

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 13, 2017

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



Pastoral Staff

Pastor - Rev. Brad Whistle (*fr.brad@stmores.org*)
Parochial Vicar - Rev. Al Bremer
Deacon - Deacon Terry Larbes (*deacon@stmores.org*)
Parish Administrator - Steve DuPerrieu (*steve@stmores.org*)
Director of Music and Liturgy - James G. Hess, MM (*jhess@stmores.org*)
Director of Stewardship and Ministries - Melisa Mast (*mmast@stmores.org*)
Director of Hispanic Ministry - Sr. Celia Sanchez, MAG (*sr.celia@stmores.org*)
Director of R.C.I.A. - Pat Cairney (*pcairney@stmores.org*)
Director of Communications - J. Patrick Kerr (*patrick@stmores.org*)
Administrative Assistant - Lois Bell (*lois@stmores.org*)
Bookkeeper - Ellen Anderson (*ellen@stmores.org*)

Pastoral Council

Bill Murphy (<i>Chair</i>)	270-534-0722
Stacy Jones (<i>Sec.</i>)	270-210-0351
Art Azar	270-519-4256
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
James Medley (<i>Alt.</i>)	502-777-9404

Finance Committee

Doug Niewoehner (*Chair*)
David Althouse
Lynn Brown
Mike Crider
Chris Haas
Cletus Poat

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 ~ *SMEC Principal*
Chris Haas ~ *SMEC Board Member*
Gale Hatton ~ *SMEC Board Member*
Susan Curtsinger ~ *SMEC Board Member*
Nicki Roof ~ *SMEC Board Member*

Cemetery Board

Jim Sanders (*Chair*)
David Curtsinger
David Langston

Special Care Numbers

St. Mary School System	270-442-1681
Faith Formation (<i>CCD</i>)	270-443-0295
Mt. Carmel Cemetery (<i>John Bufford</i>)	270-331-1006
Bereavement (<i>Cathy Trussell</i>)	270-519-3779
Inclusion Representative (<i>Stacy Jones</i>)	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

***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.***

5645 Blandville Road, Paducah, Kentucky 42001-8722
270-534-9000 FAX 270-534-4339 Web Page: www.stmores.org



A Focus on Christ Makes the Impossible Possible

In today's Gospel from the Book of Matthew, we hear the remarkable story of Jesus walking on the Sea of Galilee. St. Peter reflects his faith in the Lord when he says, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus says simply, "Come." We do not know if Peter stepped into the water or jumped and it does not matter. His faith and trust in the Lord allows Peter, too, to begin to walk on the water. Clearly when Peter's focus is on Christ, he is able to accomplish this.



However, when Peter loses his focus and begins to observe and think about the storm raging around him, he begins to sink. To Peter's credit he knows exactly Whom to turn in that situation. "Lord, save me." We may often find ourselves in similar circumstances. Peter knew exactly Who to call out to at the moment of crisis. We may do the same.

St. Francis de Sales wrote, "Either God will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then; put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations."

This week, reflect on how the Lord could be calling you out of the safety of your own "boat" to take on the impossible.

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 12

5:30 pm Our Parish Family

Sunday, August 13 19th Sunday in Ordinary

9:00 am Floyd Watkins (d)

11:00 am Dennis & Buna Lowry (d)

1:00 pm Mass in Spanish

Living & Deceased Members of the Daughters of Isabella

Monday, August 14 Vigil Mass of the Assumption

6:00 pm David Baker (d)

Tuesday, August 15 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 am Albert H. Bremer, Sr. (d)

Wednesday, August 16

9:30 am Parkview ~ Fr. Bruce Fogle

12:00 pm Lourdes Chapel ~ Fr. Brad Whistle
Pat Brockenborough

Thursday, August 17

6:00 pm Stephen Kettler (d)

Friday, August 18

7:00 am Roscoe Shoulta (d)

