



ST. THOMAS MORE

ROMAN
CATHOLIC
CHURCH

OCTOBER 12, 2025 • TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



*The world needs to hear about
Jesus now more than ever.*

MASS INTENTIONS



SUNDAY, October 12

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 6:30 am Mildred & Joseph Doerr by Elaine Fechalos
- 8:00 am For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased
- 10:00 am Elaine & John Benson by Patrick & Mary Beth Benson
- 12:00 pm Julia Dillos by the Christiana Family

MONDAY, October 13

- 6:30 am Ann Schmid by Altar & Rosary
- 8:30 am Michalina Gryn by Mr. & Mrs. John Gryn

TUESDAY, October 14—St. Callistus

- 6:30 am Poor Souls in Purgatory by Karina Bravo
- 8:30 am Phyllis M. Bistyak by Angie Sorice

WEDNESDAY, October 15—St. Teresa of Jesus

- 6:30 am Frank P. Kubiak by Michalik Family
- 8:30 am Joseph & Helen Yadron by Family

THURSDAY, October 16—St. Hedwig

- 6:30 am Diane Frederick by Tina DeLuca
- 8:30 am Bob "Rudy" Welsh by John & Andrea Mudro

FRIDAY, October 17—St. Ignatius of Antioch

- 6:30 am Margaret Buczkowski by Mary Burzynski
- 8:30 am Michael J. Riley by Ready Cousins:
Jane, Julie, Bob, Liz and Rose

SATURDAY, October 18— St. Luke

- 8:30 am Frank Picicco by Tom & Louisa Jurich
- 5:30 pm Frank Molinaro by Wife Bonita

SUNDAY, October 19

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased
- 8:00 am Intention of Bob Gauger on his 91st Birthday by
Wife, Virginia Gauger
- 10:00 am Dennis Trelinski, Sr. by Joyce Trelinski & Family
- 12:00 pm Dorothy Jurkash (Anniv.) by Jurkash 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

HAVE YOU BEEN SWAYED BY THE WORLD?

“One of the main reasons people fall short of their potential is they care more about looking good than getting better.” ~ Adam Grant

Our human nature can be a very fickle thing and it can get us into a lot of trouble. We know that we are called by God to be a certain kind of people, to speak a certain kind of way, and to act counter to the values of the world. However, we often fall short because we allow the world to sway us.

Some people are afraid of living the Christian life to the full because they are concerned about what others may think or say of them. They can be easily influenced by others and often end up abandoning what they know to be the right thing to do.

Others are afraid of living the Christian life to the full for fear that their speech or their actions might get them into serious trouble, perhaps even arrested or killed. Remember, not all parts of the world are as amenable to people living the faith. Martyrs are not a thing of the past. They are still a modern day reality.

The followers of Christ had the same issues. They were talked about because they were counter-cultural. They also worried that they would be arrested and brought before the authorities to be tried and, possibly, convicted and put to death.

Jesus told them then what He still tells us now, “When they lead you away and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say. But say whatever will be given to you at that hour. For it will not be you who are speaking but the holy Spirit.” (Mk 13:11)

If we are confident in our relationship with the Lord, we will be in a better position to speak His words and live His love. We will not worry about what others have to say about us because we will know that we are doing the Lord’s bidding. It is practically guaranteed that, if we live our lives according to the laws of God, we are going to receive trouble from the world.

The world is not interested in what we have to say because the world has drifted far from God. However, it is precisely because of that fact that we are called to proclaim the Good News. The world needs to hear about Jesus now more than ever.

It is never too late to speak up. Do not allow yourself to be swayed by the world. Hold fast to the promises of God and be His witnesses in the world today.

FAITH ACTION: Ask God for His courage in order to be His witness in the world.

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:

- October 13: Rev. Philip N. Fusco (1998)
- October 14: Rev. Joseph A. Lamere (1991)
- October 16: Msgr. Julian J. Skrzypinski (1973)
Rev. John T. Ambre (2006)
- October 18: Rev. Herman J. Miller (1978)



CAN YOU SIT WITH HIM ONE HOUR?

† “Each time you approach the Blessed Sacrament remember that Jesus has been waiting for you for twenty centuries for this personal visit from you.”

~ St. Josemaria Escriva

† “Devotion to the Eucharist is the most noble, because it has God as its object; it is the most profitable for salvation, because it gives us the Author of Grace.”

