We are all made
in the image and
likeness of God.
We cannot change that truth and should
do all that we can to
cherish and protect
all life.
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St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church

8501 Calumet Avenue, Munster, IN 46321

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

	JJ
Pastor	. Reverend Michael J. Yadron, KCHS; Ext. 2312
	myadron@stm-church.com
Senior Deacon	Dr. Napoleon Tabion, OFS
Senior Deacon	Daniel Zurawski, KHS
Deacons	David Kapala, KHS
	Joseph Stodola, KHS
Director of Finance	Noreen Bickel; Ext. 2330
Pastoral Care Coordin	nator Deacon David Kapala, KHS; Ext. 2315
Director of Music	Angie Lorandos; Ext. 2338
Director of Religious	EducationEmily Hackett; Ext. 2232

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

Parish Office Staff

Hours: Mon-Saturday 9:00 an	n-3:00 pm (until further notice)
Email address	parish.office@stm-church.com
Email address for bulletin	bulletin@stm-church.com
Office Phone 836-8610	Office Fax
Bulletin Editor	Pam Pasyk; Ext. 2309
Daytime Receptionist	Ext. 2300
Evening Receptionist	Ext. 2300
Building Maintenance	Mike Popovich 836-8610, Ext. 2313
Custodial Supervisor	Kim Smith 836-8610, Ext. 2331

Pastoral Ministries

Environment & Art	Helen Jaworski 836-8610
Eucharistic Ministers	James Kaspar 836-8610
Hospitality/Greeters	Vicky Odegaard 322-6391
Lectors	Richard Gard 836-8610
Nursery	

2020-2021 Pastoral Council Members

Thomas Alexander	Bernadine Barrett, Co-Chairperson
Carolyn Cenko	Leslie Dernulc
Tim Jevyak, Chairperson	Jim Kaspar
	Katie Kordeck
Eric Miller	Joe Peters
Daniel Straka	

St. Thomas More School Preschool through 8th Grade

Office Hours: Monday-Friday • 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 n.m.

Office nours: wionday-1	riuay • 7:50 a.m. to 5:50 p.m.
Website	www.stm-school.com
School Phone	School Fax 836-0982
President	Noreen Bickel; Ext. 2330
Principal	Dr. Samantha Francis; Ext. 2258
School Administrative Assistant.	Jennifer Gonzalez; Ext. 2200
School Reception & Office Assoc	viateNereida Harretos; Ext. 2201
School Parent Association	Kandace Mack (708) 415-4133
School Admissions	Pam Pasyk; Ext. 2309
Director of Development	Karen Leluga; Ext. 2307
	Maria Vega; Ext. 2339

Weis Center

8635 Calumet Avenue • Munster, IN 46321 Sacramental Information

Confessions3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays..... First Friday......1/2 hour before the 6:30 a.m. Mass Parents must be registered parishioners and regularly attending at least six months before the Baptism. At least

parish at least six months before beginning the six month preparation program for marriage.

Communion calls and visits to Hospitals and Homebound: Call the Parish Office for Sacraments at hospital or at home.

New Parishioner Registration

To make it as convenient as possible for you, new parishioners may register at any time in the Parish Office. Stop in during the day, or take advantage of our convenient Saturday office hours.

St. Thomas More Religious Education

Kindergarten through 8th Grade

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday & Friday — 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Wednesday & Thursday — 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Religious Education Phone Director...... Emily Hackett; Ext. 2232 Administrative Assistant Rosemary Strimbu; Ext. 2236 Grades K through 8 • Wednesday or Thursday from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Pastoral Commissions Chairpersons

Formation/Education	Allen Blocher
Parish Life	Elaine Herrmann
Peace & Social Justice	
Spirituality & Worship	Kaaren Mashura
Stewardship	

