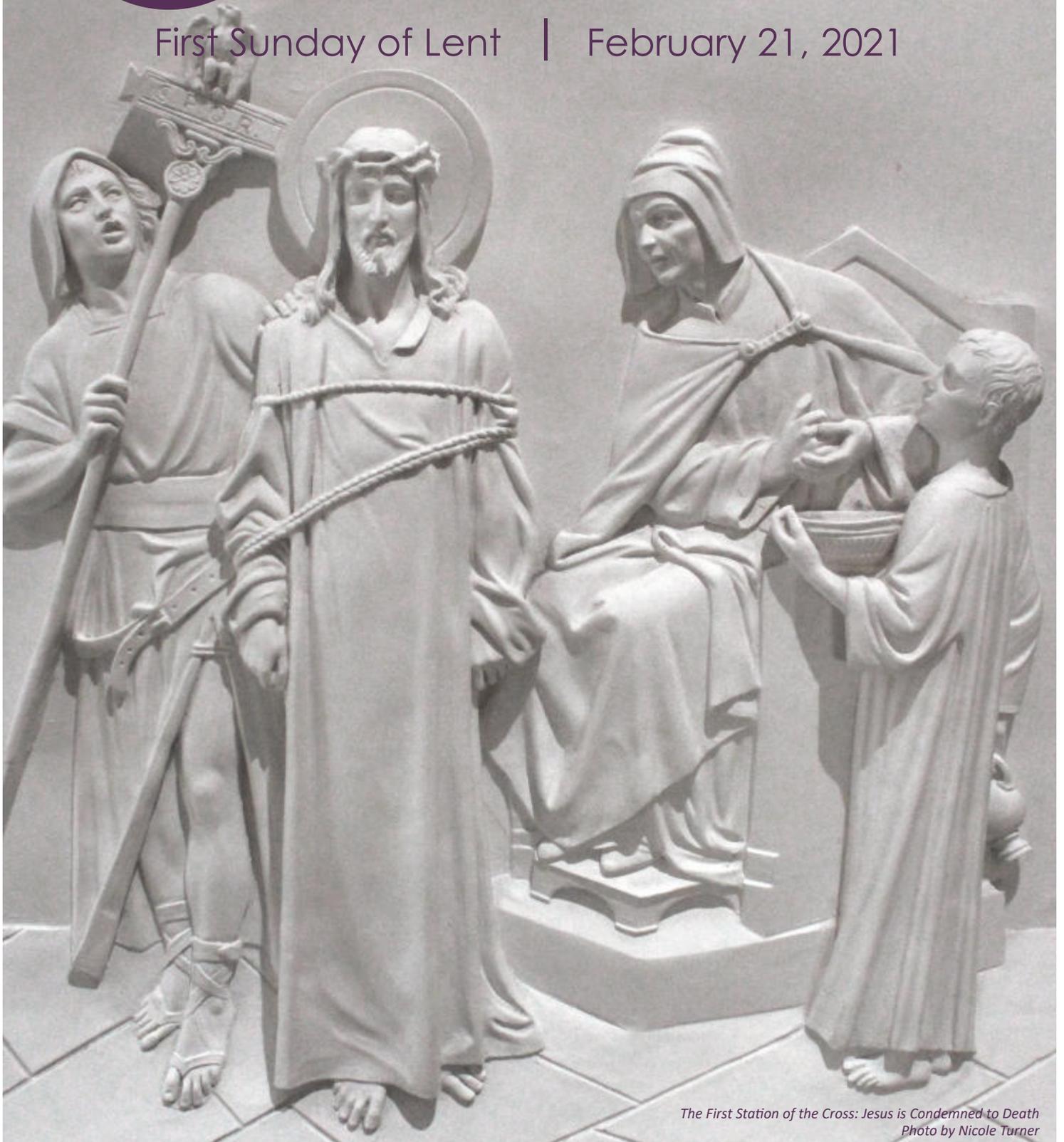




St. Thomas More Catholic Parish & School

First Sunday of Lent | February 21, 2021



*The First Station of the Cross: Jesus is Condemned to Death
Photo by Nicole Turner*

pastor's note



It is always a special blessing to have a Mass offered for you. We celebrate Masses for people, both living and the dead every day. And on this Sunday we had the grace of having a Mass offered for the faith community of St. Thomas More Parish. It was offered by St. Joseph Parish on Sixth Avenue in Denver. They had asked for assistance from us this past year when they had a major financial challenge due to the breakdown of their heating system and thanks to funds allocated them by our Stewardship Committee they were able to move forward with making necessary repairs. As a thank you, they offered the Mass this morning for us all.