~ St. Pope Pius X

† “A Holy Hour of adoration testifies to the fact that the Jesus who died on the cross, is present in the Eucharist, and reigns in Heaven, are identical.”

~ Pope Pius XII

† “A Holy Hour before the Most Blessed Sacrament so pleases the Heart of Jesus, that every man, woman and child on earth receives a new effect of God’s graces.”

~ St. Faustina

† “From the Eucharist comes the strength to live the Christian life with zeal and to share that life with others.”

~ St. Pope John Paul II

TREE OF LIFE IMPORTS

Your purchase of items in the narthex this weekend helps many members of small Christian communities in El Salvador and Guatemala. Fair trade unites the Church in solidarity with village families and supports the dignity of their labor and communities. Thank you for your support.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Teacher: I hope I didn't see you looking at Don's paper.
Student: I hope you didn't either.

Mother: Why did you get such a low mark on that test?

Child: Because of absence.

Mother: You mean you were absent on the day of the test?

Child: No, but the kid who sits next to me was.



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

2nd 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 Ministries & Comm.

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

Director of Finance & Operations

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

Director of Religious Education

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

Director of Music

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

Director of Discipleship

Daniel Maul, Ext. 2415
dmaul@stm-church.com

St. Thomas More Parish Website: www.stm-church.com

Parish Office Staff

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

Website: 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

Building Maintenance

Contact the Parish Office or
Charles Schimpf at Ext. 2329

Bulletin/Communications Director

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

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

Principal

Dr. Samantha Francis
Ext. 2258

Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Gonzalez
Ext. 2200

Business Manager

Maria Vega
Ext. 2339

Admissions

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

Reception/Office Associate

Nereida Harretos
Ext. 2201

Gospel Meditation

Luke 17:11-19



Dorothy Day, the great Catholic activist, doubted God's existence. At least in her early adult years. But something changed when after giving birth to her daughter, she experienced an overwhelming gratitude. She later described how, as she held her daughter, the only appropriate response was a kind of unlimited gratitude. She had done nothing to deserve such a

gift — this tiny, miraculous life — but there she was, flooded with gratitude, completely undone by the love of such a Giver.

Something similar occurs in Luke 17:19 when Jesus tells a healed leper, **“Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.”** This man had already received physical healing through his faith. But the moment of an even deeper transformation came when he turned back, fell at Jesus' feet, and gave thanks. Like Dorothy, this man's gratitude led him to encounter the Giver.

Isn't that what we want, too? Gratitude to God has the power to break our chains of sadness, bitterness, and disenchantment. It empowers us to step out of the prison of self-pity and into the reality of God's abundant love. It shifts our focus from what we lack to what we have received, from what wounds us to what heals us.

Where do we learn this? The Mass. The priest prays: “It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks.” Always. Everywhere. Not just when life is easy. Not just when prayers are answered as we expect. Gratitude is not a passive feeling; it is an act of faith. In the eucharist, we remember that Christ himself has given everything for us. And in this act of gratitude, we are healed.

Father John Muir

©LPi

Readings Week of October 12

Sunday: 2 Kgs 5:14-17/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 (see 2b)/2 Tm 2:8-13/
Lk 17:11-19
Monday: Rom 1:1-7/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Lk 11:29-32
Tuesday: Rom 1:16-25/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 11:37-41
Wednesday: Rom 2:1-11/Ps 62:2-3, 6-7, 9/Lk 11:42-46
Thursday: Rom 3:21-30/Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/Lk 11:47-54
Friday: Rom 4:1-8/Ps 32:1b-2, 5, 11/Lk 12:1-7
Saturday: 2 Tm 4:10-17b/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Lk 10:1-9
Next Sunday: Ex 17:8-13/Ps 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (see 2)/
2 Tm 3:14—4:2/Lk 18:1-8

Prayer of the Faithful

We pray...

*That we regularly take time to thank God for all the
blessings He bestows on 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
Ursula Cichy
Kevin Clark
Loretta Clott
Charlotte Conn
Valerie Czapkowitz
Janice Devries
David Dull
Antonia Espitia
Gabriela Gallegos
Gary Gardner
Joan Gliniski
Howard Gralewski
Margaret Gray
Christine Greenberg
Mary Ellen Gullicks
Jeffrey Gunning

Katie Kardes Hargett
Dick Hemingway
Elaine Herrmann
Robert Hesek
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
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
Lucille Perz
Ruth Ramirez
Antonia Rodriguez
Valetine Rudakas
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

Rest In Peace

Della D. Klobuchar "Nani"

Mary M. Silvasi

Henrietta Kaminski

Frank Nackman



Wedding Banns

Bann II

*Keith George Sliepecevic &
Roxanne Marie Scully*



Baptisms

Jordan Victor

Son of Kirk Victor and Ashley Goddard

Roman Angel Jr.

