



# ST. THOMAS MORE

ROMAN  
CATHOLIC  
CHURCH

FEBRUARY 22, 2026 • FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Jesus showed us that resisting temptation, even grave temptation, is possible.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY, February 22—First Sunday of Lent

- 6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased
- 8:00 am Charles Mullaney by Family
- 10:00 am Charles Pullen by Family
- 12:00 pm Margaret Uhrin by Herrmann Family

### MONDAY, February 23

- 6:30 am Shirley O'Donnell (Anniv.) by Family
- 8:30 am Stella Ilickovich by Children

### TUESDAY, February 24

- 6:30 am Angela V. Medina by Serrano Family
- 8:30 am Nancy Kaczka by Children

### WEDNESDAY, February 25

- 6:30 am Lorraine Marie Kobus by Altar & Rosary
- 8:30 am Charles Svitko by Michalik Family

### THURSDAY, February 26

- 6:30 am Louise Younkers by Rich & Denise Gard
- 8:30 am Ann Miskovich by Miskovich Family

### FRIDAY, February 27

- 6:30 am Irene F. Renwald by Seniors of STM
- 8:30 am Dee Canavan by a Friend

### SATURDAY, February 28

- 8:30 am Kathy & Steve Kirincic by Family
- 5:30 pm Janet Edwards Moore by Hajduch Family

### SUNDAY, February 29—Second Sunday of Lent

- 6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased
- 8:00 am Living & Deceased Members of Mercier & Constantino Families by Mercier Family
- 10:00 am Angela Burke by Family
- 12:00 pm John & Lottie Spudic by Phyllis Rueth

### —> NEW Parish Office Hours <—

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

**Wednesday 8:00 a.m.—Noon**

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-Noon

### 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.*

St. Thomas More Church • 8501 Calumet Avenue • Munster, IN 46321 • (219) 836-8610 • [www.stm-church.com](http://www.stm-church.com)

## A CHANCE TO BECOME MORE

**Every conquering temptation represents a new fund of moral energy. Every trial endured and weathered in the right spirit makes a soul nobler and stronger than it was before.** ~ William Butler Yeats

I'm firmly convinced that too many people look at Lent the wrong way. They look at the "have-to's" rather than at the wonderful opportunity. If someone says that they have to give up something for Lent, they are already on the wrong approach. Their perceived obligation can block them from spiritual growth.

If, on the other hand, we look at the discipline of Lent as opportunity rather than imposition, we see the great invitation before us: an invitation to change, to grow, and to become more of the people we are called to be.

Yeats hits the nail on the head. Conquering temptation is a source of moral energy. Today's readings speak about our sinful human nature. They also share with us the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness.

Yes, Jesus was tempted.

There are times that people gloss over that. They don't think temptation is possible for Jesus because, after all, He is the Son of God. They forget that He is also the Son of Mary and, therefore, truly human. He hungered, He thirsted, He experienced pain just as any of us do.

The one thing about Jesus? He was incredibly driven. Driven to accomplish the will of His Father, the whole reason that He was on earth. His will was to make sure that all of us have a chance to return home to the Father at the end of our days.

Jesus showed us that resisting temptation, even grave temptation, is possible. He did the heavy lifting for us. Now, He invites us to follow in His footsteps, rejecting the wiles of our ancient enemy and accepting the graces of our Father in heaven.

We began Lent last Wednesday. Many of us came to Mass and experienced the imposition of ashes on our foreheads. We heard the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." Those sobering words reminded us of our common human nature and of our corruptibility. We will all die one day and return to the earth.

Our souls, however, have the opportunity to return home to God. If we use Lent wisely and fully, our resisting temptation will strengthen our souls incredibly and make it easier to navigate the pitfalls placed before us in the world.

Try not to view Lent as an obligatory series of things that we "have-to" accomplish. Instead, view Lent as a series of weeks that gives us opportunities to grow, to learn, and to strengthen our spirits.

**FAITH ACTION:** If you find yourself having a hard time entering into the Season of Lent, try to view the opportunities that are offered rather than the obligations you may perceive.

*F.A. 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:

February 27: Msgr. Vincent L. Lengerich (2015)

February 28: Deacon Rufus Harris (1991)



## WERE YOU THERE?

One of the haunting songs of Lent is Were You There? Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you there?

Truth be told, you were. I was. We were. It was our sins that necessitated Jesus' passion and death.

You are invited to reflect upon that at Stations of the Cross each Friday of Lent at 7:00 p.m. in the church.

## CONFESSIONS DURING LENT

It is important to cleanse our souls, especially during the Season of Lent as we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Jesus' triumph at Easter.

