



# ST. THOMAS MORE

ROMAN  
CATHOLIC  
CHURCH

AUGUST 31, 2025 • TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



*Being humble, we will see what is lacking within us and we would then be more motivated to change.*

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY, August 31—

#### Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 6:30 am Tadeusz Jaworski by Family
- 8:00 am Marlene M. Slivka (Anniv.) by Family
- 10:00 am For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased
- 12:00 pm Linda Wartman by Bloker

### MONDAY, September 1—Labor Day

- 8:30 am Marie Gauger by Bob & Virginia Gauger

### TUESDAY, September 2

- 6:30 am Margareta Buczkowski by Catherine & Patty Pfister
- 8:30 am Jim Barry by Mardi Flynn

### WEDNESDAY, September 3—St. Gregory the Great

- 6:30 am Ann Schmid by Terry Oprinovich
- 8:30 am Jillian A. Tsirtsis by Etter Family

### THURSDAY, September 4

- 6:30 am Catherine Wilkinson by Teresa B. Glotzbach
- 8:30 am Arnold Susoreny by Diane Susoreny

### FRIDAY, September 5

- 6:30 am Intention of Deacon Napoleon & Eslynn Tabion by STM Family
- 8:30 am Mark Davern by John & Andrea Mudro

### SATURDAY, September 6

- 8:30 am Richard & Geraldine Bandera by Carol & Mary Sejda
- 5:30 pm June Brennan by Mary Kay Rozmanich

### SUNDAY, September 7

#### Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased
- 8:00 am Charles Mullany by Family
- 10:00 am Phyllis & John Tumpich, Sr. by Patrick & Mary Benson
- 12:00 pm Sister Raephealine Miskovich by Miskovich Family

### Parish Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
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)**

## THE NECESSITY OF HUMILITY

**“Perfection is impossible without humility. Why should I strive for perfection, if I am already good enough?” ~ Leo Tolstoy**

The readings at this weekend's Masses speak to us about the virtue and importance of humility. Humility is probably one of the least desired virtues among people. We do not want to be humble. We want to be seen, to be noticed, and to be highly influential. To recommend that someone be humble will garner us a really quick stare-down by another.

But, as Tolstoy reminds us, humility is a very basic part of the package called perfection. We cannot possibly become perfect if we think we are already there. If we think we're the best that there is, then there is no motivation to become any better. Let's face it, we can all be better.

In the first reading, the Book of Sirach tells us that if we conduct our affairs with humility we will be loved more than a giver of gifts. If we humble ourselves, especially if we are considered as great, God will be pleased with us. That is because, when we are truly humble, we see ourselves as God sees us, as they say, warts and all.

There are many people who abhor the thought of a lack of perfection. Plastic surgeons do a thriving business on those kinds of people. Nips and tucks, tweaks and massive reworking are all done in the name of physical perfection. If only we could see our souls the same way that we see ourselves in the mirrors. We would be much more motivated to do something about perfecting them.

We can all do with a spiritual tummy-tuck or facelift. But, the only way that we can see our spiritual imperfections is to have the grace of humility. Being humble, we will see what is lacking within us and we would then be more motivated to change.

Jesus spoke about those who try to promote themselves and who think that they are the most important. A rude awakening awaits them when they find that they are not recognized that way by others. Jesus told his disciples that through the story of the wedding guest who took a place of honor at table thinking that he was deserving only to be told to sit at a much lower place.

The day that we realize that we are not deserving will give us the humility to ask the question, “What must we do in order to do and be better?” That question will lead to answers that require just as much humility in order for us to do what we need to do. Perfection is a difficult task and being perfected by God is most humbling. However, it is worth all the personal cost that it entails since it brings with it an eternal reward.

**FAITH ACTION:** Ask God for the gift of humility and then be prepared to act upon the changes that God requests of you.

*Fr. Mike*



## PLEASE REMEMBER THEM

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

September 2: Rev. Herman A. Schoudel (1970)  
September 3: Rev. Joseph Pusateri (2006)



**RCIA**

## A JOURNEY IN FAITH

Each year, our parish begins the RCIA process at the beginning of October. It culminates with the celebration of the Vigil Mass of Easter.