Saturday, August 19

5:30 pm Our Parish Family

Sunday, August 20 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Susan Wurth (d)

11:00 am Roger Wilson (d)

1:00 pm Mass in Spanish

Carmen Hernandez (d)

STEWARDSHIP
a way of life

Sunday, August 6, 2017

Regular Collection \$20,033.00

Online Collections \$ 7,351.00

Special Collections \$ 520.00

Total Collection \$27,904.00

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)? Just click the "online giving" tab (the last option on the right under the stained glass windows) and scroll down to click on the "WeShare Online Giving" button). Questions? Contact Ellen Anderson at 270-534-9000 or ellen@stmore.org

Liturgical Ministers Schedule August 19/20			
	5:30 PM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
Sacristan	Debbie Caspar	Sharon Godec	Amy Miller
Euch. Ministers	Ann Averill Mary Carrico David Culbertson Peggy Culbertson Mary Evans Gale Hatton Vicki Kight Mary Kay Sanders Elaine Stevens Shayne Veatch Dolores Webber	Scott Babbs Frank Burch Tom Clinton Bill Halicks Sheree Halicks Val Kortz Jeff Mudd Jill Mudd Angie Nelson Todd Nelson David Roof	Trish Burks Joe Hobbs Pat Hobbs Abby LaFont Eileen Segebarth Claudia Smith Terry Sullivan Brandon Trevathan Volunteer Needed
Lectors	David Curtsinger Pat Spoden	Ernie Mitchell Missy Eckenberg	Kevin Segebarth Sharon Brumlow
Servers	Claire Carrico John Ryan Curtsinger	Abigail Wurth Erica Wurth	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Greeter Families	Chris Hrdlicka Chris Miller Steve Wurth	Brenda Greenwell Paul King Cathy Trussell	Cassie Belford Brian Johnston Nadie Vance
Ushers	Chris Bell Sam Bell David Carrico John MacCauley Anthony Milliano Tony Milliano	Ray Lane Tom Largent Geoffrey Newton Thomas Newton Bonnie Stewart Kevin Wurth	Keith Cash Tessa Cash Kyle Rea Mike Rea Kenlin Thomas Kiael Waldon

Hour of Prayer


Monday: Elizabeth Edwards & Shirley Renaud	Thursday: Ray & Amy Lane
Tuesday: Monty & Peggy Thompson	Friday: Lance Fleming & Janet Colgan
Wednesday: Tamara Jones & Helen Farrell	Saturday: Dolores Webber & Emma Bourgois

What's Happening

- Sunday, August 13**
10:00 am Coffee & Doughnuts (Parish Hall)
10:00 am BP Checks (Hospitality Room)
- Monday, August 14**
6:00 pm Bilingual Vigil Mass (Church)
- Tuesday, August 15**
7:00 am Holy Day Mass (Church)
7:30 am Rosary (Chapel)
6:00 pm Hispanic Confirmation (Sacred Heart Room)
- Wednesday, August 16**
6:00 pm Stewardship Committee (Sacred Heart Room)
- Thursday, August 17**
5:30 pm Reconciliation (Chapel)
6:45 pm RCIA (Parish Hall)
7:00 pm Hispanic Women's Mtg. (Sacred Heart Room)
- Friday, August 18**
7:00 pm Hispanic Men's Mtg. (Sacred Heart Room)
- Saturday, August 19**
4:00 pm Reconciliation (Church)
- Youth Bake Sale at All Masses**
- Sunday, August 20**
10:00 am Coffee & Doughnuts (Parish Hall)
3:00 pm Baptism Class (Hospitality Room)

RCIA topic for Thursday, August 17 - Divine Revelation

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@stm.org.



Vocation Awareness

"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

What keeps you from following Christ? For many, it is fear. As the disciples experienced fear, Jesus commanded them to take courage. Responding to our vocation takes courage and often challenges us to step out into unknown territory. If we trust in the Lord, He will raise us up and we will join our voices with his disciples who proclaim "Truly, you are the Son of God." If you feel that God might be calling you to the vocation of priesthood, contact the vocations office for resources and support. 270-683-1545, jason.mcclure@pastoral.org, www.owensborovocations.com.