Confessions are heard every Saturday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. There is always a Carmelite priest who helps with confessions on Saturdays so you can be assured of less wait and of someone who may not know you if you're too nervous to come to the pastor.

Our Lenten Penance Service — when many priests are available — will be Tuesday, March 24th at 7:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 1st, "last chance confessions" will be available from 6:00 p.m. until there is no one left. There will be only one priest that evening so please try to go earlier in the season. (Taizé Prayer will be at 7:00 p.m. on that Wednesday as well.)

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Lent is the best time of the year to run a marathon. Because that's when you fast.

I'm giving up spreadsheets for forty days. Excel Lent.

I'm giving up negativity for Lent. We'll see how long that lasts.

I was going to give up lunch meat for Lent. But I just couldn't quit cold turkey.



## Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

If you would like to add yourself or someone else to this list and our Circle of Prayer Group, please go to: <https://tinyurl.com/42tadtyn>, use the QR code or call the Parish Office at (219) 836-8610.



Nancy Almason  
Antonio Belmonte  
Diane Bochnowski  
Linda Braun  
Jack Brunetti  
Diane Butler  
Ursula Cichy  
Kevin Clark  
Loretta Clott  
Charlotte Conn  
Valerie Czapkovicz  
Janice De Vries  
David Dull  
Gabriela Gallegos  
Gary Gardner  
Joan Glinski  
Howard Gralewski  
Margaret Gray  
Christine Greenberg  
Mary Ellen Gullicks  
Jeffrey Gunning  
Katie Kardes Hargett

Elaine Herrmann  
Robert Hesek  
Steve James  
Barbara Jamrose  
Kelly Jean  
Margaret Jones  
Joseph D. Karulski  
Dr. Greg Kelly  
Mary Alyce Kelly  
Susan Kolodziej  
Gregory P. Koscielski  
Crystal Kurek  
Jordan Lesniewski  
Skip Lind  
Paul A. Martin  
Carolyn McGill  
Sandi Merlo  
Gino Michels  
Madeline Mikolanis  
Thomas Mordaunt  
Bernadine Nemeth  
Margaret Nickrent

Dawn Niebling  
Don Noworyta  
Clare O'Brien  
Theresa Pecsek  
Dennis Perz  
Lucille Perz  
Ruth Ramirez  
Antonia Rodriguez  
Valetine Rudakas  
Paul Runick  
Karen Rutz  
Karen Sliwa  
Steven Sliwa  
Georgianne Suto  
Michele Thomas  
Rosemary Thomas  
Russ Thomas  
David Trotman  
James Wachel  
Kathy Wachel

## Gospel Reflection Matthew 4:1-11



In my second-to-last year of seminary, I woke up one September morning to devastating news: two beloved classmates had died in a car crash. I was overwhelmed with grief and anger like I had never known. I entered therapy for the first time and had intense conversations with my spiritual director. For months I felt lost in a spiritual wilderness. But something unexpected happened: I encountered Christ there. The fear and sorrow didn't destroy me. In fact, that spiritual desert was a time of intense growth in faith.

Today's Gospel begins: **"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1).** The word "led" denotes a gentle, humble submission to the Spirit. Jesus does not send himself into this desolate place where wild beasts roam and Satan tempts. Who wants to be around roaming, wild beasts?

The Church Fathers saw them as symbols of our inner chaos: fears, temptations, wounds. The Spirit leads us there, sometimes against our wishes. But those same Fathers also saw that this deserted place is also where angels ministered to Jesus, amidst his great trial and temptation.

**Lenten Challenge:** This Lent and throughout life's struggles, the Spirit leads you and me into the wilderness. Name one "desert" into which the Spirit has led you: perhaps grief, fear, silence, change, disappointment. Ask for the grace to go there willingly. The beasts may be real, but they will not harm you. There, the angels are waiting to minister to the Christ living in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads.

