



# MORE INFORMED

STM Newsletter

April/May 2021



Sent Forth Into Action  
blessings for the  
great commission

A Circle Complete  
our vision continues  
with fervor



Let the Children  
Come to Me  
history of religious  
education at stm

A Duty to Serve God  
30+ years of boy  
scout troop 770

Easing the Burden  
funeral ministry expands  
into south denver

Community  
Rooted in Christ  
new life senior singles

The Year of  
St. Joseph  
a guide to celebrate  
this special year



ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH

*Go and make disciples*

## info

**editor:**

Hannah Crites

**director of communications:**

Irene Lindemer

**photographers:**

Alphonsus Deodatus  
Dave Rich  
Nicole Turner

**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)

## MORE INFORMED

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## deadline

April 25 for the June/July issue and June 26 for the August/September issue. Articles may be edited for clarity and space.



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



# Sent Forth Into Action

blessings for the great commission

## our pastor's message

Let me share with you a pet peeve of most priests. It is the fact that almost always there are some of the faithful at the Mass who head out of church before the Mass is ended.

Sometimes they leave just as communion is going to be distributed. Perhaps they are not in the proper state of grace to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus and so think the rest of the service holds no purpose for them.

Who knows? Sometimes it is after they receive the Lord and before even going back and taking some time for thanksgiving and reflection, they assume their role is completed. Who knows?

Whatever the timing and/or reason they use to convince themselves it is more valuable to leave than to conclude the celebration which is referred to in Church teaching as the source and summit of our spiritual lives, they are usually missing two very important aspects of the family of faith coming together in prayer and celebration.

No, I am not thinking about the announcements. At the conclusion of each Mass there are two things that can make a difference in how we go forth and use the grace

“ Never disregard the importance of blessings.



*Msgr. Tom gives the final blessing at Mass.*

of the Eucharist in the coming hours/days.

First is the blessing. Never disregard the importance of blessings. And from time immemorial priests have been given the gift and responsibility of blessing God's people.

Asking the Lord to look kindly over one, to guard and protect them, to let His face shine upon them, is one of the great gifts of my priesthood.

I am always struck by the faith and desire for closeness to God made evident when people come up to me and ask for a special blessing.

It might be to celebrate a birthday or anniversary event. It might be in anticipation of an upcoming task or medical situation. It might just be before a trip or some significant occasion. Whatever the cause, they want the



*Knights of Columbus assist in a procession out of the Church during Holy Week, 2019.*

Mass the most important part of our week. It is also an ongoing reminder of what we have been celebrating in the most significant seasons of the liturgical year. Lent and Easter.

You have hopefully heard that every Mass is a return for us to the most sacred event of our redemption, the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord. Now made present in the sacrifice at the altar and given to us as the very Bread of Life.

Just as Lent is a time of penitential reflection and, well lived, exhibits our sincere sorrow for sins and desire to repent and be redeemed, so every Mass starts with a penitential service.

Lord's care and awareness called down upon them.

The second is the ultimate statement of the Mass, usually in our parish proclaimed by the deacon, calling us to recognize that all that we have prayed and celebrated in the Mass just concluding, is to prepare us for a great commission.

Whether it ends in "go in peace", or "go in peace, glorifying the Lord in your life", or "go and announce the Gospel of the Lord", or the most basic, "go forth, the Mass is ended" the final declaration is a great authorizing for our lives as Christian disciples.

This instruction reflects the truth that the Mass has given us the wherewithal to now take up our cross and follow the Lord in the coming days. And we are to be conscious of doing just that in a deliberate and grace filled way.

In our homes and families. In our neighborhoods and the community we are a part of daily. In our workplaces, schools or wherever we spend the bulk of our time and energies.

And yes, even in the parking lot and on the roads as we leave and in our travels in the coming days.

If you will indulge me a little, this brings up the point that not only is the

We call to mind our sins, and humbly acknowledge our need for God's saving mercy and compassion. Then, just as we heard the words of the Father at the

## Thanksgiving Prayer after Mass St. Thomas Aquinas

Lord, Father all-powerful and ever-living God, I thank You, for even though I am a sinner, your unprofitable servant, not because of my worth but in the kindness of your mercy. You have fed me with the Precious Body & Blood of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that this Holy Communion may not bring me condemnation and punishment but forgiveness and salvation. May it be a helmet of faith and a shield of good will. May it purify me from evil ways and put an end to my evil passions. May it bring me charity and patience, humility and obedience, and growth in the power to do good. May it be my strong defense against all my enemies, visible and invisible, and the perfect calming of all my evil impulses, bodily and spiritual. May it unite me more closely to you, the One true God, and lead me safely through death to everlasting happiness with You. And I pray that You will lead me, a sinner, to the banquet where you, with Your Son and holy Spirit, are true and perfect light, total fulfillment, everlasting joy, gladness without end, and perfect happiness to your saints. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# “ All were called to not just sit on the awareness of what has transpired but to be transformed by it.

Transfiguration tell us that Jesus was His beloved Son, and we are to listen to Him.

We take time to hear Him speak to us in the Liturgy of the Word. Readings, whether from the Old or New Testament, from Gospels or Psalms, are all the inspired Word of God.

We need to listen with ear, heart and mind to what is being proclaimed. And the responses at the end of the readings give evidence of their importance as we say “Thanks be to God” and “Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ.”

Standing humbly, we then profess the gift of our faith at the Sunday Masses as we proclaim the Creed. We offer prayers for the people around us and the world we are a part of, that God’s care and presence might be made evident. We bring gifts to the Lord.

Just as the simple gifts of five loaves and two fish were brought and the miracle of their being used to feed thousands, so we anticipate a miracle in which the simple elements of bread and wine will become once again, as they were first at the Last Supper, the initial Mass, the very Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our God, coming into our presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

The very Eucharistic prayer, offered by the priest, making time and space rip apart and us becoming present as He offers Himself for us upon the Cross of Calvary.

Jesus suffered and died upon the cross, as we recall in the events of Holy Week, but rose again and promised that He would be with us always, to the end of time.

He makes that promise real every time we encounter Him anew in the wonder of the Mass.

But we must also recall that after rising from the dead, and spending forty days in His glorified body with His disciples, He returned to His heavenly home, giving them a great commission as He ascended to Heaven. He told all His followers to go out to the world and tell the good news.

Some, like the Apostles went to the far reaches of the

world in their lives. Others went to the towns, cities and areas where they were and shared the Gospel with family, friend and stranger.

But all were called to not just sit on the awareness of what had transpired but to be transformed by it and let it be shown in a life lived around the good news.

Then Pentecost came. And with it the Holy Spirit. And the world has not been the same since. Some three thousand that day were baptized. And joined the assemblage of believers.

Now think again about those final elements of the Eucharistic celebration. The priest calls down the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This blessing and grace enables us to carry out the great commission that we too have received.

And the final declaration of the deacon or priest reminds us that we are not through. Now we go forth and put into action what we have just had the privilege to share in the celebration of in our family of faith.

With grateful and spirit filled hearts praise His as we say, THANKS BE TO GOD. ♦

– Msgr. Tom

we  love

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# memories from our parishioners



*Fr. Fred McCallin and his sister-in-law Jean McCallin do the Irish Jig.*

Throughout our 50 year history, we have been blessed to witness many milestones, celebrations and events in our parishioners lives. We are glad to share these photos from parishioners and our archives.

