com
Email address for bulletin: bulletin@stm-church.com
Office Phone 836-8610 Office eFax (219) 533-4280
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Receptionist Phyllis Krizmanic; Ext. 2300
Building Maintenance Mike Popovich 836-8610; Ext. 2313
Custodial Supervisor Kim Smith 836-8610; Ext. 2331

Pastoral Ministries

Environment & Art Helen Jaworski 836-8610
Eucharistic Ministers James Kaspar 836-8610
Hospitality/Greeters Vicky Odegaard 322-6391
Lectors Richard Gard 836-8610
Nursery Kaaren A. Mashura 836-5079
St. Vincent de Paul Terry Oprinovich 836-8610
Vocations Guidance PJ & Margaret Caraher (219) 680-6775

2023-2024 Pastoral Council Members

Julius Ballanco Leslie Dernulc
Debra Harker, Co-Chairperson Katie Kordeck, Chairperson
Paul Liszewski Bill McCullough
Jean Nanos Joe Peters
Michael Popovich Patty Queroz
Michael Sajn Daniel Straka

St. Thomas More School

Preschool through 8th Grade

Office Hours: Monday–Friday • 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Website: www.stm-school.com
School Phone (219) 836-9151
Principal Dr. Samantha Francis; Ext. 2258
School Administrative Assistant Jennifer Gonzalez; Ext. 2200
School Reception/Office Associate Nereida Harretos; Ext. 2201
School Admissions Pam Pasyk; Ext. 2309
Director of Development Annette Czarobski; Ext. 2307
Business Manager Maria Vega; Ext. 2339

Parish Ministry Center Weis Center

8635 Calumet Avenue • Munster, IN 46321

Phone 836-2660

Sacramental Information

Confessions

Saturdays **3:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

First Friday 1/2 hour before the 6:30 a.m. Mass

Baptisms First and Third Sundays at 1:00 p.m.

Parents must be registered parishioners and regularly attending at **least six months** before the Baptism. At least one of the godparents **must** be a practicing Catholic.

Pre-Baptism Class 2nd Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

Parents must call the Parish Office to schedule class and/or Baptism.

Marriage Must be a registered, practicing member of the parish at **least six months** before beginning the six month preparation program for marriage.

Communion calls and visits to Hospitals and Homebound:

Call the Parish Office for Sacraments at hospital or at home.



New Parishioner Registration

To make it as convenient as possible for you, new parishioners may register at any time in the Parish Office.

Stop in during the day, or take advantage of our convenient Saturday office hours.

St. Thomas More Religious Education

Kindergarten through 8th Grade

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday & Friday — 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday — 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Religious Education Phone 836-8610

Director Emily Hackett; Ext. 2232

Administrative Assistant Cindy McMahon; Ext. 2236

Grades K through 8 • Wednesday or Thursday from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Pastoral Commissions Chairpersons

Formation/Education Tim Jevyak
Parish Life Katie Kordeck, Tamara Kozy
Peace & Social Justice Mari Casas
Spirituality & Worship Kaaren Mashura
Stewardship Paul Liszewski

Parish Organizations

Altar & Rosary Society Cindy Keilman 923-9862
Boy Scouts Sergio Sanchez (773) 412-3109
Career Networking Group Jim Kaczka/Donna Weidenfeller
..... STMCareerGroup@gmail.com
Circle of Prayer Carolyn Cenko 741-2509
..... carolynrealtor@sbcglobal.net
Cub Scouts Patricia Sinclair • plaessandrini@yahoo.com
Finance Barbara Shaver 838-9200
Gabriel Project Marilyn Glennon (219) 836-8610
Gifts of Love & Warmth Bernadine Nemeth 513-6544
Girl Scouts Cynthia Navarrete (773) 726-2411
Holy Name Society Bill Burke: sbburke3@att.net
Knights of Columbus Ralph Konkoly (219) 588-4559
Live Streaming Joann Hajduch (219) 836-8610, Ext. 2245
Mental Health Ministry Dr. Jean Nanos (317) 840-8963
Parish Garden Ministry Noreen Bickel (219) 836-8610
Respect Life Leslie Dernulc (219) 741-3739
Seniors of STM Judy Hamer (219) 836-7916
Ushers Club Jim Marmalejo 718-8704