For all those called to priesthood and consecrated life, that they will have no fear in responding to Jesus as He calls them to trust in Him and His plan for them, we pray to the Lord.

Bounty Basket Needs

Our Bounty Baskets, located in the Gathering Space, are in need of:

St. Vincent de Paul - tooth paste and easy to prepare food for the homeless.

PCM - spaghetti and other non-perishable goods.



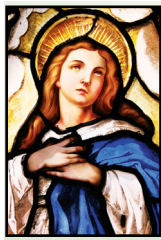
Eternal Rest

Patricia Carter, mother of Dr. Russell (Caron) Carter, passed away Saturday, July 29, 2017.

Maria Tito de Fecko, mother of Ana Sredl, recently passed away.

Randall Teitloff, father of Randy (Marilyn) Teitloff passed away recently.

May God welcome them home and comfort their families in this time of sorrow.



Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, August 15, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a holy day of obligation on which the faithful are obliged to attend Mass.

Masses here at St. Thomas More will be at **6:00 pm on Monday, August 14**. This vigil Mass will be bi-lingual. The feast day Mass will be at **7:00 am on Tuesday, August 15**.

Blood Pressure Checks Today

Our parish nurses will hold their monthly blood pressure checks today, **Sunday, August 13** in the Hospitality Room between the 9:00 and 11:00 am Masses. You are invited to stop by for this free service.

NCYC Bake Sale

A BAKE SALE to benefit the youth attending NCYC will be **August 19-20**. All baked goods will be for monetary donations of any amount. Thank you to our parish members in advance for your support! All NCYC participants are reminded to bring your baked goods before whichever Mass you attend and let Lori (270-210-0693) know which Mass you can work at the sale 270-210-0693.



Mother's Day Out

Mother's Day Out Program is in need of a director and assistants. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Melisa Mast at 270-534-9000 or mmast@stmore.org.

Faith Formation Registration

Faith Formation registration packets for Pre-K through high school students who are attending public schools are now available at the gathering space. Parents, please get copies enough for your children who will be attending Faith Formation for their weekly religious instruction. When completed you can mail the forms to us or wait until registration evening to submit them and meet your children's catechists for the year.



REGISTRATION: August 23, Wednesday, 5:30-7:00 pm, SMES cafeteria.

Registration Fee: \$50 per child, but not to exceed \$100 per family.

First Class: August 30

Contact Ging Smith at paducahfaithformation@smss.org or 270 443 0295 for questions or concerns.

Raffle Tickets for Mount Saint Joseph

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph are once again having a grand raffle with a top prize of \$10,000! Proceeds benefit the Retired Sisters. Sister Amelia Stenger will be here at St. Thomas More to sell tickets the weekend of **August 26-27**. Tickets are \$5 each or 4 for \$20 and you could win \$10,000, \$3,500, \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100 or a handmade quilt. The drawing will take place on September 10 at Mount Saint Joseph Craft Sale at 3:00 p.m. The craft sale will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 in the gym at Maple Mount. Quilts, crafts, homemade jellies and other items will be sold. Admission is free. For more information email betsy.mullins@maplemount.org



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

Catholic Women's Retreat: August 25-26

Join women from around the Diocese of Owensboro for a women's retreat at Kentucky Dam Village. This is an opportunity to be spiritually and emotionally refreshed. Speakers are Hallie Lord and Cyndi Spivey and Mass with Bishop William F. Medley. Registration is \$40. Learn more and register at owensborodiocese.org/womens-retreat/.

Ministry Changes

All Hospitality Ministers - Greeters and Ushers - will be asked to stay after Mass the weekend of **August 19 and 20 or August 26 and 27** to hear about some changes within this ministry.