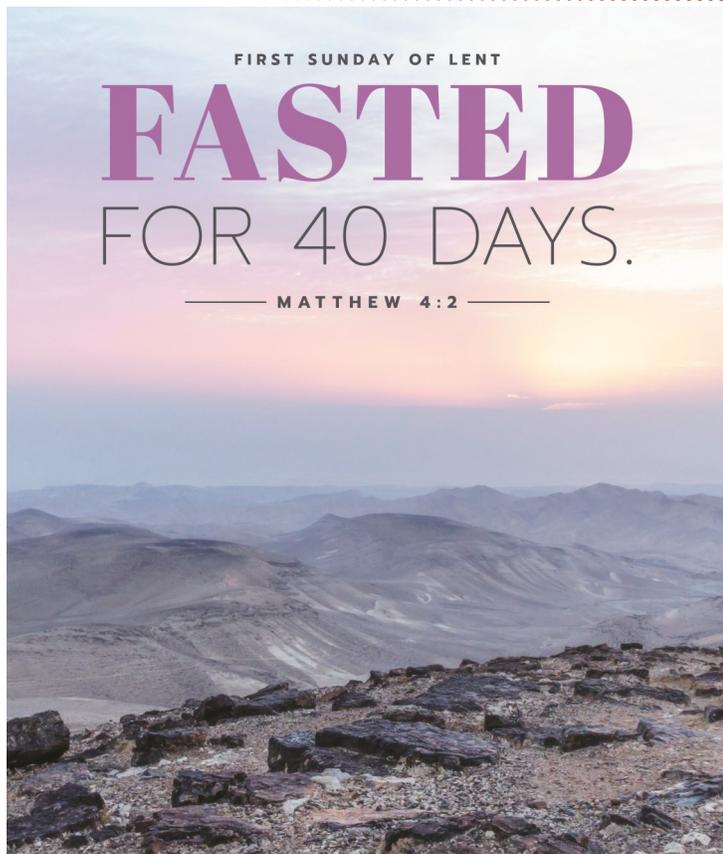
Father John Muir  
©LPi



## Rest In Peace



Elizabeth Pallotto



## Readings Week of February 22

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/  
Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11  
Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46  
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15  
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32  
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/  
Mt 7:7-12  
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26  
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48  
Next Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/  
Mt 17:1-9

## Prayer of the Faithful

*We Pray...*

*That we prune ourselves of earthly things and  
nurture and develop heavenly things.*

## Weis Center • Parish Ministry Center

8635 Calumet Avenue • Munster, IN 46321  
Phone: (219) 836-2660

### Ministry Schedule

#### Monday, February 23

5:30 pm Parents Bible Study—Weis Center Room 101  
7:00 pm Emotions Anonymous—Weis Center Room 101  
7:00 pm Knights of Columbus—Weis Center Room 102

#### Tuesday, February 24

7:00 pm Boy Scouts Troop 542—Weis Center Main Hall  
7:00 pm Mental Health Ministry—Weis Center Room 101

#### Wednesday, February 25

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study—Weis Center Rm 101  
1:00 pm Seniors of STM Board Meeting—Weis Center Room 107  
6:00 pm Lenten Study & Share—Weis Center Main Hall, 101, 107

#### Thursday, February 26

9:15 am Lenten Study & Share—Weis Center Main Hall, 101, 107

#### Friday, February 27

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

#### Saturday, February 28

10:00 am STM Kids Book Club—Weis Center Room 101



## Celebrants

### Saturday, February 28

5:30 p.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

### Sunday, March 1

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

## Altar Servers

### Saturday, February 28th

5:30 p.m. MC—Hunter, AS—M. Moya & P. Werner

### Sunday, March 1st

8:00 a.m. MC—Abi, AS—A. & L. Jara & E. Smola  
10:00 a.m. MC—Gabi, AS—S. Santellano, A. Sudac & E. Valentino  
12:00 p.m. MC—Lukas, AS—J. Dye

## Greeters Schedule for the Week

### Saturday, February 28

5:30 p.m. Mass

Main: Bill & Chris Retseck  
Chapel: Kimberly Eurlay  
Choir: Deb Harker

### Sunday, March 1

6:30 a.m. Mass

Main: —

8:00 a.m. Mass

Main: Terry Laciak  
Chapel: Toni & Zig Jedrzejczak  
Choir: Christi & Katie Kordeck

10:00 a.m. Mass

Main: Michelle Walker  
Chapel: Diann Adley  
Choir: —

12:00 Noon Mass

Main: —

If you would like to be a Greeter, please contact  
**Lisa Mendoza**  
718mendoza@gmail.com



**Greeters needed for the  
12 Noon Mass!  
Please consider signing up!**

Remember to put God  
in your schedule.

## Add these dates to your calendar:

### Monday 2/23/2026

5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration—STM Chapel

### Wednesdays 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18 & 3/25/2026

6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Lenten Study & Share "Seven Pillars"  
Weis Center Main Hall

### Thursdays 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19 & 3/26/2026

9:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Lenten Study & Share "Seven Pillars"  
Weis Center Main Hall

### Fridays 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20 & 3/27/2026

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross in the church

### Sunday 3/1/2026

9:15 a.m.—9:45 a.m. Before the Bell—STM Chapel

### Monday 3/2/2026

5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration—STM Chapel

### Friday 3/6/2026

9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration—STM Chapel  
4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Holy Name Society Lenten Fish Fry—STM Gym

## Stewardship REFLECTION

### First Sunday of Lent

*"It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" MATTHEW 4:10*

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent and let go of the other "gods" we have put before God.

