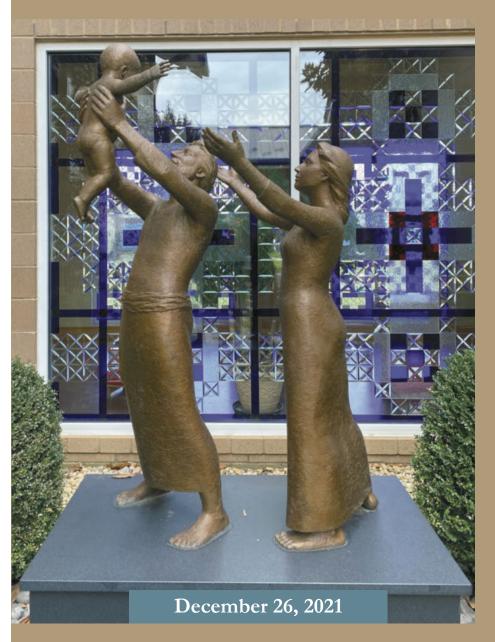
Saint Thomas More

5645 Blandville Road, Paducah, KY 42001 270-534-9000 ~ stmore.org FAX 270-534-4339





Pastoral Staff

Pastor

Rev. Brad Whistle *fr.brad@stmore.org*)

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Basilio Az Cuc (fr.basilio@stmore.org)

Deacon

Deacon Terry Larbes (deacon@stmore.org)

Director of Hispanic Ministries

Hna Yessica Vázquez Carro

(hna.yessica@stmore.org)

Parish Administrator

Steve DuPerrieu (steve@stmore.org)

Director of R.C.I.A.

Steve Shoulta (sshoulta@stmore.org)

Administrative Assistant

Jill Langston (jill@stmore.org)

Accounting

Ellen Anderson (ellen@stmore.org)

Director of Music & Sacramental Preparation

Kelly Groves (kelly@stmore.org)

Parish Pianist/Organist

Derrick Anderson (danderson@stmore.org)

Director of Stewardship & Ministries

Ashley Hayden (ashley@stmore.org)

Communications

Clayton Walker (clayton@stmore.org)

Maintenance Miguelina Young

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9:00 am—2:00 pm Please call 270-534-9000 or email the staff

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses—Saturday 5:00 pm, Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am and 1:00 pm in Spanish

Daily Masses— Monday at 6:00 pm, Tuesday at 8:00 am, Wednesday at noon at Mercy Health,

Thursday at 6:00 pm and Friday at 7:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation—Thursday at 5:30 pm in the Chapel, Saturday 4:00—4:40 pm in the Church

TENTIONS

Mass Intentions For December 25 — January 2

Saturday - 9:00 am - Living Members of the STM Altar Society

11:00 am (Spanish) — Parish Family

5:00 pm — *Greg Godec (d)*

Sunday - 9:00 am — Charlie Roof (d)

11:00 am — Jim Tidwell (d)

1:00 pm (Spanish) — Parish Family

Monday - 6:00 pm — Bob Schneider (d) Tuesday - 8:00 am — Lenore Bernstein (d)

Wednesday - 12:00 pm (Lourdes) — Bob Schneider (d)

Thursday - 6:00 pm — *Greg Godec (d)* Friday - 7:00 am — *Steve King (d)*

7:00 pm (Spanish) — Special Intention Saturday - 8:00 am — Jerry LeGrand & Peggy Stout

5:00 pm — Eleanor Crayne (d)

Sunday - 9:00 am — Bill Walker (d)

11:00 am — Special Intention—CG (d) 1:00 pm (Spanish) — Parish Family

Ministry Schedule for January 1/2			
	5:00 pm	9:00 am	11:00 am
Sacristan	Ed Puschaver	Rafael Velasquez	Michelle Dunlap
Lector	Chris Shockley Amy Sullivan	Missy Eckenberg Kurt Averill	Marianna Romero Darrell Sharp
Eucharistic Minister	Melanie Patel Terry Sullivan Craig Willett Kathy Willett	Rick Goins Beth Haas Ron Shoulta Rose Ann Walker	John Roof Richard Vieitez Beth Walker Steve Walker
Usher	Chris Miller Holly Miller Greg Stevens Volunteer Needed	Ray Lane Brandon Quigley Kellie Quigley Volunteer Needed	Jeri Duong Jack Resser Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021

Regular Collection \$ 17,718.79
Online Collections \$ 14,693.50
Special Collections \$ 570.00
Tornado Relief \$ 18,189.90
Total Collection \$ 51,172.19

Thank you for your generosity!

