

# St. Thomas More Church

March 14, 2021



## Sunday, March 14, 2021

**Fourth Sunday of Lent  
(English Mass)**

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)  
(Tridentine Mass)

## Sunday, March 21, 2021

**Fifth Sunday of Lent  
(English Mass)**

Passion Sunday  
(Tridentine Mass)

## LITURGY SCHEDULE

**Weekend:** Saturday Vigil, 4:30 pm  
Sunday, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm (Tridentine)

**Weekday:** Monday-Friday, 12:00 pm  
Saturday, 8:00 am

### Reconciliation

Saturday, 4:00-4:20 pm  
Sunday, 9:30-9:50 am, 11:30-11:50 am  
Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 pm  
Also, you may request an appointment with a priest for confession.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursdays, 12:30-2:00 pm

### Devotions

First Friday, 12:00 pm Mass, followed by adoration, First Friday Prayers and the Rosary.  
First Saturday, 8:00 am Mass, followed by adoration, First Saturday Prayers and the Rosary.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays of Lent after 12:00 pm Mass.

## LATIN MASS ON EASTER SUNDAY

Please note that the Latin Mass on Easter Sunday, April 4, will be at **12:30 pm**, not at 12:00 pm. All other Sundays, the Latin Mass will be at 12:00 pm.

# The Pastor's Page

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



March 6, 2021

Dear Parishioners of St. Bede the Venerable, St. Denis, and St. Thomas More,

First, please know of my prayers for you as we continue our Lenten journey.

As Cardinal Cupich's Liaison for Renew My Church, I lead the Renew My Church (RMC) Executive Committee who reviews each grouping. The other members of the RMC Executive Committee are your regional vicar Bishop Andrew Wypych, our Vicar General Bishop Robert Casey, as well as the archdiocese's Chief Operating Officer, Chief Strategy Officer, and Superintendent of Catholic Schools. We have the great joy of meeting with each grouping to have a live discussion about the feedback emerging from your discernment.

On behalf of the RMC Executive Committee, please accept our gratitude for the hard work your Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team (GFDT) has done over the recent months. We had a rich conversation with members of the GFDT on February 10th about the feedback report submitted for your grouping. Your GFDT should be commended for their excellent discernment and feedback.

In the decision making process, Cardinal Cupich hears from two advisory groups before making a decision: the Renew My Church Commission, comprised of lay representatives from across the archdiocese, and the Presbyteral Council, an advisory group of priests Cardinal Cupich hears before making decisions that affect parish structures. Each of those groups wrestled with the relative pros and cons of the scenarios your GFDT considered in which all three parishes would form one parish (meaning one staff, one budget, one set of financial accounts) or two parishes. Based on their feedback and concerns, more time is needed to follow up on questions and concerns that remain before Cardinal Cupich makes a final decision for your grouping. **To confirm, this means there will not be a decision this month about your grouping's parish structure. The all parishioner meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, will be cancelled. We expect to resolve the questions and concerns in the coming weeks so that Cardinal Cupich will make a decision in early May.** We want to ensure the final decision addresses the full set of pastoral concerns raised by your grouping leaders, the RMC Commission, and Presbyteral Council so the future structure best serves the future needs of the local Church in your area.

We know the Lord remains with us, and we will be strengthened by keeping each other in prayer.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Jason Malave".

Rev. Jason Malave  
Cardinal's Liaison for Renew My Church

## PARISH INFORMATION

### Parish Office

2825 West 81st St., Chicago, IL 60652  
Phone 773-436-4444 - Fax 773-778-9087  
Email address: [stmrc@comcast.net](mailto:stmrc@comcast.net)  
Visit our official Facebook page at:  
St. Thomas More Chicago  
Website address:  
<http://stthomasmorecatholicchurch.org/>

### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Friday-Sunday - Closed

### Rectory

Rev. Msgr. Richard Zborowski, Pastor  
Rev. Scott Haynes, Associate Pastor

### Business Manager

Pat Lave

### Director of Music

Michel Domingue

### Coordinator of Religious Ed

Debbie Ksycki

### Registration

New parishioners should register at the parish office.

### Religious Goods Store

Open on the third weekend of the month.

## SACRAMENTS

### Visitations

Hospital or Homebound; Please contact the Parish Office at 773-436-4444 as soon as possible for Communion, Confession or Anointing of the Sick.

### Marriage

Registered and supporting members should call the parish office. A date should not be set until consulting with the Pastor.

### Baptism

Registered parishioners should contact the parish office.

### Funeral

Registered parishioners should contact the parish office.

### Bulletin

Please submit all requests for bulletin announcement on Mondays by 10:00 am.