Son of Roman Angel Sr. and Andrea Joy Senteno

Emma Jane

Daughter of Kevin Matthew & Katherine Elizabeth Herkert

Theodore Matthew

Son of Kevin Matthew & Katherine Elizabeth Herkert

Celebrants

Saturday, October 18

5:30 p.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

Sunday, October 19

6:30 a.m. Carmelite Father

8:00 a.m. Carmelite Father

10:00 a.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

12:00 Noon Fr. Mike Yadron



Altar Servers

Saturday, October 18

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

Sunday, October 19

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

10:00 a.m. MC—Gabi, AS—S. Santellano, A. Sudac & K. Orozco

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



Greeters Schedule for the Week

Saturday, October 18

5:30 p.m. Mass

Main: Cathy Delgado & Judy Mateja

Chapel: Sergio & Lisa Mendoza

Sunday, October 19

6:30 a.m. Mass

Main: Tanya Vasquez

8:00 a.m. Mass

Main: Paul & Jan Liszewski

Chapel: Kathy Tolnai

Choir: Donna Weidenfeller

10:00 a.m. Mass

Main: Paula Serrano

Chapel: Dwight Reed

12:00 p.m. Mass

Main: —



If you would like to be a Greeter, please contact

Lisa Mendoza

718mendoza@gmail.com

Stewardship REFLECTION

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?"

LUKE 17:18

Most of us live relatively "easy" lives. We have food, shelter, clothing, and money. We go on vacation every year and own a car or two. Most of us take this all for granted. Did you ever notice that people with the least amount of possessions are usually the most grateful? Shouldn't this be the other way around? Take time every day and thank God for all He has given you and discern how He is calling you to share your gifts.

Weis Center Parish/Ministry Schedule

Monday, October 13

5:30 pm Parent Bible Study—Weis Center Room 107
7:00 pm Emotions Anonymous—Weis Center Room 101
7:00 pm Knights of Columbus—Weis Center Room 102

Tuesday, October 14

6:30 pm Parish Life Commission Meeting—Weis Center Room 101
7:00 pm Boy Scouts Troop 542—Weis Center Main Hall

Wednesday, October 15

9:30 am Morning Bible Study—Weis Center Room 107
10:00 am Seniors Day of Reflection—Weis Center Main Hall
5:30 pm Cub Scouts—Weis Center Main Hall
6:00 pm 80th Anniversary Committee—Weis Center Room 101

Thursday, October 16

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

Friday, October 17

9:00 am Gifts of Love & Warmth—Weis Center Room 101
5:00 pm Cub Scouts 542 Wolf Meeting—Weis Center Room 101

