It is not what we endure that matters but what we become. Let God have at us so that we can shine brilliantly not only here but in the age to come.
**St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church**

**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.

---

**Pastoral Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pastor</td>
<td>Reverend Michael J. Yadron, KCHS</td>
<td>2312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Pastor</td>
<td>Reverend Declan McNicholas</td>
<td>2314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Deacon</td>
<td>Dr. Napoleon Tabion, OFS</td>
<td>742-6005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral Care Coordinator</td>
<td>Deacon David Kapala, KHS</td>
<td>2315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Music</td>
<td>Angie Lorandos</td>
<td>2338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Religious Education</td>
<td>Emily Hackett</td>
<td>2322</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

---

**Parish Office Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office Phone</td>
<td></td>
<td>836-8610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Fax</td>
<td></td>
<td>836-8610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletin Editor</td>
<td>Pam Pasyk</td>
<td>2309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daytime Reception</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ext. 2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening Reception</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ext. 2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Maintenance</td>
<td>Mike Popovich</td>
<td>836-8610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custodial Supervisor</td>
<td>Karla Baldwin</td>
<td>836-8610</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Pastoral Ministries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>Leaders</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environment &amp; Art</td>
<td>Susan Gryfakis 688-8209</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucharistic Ministers</td>
<td>Deacon Dan Zarzauri 742-6005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality/Greetings</td>
<td>Chris Shearman 923-1419</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectors</td>
<td>William McDunn 922-9459</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>Kaaren A. Mashura 836-5079</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul</td>
<td>Michael Martinelli 836-8610</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocations Committee</td>
<td></td>
<td>836-8610</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**2019-2020 Pastoral Council Members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Noreen Bickel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Samantha Francis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>Jennifer Gonzalez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Reception &amp; Office Associate</td>
<td>Nereida Harreto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Parent Association</td>
<td>Heather Delgado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish &amp; School Offices Associate</td>
<td>Maureen Walz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Admission</td>
<td>Pam Pasyk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Development</td>
<td>Karen Leluge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Manager</td>
<td>Mike Gutchesky</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**St. Thomas More School**

**Pre-School through 8th Grade**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th><a href="http://www.stm-school.com">www.stm-school.com</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office Hours</td>
<td>Monday—Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Phone</td>
<td>836-9151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Noreen Bickel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Samantha Francis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>Jennifer Gonzalez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Reception &amp; Office Associate</td>
<td>Nereida Harreto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Parent Association</td>
<td>Heather Delgado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish &amp; School Offices Associate</td>
<td>Maureen Walz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Admission</td>
<td>Pam Pasyk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Development</td>
<td>Karen Leluge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Manager</td>
<td>Mike Gutchesky</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Weis Center — Preschool & Pre-K**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th><a href="http://www.stm-church.com">www.stm-church.com</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>836-2660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>836-2655</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Sacramental Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sacrament</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confessions</td>
<td>3:30 to 4:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Friday</td>
<td>1/2 hour before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass Baptisms</td>
<td>First and Third Sundays at 1:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Baptism Class</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>Must be registered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
<td>at home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**New Parishioner Registration**

To make it as convenient as possible for you, new parishioners may register at any time in the Parish Office.

**St. Thomas More Religious Education**

**Kindergarten through 8th Grade**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office Hours</th>
<th>Monday, Tuesday &amp; Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.</th>
<th>Wednesday — Thursday 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Parish Organizations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Altar &amp; Rosary Society</td>
<td>Cindy Keilman 923-9862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy Scouts</td>
<td>PJ Caraher (219) 838-2943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Networking Group</td>
<td>Donna Weidelfeffer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace &amp; Social Justice</td>
<td>Mari Casas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship</td>
<td>Paul Liszewski</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Please remember St. Thomas More in your Will and Estate Planning**
### Celebrants

**Saturday, September 21**
- 5:30 p.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

**Sunday, September 22**
- 6:30 a.m. Fr. Mike Yadron
- 8:00 a.m. Fr. Mike Yadron
- 10:00 a.m. Fr. Declan McNicholas
- 12:00 Noon Fr. Declan McNicholas

### Servers

**SATURDAY, September 21**
- 8:30 am I. Caddick, P. Olsen
- 5:30 pm D. Ayala, P. Schwemlein, E. Zabrecky
  MC ~ Vanessa

**SUNDAY, September 22**
- 6:30 am J. Saji, G. & I. Scalzo
- 8:00 am M. Slivka, D. Nahnsen, D. Kenning
  MC ~ Alyssa
- 10:00 am A. Powell, J. Rock, M. Miller
  MC ~ Emmaline
- 12:00 pm D. O’Brien, A. & D. Reynolds
  MC ~ Jacob B.