We are always receiving statements of appreciation from those who are assisted by the Stewardship Fund which is made possible by the tithing we do as a parish on all the regular offertory. So, your generosity has once again brought peace and gratitude to others whom you might never encounter, but I wanted you to know that you are remembered in their Mass this morning. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

This past Ash Wednesday you heard that Archbishop Aquila is asking all in the Archdiocese to undertake three specific efforts this Lenten season. First, we are encouraged to prayerfully read through all four of the Gospels in an effort to, in his words, rediscover the "Lens of the Gospel." As well, he encourages all to take advantage of *The Search*, the weekly program we have been promoting these past few weeks for your Lenten journey (see page 6 for details).

Secondly, recognizing the importance and benefit from the ancient practices of prayer and fasting, we are to commit ourselves to it with earnest sincerity throughout the season, not just on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In fact, you will notice at every Mass this season a new prayer to the Holy Spirit that we will be offering at the end of the prayers of the faithful. Similarly, we are asked to join in a 54 day Rosary novena that will run through Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11.

And thirdly, we are to examine and assure that our personal consciences are formed not by the many voices and influences of the world that surrounds us, but by our God. Again, in his words we are to work to "subordinate my thoughts, words, actions and, yes, my entire life to Jesus Christ and to the Father." We are to be helping create a sense of supernatural unity and work to overcome and dispel the division that is all too often present in our world and is obviously the work of Satan.

You can read his pastoral note by going onto the Archdiocesan Website. You will also find a link to it on ours. Please take time to read it several times this Lent and use it as a guide for making this season grace-filled and beneficial for the whole Church of Denver. And may God bless us in our Lenten journey.

– Msgr. Tom



Welcome to St. Thomas More!

Go and make disciples

8035 S Quebec St | Centennial, Colorado 80112
303.770.1155 | stthomasmore.org

Clergy

Pastor: Msgr. Thomas Fryar

Parochial Vicars: Rev. John Ludanha, Rev. Rohan Miranda, O.C.D.,
Rev. Ivan Monteiro, O.C.D.

Deacons: Dcn. George Morin, Dcn. Alan Rastrelli, M.D.,
Dcn. David Simonton, Dcn. Steve Stemper
Dcn. George Brown (retired), Dcn. Bob Cropp (retired)
Dcn. Tim Walsh (retired)

Parish Office

303.770.1155 | Hours: Monday–Friday: 8:00AM–5:00PM

Sunday Masses: Saturday (Anticipatory): 4:00 & 5:30PM
Sunday: 7:00, 8:30 & 10:30AM (live streamed); 12:30PM, 5:30PM

Daily Masses: Monday–Friday: 6:30 (live streamed) & 9:00AM.
Saturday: 7:30AM (live streamed)

Confessions: Thursday: 6:30PM & Saturday: 8:30AM. Or contact the parish office for an appointment.

Holy Hour for Vocations: Thursday: 6:30–7:30PM

Perpetual Adoration: 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration in the Adoration Chapel. Contact: adoration@stthomasmore.org.

Sacrament of Baptism: For baptisms, contact Kevin Kasel at kevink@stthomasmore.org no less than one month prior to the baptism ceremony. Visit stthomasmore.org for more information.

Sacrament of Matrimony: For weddings, contact Connie Wood at conniew@stthomasmore.org no less than eight months prior to the wedding for marriage preparation information.

Sacrament of the Sick: Contact the parish office at onset of illness. In case of death in the family, contact the parish office immediately at 303.770.1155.