# The March Nursery Schedule

## The Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass Nursery

The Nursery is in the "Brides Room", located in the Church Main Entrance

- March 1— Ann & Katie Harkenrider and Chloe Sheehan
- March 8— Rachel and Amelia Perezchica
- March 15— Kaaren Mashura & Giuliana Diaz
- March 22— Jennifer and Oliver Anderson
- March 29— Susie, Finn and Kian Kinsella

### We Need Your Help!

Volunteers are needed in our Sunday Morning Nursery, including 8th Grade Students and High School Students that need Service Hours.



Please call Ann Harkenrider at 1-708-334-5228.

All volunteers 18 and over must have completed the Virtus training.

## Mental Health Ministry March Discussion Topic



*Do you have a favorite childhood memory?*

Come Discuss it Next Sunday at:

### **Before the Bell**

**March 1, at 9:15 am**

In the Chapel

Lively Discussion with Your Fellow Parishioners for Friendly Conversation  
(We End at 9:45 am, Before the Bell)



## Seniors of STM

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

**All Meetings are at the Weis Center at 1:00 p.m.**  
*(unless noted otherwise).*

*We've had a great two months starting off 2026! Thank you to everyone who attends our meetings. We can fit more in the room ~ Invite a friend!*



### March Schedule at a Glance:



**Wednesday, March 4th  
1:00 p.m. Weis Center**

Speaker: Linda Curley, Purdue Extension  
Topic: Food Preparation

**Wednesday, March 18th  
12:00 p.m. Weis Center**  
Potluck Luncheon



**Sunday, March 22nd  
10:00 a.m.—STM Church**

Mass For Our Deceased Members  
*Please join us at this special Mass to remember and pray for our deceased members.*

## Stations of the Cross

Every Friday in Lent at 7:00 p.m.

St. Thomas More Church

(2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20 & 3/27)



# Five Reasons to Attend a Faith-Sharing Event at St. Thomas More

Daniel Maul, Director of Discipleship

As you know, the staff of Saint Thomas More Parish is inviting you to attend our Lenten Study and Share Series, based on the book, *The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality*, by Matthew Kelly. We'll meet for five weeks, in the Weis Center, beginning on the evening (6:30 PM) of Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, or the morning (9:15 AM) of Thursday, the 26<sup>th</sup>.



You might be asking yourself what you'd get out of attending. Please allow me to use this bulletin space to offer five reasons why one might want to attend this faith-sharing event.

1. We all need to consider the perspectives and insights that come to us from other people. We might learn something or actually need to hear something, and God can speak to us through other people, who care about us.
2. Other people need you to share your gifts with them, and there is a service aspect of being part of a community. Maybe God wants to work through you to help other people, but they won't get that help if we say no to God by not gathering with other members of the Church. This idea should not make you feel ashamed, if you can't come out, but, rather, simply let you know that you have gifts, too, and other people could benefit from them.
3. Sometimes, it seems like people want to come to, attend, and leave Mass having spoken to no one. We can't be a community only theoretically or in our minds. We have to actually be a community through real relationships. Gathering together, for study and sharing, helps us to build community through communication. To be a community, we have to know each other's stories, by listening to one another. Love listens, and we're called to love our neighbor.
4. When we hear that "where two or three are gathered in" Christ's name, he is there, "in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20), where do we think Christ is? Do we imagine Him invisibly flying around the space? I used to. When we gather in His name, Christ is in the other people who are with us. We show our love for God in the love we share with our neighbor, because Christ is in our neighbor. Therefore, we need to gather.
5. Often we feel isolated and alone, but when we have the opportunity to gather and share with other people, we don't take it. It's so easy to do nothing at all, and life can feel rather "meh," if we don't take hold of the promptings of the Holy Spirit. If you let the Lord lead you, sometimes He'll do so by getting you right up off the couch and into a community of faith.

# Let's hear from our parishioners

If you are still undecided about attending the upcoming Lenten Study & Share series on the "Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality", consider the following testimonies from past attendees.