To celebrate this anniversary, we want to dedicate these pages of the *More Informed* to these special moments. If you have photos you would like to submit, please email [moreinformed@stthomasmore.org](mailto:moreinformed@stthomasmore.org) or visit the parish office with your photos. ♦



*Fr. Michael Walsh stands on St. Thomas More statue's base during its installation in 1997.*



*Mass in the Hamilton building in 1973.*



*Fr. Andrew Kemberling answers STM Catholic student's questions during a Pastor's Q&A in 2012.*



*The 1987 Youth Center Groundbreaking Ceremony.*



*Volunteers at the 2014 Project 600 Christmas Party.*



*Nights of Columbus host a barbecue for parishioners in 2003.*



*St. Thomas More ready for construction during the Renewing Our Heritage building campaign in 2017.*



*The Cinalli family at the 2009 back to school picnic.*



*Fr. Fred McCallin with blood drive donors in 1983.*



*Fr. Francis Gerber Jr. with Fr. Michael in 1990.*

# A Circle Complete

## our vision continues with fervor

Irene Lindemer  
Director of Communications and Stewardship

A quiet observer may recognize the presence of circles subtly repeated throughout our campus. The sanctuary is embraced with the brick used for the original worship center. The circular theme is repeated throughout the campus in the buildings, our gardens and even our patios.

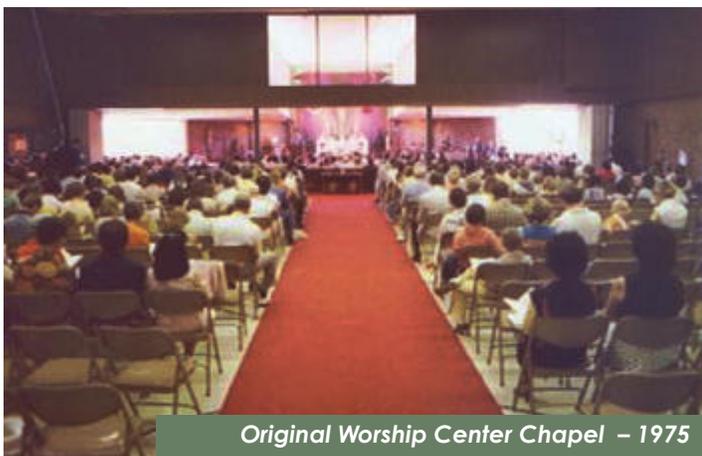
St. Thomas More parish has always been a community inspired by the love of God and desire to share the Catholic faith with others; a community that has been open to recognize the needs of the community of the parish and the community at large, and to this day, continues to respond with fervor.

Looking back at the beginning of the parish in 1971, and observing the avid response of the community of St. Thomas More, it is evident that each of our pastors have been inspired to continue and add to the original vision to be a community for all.

During the past 50 years, their vision has been supported by our parishioners, with their donations, with their prayers, with their desire to live out and continue the purpose of our original pastor and parish members.

It is a circle which began with our early parishioners and came to conclusion with the rejuvenation of what they built through the Renewing our Heritage campaign in 2017. As good stewards, we anticipate the remaining debt of the ROH building project to be paid off by the first of July, which will put our parish in a debt free position.

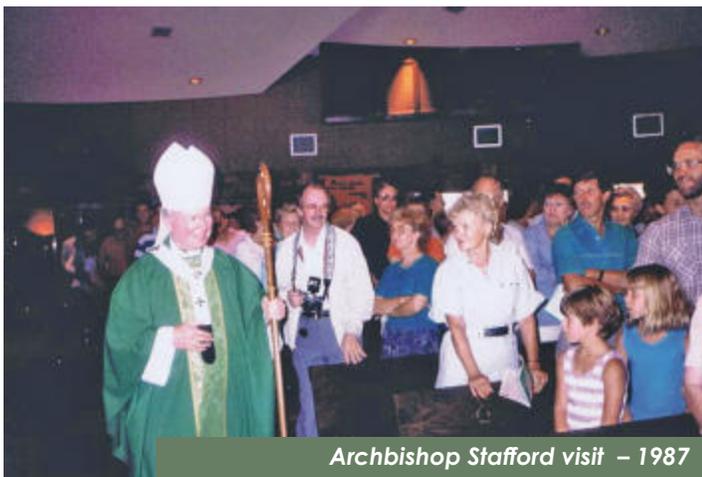
The cycle of our master building plan has come to completion. The vision of our parish continues to live on through our many ministries, our parish school, our parishioners, our staff and our community at large. It is a beautiful tribute to those who came before us. It is our mission to continue to reach out and make disciples of all those we encounter. ♦