### Baptisms

**Piper Grace**
Daughter of Aaron & Jacquelyn Clark

### Rest in Peace

**Michael Anthony Bubala**

### Sacrificial Offerings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Loose</th>
<th>Automated</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 1, 2019</strong></td>
<td>$17,938.00</td>
<td>$2,764.00</td>
<td>$2,753.00</td>
<td>$98.55</td>
<td>$23,553.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 8, 2019</strong></td>
<td>$17,441.00</td>
<td>$2,731.00</td>
<td>$2,753.00</td>
<td>$76.71</td>
<td>$23,001.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Collection: **Hurricane Dorian Relief…** $8,167.00

### Mass Intentions

**SUNDAY, September 15**

**Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- 6:30 am Raymond Mueller by Lenarae Mueller
- 8:00 am Genevieve Juricic (Ann.) by Family
- 10:00 am Ed & Irma Smiley by Ed & Carolyn Smiley
- 12:00 pm For The People of the Diocese Of Gary

**MONDAY, September 16 — Sts. Cornelius & Cyprian**
- 6:30 am All Souls Day Intentions
- 8:30 am Dorothy Curtis by Marilyn Standerski

**TUESDAY, September 17 — St. Robert Bellarmine**
- 6:30 am Rosemary Balka by Michalik Family
- 8:30 am Phyllis Meyer (Ann.) by Marilyn Pajor
- 10:00 am Octavian Cretu by Holy Name Society
  (MASS AT MED-INN CHAPEL, Group 2)

**WEDNESDAY, September 18**
- 6:30 am John & Mary Pavcak by Family
- 8:30 am Anne Lennon by Pat Lennon

**THURSDAY, September 19 — St. Januarius**
- 6:30 am Liz Sanders Kocal by Lucy Perz
- 9:00 am Deceased members of Dominiak Family by Emily Conway

**FRIDAY, September 20**

**St. Andrew Taegon, Paul Hasang and Companions**
- 6:30 am Intention of Dennis Perz & Family by Lucy Perz
- 8:30 am William Hayden by Mike & Noreen Buchthal

**SATURDAY, September 21 — St. Matthew**
- 8:30 am Richard Lasky by Jim & Arlene Kender
- 5:30 pm Barbara Jarvis by Husband & Family

**SUNDAY, September 22**

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- 6:30 am For the People of the Diocese Of Gary
- 8:00 am Eugene J. Szczepaniak by Family
- 10:00 am William Dorcey McDunn by Mr. & Mrs. William K. McDunn
- 12:00 pm Patrick Quinn by Wife Lois

### Stewardship Reflection

“Everything I have is yours.” Luke 15:31

Our Heavenly Father gives us everything, including the chance to share in His eternal kingdom. Yet, like the Prodigal Son we are often lured away by the materialism of our society. Do we really want to turn our backs on all that God offers in exchange for a material wealth that has no lasting value?
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain?” In this Sunday’s Gospel, we learn the context for the forthcoming parables about the lost and found. A great mixed crowd surrounds Jesus. The religious elite are present, along with all manner of local lowlifes. The Pharisees seem a bit upset that this wasn’t the lecture series they were hoping for. Why would Jesus welcome sinners?

Jesus responds as if it’s the most obvious thing in the world. “Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep... rejoice because I have found the coin that I lost? Let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine... was lost, and has been found!” Each of the parables features a dramatic example. Of 99 sheep, one has gone astray. Of 10 coins, one has gone missing. The welcomed son has previously been a covetous scoundrel. Jesus’ point to the Pharisees is clear. If the Gospel really is “good news,” if our faith really has the power to save, why wouldn’t we want everyone drawing near? Why wouldn’t we do everything in our power to eke out that possibility for every single person, no matter where they have wandered? After all, if this is the message is not of value to everyone, why is it of value to anyone?

Our Christian faith is not a matter of rule adherence for the perfectionist elite. In our own ways, each of us is the lost sheep, the prodigal son. There is no one Jesus doesn’t go after, no one he does not run to embrace and welcome home.
ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE POLISHED

“The soul is placed in the body like a rough diamond and must be polished, or the luster of it will never appear.” ~ Daniel Defoe

Whenever I see gems, I am always amazed. I love the glitz and sparkle they give off. I do not think that a lot of people realize or appreciate what goes into the making of a gem. First of all, you have to find the thing. There is a lot of digging and mining that goes into the finding of a potential gem. Once mined, it has to be cut and polished. If cut improperly, the gem can be ruined. If cut perfectly, every facet will show.

Our souls are like those gems. We are amazingly made in God’s immortal image and likeness. As we were created, we were placed in these fragile, mortal bodies. Like that God placed in our souls a creative spark. We are rough diamonds. We are saints-in-the-making. That necessitates a bit of chipping away and a bit of polishing. It is not what we endure that matters but what we become. Let God have at us so that we can shine brilliantly not only here but in the age to come.

