

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2016

*We are St. Thomas More Parish,
members of the living Body of Christ,
born again in Baptism
and strengthened through the Eucharist
to promote the Gospel values of our Catholic faith.*

Mass Schedule

Saturday (Vigil Mass) - 5:30 pm

Sunday - 9:00 am, 11:00 am & 1:00 pm in Spanish

Monday & Thursday - 6:00 pm Tuesday & Friday - 7:00 am

Reconciliation

Thursday 5:30 - 6:00 pm & Saturday 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration - Works of Mercy Chapel

HOPE
PEACE
JOY
LOVE

Pastoral Staff

Pastor - Rev. Brad Whistle (fr.brad@stm.org)

Parochial Vicar - Rev. Michael Charles Ajigo Abiero
(fr.michaelcharles@stm.org)

Deacon - Deacon Terry Larbes (deacon@stm.org)

Parish Administrator - Steve DuPerrieu (steve@stm.org)

Director of Music and Liturgy - James G. Hess, MM (jhess@stm.org)

Director of Stewardship and Ministries - Melisa Mast (mmast@stm.org)

Director of Youth Ministry - Matt Rochette (matt@stm.org)

Director of Hispanic Ministry - Sr. Celia Sanchez, MAG (sr.celia@stm.org)

Director of R.C.I.A. - Pat Cairney (pcairney@stm.org)

Director of Communications - J. Patrick Kerr (patrick@stm.org)

Administrative Assistant - Lois Bell (lois@stm.org)

Bookkeeper - Ellen Anderson (ellen@stm.org)

Pastoral Council

Mike Crider	270-519-1728
Andrew DuPerrieu	270-210-2440
Dianna Hand	270-705-5711
Lori Hatton	270-210-3063
Stacy Jones	270-210-0351
Lisa Logsdon-Seay (Sec.)	270-554-7616
Pam Malast	270-210-1247
Bill Murphy	270-534-0722
Amy Sullivan (Chair)	270-210-7478
Miguelina Sunderland	270-217-4442
Tomi Zaninovich	270-444-0676

Finance Committee

Doug Niewoehner (Chair)

David Althouse

Lynn Brown

Mike Crider

Chris Haas

Cletus Poat

Cemetery Board

Jim Sanders (Chair)

David Curtsinger

David Langston

Education

Ging Smith ~ Faith Formation Director

Susan Ybarzabal ~ FF Board Liaison

Patty Hughes ~ FF Board Liaison

Eleanor Spry ~ SMSS Director

Jennifer Smith ~ SMHS/SMMS Principal

Lisa Clark ~ SMES Principal

Chris Haas ~ SMEC Board Member

Gale Hatton ~ SMEC Board Member

Chris Hrdlicka ~ SMEC Board Member

Nicki Roof ~ SMEC Board Member

Special Care Numbers

St. Mary School System	270-442-1681
Faith Formation (CCD)	270-443-0295
Mt. Carmel Cemetery (John Bufford)	270-331-1006
Bereavement (Cathy Trussell)	270-519-3779
Inclusion Representative (Stacy Jones)	270-210-0351
Hope Unlimited	270-442-1166
Opportunities for Life	800-822-5824
Merryman House	270-443-6001
SVdP Budget Store	270-442-9351
SVdP Assistance	270-575-1008
Paducah Cooperative Ministry	270-442-6795



Advent: A Season of Hope

Most of us are quite familiar with Jesus' comments about faith, hope, and love. As we enter the Advent season, it is a time for us to emphasize all three, but today's readings in particular speak of hope. Isn't that what Advent is all about?

Many people in our world, perhaps even here in our parish and community, seem to



have a feeling of hopelessness. We should not be among them; worldly thinking produces hopelessness, but our hope is found in Jesus Christ Who has redeemed us and paid for all our sins on the Cross.

In the First Reading the prophet Isaiah foresees a time of peace, a time when all literally "walk in the light of the Lord." Two phrases commonly quoted are included in this reading: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." This peaceful world is exactly what we prepare for during this Advent time. Think of how often we hear the word "Peace" used at this time of year. Think of how many Christmas cards bear that word alone.

Peace produces hope and hope produces peace. That is the feeling we are seeking at this time, as we prepare to declare "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." The eminent French author Alexandre Dumas (who wrote *The Three Musketeers* and *The Count of Monte Cristo* among others) once wrote, "All human wisdom is summed up in two words: wait and hope."

Is that not what we do during Advent?

