



ST. THOMAS MORE MISSION

February 6-7, 2022

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 6
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 13

SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil, 4:30 pm & Sunday, 10:00 am

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday, 12:00 pm & Saturday, 3:00 pm

Devotions

First Friday, 12:00 pm Mass, followed by Adoration, First Friday Prayers and the Rosary.

First Saturday, 3:00 pm Mass, followed by Adoration, Marian Devotions and the Rosary

Sacrament of Confession

Saturday, 3:30-4:20 pm

Sunday, 9:30-9:50 am

Thursdays, 12:45-2:00 pm

Also, you may request an appointment for confession.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursdays, 12:30-2:00 pm

Homily for the Fifth Sunday of Year C - Fr. Tommy Lane

Someone suggested that if Jesus had sent his twelve disciples for psychological testing this might well be the reply he would have received: Thank you for submitting the résumés of the twelve men you have picked for managerial positions in your new organization. All of them have taken our battery of tests. We have run the results through our own computer. After having arranged personality interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant, it is the opinion of our staff that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education and vocational aptitude for the enterprise. They have no team concept. Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has no qualities for leadership. The two brothers James and John place personal interest above company loyalty. Thomas shows a skeptical attitude that would tend to undermine morale. Matthew has been blacklisted by the Jerusalem Better Business Bureau. James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus, definitely have radical leanings, and registered a high score on the manic-depressive scale. One of the candidates however, shows real potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious, and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man.

That assessment of the Twelve Apostles gives hope to us because if they could go on to accomplish great things for the Lord then so also can we. We are each called by the Lord at baptism and confirmation to be his witnesses. No one can say they are not suitable. If Jesus could use the apostles with their obvious weaknesses, he can also use you to advance his kingdom. God calls you to make a difference to the world, God wants to use you in his plan for the salvation of the world. Paul, who had been a persecutor of Christians and watched Stephen being stoned to death, wrote, "I am the least of the apostles...I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am, and the grace he has given me will not be fruitless." (1 Cor 15:9-10). Will you allow God to use you in his plan for the salvation of the world? Will you make a difference? Jesus called his apostles and they weren't who we might consider to be likely candidates. Their weaknesses are so obvious as we read Scripture. But Jesus knew their hearts and their potential and knew what they could become and do for his kingdom. Jesus knows our potential and what we can do for his kingdom. Let us answer his call.

Jesus chose Peter. Peter later denied Jesus in the courtyard of the high priest (Matt 26:69-75). He wasn't faithful. He lacked the courage to take a stand in public. Also he was impetuous and would say and do things without thinking. Jesus chose Andrew, Peter's brother. In John 6:9, before the multiplication of the loaves and fish Andrew said to Jesus, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Andrew would still have much to learn about Jesus. Jesus called James and John. They were in a boat mending nets with their father Zebedee. Immediately they left everything and followed Jesus leaving their father in the boat. (Matt 4:21) But we discover later they were following Jesus for the wrong reason, they were looking for their own glory. In Ireland we have a way of saying that, they were only in it for the beer. In Mark 10:35 they ask Jesus, "Teacher we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." Jesus didn't say he would, he just asked them what they wanted. And then they made their big request, "Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left." What confidence they had. And there was the time (Luke 9:53) when the Samaritans did not welcome the visitors Jesus sent ahead and James and John said, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?" It is no wonder that they were nicknamed "Sons of Thunder." (Mark 3:17)

Jesus called Bartholomew but we know no more about him. He is mentioned as one of the Twelve but we are not told anything he said or did. (Matt 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:14; Acts 1:13) Perhaps he was a timid man of few words who struggled to overcome shyness. Jesus called Matthew (Matt 9:9). Matthew had a past, he was a tax-collector before Jesus called him. If he was like any of the other tax-collectors he would have collected a lot more in taxes from people than he returned to Rome. We can guess that Matthew would have had enemies, many of them. Jesus called Thomas. But he would only believe in the resurrection of Jesus if he could put his fingers into the wounds the nails made and put his hand into Jesus' side. (John 20:25) Thomas lacked faith. Where was Thomas on that first Easter Sunday evening? Why wasn't he with the other apostles? Jesus called Simon the Zealot. (Luke 6:15) Zealots wanted to achieve Palestinian independence from Roman occupation using military means. Simon did not know that violence achieves nothing but only encourages more violence. He would have much to learn. Jesus called Judas Iscariot. He later plotted behind Jesus' back. (Matt 26:14-15) He wanted to force Jesus to bring about his kingdom. He wanted the kingdom on his terms instead of Jesus' terms. He complained when Jesus' feet were anointed not because he wanted to give that money to the poor but so that he could steal it for himself. (John 12:4-6)