Parish Organizations

Altar & Rosary Society	Cindy Keilman 923-9862
Boy Scouts	Sergio Sanchez (773) 412-3109
Career Networking Group	5 Jim Kaczka (219) 201-0335
	or Donna Weidenfeller (219) 688-7597
	Carolyn Cenko 741-2509
-	carolynrealtor@sbcglobal.net
Cub ScoutsI	Duane Schwemlein - <u>Stmcubpack542@gmail.com</u>
Finance	Barbara Shaver 838-9200
Gabriel Project	Marilyn Glennon 801-6586
Garden Club	Paul Mazerik 644-8409
Gifts of Love & Warmth.	Bernadine Nemeth 513-6544
Girl Scouts	Renee Whelan 796-6809
Holy Name Society	Bill Burke: sbburke3@att.net
Knights of Columbus	
	<u>10596jevyakt@prodigy.net</u> or (219) 644-8932
Oblates	Denise Gard (219)201-4103
Respect Life	Leslie Dernulc (219)741-3739
Seniors of STM	Marion Case (219)743-3543
Ushers Club	Jim Marmalejo 718-8704

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

January 23, 2022



Saturday, January 29 5:30 p.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

Sunday, January 30

6:30 a.m.Fr. Mike Yadron8:00 a.m.Fr. Mike Yadron10:00 a.m.Carmelite Father12:00 NoonCarmelite Father



Saturday, January 29

5:30 p.m. A. Hanson, K. & K. Cano MC ~ Nick

Sunday, January 30

3:00 a.m.	A. & I. Tolnai, A. Buksa/MC ~ Emma
10:00 a.m.	N. Arman, M. Miller, R. Smola/MC ~ Patrick
l 2:00 p.m.	J. O'Shea, B. & D. Reynolds/ MC ~ Jacob C.





January 15, 2022 Joshua Reeves & Madeline Boukal



Margaret M. Amatulli • Agnes Mary Ruder

Bulletin Deadlines

Please submit all articles at least 2 weeks in advance to: <u>bulletin@stm-church.com</u>.



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared..." NEHEMIAH 8:10

Ezra's instructions to the people show us that God does not forbid us from enjoying the good things in life. He wants us to be happy! However, God expects us to be grateful for all that He has given us and to generously share our blessings with those who are in need. Now here's the hard part – to share all we have without expecting anything in return.



SUNDAY, January 23 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living and Deceased
8:00 am Intention of Dennis Perz by Lucy Perz
10:00 am Amanda Jurkash (Ann.) by Jurkash Family
12:00 pm Bill O'Brien by Serrano Family

MONDAY, January 24 – *St. Francis de Sales*

6:30 am Dr. Bernadette Aghaji by Elaine C. Fechalos 8:30 am Antonio F. Serrano Sr. by Serrano Family

TUESDAY, January 25 – Conversion of St. Paul

6:30 am Donald Kopenec by Kopenec & Mc Craw Families

8:30 am Andrew Pajor by Marilyn Pajor

WEDNESDAY, January 26 – Sts Timothy & Titus 6:30 am Mary U. Jones by Altar & Rosary Society 8:30 am Mary Anhalt by Husband

THURSDAY, January 27 – St. Angela Merici

6:30 am Patricia Anne Osborn by Altar & Rosary Society9:00 am All Souls Day Intentions

FRIDAY, January 28 – St. Thomas Aquinas

6:30 am Doreen Jurkash by Jurkash Family8:30 am Anne Scepkowski (Ann.) by Micah Hamanaka

SATURDAY, January 29

8:30 am Rev. Edward S. Nowakowski by Joseph A. Nowakowski

5:30 pm Dr. Enrique Lopez III by Dr. Rosita Ngo

SUNDAY, January 30 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased

8:00 am K. D. You by Janine Slivka

10:00 am Deceased Members of Perz Family by Lucy & Dennis Perz

12:00 pm Brad Barnes by Dan & Marie Karulski

Sacrificial Offerings

January 16, 2022

 Adult
 19,136.00

 Loose
 \$ 9,940.00

 Automated
 \$ 5,114.00

 TOTAL
 \$ 34,190.00



Thank you for your generous contributions to our parish.



Automated Contributions

We pray for the safety & good health of you and your family during this holiday season and throughout the new year of 2022.

We thank you for your continued support of our parish!