*"I was pleased when I learned that STM is offering another faith enhancing program this Lent, because I very much enjoyed the previous program about Eucharistic Adoration.*

*I found that program to be enjoyable both on a personal level, interacting with friends both new and old, as well as on a spiritual level, providing an opportunity to grow and deepen my faith.*

*If you're uncertain about whether you should sign up for the Lenten offering, I would encourage you to give it a try! I'm confident you will be glad you did!"*

- Sue Wilson

*"Attending the recent small group discussions on the Blessed Sacrament proved to be an inspirational experience. The conversations deepened by understanding, but what stood out the most was the sense of fellowship. Building connections with others who share my faith goals made each session not only enjoyable, but also fostered a special sense of community."*

- Tim Jevyak



St. Thomas More

## LENTEN STUDY & SHARE

5-Week Small Group Discussion following Matthew Kelly's "Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality"

St. Thomas More Weis Ministry Center  
8635 Calumet Avenue, Munster

### STARTING FEB. 25TH

Childcare will be available upon request.

**Evening Sessions:** Wednesdays 6:30-8:00 pm  
2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25

**Morning Sessions:** Thursdays 9:15-10:45 am  
2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26

Scan the QR Code or visit [www.stm-church.com](http://www.stm-church.com) to register.

**ONE REGISTRATION PER PARTICIPANT PLEASE.**

Questions? Please call Daniel Maul  
219-836-8610, Ext. 2415



JOIN NOW



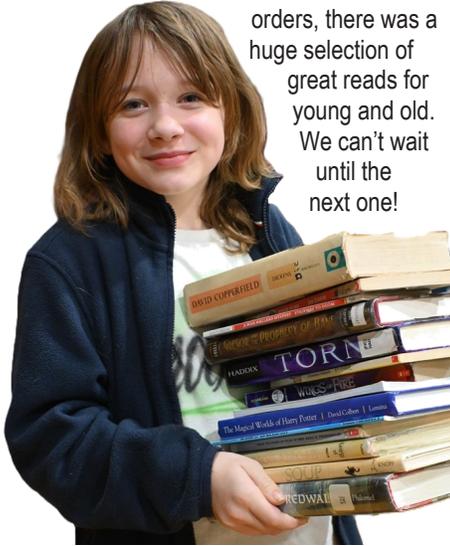
[www.stm-church.com](http://www.stm-church.com)



219-836-8610, Ext. 2415

## Bingo for Books

St. Thomas More School was thrilled to host another "Bingo for Books", a great night for over 60 STMS families, filled with fun, Bingo and free books for everyone who attended. Thanks to generous donations, leftover books from our library and current editions from our latest Book Fair and classroom Scholastic orders, there was a huge selection of great reads for young and old. We can't wait until the next one!



## Helping Others

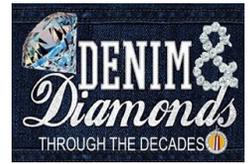
To help our neighbors in need, STMS held its annual "Souper Bowl", collecting over 900 cans of soup to be distributed to our very own St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry and the Soup Kitchen at St. Joseph Church in Hammond.

In January, STMS held a Foil Drive, too, donating 1,000 rolls for the Soup Kitchen, helping them defray the high cost of packaging meals for their clients.



## Denim & Diamonds

Save the date and join fellow parishioners for a night of food, fun libations & dancing. All are invited.



Friday, April 10 • 6:00-11:00 pm • Gym

## CASH RAFFLE

**Tickets: Only \$10**

Purchase tickets in the Parish Office.  
**Grand Prize: \$5,000**

**2nd Prize: \$3,000**

**3rd Prize: \$1,000**

**10 —\$100 Prizes**

Drawing  
March 14, 2026.



## Catholic Schools Week 2026

St. Thomas More School joins over 8,800 Catholic schools nationwide to celebrate the importance of the exceptional education, faith formation, service to others and leadership that Catholic schools provide during Catholic School Week. Each year we recognize an individual who has consistently gone above & beyond for the benefit of St. Thomas More School and its students by donating an extraordinary amount of time, talent and/or treasure to our school. We are thrilled to honor the 2026 recipient:

### Above & Beyond Award: Genna Sorget

From the time Genna Sorget and her family, husband Ryan Nurnberger and son, Anthony, moved to NWI they have been an integral part of our St. Thomas More family.

A new parishioner, and a new school family, too, Genna jumped right in, helping wherever she could. For several years, Genna chaired the school's Mardi Gras Soiree fundraiser and served as an essential member of last year's Denim & Diamonds event. This past summer, she transitioned to the Golf Classic committee where she continues to serve.

In addition, Genna has also served on the St. Thomas More School Parent Advisory Council.

A familiar face in the parish, too, she is a lector at several weekend Masses and has been part of the parish Rebuilt Committee; participating in parish activities help her feel more connected to her faith.