Original Worship Center Chapel – 1975



Evangelization Center Ground breaking – 1992



Archbishop Stafford visit – 1987



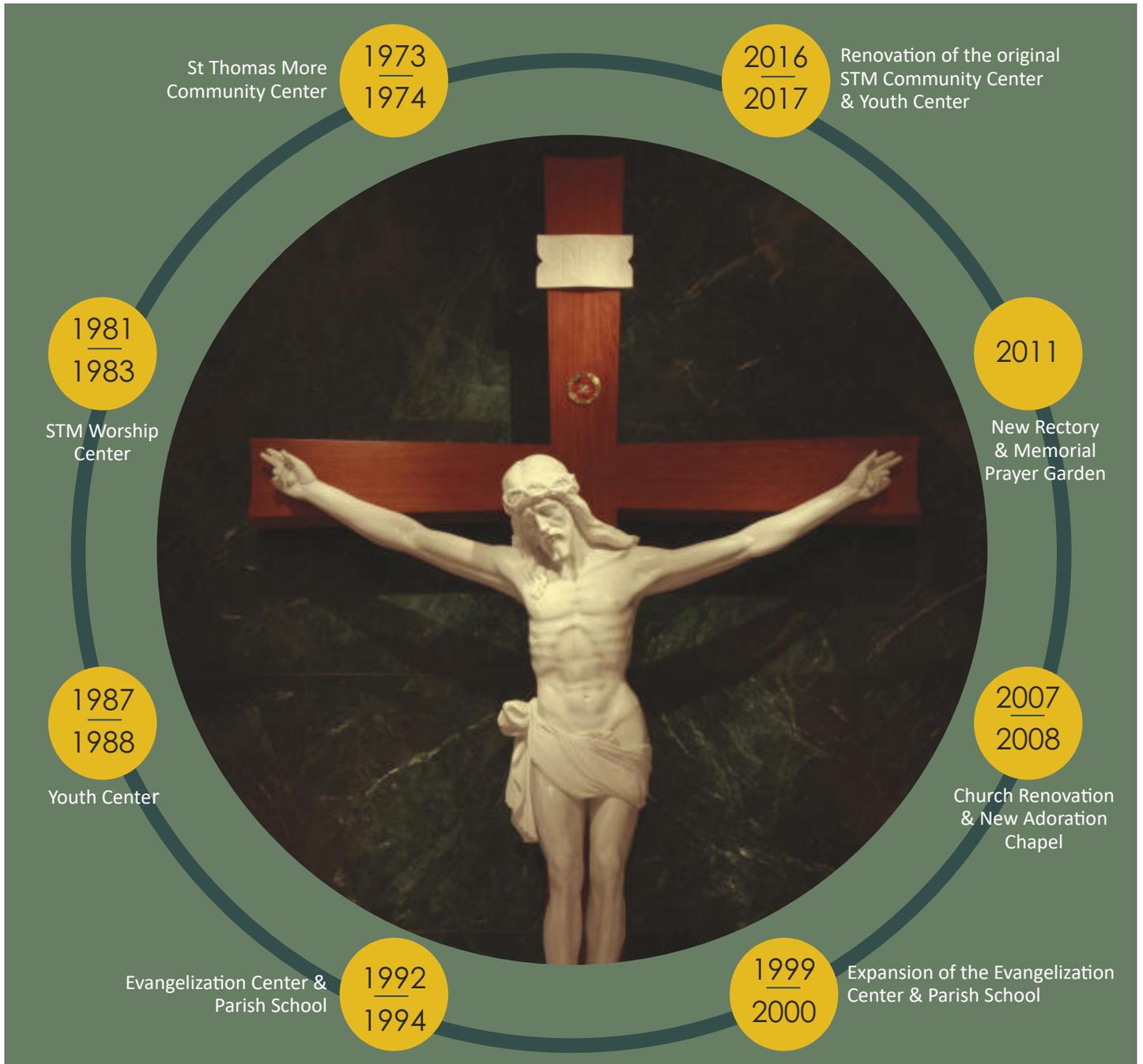
Evangelization Center Expansion – 2000



First Mass in remodeled Church – 2008



Renewing our Heritage Grand Opening – 2017



# From the Heart and Soul

## history of catechesis at st. thomas more

Jere Allen  
Retired Director of Catechesis

When the parish first began there were no classrooms, so the religious ed classes were held in the homes of volunteers who were parents of the children. The neighborhoods of Walnut Hills, Willow Creek, Acres Green, Homestead, Hunters' Hill and many more were the ones who attended St. Thomas More.

1971 – 1986

I began my journey of catechesis like most children of the 50's and 60's with a weekly catechism class and the *Baltimore Catechism*. But when my family and I moved to Colorado in 1980, our son was in the second grade and I knew we needed to have him receive his First Communion. So began my journey as a catechist when I came to STM to sign him up and the DRE (director of religious education) at the time said all the classes were full, "but if you teach, we can get him into a class."

I was an elementary school teacher by trade, although not employed at the time with two children under seven! I agreed to teach my daughter's pre-K class so our son could be in a class for First Communion. I did not feel qualified to teach religion!

But with help from God and wonderful DREs, I learned that this teaching came from the heart and soul. The Apostolic Letter, *Catechesi Traedendi* had just come out which stated that "parents are the first educators of children in the faith," and that was a relief.

Our classes for grades first through eighth were held in the catechists homes and organized by neighborhoods. Each one had two catechists assigned which helped in the planning and organization.

We had between six to ten children around our kitchen tables or family rooms for one hour each week, from October until the end of April.

Each grade level was led by a volunteer coordinator who held monthly meetings at the Church to go over materials for the next month and educate the catechists on the latest trends in Religious Education. These monthly meetings were very uplifting and encouraged the catechists.



Fr. Donald Willett presents the children's RE puppet show in 1986.

They also bonded with each other and shared ideas. Wonderful friendships were made during those years.

The Coordinators also met as a group with the DRE to get materials for their grade levels and share ideas. An Education Board also of volunteers, chosen by the pastor, Fr. Fred McCallin, was the over-seeing umbrella of all the department.

The only paid employees were two DREs, another DRE who organized the grade level activities and classes, and a registrar who put all of the classes together according to neighborhoods.

Since STM was the only parish in this south area at the time, there were 2,500 children in the program, grades PreK through eighth grade! There were no computers or databases in 1980....all was done by hand on typewriters (with lots of carbon paper), and the handouts were "run off" on a mimeograph machine. I remember going into the office (which is now Peregrine Hall) and using that machine, coming home with blue fingers...

Sacrament Preparation was also done by the parents under the guidance of the DRE. There were over 300 second graders in First Communion Preparation. We had at least four ceremonies with over 50 children in each one in the spring of each year. First Reconciliation was given in fourth grade until later in the 80's. Confirmation was given when the children were sophomores.



Archbishop Charles Chaput greets school children at the blessing of the Evangelization Center expansion in 2000.



Children lay flowers at Mary's Feet during her crowning in 2018.

There were Adult Education classes held in the fall and spring, usually given by a visiting priest during Advent and Lent. These were series of four to six sessions and very well attended. The people who were coming into the church were given classes also in the fall and spring and initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) was held at Christmas and Easter. There was no RCIA at the time.

#### 1987 – 1999

Fast forward to 1987. The RE Department needed a reorganization. I was the Chair of the Education committee at the time and took it upon myself to reorganize the department. The DRE was leaving and I applied for the job.

The Education Board interviewed me and Fr. McCallin took their recommendation and hired me to oversee the Department.

It was an honor to be hired at STM. It was also a bit daunting given the numbers we were dealing with in trying to build faith in our children and adults. My first task was to hire another DRE. We had two, myself and Bob Magin. I hired Roberta Marsh that summer of 1987 to oversee seventh and eighth grade catechesis and Confirmation which was given in tenth grade.

Shari Smith was the registrar for the department. She had the daunting task of organizing 2,500 kids into classes and then notifying the coordinators of a date whereby they could come and meet with their grade level teachers to pick up their class lists and books.

In 1990 Fr. Michael Walsh became our new pastor. The offices moved to the basement under the church and many more staff were hired. The parish began the process of a survey to see if a school should be built. It was quite an undertaking, but became a reality.

The school opened for grades kindergarten through third in fall of 1994. One grade level was added each year until it became grades kindergarten through eighth in 1999.

The Religious Education Department began classes in the school classrooms. The preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation remained with the RE Department with parents teaching the children under the guidance of the DRE's.

#### 1999 – Present

An addition was added to the school to include offices for the R.E. Department, a wing for the middle school and adult education and eventual preschool school rooms.

This was quite an undertaking, but it was completed and the RE offices moved into our new "digs" in 2000. The Parents Day Out rooms were occupied by children ages 3 – 4, with Lynn Fielmeier as the Director.

In early 2002 plans began to start a preschool at STM for older four year olds and five year olds who didn't go to Kindergarten yet. Pat Olmstead and I worked for a year planning and in fall of 2002 the Preschool opened. Pat was the Director.