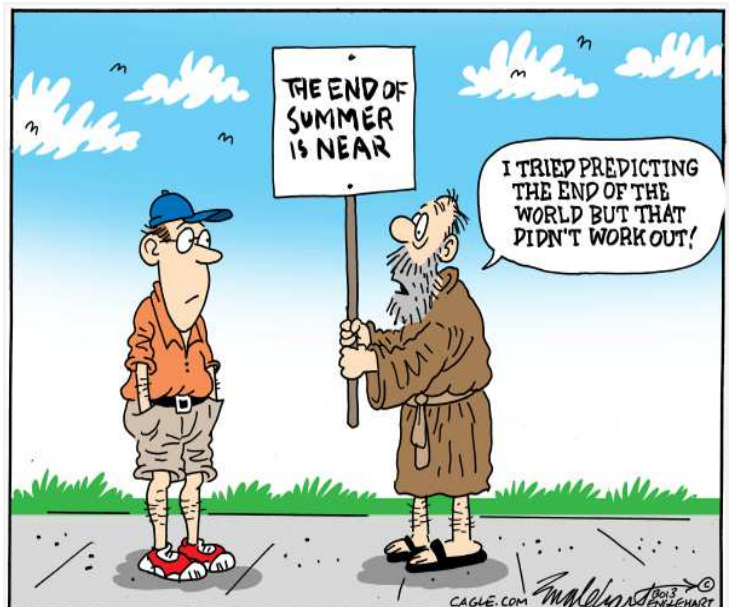
If you have considered becoming a Catholic (or if you were baptized Catholic but never finished your sacraments), the RCIA is meant for you.

The last two Tuesdays of September are set aside for anyone who may want to come to the church and learn about the process. The meetings will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room (come to the Parish Office). You only need to come to one of the two informational meetings in September.

RCIA begins in earnest the first Tuesday of October and will meet every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

- Why did the chef refuse to work on Labor Day? Because he wanted to take thyme off to grill.
- Why did the skeleton go to work on Labor Day? Because he had a bone to pick with the boss.
- Why was the baker so happy on Labor Day? Because he got to loaf around.
- Why did the man bring a ladder to the Labor Day barbecue? Because he heard the steaks were high.



## 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 at 1:00 p.m.

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.

## 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

Administrative Assistant: Cindy McMahon; Ext. 2311

## Pastoral Staff

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

Ext. 2312 • myadron@stm-church.com

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

**Deacon:** Joseph Stodola, KHS

### Director of Parish Mission

Noreen Bickel, Ext. 2330  
nbickel@stm-church.com

### Director of Finance & Operations

Charles Schimpf, Ext. 2329  
cschimpf@stm-church.com

### Pastoral Care Coordinator

Jim Kaspar, Ext. 2310

### Director of Music

Angie Van Manen; Ext. 2338  
avanmanen@stm-church.com

### Director of Communications

Krystal Quagliara, Ext. 2414  
kquagliara@stm-church.com

### Director of Religious Education

Emily Hackett, Ext. 2232  
ehackett@stm-school.com

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

## Parish Office Staff

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

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

**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. • Saturday 9:00 a.m.-Noon

### Parish Office Receptionist

Phyllis Krizmanic; Ext. 2300  
pkrizmanic@stm-church.com

### Bulletin/Communications Director

Krystal Quagliara, Ext. 2414  
bulletin@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

## 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

### Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Gonzalez  
Ext. 2200

### Director of Development

Annette Czarowski  
Ext. 2307

### Admissions

Pam Pasyk  
Ext. 2309  
ppasyk@stm-school.com

### Reception/Office Associate

Nereida Harretos  
Ext. 2201

### Business Manager

Maria Vega  
Ext. 2339

## Gospel Meditation

### Luke 14:1, 7-14

Once I was invited to a group meeting  
with Pope Francis. Entering the room,  
I paused, eyeing the seats next to the  
Pope's fancy chair. Someone saw my  
paralysis and invited me to sit in the  
seat farthest from what I wanted.

Hiding my disappointment, I sat. We  
waited. To our surprise, an aid pointed  
out that those seats were still empty  
and invited me and another to have them. We calmly but  
gleefully strode across the room and sat. Pope Francis entered,  
and we enjoyed two hours of amazingly uplifting conversation.



Jesus says this week to us: **“When you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, ‘My friend, move up to a higher position.’ Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table” (Luke 14:10).** This is not about how to score free seat upgrades. Rather, it is a wise pattern for the whole of life. It is how to live free from the anxiety of constantly grasping for status and recognition.

Jesus perfectly embodies his seat-taking advice. He eschews his glorious throne for the lowest: death on a cross, that lonely chair we all deserve. In his resurrection, he calls us up higher to his marvelous banquet seats. This week, perhaps we should look for opportunities to choose the lowest seat. We'll be pleasantly surprised when we do.

*Father John Muir*

©LPi

## Readings Week of August 31

Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/  
Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14  
Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/  
Lk 4:16-30  
Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 4:31-37  
Wednesday: Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44  
Thursday: Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 5:1-11  
Friday: Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 5:33-39  
Saturday: Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5  
Next Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/  
Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

## Prayer of the Faithful

We Pray...That *generous giving* means sharing with  
those who cannot repay us.

## 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/42tadtyr>, use the QR code or call the Parish Office at (219) 836-8610.