Genna feels abundantly blessed and loves to share her joy and blessings with others. To that end, she is very intentional about giving back. She's witnessed how the mission of St. Thomas More School has helped shape her son Anthony, now in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and appreciates the school's values and guidelines, instilling the same lessons she and Ryan have taught at home since her son was very young. Acknowledging the positive influence of the amazing STMS faculty and staff, how they live their Catholic mission daily and the impact they have on the minds, hearts and spirits of students provides not only appreciation, but peace of mind for Genna and her husband, knowing that Anthony spends more waking hours at school than at home during on weekdays. She knows her son is mirroring the important core values of his teachers and mentors. In her words, "In addition to a great academic curriculum, STMS is guiding Anthony in how to be a good human while growing in his faith. These are values he will carry with him forever".

**St. Vincent DePaul Pantry Needs Your Help!**

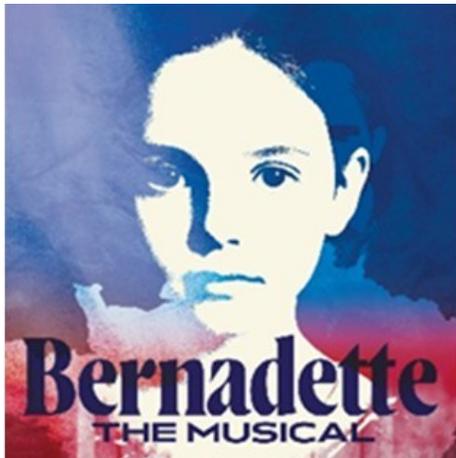


Next time you are at the grocery store, consider picking up a few extra items in your cart for St. Vincent de Paul. Drop off locations are in the main entrance of the church and inside the parish office.

- |                                   |                      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Peanut Butter                     | Or Hash Browns, etc. |
| Jelly                             | Rice                 |
| Pasta Sauce                       | Hamburger Helper     |
| Canned Pasta                      | Pork & Beans         |
| Canned Vegetables                 | Frosting             |
| Canned Meats                      |                      |
| (Chicken, Beef Stew, Spam & Tuna) | Shampoo              |
| Canned Fruit                      | Toothpaste           |
| Instant Mashed Potatoes           | Dish Soap            |

We appreciate your contributions to help us carry out our mission. Note: Parishioners wishing to make a monetary donation should use their "green envelope" (make checks payable to: St. Thomas More/ SVDP) Thank you for helping our neighbors in need. God bless you!

**Bernadette, The Musical**



**Saturday—March 14th**

**Carmelite Shrine, Munster (NOON—5:30 PM)**

\$65/person, Motorcoach Transportation, One Balcony Ticket 2:00 p.m. Performance (Athens Center, Chicago)  
Call Joe Cascone at 708-560-7767 or email: casconejoe@outlook.com

**Lenten Events**



**Mark Your Calendar for these upcoming events and opportunities for prayer this Lent**

**Eucharistic Adoration**

9:00 AM—12:00 PM First Fridays  
5:00-7:00 PM Monday Evenings

**Stations of the Cross**

7:00 PM—Fridays in Lent (Accept Good Friday)

**Holy Name Society Fish Fry**

Friday, March 6, 4:30—7:00 PM

**Penance Service**

Tuesday, March 24h at 7:00 PM

**Taizé Prayer Service**

Wednesday, April 1st at 7:00 PM  
Confessions starting at 6:00 PM

**Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper**

Thursday, April 2nd at 7:00 PM

**Good Friday—April 3rd**

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion—1:30 PM  
Tenebrae Prayer Service—7:00 PM

**Holy Saturday—April 4th**

Blessing of Easter Baskets—2:00 PM  
Vigil Mass of Easter—8:00 PM

**Easter Sunday—April 5th**

Masses at 6:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:00 PM

Hallow

Pray every day this Lent

Try It for Free



Go to [hallow.com/lent](http://hallow.com/lent) to find resources on fasting, daily prayer, and other resources for a prayerful Lenten season this year.

## St. Thomas More Religious Education

1st -8th Grade • Classes: Wednesday or Thursday 4:30-6:00 p.m.

### Religious Education Office Hours:

Mon, Tues & Fri: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. • Wed & Thurs 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Director: Emily Hackett; Ext. 2232 • ehackett@stm-church.com

### February Schedule

February 25/26 Class

### March Schedule

March 4/5 Class  
 March 11/12 Class  
 March 18/19 Class  
 March 25/26 Class

### April Schedule

**April 1/2** NO CLASS—HOLY WEEK  
 April 8/9 Class  
 April 15/16 Class  
**April 22/23** Last Class for all but First Communicants  
**April 29/30** First Communion Practice—  
 ALL Wed & Thurs First Communion  
 students attend both nights

**GROWING** WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE A

## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent • Matthew 4:1-11



Diocese of Gary  
dgary.org



## MASS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

With Bishop Robert J. McClory

11:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Cathedral of the Holy Angels  
640 Tyler St., Gary

### Lunch to follow.

Send questions to:  
aim4inclusion@gmail.com

RSVP at   
dgary.org/  
2026-AIM-Mass



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tinyurl.com/7jrypzh7



## Renewing the Heart of the Servant Renovando el Corazón del Servidor

SUNDAY, MARCH 15  
4-7 p.m.