MASS  **SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

Saturday, November 26

5:30 pm Sonia Hailey (d)

Sunday, November 27 *First Sunday of Advent*

9:00 am Andrew & Alex Lane (b)
11:00 am Our Parish Family
1:00 pm *Mass in Spanish*
 Harry Don Sidenstricker (d)
 & Vickie Cole (d)

Monday, November 28

6:00 pm Mike & Yvonne Bosch
(50th Wedding Anniversary)

Tuesday, November 29

7:00 am Louis O'Bryan (d)

Wednesday, November 30

8:40 am SMMS ~ Fr. Michael Charles
 David Grief (d)
12:00 pm *Lourdes Chapel* ~ Fr. Brad Whistle
 Andee Schrader (d)

Thursday, December 1

6:00 pm Predrag Sredl Family

Friday, December 2 *First Friday*

7:00 am John Mouser (d)
8:30 am SMES ~ Fr. Bruce Fogle

Saturday, December 3

5:30 pm Norma Avra (d)

Sunday, December 4 *Second Sunday of Advent*

9:00 am Our Parish Family
11:00 am Leon Higdon (d)
1:00 pm *Mass in Spanish*
 Joe Snyder (d), Charles Snyder (d)
 & Victoria Morris (d)

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent
 Wednesday: St. Andrew
 Thursday: World AIDS Awareness Day
 Friday: First Friday
 Saturday: St. Francis Xavier; First Saturday

*Do not squander time,
 for that is the stuff life is made of.*

—Benjamin Franklin

Liturgical Ministers Schedule December 3/4			
	5:30 PM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
Sacristan	Diana Black	Rose Ann Walker	John Roof
Euch. Ministers	Sr. Lucy Bonifas Beth Haas Jim Kallaher Sam Leone Bill Murphy Marie Petrites Murphy Mike Polashock David Shoulta Caroline Veatch Kelly Veatch Dolores Webber	Kurt Averill Staci Averill Yvonne Bosch Missy Eckenberg Kim Goins David Langston Jill Langston Michael Langston Camilla Shumaker Herb Straub Maria Stuckenberg	Tessa Cash Michelle Dunlap Ashleigh Mast David Mast Karina Romero Marianna Romero Mary Kay Sanders Eileen Segebarth Brandon Trevathan
Lectors	Carol Sutherland Lucy Shoulta	Catherine DuPerriue Mary Katz	Richard Vieitez Sharon Brumlow
Servers	Palmer Sims Jerome de la Rosa	Abigail Nelson Abigail Wurth	Kenlin Thomas Kiael Waldon
Greeter Families	Jim Bumpous Jeff Seay Chris Sims	Gabe Crider Kay Dabney A.J. Richison	Cassie Belford Bernadine Watkins Samuel York
Ushers	Marcia Cochran Evan Culbertson Brian Morrow Mark Toren Tony Toren Steve Wurth	Tom Largent Benjamin Willett Craig Willett Daniel Willett Bill Wurth Marge Wurth	Ann Bongiolatti Trent Bongiolatti Patsy Carroll Brenda Caserta Joseph Caserta Keith Cash
Children's Liturgy	Jolie Fleming Adisyn Fleming	Lynn King Matthew King	Erin Mobley Ashleigh Mast

What's Happening

Sunday, November 27
10:00 NO COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS

Monday, November 28
6:30 pm Pastoral Council Meeting
 (Sacred Heart Room)
6:30 pm First Reconciliation Class
 (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, November 29
7:30 am Rosary
 (Chapel)
10:00 am Bible Study
 (Hospitality Room)
6:00 pm Hispanic Confirmation
 (Sacred Heart Room)

Wednesday, November 30
9:00 am Mother's Day Out
 (Nursery/Library)
6:15 pm Faith Formation
 (SMES)
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
 (Church)

Thursday, December 1
5:30 pm Reconciliation
 (Chapel)
6:45 pm RCIA
 (Parish Hall)
7:30 pm Hispanic Women's Mtg.
 (Sacred Heart Room)

Friday, December 2 First Friday
7:30 pm Hispanic Men's Mtg.
 (Sacred Heart Room)


Saturday, December 3
4:00 pm Reconciliation
 (Church)

Sunday, December 4
10:00 am Coffee & Doughnuts
 (Parish Hall)
1:30 pm Confirmation Class
 (Parish Hall)
4:00 pm Middle School Youth
 (Library)
6:30 pm First Reconciliation
 (Church)

Hour of Prayer

Monday: Skip & Lillie Grief	Thursday: Bret & Maria Avra
Tuesday: Helen Farrell & Elizabeth Edwards	Friday: Pat Cvengros & Cecelia Farrell
Wednesday: John & Wanda Shaw	Saturday: Ray & Amy Lane

RCIA topic for Thursday, December 1
The Trinity/Creed
 Meeting time: 6:45 pm in the Parish Hall. All members of the parish are welcome to attend any of this year's RCIA sessions. Each meeting will provide an opportunity for refreshment of your understanding of what the Catholic faith professes. No need to reserve. Just come in if you are interested. For more information, please contact Pat Cairney at pcairney@stmore.org.