Calling All Troop 7

Eagle Scouts

I am making a master list of all the Eagle Scouts in our troop. I need your full name and the date when you became an Eagle Scout. Please e-mail me at suatphing@yahoo.com. Thank you, Ryan Chua, Troop 7 Historian



Join Us for

Catholic Way Bible Study

Catholic Way Bible Study, led via DVD by Lavinia Spirito in Lexington KY, will begin Tuesdays 10:00am-12 noon from September 12th through November 14th. The nine lessons will cover the Apostolic letters of James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1,2,3 and 4 John and Jude. We will watch the video then have discussion. Please consider joining us! Text or email Lori to register or for more info: 270-210-0693 or lorimeredith7@gmail.com.

Funeral Meal Dishes

Funeral meal dishes need to be picked up from the Parish Hall kitchen. Please stop by Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm or Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Parish Missions in Aurora & Cadiz

St. Henry (Aurora) and St. Stephen (Cadiz) parishes will host Michael Cumbie next month as part of their Parish Mission event. St. Henry's parish mission is **August 13-15** from 6:30 until 8:00 pm. This same mission will be at St. Stephen on **August 16-18** also from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Michael Cumbie's focus will be to help understand our Protestant brothers and sisters and how we can share with them about our faith. You can see him on Youtube if you search "The Journey Home Michael Cumbie." All are invited!



Diocesan Women's Marian Conference

"Our Lady of Fatima: The source of hope, healing and peace" is the focus of the next women's Marian Conference. It will commemorate the 100th year anniversary of Fatima.

The conference is Friday, September 15 from 5:30 - 9:00 pm and will continue on Saturday, September 16 from 7:30- 5 pm.

This event features three speakers: Fr. Wade Menezes CPM, Susan Brinkmann, and Ralph Martin who all make regular appearances on EWTN. The conference takes place at Sts. Joseph & Paul's Parish Hall in Owensboro. The cost is \$20 per person and students (16 - 21) are \$10 each. For pre-registration, call Lisa Englert (270) 993-8896 or Lisa Bivins (270) 993-3393.

VOCARE 2017

Tables and tickets are now on sale for VOCARE 2017, which takes place the evening of **September 22** at the Owensboro Convention Center. VOCARE is an annual event which raises awareness and funds for vocational discernment and education in the diocese. Mrs. Rhonda Gruenewald, author of *HUNDRED-FOLD, A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry*, will be this year's keynote speaker. To reserve a table or ticket(s), visit owensborodiocese.org/vocare/.

Inspiration for the Week

Peter saw Jesus walking on the water and began to walk toward him. He became frightened at how strong the wind was and began to sink. He took his focus off of Jesus and allowed his fears to get the best of him. Fear often gets the best of us and cripples us. We sink. Many of our actions and thoughts are motivated by fear. Think of how many opportunities you have missed because of fear. Jesus tells us to trust and to meet each day with faith and confidence. God is with us. We have nothing to fear.

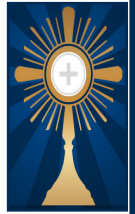
Readings for the Week

Monday: Dt 10:12-22/Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/Mt 17:22-27
Tuesday: Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14/1 Cor 15:54b-57/Lk 11:27-28
 Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps 45:10-12, 16/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56
Wednesday: Dt 34:1-12/Ps 66:1-3a, 5, 8, 16-17/Mt 18:15-20
Thursday: Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17/Ps 114:1-6/Mt 18:21--19:1
Friday: Jos 24:1-13/Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22, 24/Mt 19:3-12
Saturday: Jos 24:14-29/Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 11/Mt 19:13-15

8 WAYS TO PRAY

DURING ADORATION

1. Pray Spontaneously
2. Ask the Saints for Help
3. Read the Scriptures
4. Meditate
5. Read Spiritual Books
6. Ask for Intercessions
7. Offer a Holy Hour
8. Write a Prayer Journal