For sacramental emergencies when the parish office is closed, call 303.370.0242.

a reflection on today's readings



Grow as a Disciple

Even amid the forced slowdown of a pandemic, distractions abound: Netflix bingeing, online shopping, even positive pursuits like home organizing and personal fitness. I confess I indulge in all of these (except for home organizing). Lent challenges me to let go of the unnecessary distractions and dare to make friends with solitude, which can be a daunting proposition because it means keeping company with my own thoughts.

Jesus, our human and divine Savior, faced the desert and was tempted by Satan. But He also emerged from the desert, and announced Himself and the Gospel to the people of Galilee. He goes on to accept His death on a cross for the sake of our salvation, the fulfillment of the covenant between God and His people.

As we enter Lent, as we enter our desert, we pray for the fortitude to forego temptation, opening our hearts to God's will for us, and ready to proclaim it to the world.

Go Evangelize

What are you doing for Lent this year? I ask our kids that every Ash Wednesday around the dinner table, and one or more of us often scramble for a plan. "Umm ... candy! I'll give up candy except Snickers." "No Netflix!" Or we take the "do good" route: "I'll pray more." "I'll help with chores." "I'll volunteer or donate to charity." All good things.

Whatever "the plan," however, today's Gospel challenges me to be quiet and listen. While a plan gives us accountability and can lead to growth, sometimes less truly can be more. This year, I'd like to spend less time planning and more time listening for God's voice in the silence, which I find personally challenging. For others, the desert may look quite different. However we decide to approach Lent, let us pray that these 40 days bring us closer to God and our lives more in line with his will for us.

Pray

"One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." The verse before today's Gospel caught my attention. What can I pare away from my daily life to make room for the word of God? For those of us whose minds tend to wander when praying silently, perhaps listening to the daily readings can be a good way to start or end the day.

– Written by *The Faithful Disciple*

first sunday of lent

Pontius Pilate

By Fr. Luke Fong

A point of reflection relating to Christ before Pilate is where ultimate power in life lies. There is a classic face-off in John's account of the Passion that takes place in the Praetorium, which was the Roman procurator's judicial court. Here, the two powers meet – one Divine, and one earthly. One was bound and led, while the other was free, or so it seemed. Their dialogue comes to a climax when the element of truth is addressed. When Jesus makes a reference to truth, Pilate's reaction is telling. He asks "what is truth?" revealing that for all his authority and position that his status seems to give him, truth had still eluded him.

If one doesn't have God in one's life, one can surround oneself with power and riches, but they will mean nothing if one is not living with truth and honesty. Every Easter Sunday at Mass, we are invited to renew our baptismal promises, and we are asked by the celebrant "Do you renounce Satan and all his empty show?" Indeed, the Father of Lies has a show going on, and it is empty. He is called "the Deceiver" for the fact that his promises of what gives happiness, what delights and what thrills is only at the level of a façade and their apparent beauty merely cosmetic. Truth, however, will always be deep and abiding.

We find ourselves in the position of Pilate frequently, especially when we know in our hearts that we could have stood taller for justice and when truth was easily bought for a price. Understandably, standing for truth has its price, and sometimes it is paid in the form of being unpopular. However, there is no price that can be put on a good night's sleep that results from a conscience that is pure. Blessed indeed are the pure in heart, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The season of Lent that we are in invites us to look deeply in our hearts and to purify our inner disposition as disciples of Christ. Pilate was coldly indifferent in the face of injustice and cruelty. We too may find it easy to be indifferent in the face of injustice that comes in different forms, and we too may be washing our hands with too much ease. Could we have shades of Pilate's personality manifested in our lives that we may have been blinded to?

Fr. Luke Fong is a Catholic priest in the Archdiocese of Singapore. He blogs regularly at Reflections & Ruminations.

Lent Schedule at a Glance

Stations of the Cross
Each Friday during Lent at 3:30PM & 7:00PM

To-Go Fish Fry
Each Friday during Lent from 4:00PM to 7:00PM
Please enter the Church parking lot from Otero.

Our Regular Weekday Schedule

Daily Masses: Monday–Friday: 6:30AM (live streamed) & 9:00AM, Saturday: 7:30AM (live streamed)

Confessions: Thursday: 6:30PM & Saturday: 8:30AM

Holy Hour for Vocations:
Thursdays: 6:30–7:30PM

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in our Adoration Chapel

Perpetual Adoration



"But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place." –Luke 21:36

Please consider adding an hour of adoration to your Lenten journey this year.