Altar Society Ministry for Dec.
 Purificators: Maria Stuckenberg
 Robes & Albs: Janie Lamb

Be Prepared

Be prepared. It's that simple. As this Advent season opens before us, the Lord Jesus summons us to stand ready for his coming. At this time of year much of our attention is focused on being prepared for the details that accompany the holiday season. We purchase gifts; we decorate our homes, inside and out; we prepare foods that we eat only during the holidays; we write and send Christmas cards; we attend holiday concerts; we prepare either to welcome family and friends into our homes or arrange for visits to their homes. We really can't escape the details that make up the season. Perhaps this Advent is a time to attend to all those details with a different spin. As we prepare to celebrate the feast of Christmas, why not be deliberate about acknowledging the presence of the Lord as we go about these tasks? The Lord often comes to us in wonderfully surprising ways. Let us be prepared.

NO COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS



**THIS WEEK
BECAUSE OF
THANKSGIVING**

ETERNAL REST



Robert Whittaker, son-in-law of Marcella Romaneck, passed away Tuesday, November 15, 2016. May God welcome him home and comfort his family in this time of sorrow.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Sister Betty Drewes, a Benedictine Sister from Ferdinand, IN comes to Saint Thomas More Parish once a month to provide spiritual direction for anyone seeking to deepen their relationship with God. If you want to schedule an appointment with Sister Betty for spiritual direction, please email her at bdrewes@thedome.org or call 812-367-1411, extension 2902. She will be here at the parish **December 6, 7, & 8.**

THEOLOGY ON TAP

The next Theology on Tap will be held **Thursday, December 15** at Paducah BeerWerks at 7:00 pm. Joe Bland, Director of Family Life with the Owensboro Diocese, will discuss the topic "God Wants to Marry You." Invite your friends and make plans to attend.

TEC WORKSHOP

A workshop for TEC will be held at Gasper River Retreat Center on **December 3-4.** We hope past TECites and team members will join us for this Renewing the Vision of the Tec Movement in our Diocese. The cost is \$60 but if needed you can apply for a scholarship for \$30. For questions please email wkytec@gmail.com, call Taylor at **(270) 562-2132**, or go to wkytec.org to apply

Advent Communal Penance Services

St. Thomas More	Sunday, December 11	4:00 pm
St. Francis de Sales	Monday, December 12	6:00 pm
St. John the Evangelist	Tuesday, December 13	6:00 pm
St. Mary (LaCenter)	Wednesday, December 14	6:00 pm
Rosary Chapel	Thursday, December 15	6:00 pm

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA CHRISTMAS TEA

The Daughters of Isabella Christmas Tea will be, **Sunday, December 4** at the home of Pat Gregory from 2:00-4:00 pm. Please bring 10 food items for the food baskets to donate to families of each parish. Also bring an hors d'oeuvre to share. Guests are welcome, members expected. The Dofl and SOS will each have a short business meeting at the Tea. Please contact Sheri Babbs at 270-832-0958 or sbabbs@comcast.net.



OVER 50'S POTLUCK

The next Over 50's Potluck will be **Tuesday, December 6** at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring one or two dishes of meat, vegetables, salads or desserts. For more information, please call the Parish Office at 270-534-9000.

UPDATE REGARDING HEARING AID DEVICES

All devices have fresh batteries and new ear buds. They have each been checked out and are in working order. If you have any problems with a device, contact Melisa Mast in the Parish Office. If you borrow a device, please return it to the cabinet immediately after Mass.

MARRIAGE RETREAT

The Diocese of Owensboro's Family Life Office is hosting "Living the Gift of Marriage," a diocesan-based marriage retreat, on **March 25-26, 2017** at Lake Barkley.

This marriage retreat is being led by Mario Sacasa, a licensed marriage and family therapist and director of counseling services at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, LA. Sacasa uses humor, story and lecture to engage couples to see the great gift God has given them in their marriage and practical ways to love their spouse in their day-to-day encounters.