The Office of Catechesis remained and still is in the school. The classes are much smaller now because many of the children have grown up! The ones who remain are mostly doing virtual classes due to COVID-19. ♦

# Let the Children Come to Me

## a catechist perspective

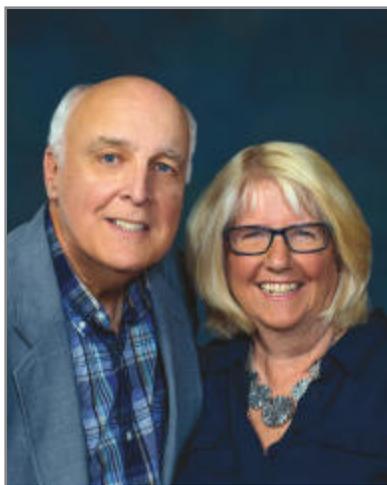
Peggy Filarowicz  
The Oldest "Living Catechist"  
at STM

Children are sponges. They soak up all you teach them. At St. Thomas More, our Religious Education Department has evolved over the years. I have seen a lot of changes, and yet a lot has stayed the same. Exposing children to the Word of God has always been a challenge, a goal, a delight and a wonderfully enriching ministry.

In the early days, we met in neighborhood groups in the home of the catechist. It was a way to know your neighbors, keep the same group of students over the years and like the early Christians meeting in small groups.

Need a prop for an activity? It was there in your home. Want to celebrate Marti Gras? You could pig out while planning your Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving starting the next day. Want to bake pretzels during Lent? Just heat up the oven (and clean up the flour afterwards!) Want to lounge while listening to the Word of God? Get comfy, and listen to the stories straight from the Bible.

The neighborhood groups were tight knit and formed a God centered community. When STM Catholic School was built, the neighborhood classes ceased to exist. Now we had a real school setting, close to the church and



*Peggy and Don Filarowicz.*

the whole STM campus. Classes traded lounging in a home for sitting at desks. They gave up baking pretzels for being in a Catholic school classroom covered with posters of the Liturgical Year, statues of Mary and a Crucifix hanging in every room. Teachers needed a supply closet for crafts, and because we all met together, they could share ideas and support each other.

The after school RE program became Shepherd's Promise. Classes were able to meet in church for large group confessions and Mass. Shepherd's Promise could meet as a whole group for the weeks of Advent to light our Advent wreath and pray and sing together.

Students could act out the Stations of the Cross and have a May Crowning to top off the year. Classes could be seen visiting the Ten Commandments and Beatitude statue, showing students the sacristy, priests and deacons visiting classrooms and outreach service projects happening all year.

We had replaced tight knit small groups for a tight knit program serving so many more children. Religious Education at STM is an ever changing entity, but it has from its inception to today, and into the future, been and will be a place to reflect on Matthew 19:14 where Jesus says, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." ♦



*RE Students pose with artwork they created in class in 2002.*



*Children participate in a scavenger hunt for Faith and Family in 2017*

# Easing the Burden

## funeral ministry expands into south denver

St. Thomas More parish is pleased to announce that Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services of Colorado (CFCS-C) has opened a funeral service center at the parish to serve the parish community as well as other parishes in the southern part of the Archdiocese of Denver and northern part of the Diocese of Colorado Springs.

This came at the request of families who were looking to receive mortuary and cemetery services from the archdiocese.

Many Catholics were not aware that the archdiocese cemeteries located in Wheat Ridge (Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery) and Aurora (St. Simeon Catholic Cemetery) also provide funeral and cremation services.

CFCS-C has recently expanded with the acquisition of Caldwell-Kirk Funeral Home near downtown and is expanding locations to make it easier for families to pre-plan or make funeral arrangements when needed.

During the pandemic, CFCS-C's ministry came to the service of so many families in the archdiocese. Funeral services were often livestreamed or conducted directly

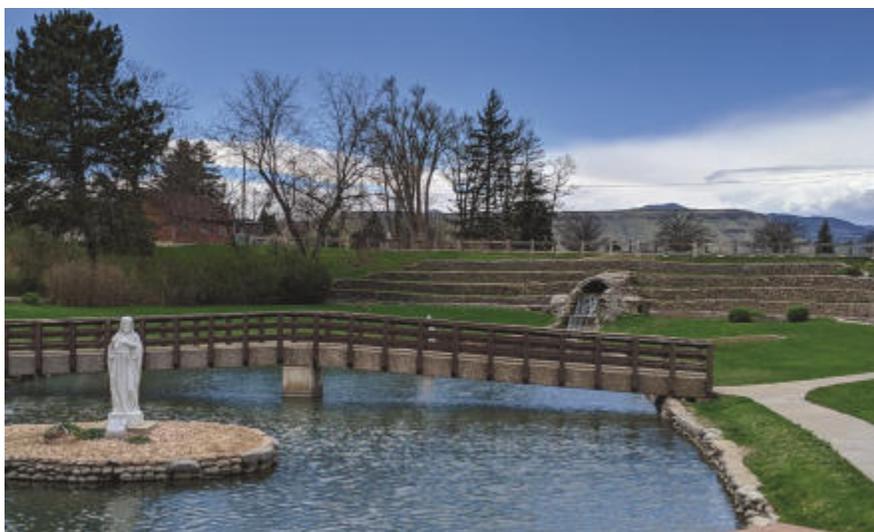


*Mausoleum at Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery.*

at one of the cemetery chapels for ease and safety of families.

Since CFCS-C manages funeral, cremation and interment services, funerals are easily coordinated between the parish and CFCS-C.

This often means helping families through difficult times both spiritually and financially. With the office at St. Thomas More, the parish wants to make it easier for families.



*Bridge at Mt. Olivet Cemetery restored by STM Eagle Scout Quinn Filby.*

CFCS-C is a non-profit ministry of the archdiocese whose mission is to "Fill the Void of Loss with Faith." Besides being a corporal work of mercy, the majority of our staff are themselves parishioners in the archdiocese who have found a calling to share the message of the gospel via service to the community.

The CFCS-C team is very excited to be a part of the St. Thomas More community and enhance this extremely important ministry.

CFCS-C's phone number at is: 303.220.3386. Please call our 24-hour number if you have any questions or any need for CFCS-C's services. ◆

# Community Rooted in Christ

## new life senior singles

Vicki Turner  
Chairperson of New Life

The New Life Ministry will be 42 years old in 2021!

In 1979 Fr. Ken Leone, a parochial vicar at St. Thomas More parish, saw a need for a senior singles group. He met many single, widowed, separated and divorced people who (after grieving their loss, in lots of cases) were interested in a group of people with whom they could enjoy spiritual and social events.

Over a hundred people came forward and 'New Life' was born.

It is a non-denominational group for singles in the south metro area of the Archdiocese of Denver.

For over 40 years it has organized an event every week, only cancelling for bad weather, until the COVID-19 pandemic. The group stopped meeting in 2020, except in the summer when they held a couple of socially distanced 'Picnics in the Park.'

Judy Daigler, a member for 20 years, reminisced, "I was encouraged by a friend to go to a New Life meeting and have made so many new friends. One of my favorite activities has been going to the Imax theater in Denver, on a Sunday afternoon and then enjoying Mexican food at The Blue Bonnet restaurant on Broadway on the way home."

Another member of New Life, Barb Viette, also enjoys the group and the Sunday outings commenting, "(New Life) is a group of wonderful people, enjoying doing things together. I have so enjoyed our Sunday dinner's which have usually been at the Black Eyed Pea on Broadway."

Over these years there have been every kind of event one can think of, including concerts, theater outings, dances, theme restaurants, breakfast out, movies, retreats, Rockies games, car shows, the Denver Zoo, the Stock Show, a cruise, Happy Hours, a Super Bowl party and other in-home parties. Most events have food and beverage included as seniors love to eat and not have to cook!