Religious Education

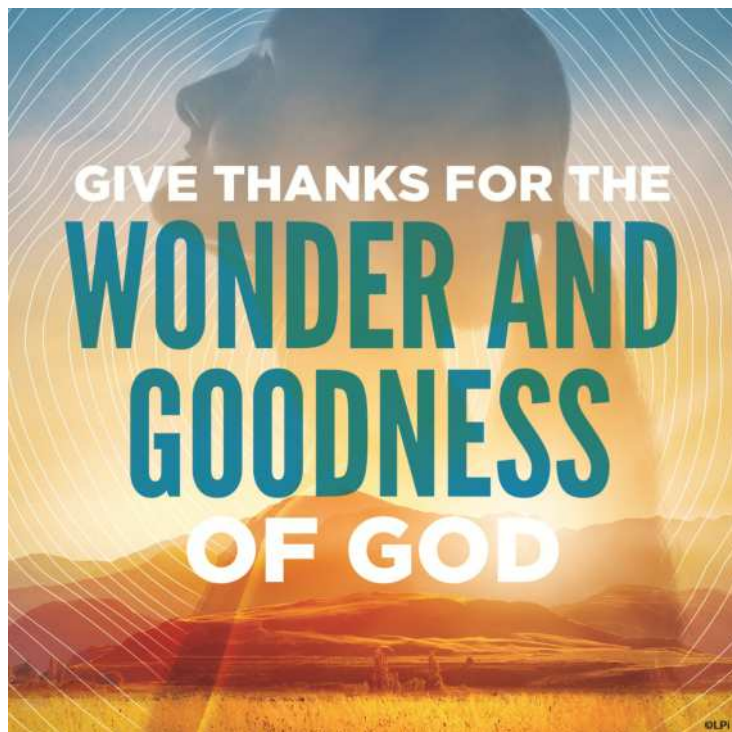
October Schedule

October 15/16 **Mass at 5:00 pm**
Confirmation Commitment at Mass

October 21st **First Confession/First Communion**
Parent Meeting - 7:00 pm

October 22/23 Class

October 29/30 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

Questions?

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

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



Sacrificial Offerings

September 28, 2025

Regular	\$18,169.00	Special Collection
Loose	\$3,216.00	Habitat for Humanity:
Children	\$3.00	9/28/2025
Automated	\$6,790.99	TOTAL Collected: \$4,079.00
TOTAL	\$28,178.99	

*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 or
Call 219-836-8610, Ext. 2414

Thank you for your help!

Directory Photo Make-up Date

ONE DAY ONLY!

**Monday, October 20th
2:00—8:30 p.m.
Weis Center Main Hall**

Please schedule here:
<https://schedule.ucdir.com>

Parish Code: IN2015
Password: photos



Questions: Call Krystal at 219-836-8610, Ext. 2414 or
email: kquagliara@stm-church.com

Holy Name Society

Monthly Meeting

**Monday, October 20th
7:00 p.m. in the Weis Center**

Join the men of our parish for fellowship, prayer and gain a deeper understanding of our faith.



Knights of Columbus

Monsignor Weis Council 10596

October 18-19th

(After Masses)

Boxes of Joy & Membership Drive

Want to see the joy these boxes create for
children? Watch the video here—>

Box Drop Off Date: 11/1/2025



KoC Fall Celebration & Pork Chop Dinner

(Food prepared by Hog Haven)

**Saturday, October 25th
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

St. Thomas More School Gym



Great food, drinks and fellowship.

Kids Activities

NCAA Game on the Big Screen



*There are a limited number of pork chops,
we encourage you to purchase advance tickets!!*

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/knights-fall-fest>

In Case You Missed It...



Are you seeing double? Our parishioner and very talented photographer Rob Mangus captured the perfect photo of Father Mike so that Stewardship Commission chair, Paul Liszewski could get it printed up life-sized for the Jubilee Ministry Fair. The Stewardship Commission worked very hard this year to make the fair a memorable one. As we celebrate the church's 80th Anniversary, we launched the **"Worship, Grow, Serve"** theme at the fair. Ministry representatives wore t-shirts with the theme as they encouraged fellow parishioners to learn more about the many opportunities here.

Congrats to the Raffle Drawing Winners!
Ann Harkenrider, Daniel Maul and Ron Mack!





October 12, 2025



St. Thomas More School



Helping Other Children: A Gift of Reading

Each week, St. Thomas More School students meet in "House", a highlight of their week! Each House, hosted by an STMS teacher and led by 7th & 8th grade captains, welcomes students in Preschool to 8th grade for a weekly session to develop & further understand our faith, create a school-wide family community & contribute to others via intentions or service. A recent House project was the donation of new & gently used books, gathered by students, to help our neighbors at the Hammond Early Learning Center, creating a free bookstore for Hammond families to build at-home libraries to foster a love of reading for young children. Hundreds of books were collected for the Center. Well done, students!



School Lego Club

Engaging young minds and future engineers & problem solvers is what the St. Thomas More School Lego Club is all about.

Thanks to STMS teacher and sponsor, Mrs. Alena Marquez, students in grades 1 and 2 meet after school to build, innovate and collaborate to create structures and foster imagination.

Ask any Lego Club member and they will tell you exactly what they are building and why; their mission is always clear and the laughter and fun are always part of the process.



Join the St. Thomas More Community for the next school

Dining for Dollars



Tuesday, October 21

11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Carryout or Delivery • Order: <https://order.loumalnatis.com/find/carryout>

Promo Code: GiveBack25

Phone Orders: (219) 318-2500
School earns 20% when you mention STMS or use code.





St. Thomas More Building Campaign Matching Gift Opportunity



give.dcgary.org

We are still **\$150,000** short of our goal for funding the CSA rebate building project.