Did you know you can sign up for Online giving through the Saint Thomas More website (www.stmore.org)? Just click the "online giving" tab (the last option on the right under the stained glass windows) and scroll down to click on the "WeShare Online Giving" button. Questions? Contact Ellen Anderson at 270-534-9000 or ellen@stmore.org.

Hour of Prayer (December 27 — January 1)

Monday: Al & Mary McKeown Tuesday: Bridget Medley

Wednesday: Nancy Burch, Missy Sullivan

Thursday: Ray & Amy Lane Friday: Nancy Sturgis Saturday: Helen Farrell



A Message from Fr. Brad Whistle

Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas More,



Merry Christmas to all. This is my seventh Christmas at STM and I am so happy and feel very fortunate to be here. Fr. Basilio and I wish to thank you for

your many acts of kindness and generosity shown to us at this special time of the year. Also, for all the goodies and treats that were brought to the office. All are greatly appreciated. Thank you so much.

I welcome all to STM as we celebrate Christmas and today's feast of the Holy Family. There will be some here this weekend that may not have been to church since the pandemic of covid. That may be as long as two years. Others I have observed started returning to church the first Sunday of Advent. Others, perhaps who only come to church maybe at Christmas and/or Easter. Then there are some who are not catholic but want to be with their family at this special time of Christmas. Again, I say to all, WELCOME! I pray that the peace and joy of this Christmas season will be a tremendous blessing to you and your family.

You might consider a weekday Mass this week. The Church, in its wisdom, I think puts the reality of this Christmas season in perspective in feast days that we celebrate in the days after Christmas. If today was not a Sunday we would be celebrating the feast of St. Stephen, the first Martyr in the Church. Tomorrow we celebrate the feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist. Tuesday is the feast of the Holy Innocents, those young children who were martyred at the hands of King Herod. Then on Wednesday is the feast of St. Thomas Beckett who was martyred by the order of King Henry II in 1170. These feast days speak to us about the very reason Jesus was born into our world. So there can be a Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Thank you. Merry Christmas everyone. God's blessing to all.

Fr. Brad

Christmas and New Year's Schedule

Dec 25 Christmas

9:00 am Christmas Mass (English) 11:00 am Christmas Mass (Spanish)

5:00 pm Sunday Vigil Mass

Dec 26 The Holy Family

9:00 am Mass 11:00 am Mass

1:00 pm Mass (Spanish)

Dec 31 Solemnity of Mary Vigil

7:00 pm Mass (Spanish)

Jan 1 Solemnity of Mary

8:00 am Mass 5:00 pm Mass

Jan 2 The Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 am Mass 11:00 am Mass

1:00 pm Mass (Spanish)





Have questions about the Catholic Church?

Sessions every Thursday
6:45 PM in the Parish Hall.

This week - The Domestic Church
New inquirers welcome at any time.

For more information contact

Steve Shoulta, sshoulta@stmore.org



Adoration During Christmas & New Year's

The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed from 6:00 pm Thursday, December 23 until 8:00 am Monday, December 27. It will be reposed again from 6:00 pm Thursday, December 30 until 8:00 am Monday, January 3. Please contact your Adoration



Day Leader or Ashley Hayden, <u>Ashley@stmore.org</u> if you have any questions! Thank you for your time and commitment to prayer!

Parish Office Closed



The Parish Office will be closed on **Friday, December 24, Monday, December 27 and Friday, December 31** in observance of Christmas and New Year's. We will reopen Monday morning, January 3 at 9:00 am.

Mass on January 3

Join us for Mass and the Anointing of the Sick on **Monday, January 3** at 6:00 pm in the Chapel. We will continue this on the first Monday of each month.



Men's Prayer Breakfast



The next men's prayer breakfast will be **Saturday, January 8th at 7:30 am.** Come join us in the Parish Hall for breakfast and conversation. A program will be planned but the hope is that we will spend the majority of the time in fellowship with each other. For more information contact

Terry Sullivan at 270-519-1614.