Think of some of the great saints that we admire. We do not admire them because of their earthiness. We do not admire them because they were sinners. We admire them because they rose above their sinfulness, allowed themselves to be polished by controversy, brutality, and whatever else the world could throw at them. In the end, they were shining examples of God’s love that could not be ignored.

Are you unhappy with your life? Do you think that you have had to endure more than others you know? Perhaps that is true. Perhaps it is true because God is polishing you up in order to allow you to be a shining example for others. Do not focus on your unhappiness or your failures. Focus, rather, upon the love and promise of God. He will not leave you alone. He will give you what you need to overcome your obstacles. Trust in Him.

We are rough diamonds. We are saints-in-the-making. That necessitates a bit of chipping away and a bit of polishing. It is not what we endure that matters but what we become. Let God have at us so that we can shine brilliantly not only here but in the age to come.

FAITH ACTION: Be thankful to God for what He is doing in your life and ask Him for the courage that you need as He completes His work on you.

FROM DEACON DAN

Dear Friends in Christ,

After four negative biopsies, in June of 2015 when I had the fifth biopsy but this time with the new technology using a prostate MRI, I was diagnosed with Stage 4 Prostate Cancer. I was treated with aggressive chemo as well as other medications to arrest the cancer. At that time in my therapy my PSA was so low it was undetectable.

Recently my PSA has started to creep up and my last bone scan showed two small spots that were not there six months ago. With this development, my stamina is less than what it was.

Not wanting to have a fall or to drop one of the vessels at the altar, I have asked Fr. Mike to relieve me of my deacon duties. I also will be starting a new medication and possibly entering a study group which would add an investigational medication. I am also starting physical therapy to help build up my stamina. I am hopeful that I am doing with my doctors, et cetera, will enable me to return to my Deacon duties. In the meantime, please pray for me.

Deacon Daniel Zurawski

THE RCIA BEGINS SOON

The last two Tuesdays of September (17th and 24th) are inquiry days for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, also known as RCIA. RCIA is a process for those who are not Roman Catholic to enter the Church. There are weekly sessions with others who are inquiring. The sessions are every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. and generally last a little over an hour.

On September 17th or September 24th (you only need to come to one of the two evenings), you are invited to come to the Parish Conference Room, enter at the Parish Office, to sign up and receive your study materials. Classes will begin in earnest on Tuesday, October 1st.

The RCIA is also appropriate for those who may have been baptized as Catholic but who were never catechized or finished their sacraments. If you have been baptized but never received your First Communion or Confirmation, you are welcome to the RCIA as well.

Those who come to the weekly sessions are received into the Church at the 8:00 p.m. Vigil Mass of Easter on April 11, 2020.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A little boy was caught swearing by his teacher. The teacher asked where he learned such language. He said it was from his father. The teacher said it was bad language and that he didn’t even know what it meant. The boy responded, “It means, ‘The car won’t start.’”

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 17: Rev. Louis J. Ratajczak (1964)
Religious Education

Religious Education Classes
We are thrilled to be off to a great start for the new school year!

September Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Parent Confirmation Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m. in the Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18/19</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/26</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

October Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16/17</td>
<td>No Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Parent First Penance/Communion Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m. in the Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/24</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Family Formation Session: 1:00-2:00 p.m.—Gym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29/30</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Saturday, September 21

5:30 pm Mass
Charely Clam & Louise Younkers

Sunday, September 22

8:00 am Mass
Kristin Ball & Linda Stefanich

10:00 am Mass
Christine Greenberg & Timothy Jevyak

12:00 Noon Mass
Cal Bellamy & Maryanne Topor

Religious Formation & Education

We’ve started a new year and continue our work, helping the parishioners of St. Thomas More grow in their faith and spirituality. All are welcome to join us for our next meeting:

Monday, September 16, 2019
7:00 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room

Gabriel Project

We will begin our new year with our first meeting

Wednesday, September 25
7:00 p.m. in the Teachers’ Lounge.

There have been many Gabriel Project “happenings” this summer and we are excited to report the birth of two new babies, too; a very happy summer, indeed!

We look forward to seeing everyone and joyfully welcome new members. As always, please pray for our moms & their babies.

Nursery Schedule

All children, infant to age 5, are welcome to join us in our parish Nursery during the Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Mass.

We are still in need of Nursery volunteers! Any teen or adult who is willing to help should contact Kaaren Mashura at (219) 836-5079 or kaarenann@aol.com. Virtus training required.

September 22: Jennifer Anderson • Kaaren Mashura
September 29: Ann, Eileen & Paul Harkenrider

Holy Name Society

All men of the parish are invited to join the Holy Name Society this fall. Enjoy being part of a dedicated, spiritual group of men who serve the parish and community.

