



St. Thomas More Catholic Church

5645 Blandville Road, Paducah, KY 42001 ~ 270-534-9000~ FAX 270-534-4339 ~ www.stmore.org

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.

Pastoral Staff

Pastor

Rev. Brad Whistle
(fr.brad@stmore.org)

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Al Bremer

Deacon

Deacon Terry Larbes
(deacon@stmore.org)

Parish Administrator

Steve DuPerrieu
(steve@stmore.org)

Dir. of Music and Liturgy

James G. Hess, MM
(jhess@stmore.org)

Dir. of Stewardship & Ministries

Melisa Mast (mmast@stmore.org)

Dir. of Hispanic Ministry

Sr. Celia Sanchez, MAG
(sr.celia@stmore.org)

Dir. of R.C.I.A.

Pat Cairney
(pcairney@stmore.org)

Dir. of Communications

J. Patrick Kerr
(patrick@stmore.org)

Administrative Assistant

Lois Bell
(lois@stmore.org)

Parish Bookkeeper

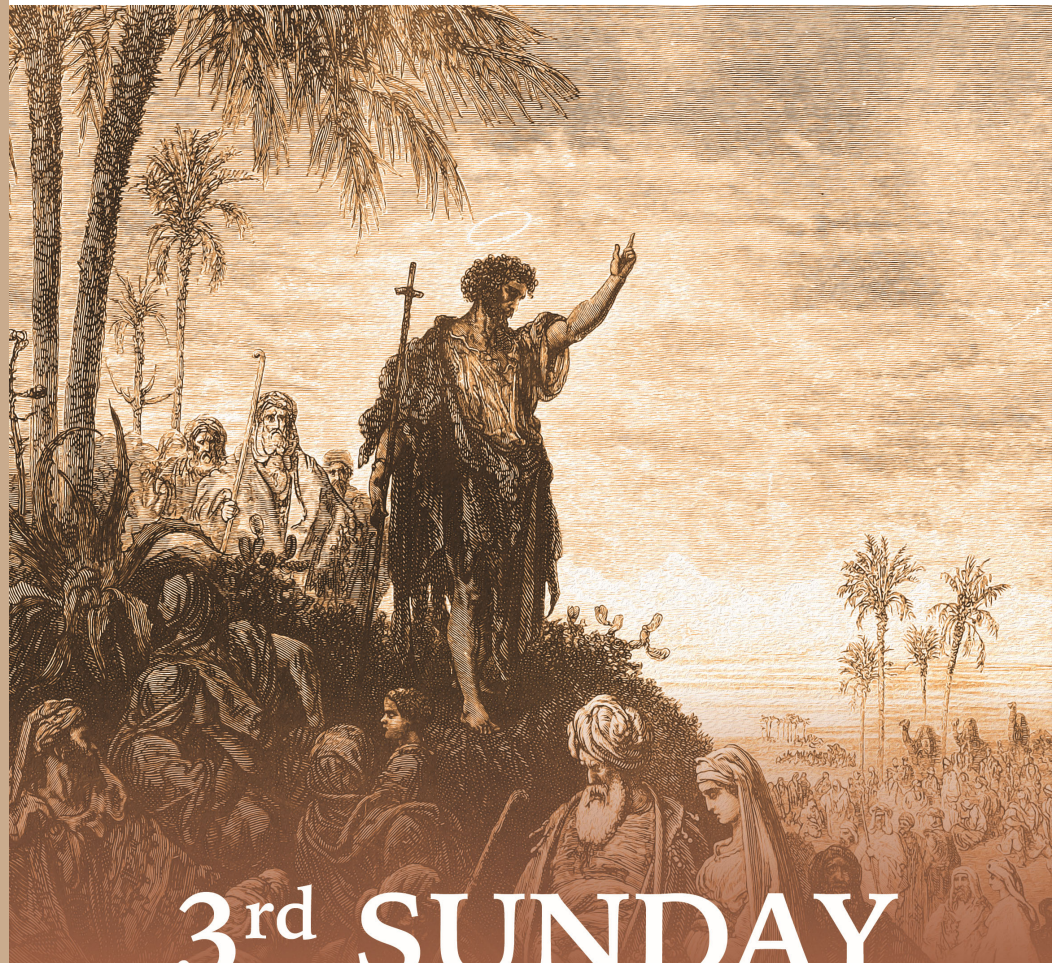
Ellen Anderson
(ellen@stmore.org)