Spiritual Direction

Have you ever wondered exactly what Spiritual Direction is and why someone would seek out a Spiritual Director? Spiritual direction is the Art of Christian listening, a sacred relationship in which a director helps someone to uncover and discover the direction of God in their lives. **Sister Betty Drewes** is a Benedictine Nun from Ferdinand, IN who comes to Saint Thomas More Catholic Church once a month to provide spiritual direction. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please email her at bdrewes@thedome.org or call 812-367-1411, ext. 2843. She will be at Saint Thomas More **January 3-6.**



ALL IN THE FAMILY

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother

in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

I HAVE BEEN AWAY FROM THE CHURCH FOR A FEW YEARS AND REALLY WANT TO GET ACTIVE AGAIN, NOT SO MUCH FOR ME, BUT FOR MY CHILDREN. IS THIS A BAD REASON TO COME BACK TO CHURCH?

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your

usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith.

Regardless of how we get to Church, or

what draws us closer to God, the fact is

But God's grace comes to us in ways we

we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.



SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD."

(1 Sm 1:27-28)

PSALM:

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)

SECOND READING:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)

GOSPEL:

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:46)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass @2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021

Sunday: The Holy Family

Monday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist Tuesday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

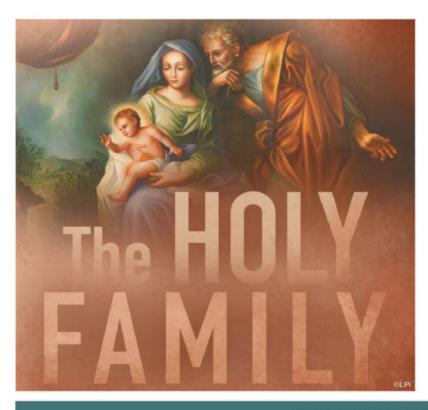
Wednesday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr Friday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve

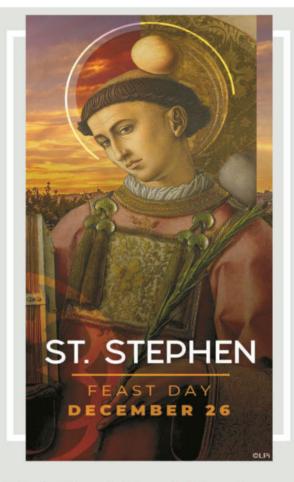
Saturday: New Year's Day; Mary, The Holy Mother of God;

World Day of Peace

Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and

Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church





Saint of the Week

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.





WESHARE DONOR MATCH PROGRAM

The holiday season is one of the largest giving seasons for our church. Our online giving provider WeShare is generously providing a donor match program to help us increase recurring giving. Online gifts help reduce costs and the time spent handling other forms of payment.

For every first gift from a new recurring donor that is added between **November 1** and **December 31, 2021**, WeShare will match that first gift, up to \$50, with a maximum match of \$1,000 for our church. To be eligible for the matching gift, more than one installment must be set-up and the first recurring gift must be transacted by December 31, 2021.

We appreciate your generosity and your support of our church. We prayerfully ask that you consider helping us meet this goal by creating your recurring online gift today.

Please contact Ellen Anderson at ellen@stmore.org or 270-534-9000, ext. 213. Our WeShare website can be found below:

https://stmore.weshareonline.org/



Pastoral Council

Dr. Jeff Case (Chair) Lynn Baker Naomi Becker
Tom Clinton Jeri Duong Joe Hobbs
David Leis Daniel Miller David Riley
Julie Turok Richard Vieitez Miguelina Young
Rick Goins (Alternate)

If you have questions or concerns for any member of the Parish Council please contact the Parish Office at 270-534-9000.