Mail/Drop-Off Your Contribution: Drop off at Parish Office. Make a Payment Online: Donate online through our parish website by using PayPal/debit/credit card: <u>http://www.stm-church.com/</u>. Go to "Donate" button in "Virtual Offering" section.

Set-Up Automated Payment: Instruction/forms on parish website: <u>http://www.stm-church.com/</u>
 Questions? Contact Noreen Bickel: (219) 836-8610, #2330 <u>nbickel@stm-church.com</u>

Pray for the sick of our parish...

Joshua Alvarez Chiara Andrzejewksi Doris Aurelio Maria Aurelio Pat Batchelder Antonio Belmonte Mary Berry Michael Berry Michael Billedo Diane Bochnowski Cheryl Bostrom Linda Braun Stephany Burney Kathleen Burns Diane Butler Dorothy Campbell James Campbell Janet Cattanach Jacqueline Morrow Christian Ursula Cichy Joseph Clune Willie Colby Charlotte Conn Vincent Corsello Mike Curtain Valerie Czapkowicz Doris Dabrowski Mary Ann Daliege Matthew Daliege Sarah Dalton Alex Eiland Sherlon Evans James Fletcher Heriberto Flores Maria Flores John Forde Bonnie Gabrione Rich Gagliani Phyllis Garber Andrea Garritano Margaret Geary Emily Gibson Dorothy Gillespie Joan Glinski Monica Gonzalez Howard Gralewski Margaret Gray Susan Graff Christine Greenberg Mary Ellen Gullicks Katie Kardes Hargett Rosemarie Havran Amy Hayes Dick Hemingway Marie Henke

Elaine Herrmann Bertha Birdy Hernandez Irma Hernandez Marisol Hernandez Robert Hesek Becky Hill Marie Hill Joan Hoess Sally Joy Hollingshead Charlotte Hunt Shirley Huskey Betty Ingbretson Joseph S. Iwan Steve Izzo Elizabeth Jacob Barbara Jamrose Stanley Jayjack Kelly Jean Kevin Karl Dan Karulski Mark Kenney Irene Kerps James Klein, Sr. Janet Knight Susan Kolodziej Richard Komyatte Gregory P. Koscielski Crystal Kurek Annika LeMonier Chris LeMonier Debbie LeMonier Nicklas LeMonier Kris Lisikiewicz Jo Lisiniewicz Edward Liskiewicz Stanley Liskiewicz Maria Lovell James A. Malayter Brady Martin Paul Martin Larkin McKenzie Jacob Menclewicz Jenny Mendoza Faye Meny Sandi Merlo Erin Mever John Mitchener Ann Miskovich Andrew Moll Thomas Mordaunt Genevieve Mrvan Bernadine Nemeth Martin Nemeth Donna Nichols Maria Novak Steven Nowaczyk

Clare O'Brien Donna O'Connor Danny Ogren James Pancheri Marty Pavlovic Maianna Pazik Judith Peterson Dawn Petro Johanna Petruch Andrew Pieczyrak Elizabeth Pilones Sylvester Porras Dennis Powell Ronald Prus Timothy Ribble Jackie Roach Ann Sardella George Sauer Marie Schultz Marianne Schwartz William Schwartz Zachery Scriff James Secviar Jim Seul Renee Shehan Nick Skinner Laurie Slazyk Karen Sliwa Carolyn Smiley Deborah Stareck Georgianne Suto Florence Stevens Carol Storey Charles Svitko Rose Theis Michele Thomas Rosemary Thomas Russ Thomas Gerardo Trevino David Trotman Kathie Trudgian Anthony Ubuane Tony Vanden Heuvel Raymond Vanderbok James Wachel Kathy Wachel Marilyn (Vrabel) Warda Mark Wein Ruth Williams Annette Wisniewski Stephanie Wisniewski Bill Wisniewski Dick Wright Cecilia Ziegler Cody Ziemkowski