We especially need weekly and substitute hourly adorers from 12:00AM to 4:00AM.

Visit our website: <https://centennial.weadorehim.com> to see the schedule and sign-up. Please call 303.220.3392 with questions. Thank you!

Stations of the Cross



Come walk with the Lord through the Way of the Cross as we remember and meditate on His Passion on Lenten Friday afternoons and evenings.

Fridays of Lent, February 19 – March 26: 3:30PM & 7:00PM (livestreamed) in the church.

Friday Fish Fry Dinners



Fridays from now through **Friday, March 26** from 4:00 to 7:00PM

Take out dinner only. Adult dinners include either salmon or fried cod with potatoes, coleslaw, roll & butter – \$13.00. Children dinners

include popcorn shrimp, mac & cheese, fruit cup and a cookie – \$5.00

Please enter the Church parking lot from Otero to order and pick up your dinner. Check or credit card only.

The Lenten Fish Fry dinners are sponsored by our Knights of Columbus Council 10205.

faith



What is the RCIA Rite of Sending?



Across the entire world, Catholic bishops on this first Sunday of Lent will welcome those sent by the parish to gather together with their godparents and sponsors in what is known as the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion.

The Rite of Sending, ordinarily held earlier on the same day, offers the parish community an opportunity to acknowledge the spiritual progress the catechumens and candidates have made, express approval of their election or recognition and send them forth to our bishop with assurance of the parish's care and support.

To send a catechumen or candidate to the bishop means that a parish has discerned that the person is ready to enter the Catholic Church. In Sacred Scripture, the Book of Revelation makes reference to a "Book of Life," in which are written the names of those who have chosen to follow the Lord Jesus and be baptized.

Those who are already baptized, as Catholics or in other denominations, had our names written in the Book of Life at our Baptism. In this Rite, those preparing for Baptism are invited to come forward and sign a book, which we call the "Book of the Elect," as a sign of their desire to be numbered among the chosen of God. This beautiful rite will take place at the 8:30AM Mass on this First Sunday of Lent.

Lent App Features

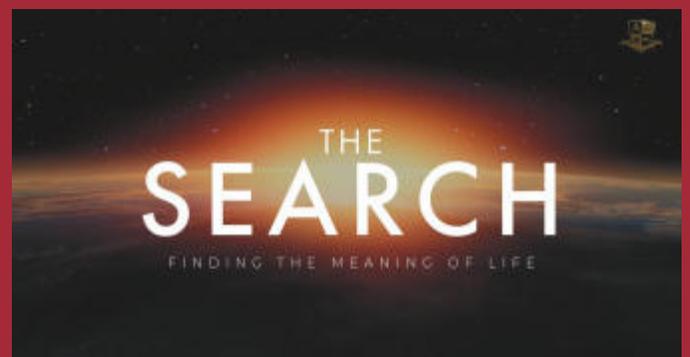
Information and reflections at your fingertips.



Enrich your Lenten journey! During the holy season of Lent, grow closer to our Lord through spiritual encouragement and inspiration. Our parish app has a new button for easy access to daily reflections and more!

Download it today and be inspired! For the app download link, text APP to 88202. Or, search for "myParish – Catholic Life" in your app store.

Once you download the app, follow the welcome screens to look up and select St. Thomas More Parish.



What are you looking for? Lent 2021 at STM

This question lies in the heart of every human. We are all searching for the meaning and purpose in this life.

Join us on *The Search*, a seven-week spiritual experience during Lent. We have several opportunities on our STM campus each week.

Mondays and Fridays after the 9:00AM Mass
Tuesdays and Fridays after the 6:30AM Mass
Tuesdays at 1:00PM
Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:00PM

Select one and share the journey.
All meetings will be held in McCallin Hall.

Or, if you prefer, organize your own in person or online small group to watch and discuss *The Search*!

To arrange for materials, please contact Sandra Schwab at sandras@stthomasmore.org

The Search is available on FORMED;
formed.org, parish code 38a7b.