Celebrants

Saturday, December 2

5:30 p.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

Sunday, December 3

6:30 a.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

8:00 a.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

10:00 a.m. Carmelite Father

12:00 Noon Carmelite Father

Servers

Saturday, December 2

5:30 p.m. X. Fonseca, P. Werner
MC ~ Alex

Sunday, December 3

8:00 a.m. K. Karl, G. Knight/MC ~ Derek

10:00 a.m. L. Patton, A. Monroy/MC ~ Hunter

12:00 p.m. B. & D. Reynolds/MC ~ Jack

Rest in Peace

*Armando Garcia
Rene H. Olivencia
Kelly Arquette*

Bulletin Deadlines

The holiday season is now upon us and printing deadlines are altered for the remainder of the calendar year.

Please be sure to submit articles *at least two full weeks in advance* to: bulletin@stm-church.com.

Angel Tree

St. Thomas More and Catholic Charities are teaming up to help members of our community in need this Christmas.

By selecting a tag (or tags) for someone nearby from our

Angel Tree

Available This Weekend

You will be able to make this Christmas a little brighter for those in our area who are in need of some holiday help and a special gift or two.

Take a tag from the tree in the church narthex and follow the directions.

ANGEL TREE

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, November 26

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased

8:00 am Claude Posilovich by Witkus Family

10:00 am Edward J. Solczak by Family

12:00 pm John Holda (Ann) by Family

MONDAY, November 27

6:30 am Greg Drobac by Helen Drobac

8:30 am Rudy Garcia (Anniv) by Serrano Family

TUESDAY, November 28

6:30 am Intentions of Michael & Antoinette Mercier on
Their Wedding Anniversary by Michael Mercier

8:30 am Sharon Jurkash (Ann) by Jurkash Family

WEDNESDAY, November 29

6:30 am Dennis M. Ramirez by Katherine Neis

8:30 am Vera Paunicka by Elizabeth Burke

THURSDAY, November 30 — St. Andrew

6:30 am Frank Molinaro by Bonita Molinaro

8:30 am Doreen Jurkash (Ann) by Jurkash Family

FRIDAY, December 1

6:30 am Adam & Sophie Jez by Their Children

8:30 am Virginia "Jean" Bados by Jim & Pat Landowski

SATURDAY, December 2

8:30 am Lucille Rueth by Phyllis Rueth

5:30 pm Stephen & Mary Maicher by Daughter

SUNDAY, December 3 — First Sunday of Advent

6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living and Deceased

8:00 am Ann Miskovich by Family

10:00 am Alfred Bustamante (Ann) by the Garcia Family

12:00 pm Walter Wesolowski by Patricia & Penelope

Stewardship REFLECTION

*"...whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers,
you did for me."*

MATTHEW 25:40

Most of us are generous when it's convenient for us.
We are generous when we have the time or the money.

But, real generosity is the opposite of that.
It means giving of one's time, money, compassion, forgiveness
or mercy when it's not convenient to us, when it's not on our
schedule, but on the other person's timeline.

Automated Contributions



Make your life easier by contributing to the good works of our St. Thomas More Parish using our online system.

Make a Payment Online:

Donate online through our parish website by using PayPal/debit/credit card:

<http://www.stm-church.com/>.

Go to "Donate" button in "Virtual Offering".

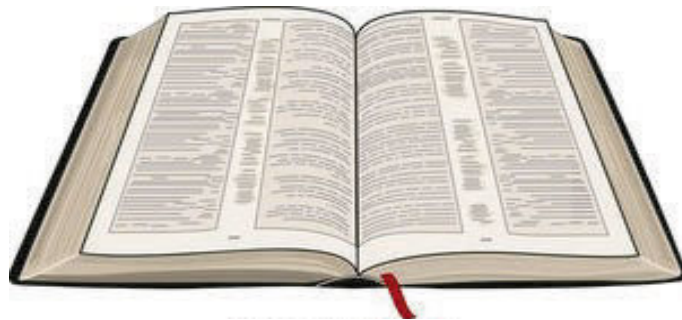
Set-Up Automated Payment: Instruction/forms on parish website: <http://www.stm-cJoin hurch.com/>

Questions?