Whether you are looking for something to bolster your marriage or need tangible skills to help through some troubled times, this is the event for you. Register online at owensborodiocese.org/marriage-retreat/.



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

November 27

MSYG "Family Night!! This month we are visiting the Paducah Athletic Club. Make sure and wear comfortable clothes and shoes because we will start by climbing the rock wall! After rock climbing you will need your bathing suit because we will have a pool party! This is the final family night of the semester so make sure and bring the whole family and plenty of friends! Drop off is at 4:00 and pickup is at 6:00"

RITE OF WELCOME



At the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday, November 13, Fr. Michael Charles performed the Rite of Welcome for the following: Ryan Timmons and sponsor Joan Weintjes; Liz and Dillon Dome and sponsor Debbie Powell; Al Krall and sponsor Janet Krall; Nate Faugno and sponsor Todd Faugno; William Bell and sponsor Amy Ridley.

During this Rite, the inquirer stands amidst the parish community and states that he or she wants to become a member of the Catholic Church. The parish assembly affirms this desire and the inquirer becomes a Catechumen.

DECEMBER EVENTS AT MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

**“Gift: A Theological Reflection”
Tuesday, December 6**

The next monthly Evening with an Ursuline dinner and presentation will take place on Tuesday, December 6. A presentation titled “Gift: A Theological Reflection” will be led by Ursuline Sister Pam Mueller. Practicing Theological Reflection is a Gift we can give ourselves. Find out how it can be a useful tool in making sense out of our often chaotic lives. The dinner and presentation is from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center (located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). The cost is \$20. Pre-registration is required by contacting Kathy McCarty at 270-229-0206 or kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org. For a list of all Evening dates and topics, visit www.ursulinesmsj.org.

**Advent Day of Prayer
Saturday, December 10**

This Advent Day of Prayer will prepare us for this holy time of waiting. It will take place on Saturday, December 10 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center (located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). The event will be led by Monsignor Bernard Powers, a retired priest with a master’s degree in spirituality. The \$25 fee includes lunch. To register, please contact Kathy McCarty at kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org or 270-229-0206.

**Evening with Bishop Medley,
Tuesday, December 13**

This Advent Evening will take place on Tuesday, December 13 from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center (located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). The event will be led by Bishop William Medley, bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro. The \$20 fee includes a meal. To register, please contact Kathy McCarty at kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org or 270-229-0206.

THANKFUL HEARTS



Matthew 13 tells the story of the farmer sowing the seed and what happened to the seed as it fell by the road, in the thorns, in shallow soil, and in good dirt. Every day our students are provided the seeds to grow their minds and heart. St. Mary is intentional in integrating our Catholic faith into daily content instruction.

Recently, one of our younger elementary students told his mother he wants “to donate all his birthday toys to needy children because he doesn’t really need anything and Christmas is so close.” He then said to her, “Don’t you think that will make Jesus’s heart happy?”

Thank you, Lord for cultivating the seeds of God’s mercy, love, and grace in this child’s heart. Thank you too, for the faith and dedication of our St. Mary faculty and staff to each of our students. We are blessed and thankful.

RACHEL’S VINEYARD RETREAT

A *Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat for Healing the Wounds of Abortion* will be offered the weekend of **January 13-15, 2017** in the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky. Participation in this retreat is open to any woman or man who has been involved, or touched by, abortion. If you have lost a child or grandchild, or a sibling, nephew or niece, to abortion, or if you have at any time in your life been involved in an abortion, then the Lord Jesus would like to offer you both healing and peace! Both Catholics and non-Catholics are welcome to participate, and our retreat is conducted with absolute confidentiality. For more information, visit our website: HopeAfterAbortionKY.com, or call Debbie at (270) 570-4717 or Jennifer at (931) 242-5506.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 4:2-6;
Ps 122:1-9;
Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10;
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13,
17;
Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18;
Ps 19:8-11;
Mt 4:18-22

Thursday: Is 26:1-6;
Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21,
25-27a;
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24;
Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14;
Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26;
Ps 147:1-6;
Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Is 11:1-10;
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13,
17;
Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER....