Join us for our upcoming meetings:

Monday, September 16
7:00 p.m. in the Solar Room

The new video, “Miracles from Heaven” will debut at the September meeting. This highly acclaimed new release has been widely praised and popular.

Save the date now for October 10th Evening of Reflection with Fr. Mike.

Look for reservation form in next week’s bulletin. Seating is limited. Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to spend spiritual time with other men of our parish and our pastor.

Senior Citizens

All Senior Citizens of our parish are invited to join us for a year of fun activities, information and fellowship!

All meetings will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the Weis Center, (unless noted). Annual dues: $10 (due at your first meeting).

Wednesday, September 18
Social Gathering

Wednesday, October 2
Business Meeting with Speaker: Extension Agent Linda Curley

Wednesday, October 23
Day of Reflection
10:00 a.m. Mass in the St. Thomas More Chapel
Guest speaker: Fr. Ted Mauch
Luncheon to follow at the Weis Center. $15/person (advanced reservations) payable at meeting or by 10/16 in the Parish Office.

Lectors for the Week

Sunday, September 22
6:30 am Mass
Jim Hus & Jim Kaspar

8:00 am Mass
Kristin Ball & Linda Stefanich

10:00 am Mass
Christine Greenberg & Timothy Jevyak

12:00 Noon Mass
Cal Bellamy & Maryanne Topor

Sunday, September 22

8:00 am Mass
Main: Jim & Nancy Kaczka
Chapel: Mary Silvasi
Choir: Christi & Katie Kordeck

10:00 am Mass
Chapel: Diane Adley & Joan Mucha

12:00 Noon Mass
Chapel: Celeste Peltzer
Choir: Pat Batchelder

September Schedule

17
Parent Confirmation Meeting
7:00 p.m. in the Church

18/19
Class

25/26
Class

Sunday, September 22

6:30 am Mass
Jim Hus & Jim Kaspar

8:00 am Mass
Kristin Ball & Linda Stefanich

10:00 am Mass
Christine Greenberg & Timothy Jevyak

12:00 Noon Mass
Cal Bellamy & Maryanne Topor

Sunday, September 22

8:00 am Mass
Main: Jim & Nancy Kaczka
Chapel: Mary Silvasi
Choir: Christi & Katie Kordeck

10:00 am Mass
Chapel: Diane Adley & Joan Mucha

12:00 Noon Mass
Chapel: Celeste Peltzer
Choir: Pat Batchelder

September Schedule

17
Parent Confirmation Meeting
7:00 p.m. in the Church

18/19
Class

25/26
Class

October Schedule

2/3
Class

9/10
Class

16/17
No Class

22
Parent First Penance/Communion Meeting
7:00 p.m. in the Church

23/24
Class

27
Family Formation Session: 1:00-2:00 p.m.—Gym

September 22: Jennifer Anderson • Kaaren Mashura
September 29: Ann, Eileen & Paul Harkenrider

Holy Name Society

All men of the parish are invited to join the Holy Name Society this fall. Enjoy being part of a dedicated, spiritual group of men who serve the parish and community.

Join us for our upcoming meetings:

Monday, September 16
7:00 p.m. in the Solar Room

The new video, “Miracles from Heaven” will debut at the September meeting. This highly acclaimed new release has been widely praised and popular.

Save the date now for October 10th Evening of Reflection with Fr. Mike.

Look for reservation form in next week’s bulletin. Seating is limited. Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to spend spiritual time with other men of our parish and our pastor.

Evening of Reflection

Page 6
Thank You For Your Support

Every year, we print our annual finance report so that you can see what we have been doing with the funds with which you have entrusted us. I hope that you will feel positive about this year’s report as it reflects, I believe, another good year at St. Thomas More. As I tell you every year, we can only do what we do because of your support. We have tackled a lot of projects over the years and you have always risen to the occasion and helped us to accomplish what we have set out to do.

Last year was no exception. Our parish continues to thrive even as we make regular payments on our diocesan loan for our recent capital improvement project. You might be interested in knowing that, now that we have a solid year’s worth of data to compare, the capital improvement project is paying off for itself as we have projected. In recent analyses, we compared utility usage from last year to this and, even with an entire building being air conditioned and running new and improved servers for internet and phones, we have paid less than the same time in the prior year running less equipment. The energy savings are going to be substantial for the parish over the year.

This summer, we completed work on five classrooms. When we did the capital improvements, we were not able to address issues in the classrooms such as new ceilings and lights. We will be doing several classrooms a year for the next few years as we update.

In the long run, we will see more energy savings since the classroom renovations include lowering the ceilings and putting in LED lighting. The lighting is able to be set for occupancy so that it will turn itself off if no one is in the room. The lights can also be dimmed by the teachers to set different environments in the classrooms.