## SUNDAY, March 14

### Fourth Sunday of Lent

- 10:00 am Thanksgiving for our Family (Ugochukwu Family)  
Arlene Burke (John Burke)  
12:00 pm Ruth Naomi Barriga (Paula Lara)  
Tony Philbin (Len & Gina Reilly)

## MONDAY, March 15

- 12:00 pm For the Intentions of Cameron, Kylie & Marissa  
For the Intentions of Franciscan Sister Servants of  
Redemptive Love (Sr. Maria-Paulina)

## TUESDAY, March 16

- 12:00 pm Special Intentions for Peggy Dwyer, her family,  
friends and E.I.K.  
Health & Blessings for Ita Maguire

## WEDNESDAY, March 17

### St. Patrick, Bishop

- 12:00 pm Kathleen H. Sheehy (Ed & Pat Demske)  
Jim & Jennie Riley & Jim Riley, Jr. (Family)

## THURSDAY, March 18

### St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

- 12:00 pm Living & Deceased of Lahart & Lustig Families  
For the Intentions of Franciscan Sister Servants of  
Redemptive Love (Sr. Maria-Paulina)

## FRIDAY, March 19

### St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 12:00 pm Patrick J. Haugh (Ed & Pat Demske)  
For the Intentions of Hazel, Luke, Justin & Jude

## SATURDAY, March 20

- 8:00 am Bob Dapkus (Pat Lave)  
For the Intentions of Franciscan Sister Servants of  
Redemptive Love (Sr. Maria-Paulina)

### (Vigil Mass)

- 4:30 pm For the Parishioners

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<http://www.purityispossible.com/>

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Suicide Prevention: 800-273-8255

Aid for Women (crisis pregnancy): 312-621-1100

Courage and EnCourage Apostolates: (203) 803-1564

<http://www.couragec.org/>

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL FOR THE SICK



Janet Abramic  
Sandy Badke  
Crispian Bofinger  
Joseph Carrabotta  
Sarah Dalton  
Diane & Jim Flaherty  
Sandra Halper

Daniel Jiminez  
Maria Jiminez  
Rebecca Jiminez  
Mike Lave  
Celeste Phifer  
Dolores Pogor  
Tricia Quasthoff

Walter Quasthoff  
Len Reilly  
Pat Sheehy  
Phyllis Spizzirri  
Mary Tadda  
Ken Watterson

*Omnipotent and eternal God, the everlasting Salvation of those who believe,  
hear us on behalf of Thy sick.*

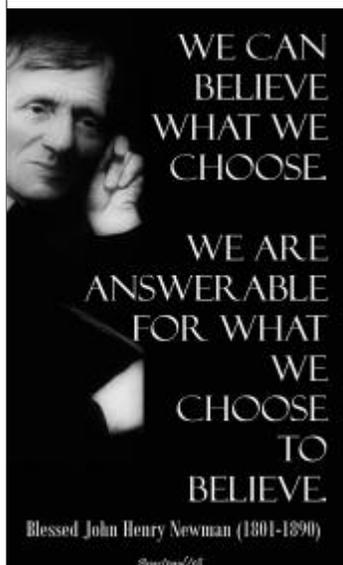
## CONFESSION

During Lent you are encouraged to make a good confession before Easter.

Year round, we hear confessions on Thursdays from 1:00-2:00 pm, on Saturdays from 4:00-4:20 pm,  
and on Sundays from 9:30-9:50 am, and from 11:30-11:50 am.

We will also offer confession on Wednesday of Holy Week (March 31) from 1:00-2:00 pm.

Note that there will be no confessions on Holy Saturday or on Easter Sunday morning.



"Christ does not force our will, He takes only what we give him. But he does not give himself entirely until he sees that we yield ourselves entirely to him"

- St. Teresa of Avila

### FOR ALL WHO SERVE IN THE MILITARY INCLUDING:



PFC Michael Chesna, Marines  
MSG Kevin Daley  
Cpl. Brian Husum  
AZ2 Marcellus J. Lane  
PVT. Andy Oziemkiewicz  
PFC. Luis Rosales  
LCPL. Xavier Rosales

**THANK YOU FOR OUR FREEDOM!**

### OUR FINANCES ~ *Your Gifts Matter*

#### SUNDAY COLLECTION

3/7/21	\$6,847.05
Debt Relief	\$1,140.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

## WHY IS YOGA INCOMPATIBLE WITH CATHOLICISM?

Fr. John Hardon, S.J.