Parishioners: Faye Alexander, Michael Alexander, Mary Gertrude Barkett, Margie Bunte, Celine Crane, Teresa Davis, Pat Dotson, Francie Duncan, Elizabeth Edwards, Morgan Eggemeyer, Gina Fraser, Rose Freiseis, Wayne & Margaret Hagan, Sheree Halicks, Amy Harris, Jodi Hayden, Ann Heavrin, Joyce Holiday, Kay Hosbach, Alan Hughes, Stephen & Phyllis Kettler, David Kimble, Paul Kortz, Buzz LaGessee, Al McKeown, Thomas & Janet Montgomery, Sandy Morrow, Sara Beth Neihoff, Ella O'Bryan, Charity Peters, Ronnie Reil, Barbara Robinson, Gaye Robinson, George Shaw, John Shaw, Carolyn Shockley, Nancy Stearns, Monty Thompson, Ann Vaughan, Ann Watkins, Charlie & Linda Wilson, Katherine Wise

Homebound: Mike & Lorna Roper, Gertrude Yopp

Nursing Home: Carol Baugh, Rose de Leo, Jeanette Elliott, Joe & Betty Falconite, Martha Floyd, Mary Galvin, Hester Geuss, James Hennessy, Vonnie Howard, Catherine McManman, John Metcalf, Delphine Operle, Mary Riedfort, Carolyn Webb, Lucienne Willett, Charles Woods

Non-Parishioners: Lucy Adams, Vickie Arellano, Andy Arliskas, Joseph Arant, Beverly Barnhill, Irene Barrale, Sue Belt, Paul Birk, Tim Bishoff, Bill Black, Marshall Blevins, Britney Boyd, Laura Boyd, Christy Brandon, Joe Bratton, Frances Brush, Rebecca Brush, Dr. Danny Butler, Brandon Canada, Robin Halicks Carlino, Teri Carlino, Rita Chi, Bryan Chovancek, Keith & Dina Clark, Jeff Clark, Charles Clem, Jaycie Closs, Hillary Coltharp, John Conelly, Ronald Connor, Susan Conway, Christa Cook, Andrea Culp, T.J. Davidson, Cara Davis, Ruth Davis, Gail Dierols, Chelsea Duncan, Penny Dunn, Shanna Durbin, Haley Eck, Laurie O'Nan Edelen, Jake Edmiston, Max Ennis, Randy Erickson, Barbara Felts, Jim Flippen, David Fowlkes, Richard Gates, Christi Gearheard, Charlotte Giannini, Cathy Gibb, Sis Gies, Ella Gilbert, Anne Gill, Joanie Giordano, Mike Girth, Joseph Gobel, Carson Goode, Theresa Grana, Karen Graves, Barbara Greer, Mark Grief, Katie Grimes, Sabrina Hale, Angela Eaton Hamilton, Diane Han, Marilyn Hayden, Earl Henderson, Hannah & Lisa Hills & Kathy, Rick Hinton, Billy Hite, Michael Curtis Hobbs, Carolyn Hof, Hank & Mary Nell Holtermann, Steven Hood, Lucy Howe, Jean Hughes, Noah James, Gilbert Johnson, Ed Kapfhammer, Diane Karnages, Mike Lane, Romano Lee, Rose Lowery, Charles Loyd, Brady Maggig, Carol Ann Marazniack, Lindsey Martin, Alicia Martinez Sanches, Linda Massey, Frankie Masterson, Richard Masterson, Joan McCarty, Brandi McDermott, Pat McGrady, Amber McKinley, Fr. Severin Mesick, Carol Miller, Dominic Miller, Julie Miller, Krista Mitchell, David Moehle, Julie Montgomery, Nicole Moore, Jeff Mues, Morgan Nave, Larry Neihoff, Catherine Neihoff-Webb, Randy Newton, Dana Nichols, Michael O'Daniel, Al Olash, Clay Parker, Janice Parker, Reba Parrish, Emily Perrin, Janis Phillips, Melody Pugh, Abigail Puleo, Suzie Reaney, Ray Robertson, Rylee Robinson, Frank Roe, Shirley Rogers, Danny Selts, Laura Shaw, Matthew Shoulta, Mike Smith, Jane Sparks, Kim Street, Gayle Strehl, Kim Swartz, Jay Swinford, Susie Taylor, Nancy Thomas, Devin Thomas, Patty Thomas, Corey Thompson, Ricky Thompson, John Todd, Julie Travis, Tracy Underhill, Pauline Vieta, Kenneth Vogler, Lucille Voytas, Myra Walker, Tom Walker, Madalyn Wallace, Whitney Wallace & Family, Barbara Warner, Tommy Watson, Helen Weiss, Gayle White, Nancy Whitney, John Willis, Donna Wills, Roger Wilson, Wade Wood, Sylvia & Raymond Yoon, Dr. Michael Younker

Eucharistic Adoration



Come and spend an hour with **Jesus...** Listed below are permanent hours that need to be filled in our Adoration Ministry. Volunteer as a substitute or possibly take an hour each week.