Contact Maria Vega, Business Manager at: (219) 836-8610, #2339 or mvega@stm-church.com

Readings Week of November 26

Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 (1)/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46
Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19
Thursday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22
Friday: Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33
Saturday: Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36
Next Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37



Pray for the sick of our parish...

Joshua Alvarez
Chiara Andrzejewski
Doris Aurelio
Maria Aurelio
Pat Batchelder
Antonio Belmonte
Mary Berry
Michael Berry
Michael Billeo
Diane Bochnowski
Cheryl Bostrom
Linda Braun
Bill Briney
Grace Briney
Stephany Burney
Kathleen Burns
Diane Butler
Dorothy Campbell
James Campbell
Janet Cattnach
Jacqueline Morrow
Christian
Ursula Cichy
Charlie Clam
Loretta Clott
Joseph Clune
Willie Colby
Charlotte Conn
Vincent Corsello
Mike Curtain
Valerie Czapkowicz
Sarah Dalton
Aaron Dudek
Alex Eiland
Sherlon Evans
James Fletcher
Heriberto Flores
Maria Flores
John Forde
Bonnie Gabrione
Rich Gagliani
Christine Gajda
Andrea Garritano
Emily Gibson
Joan Glinski
Monica Gonzalez
Howard Gralewski
Margaret Gray
Susan Graff
Christine Greenberg
Mary Ellen Gullicks
Katie Kardes Hargett
Rosemarie Havran
Amy Hayes
Dick Hemingway
Marie Henke

Elaine Herrmann
Adelina Hernandez
Bertha Birdy Hernandez
Irma Hernandez
Marisol Hernandez
Robert Heseck
Becky Hill
Marie Hill
Joan Hoess
Sally Joy Hollingshead
Charlotte Hunt
Betty Ingbertson
Joseph S. Iwan
Steve Izzo
Elizabeth Jacob
Barbara Jamrose
Stanley Jayjack
Kelly Jean
Margaret Jones
Kevin Karl
Dan Karulski
Mark Kenney
Irene Kerps
Janet Knight
Susan Kolodziej
Gregory P. Koscielski
Melvin Kostalik
Crystal Kurek
Annika LeMonier
Chris LeMonier
Debbie LeMonier
Nicklas LeMonier
Dorothy Lesnefsky
Kris Lisikiewicz
Jo Lisiniewicz
Edward Liskiewicz
Stanley Liskiewicz
Maria Lovell
James Malayter
Brady Martin
Paul Martin
Carolyn McGill
Larkin McKenzie
Jacob Mencliewicz
Jenny Mendoza
Faye Meny
Michael Mercier
Sandi Merlo
Erin Meyer
Benjamin Mikels
Madeline Mikolanis
John Mitchener
Andrew Moll
Thomas Mordaunt
Genevieve Mrvan
Bernadine Nemeth
Donna Nichols

Maria Novak
Steven Nowaczky
Clare O'Brien
Donna O'Connor
Danny Ogren
James Pancheri
Marty Pavlovic
Lucille Perz
Judith Peterson
Dawn Petro
Johanna Petruch
Andrew Pieczyrak
Elizabeth Pilones
Sylvester Porras
Dennis Powell
Ronald Prus
Jackie Roach
Ann Sardella
George Sauer
Marie Schultz
Marianne Schwartz
William Schwartz
Zachery Scriff
James Secviar
Jim Seul
Renee Shehan
Nick Skinner
Laurie Slazyk
Karen Sliwa
Deborah Stareck
Georgianne Suto
Florence Stevens
Carol Storey
Charles Svitko
Rose Theis
Michele Thomas
Rosemary Thomas
Russ Thomas
Gerardo Trevino
David Trotman
Kathie Trudgian
Anthony Ubane
Tony Vanden Heuvel
Raymond Vanderbok
James Wachel
Kathy Wachel
Marilyn (Vrabel) Warda
Mark Wein
Ruth Williams
Annette Wisniewski
Stephanie Wisniewski
Bill Wisniewski
Dick Wright
Cecilia Ziegler
Cody Ziemkowski

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

In May 2023, for the first time in almost three quarters of a century, a monarch was crowned in England.