Visit stthomasmore.org/thesearch to signup or for more details on how you can participate. Contact Sandra Schwab for materials and help with your group, 303.221.9235 or sandras@stthomasmore.org.



prayer



This Week's Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 21:

First Sunday of Lent
 7:00AM Celia Yap-Banago
 8:30AM Porfirio A. Rodriguez †
 10:30AM Mass for the People of St. Thomas More
 12:30PM Doug Hannasch †
 5:30PM Charles & Denise Jeske †

Monday, February 22:

6:30AM Jean Ann Giesige †
 9:00AM Kasper Jahner †

Tuesday, February 23:

6:30AM Jo Elder †
 9:00AM Patsy Lopez †

Wednesday, February 24:

6:30AM Dcn. Ron Ansay †
 9:00AM Allan Steink †

Thursday, February 25:

6:30AM Col. Joseph A. Kuhn †
 9:00AM Stanley Cangero †

Friday, February 26:

6:30AM Hilbert Ripper †
 9:00AM Fr. Ted Hesburgh †

Saturday, February 27:

7:30AM Gracie Chappa †
 4:00PM Charles Baird †
 5:30PM Cale Woodley †

Sunday, February 28:

Second Sunday of Lent
 7:00AM Dave Kessenich †
 8:30AM Sandy Hamilton †
 10:30AM Mass for the People of St. Thomas More
 12:30PM Doug Hannasch †
 5:30PM Kelley Contreras †

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for our ill parish members & relatives:

Jeffrey Carter, Czeslawa Cnota, Kirk Davidson, Eva Eldridge, Jennifer Fuller, James Kirrane, Mary LaPorte, Sister Neth, James Scholtes, Joseph Scholtes, Nina Strong, Max Townsend

Pray for our deceased parish members & relatives:

Michael Droege, Carole Marquardson, Patsy Orban, Jim Pearce, Catherine Scholtes Felicetta, John Scholtes, Barbara Tapp

Due to the Privacy Act, only immediate family members may request a name to be placed on the prayer list. Please call 303.770.1155.



For prayer requests, please visit our website or use our parish app.



Daily readings available on our website & parish app.



memories from our parishioners

We are so excited to share these photos and reflect on half a century of STM ministry! If you have photos or memories you would like to share, email them to bulletin@stthomasmore.org.



Maria Sorensen making her promise to Mary for the Legion of Mary (2011).



Fr. Mel with STM Catholic preschoolers.



Fr. McCallin and Rob Benson during Rob's first communion on April 7, 1981.

time & talent



Be More Informed!

Read all the interesting articles in the new edition!



Watch your mailbox for the February/March edition of our parish newsletter, *More Informed*, mailed to all registered parishioners. This great resource is full of compelling articles and information to inspire and enrich your faith!

Read the February/March *More Informed* online at stthomasmore.org (scroll down to the *More Informed* green box, under Parish Bulletin).

Part Time Help Needed



We are looking to hire a part time sales person in our parish Gift Shop. Help our customers find the perfect gift and assist with merchandise upkeep.

If you are interested please send your resume to Joanie Zagorsky at joaniez@stthomasmore.org



Learn about other announcements, giving opportunities events and ministries at our parish by liking our "St. Thomas More Catholic Parish" page on Facebook!

Sign up for Weekend Masses!

To attend weekend Masses, use the sign up link on stthomasmore.org. The link will be activated on Mondays at noon and close on Fridays at noon.

Please do not double book in consideration of others. Doors are closed and locked when Mass begins.

For those who do not have access to a computer, call 303.221.9144 on Monday before noon. Leave your name, phone number, Mass time preference, number in your household attending and the number receiving Holy Communion.

If you registered for Mass and can no longer attend, please call 720.838.8353 with your name, Mass time and location. Let us know as soon as possible so we can help another parish family come to Mass.

Live streaming Sunday and Daily Mass on Facebook and YouTube!

Sunday Mass at 10:30AM.

Weekday Masses on Monday through Friday at 6:30AM and Saturday at 7:30AM

To watch Mass on Facebook, go to facebook.com/stthomasmorecatholicparish. To watch Mass on YouTube, visit youtube.com/user/STMCommunications.