Susan Abbott  
Antonio Belmonte  
Diane Bochnowski  
Bill Briney  
Grace Briney  
Linda Braun  
Jack Brunetti  
Diane Butler  
Paiyton Castillo  
Ursula Cichy  
Kevin Clark  
Loretta Clott  
Charlotte Conn  
Valerie Czapkowicz  
Janice Devries  
David Dull  
Gabriela Gallegos  
Gary Gardner  
Joan Glinski  
Howard Gralewski  
Margaret Gray  
Christine Greenberg  
Mary Ellen Gullicks

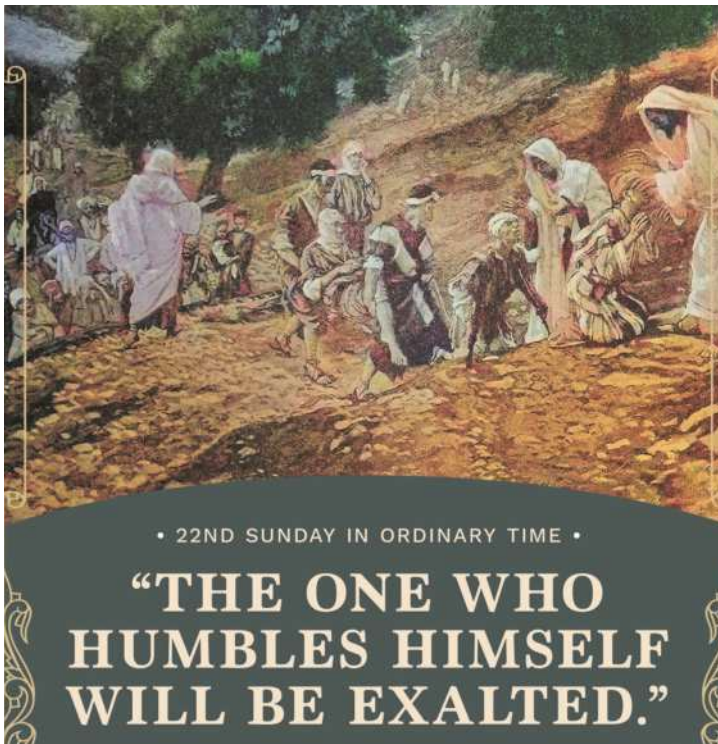
Jeffrey Gunning  
Katie Kardes Hargett  
Dick Hemingway  
Elaine Herrmann  
Robert Heseck  
Jim Hunt  
Steve James  
Barbara Jamrose  
Kelly Jean  
Margaret Jones  
Joseph D. Karulski  
Dr. Greg Kelly  
Mary Alyce Kelly  
Susan Kolodziej  
Gregory P. Koscielski  
Crystal Kurek  
Paul A. Martin  
Carolyn McGill  
Sandi Merlo  
Gino Michels  
Madeline Mikolanis  
Thomas Mordaunt  
Bernadine Nemeth

Margaret Nickrent  
Dawn Niebling  
Don Noworyta  
Clare O'Brien  
Lucille Perz  
Ruth Ramirez  
Antonia Rodriguez  
Paul Runick  
Karen Rutz  
Karen Sliwa  
Steven Sliwa  
Georgianne Suto  
Charles Svitko  
Michele Thomas  
Rosemary Thomas  
Russ Thomas  
David Trotman  
James Wachel  
Kathy Wachel  
David Wartman  
Bill Wisniewski

## Rest In Peace

*Merle Henry Distel*

*Katica Kirincic*



## Celebrants

**Saturday, September 6**

5:30 p.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

**Sunday, September 7**

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, September 6**



5:30 p.m. MC—Hunter, AS—J. Dye, X. Fonseca & X. Mendoza

**Sunday, September 7**

8:00 a.m. MC—Derek, AS—A. & L. Jara and K. Karl

10:00 a.m. MC—Gabi, AS—S. Santellano, J. Adebite & A. Monroy

12:00 p.m. MC—Lukas/Nina, AS—C. Aguilar & O. Mack

## Greeters Schedule for the Week

**Saturday, September 6**

5:30 p.m. Mass

Main: —

Chapel: Kimberly Eurlay

**Sunday, September 7**

6:30 a.m. Mass

Main: Tanya Vasquez

8:00 a.m. Mass

Main: Dennis & Karen McNeil

Chapel: Sandra Steele

Choir: Maria Rodriguez

10:00 a.m. Mass

Main: Dwight Reed

Chapel: Diann Adley

Choir: Claudia Mazon

12:00 p.m. Mass

Main: Gladys Escobedo



If you would like to be a Greeter, please contact the parish office 219-836-8610

## Stewardship REFLECTION

**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." LUKE 14:13-14*

One of the main principles of living a stewardship lifestyle is to give without expecting anything in return. This is difficult for some to comprehend in our "consumerist" culture that we live in. This is even difficult for many parish communities that have become heavily dependent on parish fundraising events to support the mission and ministry of their local parish. Generally speaking, at a parish fundraiser, you pay money and receive something in return, it's just a financial transaction. This is opposed to our parish offertory at Holy Mass, where you unite your sacrifice with Jesus', renewing our covenant relationship with Him.