*New Life Senior Singles enjoy a trip at Wings Over the Rockies in 2018.*



*New Life members at the 2011 Senior Citizens' Prom.*

Every year, Mullen High School students sponsor a Senior Citizens' Prom, honoring the Denver-area seniors. New Life members enjoy attending this event.

In 2016, our chairperson Vicki Turner was crowned the prom's queen. She was joined by crowned prom's king, John Switzer of Sacred Heart of Mary Parish.

New Life member, Bob Benda, also enjoys the variety of outings. He comments, "One of my first events was the

New Life Anniversary Dinner at The White Fence Farm. It was a nice event with a group of very nice people who were widowed like me."

Special holiday traditions include Thanksgiving feasts and Christmas celebrations with Mass at the parish followed by a Christmas Party.

"I love our special Mass at Christmas, giving glory to God first and then celebrating with a fabulous dinner and entertainment," commented Helene Carter, long-time New Life member.

Every quarter New Life goes to Mass at a different church in the Archdiocese. They love the old churches in the downtown Denver neighborhoods.

A member since 1997, Jackie Kammer said, "New Life was a 'live saver' after the death of my husband and I have really enjoyed going to Mass on Sunday's at other Archdiocese churches."

Mass at Mother Cabrini Shrine is the group's favorite and they go every year. Ella Mae Mills, member since 2000, agrees. "New Life is a wonderful ministry with great events. I feel closer to God at STM and at our annual event going to Mass at Mother Cabrini Shrine followed by brunch at Mount Vernon Country Club."

They also support parish events and during the year. They organize collections for different charities, such as



*New Life Halloween Party.*



*New Life meet in McCallin Hall in 2011.*

blankets, baby clothes, household goods and food for the Food Banks.

New Life will be sponsoring the parish's annual Baby Shower after the pandemic. Each Christmas season they donate from our funds \$200.00 to local charities.

At the present time there are 50 members. Calendars can be found in the Parish Office and church bulletin for anyone interested in joining a senior singles group.

An individual member volunteers to organize a specific event and is the contact person for just that event. This is all on a quarterly calendar every member receives and members can sign up for any or all events.

New Life meets once a month at STM, usually on the first Friday of the month at 7:00PM. At the meeting, members vote on events for the following quarter, socialize, honor member's birthdays for that month and host speakers of interest to the group, and of course enjoy cookies and coffee.

There is a board of officers and dues of \$15.00 per year. Members carpool to all events that are away from St. Thomas More and the drivers are given a stipend from the passengers.

New Life is here for new members, every day of every year. Come and join us when you are ready. We cannot wait to meet you! ♦

# From Their Hands to the World

## rosary makers create in peace and love

Robin Herbka  
STM Parishioner

It's no question that devotion to Mary is rooted deeply in our Catholic faith. May is the Month of Mary. October is the Month of the Holy Rosary. There are 18 Marian feast days. First Saturdays are dedicated to Marian devotions.

The ways to honor Mary are as varied as the number of people who honor her. The most common way to honor Mary is praying the rosary.

It has been said that each "Our Father" presents Mary with a red rose and each "Hail Mary" is a white rose, creating a wreath or crown, depending on the number of decades prayed.

Most of us are fortunate to have at least one rosary and are willing to give one away if someone needs a rosary of their own.

There is a group at St. Thomas More, the Rosary Makers, who have given away hundreds of thousands of rosaries locally and internationally.

At STM, the school, confirmation classes, Shepherd's Promise and visitors to the Information Cove are just some who have benefitted from receiving those rosaries. There are churches and programs in Colorado, various other states, and in other countries such as South Africa, Haiti and Tanzania who also received these beautiful handmade rosaries.

The Rosary Makers began at STM in the 1990s by Maggie Murphy Lane who worked with a group of 20 to make rosaries for the incarcerated in prisons throughout the country, for churches who wanted them and for people served by missions around the world.

Today the Rosary Makers has a group of 30 dedicated volunteers who make the rosaries at home on their own time. This group makes cord and chain rosaries. The cord rosaries are the ones available in the Information Cove and use beads and fisherman's knots. The beads are appropriately named "mission" beads.



*STM Rosary Makers in 2009*



*Rosaries made by STM's Rosary Makers ministry.*

As Lane, the founder of the group said, "This may be the only sign of the Catholic faith this child or adult recipient has."

The makers of the rosaries love what they do and feel blessed to be part of a group that has reaches worldwide. They desire that others will join them in praying the rosary and deepening their faith.

"The rosary gives me the light and strength I need to face my day. I pray the rosary because it is a way of feeling spiritually connected, in peace and love ... When I help someone, I give them a card with the instructions of how to pray the rosary with the hope that it will help them overcome the hard situation that they are living. The rosary is my armor of salvation against evil," says Yalina De Casso.

Many members share they have an increased devotion to saying the rosary and to Mary.

Don Brooks says, "I feel my life is more meaningful as I continue to make rosaries. My devotion to the Blessed Mother has grown and I know my life has been blessed in many ways."

During the last 14 years, the group made and gave away 99,586 rosaries. They expect to continue and even increase those numbers over the years to come.

Just imagine how many prayers have been prayed on those rosaries and how many rose crowns have adorned Mary. Think of the lives changed with those prayers.

So many of us have heirloom or favorite rosaries that come apart after years of use and we don't know what to do with them. Bring them to the Rosary Makers and they can be made whole again.



*Rosary Makers meet in St. Francis Hall in 2019.*

Or if you have jewelry from a loved one, contact the Rosary Makers about it being made into a rosary.

If you have rosary that it missing pieces and do not want it remade into a rosary, give that to the group too. Those beads will be put to good use.

The Rosary Makers invite you to join their group to learn to make rosaries. They normally meet the third Saturday of the month to turn in rosaries, pick up more supplies, and enjoy a social visit with the other members.

Due to COVID-19 those meetings are on hold and will resume when it is safe to do so.



*Rosary Makers meet in The Padre in 1998.*

To turn in broken rosaries for repair or donation, please contact the parish office. If you'd like to learn more about making rosaries and joining the Rosary Makers, please contact coordinator Christie McLagin at [cmclagin@gmail.com](mailto:cmclagin@gmail.com).

"The Most Holy Virgin in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families...that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary." – Sister Lucia dos Santos of Fatima ♦

# The Year of St Joseph

## a guide to celebrate this special year

*Editor's Note: The following was excerpted from [yearofstjoseph.org](http://yearofstjoseph.org).*

In the Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalled the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.

Throughout the year we strive to honor St. Joseph as the guardian and protector of the Church and her faithful with heartfelt prayer and devotion, encouraging all to take his virtuous life as our model for fulfilling our personal vocation to holiness.

Why We Should Honor St. Joseph

*"We must be convinced that, in consideration of his great merits, God will not refuse St. Joseph any grace he asks for those who honor him." – St. Alphonsus Liguori*

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ chose to enter the world through the human family; He came as an infant born into the marriage and home of the two holiest human creatures who ever lived: Joseph and Mary.