2 GENEROUS DONORS have offered to gift match 50% of all new paid pledges received by October 31st up to a maximum of \$20,000. Any and all amounts are encouraged.

We need everyone to participate!



CATHOLIC
SERVICES
APPEAL
Partners in Christ's Mission

*Thank you to everyone who has contributed already to the Catholic Services Appeal and St. Thomas More Building Campaign.
We are confident that with your help, we can reach our goal!*

You're invited to a
Portillo's
FUNDRAISER

Eat Portillo's and give back.
Come join us!
Keep 20% of the Proceeds

Join us at Portillo's for a fundraiser to support:
St. Thomas More Church-Altar and Rosary

When:	at the Portillo's located at:
October 20, 2025	1403 US 41
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Schererville, IN

20% of sales will benefit your organization. Order online or in app for pickup using code **PORTILLOS73** before checkout in the "Coupon Code" field, or show this flyer or a digital version to cashier when ordering at the restaurant. Valid on drive thru, pickup, kiosk, and in restaurant orders.

Portillo's
FOR GOOD



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).

The Seniors had a great kickoff meeting at the beginning of the month. We learned about different insurances available for seniors and danced to chair yoga led by our member, Sue!

Don't miss the next meeting—and bring a friend!

MOVED TO WEIS CENTER

Day of Reflection with Fr. Steven Caraher

**Wednesday
October 15th, 2025
10:00 a.m.
WEIS CENTER**

*Lunch will follow a
presentation
from Fr. Steven*



This event required advance reservations.



It's been a hot summer, but now it's time to get back to basics having fun and fellowship while exploring ways to live in today's world.

Sunday, October 12th

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Weis Center

Topic: Teen Saints

GROWING 
WITH THE *Gospel*
CYCLE C



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



28th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Luke 17:11-19



80th Anniversary Brunch Celebration



Sunday - November 16th

Immediately following the Noon Mass (1:00 - 4:00 pm)

*Center for Visual and Performing Arts
1040 Ridge Road, Munster*

Tickets:

Adult Champagne Mimosa Brunch - \$50.00

Child Brunch Ticket (Under age 11) - \$18.00

Tables of 10 can be reserved

Tickets available for
Adults & Children.

Scan to Purchase ---->

Or purchase at the
Parish Office.



[https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/
st-thomas-more-80th-anniversary-celebration](https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/st-thomas-more-80th-anniversary-celebration)

Diocese of Gary Pastoral Planning Process

We continue with our information on the Pastoral Planning Process for the Diocese of Gary.

Have other parishes within the Diocese of Gary participated in the Pastoral Planning process?

In 2021, five parishes located in the Merrillville area went through pastoral planning. In 2023, four Michigan City parishes participated in the process. And in 2024, the process of exploring alternative models began for fourteen parishes in East Chicago, Hammond and Whiting.

There are 41 parishes participating in the Diocese of Gary Pastoral Planning process during the Fall of 2025. These parishes are located in four planning areas: LaPorte-Starke, North Lake, Porter and South Lake.

South Lake Planning Area Includes:

Holy Name of Jesus; St. Matthias, St. Maria Goretti, St. Mary, Griffith; St. James the Less; St. Thomas More; St. John the Evangelist; St. Mary Crown Point; St. Joseph Dyer; St. Ann Mission; Our Lady of Grace; St. Edward; St. Michael the Archangel

The next General Session is on October 28, 2025 at
Our Lady of Consolation Parish
(8303 W. Taft St. Merrillville)

Parish Organizations

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

Boy Scout Troop 542
Dustin Anderson: (219) 712-8752
dustincoryanderson@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

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

Parish Garden Ministry
Bob Thomas
(630) 363-7978

Pastoral Care Coordinator
Jim Kaspar, Ext. 2310

Respect Life
Leslie Dernulc: (219) 741-3739

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

SVDP
Terry Oprinovich

Vocations Guidance
PJ & Margaret Caraher

2025-2026 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.

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Eucharistic Ministers
James Kaspar

Live Streaming
Joann Hajdych

Environment & Art
Helen Jaworski &
Jim Landowski

Hospitality/Greeters
Lisa Mendoza

Nursery
Ann Harkenrider

Eucharistic Adoration
Mona Hernandez

Lectors
Richard Gard

Ushers
Al Gallagher

Pastoral Commissions Chairs

Formation/Education
Tim Jevyak

Peace & Social Justice
Mari Casas

Spirituality Worship
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