## Weis Center Parish/Ministry Schedule

### Monday, September 1

7:00 pm Emotions Anonymous—Weis Center Room 101

### Tuesday, September 2

7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 542 —Weis Center Main Hall

### Wednesday, September 3

8:00 am Coffee with the Principal—Weis Center Main Hall

1:00 pm Seniors of STM Meeting—Weis Center Main Hall

6:00 pm 80th Anniversary Committee—Weis Center Main Hall

6:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Meeting—Weis Center Room 101

### Thursday, September 4

6:30 pm Evening Scripture Study—Weis Center Room 101

### Friday, September 5

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

### Saturday, September 6

9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes, Secular Franciscan  
—Weis Center Room 101

## Religious Education September Schedule

September 3/4 Religious Education Classes Begin

September 10/11 Class

September 17/18 Class

**September 23rd Confirmation Parent Meeting-7:00 pm**

September 24/25 Class



## 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

### August 24, 2025

Regular	\$16,508.18
Loose	\$1,587.75
Children	\$33.00
Automated	\$7,117.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,245.93</b>

*Please remember  
St. Thomas More in your  
Will and Estate Planning.  
Thank you for your  
generosity.*



## Bulletin Deadlines

Every effort is made to include pertinent information in the weekly bulletin.

It is very important to submit bulletin articles  
**at least 2 full weeks in advance**  
of when you would like your information to appear.

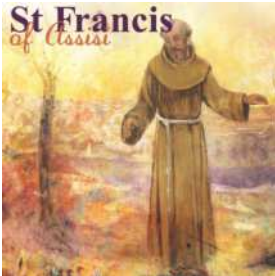
Email info to: [bulletin@stm-church.com](mailto:bulletin@stm-church.com) or

Call 219-836-8610, Ext. 2414

Thank you for your help!

## “Come and See” who the Secular Franciscans of Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity are

If you feel that God is calling you to something more but the consecrated life isn't for you, maybe life in the Secular Franciscan Order is for you. If you find yourself searching for something more in your spiritual life, maybe that's God calling you to the Secular Franciscan Order. If you're still looking for a way to grow deeper in your faith by way of a communal spiritual life, maybe the Secular Franciscan Order is what you're looking for.



Founded by St. Francis of Assisi over 800 years ago, Franciscans continue as a worldwide trinitarian order within the Catholic Church: Friars, Poor Clares, Franciscan nuns and Seculars. As seculars, we live in the world, men and women, married and single, young and old. We strive to live the gospel in our homes, our jobs, our parishes and in all of our activities.

We'll be in the Narthex at the back of the church next week (Sept. 6-7) after the 5:30 p.m. Saturday Mass, and the 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and Noon Mass on Sunday. Plan a little extra time when you come to mass to stop by and pick up some information about our Order and our Fraternity. We'd love to meet you and say "hello" to our fellow parishioners.



### Live Christ, Share Christ

*A lay response to the call to the  
New Evangelization*

**Saturday September 13th  
9:00 a.m.—Weis Ministry Center**

Speaker: Jim Etter  
Topic: *Living the Covenant*

According to the recent Disciple-Maker Index survey, 61% of participants feel only somewhat confident in sharing their Catholic faith with others. This is a great opportunity to build that skill with confidence!

**Children and Families are Welcome!**

**Come and Enjoy Fellowship and  
Refreshments.**



### Director of Discipleship Full-Time

We are seeking a passionate and dedicated Catholic disciple to serve in this position to oversee the spiritual formation and discipleship efforts of our parish. You will play a key leadership role in guiding parishioners—new and existing—on their faith journey, helping them grow as missionary disciples through worship, growth and service to God.

*To apply: Please email your resume to  
nbickel@stm-church.com (Subject: Director of Discipleship)*

### Stewardship Coordinator Part Time

Rooted in the belief that all we are and all we have is a gift from God, this position plays a vital role in cultivating a parish culture where stewardship is embraced as a way of life. This role provides vision, leadership and coordination for a comprehensive stewardship initiative focused on formation, education and engagement—encouraging parishioners to share their time, talent and treasure in response to God's generosity.

*To apply: Please email your resume to  
nbickel@stm-church.com (Subject: Stewardship Coordinator)*



### Flu Shot Clinic

Free flu shots offered conveniently for our parish and community.

**Sunday, September 21st  
7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Weis Ministry Center**

Be prepared and stay healthy in the  
upcoming flu season!



# St. Thomas More Church Annual Report to the Parish

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

## *A Message from Our Pastor*



As you are well aware, we are in the midst of our church renovation project. When it is complete, we will have a **new roof, new lighting, an improved sound system, and repaired ceilings.**

In order to make this possible, **we really do need your help.** We dedicated the rebate from last year's and this year's CSA to go toward the project and we need whatever you can afford to donate.

In addition to the CSA rebates from last year and this year, we determined that we would **dip into our parish savings** so that we would not have to have a capital campaign. If you remember, I told you last year at our annual finance report that I was counting on you and trusting that you would help as you have done in the past.