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treasure



eGiving During Lent

Consider using Faith Direct for your STM offering.



Fast. Pray. Give up ... your envelopes! Enrolling with Faith Direct provides our parish with consistency and convenience while simplifying your offertory giving. Please prayerfully consider enrolling in eGiving for your recurring offering. It is easy and you will never have to worry about forgetting your envelope again!

To enroll in online giving, visit faith.direct/CO739, or text the word ENROLL to 720.619.8959.

Amazon Smile

Sign up online, and Amazon will donate to our parish each time you shop!



Every time you shop online on Amazon, support STM! Through Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate a portion of what you purchase to our parish.

To select St. Thomas More Catholic Parish for Amazon Smile, use our direct link at smile.amazon.com/ch/84-0642458 or scan the QR code.

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our school

Join STM Catholic

STM Catholic is a parochial school, deeply rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teaching of the Catholic Church.



Enrollment for preschool–eighth grade is open! Consider our wonderful parish school for your children's education!

In the spirit of Catholic tradition, STM Catholic brings the whole person to Jesus Christ and through excellence in education prepares our students to serve the Church and community now and in the future.

To learn more about our school for preschool through eighth grade or to schedule a personalized tour, please visit stmatholic.org or call 303.770.0441.

Our preschool currently has spots open in our 3 & 4 year old programs.

For a tour of the preschool, please contact 303.770.1155 x.832 or preschool@stthomasmore.org.

vocations

Interested in Religious Life?

Considering religious life?



All women open to discerning a vocation to religious life are invited to a FREE retreat hosted by Fr. Ryan O'Neill and religious sisters of the Archdiocese of Denver.

Saturday, February 27:
9:30AM–5:00PM at
Risen Christ Catholic Parish

Register at archden.org/vocations

Traveling Chalice



Praying for vocations this week:

The Goldy Family

Please consider signing up for one of the available weeks! To receive the traveling chalice, contact Karen Smoody at karens@stthomasmore.org.

youth: middle & high school



Middle School: Grades 6–8

Monday, February 22: 7:00PM – Boy Scout Meeting

Wednesday, February 24: 6:00PM – Echofire

Thursday, February 26: 6:00PM – Echofire
6:00PM – *The Search* Parent Night

High School: Grades 9–12

Monday, February 22: 7:00PM – Boy Scout Meeting

Tuesday, February 23: 7:00PM – The UC (The Search)

Wednesday, February 24: 7:00PM – Breakaway

Thursday, February 25: 6:00PM – *The Search* Parent Night

Saturday, February 27: 3:00PM – BYOT Campout

young adults

Service Social



Join our young adult community for a letter writing party for military and elderly!

Friday, February 26 at 7:00PM in the Youth Center.

Questions? Contact Cheyenne Secor at cheyennes@stthomasmore.org.

The Search for Young Adults



Attention young adults! Join our group for *The Search* all Lent long!

We have two groups meeting via Zoom on Mondays at 8:00PM or Tuesdays at 6:00PM.

If you are interested in joining a group, please contact Cheyenne Secor at cheyennes@stthomasmore.org.

High School BYOT Camp Out

Come to this fun overnight experience!



Bring your own tent! All youth are invited to join us for a camp out for fun, fellowship!

Saturday – Sunday, February 27 – 28
from 3:00PM to 9:00AM

Questions? Contact Cheyenne Secor at cheyennes@stthomasmore.org.

The Search Parent Group



Attention parents of teens and preteens! Join our parent group for *The Search* all Lent long every Thursday until March 25 at 6:00PM.

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact David Tschumper at youth@stthomasmore.org or 303.220.3388.

Connect with Youth Ministry



Phone: 303.220.3388

Website: stthomasmore.org/youth

Facebook: facebook.com/stmyouth

Instagram: @stmyouthcentennial

& see the Youth Board in the Narthex!

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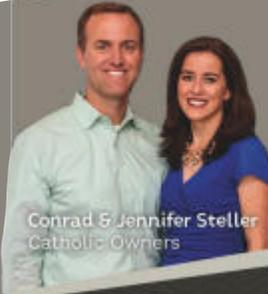
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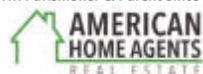
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