Readings for the Week of January 23



Sunday:	Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/1 Cor
	12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21
Monday:	2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-
•	30
Tuesday:	Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117: 1bc, 2/Mk
	16:15-18
Wednesday:	2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/
	Mk 4:1-20
Thursday:	2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-
•	14/Mk 4:21-25
Friday:	2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd
	-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34
Saturday:	2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/
-	Mk 4:35-41
Next Sunday:	Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17 [cf.
•	15ab]/1 Cor 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Human history reveals many periods where people lost a sense of God's transcendence. It may even be argued that human beings have been wandering and lost more than they have been at home and focused. Human nature being what it is, we struggle with who God really is — the God of our salvation history or the "gods" of human constructs. Relying on our own designs and pursuits, we forget that we really are meant to listen to One upon whom the Spirit of the Lord rests, Jesus Christ, and not to ourselves. That same history that reveals our fickleness and infidelity also reveals God's constancy and faithfulness. God always finds us.

As people wander and fumble to find their way, God is there bringing them back to holiness and giving them the assurance of His presence.

We have to allow God's Word, God's life, to touch us and change us. It can make us more flexible and attentive to the sacred in all facets of life so that every day is one that is holy. Every day is a time when fulfillment is possible for one's soul.

Jesus stood before those gathered in the synagogue as the fulfillment of words of promise that were echoed long ago. God doesn't forget. He always comes for us.

Now it is time to remember to go to God. Sometimes our lives are so confused and tangled that it is difficult to see the Word and hand of God. But when we realize, deep within, the depth of friendship God offers to us it really has the power to turn sadness to joy. The promise is fulfilled. Going frequently to

God's Word, allowing ourselves to be enriched and rejuvenated, and pondering the certainty of God's fidelity and promise permanently transforms us.

We will be more aware of the sacred and the holy and less invested in things that pull us away. ©LPi

The Pastor's Page

THE ULTIMATE TEST

"America you are beautiful ... and blessed ... The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless. If you want equal justice for all and true freedom and lasting peace, then America, defend life." ~ Pope John Paul II

This is a post that is going to be hard to read for many people; however, it must be said. On January 22, 1973 the Supreme Court, in a decision known as Roe V Wade, made legal the act of abortion. Many celebrated a "victory" for women and their right to choose. However, we need to take a firm, hard look at that.

Abortion is the taking of a life. Even in the law, there is a wretched double-standard regarding this. If a woman goes into an abortion clinic to terminate a pregnancy, that is well within her right, according to the law, and no mention is made of the baby whose life has been ended. However, if that woman were on her way in to have an abortion and was involved in a drive-by shooting, the perpetrator would be arrested for murder and infanticide, being charged with taking the life of the woman and of the baby.

How can the baby's life be legal and protectable under the law in one case and absolutely neglected and ignored in another case? It makes no sense.

I know that there are deeper intellectual arguments that can be made; but, I like to simplify things whenever possible. I think, in many ways, it is a matter of "out of sight, out of mind."

People do not see the baby developing in the womb so it is easier to ignore and to terminate. Once the baby is delivered, we see it for what it is and we protect and cherish it for all that it is worth. What we need to do is protect and cherish life from the very moment of conception.

I know that many people will say that I have no right to say this, that I am a man and I have no right to tell a woman what she can do with her own body. However, the woman is not doing something to her own body. She is doing something to the body of another unique individual formed and created by God. That is the shame of it all and the great moral crime.

If one life is not sacred, no life can be considered sacred. If one life is not protected, there is no reason to expect protection for any life. We are all made in the image and likeness of God. We cannot change that truth and should do all that we can to cherish and protect all life.

<u>FAITH ACTION</u>: Pray for lives that are in jeopardy because of abortion or violence of any kind.



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

January 23:Rev. Anthony A. Balczun (1977)January 25:Rev. Joseph Judnic (1958)January 29:Rev. Edward M. Boney (1971)

"It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish."



~ St. Teresa of Calcutta



COMING SOON TO A PARISH NEAR YOU!

Next week, we will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week. There is so much about our school of which we could be proud. Our administration and faculty have worked tirelessly these past couple of years to provide a stellar education in the midst of a pandemic. That alone is enough to inspire. Yet, in the midst of it all, our students continue to thrive.