Although He was God, He was obedient to them as a child, and under their watchful care "Jesus advanced in wisdom, and age, and grace with God and men" (Luke 2:51-52). In this Jesus gave us an example, that we too as



*Saint Joseph and the Christ Child by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (1670)*

His disciples are meant to entrust ourselves to Joseph and Mary, learning from them how to grow in holiness as the adopted children of God.

As Christians we are blessed to have sweet Mary as our spiritual mother and valiant Joseph as our spiritual father. Just as Mary guides us from heaven with loving devotion, so too St. Joseph diligently provides for the needs of the family of God, the Holy Catholic Church.

Because of his special role as foster-father of the Child Jesus, St. Joseph has merited singular privileges in heaven unmatched by any saint excepting the Blessed Virgin Mary. Certain saints have received special insight into his holiness and the wonderful power of his heavenly intercession.

The Catholic Church has always fostered a tender devotion to St. Joseph as the Head of the Holy Family; yet he has become increasingly prominent in the spiritual life of the Church over the last 150 years, as Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, lists in his new book, *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*:

- 1870 – Blessed Pope Pius IX declares St. Joseph the "Universal Patron of the Church."
- 1879 – Apparitions at Knock, Ireland. St. Joseph appears with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Apostle and Jesus (appearing as the Lamb of God).
- 1889 – Pope Leo XIII writes *Quamquam Pluries*, an encyclical letter on St. Joseph.
- 1908 – St. Luigi Guanella begins constructing a church dedicated to St. Joseph in Rome. It is completed and consecrated as a basilica in 1912.
- 1917 – Apparitions at Fatima, Portugal. During the last apparition on October 13, St. Joseph appears holding the Child Jesus and blessing the world.
- 1921 – Pope Benedict XV inserts the phrase "Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse" into the Divine Praises.
- 1955 – Venerable Pope Pius XII establishes the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, to be celebrated on May 1.
- 1962 – Pope St. John XXIII inserts St. Joseph's name into the Canon of the Mass (Eucharistic Prayer I).

“ Jesus wants the Church to know, love, honor and seek refuge in St. Joseph.

- 1989 – Pope St. John Paul II writes *Redemptoris Custos*, an encyclical letter on St. Joseph.
- 2013 – Pope Francis, echoing and fulfilling the intentions of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, inserts the name of St. Joseph into all Eucharistic Prayers. He also consecrates Vatican City State to St. Joseph.

Through this providential sequence of events, it's clear that the Holy Spirit is at work teaching us the importance of devotion to St. Joseph at this moment in salvation history. "Now is the time of St. Joseph!" writes Fr. Calloway, "In our day, Jesus wants the Church to know, love, honor and seek refuge in the spiritual fatherhood of St. Joseph."

### How to Celebrate the Year of St. Joseph

*"Inspired by the Gospel, the Fathers of the Church from the earliest centuries stressed that just as St. Joseph took loving care of Mary and gladly dedicated himself to Jesus Christ's upbringing, he likewise watches over and protects Christ's Mystical Body, that is, the Church." – Pope St. John Paul II*

As we devote an entire year to St. Joseph's honor, we will undoubtedly unlock many special graces for each of the faithful who increase their devotion to him during this special year. There is no greater model than St. Joseph from whom we can learn how to live virtuously in imitation of Jesus and Mary.

"Devotion to St. Joseph is one of the choicest graces that God can give to a soul, for it is tantamount to revealing the entire treasury of our Lord's graces," wrote St. Peter

Julian Eymard, "When God wishes to raise a soul to greater heights, he unites it to St. Joseph by giving it a strong love for the good saint."

Below are ideas for how to celebrate the Year of St. Joseph:

- Begin the Year of St. Joseph with a special intention for his intercession, for which you will offer your prayers and St. Joseph devotions throughout the year.
- Learn about St. Joseph's virtues and try to imitate them.
- Participate in the 33-day consecration to St. Joseph
- Pray the Holy Rosary daily, reciting the Year of St. Joseph prayer at the conclusion.
- Plan a pilgrimage to one or more of the St. Joseph parishes across the diocese.
- Adopt St. Joseph traditions into your prayer life and family life.
- Attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on his feast days: March 19 and May 1.
- Participate in the Year of St. Joseph events across the diocese.
- Include prayers to St. Joseph in your morning and evening prayers.
- Encourage others to foster a greater devotion to St. Joseph.
- Take advantage of the Year of St. Joseph indulgences granted by the Holy See.

St. Joseph, because of his unique relationship to Jesus and Mary, is among heaven's most powerful protectors and intercessors. Let us grow in love and devotion to this holy saint! ♦

## Prayer Before Work to St. Joseph

(Composed by Pope St. Pius X)

O Glorious Saint Joseph, model of all those who are devoted to labor, obtain for me the grace to work in a spirit of penance for the expiation of my many sins; to work conscientiously, putting the call of duty above my natural inclinations; to work with thankfulness and joy, considering it an honor to employ and develop by means of labor the gifts received from God; to work with order, peace, moderation, and patience, never shrinking from weariness and trials; to work above all with purity of intention and detachment from self, keeping unceasingly before my eyes death and the account that I must give of time lost, talents unused, good omitted, and vain complacency in success, so fatal to the work of God.

All for Jesus, all through Mary, all after thy example, O Patriarch, Saint Joseph. Such shall be my watchword in life and in death. Amen.



Mary and Joseph with Baby Jesus by Julius Frank (1908)

# Defeat to Healing

## barbara's story

There was no light on in the women's health clinic where I worked—just one, over me. Every other room in the place was still and dark as night. After-hours was a good time for me to get work done, I thought.

But it was those moments in the clinic that seemed to magnify all that had been swirling around my head. The thoughts that I tried to drown kept reminding me of the ride down to Orlando when I was 20 years old, as I laid in the back seat of our family Chevy. My mom and sister were in the front talking about what a loser my boyfriend, was.

Feeling defeated, I let them take me to the abortionist, trusting that if they believed the baby had to go, then it must be okay. But it wasn't.

At 22, I had taken a medical assistant course and when the instructor handed us a list of places to inquire for the required internship, I came across the women's health clinic. I thought "perhaps I can advocate for the women getting abortions. I know it would have done me a lot of good."

I was so naïve.

After my internship they offered me a full-time job. I started out doing what I hoped to do: comforting and caring for the women who came in. But then I was asked to do more. Soon I was pouring the contents of the uterus after an abortion into a strainer, and that was when my conscience couldn't hold the weight of it. The more I saw, the more I felt that I had somehow walked beyond a DO NOT TRESPASS sign: 'Don't look. This is not for you. You will never be the same.'

That is why the late night in the clinic turned out to be anything but quiet. That was the night that I began to hear cries from down the empty, dark hallways; babies crying out for someone to come and save them.

It wasn't long after that when my sister called to say she was pregnant. I was so excited that I bought her a book on fetal development. Without thinking, I showed a couple of ladies in the clinic pictures from the book and my supervisor got wind of it.



"We don't show the miracle of life around here," she said coldly. "Your job is to sell abortions. That was a very careless thing you did."

I gave them my resignation.