Today Jesus calls us. Like Peter we lack faith. Like Andrew we have much to learn. Like James and John we are selfish sometimes. Like Matthew we have a past. Like Thomas we doubt sometimes. Seeing that the apostles of limited competence did so much for the Church gives confidence to us. If Jesus could use them he can certainly use us. With the intercession of Jesus for us at the right hand of the Father and by our spending time in prayer with the Lord we too can grow from strength to strength and accomplish great things for God and his kingdom.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office

2825 West 81st St., Chicago, IL 60652
Phone 773-436-4444 - Fax 773-778-9087
Email address: stmrcc@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. Scott Haynes, Associate Pastor

Business Manager

Pat Lave

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.

I want to thank everyone for their prayers and concern for me. God bless all those who have brought food, sent sick cards, prayed Rosaries, arranged for Masses to be offered for me, and called to check on me. Know I am doing much better and getting rest. I look forward to seeing you soon. Fr Scott



SUNDAY, February 6

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 am For the Parishioners

MONDAY, February 7

12:00 pm Richard & Patricia Roberts (Jack Roberts)
Birthday Blessings for Mark Zempich &
For the Repose of the Holy Souls in Purgatory
(Don & Mary Tadda)
For Sarah, Amber, David & Lauren's Intentions

TUESDAY, February 8

St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin

12:00 pm Bob Dapkus (Dan Dapkus)
Mike, Anne & Marty Dwyer (Peggy Dwyer)
Pat Sheehy (Altar Guild)

WEDNESDAY, February 9

12:00 pm James Smith (Kathie & Scott White)
Kathy Gearhart (Friend)
Joseph Madziarczyk (Daughter & Family)

THURSDAY, February 10

St. Scholastica, Virgin

12:00 pm Richard & Patricia Roberts (Jack Roberts)
Kathy Riley (Family)
Repose of the Souls of Joseph, Leona, Paul, Kim &
Marianne Carrabotta & The Holy Souls in Purgatory
(Don & Mary Tadda)

FRIDAY, February 11

Our Lady of Lourdes

12:00 pm Poor Souls in Purgatory (Kevin Haney)
Healing & Blessings for Ita Maguire
Repose of the Souls of Joseph, Leona, Paul, Kim &
Marianne Carrabotta & The Holy Souls in Purgatory
(Don & Mary Tadda)

SATURDAY, February 12

BVM

3:00 pm Special Intention (Parishioner)
Birth Blessings for Josephine Hope (Lucille Jaskolski)
Healing & Blessings for Carol Ann Kurth

(Vigil Mass)

4:30 pm Bob Dapkus (Dan Dapkus)
Arlene Burke (Burke Family)
Repose of the Souls of Joseph, Leona, Paul, Kim &
Marianne Carrabotta & The Holy Souls in Purgatory
(Don & Mary Tadda)

- DePaul Center for Marriage/Family Counseling
Fr. Bob Rohrich, 212 E. Custer St., Lemont, IL
630-257-9235
- Catholic Charities:
General Number 312-655-7000
Counseling Center: 312-655-7725
- Catholictherapists.com
- <http://www.purityispossible.com/>
- Project Rachel (post-abortion healing): 888-456-4673
- Suicide Prevention: 800-273-8255
Aid for Women (crisis pregnancy): 312-621-1100

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL FOR THE SICK



Janet Abramic
Sandy Badke
Crispin Bofinger
Joseph Carrabotta
Sarah Dalton
Elaine Eberhardt
Diane & Jim Flaherty
Sandra Halper
William & Theresa Jendzio