Pastoral Council

Bill Murphy (*Chair*) 270-534-0722
Stacy Jones (*Sec.*) 270-210-0351
Art Azar 270-217-9446
Frank Bosh 270-415-3520
Keith Cash 270-217-8149
Mike Crider 270-519-1728
Andrew DuPerrieu 270-210-2440
Dianna Hand 270-705-5711
Pam Malast 270-210-1247
Jennifer Todd 270-556-5412
Kathy Willett 270-331-3295
Tomi Zaninovich 270-444-0676

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
Eucharistic Adoration - Works of Mercy Chapel



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." - Jn 1:26-27



Saturday, December 16

5:30 pm Our Parish Family

Sunday, December 17 *Third Sunday of Advent*

9:00 am Susan Wurth (d)

11:00 am Kay Eckstein (d)

1:00 pm *Mass in Spanish*
All Souls

Monday, December 18

6:00 pm J. Burnie Carroll (d)

Tuesday, December 19

7:00 am Deacon John Shoulta (d)

Wednesday, December 20

9:30 am *Parkview Nursing Home*

12:00 pm *Lourdes Hospital Chapel*
Bill Cash (d)

Thursday, December 21

6:00 pm Dan Timmons (d)

Friday, December 22

7:00 am William C. Huelsenbeck (d)

Saturday, December 23

5:30 pm Dennis & Buna Lowry (d)

7:00 pm *Mass in Spanish*
Delphine Operle (d)

Sunday, December 24 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

9:00 am Living & Deceased Members
of the James E. Curtsinger Family

11:00 am Bernie Herrmann (d)

Sunday, December 24 *Christmas Vigil*

4:00 pm Our Parish Family

8:00 pm Bob & Audrey McKeown (d)

Monday, December 25 *Christmas Day*

9:00 am Floyd (d) & Bernadine Watkins

11:00 am *Mass in Spanish*
Bishop John J. McRaith (d)

STEWARDSHIP
the way of life

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Regular Collection \$35,266.01

Online Collections \$ 4,598.50

Special Collections \$ 1,960.99

Total Collection \$41,825.50

Thank you for your generosity!

Did you know you can sign up for Online giving through the new St. Thomas More website (www.stmore.org)? Questions? Contact Ellen Anderson at 270-534-9000 or ellen@stmore.org

Advent
Hope · Love · Joy · Peace



Stewardship and Personal Witness

A key facet of stewardship has always been personal witness. Today's readings deal in large part with the witness of John the Baptist. St. John the Baptist, according to historians, was a few months older than Jesus. It is also generally accepted that he began preaching about six months before Jesus came to him to be baptized and to begin His ministry.

St. John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. John the Baptist, through personal witness, raised a great sense of expectancy and excitement, the kind of expectancy and excitement that we associate with this season of Advent. John tries to awaken in people a consciousness of sin, the importance of conversion and change, and the need to become more holy in God's eyes.

Those are the same goals we should have during this Advent season. The matter of witness is a serious and important thing. It establishes truth and a solid foundation for faith. When we personally witness, it means we make a commitment. We cannot be neutral when it comes to our faith. We are called to be disciples, witnesses of and for Christ. We best accomplish that by the ways we live our own lives and how we relate to and treat others.

Jesus can meet our every need. Now is the time for us to accept that and to place our total trust in Him. We can do that best by making our own commitment to be His disciple, a witness to Who He is and what He means to us and all people.