Years passed and my sorrow over what I had done never left me. I carried it with me until my pastor gave me *Unplanned*, a book by Abby Johnson. It led me to a client manager at And Then There Were None and she invited me to one of their healing retreats.

It was the first time I felt hopeful that something in me was about to change.

The process was painful and beautiful. Healing began. I don't think I would have truly known God's forgiveness without Abby and the retreat. After all that I have seen, only something as powerful as God's love could take it away. ♦

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*The following is an excerpt is reprinted with permission from Abby Johnson and And Then There Were None. Read the story and others in Abby Johnson's new book, "From Death to Life," about former abortion workers who received help from And Then There Were None.*

# Our Newest Staff Members

dedicated and committed to serving our community



Deanne Vizurraga  
*Children's Catechetical  
Coordinator*

Deanne Vizurraga is looking forward to supporting the teachers and families in the Shepherd's Promise catechism program. She and her family have been parishioners at St Thomas More for 16 years. With her husband, Tony, they formed their three children's

faith through the Faith and Family and Special Needs RE programs, so they understand the unique situation of catechizing kids who attend public schools.

A recent graduate of the Denver Catholic Biblical School, Deanne loves to share her faith journey back to the Catholic Church and help others find their stories as well. ♦



Ann Morin  
*Data Manager*

Ann is a native of Colorado. She attended the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, studying to become a teacher of the deaf. She met her future husband, Dcn. George, at a retreat at the Bethlehem Center in Broomfield. They have been married 45 years and have 3 children and 6 grandchildren.

Prior to coming to St. Thomas More, Ann worked several years as an Operations Manager in the mortgage field. After the collapse of that industry in 2006, she moved to health care where she was an Office Manager. She most recently worked in the St. Thomas More Gift Shop. Ann feels blessed to work with such wonderful people who are dedicated to God's mission. ♦

## RECIPE from the RECTORY

By Renee Heinemeyer,  
Rectory Chef

### Disappearing Cornbread

This cornbread is not only easy, but you will not have to store leftovers as most of it will disappear quickly. It is super soft and moist, just sweet enough and contains little corn kernels that creates a one-of-a-kind flavor!

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Total Time: 1 ½ hours

Cook Time: 1 hour 10 minutes

Servings: Yields 20 servings

#### Ingredients

- 2 boxes of JIFFY brand Corn Bread Muffin Mix
- 2 sticks of butter or 1 cup (8 oz.)
- 4 eggs
- 1 – 15oz. can of Creamed Corn
- 1 – 15oz. can - Sweet Kernel Corn – (drained)
- 1 Pint (16 oz.) Daisy Sour Cream

#### Directions

Spray 9"x13" baking dish with cooking oil spray.

In a large mixing bowl, thoroughly mix all ingredients. (When adding the sour cream, be sure to thoroughly mix into the batter.)

Pour prepared batter into the sprayed baking dish.

Bake in a warmed 350-degree oven for 1 hour and 10 minutes, to ensure the center of cornbread is fully cooked! The top should be golden brown.

Let cool for 35-40 minutes before cutting/serving. Refrigerate any cornbread that isn't gobbled up.

#### Gluten-Free and Dairy-Free Substitutions

**For Gluten-Free** = sub 2 boxes of Jiffy Cornbread Mix with 2 cups of Arrowhead Mills GF Cornmeal, 1 cup of Pamela's GF Pancake Mix, 1 cup Sugar, 1 tsp. Baking Soda, and ½ tsp. Salt.

**For Dairy-Free** = sub with Smart Balance or Earth Balance for the butter and omit sour cream and sub 2 individual serving cups of Mott's Apple Sauce.





# The Lion's ROAR

stm catholic school

By STM Catholic School Faculty & Staff

## Colorado History

The fourth grade class studied the history of our great state! The trimester started with learning about Colorado's first inhabitants including basket makers and how they used their resources. Students also learned about Native American tribes who were indigenous to Colorado and how those tribes related to and used our Colorado landscape.

Additionally, students enjoyed learning about the first explorers, the impact of the Louisiana Purchase on Colorado, Zebulon Pike, and how Pike's Peak was named. Learning and fun came together while studying the Colorado Silver and Gold Rush where students mined for gold while learning about the importance of the Gold Rush on Colorado's growth and economy.



*Fourth graders play Colorado History Jeopardy.*

The unit was capped off with a Colorado History Jeopardy game where the classes battled it out to prove who was a Colorado expert! ♦



*Students with their penguin projects in the school hallway.*

## Penguins

Third grade students embarked on a journey to the Southern Hemisphere and a study of different penguin species. Students were asked to identify different penguin species and create an immersive report on their penguins. Habitats, food and location were all studied. Larger than life penguins marched down the third grade hallway and took up residence outside our classrooms! Students presented their projects and shared their findings.

Joseph A. studied the Little Blue Penguin and taught his classmates the Little Blue Penguin lives in New Zealand and "doesn't mind warm weather."

Christina H. also loved the project. Her favorite part was researching her penguin. While learning and researching the penguins was fun, the best part was sharing their findings with their classmates. The Little Blue Penguin was the class favorite! ♦

## Tower of Books

In the second trimester, fifth grade undertook an in-depth study of different genres of books. Students were asked to read 30 books ranging from nonfiction to mystery.

Using Accelerated Reader, a new software program that was generously donated to the school, fifth grade was able to complete this annual project in a new format, and the students proved themselves to be phenomenal readers!

One of the teachers' favorite parts of this project was to see students branch out from their preferred genres and discover new and interesting books.

One of our students, Maeve Vancik, said, "I thought Tower of Books was fun and challenging. I also discovered genres other than my beloved historical fiction. I ended up liking mysteries!"

Even though this project was an individual undertaking, there was a significant amount of collaboration between students.

Classmates shared favorite stories with each other and teachers alike.



*STM Catholic students exchange book recommendations.*

Miss Vancik went on to say, "My friends gave me recommendations for new books to try. I learned I can read more than I thought."

Students gave more than recommendations to each other. They shared recommendations to both the classroom teachers, Mrs. Arnett and Mrs. Wolf, as well as the library!

The project completion was celebrated with a pizza party and the individual knowledge that we can all rise to great accomplishments when we work hard! ♦

# Register for 2021-2022



Consider our parish school for your child's education!

To learn more about our school for preschool through eighth grade or to schedule a personalized tour, visit [stm catholic.org](http://stm catholic.org) or call 303.770.0441.



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# The SPARK

middle school & high school youth

## New Fraternalism

### mountain madness 2021

Greg Johnson  
Middle School Youth Minister

Every Presidents Day Weekend, our middle school youth ministry take a charter bus up to the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park for the Mountain Madness retreat. The retreat was for the entire Archdiocese of Denver and there were over 1,000 middle school youth on retreat over that weekend.

This year due to the COVID-19 situation, each parish hosted Mountain Madness for one day, watching the keynote speaker, breakout talks, skits, high school testimonies and praise and worship through a live stream virtually. We also had All Souls Catholic Youth Ministry join us and their pastor Fr. Sam do adoration and confession with us.

One of our youth, April Johnston, a 7th grader who attends STM Catholic School wanted to share her experience. ♦

April Johnston  
7th Grader

When I heard that they were going to try and have Mountain Madness this year, at our own parishes, instead of going up to the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, I was happy and excited, but also a little nervous.