As you look at the data supplied in this report, you will notice that our contributions remain generally flat. There is a slight increase in contributions overall. Some might say that is not very significant. However, I know that many parishes are struggling with membership as well as with finances. We appear to be holding our own at a time when other parishes and dioceses find themselves struggling. That is all a credit to you.

That is not to say that we do not need to work on improving. There are many projects around the parish that still need to be accomplished as well as regular bills that need to be paid. We also need to continue working on building up our savings with the diocese that had been depleted in order to do our capital improvements. You will notice that we are now beginning to build our savings back up again and have budgeted $100,000 to go to savings next year.

I feel at times as if I am walking a tightrope. I try to keep you apprised of our financial situation and come to you a few times a year to discuss our state of affairs. Some people complain that I talk about money too much. If you look at it, I generally speak to you about finances at CSA time as well as at our annual finance report (as I am doing this weekend). I believe that you have the right to know about the state of our parish and I am proud that we are so transparent in sharing the financial report with all parishioners.

As I have stated in my talk at all the Masses, if you ever have a question about the state of finances at the parish, please make an appointment to come in and speak with me. This is, after all, your parish and you have the right to inquire if you wish.

We have had a long partnership (over sixteen years now) together and, in the process, we have accomplished so much. I am hopeful that you will continue to be generous with the parish so that we may continue the work that we are doing.

God bless you and yours for the many ways that you give of your time, talent, and treasure to our parish family!

Pope Francis

“The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love.”

Automated Giving

Please consider using the automated giving option to have your contribution drafted from your checking/savings account electronically. This helps the parish in a number of ways, including reducing fluctuations in what is received throughout the year. You will continue to receive your offering envelopes in the mail. If you like, contributions for special collections, Green Envelopes & Holy Days can be withdrawn automatically also.

To get started, go to: http://STMchurch.com/stewardship.pdf or contact Michael Gutchewsky for a form at mgutchewsky@STMChurch.com or 219-836-8610 ext. 2339.
### Revenue, Expenses & Change in Cash

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>6/30/2019 'BUDGET'</th>
<th>6/30/2019 'ACTUAL'</th>
<th>6/30/2020 'BUDGET'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundays &amp; Holydays</td>
<td>$1,534,000</td>
<td>$1,533,429</td>
<td>$1,534,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Collections &amp; CSA</td>
<td>198,700</td>
<td>130,867</td>
<td>115,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Donations</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>7,593</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival Revenue - Net</td>
<td>110,000</td>
<td>86,492</td>
<td>110,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Education &amp; Ministries</td>
<td>43,500</td>
<td>39,373</td>
<td>43,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>53,500</td>
<td>50,689</td>
<td>53,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td>$1,944,700</td>
<td>$1,848,443</td>
<td>$1,860,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>$747,000</td>
<td>$692,286</td>
<td>$759,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Collections, CSA &amp; Donations</td>
<td>178,700</td>
<td>104,702</td>
<td>94,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church &amp; Rectory Operations</td>
<td>131,500</td>
<td>115,966</td>
<td>117,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance &amp; Utilities</td>
<td>148,000</td>
<td>133,853</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Education &amp; Ministries</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>47,648</td>
<td>58,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan Assessment (Quota)</td>
<td>132,000</td>
<td>120,396</td>
<td>130,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office and Other Expense</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>71,044</td>
<td>76,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Expenses</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>63,444</td>
<td>106,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$1,572,200</td>
<td>$1,349,339</td>
<td>$1,490,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Surplus</strong></td>
<td>$372,500</td>
<td>$499,104</td>
<td>$370,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total School Revenues</strong></td>
<td>2,720,000</td>
<td>2,582,960</td>
<td>2,726,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total School Expenses</strong></td>
<td>3,090,000</td>
<td>2,885,340</td>
<td>3,096,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net School Subsidy</strong></td>
<td>-$370,000</td>
<td>-$302,380</td>
<td>-$370,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign Receipts &amp; Int. Inc.</td>
<td>595,000</td>
<td>519,480</td>
<td>572,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of Convent</td>
<td>206,788</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign, Project &amp; Int. Exp.</td>
<td>-149,000</td>
<td>-122,722</td>
<td>-107,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Capital Campaign</strong></td>
<td>$446,000</td>
<td>$603,546</td>
<td>$465,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operational less Subsidy plus Campaign</strong></td>
<td>$448,500</td>
<td>$800,270</td>
<td>$465,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds Deposited With Diocese</td>
<td>-$13,000</td>
<td>-$97,568</td>
<td>-$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan From Diocese</td>
<td>-$446,000</td>
<td>-$758,870</td>
<td>-$268,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in Current Assets</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-34,156</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in Current Liabilities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>47,086</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in Cash</td>
<td>-10,500</td>
<td>-43,238</td>
<td>-2,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning Cash Balance</strong></td>
<td>447,443</td>
<td>447,443</td>
<td>404,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ending Cash Balance</strong></td>
<td>$436,943</td>
<td>$404,205</td>
<td>$401,744</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes

Due to the generosity of our 3,025 families, our finances remain sound. The 2018-2019 fiscal year results reflect the generosity and commitment from our parish family.