### Retreat Leader:

Rev. Cesar Cajetan Arras, CR,  
Order of Clerics Regular

**Pastoral Center**  
9292 Broadway  
Merrillville, IN 46410

A spiritual retreat to uplift and  
rejuvenate a ministry leader's  
heart and soul.

*Un encuentro espiritual para  
elevar y renovar el corazón y  
el alma de un líder ministerial.*

### Bilingual retreat with potluck dinner to follow.

*El retiro será bilingüe y habrá  
una cena comunitaria para compartir.*



Diocese of Gary  
dgary.org

Register  
Inscríbense

dgary.org/renew



# Parish Information

St. Thomas More Parish Website: [www.stm-church.com](http://www.stm-church.com)

## 2025-2026 Pastoral Council

**Chairperson:** Michael Popovich

Vita Ayala • Mike Englert • Deborah Gena • Elaine Herrmann  
Christi Kordeck • Bill McCullough • Lisa Mendoza • Claudia Pernal  
Patty Queroz • Michael Sajn • Cindy Thompson

## Parish Ministries & Organizations

### WORSHIP

#### Altar Servers

Kathy Tolnai (708)212-7419

#### Environment & Art

Helen Jaworski (219)836-1833  
Jim Landowski (708)204-4690

#### Eucharistic Adoration

Mona Hernandez (219)730-5860

#### Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

James Kaspar (219)836-2343

#### Greeters

Lisa Mendoza (219)902-9688

#### Lectors

Richard Gard (219)614-7322

#### Livestream Ministry

Joann Hajduch (219)836-9151, 2245

#### Music Ministry

Angie VanManen (219)836-8610, 2338

#### Nursery

Ann Harkenrider (708)334-5228

#### Ushers

Al Gallagher (312)493-8457

### GROW

#### Altar & Rosary

Kaaren Mashura (219)836-5079

#### Bible Study – Wed. AM

Cindy Keilman (219)923-9862

#### Bible Study – Thurs. PM

Denise Gard (219)201-4103

#### Bible Study – Parents

Natalie Rebholz (262)349-0572  
Katie Lopez (765)427-3332

#### Grateful Hearts Widows Ministry

Elaine Herrmann (219)902-0702

#### Holy Name Society

PJ Caraher (219)680-6775

#### Live Christ Share Christ

Deacon Tabion (219)836-8610, 2318

#### RCIA

Deacon Joe Stodola (219)680-6775

#### Seniors of STM

Judy Hamer (219)836-7916

#### Small Groups

Daniel Maul (219)836-8610, Ext. 2415

### T.G.I.F. Teen Ministry

Bernadine Barrett (219)781-1608

### Vacation Bible School

Emily Hackett (219)836-8610, 2232

### Vocation Guidance

PJ & Margaret Caraher (219)680-6775

### SERVE

#### Circle of Prayer &

#### Millions of Monicas

Carolyn Cenko (219)741-2509

#### Cooking for the Homeless

Steve Resler (219)765-9228

#### Gabriel Project

Denise Jones (219)616-5413

#### Garden Ministry

Bob Thomas (630)363-7978

#### Gifts of Love & Warmth

Bernadine Nemeth (219)513-6544

#### Knights of Columbus

Daniel Straka (219)427-6563

#### Mental Health Ministry

Julius Ballanco (219)689-1699

#### Ministry of Consolation

Susan Rousseau (219)743-8511

#### Pastoral Care of the Sick

James Kaspar (219)836-2343

#### Respect Life

Leslie Kaim (219)741-3739

#### Scouting

Girl: Cynthia Navarette (773)726-2411  
Boy: Dustin Anderson (219)712-8752  
Cub: Kandace Mack (708)415-4133

#### St. Joseph Soup Kitchen

Joy McCullough (219)838-4104

#### SVDP- Michael Martinelli

Themartinellis@att.net

### COMMISSIONS

#### Formation/Education

Tim Jevyak (219)644-8932

#### Parish Life

Debra Harker (219)742-2773

#### Peace & Social Justice

Mari Casas (219)801-0615

#### Spirituality Worship

Joe Dubczak (708)214-2991

#### Stewardship

Paul Liszewski (219)781-0494

## Sacramental Information

### Confessions

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

First Friday: Half hour  
before the 6:30 a.m. Mass

### Marriage

Must be a registered, practicing member  
of the parish at least six months before  
beginning the six month program.