(Catholic Stewardship Consultants Website)



Liturgical Ministers Schedule December 23/24

	5:30 PM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
Sacristan	Debbie Caspar	Rose Ann Walker	Eileen Segebarth
Euch. Ministers	Mary Carrico David Culbertson Peggy Culbertson Beth Haas Jaclyn Meredith Bill Murphy Marie Petrites Murphy Mike Polashock Holly Shockley Elaine Stevens Kelly Veatch	Bill Halicks Sheree Halicks Valerie Kortz David Langston Jill Langston Michael Langston Camilla Shumaker Herb Straub Lynn Thompson Craig Willett Kathy Willett	Tessa Cash Joe Hobbs Pat Hobbs Barb Larbes Ashleigh Mast David Mast Amy Miller John Roof Richard Vieitez
Lectors	Mike Meredith Lori Meredith	Dave Krueger Alice Penrod	Melisa Mast Dianna Hand
Altar Servers	Brett Haas Bryce Haas	Daniel Willett Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Hospitality Coord.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter Families	Mary Bumpous Chris Hrdlicka Jeff Seay	Gabe Crider Brenda Greenwell A.J. Richison	Trish Burks Betty McManus Jennifer Todd
Ushers	Chris Bell Sam Bell Marcia Cochran Keaton Elliott Chris Miller Holly Miller	Scott Babbs Brandon Quigley Dennis Quigley Linsey Quigley Bill Wurth Kevin Wurth	Ann Bongiolatti Trent Bongiolatti Keith Cash Kenlin Thomas Brandon Trevathan Kiael Waldon
Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy

Hour of Prayer

Monday:

Ray & Amy Lane

Tuesday:

Elizabeth Edwards & Nadie Vance

Wednesday:

Holly Newton & Tamara Jones

Thursday:

Lisa Muite & Dolores Webber

Friday:

Phyllis Kettler & Lance Fleming

Saturday:

Bret & Maria Avra

Vocation Awareness

"He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor."

In today's first reading, the prophet Isaiah acknowledges that he was "sent" to bring glad tidings to the poor and to bring good news to God's people. By virtue of our baptism, we are all called and sent to be a part of God's divine plan of salvation. If you think God might be calling you to the vocation of priesthood, contact the vocations office for resources to help you with your discernment: 270-683-1545, jason.mcclure@pastoral.org.

*It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus open doors of hope.
-Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger*

What's Happening

Sunday, December 17

10:00 am No Coffee & Doughnuts (Parish Hall)

10:00 am Giving Tree (Parish Hall)

2:00 pm Confirmation Class (Hospitality Room)

Tuesday, December 19

7:30 am Rosary (Chapel)

6:00 pm Hispanic Confirmation (Sacred Heart Room)

Wednesday, December 20

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Church)

Thursday, December 21

5:30 pm Reconciliation (Chapel)

6:45 pm RCIA (Parish Hall)

7:00 pm Hispanic Women's Mtg. (Sacred Heart Room)

Friday, December 22

7:00 pm Hispanic Men's Mtg. (Sacred Heart Room)

Saturday, December 23

4:00 pm Reconciliation (Church)

Sunday, December 24

10:00 am No Coffee & Doughnuts (Parish Hall)

4:00 pm Vigil Mass (Church)

7:15 pm Lessons & Carols (Church)

8:00 pm Mass During the Night (Church)

Monday, December 25

9:00 am Christmas Day Mass (Church)

11:00 am Mass in Spanish (Church)

New Parishioner Registration

If you are new to the parish and would like to register, please complete the parish registration form that may be found on the parish website (www.stmore.org), in the Gathering Space or in the Parish Office. The completed form may be dropped off in the office, mailed in, or placed in the collection basket. Call the office 270-534-9000 or email lois@stmore.org for more information.

STM NEWS



No Coffee & Doughnuts

We will not have Coffee & Doughnuts today because of distribution of the Giving Tree gifts. Also there will not be Coffee & Doughnuts next Sunday, December 24 because of Christmas Eve. We will begin again on Sunday, December 31.

Adoration Schedule for Christmas & New Year's

For Christmas, the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed at 10:00 pm on Friday, December 22nd, and exposed at 8:00 am on Tuesday, December 26th.

For New Year's, the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed at 10:00 pm on Friday, December 29th, and exposed at 8:00 am on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Office Christmas Schedule

The Parish Office will be closed December 25 and 26. We will resume regular office hours on Tuesday, December 27 at 8:00 am.

We will also be closed on Monday, January 1, 2018 for the New Year's holiday. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 8:00 am.