Daniel Jiminez
Maria Jiminez
Rebecca Jiminez
John Kniecik
Cathy Lahart
Mike Lave
Kenneth Novickis
Celeste Phifer
Louis & Jeanine

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.*

THE EIGHT BEATITUDES OF MARY

1. "Hail, full of grace."
2. "Blessed art thou for thou shalt conceive in thy womb the Son of God the Most High."
3. "Blessed art thou, Virgin Mother, for 'the Holy Spirit will come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee.'"
4. "Blessed art thou for doing God's Will: 'Be it done unto me according to Thy Word.'"
5. "And blessed art thou that hast believed, because those things shall be accomplished that were spoken to thee by the Lord. "
6. "Blessed is the fruit of thy womb (Jesus)."
7. "Blessed art thou among women."
8. "Blessed art thou, for the message that was brought to thee from the Lord shall have fulfillment."

- From The "World's First Love" by Fulton Sheen



FOR ALL WHO SERVE IN THE MILITARY INCLUDING:



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

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

OUR LADY OF LOURDES & THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

Fr. Scott Haynes

I know that very many of you wear the Miraculous Medal. You may not know that it really is the medal of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, and today being the Solemnity of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception I thought you would like to know more about the medal and why it is connected with today's feast. You may know that Our Lady requested St. Catherine Labouré during an apparition to have the miraculous medal struck. This is the story.

Catherine Labouré was born on May 2nd 1806 to the Labouré family living about 200 miles south of Paris. Catherine was the third youngest of ten children. When she was nine years old her mother died. Then she turned to Mary, her heavenly Mother, for consolation. One day she was seen standing on a chair embracing the family statue and saying, "From now on you will be my mother." Some time afterwards her elder sister entered the Daughters of Charity. Catherine rose at 5am each day and walked two miles to the next village for daily morning Mass since there was no priest for their parish church. She prayed in their local church every evening.

One night she dreamt she was in a church and a strange priest was saying Mass. Still in her dream after Mass she called to a sick person and the priest was in the house. He said, "It is good to look after the sick" and he also said that though she would go away from him then she would come back to him later because God had special plans for her. Sometime later Catherine visited a convent of the Daughters of Charity, the congregation her sister had entered. On the wall of the parlor she saw a picture and realized it was the priest in her dream, St Vincent de Paul, who founded the Daughters of Charity 200 years previously.

At the age of twenty-one she asked her father's permission to enter the Daughters of Charity. He refused but relented a few years later and in January 1830 she joined the congregation. A few months after she entered she was moved to the congregation's mother house in a street called rue du Bac in Paris to begin her training. At 11.30 pm on July 18th, the eve of the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, she was wakened by a child of four or five whom she took to be her guardian angel and who led her to the convent chapel where Our Lady appeared to her at midnight. Our Lady sat on the priest's chair for two hours and invited Catherine to kneel beside her. She gave Catherine a message for herself and all the world, "Come to the foot of this altar. There graces will be poured out for all who ask for them." Our Lady told her God had a special mission for her but did not tell her what it was.

Later that year, on November 27th, she received a second apparition of Our Lady when she was praying in the convent chapel at 5.30 pm. Our Lady was standing on a globe with her foot crushing the head of a serpent and there were rays of light coming from gems on her fingers. Our Lady said, "Behold the symbol of graces that I will shower down on all who ask me for them." An oval frame surrounded Our Lady and Catherine could read this prayer in gold lettering on the oval frame, "O Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee."

Those of you who wear the miraculous medal know that this is the image on the front of the medal. The frame turned and Catherine could see a cross with a large "M" representing Mary beneath it. Beneath the cross were two hearts, one surrounded with thorns which Catherine understood to represent Jesus, and the other heart was pierced by a sword which Catherine took to represent Mary recalling the words of Simeon in the Temple to Mary that a sword of sorrow would pierce her soul (Luke 2:35). Those of you who wear the miraculous medal know that this is the image on the rear of the medal. Catherine was told to have a medal struck according to this model. Our Lady said that those who wear the medal properly blessed and repeat the prayer, "O Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee" will have great graces.