Open Adoration Hours

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a time for quiet prayer and also a great service to our community to help keep Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Unfilled Adoration hours are:

Sunday:	1:00 - 2:00 am 3:00 - 4:00 am
Monday:	1:00 - 2:00 am 11:00- Midnight
Tuesday:	1:00 - 2:00 am 2:00 - 3:00 pm 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Wednesday:	1:00 - 2:00 am 10:00 - 11:00 pm
Thursday:	Midnight - 1:00 am
Friday:	Midnight - 1:00 am 4:00 - 5:00 am
Saturday:	1:00 - 2:00 am 3:00 - 4:00 am 4:00 - 5:00 am 3:00 - 4:00 pm

To participate, please call:

Claudia Smith at 270-443-4913 or claudia_stevesmith@comcast.net or
Angie Nelson at 270-210-6339 or tnelson007@comcast.net.

Saints & Special Observances

Monday: St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr
Tuesday: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday: St. Stephen of Hungary
Saturday: St. John Eudes, Priest

*Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did.
 --St. Maximilian Kolbe*

Remember in Prayer...

Parishioners: Faye Alexander, Mary Gertrude Barkett, Trent Bongiolatti, Judy Bufford, Margie Bunte, Celine Crane, Rebecca Crider, Pat Cven-gros, Teresa Davis, Pat Dotson, Fran-cie Duncan, Dakota Durrett, Morgan Eggemeyer, Bill Ford, Gina Fraser, Rose Freiseis, Margaret Hagan, Carl Harper, Amy Harris, Jodi Hayden, Ann Heavrin, Cleo Higdon, Joyce Holliday, Kay Hosbach, Alan Hughes, Phyllis Kettler, David Kimble, Buzz & Gail LaGesse, Thomas & Janet Montgomery, Sandy Morrow, Ella O'Bryan, Karen Paxton, Charity Pe-ters, Gaye Robinson, George Shaw, John Shaw, Nancy Stearns, Monty Thompson, Ann Vaughan, Beth Walk-er, Ann Watkins, Linda Wilson, Kath-erine Wise

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

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

Nursing Home: Carol Baugh, Jean-ette Elliott, Joe & Betty Falconite, Mary Galvin, Hester Geuss, Vonnie Howard, Ken McCauley, John Metcalf, Delphine Operle, Mary Ried-fort, Carolyn Webb, Charles Woods

Non-Parishioners: Ada Cruce, Matthew Shoulta, Elizabeth Pritch-ett, Margaret Whitney, Jimmy Kap-fhammer, Don Manning, Wayne Batts, Susie Taylor, Renate Master-son, Toni Masterson, Vickie Boggess, Jarod Hardin, Shirley Hudson, Melanie Sisco, Dennis Walsh, John Kraus, Charlie Proctor, Joanie Cooper, Nanette Love, Chloe Nesbitt, Dennis Walsh, Jardod Har-din, Johnetta Taylor, Marvin Willett, Margaret Whitney, Becky Bowling



Justin Lamb, Chris McCoy, Timothy Lowman, 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, Nathan Phipps, Kelly Scott-Nevoenen, Greg Nevoenen, Cam-eron Grueninger, Michael Renfro, Jason Smith, Alec McMahon
“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 Je-sus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.”



Saturday, August 12
Ray Fields, Mary Galvin, Madison Johnson

Sunday, August 13
Debbie Bray, McKenna Brownfield, Janet Colgan, Olivia Escalera, Michael Lurtz, Bill Wade

Monday, August 14
Lana Edwards, Connie Perry, Jennifer Reed, Julio Rodriguez

Tuesday, August 15
Melanie Brooks, Agustina Lemus, Lottie Mangino, Joshua Nelson, David Paxton, Sam Thompson

Wednesday, August 16
Art Davis, Terry Duncan, Josh King, Patrick Mobley

Thursday, August 17
Callie Belford, Caroline Crider, Nicole Doran, James O'Rourke, Dennis Quigley

Friday, August 18
Erica Ferguson, Karla Puschaver, Geri Staley, Dolores Webber

Saturday, August 19
Jordan Bufford, Savannah Hender-son, Liz Mangino, David Mast, Norma Molina, Mark Owens, Becca Thomp-son, Nadie Vance, Lillie Withrow

Sunday, August 20
Charlie Blackston, Chris Hollowell, Tony Reck, Braydon Willett



Saturday, August 12
Dan & Laura Todino 22 yrs.