If you look at it, we really have done a lot these past years with your help. We replaced a parking lot, windows in our school building, roofs on our school building, and our heating and air conditioning system, just to name a few. These have all been big budget items that were achieved all because of you.

**I can't stress that enough. All because of you!**

We are all in this together. We work together, we pray together, and we celebrate together. That is what a parish family is all about. **I couldn't be prouder of the parish family here at St. Thomas More.**

I am happy to report that our parish financial status is still very sound. We try to be as judicious as possible with the funds that you entrust to us and we do our best to get as much bang for the buck as we can.

Enrollment is up in our school, which recently was awarded Blue Ribbon status. **Congratulations to our administration, faculty, staff, and students!** Parish ministries are doing their best to grow. Have you considered volunteering for a ministry? We are in the midst of a diocesan planning process where we have been asked various questions about the perception of our faith. A synopsis of the process thus far is on the back of this report. We have also engaged the help of a national organization to look at how we do things in our parish and at worship in order to provide parishioners a good experience. See a summary of the Rebuilt process inside.

In short, as we have always done, **we strive to improve each and every day.** When you look at it, we are never really finished. Anything that we do, we can always do better whether that be at school, at work, at home, or at our parish. *Refusing to change and grow leads to stagnation and who wants that?*

I'm mindful of the fact that this is the last annual finance report that I will give to you as I will be retiring next summer. I **thank you** for the many years that you have helped support my ministry to our parish and **thank you** for the trust that you have shown in the generous manner in which you have contributed not only to weekly collections but also to special collections, special projects, and large capital campaigns.

Coming full circle, I hope that you will give whatever you can to help make our church improvement project a success. **If you have not contributed yet, kindly consider doing so.** Our original roof has lasted for years. Hopefully, our new roof will last just as long. God bless you all for your constant support.

*Fr. Mike*

*"The person who waits to do a great deal of good at once will never do anything."  
~ Samuel Johnson*

## Revenue, Expenses & Change in Cash

	6/30/2025	6/30/2025	6/30/2026
<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
Sundays & Holydays	\$1,625,020	\$1,674,000	\$1,638,200
Special Collections	137,986	116,250	124,500
Restricted Donations	16,694	5,000	5,000
CSA Rebates	246,651	200,000	210,838
Religious Education & Ministries	39,374	33,750	33,970
Other Income	102,725	99,400	61,332
Total Revenues	<b>\$2,168,450</b>	<b>\$2,128,400</b>	<b>\$2,073,840</b>

<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Salaries & Benefits	\$972,642	\$947,463	\$998,513
Special Collections & Donations	138,986	121,250	129,500
Church & Rectory Operations	93,651	147,700	141,900
Maintenance & Utilities	175,767	193,800	197,900
Religious Education & Ministries	56,665	72,400	75,200
Diocesan Assessment (Quota)	130,269	129,000	141,689
Office and Other Expense	98,456	96,500	111,822
Capital Expenses	148,845	315,000	1,968,500
Total Expenses	<b>\$1,815,281</b>	<b>\$2,023,113</b>	<b>\$3,765,024</b>
Net Surplus	<b>\$353,169</b>	<b>\$105,287</b>	<b>(\$1,691,184)</b>

Parish Grants	<b>-73,215</b>	<b>-126,000</b>	<b>-95,000</b>
Fundraising Expense	<b>-1,053</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Capital Campaign Receipts	375	2,000	500
Transfers to Endowment	<b>-3,000</b>	<b>-3,000</b>	<b>0</b>
Net Surplus less Grants & Endowment plus Bequests & Campaign	<b>\$276,276</b>	<b>(\$21,713)</b>	<b>(\$1,785,684)</b>

Decrease in Current Assets	1,686	0	0
Net Funds <b>Deposit</b> /Withdrawn from/Diocese	<b>-304,349</b>	0	1,769,088
Decrease in Current Liabilities	<b>-6,601</b>	0	0
Increase <b>(Decrease)</b> in Cash	<b>(32,988)</b>	<b>(21,713)</b>	<b>(16,596)</b>
Beginning Cash Balance	372,521	372,521	339,533
Ending Cash Balance	<b>339,533</b>	<b>\$350,808</b>	<b>322,937</b>

## Notes

Our finances are reviewed quarterly by the Parish Finance Council and annually by the Parish Pastoral Council. Reports are sent annually to the Diocese. All reports are on a modified cash basis.

While total parish revenues exceeded the annual budget by \$40,000, our Sunday and Holy Day collections were slightly below projections, with weekly contributions down 3.8% and the average gift per envelope moving from \$34 to \$33. This small change reminds us how much every contribution matters. If each household were able to prayerfully consider even a modest increase in weekly giving, together we could provide greater support for our ministries, expand our outreach, and ensure the vitality of our parish for years to come.