Our finances are reviewed quarterly by the Finance Council and annually by the Parish Pastoral Council. Reports are sent annually to the Diocese and we undergo a biennial cash internal audit. All reports are cash basis.

Offertory collections were as budgeted and we did see a 2.6% increase over the prior year. Collection trends continue to be positive. We need your continued generosity in order to meet our budget.

The Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) processing, has changed from prior years. Starting in the spring of 2019, Diocese of Gary parishes send all CSA envelopes to the Diocese for processing. It has eliminated $82,000 in income and expense (net of zero) for St. Thomas More. In the past we deposited the receipts, then sent the Diocese a check for the deposit amount. Last year we ended $26,000 over goal. Our current year appeal has just surpassed our goal. We will be following up on CSA pledges in the next few weeks. Please make a pledge if you have not done so already.

Operating expenses were approximately $112,000 under budget. This was mainly due to the timing of changes in personnel and continued efforts to find more cost effective ways to operate.

Capital expenses were under budget. The completion of the restoration of the old church entrance did not occur until August. The expense will be reflected in the 19-20 financials.

After all expenses for the festival were paid in mid-August, the 2019 festival made almost $124,000 (net profit for the 2018 festival was $110,000.) The 2019 festival ranked 5th in profitability over the last 10 years.

As we close the 2018-2019 fiscal year, we are reminded of our many blessings at St. Thomas More. Because you give your time, talents and treasure, our parish is able to impact the lives of many.

### Contribution Statistics

- **Total number of families**: 3,025
- **Average Sunday Adult Envelope Collection**: $25,118
- **Average Number of Sunday Adult Envelopes**: 859
- **Average Sunday Envelope Donation**: $29.23
- **Average Weekly Loose Collection**: $1,892
- **Average Weekly Child Collection**: $92
- **Average Sunday Collection is Up from Last Year**: $370
- **Average Sunday Envelopes are Up from Last Year**: 25
- **Average Sunday Envelope Don. is Down from Last Year**: $45
- **Average Weekly Loose Collection is Up**: $331
- **Average Weekly Child Collection is Down from Last Year**: $18
Assets & Liabilities
As of June 30, 2019

Assets
Cash $404,205
Diocesan Deposits 509,666
Other Current Assets 76,940
Total Assets $990,811

Total Liabilities & Fund Balance
Other Current Liabilities $99,791
Diocesan Loan 263,670
Beginning Fund Balance -172,920
Operational Less Subsidy Plus Campaign 800,270
Ending Fund Balance 627,350
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance $990,811

Funds Held at the Catholic Foundation
School Endowment $1,161,405
Andeian/STM Scholarship $30,775
Helen Pukoszek Scout Scholarship $14,167

Campaign Update

What Else Can You Do?
- Please continue to make your pledge payments.
- If you have not pledged, please consider making a pledge.
- If you have completed your original pledge, consider pledging/donating again. We are short of the goal.
- Please pray for the continued success of our campaign.
- For more information or if you have questions, contact Noreen Bickel at nbickel@stm-church.com or 219-836-8610 ext. 2330.

Thank You To Everyone Who Has Pledged & Made Payments!

Faith Formation & Education
Thru June 30, 2018

St. Thomas More School 438
Religious Formation 273
RCIA 12
RCIC 12
Adult Bible Study 36
Those We Have Financially Supported During the Year

Your generosity supports the ministries at St. Thomas More Parish and other charitable organizations, listed below, through special collections and contributions made by the parish.


Thank You for Your Generosity!

St. Thomas More Parish Facilities

Weis Center
During the week, students of St. Thomas More School and the Religious Formation Program fill the classrooms and occupy our grounds. We are very excited to have the Preschool and Pre-K students in the main building with the other students. Starting with this school year, all students are in the main building.

Moving the Preschool and Pre-K students has allowed us to open and reconfigure the Weis Center for ministries and organizations to use during the day and in the evenings. We now have numerous meeting spaces that can be used simultaneously. Our campus opens at 7:00 a.m. and closes well past sunset. If you’d like to schedule a meeting for your ministry, please contact the Parish Office to reserve a room.

Main Building
Due to the age of the building and the work done during the campaign project, many areas of the main building are in need of updating.

This summer, we started updates in five classrooms. They were outfitted with new LED lights, drop ceilings, flooring, paint and still to come, window shades and furnishings. Next summer, we hope to complete the window project (with funding from the CSA overage) and update six more classrooms.

In the next few years, we will also be updating the Solar Room, Cafeteria and restrooms throughout the building.
Thanks for Your Support!