I had an amazing experience last year, and I was worried that I wouldn't have as great of a time. I'm happy to say that I was pleasantly surprised.

There was music, dancing, Mass, adoration, confession and some of the most amazing talks by Paul J. Kim, all in one day. My friends and I had a wonderful time.



*Youth from STM and All Souls celebrate Mass during Mountain Madness*



*Youth participate in a Mountain Madness session.*

We learned so much about God and each other, in small groups, and in activities between the lectures.

The retreat was a perfect reminder that God is looking out for me, and it put me back on the tracks of my spiritual journey. I would encourage all middle schoolers to attend next year; it was so much fun!" ♦

# A Duty to Serve God

## 30+ years of boy scout troop 770



Boy Scouts raise the flag during the 2019 Fourth of July.



Scouts visiting Jackson Hole, Wyoming in 2016

Bill Donovan  
Founder of Scout Troop 770

The Boy Scout Troop at St. Thomas More Parish was started in July, 1990 with the blessing of Fr. Michael Walsh, Pastor.

The idea to found a Boy Scout unit came about in the spring of 1990. Dan Donovan, an eleven-year-old parishioner at St. Thomas More was in a Cub Scout Pack at Franklin Elementary School. In February 1990 he graduated into the Boy Scout Troop there.

On a weekend in late March the troop went on a camping trip. Dan and his father, Bill Donovan and Bill Bryant, a father of another boy, went with the troop on that outing. On Saturday evening, the two fathers asked the Scoutmaster what he had planned for the religious service on Sunday morning.

The Scoutmaster said that, because the troop was sponsored by a public school, he could not conduct any religious service. That's in spite of the Scout Oath which says "I will do my duty to God" and the Twelfth part of the Scout Law, "A Scout is Reverent. He is faithful in his religious duties."

The fathers decided to hold a service themselves on Sunday morning and invited any Scout who wished to attend. Afterward the two fathers talked and decided



Eagle Scout presentation for Dan Donovan and Eric Vondras.

that their sons should not be in a troop that failed to honor a Scout's duty to God.

While Bill Donovan was a parishioner at St. Thomas More, Bill Bryant belonged to a Lutheran parish. The fathers agreed that each of them would approach their respective pastors for permission to start a Boy Scout Troop. Whichever pastor agreed first is where they would start a troop.

Bill Donovan talked to Fr. Michael Walsh, Pastor at St. Thomas More, who, on hearing the story, agreed

to have STM sponsor the troop. Subsequent pastors, Fr. Kemberling and Msgr. Fryar have continued to support the troop.

With the enthusiastic endorsement of the Parish Youth Minister a notice was placed in the bulletin and a meeting scheduled for interested parents.

This unqualified support from STM Youth Ministers has continued to this day and without it the troop would likely not have survived, as it has, for over thirty years.

Sufficient parents and boys responded to get the troop started. A Boy Scout Troop charter was granted in July, 1990.

Meetings were scheduled for Friday evenings each week. Among the first group of parents were Jim Ryan, Jim Hargis, Charlie Rasmussen and Bill Donovan. Charlie Resmussen become Scoutmaster until his job took him out of the area.

Other parents who joined the troop committee during those early years, as their sons reached scouting age and joined the troop were, Dick Rapp, Roger Utley, Harry Giglo, Tony Mercado, Michael Fisher, Gene Kindrachuk, Tim Jeske and Bobby Rogers.

One of the first challenges the committee faced was a lack of camping gear. The committee decided to hold a spaghetti dinner in October of 1990 to raise the funds needed to buy this equipment.

The event was successful and they were able to purchase a troop flag, tents, cooking gear, shovels, etc.

Bill Bryant built a trailer to store the camping equipment and allow it to be towed close to where the troop would go camping. The first campout with this equipment was to Buffalo Creek Campground under Scoutmaster Charlie Rasmussen. Six inches of snow fell on them that night but the Scouts stayed dry in the new tents. This campout proved the need for the trailer built by Bill Bryant.

Later years saw the homemade trailer replaced with one that was factory built. The Spaghetti Dinners became an annual Parish event in October until they moved to a different date, due to a conflict, but they continue today.

In the summer of 1991 the troop went to the Denver Area Scout Camp in Elbert County where they had a



*Scouts on a backpacking excursion to the Continental Divide in 1994.*



*Volunteers help Quinn Filby rebuild a bridge at Mt. Olivet Cemetery for his Eagle Scout Project in 2019*

choice to either eat meals in a dining hall or camp in a more rustic environment where they cooked their own meals. After selecting the dining hall for the first year, every year after they went to the more rustic campsite and cooked their own meals.

As the original Scouts got older it was decided they needed more challenging adventures. In 1994 a group of the, now older, Scouts decided to take a hiking and camping trip across the Continental Divide.

They started on the eastern side of the Rockies and ended the trip at a campground on Lake Dillon near Frazier. The next senior Scout trip was to Boundary Water Canoe Base in upper Minnesota where they hiked and canoed on the many lakes.



*Scouts on a backpacking excursion to the Continental Divide in 1994.*

That same summer a group of them took a 15 mile hike as they climbed Long's Peak. Another group canoed about 50 miles of the South Platte in central Wyoming.

That so many boys were able to enjoy the fellowship and many adventures within Troop 770 over the 30+ years it has been here at St Thomas More Parish was possible only because of the dedication and hard work of the many parents who gave their time and talent.

They are a fine example of parishioners and staff of St. Thomas More Catholic Parish. ♦

The overnight camping subsequent years these senior Scout trips were to Philmont Scout Ranch in the mountains near Raton Pass Cimarron, New Mexico. The younger Scouts continue the tradition of going to the Denver Area Council camp in Elbert Country.

The first Eagle Scout from Troop 770 was Tom Murphy who joined the troop when his family relocated here. Tom was already just a step away from earning his Eagle Scout rank when he joined the troop. His leadership and example quickly became an inspiration to the other Scouts.

Tom was followed by Eric Vondras who, also, transferred to the troop when he was further along the Eagle Trail, and by Dan Donovan, the first of the original troop members to achieve the rank. Many more Scouts in Troop 770 have followed the Trail to Eagle during the ensuing years.

During World Youth Day in 1993, which St. Pope John Paul II attended, Troop 770 Boy Scouts, in addition to attending the unforgettable events at the stadium and Cherry Creek Reservoir, had the honor of hosting a group of French Boy Scouts at a meal in the Youth Center parking lot at STM.

The troop has remained very active for all these years. Typical of this is the summer of 1998, which was a busy one. In July 1998, sixteen Scouts and adults, including then Scoutmaster Bert Singleton, Scout Michael Rapp, who is now Father Michael Rapp, went to Camp Ben Delatour at Red Feather Lakes. Other adults included Dick Rapp, Bobby Rogers and Michael Fisher.



*A Boy Scout prepares to help collect the offertory during the 2010 Scout Mass.*



*Scouts raise a flag pole at a campout in the early 2000s.*



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## Time Sensitive Material



**"Be in good spirits under the fatherly mantle  
of St. Joseph, a place of safest refuge in  
trials and tribulations." – St. Joseph Marelllo**