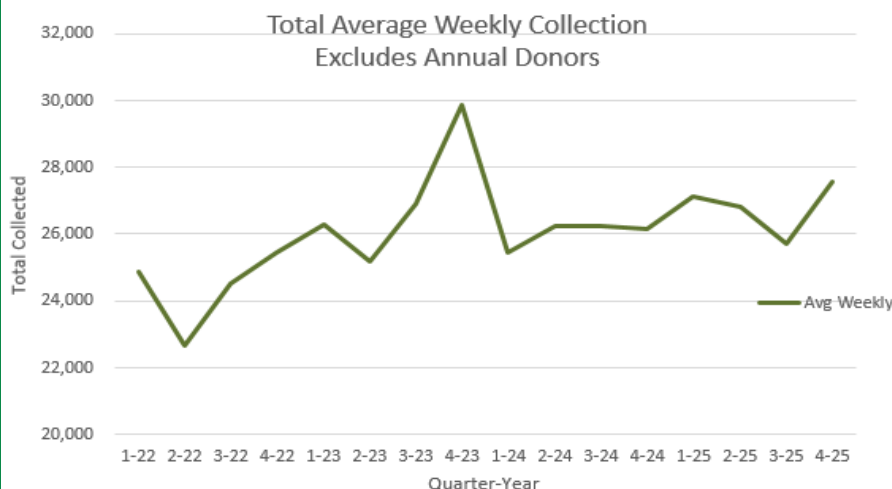
We continue to follow up on CSA pledges for this year's campaign, and we invite all parishioners who have not yet done so to prayerfully consider making a commitment. You can return your pledge card or give online at <https://www.dcgary.org/csa>. Our parish goal is \$139,162, and thanks to your generosity, the much-needed roof project is now underway. Every gift given beyond our goal will directly support this vital work.

Salaries slightly exceeded our budget in the current year as we added a Communication Director to the Ministry Team. Capital expenses were \$167,000 under budget as spending on the roof project began a month later than originally planned.

Our major capital expenses this year focused on essential improvements to both our worship and learning environments. Significant work was begun on the church roof and lighting, while the school gym received bright new lighting to enhance activities and events. In addition, we replaced the well-worn, carpeting in the 6th grade classrooms with fresh, durable tile. It was time to lay a new foundation—both literally and symbolically—for the next generation of learning and growth in the former school library space.

The school student body remains strong and consistent, with 555 students enrolled for the 2025–2026 school year. We are especially proud to begin this year as a nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School of Excellence—a true blessing and testament to the dedication of our students, staff, and families. 2025–2026 promises to be a joyful and faith-filled year for all of us at Saint Thomas More!

As we review this past year, we are reminded of our many blessings at St. Thomas More Parish. Because you give your time, talents and treasure, our parish is able to impact the lives of many.



**Assets & Liabilities**  
*As of June 30, 2025*

**Assets**

Cash	\$ 339,533
Diocesan Deposits	2,497,429
Other Current Assets	4,515
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,841,477</u>

**Total Liabilities & Fund Balance**

Other Current Liabilities	\$ 163,242
Beginning Fund Balance	2,401,959
Operational Less Subsidy Plus Campaign	<u>276,276</u>
Ending Fund Balance	<u>2,678,235</u>

Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	<u>\$2,841,477</u>
----------------------------------	--------------------

**Funds Held at the Catholic Foundation**

School Endowment	\$ 1,673,517
Andrean/STM Scholarship	\$ 40,149
Helen Pukoszek Scout Scholarship	\$ 24,648
St. Thomas More Church	\$ 363,214



**First Communion**  
84



**Funeral** — 53



**Marriage**  
4

**Sacraments  
Received at  
St. Thomas More**  
July 2024 thru June 2025



**Baptism**  
54



**Confirmation**  
83



**Reconciliation**  
84



**Holy Orders**  
0

**Rebuilding Our Parish**  
**Growing Disciples at St. Thomas More**  
*Worship, Grow & Serve*

During Covid, many ministries at STM slowed or stopped. In 2024, a diverse group of parishioners began working through *Rebuilt*, a book and workbook designed to help parishes grow disciples by focusing on evangelization and mission. In early 2025, consultants from *Rebuilt* evaluated our Sunday experience. Both processes identified challenges, clarified priorities, and created steps for renewal.

**Our Focus for the Next 10 Months will be:**

<b>Communication</b>	Improve parish communications (website, bulletin, social media)
<b>Growth</b>	Provide opportunities for personal and spiritual growth
<b>Hospitality</b>	Strengthen hospitality and welcoming
<b>Parish Space</b>	Enhance signage and refresh the narthex
<b>Small Groups</b>	Launch Small Groups for deeper connection
<b>Worship</b>	Build participation in spirituality and worship ministries by recruiting more lectors, cantors, greeters, musicians and livestreamers

All of the committee and consultant notes and recommendations will be shared with our new Pastor when he arrives in July 2026. Other areas that provide opportunities for improvement include children, youth and young adult activities, having a message series (sequence of related homilies or messages), and Mass announcements.