Yoga is incompatible with Catholicism because the best known practice of Hindu spirituality is Yoga. Inner Hinduism professes pantheism, which denies that there is only one infinite Being who created the world out of nothing. This pantheistic Hinduism says to the multitude of uncultured believers who follow the ways of the gods that they will receive the reward of the gods. They will have brief tastes of heaven between successive rebirths on earth. But they will never be delivered from the wheel of existence with its illusory lives and deaths until they realize that only God exists and all else is illusion (Maya). To achieve this liberation the principal way is by means of concentration and self control (yoga).

Indian spirituality is perhaps best known by the practice of yoga, derived from the root yuj to unite or yoke, which in context means union with the Absolute. Numerous stages are distinguished in the upward progress toward the supreme end of identification: by means of knowledge with the deity; the practice of moral virtues and observance of ethical rules; bodily postures; control of internal and external senses; concentration of memory and meditation finally terminating in total absorption (samadhi), when the seer stands in his own nature.

Although the psychic element is far more important in yoga than the body, the latter is more characteristic of this method of Hindu liberation. Its purpose is to secure the best disposition of body for the purpose of meditation. The practice begins with a simple device for deep and slow breathing. Stopping the right nostril with the thumb, through the left nostril fill in air, according to capacity. Then without any interval, throw the air out through the right nostril, eject through the left, according to capacity. Practicing this three or five times at four hours of the day, before dawn, during midday, in the evening, and at midnight, in fifteen days or a month purity of the nerves is attained.

After such preliminary exercises, more complicated practices are undertaken, but not without the guidance of a professional yogin, called guru. The meditative phase begins with fixing the mind on one object, which may be anything whatsoever, the sphere of the navel, the lotus of the heart, the light of the brain, the tip of the nose, the tip of the tongue, and such like parts of the body or also God, who on Hindu terms is the only real being who exists. Gradually by sheer concentration of attention; the mind reaches a state of trance, where all mental activity stops and the consciousness rests in itself. The state of samadhi is the culmination of yoga and beyond it lies release. The life of the soul is not destroyed but is reduced to its unconscious and permanent essence.

### Acknowledgement

Hardon, John A. Ask Father Hardon. The Catholic Faith 4, no. 2 (March/April 1998): 54-55.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**RESERVATIONS** - Each week, we invite you to call the office to inform us when you are coming to Mass on Sunday.

**SANITATION** - We ask you to use hand sanitizer as you enter church and before Holy Communion. After Mass, we are grateful for the help of those willing to sanitize the pews. If you'd like to sign up to help, there is a sign-up sheet on the podium behind the last pew. As you depart, please leave the kneeler at your pew down to indicate which pews need cleaning. Again, please lower the kneeler down after Mass.

**DONATIONS** - There is a basket located near the middle of the church into which you may put your donations before you depart the church. We thank you for supporting St. Thomas More with such generosity.

**HOLY COMMUNION** - When kneeling at the communion rail, families may kneel side by side, but there must be at least six feet maintained at the communion rail between individuals or between one family and another.

## A MEDITATION FOR LAETARE SUNDAY—4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Fr. Victor Szczurek, O.Praem.

Today is traditionally called "Laetare Sunday" (Rejoice Sunday), a title taken from the opening words of the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice, Jerusalem." As you might remember, there is another day like this in the middle of Advent, called "Gaudete Sunday." "Gaudete" is another way to command someone in Latin to rejoice. So twice a year we have such a Sunday when we are commanded to rejoice. It is as if Holy Mother Church is telling us, "Stop your whining, and be of good cheer!"

Now, this year more than any other time someone might be inclined to say, "Is this some kind of cruel joke? Have you lost touch with reality?!" Far from it. The world has lost touch with reality and so is acting crazier and crazier each day, truly obsessed with the things of this world. Not only have we not lost touch with reality, we have touched, we even possess the very Creator of reality; and that is precisely why even today we can and ought to rejoice.

Remember that these words "Rejoice, Jerusalem" were spoken by the Prophet Isaiah, who lived around 700 BC and preached much about the future destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of the Israelites into Babylon. He tells God's people to rejoice because though they have sorrow, they will again come into His house when their exile is over. In so doing, he borrows the words of Psalm 121, written years earlier and used as a sort of processional hymn.

St. Paul would say these very same words to the Philippians in a letter he wrote to them in 63 AD while in prison...under the reign of Nero! And we think we got problems! And St. Paul tells us why he was rejoicing and why we should rejoice: Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice. Let your forbearance be known unto all men. The Lord is near.