Our parish school continues to be the premier Catholic school in our area, providing students with the very best educational experience available. From current technology to exceptional educational programs and improved facilities, our students benefit every day from the financial assistance provided by our parish family. Help us continue our mission of excellence!

Apples for Education

By saving and submitting your Strack & Van Til receipts to STMS, our students will receive Apple products, science supplies, audio visual equipment and a host of other valuable items to help enhance our current programs. Please submit your receipts in a marked envelope to the School or Parish.

Chipotle Fundraiser

Dine with us at Chipotle in Munster and STMS will earn 33% of all in-store sales. Be sure to mention STMS when ordering.

Tuesday, September 24 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Brews & Bites

All are invited to NWI’s best food & brew fest, featuring samplings from favorite area restaurants and local breweries. It all happens in beautiful Wicker Park. Live music & fun!

Friday, October 4 from 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

For tickets, stop in the School of Parish Office or: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/brews-and-bites-2019-tickets-68221104159. Don’t miss it!

Amazon Smile

If you designate St. Thomas More School as your preferred organization on Amazon Smile, STMS will earn .5% of your total purchases. How easy is that?

Shop at: smile.amazon.com/ch/35-0900733.
Our mission remains steadfast: To support the less fortunate in the community by delivering food and assisting with utility payments such as NIPSCO bills, rent payments and water bills. You are the reason we can help others!

Without the generous support of our parishioners, we would not be able to do what we do. We would like to thank all of you for your generous support of our ministry!

**Items Needed for Our Pantry:**
- Pork & Beans
- Pasta Sauce
- Pancake Mix
- Canned Meats
- Syrup
- Canned Fruit
- Meal/Hamburger
- Tuna
- Helpers
- Soup
- Rice Helpers/Sides
- Cereal
- Potato Helpers/Sides
- Toilet Paper
- Frosting
- Dish Soap
- Peanut Butter • Jelly
- Bar Soap

Thank you for your generosity. To volunteer or learn more about SVDP, contact Mike Martinelli at (219) 836-8610.

**St. Vincent de Paul at Work**

Our mission remains steadfast: To support the less fortunate in the community by delivering food and assisting with utility payments such as NIPSCO bills, rent payments and water bills. You are the reason we can help others!

Without the generous support of our parishioners, we would not be able to do what we do. We would like to thank all of you for your generous support of our ministry!

**Items Needed for Our Pantry:**
- Pork & Beans
- Pasta Sauce
- Pancake Mix
- Canned Meats
- Syrup
- Canned Fruit
- Meal/Hamburger
- Tuna
- Helpers
- Soup
- Rice Helpers/Sides
- Cereal
- Potato Helpers/Sides
- Toilet Paper
- Frosting
- Dish Soap
- Peanut Butter • Jelly
- Bar Soap

Thank you for your generosity. To volunteer or learn more about SVDP, contact Mike Martinelli at (219) 836-8610.

**Friends of the Poor Walk/Run**

Consider joining us on Saturday, September 28 at Lemon Lake Park to raise funds to assist the less fortunate in our community. All funds donated through our parish will be used to directly assist those whom the St. Thomas More SVDP serves. Walker & make a personal donation, collect pledges from supporters or make a donation if you are unable to attend. Lemon Lake County Park in Crown Point on September 28. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. • Walk commences at 10:00 a.m.

You can pre-register (forms are in the Parish Office) or Sign-up after Mass this Weekend: September 14/15. You may also register online at www.fopwalk.org.

Jesus taught us to have empathy and be non-judgmental. He wanted us to care about others and help them when in need. Please consider supporting us in this mission. Thank you!

“You can’t understand someone until you’ve walked a mile in their shoes.”

**Knights Golf Outing**

Everyone is invited to the annual Msgr. Weis Council Knights of Columbus Golf Outing at beautiful, nearby Wicker Park in Highland, IN Saturday September 28, 2019

Registration at 7:30 a.m. • Tee-offs begin at 8:00 a.m. Refreshments & food to follow golfing at St. Thomas More.

$60 per Golfer: includes greens fee, cart, course food/drink tickets, prizes and meal & beverages after golf.

The event is open to all Knights, family, friends and parishioners. Join us for a day of fellowship & fun!

**Seeking Donations:**
- Items for hole prizes & gift bags.
- For more information, or to donate goods/services, contact Dave Kritzer (219) 577-5462 or dkritzer@sbcglobal.net.

**STM Career Networking Group**

80% of Jobs are Unadvertised
82% of Jobs are Found Through Networking
15% Found Want Ads
4% Create Their Own Jobs • 2% Blindly Send Resumes

**Wednesday, October 9, 2019**

7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Weis Center

**Preparing the Perfect Elevator Pitch to Attract Employers**

Presented by: Rick Riddering
Director of Leadership Development at Faith Church
Rick and wife, Susan, are owners of NorthStar360 Training & Development, LLC.