Both processes are already bearing fruit, and we are taking meaningful steps toward making “church matter” and growing disciples. Thank you for your prayers and support as we continue this journey of renewal at St. Thomas More!

In addition to the Rebuilt process, all parishioners were given the opportunity to express their thoughts and opinions thru the DMI survey. See page four



# DMI Survey Update

## *Worship, Grow & Serve*



### Why We Took the Survey

This diocesan-wide survey invited parishioners to reflect on four key areas of faith:

**Doctrine** – Personal beliefs

**Habits** – Prayer and spiritual practices

**Outreach** – Evangelization and discipleship

**Growth** – The Catholic journey

The goal: help our parish thrive spiritually and communally. This year's results serve as a **benchmark** for future planning.

### Participation Snapshot

- **684 surveys completed** - **1,484 average Sunday attendance** - **3,986 registered adult parishioners**
- **46% participation rate** based on average Sunday attendance and 17.2% of registered adult parishioners
- **Opportunity to improve** survey participation from Latino parishioners and younger families in the future

### Key Strengths

These areas positively impact parishioners' spiritual growth and connection:

- ❖ **89%** feel we share a common belief and vision
- ❖ **93%** say parish information is easy to find
- ❖ **91%** attend Mass weekly or more
- ❖ **78%** say our parish is welcoming
- ❖ **87%** pray at least weekly (65% pray daily)
- ❖ **75%** would recommend Fr. Mike

### Opportunities for Growth

Evangelization and spiritual engagement are key focus areas:

- ⌘ **61%** feel only *somewhat confident* sharing their faith
- ⌘ **87%** have **never** attended a retreat
- ⌘ **28%** have prayed with someone (22% never have)
- ⌘ **85%** have **never** invited someone to a religious vocation
- ⌘ **53%** say they grow spiritually through Mass

### What's Next?

These results suggest a clear opportunity: **we need to equip our parishioners with the tools and confidence to evangelize, grow in discipleship, and engage in spiritual formation.**

We're committed to helping you grow in faith and mission. In the coming months:

- We'll explore **small faith-sharing groups**
- Host or promote **retreat opportunities**
- Empower parishioners to **share their faith and live as followers of Christ**

Fr. Mike and a team of parishioners have started to attend sessions with other diocesan parishes to shape a shared **pastoral plan** for the future.

### What Can You Do Now?

- † Plan to attend the **Ministries Fair** at STM, the weekend of September 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> to learn ways that you can grow
- † **All parishioners are invited to attend** General Parish Sessions on **Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and October 28<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 8pm at Our Lady of Consolation Parish, 8303 West Taft Street, Merrillville, IN 46410.** These sessions will be used to **share information and answer questions** concerning the DMI Survey and process.



### Thank You!

To all who participated: **thank you** for your voice, trust, and commitment.  
This is just the beginning of a renewed journey of faith—together.

*"Go and make disciples of all nations..." – Matthew 28:19*





August 31, 2025

# St. Thomas More School



BACK TO  
SCHOOL

STMS

## Tailgate Party

Kicking off the school year  
with another great STMS event, the

### Back to School Tailgate

welcomed over 150 of our wonderful  
St. Tom's school families for a night of  
food, fun and camaraderie.

While the children ran, played and hung  
out with friends, parents visited over  
incredible tailgate spreads.

We are so very blessed with a phenomenal  
school family and we are excited for all that  
lies ahead this year!





## Never miss a homily!

Did you know that Fr. Mike's homilies are available on our parish YouTube channel?

Scan the QR Code or visit the link below to catch up on the Sunday messages!

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTfEE1E1k2zfP5pUSPOYofYtYaX3YqtsZO>



## Fall Evening of Reflection With the Holy Name Society

All men of the parish are invited to attend our retreat on

**Thursday, September 25th**  
at the Carmelite Monastery in Munster

**Arrival Time - 6:00 p.m.**  
Dinner & Program to follow Mass

*How to be a  
Missionary Disciple*  
Speaker and  
Retreat Leader:

**Fr. Rick Holy**



A \$20.00 donation is requested to cover the cost of a delicious dinner and fellowship with Fr. Holy

Please enclose this reservation form with your donation and place it in the Sunday collection basket or drop off to the parish office no later than Sept. 21st.

You may also mail in your reservation to:  
St. Thomas More Church  
8501 Calumet Avenue, Munster, IN 46321

### RESERVATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed (\$20/Guest): \_\_\_\_\_



## 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).

## Seniors of STM - First Meeting of our 2025-2026 year!



Join our fun, active and social group!  
Meet new friends, enjoy socialization,  
and some desserts!

**Wednesday, September 3rd**  
**1:00 p.m. - Weis Ministry Center**

Speaker: Nour Kalam, Senior Care Insurance  
He will be presenting information regarding insurance and Medicare.