Because of the pandemic, our traditional activities for Catholic Schools Week will have to be scaled back. But our enthusiasm and commitment for educating our youth remains just as high.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE Things to learn from a dog

- Never pass up an opportunity to go for a joy ride.
- Allow the experience of fresh air & the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
- When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- Take naps and stretch before rising.
- Run, romp, and play daily.
- Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.
- Be loyal.
- Never pretend to be something you are not.
- If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
- When you are happy, dance around and wag your entire body.





January Schedule

26/27 Class

February Schedule

2/3	Class
9/10	Class
16/17	Class
23/24	Class

March Schedule

2/3	No Class — Ash Wednesday
9/10	Class
16/17	Class
23/24	Class
30/31	No Class — Spring Break

April Schedule

6/7	Class
13/14	No Class — Holy Week
20/21	Class
27/28	Class

 May Schedule
 First Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m. Religious Ed and St. Thomas More School

For information, about the Religious Education Program, please contact Emily Hackett at <u>ehackett@stm-school.com</u>.

Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with your talent is your gift to God.

 "What feels best for you may not be the best for the people around you. Someone with genuine self-esteem understands that self-fulfillment is not about self-satisfaction." *Fr. J. Augustine Wetta*

- "Avoiding the Cross is the essence of the demonic. Consider the softness of the Church today: the desire to accommodate herself to the world, shrinking away from sacrifice and selfdenial." *Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen*
- "The riddles of life are more satisfying than the solutions of man." *G.K. Chesterton*
- "Lord, grant me the grace to walk with You through circumstances that make no sense to me." *Scripture Union U.S.*

If you are not a part of a Ministry at St. Thomas More Church, please consider joining and sharing with others.

Knights of Columbus

The Msgr.Weis Council #10596 of the Knights of Columbus is inviting all practicing Catholic men, 18 years and older

to our next monthly Social Meeting Tomorrow

Monday, January 24 7:30 p.m. at the Weis Center Join us for a great way to learn more about our fraternal organization, founded by the Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney



and our local Council. There will be food & refreshments, too.

Seniors of STM

Join us for fun, friendship and some great information. All meetings are at 1:00 p.m. (unless noted) St. Thomas More Weis Center 8635 Calumet Avenue • Munster, IN Please watch the bulletin for details and updates.

> Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 2nd where our speaker will address

Balance Therapy Since this is also the first meeting of the month, please remember to bring

2 items of non-perishable foods or hygiene items for the Salvation Army partnership. Donations are collected at the first meeting of each month, unless the month has just one meeting date.

Wednesday, February 16

Pizza Party 12:00 Noon to 3:00 p.m.



80% of Jobs are Unadvertised 82% of Jobs are Found Through Networking 15% Found Want Ads • 4% Create Their Job • 2% Blind resumes

> Wednesday, February 9 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

To Be Announced

Where:Weis Center — 8635 Calumet • MunsterWhen:The Second Wednesday of Every MonthEmail:STMCareerGroup@gmail.com

Regular Meetings are Free! Open to All!

For those who are *unemployed* (in transition), new to the job market, employed but changing careers or those who can offer employment opportunities through their current professional connections. Have your cover letter, resume or thank you critiqued.



REGISTRATION BEGINS: JANUARY 30, 2022

Science Olympiad is Going Strong

After a full season of altered events, the St. Thomas More School Science Olympiad Team is back in business and accomplishing so much. Competitions continue to be virtual, but that hasn't stopped the enthusiasm, learning and success of this great group of young scientists. Way to go Science O!







Join Our Wonderful Staff Full-Time Maintenance

Responsibilities include: Completing small plumbing repairs, painting, light carpentry work, changing light fixtures, ballasts, bulbs and completing small wiring jobs.

The preferred candidate will have some HVAC experience: able to change motors, belts, pumps, couplings and complete routine

filter changes, operate a plow truck for snow removal and be ready to plow snow during off hours, as needed. Must be able to operate and maintain zero turn and hand lawn mowers .

Requirements: Must have a valid driver's license, reliable transportation and auto insurance.

Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (occasional nights and weekends, as needed). Salary: Based on skill level/ experience. Health benefits and paid time off. If interested, contact Mike Popovich at mpopovich@stm-church.com or 219-836-8610 ext. 2313.

Part-Time Custodian

A perfect job for a retiree, student or someone looking for parttime evening work. Responsibilities include cleaning offices, classrooms and restrooms with occasional set-ups for church/ school events. Experience in commercial cleaning & floor machines preferred. Must be able to follow written directions and have reliable transportation w/ valid driver's license. *Hours:* Mon—Fri 5:30 to 11:00 p.m. (occasional Sundays). Apply in person at the STM Parish Office, 8501 Calumet Ave.

in Munster or email: jobopenings@stm-church.com.

Cafeteria Cashier

This person will interact with students, faculty and staff regularly to ensure that pre-selected lunch orders are verified with accuracy. STMS operates a cash-less Café; all orders are entered and verified in a web-based billing system. *Hours:* Mon —Fri 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. See below to apply.

Cafeteria Dishwasher

This person is responsible for collecting, sorting and washing dishes/trays/silverware/pots & pans utilizing a commercial dishwasher or manually washing, as needed. Would serve students/faculty/staff during lunch periods & assist with food prep with the Café team. *Hours:* Mon—Fri 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

If you are interested the Cafeteria positions, please contact Andy Power at (219) 836-9151,# 2224 or <u>apower@stm-school.com</u>

Praying For Our Parishioners



Reignited & the Circle of Prayer ministries offer prayers for our parishioners. Please send your prayer requests via email to: <u>STMPrayerTeam@gmail.com</u>. We are happy to pray for you and/or your family members. God bless our parishioners, those they care for, and our community and nation.

Snow Removal Help Needed at STM

St. Thomas More is looking for assistance with snow removal on the parish & school campus.

If you can help in any of the following capacities, please contact Mike Popovich at

mpopovich@stm-school.com or call (219) 836-8610, ext. 2313 with your name, phone and email address:

- If you have a plow truck and can help plow during snow events.
- If you know how to operate plow tuck with salt spreader
- If you can shovel walkways
- If you can run a snow blower and/or a small tractor to clean & salt walkways.

Hours vary depending on snow accumulation and time of day. Thanks in advance for your help to keep our church & school lots safe for our parishioners,

students and staff.



Altar & Rosary Society Save the Date The next Altar and Rosary Society event will be: Chili Bingo

Sunday, March 13 Watch the bulletin for details coming soon.



St. Vincent De Paul Society

The holidays have now come and gone. As the Vincentians reflect on 2021 and the holiday season, their hearts are filled with gratitude to all their fine fellow parishioners. Without their generosity, we could not have provided for as many persons needing our assistance!

In 2021, through parishioner financial donations and food pantry assistance, we were able to assist 451 households that included 1,296 individuals. The assistance was either provision of food and/or utility assistance.

Additionally, we provided 46 families with Thanksgiving baskets and 40 families with Christmas baskets! 72 children received Christmas toys and Gifts of Warmth. We are blessed with very generous parishioners who appear to understand what it means to follow in Christ's footsteps.

We would like to acknowledge the following organizations for their generous financial support:

Knights of Columbus Holy Name society Ushers Club Altar and Rosary Society

Additionally, we would like to express our gratitude to the following individuals and organizations who contributed to the success of our holiday basket distribution:

STM students and 8th grade CCD students for donation of toys STM Boy Scouts for their physical assistance distributing baskets Gifts of Love and Warmth organization for their handmade

gloves, hats and scarves

Mike Popovich for assisting with transportation of food items to be placed in baskets

Vickey Odegaard for facilitating the STMS Toy Drive and sorting the toys

STMS student volunteers who assisted with sorting and packing the toys for distribution STMS cafeteria and maintenance staff

Munster Donut for treating us to donuts while we worked to distribute baskets

This is what you call "Stewardship in Action". Thank you!