**Doubling Up On Prayer**

Our parish Synod group Faith Reignited is teaming up with the Circle of Prayer ministry to offer prayers for our parishioners in front of the Blessed Sacrament on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month in the Chapel. Send your prayer requests to STMPrayerTeam@gmail.com.

A member of the Faith Reignited team will be in the Chapel on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month and will include your requests in their Holy Hour prayers. We will also pray for the intentions that the Circle of Prayer members receive during the month.

**Fr. Declan Leads Pilgrimage**

Join Fr. Declan McNicholas as he leads young adults from the Diocese of Gary on a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi.

**May 27—June 3, 2020**

Open to all young adults, post-high school to age 35. Spaces limited. Visit: youngadultpilgrimages.com for more info.
For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com
St. Thomas More, Munster, IN  D 4C 01-0564
Please Patronize These Kind Advertisers Whose Support Makes St. Thomas More Bulletin Possible

ATTORNEYS
- Barbara Shaver, Attorney At Law (C Pg)
- Kathleen M. Walsh, Attorney (A Pg)
- Kenneth M. Wilk, Attorney At Law (A Pg)

AUTOMOTIVE
- Bosak Chrysler/Bosak Honda (D Pg)
- Govert Auto Body (A Pg)

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS / ACCOUNTING
- American Community Bank (A Pg)

FOOD AND DRINK
- Bottoms Up (C Pg)
- Calumet Bakery (C Pg)
- Ciao Bella Ristorante (C Pg)
  • I Am Popcorn (C Pg)
  • Munster Donut (A Pg)
  • Pop’s Italian Beef & Sausage (A Pg)
  • Riviera Restaurant (D Pg)
  • Subway (D Pg)
  • The Commander Family Restaurant (C Pg)
  • White Rhino (C Pg)

FUNERAL HOMES / MONUMENTS
- Burns Kish Funeral Homes Inc. (A Pg)
- Kish Funeral & Cremation Services (A Pg)

HEALTHCARE
- Companion Care Inc. (D Pg)
- Dermio Dermatology (A Pg)
- Dyer Nursing/Rehab Center (D pg)
  • Joel R. Korczak, D.D.S. (A Pg)
  • Lynn M. Karri (C Pg)
  • Northwest Home Health Care Inc. (D Pg)
  • Puntilla Orthodontics (D Pg)
  • Russell W. Pellar, M.D., F.A.C.S. (C Pg)
  • We Are Family Home Care (C Pg)
  • Orthodontic Specialists (D Pg)

HOME IMPROVEMENT
- Ace Hardware (C Pg)
- Alert Alarm, Inc. (A Pg)
- Bear Construction (D Pg)
- Calumet Windows & Doors (D Pg)
- Catholic Theological Union (D Pg)
- Centsible Heating (C Pg)
  • Cornejo Electric (D Pg)
  • Fred Doppler & Son Inc (D Pg)
  • Ganup Construction (D Pg)
  • Gatlin Plumbing (D Pg)
  • Gluth Bros. Roofing Co., Inc. (C Pg)
  • Kordell Roofing (C Pg)
  • Kraz Construction (A Pg)
  • Kusiak Roofing/Construction (D Pg)
  • No Job Too Small (C Pg)
  • Rauer Plumbing Inc. (C Pg)
  • Rick’s Appliance Service (C Pg)
  • Rogers Roofing (D Pg)
  • Sheely Tuckpointing (C Pg)
  • T&K Masonry Inc. (D Pg)
  • Vanderheide’s Glass & Mirror (C Pg)

INSURANCE
- Allstate (D Pg)
- Senior Care Insurance Service (C Pg)
- State Farm, Kevin Bednarek (C Pg)

MISCELLANEOUS
- Ferrero Movers (C Pg)
- Franciscan Ministries (A Pg)
- General Rental Center (C Pg)
- Knights of Columbus (C Pg)
  • King Nutrition (A Pg)
  • Lansing Cleaners (D Pg)
  • Lifetime Creations (A Pg)
  • Math Tutoring – Karen B. (A Pg)
  • Senator Frank Mrvan (A Pg)
  • Munster Stor-All (C Pg)
  • Stardust Bowl (C Pg)
  • Strack & Van Til (D Pg)
  • Susan’s School of Dance (A Pg)
  • Transportation-MTC-My Transportation Company LLC (C Pg)
  • Tutoring - Kaitlin Kovach (A Pg)
  • Shaklee (D Pg)

REAL ESTATE / MORTGAGE
- Capital Appraisal Co., Inc. (A Pg)
- McClosky Bennett Real Estate (A Pg)
- Patricia McCoy Realty (D Pg)
- Region Home Buyers (A Pg)
- Rose Real Estate/Carolyn Cenko (C Pg)