A few days later a friend of mine scoffed, "What a waste of time and energy! What is the point of a king?"

I'm a proud American who wants neither theocracy nor monarchical restoration. I like our democratic republic. But the coronation of King Charles reminded me of something needed in every person and community: confidence in the future. The king's most basic role is to symbolize the unity of the nation. In England, the parliament members handle many of the practical duties of governance.

But the king or queen can do what they cannot: embody in a single person the reality and future of a whole nation. To say, "this is our king" is to say, "we exist as a community, and we have a future." Kingship isn't primarily about the power of one person or family. I

It's about the enduring identity and unity of the whole. To say Christ is our King is to say we exist as a people.

We are one in him.

We are, and we will be as long as he is. And since he will be our risen king forever, together we have a future filled with hope.

Even the best countries will finally fall. But Christ and his Church will endure forever.

What good news! It's not a waste of time to crown a king. We do it all the time. Let's be sure to crown the right one — the one whose kingdom never ends.

Father John Muir ©LPI

Parish Office Hours

Monday to Friday:

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

HAIL OUR KING!

"Christianity is the story of how the rightful King has landed, you might say in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in His great campaign of sabotage." ~ C.S. Lewis

Today is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. It is also the last Sunday in our liturgical year. Next Sunday, we begin a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent.

C.S. Lewis wrote a great many fiction books such as The Screwtape Letters, The Chronicles of Narnia, and The Space Trilogy as well as many non-fiction Christian apologetic books. He had been a fallen away Christian in his teen years but came back to the practice of his faith later on and was prolific in his belief in the Lord.

I see him almost taking on a Narnia kind of language as he speaks about us being called by Christ, our King to take part in His great campaign of sabotage.

Now, you might think, what does he mean by sabotage. Certainly, Jesus would not involve Himself in anything like that, nor should we.

However, is that not what Christianity is all about? Sabotaging the kingdom of the devil so that we can win as many souls as possible for the Lord?

Jesus Christ is our King. He won the battle over sin and death. We have a share in His resurrection if we remain faithful to Him here on earth. But, remaining faithful means that we engage in the continued battle against sin. If we do not wage that war, we will become deluded by the enemy and lose our way to the Kingdom.

All armies, all nations, need great leaders. The leader shows them how to fight. The leader shows them how to become victorious. Our leader, Jesus Christ, has shown us a way much better than the way of the world: peace.

Peace is more than a word. In order for peace to become a reality, we need to work at establishing it and maintaining it. Peace begins with our very selves.

Love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your strength, and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself. On these two laws, all others are based. Our King calls us to be people of peace and love. Let us work on that this day.

FAITH ACTION: Do something good for yourself today and something good for another person as well.

Fr. Mike

PLEASE REMEMBER THEM

Please pray for the priests and deacons who have served the Diocese of Gary so faithfully and whose anniversaries of death are this week:

November 26: Msgr. Stanley F. Zjawinski (1968)
November 27: Rev. Joseph H. Hammes (1991)
Rev. William E. Vogt (2004)
December 1: Rev. Wilfred P. Mannion (1959)
Rev. Francis M. Lazar (2007)
Deacon Edwin Gatons (2018)

OUR ANNUAL FORTY HOURS CELEBRATION

Join us Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. to hear Fr. Robert Ross speak on the topic of

**Lifted, Rejected, Silent:
The Eucharist as Memorial
of Christ's Passion**

The Eucharist will be exposed on the altar each day immediately after the final morning Mass.