"The Lord is near" to us in several ways: on a natural level through the very existence of the world of nature; on a supernatural level through His divine indwelling in our souls from the moment of Baptism; in the seven sacraments, especially Holy Mass and the Holy Eucharist; and He is present in His heavenly kingdom which we, in a certain sense, already possess in hope, as St. Paul said in his letter to the Romans: Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom we have gained access by faith into His grace in which we stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Remember that this "Laetare Sunday," this "Rejoice Sunday," has been celebrated year after year after year, century after century. After St. Paul went to his heavenly reward, good Catholics after him sang the same words in the catacombs of Rome in the 3rd century; and then while the Vandals were sacking all of Italy in the 5th century; and again in the 16th century while the Protestant reformers were closing churches and murdering priests and nuns; and again during the 18th and 19th centuries while the French revolutionaries and Masons were sending Catholics to the guillotine; and again during the 20th century when from Russia to Mexico communists and Nazis were torturing Catholics; and till this day Catholics have kept on singing this "Rejoice"!

Mother Teresa, who lived most of her life in the midst of things far worse than a flu virus, could still say amidst all her trials: We have a right to be happy and peaceful. We have been created for this—we are born to be happy—and we can only find true happiness and peace when we are in love with God—there is joy in loving God...A joyful heart is the normal result of a heart burning with love. And Bishop Fulton Sheen once said: There has never been in the history of the Church a saint who was not joyful: there have been many saints who were great sinners, like Augustine, but there have never been sad saints.

So, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, slap the devil in the face today with a good Catholic smile—not because we've "lost touch with reality," but because "the Lord is near," much nearer than you might think. To Him, our gracious and loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor. I say it again, "Rejoice!"

## MORTAL SIN VERSUS VENIAL SIN

Colin B. Donovan, STL

A serious, grave or mortal sin is the knowing and willful violation of God's law in a serious matter, for example, idolatry, adultery, murder, slander. These are all things gravely contrary to the love we owe God and, because of Him, our neighbor. As Jesus taught, when condemning even looking at a woman lustfully, sin can be both interior (choices of the will alone) or exterior (choices of the will carried into action). A man who willfully desires to fornicate, steal, murder or some other grave sin, has already seriously offended God by choosing interiorly what God has prohibited.

Mortal sin is called mortal because it is the "spiritual" death of the soul (separation from God). If we are in the state of grace it loses this supernatural life for us. If we die without repenting we will lose Him for eternity. However, by turning our hearts back to Him and receiving the Sacrament of Penance we are restored to His friendship. Catholics are not allowed to receive Communion if they have unconfessed mortal sins.

Venial sins are slight sins. They do not break our friendship with God, although they injure it. They involve disobedience of the law of God in slight (venial) matters. If we gossip and destroy a person's reputation it would be a mortal sin. However, normally gossip is about trivial matters and only venially sinful. Additionally, something that is otherwise a mortal sin (e.g. slander) may be in a particular case only a venial sin. The person may have acted without reflection or under force of habit. Thus, not fully intending the action their guilt before God is reduced.

It is always good to remember, especially those who are trying to be faithful but sometimes fall, that for mortal sin it must not only be 1) serious matter, but 2) the person must know it is serious and then 3) freely commit it. These two categories of sin are explicitly to be found in Sacred Scripture. In the Old Covenant there were sins that merited the death penalty and sins that could be expiated by an offering. This Law was a teacher that prepared the way for the faith (Gal. 3:24). In the New Covenant these material categories are replaced by spiritual ones, natural death by eternal death. There are thus daily faults for which we must daily ask forgiveness (Mt. 6:12), for even the "just man falls seven times a day" (Prov. 24:16), and mortal faults that separate the sinner from God (1 Cor. 6:9-10) for all eternity.

## WISDOM OF POPE CLEMENT XIII ON FASTING

Pope Clement XIII (1693–1769) writes of the need for Lenten fasting:

"After all, it is always necessary to subdue concupiscence, for it is written, "Do not follow behind your desires, and do not turn away from your will." Let the faithful easily turn their attention during this most holy time of year to lessening the intemperance of the body by fasting." Pope Clement XIII, *Appetente Sacro* (On the Spiritual Advantages of Fasting).

"Rather, penance also demands that we satisfy divine justice with fasting, almsgiving, prayer, and other works of the spiritual life. Every wrongdoing—be it large or small—is fittingly punished, either by the penitent or by a vengeful God. Therefore we cannot avoid God's punishment in any other way than by punishing ourselves. If this teaching is constantly implanted in the minds of the faithful, and if they drink deeply of it, there will be very little cause to fear that those who have discarded their degraded habits and washed their sins clean through sacramental confession would not want to expiate the same sins through fasting, to eliminate the concupiscence of the flesh." Pope Clement XIII, *Appetente Sacro* (On the Spiritual Advantages of Fasting).



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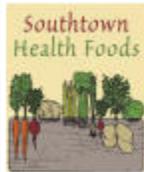


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