Sunday ~ 3:00 to 4:00 am
4:00 to 5:00 pm
9:00 to 10:00 pm

Monday ~ 1:00 to 2:00 am

Tuesday ~ 1:00 to 2:00 am

Wednesday ~ 12:00 to 1:00 am
1:00 to 2:00 am

Thursday ~ 12:00 to 1:00 am
1:00 to 2:00 pm

Friday ~ 12:00 to 1:00 am

Saturday ~ 12:00 to 1:00 am
1:00 to 2:00 am
3:00 to 4:00 am

Contact:

Claudia Smith

claudia_stevesmith@comcast.net
270-443-4913

Angie Nelson

tnelson007@comcast.net or
270-210-6339



Justin Lamb, Chris McCoy, Timothy Lowman, Philip Chapman, Kurtis McClain, Zachary Grimes, Kurt Bell, Jeremy Copeland, Eric Gast, Aaron Conover, Brian Clayton, Hannah Wilson, John Davis, Emily Lane Rockne, Corey Carnes, Clay Magers, Tyler Shumaker, Jeff Perry, Tyler Scott Dickson, Logan Hatton, Nathan Phipps, Sam Herrmann, Charles Soward, Kelly Scott-Nevonen, Greg Nevonen, Cameron Gruening, Michael Renfro, Jason Smith

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. And give us peace. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and

Bounty Baskets Need...

St. Vincent de Paul:

Cereal

PCM:
Rice





Year of Mercy Concludes *Pope Francis Ceremoniously Closes Holy Doors*



Pope Francis closed the Holy Doors of the Vatican during the third week of November in preparation for the Solemnity of Christ the King on November 20, which marks the official end of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The extraordinary Jubilee Year was declared by Pope Francis on December 8 of 2015, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Throughout the year here at Saint Thomas More, we received hundreds of pilgrims as our Works of Mercy Chapel was designated as an official pilgrimage site by Bishop Medley at the start of the Holy Year. The last pilgrimage group to visit the Works of Mercy Chapel was from Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Owensboro during the final week of the Jubilee Year. In addition to organized groups during the year, several pilgrims came in groups of two and four on their own.

Parishioner, Eileen Segebarth volunteered to serve as a hostess to larger groups traveling to the chapel for pilgrimages during the Year. Eileen said, "It has been a pleasure. We have had people from all over. We usually see groups of about 20 or 30. They all seem to appreciate the quiet here. There is a real sense of peace, not only in the chapel, but also in the Rosary Garden and the entire campus really."

The first organized pilgrimage tour was from St. Pius X in Owensboro. More than 50 parishioners traveled for the day to visit designated pilgrimage locations throughout the diocese including our Works of Mercy Chapel.

Several smaller groups from parishes such as St. Michael the Archangel in Oak Grove, and St. Jerome's Youth Group from Fancy Farm, also made the trip. Throughout the year, Saint Thomas More continued to welcome individuals, including several from outside the Commonwealth. Individual visitors included a couple from Kenosha, WI, a young man from Plain City, OH, a couple from Bellefonte, PA and a woman from Council Bluffs, IA.

During the last week of the Year of Mercy, Rev. J. Patrick Reynolds traveled with a group of about 50 pilgrims from Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Owensboro, where he currently serves as pastor. How fitting that the last organized pilgrimage group be led by Fr. Pat, who was instrumental in building the Works of Mercy chapel during his time as pastor here.

Fr. Brad, our current pastor, said, "It is so great to have Our Lady of Lourdes parishioners here. Of course, I was pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes before coming to Saint Thomas More, and it was nice to see so many familiar faces. It is a very real reminder that we are one community."

Sherry Ashby from Our Lady of Lourdes had never been on a pilgrimage before. She said, "I just realized the whole year had gone by and I really wanted the Year of Mercy to be part of my life. Since my former pastor and my current pastor both had such a connection to St. Thomas More, and I admire them both so much, I thought 'now is the time' so I signed up to go."

She continued, "The church and grounds are just beautiful. This was such a perfect way to end the Year of Mercy. I hope that the spirit of the year goes on for years to come."



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 Kathy R. Slaughter, DMD
 Kinney E. Slaughter, DMD
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