R.C.I.A

Topic for Thursday December 21 Cardinal Virtues, Chastity, Humility

Meeting time: 6:45 pm in the Parish Hall. All parishioners are welcome to attend any of the RCIA sessions. For more information, please contact Pat Cairney at pcairney@stmore.org.

Adult Nursery Workers NEEDED

The STM Nursery has sadly come to a time where it will be closing for all Masses if we can't get additional adult volunteers. According to Safe Environment regulations, 2 adults age 21 and over must be present. If you or someone you know would be interested in working during any of the Masses, please contact Melisa Mast at 270-534-9000 or mmast@stmore.org. If new volunteers are not found by the end of December, the Nursery will be closed during all Masses.

Elizabeth Meals Ministry

The Elizabeth Meals Ministry provides meals on a short-term basis for those St. Thomas More parish members who are recovering from surgery/illness or shut ins who are not already being ministered to by other groups. If you have a recommendation for a parishioner in need of this service, or if you would like to volunteer in this ministry to cook and/or deliver meals, please contact Lori Meredith at lorimeredith7@comcast.net, 270-210-0693.

RECENT WEDDING



Congratulations and blessings to Daniel Thomas and Emily Brame, who were united in the sacrament of matrimony on Saturday, December 2, 2017 here at St. Thomas More.

OTHER NEWS



Ladies Night Out

The St. Thomas More Young Adults group enjoyed a ladies night out at MAKE studio on Wednesday, December 6. They are pictured above with some of the projects they enjoyed working on that evening.

Just a Reminder...

if you or a loved one is hospitalized, please call the Parish Office at 270-534-9000 to inform us as we cannot obtain information from the hospitals directly.

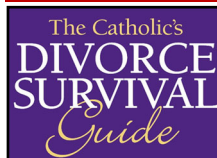
Bounty Baskets...

located in the Gathering Space, are in need of: St. Vincent de Paul - beef stew & chili PCM - spaghetti.

Thank you for your generosity.



COMING IN JANUARY



The Catholic Churches of McCracken County are offering the DVD based ministry for men and women who have suffered from divorce: The Catholic's DIVORCE SURVIVAL Guide. The program features 30-minute DVDs that cover topics of shock, denial, anger, grief, guilt, forgiveness, money, the courts, the kids, the ex-spouse, annulment, dating, sexuality, spirituality, remarriage or staying single, and much more.

Whether you got divorced ten days ago or ten years ago, the program offers valuable insight for everyone.

We will meet on Tuesday evenings from January 9th to March 20th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. All of the meetings will take place at St Thomas More in the Hospitality Room.

For more information contact St. Thomas More Parish office (270)534-9000 or email deacon@stmore.org

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

A *Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Healing the Wounds of Abortion* will be offered the weekend of **January 12-14, 2018** in the Diocese of Owensboro. 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. Visit our website: HopeAfterAbortionKY.com, or call Debbie at (270) 570-4717.

Yarn Spinners Retreat Weekend

Anyone who enjoys yarn spinning, weaving, rug hooking, knitting or crocheting is welcome to attend the **January 5-7 Arts** at the Mount spinning weekend at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center (located 12 miles west of Owensboro, Ky., on Hwy. 56). All skill levels are welcome. The weekend will include workshops and relaxing time to work on your projects. For information on room rates or costs and to register, contact Kathy McCarty at 270-229-0206 or kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org.

**Thinking about Separation or Divorce?**

Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? Do you know how to save that marriage? Or do you feel helpless? Retrouvaille is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. For confidential information or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on **January 12**, call 270-852-8346 or email: felliott3232@yahoo.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org. Registration deadline Jan 5, 2018.

Catholic Men's Conference

The Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky is pleased to welcome Christopher West and Doug Barry as the keynote speakers on **Saturday, February 17, 2018**. The event takes place at the RiverPark Center in Owensboro. Tickets and more information are available online by visiting kycatholic.com.