Special Care Numbers

St. Mary School System 270-442-1681 **Faith Formation** paducahfaithformation@smss.org Mt. Carmel Cemetery 270-534-5593 Please leave a message or (John Bufford) 270-331-1006 for plot mapping, availability, certificates of Rights of Burial or burial services Hope Unlimited 270-442-1166 Merryman House 270-443-6001 Inclusion Representative 270-210-0351 (Stacy Jones) Opportunities for Life 800-822-5824 Behavioral Management 270-442-2223 **SVdP Budget Store** 270-442-9351

270-575-1008

SVdP Assistance

Paducah Cooperative Ministry 270-442-6795

BIRTHDAYS

Saturday, December 25

Salvador Bartolo, Grayson Bicking, Luis Perez, Quang Pham

Sunday, December 26

Molly Johnson, Joseph Mayo, Luis Romero Sanchez, Robert Schoensiegel

Monday, December 27

Kendal DePriest, Emmanuel Gembe, Jean Merges, Dayana Rodriguez, Marie Wade

Tuesday, December 28

Michael Crider, Allyssa Drake, Jack Muiter, Lily Shoulta

Wednesday, December 29

Faith Barber, Emilio Bautista, Hannah Cerda Diaz, Kip Denkins, Sydney Groves, Aimee Gruber, Daniel Stovesand, Samuel York

Thursday, December 30

Hugo Cerda, Hernan Cortes, Columba Gomez, Maria Haley, Mike Jones, Robert Turok, Brenden Wielgos, Natalie Wielgos

Friday, December 31

William Babbs, Sr. Lucy Bonifas, August Comer, Jack Elliott, Gale Hatton, Bob Lang, Rosabel Manalo, George McMinn, Madelyn Pobst, Riley Richison, Annalise Sanderson, Camilla Shumaker, Cecilia Toren

Saturday, January 1

Hilda Brewer, Mary Cecilia Chappell, Rita Hemmerich, Christian Miller, Sandra Soto

Sunday, January 2

David Fraser, Perrie Halverson, Avery McCoy

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, December 25

No Anniversaries

Sunday, December 26

Melchor & Yadira Lemus 13 years

Monday, December 27

James & Priscilla Hollowell 54 years

Tuesday, December 28

Salvador & Blanca Bartolo22 yearsGerald & Mary Beth Lea47 yearsAlfredo & Nora Nava2 yearsKevin & Angie Shannon30 yearsWesley & Sonia Yewell8 years

Wednesday, December 29

No Anniversaries

Thursday, December 30

Hector & Carol Carrillo5 yearsGlenn & Kay Puertollano21 years

Friday, December 31No Anniversaries

Saturday, January 1No Anniversaries

Sunday, January 2

Shiraz & Melanie Patel 23 years

Remember in Prayer...

Jeanne Abell Mary Jane Albert Mark Anderson Mary Gertrude Barkett Jennifer Dickey Chris Bell Kurt Bell Leslie Bigham Allyssa Hall Binkley **Bob Bouldin** Carol Bouldin **Emma Bourgois** Jane Brown Lisa Buchanan Jeannie Buckland Judy Bufford Velma Bohle-Carlton Sharon Brumlow **Corey Carnes Rhonda Chambers Bobby Condit Christy Condit Opal Cooper** Carol Crane Celine Crane

Carlene Dannenmueller John Davis Teresa Davis Pat Dotson Ann Driver **Emily Dulworth Bob Dunlap Betty Falconite** Clete Felts Bill Ford Kerry Frazier Rose Freiseis Chris Green Jana Green Carol Harper Cheryl Harrison Diane Hayden Rose Hayden

Ann Heavrin

Connie Herrmann

Kristyn Hobbs Mollie Huber Terrie Hummes Tanya Jones Terry Jones, Jr. Sr. Kateri Kaufman David Kimble Frances Kirchhoff Ron Kupper **Buzz LaGesse** Justin Lamb Sam Leone Golda Manning Cody Marshall Stacey Marshall Mary Margaret Mattingly Anna McAlister Ken Merges Alice Miller Janet Montgomery Steve Montgomery **Thomas Montgomery**

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Nancy Stearns Terry Joe Taylor George Thompson Tony Toren Leigh Ann Turner M Bernadette Villamor Kelly Curtis Walker Vanessa Walsh Ann Watkins Robin Webb Amelia Wilson Bobbi Wilson Hannah Wilson Linda Wilson Jerry Wurth

Prayer for our Military

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. We ask this in the name of Jesus. our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Brian Clayton, Cameron Grueninger, Timothy Lowman, Nathan Phipps, Michael Renfro, Corey Spates, Brandon Trevathan, Hannah Wilson-Spates, Collin W. Travis







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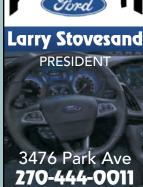
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~ Ken Hunt - Parishioner ~



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