Feel free to come and worship the Lord throughout the day.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Sunday, December 10

*Munster High School Chorale's
Annual Christmas Concert
3:00 p.m. in the church*

Sunday, December 17

Lessons & Carols
6:00 p.m. in the church

Tuesday, December 19

Advent Confessions at 7:00 p.m.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A man walked into a shoe store and tried on a pair of shoes.

"How do they feel?" the salesperson inquired.

"Well ... they feel a bit tight." replied the man.

The assistant promptly bent down and took a good look at the shoes and the man's feet.

After his examination, he thought he might have a solution and said, "Try pulling the tongue out."

"Nath theyth sthill feelth a bith tighth, he said.





Religious Education

Religious Education Classes

For info regarding St. Thomas More Religious Education/Formation contact Emily Hackett: ehackett@stm-church.com.

November Schedule

29/30 Class

December Schedule

6/7 Class

13/14 Class

20/21 Class

27/28 No Class — Merry Christmas

January Schedule

3/4 No Class — Happy New Year

10/11 Class

12 Confirmation Retreat for 8th Grade

17/18 Class

31 Class

Greeters for the Week



Sunday, December 3

6:30 a.m. Mass

Main: Dennis & Karen McNeil

8:00 a.m. Mass

Main: Rachel Kolar

Chapel: Toni & Zig Jedrzejczak

Choir: Yvette Radziwiecki

10:00 a.m. Mass

Main: Rosa Maldonado

12:00 Noon Mass

Main: Pat Batchelder

Saturday, December 2

5:30 p.m. Mass

Main: Judy Mateja

Parish/Ministry Schedule

*St. Vincent de Paul Food Collection
After All Weekend Masses*

Monday, November 27

7:00 pm Emotions Anonymous — Weis Center Room 101

Tuesday, November 28

7:00 pm Boy Scouts #542 — Weis Center Main Hall

7:00 pm Mental Health Ministry — Weis Center Room 101

Wednesday, November 22

9:30 am Bible Study — Weis Center Room 101

1:00 pm Seniors of STM (Board Mtg) — Weis Room 107

Friday, December 1

9:00 am Gifts of Love & Warmth — Weis Room 101

Baby Banks are Back!

Please Help Our Moms and Families

To help support our ministry the Gabriel Project is hosting a

Baby Bank Fundraiser.

We will be handing out Baby Banks at

all the exits after all Masses

on the first weekend of Advent,

December 2 & 3.

Please consider taking a bank home to put on your kitchen counter to collect loose change.

When your bank is full, simply turn it

in at our Parish Office. We take it from there.

Advent is almost here. Perhaps this could be your family Advent project this year.

It's a very simple way to do something kind for others, and it has the bonus of keeping annoying change out of your purse or pocket.

Thanks for your continued prayers for our moms & their babies.



Emotions Anonymous

Emotions Anonymous is a 12-Step program, based off the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Anyone experiencing emotional difficulties who is willing to try this recovery program is welcome to attend our meetings.



Every Monday • 7:00 p.m. • Weis Center

For more information: www.emotionsanonymous.org

Mental Health Ministry meetings will resume in January.

Contact: Dr. Jean Nanos at drjnanos@stm-church.com

Live Christ Share Christ

Join us for a faith-filled morning during Advent by joining us on

Saturday, December 9

9:00 a.m. at the Weis Center

Topic: The Best Kept Secret of St. Thomas More Church

Guest Speaker: Jim Landowski

A Christmas Luncheon at 12:00 Noon will follow.

We are requesting attendees bring some desserts. Thank you!



All are invited to join us!

Order Market Day Now for Holidays

Get Ready for Christmas!

Simply create an account and shop...it's that simple. Everything is delivered right to your door in coolers packed with dry ice, so it stays cold for up to 8 hours after delivery.

There's no pick-up or hauling heavy groceries; all is flash frozen and delicious.



Market Day

Anyone can order!

Look for an instruction packet in the Parish Office or at the Chapel & Main church entrances of the church. Happy shopping!

St. Thomas More School



Beauty & the Beast, Jr.