Sunday, August 13
Mark & Theresa Owens 41 yrs.

Monday, August 14
Tony & Farideh Reck 20 yrs.
Randy & Joan Wientjes 35 yrs.

Wednesday, August 16
Ray & Mikel Fields 59 yrs.
Ricky & Lindsay Martin 9 yrs.
Brent & Brittany Nunn 3 yrs.

Friday, August 18
Jack & Denise Resser 56 yrs.
Hugo & Juanita Cerda 5 yrs.

Saturday, August 19
James & Jeanine Taylor 45 yrs.

Sunday, August 20
Gary & Cindy Ballard 41 yrs.
Ronnie & Melanie Brooks 6 yrs.

Why Do We Do That? Catholic Traditions Explained

Question:

What are we celebrating on the feast of the Assumption of Mary?

Answer:

The Assumption, along with the Immaculate Conception, are two Marian dog-mas that have been infallibly defined by the Church. The Assumption pro-claims the reality that Mary was taken up body and soul into heaven. This was God's special gift to her in response to her total giving of self to God's plan and will.

The Church believes that Mary was immaculately conceived, that is, con-ceived without original sin. This led the Church to believe that she did not suf-fer one of the key consequences of original sin--death and corruption. (The Orthodox Church celebrates the Dormition of Mary, the belief that Mary did not die but rather fell asleep and was thus assumed into heaven.)

What significance does this feast have for our lives as Christians today? Mod-eling ourselves on Jesus is certainly the sure path to God. Thus this feast is above all an assurance and hope of our continued life with God. God will not leave us orphaned or alone to suffer the emptiness of death. This is the hope and assurance that Mary's assumption celebrates. It is a celebration of OUR assumption as well. She is one of us, providing a model of what God has in store for all who love and give of themselves to God.



RCIA Begins This Week

Know someone interested in the Catholic Faith?



Saint Thomas More's Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults sessions begins this Thursday, August 17 at 6:45 p.m. If you know someone who may be interested in learning more about our Catholic Faith, consider inviting them.

The first few sessions of RCIA are called the Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate or more commonly as the Period of Inquiry. During these first few sessions, teaching begins for those who are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith. The sessions cover basic information about Catholicism and fundamentally communicate the Gospel of Jesus.



The first few sessions are really an invitation to continue along the path of converting to the Catholic Faith. Again, there is no obligation involved in attending these meetings - they are intended to help someone decide whether they want to continue learning about the Faith. Attendees at this stage are known as Inquirers.

RCIA meetings continue through the fall and winter and move towards Easter in what is known as the Period of Purification and Enlightenment. This generally corresponds with Lent and is intended to be a period of increased discernment and coming closer to God. The aim of this period is to "eliminate what is weak and sinful, and affirm what is holy." During this time, the Elect undertake a number of Rites, including the Scrutinies and Presentations.

Finally, at the Easter Vigil the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation takes place. These include Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion. Those who are not baptized in a Christian faith are known as the Elect and will celebrate all of these sacraments while Candidates (those who are already baptized) only celebrate Confirmation and the Eucharist. The Elect are now called Neophytes, and they are considered to be full members of the Catholic Church.

Take a moment to prayerfully consider if you know someone who has shown an interest in your faith. If a particular person crosses your mind, consider inviting them to attend this first session. Maybe even offer to go with them. For more information email Pat Cairney at pcairney@StMore.org.

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 Kenneth Merges

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