Following Our Lady's request, Catherine told no one but her spiritual director about these apparitions. He went to the archbishop of Paris who allowed the medal to be struck. Originally it was known as the medal of the Immaculate Conception but so many cures and miracles were attributed to it that it was called the Miraculous Medal. *(There is a basket of these in the entrance of church and I hope you will take some with you, for yourselves, family, friends, and those you meet).* In 1831, the year after her apparitions, Catherine was appointed to another convent. No one knew which Daughter of Charity had received these apparitions of Our Lady although Catherine was suspected because of her piety.

Continued on the next page.

In 1876 she felt her life was drawing to a close and she told the mother superior of the Daughters of Charity that she was the sister. When she died the sisters released the news that the sister who had seen Our Lady had died, and though unknown throughout her life she was now the most talked about person. At the time Our Lady appeared to Catherine in 1830, the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, although widely believed, was not a dogma required to be believed. Pope Pius IX is thought to have been influenced by the apparitions to Catherine in the rue du Bac when he decided to consult with the Church if the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady should be declared a dogma. He received overwhelming support and on December 8th 1854 declared Our Lady to have been free of sin from the moment of her conception.



Four years later in 1858 Our Lady appeared to Bernadette at Lourdes and when asked who she was she replied, "I am the Immaculate Conception." So the apparitions in the rue du Bac in 1830 and the Miraculous Medal prepared for the dogma of the Immaculate Conception to be proclaimed in 1854 and the apparition at Lourdes in 1858 confirmed it.

In 1933 as part of the canonization process St. Catherine Labouré's body was exhumed and found to be in perfect preservation and was removed to the convent in the rue du Bac where it may now be seen behind glass in the spot where she received the request from Our Lady for the medal. In 1947 Pope Pius XII declared her to be Saint Catherine Labouré and called her the 'saint of silence.' Every day we have to overcome temptation and sin. We ask Mary immaculate to help us overcome all temptation and sin in our lives. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

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WISE WORDS FROM ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

"America needs no words from me to see how your decision in Roe v. Wade has deformed a great nation. The so-called right to abortion has pitted mothers against their children and women against men. It has shown violence and discord at the heart of the most intimate human relationships. It has aggravated the derogation of the father's role in an increasingly fatherless society. It has portrayed the greatest of gifts – a



child – as a competitor, an intrusion, and an inconvenience. It has nominally accorded mothers unfettered dominion over the independent lives of their physically dependent sons and daughters. And in granting this unconscionable power, it has exposed many women to unjust and selfish demands from their husbands or other sexual partners. Human rights are not a privilege conferred by government. They are every human being's entitlement by virtue of his humanity. The right to life does not depend, and must not be declared to be contingent, on the pleasure of anyone else, not even a parent or a sovereign."

*For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary.
For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible.*



OUR LADY OF LOURDES, PRAY FOR US.

LENT IS COMING

Ash Wednesday (March 2) marks the beginning of Lent. Beginning next Sunday (February 13) we begin the three week countdown to prepare for the Church's penitential season. Before we get to Ash Wednesday, we should start asking ourselves some questions and we should start with some preparations. "What does God want to give me this year?" Perhaps attending Stations of the Cross on Fridays after 12 pm Mass, going to Confession more regularly, attending Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays, etc. We ought to slow down a bit and *listen* to our hearts. Too often, Ash Wednesday is like every other day, busy with school, work and the daily grind, except that I manage to get to church and get ashes on my forehead. Is there anything else I can do on Ash Wednesday? How will fasting and abstaining happen for me, for my family as we start our 40 days in the wilderness with Our Lord? Lent will be this wonderful season of grace for us if we give ourselves to it. And, we will give ourselves according to our personal desire for the imitation of Christ. In these weeks before Lent, we need to prepare our hearts. We need to prepare by realizing how much we want to grow in freedom, how much we need to lighten our spirits and experience some real joy, and how much some parts of our lives really need changing. Preparing our hearts is a process of preparing our desires. This means practicing our sense of anticipation. If I imagine Lent as an "ordeal" or a time I dread in some way, then I've already pre-disposed myself to not get very much out of it. It will turn into something to endure. These days before Lent are a time to start anticipating something wonderful that is about to happen.

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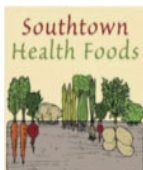
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