New: A Contemplative Weekend

Slow down...Catch your breath...Find your calm. This weekend on **February 9-11** allows personal time to journey with God and with self. Spiritual direction is available for those who wish it. Relax and spend time at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center (located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). The \$180 fee includes meals and accommodations. Take 10% off if paid in full by Jan. 9. Contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0206 or kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

OTHER NEWS

Why Do We Do That?**Catholic Traditions Explained**

Question: On many Sundays, especially during Advent and Lent, we hear a reading from one of the prophets. What is significant about them for us? Didn't Jesus fulfill all their predictions?

Answer: Lent and Advent are the times of the church year when the prophetic word forms an important part of the liturgical season. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Baruch, and Zephaniah are just some of the prophets who offer powerful and essential lessons for Christians of any era. Prophets do not predict the future--they are very much concerned about the present, calling Israel to follow once again the word of God.

The prophets witness to a life of faith. In the midst of an intense relationship with God, the prophets are very aware of their unworthiness to embrace this call from God, and struggle to accept the mission God entrusts to them.

The prophets speak on behalf of God. Each testifies that the word spoken is not from them, but from God. This lands them in trouble, at times, with their audience. Jeremiah, for example, felt betrayed by God as the prophetic message was delivered. People did not like the message because of their sin-filled lives and their displeasure was taken out on the prophet. While tempted at times to throw in the towel, the prophets remained true to the life of faith and persevered in the proclamation of God's word. In modeling these virtues and calling us to greater fidelity, the prophets offer an example and message that are still important to us today.

Inspiration for the Week

John the Baptist came to testify to the light, who is Jesus Christ. Like John, we are called to testify to that same Light. We do so by living lives of faith and bringing the joy of the Gospel to everyone we meet. We are people of joy who rejoice at his birth and eagerly await his coming again. We share that joy by tending to the needs of the poor, helping those who are broken, and witnessing to the freedom that a life in God brings. May we take our task of being joyful witnesses to the good news seriously as the celebration of Christ's birth fast approaches.



Readings for the Week

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Saints & Special Observances

Thursday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church
Saturday: St. John of Kanty, Priest

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



Remember in Prayer...

Parishioners: Faye Alexander, Mary Gertrude Barkett, Judy Bufford, Margie Bunte, Celine Crane, Rebecca Crider, Pat Cvengros, Teresa Davis, Pat Dotson, Francie Duncan, Dakota Durrett, Morgan Eggemeyer, Gina Fraser, Rose Freiseis, Margaret Hagan, Carl Harper, Amy Harris, Ann Heavrin, Cleo Higdon, Joyce Holliday, Kay Hosbach, Alan Hughes, Sr. Kateri Kaufman, Phyllis Kettler, David Kimble, Buzz LaGessee, Thomas & Janet Montgomery, Sandy Morrow, Ella O'Bryan, Charity Peters, Gaye Robinson, George Shaw, John Shaw, Nancy Stearns, Monty Thompson, Leigh Ann Turner, Ann Vaughan, Beth Walker, Ann Watkins, Linda Wilson, Katherine Wise, Noel Wise, Marge Wurth

Assisted Living: Velma Bohle-Carlton & Terry Carlton, Opal Cooper, Myrtle Dorris

Homebound: Randy Hand, Mike & Lorna Roper, Gertrude Yopp

Nursing Home: Jeanette Elliott, Joe & Betty Falconite, Mary Galvin, Vonnie Howard, Ken McCauley, John Metcalf, Mary Riedfort, Carolyn Webb, Charles Woods

Non-Parishioners: Ada Cruce, Matthew Shoulta, Jimmy Kapfhammer, Wayne Batts, Nanette Love, Margaret Whitney, Becky Bowling, Frances Lamar, Cooper & Mary Margaret Mattingly, Susan Woods, Shirley Hudson, Mary & John Papp, Karen & Robert Schopp, Kim Mosier, Jerry Mouser, Chloe Whittaker, Lisa Buchanan, Billy Brown, Kellie Kissel, Randy Eckstein, Lyla Dotson, Jennifer Hercules, Delmon & Mary Ann Casey

Military: Justin Lamb, Chris McCoy, Timothy Lowman, Zachary Grimes, Kurt Bell, Eric Gast, Brian Clayton, Hannah Wilson, John Davis, Emily Lane Rockne, Corey Carnes, Clay Magers, Tyler Shumaker, Jeff Perry, Tyler Scott Dickson, Nathan Phipps, Kelly Scott-Nevonen, Greg Nevenon, Cameron Grueninger, Michael Renfro, Jason Smith, Alec McMahon, Michael Abraham Polashock

"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 Savior. Amen."