Food Pantry Requests: Soup • Pasta & Pasta Sauce Pancake Syrup • Jelly Frosting • Canned Fruit Toothpaste • Toilet Paper

Please check the expiration dates prior to donating. To learn more about SVDP, or to join this important ministry, please contact Terry at (219) 836-8610

Thank You AmazonSmile Patrons

To date, St. Thomas More School has received nearly \$3,000 in donations

thanks to the participation in the AmazonSmile program by our parishioners, school families and friends. Every time you shop on AmazonSmile,

designating St. Thomas More School as your charity of choice, STMS earns .05% of your purchase, so even

little purchases add up to be big donations for our school! In just the last three months of 2021, STMS received a check

for \$320! And it's such an easy way to support our A-rated school!

So keep up the good work and know that everyone at St.

thanks you for your efforts.



To take advantage of after-Christmas sales

and clearance, or to join now, please use this link to start ordering:smile.amazon.com/ch/35-0900733

Whether it's for necessities, or just something fun, you'll find it all on AmazonSmile.

St. Thomas More School Annual Fund Drive



If you would still like to contribute to the St. Thomas More School Annual Fund, and have not yet done so, it's not too late! Simply use this QR code to connect directly to the donation page. Thanks, in advance, for helping our school and our students!

Catholic Women's Conference

The Diocese of Gary will host the 2022 Northwest Indiana

Catholic Women's Conference

Saturday, April 2, 2022 **Bishop Noll Institute** Hammond, IN

Speakers include:

Fr. Donald Calloway • Paula Umana • Sonja Corbitt Fr. B. Thomas Celso • Fr. Andrew Summerson • Laura Ieraci

Bishop McClory will be celebrating the opening Mass. For more information and to register, please go to www.nwicatholicwomen.com.

Andrean High School

Entrance Exam:

Sunday, February 13 at 1:00 p.m. *Enter at Door A • Pick-up at 4:00 p.m.

Niner Night Wednesday, April 13 • 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Questions?

Contact Mr. Jim Nohos, Director, Enrollment Management, at 219-887-5959 ext. 260 or jnohos@andreanhs.com.



Emotions Anonymous (EA)

Free Emotional Support Group through "New Hope Road". Open to all.

Join us for this 12-step program (available to everyone age 15 +), to help with depression, anger, anxiety, grief, relationship issues and emotional disorders.

We meet Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at St. Michael Parish, 1 W. Wilhelm in Schererville in St. Patrick Hall (SW Room). For more info: (219) 308-0929.

Meals on Wheels Needs Volunteers

Meals on Wheels provides a hearty meal to many in our area who are homebound or in need of food sustenance.

If you are recently retired, have a few hours a week to volunteer, or want to give back to your community, please consider donating a bit of your time

as a Meals on Wheels volunteer. You can truly make a difference in your community. To register, or ask questions, please contact Joan Vith,

Volunteer Manager at joan@mownwi.org or call

(219) 756-3663. Make a difference today!

NORTHWEST INDIANA

Retreats at Lindenwood Retreat Center

Register online: <u>www.lindenwood.org</u>

Stillness Retreat — February 5, 2022 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (EST) Do you find yourself struggling with restlessness, busyness, or distraction after distraction? We are invited to "be still and know that I am God." Ps. 46:10

Join Sue Wilhelm and Cheri Krueckeberg for an experience in the practices that assist us in coming to inner stillness. Cost: \$45

Women Who Knew God: Urging Us Forward with Thea Bowman — February 11, 2022 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.(EST) Thea Bowman preached through everything she did. She preached the Gospel when she taught, when she sang, when she invited everyone to do their part. And most of all she preached through her joyous love. Join Arleen Peterson and Sue Wilhelm to learn how Thea is urging us forward today! Cost: \$55

Couple's Valentine Retreat — February 12, 2022 6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. (EST) (w/ optional overnight & breakfast)

What a great Valentine gift to each other! You are invited to an evening of dining, wine, and a program specifically for couples to explore ways to deepen their relationship with each other and in Christ. Extend the time if you wish to include an overnight stay and breakfast the next morning.

Cost: \$100 per couple Friday evening only. \$175 per couple with Friday evening and overnight stay and breakfast.



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

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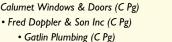
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