Another fantastic St. Thomas More School musical is in the books and what a spectacular performance it was! Celebrating 25 years of musical theater at St. Thomas More School, head director, Angie Lorandos Van Manen pulled out all the stops on this year's show, employing the incredible talents of over 70 on-stage actors/singers and nearly 50 students who worked diligently behind the scenes in the crew, on light & sound boards and running the "house". We hope you had the chance to see it. More photos to come soon.



Thank You Parishioners

As this Thanksgiving weekend comes to a close, we want to send our heartfelt thanks to the

Parishioners of St. Thomas More
for your continued support and prayers.

We appreciate all that you do for St. Thomas More School, our 550 students and 60 staff members, and, at this time of year when we share our deep gratitude, we want you to know how much you mean to our school. Thanks for being our blessings & helping us soar!



A Moving Tribute to Veterans

At St. Thomas More School, we continue to honor and work to help those who serve/d our nation with their generous contribution and service to our country and community by serving in the United States Armed Forces.

In a moving tribute to our local veterans, St. Thomas More School once again held its Veterans Day Program with nearly 60 veterans and guests in attendance.

The school band provided patriotic music, including the anthem for each branch of the military.

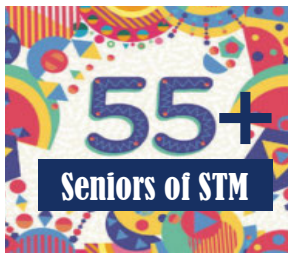
In exchange for a donation, students had an out-of-uniform day, dressing in red, white and blue. Our students were very generous.

Funds collected will be sent to the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans.

Thanks to all who attended, and especially, Munster VFW Post 16 for all their participation & help.



Seniors of STM



Are You 55 or Older?

Join our fun group of active Seniors.
You **do not** need to be a St. Thomas
More parishioner to join...
anyone 55+ is welcome!

All Meetings:

1:00 p.m. • Weis Center

Unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, December 6

We hope to see all our members at the

Christmas Luncheon

Center for Visual and Performing Arts

Noon until 3:00 p.m.

Advanced reservations were required for this event.

Let's start the Christmas season together!

St. Vincent de Paul Society

SVDP Caps for Kids

The cold weather is upon us, and it is time to don
hats and gloves! We are currently

Collecting New Hats and Gloves

for children who need them.

Please consider donating a pair of
gloves or a hat to the Caps for Kids.

**Place donations in the box in the
church vestibule.**

Donated items will be distributed to
people in our community and school
who are in need of warm weather

gear. We truly appreciate your ongoing generosity!



Our SVDP Pantry Needs:

Cereal
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Cake Mix & Frosting
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Snacks
Hamburger Helper
Instant Potatoes
Mac & Cheese
Pork & Beans
Canned Fruit
Canned Peas & Green Beans
Spaghetti/Pasta & Pasta Sauce
Rice
Shampoo
Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
Dish Soap
Toilet Paper

Thank you for your
continued generosity
for our neighbors in need.

We need paper grocery bags!

Please donate your
extra paper bags with handles.



Career Networking Group

The Career Networking Group will no longer hold regular
meetings due to low attendance and difficulty in securing
relevant speakers. If you have employment questions or need a
resume review contact STMCareerGroup@gmail.com for assistance.

Altar & Rosary Society



Thank You Officer Ghrist

On Sunday, November 12th, Kaaren Mashura, on behalf of the
Altar & Rosary Society at St. Thomas More, presented a \$100

check to Officer James Ghrist of the Munster Police

Department. Officer Ghrist gave a presentation on Safety

During the Holidays to the group.

Coffee & donuts followed the presentation.

Photo credit to Patty Pfister. Thank you, Patty.

Additional thanks to Denise Murphy for help with our annual.
Her name was inadvertently omitted last week.