Saturday, December 16
 Edward Brownfield, Gage Moore, Jim Woods
Sunday, December 17
 Marylou Caron, Carolyn Mayo, Nik Roof, Carolyn Shockley, Ken Wurth
Monday, December 18
 Samantha Cristobal, Ethan Newton, Bekke Ragle, Tonya Sullenger, Maggie Swift, Gerard Szczerbinski,
Tuesday, December 19
 Jennifer Carbajal, Alyssa Carter, Natalie Mayo, Adan Perez, Mason Vaughan
Wednesday, December 20
 April Baker, Christine Canella, Jorge Carmona, Mary Ruth DeLaRosa, Lena O'Nan, Catalina Phelps, Brooklyn Tapscott, John Wilson
Thursday, December 21
 Cecilia Aguirre, Luis Gonzales, Jackie Hopper, Connor Horath, Christopher Prado
Friday, December 22
 Kyle Marshall, Delanie Ruelas, Bryan Willett
Saturday, December 23
 Brianna Doran, Fernando Hernandez, Riley Peters, Galen Stegman, Cadence Todd
Sunday, December 24
 Shawn Barber, Velma Bohle-Carlton, Irma Castaneda, Judy Frensley, Lan Pham, Andrea Robles, Kambria Spoden



Monday, December 18
 Drew & Jennifer Trittle 8 yrs.
Tuesday, December 19
 Taylor & Marilla Ballard 5 yrs.
Thursday, December 21
 Michael & Kathy Smith 32 yrs.

Non-parishioner names will be rotated off the prayer list every SIX WEEKS unless a parishioner calls and extends the prayer request.

the word



Mini Edition

In This Time of Joy We Give Thanks

Our volunteers are living a stewardship life



We have always known that the many parishioners who volunteer to serve in Saint Thomas More organizations and ministries are truly valuable. Now we have confirmation! Based on the average hourly wage, it is estimated that one hour of volunteer time is worth \$17.55. However, to us the time you give is invaluable. Through the gifts of time and talent that you so generously share, we are able to truly be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Many thanks to all those faithful and generous stewards who volunteer in our parish! Your time is worth everything to us!



Every quarter in this space, we will recognize the newest members of our parish.

And, just a reminder for those families that are new to Saint Thomas More - stop by the parish office during business hours and pick up a welcome bag.

We also invite you to visit our website at www.stmore.org. There you will find Mass schedules, ministry opportunities and more.

Saint Thomas More is glad to have you as part of our faith family!

Mathew and Sarah Bozone

Kayla Dixon

Shannon and Anne Gore

Gloria Huelsenbeck

Matt and Brenda Walters

Ronald and Joan Boyum

Dylan Sonnek

Betty McCrady

Holiday Mass Schedule

Nativity of Our Lord

Vigil Mass	Sunday, December 24	4 p.m.
Lessons and Carols (STM Choir and Instrumentalists)		7:15 p.m.
Mass During the Night		8 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass	Monday, December 25	9 a.m.
Christmas Day Mass (Spanish)		11 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day)

Mass	Monday, January 1	8 a.m.
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(There is no Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God because the Vigil falls on Sunday. Regular Sunday masses will be celebrated on December 31.)



DISCIPLES RESPONDING

God has given us many gifts. We truly thank those of you who have committed yourself to being good stewards of those gifts by promising to share your time, talent and treasure as a sign of the love and gratitude you have for Him. If you have not returned your Stewardship Commitment Forms, it is not too late. Please drop them off or mail them to the parish office this week. Extra copies are available on the website at www.stmore.org.



The Stewardship Council

Saxony
MINI STORAGE
 2655 N. Friendship Rd.
 270-554-4720 (or) 5926
 Kenneth Merges

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 David Tucker, O.D.
 Dr. Chelsey Johnson
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 James K. Hunt, DMD Parishioner
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