### Communion Calls

#### Visits to Hospitals & Homes:

Call the Parish Office to schedule  
Sacraments for those in the hospital or  
homebound.

### Baptisms

First & Third Sundays immediately  
following the noon Mass. Parents  
must be registered parishioners &  
regularly attending at least six  
months before the Baptism.  
At least one of the godparents  
**must** be a practicing Catholic.

### Pre-Baptism Class

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 6:00 p.m.  
Parents must call the  
Parish Office to schedule class  
and/or Baptism.

## New Parishioner Registration

New parishioners may register at any time in the Parish Office.

You may also visit the Information Table in the Narthex  
before or after Mass on weekends.

Please contact Daniel Maul with additional questions:  
219-836-8610, Ext. 2415, [dmaul@stm-church.com](mailto:dmaul@stm-church.com)

## Pastoral & Parish Staff

### Pastor: Reverend Michael J. Yadron, KCHS

Ext. 2312 • [myadron@stm-church.com](mailto:myadron@stm-church.com)

**Senior Deacons:** David Kapala, KHS • Dr. Napoleon Tabion, OFS

**Deacon:** Joseph Stodola, KHS

**Website:** [stm-church.com](http://stm-church.com)

**Office Hours:** M, T, Th, F 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. • **Wed. 8:00 a.m.—Noon**  
• Saturday 9:00 a.m.-Noon

(219) 836-8610 • eFax: (219) 533-4280 • Email: [parish.office@stm-church.com](mailto:parish.office@stm-church.com)

### Dir. of Parish Mission

Noreen Bickel, Ext. 2330  
[nbickel@stm-church.com](mailto:nbickel@stm-church.com)

### Dir. of Finance & Operations

Charles Schimpf, Ext. 2329  
[cschimpf@stm-church.com](mailto:cschimpf@stm-church.com)

### Dir. of Music

Angie Van Manen: Ext. 2338  
[avanmanen@stm-church.com](mailto:avanmanen@stm-church.com)

### Parish Office Receptionist

Phyllis Krizmanic; Ext. 2300  
[pkrizmanic@stm-church.com](mailto:pkrizmanic@stm-church.com)

### Bulletin Editor

Krystal Quagliara, Ext. 2414  
[bulletin@stm-church.com](mailto:bulletin@stm-church.com)

### Dir. of Ministries & Comm.

Krystal Quagliara, Ext. 2414  
[kquagliara@stm-church.com](mailto:kquagliara@stm-church.com)

### Dir. of Religious Education

Emily Hackett, Ext. 2232  
[ehackett@stm-school.com](mailto:ehackett@stm-school.com)

### Dir. of Discipleship

Daniel Maul, Ext. 2415  
[dmaul@stm-church.com](mailto:dmaul@stm-church.com)

### Building Maintenance

Contact the Parish Office or  
Charles Schimpf at Ext. 2329

### Custodial Supervisor

Kim Smith, Ext. 2331  
[ksmith@stm-church.com](mailto:ksmith@stm-church.com)

## St. Thomas More School

### National Blue Ribbon School • Preschool to 8th Grade

School Office: (219) 836-9151 • M-F: 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. • [stm-school.com](http://stm-school.com)

### Principal

Dr. Samantha Francis  
Ext. 2258

### Admissions

Pam Pasyk  
Ext. 2309  
[ppasyk@stm-school.com](mailto:ppasyk@stm-school.com)

### Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Gonzalez  
Ext. 2200

### Business Manager

Maria Vega  
Ext. 2339

## Automatic Offering Make Life Easier with Automated Contributions to Our Parish

Rather than weekly envelopes, you may find it easier to make your regular parish contributions via our online system. Each time you donate, St. Thomas More Parish benefits from contributions to support our ministries, programs and facilities. Follow the instructions below if you, too, would like to utilize our online system.

### Make a Payment Online:

Donate online through our parish website by using PayPal/debit/credit  
You may also scan the QR Code or Link Directly at  
[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=TQTQJV2KT2UKS](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=TQTQJV2KT2UKS)

### Questions?

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

No matter how you give, your contributions to STM are appreciated



## Sacrificial Offerings

February 8, 2026

February 8, 2026

Regular	\$19,730.00	Special Collection for NWI	
Loose	\$1,323.00	Evangelizing Communications	
Children	\$5.00		
Automated	\$7,201.56	TOTAL	\$3,839.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$28,259.56</b>		

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Thank you for your generosity.

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