*New members are encouraged to attend!*

## Altar & Rosary's *Tea Party* on **Sunday, September 21st—11 a.m.** **Weis Center, Main Hall**

We will begin reciting the Rosary at 11:15 am, and then enjoy our Lunch. *Altar & Rosary is providing food and desserts, and Yes, we will be serving Coffee too. Members do not have to bring any food or desserts.* Our Guest Speaker will be Sharon Maloney who will talk about our New Fundraisers.

**\$5.00 per person, limit 50 women.**  
**Please make your Reservation at the  
Church Office by September 18, 2025.**  
For more information,  
call Kaaren at 1-219-836-5079.

## Parish Directory Photos



If you have not received your photos from the June Session, or have questions about your order, please contact customer service at 1-888-742-5823

<https://schedule.ucdir.com>

Parish Code: IN2015

Password: photos



Questions or changes to your appointment:  
Please call Krystal Quagliara  
219-836-8610, Ext. 2414  
Or email: [kquagliara@stm-church.com](mailto:kquagliara@stm-church.com)

**GROWING**   
WITH THE *Gospel*  
CYCLE C



**COLOR**

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time • Luke 14:1, 7-14



*Save the date:*

Parish Ministry Fair - STM Gym  
September 27-28 (after all Masses)

## Music Ministry

### Youth Chorale

**Anyone 2nd to 8th Grade are Welcome!**

This choir sings 2 x month at the Saturday 5:30 p.m. Mass and on Christmas Eve.

Practices are 4:00—5:30 p.m. on the Saturdays the choir sings at Mass.

#### **The choir needs:**

- ♦ older youth (6th-8th grade), skilled at singing harmony
- ♦ boys with changing voices to sing 3-part harmony
- ♦ young members (2nd-5th grade) to sing melody



This is a great opportunity to get children engaged and active in the Mass (especially if parents are already serving in some capacity!)

### Hand Bell Choir

#### **More Members Needed!!**

The hand bell choir is still in need of 4 more members to join. If you are new, no problem! There will be several sessions to help you learn.

Families are encouraged to join together!

For either opportunity, please contact Laura Javorka at [ljavorka@stm-school.com](mailto:ljavorka@stm-school.com) or (219)836-8610, Ext. 2340 by Sept. 6th

## Parish Organizations

**Altar & Rosary Society**  
Cindy Keilman: (219) 923-9862

**Boy Scout Troop 542**  
Dustin Anderson: (219) 712-8752  
dustincoryanderson@gmail.com

**Career Networking Group**  
Donna Weidenfeller  
STMCareerGroup@gmail.com

**Circle of Prayer**  
Carolyn Cenko: (219) 741-2509  
carolynrealtor@sbcglobal.net

**Cooking for the Homeless**  
Steve Resler: (219) 765-9228

**Cub Scout Pack 542**  
Kandace Mack: (708) 415-4133  
kandacemack@gmail.com

**Finance**  
Barbara Shaver: (219) 838-9200

**Gabriel Project**  
Denise Jones: (219) 616-5413

**Gifts of Love & Warmth**  
Bernadine Nemeth: (219) 513-6544

**Girl Scouts**  
Cynthia Navarrete: (773) 726-2411

**Holy Name Society**  
PJ Caraher (219) 680-6775

**Knights of Columbus**  
Daniel Straka:  
(219) 836-8610

**Live Streaming**  
Joann Hajduch  
Ext. 2245  
livestream@stm-school.com

**Mental Health Ministry**  
Dr. Jean Nanos  
drjnanos@stm-church.com

**Parish Garden Ministry**  
Bob Thomas  
(630) 363-7978

**Respect Life**  
Leslie Denuc: (219) 741-3739

**Seniors of STM**  
Judy Hamer: (219) 836-7916

## 2024-2025 Pastoral Council

**Chairperson:** Michael Popovich  
Vita Ayala • Mike Englert • Deborah Gena • Elaine Herrmann  
Christi Kordeck • Bill McCullough • Lisa Mendoza • Claudia Pernal  
Patty Queros • Michael Sajn • Cindy Thompson

## Pastoral Ministries

Call the Parish Office at (219) 836-8610 if contact phone is not listed.

**Environment & Art**  
Helen Jaworski &  
Jim Landowski

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
James Kaspar

**Lectors**  
Richard Gard

**Hospitality/Greeters**  
Parish Office

**St. Vincent de Paul**  
Terry Oprinovich

**Ushers**  
Al Gallagher

**Nursery**  
Kaaren A. Mashura

**Vocations Guidance**  
PJ & Margaret Caraher

**Altar Servers**  
Kathy Tolnai

## Pastoral Commissions Chairs

**Formation/Education**  
Tim Jevyak

**Parish Life**  
Debra Harker

**Peace & Social Justice**  
Mari Casas

**Spirituality Worship**  
Kaaren Mashura

**Stewardship**  
Paul Liszewski

## Weis Center • Parish Ministry Center

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



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