AIM Ministry

Ability Inclusion Ministry

*"I trust that every Christian community will be open to the
presence of our brothers and sisters with disabilities and ensure
that they are always welcomed and fully included"*

Pope Francis

AIM, the Abilities Inclusion
Ministry, of the Diocese of Gary
is working to set the foundation to
do the work that Pope Francis has
called us to do – welcome and
include all of our brothers and
sisters. AIM's focus is to provide
opportunities for our other abled
parishioners who are called to
participate in Masses as ushers,



lectors, greeters, and altar servers. We are working with ministry
leaders of the parish to provide them with support and resources
for all other-abled individuals who would like to participate in
these ministries. If you or anyone you know has expressed a
desire to participate in a parish ministry, please contact AIM at
AIM4inclusion@gmail.com.



Knights of Columbus Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale

Monday-Friday: 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. • Sunday: 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.



Christmas Trees

Fraser Fir Tree	6 to 8 Feet	\$65- \$85
Fraser Fir Tree	8 to 9 Feet	\$115
Fraser Fir Tree	9 to 10 Feet	\$135
Fraser Fir Tree	10 to 12 Feet	Available

Wreaths & Garlands

Wreath w/Bow	Small (28")	\$25
Wreath w/Bow	Large (30")	\$30
Wreath—Noble w/Bow	Small (28")	\$35
Wreath—Noble w/Bow	Large (30")	\$40
Wreath—Bow Only	44"	\$80
Wreath —Decorated	44"	\$90
Wreath — Bow Only	56"	\$95
Wreath —Decorated	56"	\$110
Roping/Garland <small>Sold in 5 foot increments</small>	Per Foot	\$2

Wreath Stands - \$10

Tree Stands - \$10

Tree Bags - \$2

Cash or Check Only

Please make checks payable to:
Knights of Columbus #10596

Events in the Area...

BNI Hosts Royal Brunch

Bishop Noll invites families to attend its 1st Princess Brunch. Enjoy a day of magical experiences from 10:30 a.m. to Noon on Saturday, December 9 at the school, 1519 Hoffman in Hammond. Tickets: \$20/children 12 & under & \$15/adults. Includes brunch, swag bag, visits by Region Royalty princesses, games, mini princess makeovers (hair/ nails) Visit <https://bniprincess.givesmart.com> for tickets. No tickets at the door. Info: visit bishopnoll.org or call (219) 932-9058.

Holiday Market

Sponsored by St. Margaret Ann Polish School on Sunday, December 3, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Millennium Banquet Hall by Salvatorian Fathers Shrine, 5755 Pennsylvania Street in Merrillville. Clothing, crafts, jewelry, baked goods and more. Free Admission. All invited.

Sharing Meadows Camp Helpers Needed

The Share Foundation is seeking staff, volunteers & campers, for our 2023-2024 Mini-Camps for adults with intellectual & developmental disabilities. Camps include activities, community & prayer. Held at St. Timothy Center in LaPorte, IN: December 15-17 • March 1-3 • April 26-28 • May 10-12 Each session runs from 7:00 p.m. (CDT) on Friday to 2:30 p.m. (CDT) on Sunday. For more info contact Corinne at (219) 778-2585 or camp@sharefoundation.org.

Share Foundation Christmas Bazaar

All are invited to the first edition of the Christmas Bazaar on December 9 at the St. Timothy Center of Sharing Meadows, 6437 County Road 300, LaPorte, IN. All sales from this event will benefit Share Foundation with the Handicapped. For details, please call (219) 778-2585.

Love, Inc. Helping Families This Holiday

Those who would like to help area families in need, Love, Inc. in Griffith is collecting underwear, socks, hats and gloves for men, women and children to be included with their Christmas gifts this holiday season. Please contact Love, Inc. (Love In the Name of Christ) for any last minute needs at (219) 923-2775 or clearinghouse@loveincgtrham.org. To learn more about this group, visit their website at www.loveincgtrham.org.

Grief Share

Join St. John the Evangelist for Grief Share on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for a 13 week program. All sessions are in a safe, confidential, secure group setting at the church, 10701 Olcott Avenue in St. John. For information, please call (219) 365-7784.

Meals on Wheels

If you have some free time to spare and would like to make a difference in our area helping to deliver meals in our area, please contact Meals on Wheels at (219) 756-3663 to volunteer.

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