



MORE INFORMED

STM Newsletter

August 2021



The Beauty and
Power of the Eucharist
drawing closer to our lord



Celebrating
Community
fabulous fun festival

No Small Feat
world youth day 1993 at stm

Welcome Fr. Matt
get to know our new
parochial vicar

An Avenue for
Brotherhood
men for all seasons

Welcome Kili Hady!
stm catholic's new
assistant principal



ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH

Go and make disciples

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The Beauty and Power of the Eucharist

drawing closer to our lord

our pastor's message

From the last Sunday in July until the next to the last Sunday in August, this liturgical year we have Gospel readings from chapter 6 of the Gospel of John.

The exception is on Sunday, August 15, when the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary takes precedence. That day the Gospel is taken from Luke, with the beautiful prayer of praise, the Magnificat, from our Blessed Mother.

The rest of the Sundays give us the words about not only the multiplication of the loaves but, more importantly, the bread of life discourse.

I say more importantly because it is the monumental teaching about the true and central nature of the Eucharist, which is the central point of worship for Catholics.

As Church documents have proclaimed, the Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life.

In recent weeks we have had that fundamental aspect very much in the national news as the bishops of our

“ The Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life.



Msgr. Tom during the consecration at the Easter Vigil 2021.

country have prepared to work on, and eventually disseminate, a teaching document on the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

The secular press has taken up the topic of their plans and tried to indicate a plot to create a divisive and exclusionary document.

In reality, they are planning on developing and releasing a teaching document on the beauty and power of the Eucharist. It is seen as a part of a multi-year plan for a major national effort to reignite Eucharistic faith in our country.

In response to a question about whether the bishops are going to issue a national policy on withholding Communion from politicians the answer is no.



The Virgin Adoring the Host by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres (1854)

As a letter from the President of the Conference stated: "There will be no national policy on withholding Communion from politicians. The intent is to present a clear understanding of the Church's teachings to bring heightened awareness among the faithful of how the Eucharist can transform our lives and bring us closer to our creator and the life He wants for us."

In fact, the document is meant for not a select group of individuals in political or governing positions.

It is meant for all the faithful, for you and for me, to study, prayerfully reflect over and use to help us deepen our awareness of the beauty and power of this great gift of the actual Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of the second person of our Godhead: Jesus Christ, who came among us to show us the way to fullness of life in God's heavenly presence.

It will not only emphasize that nature of the real presence of Jesus in the sacrament, but what it means for all who are invited to receive that gift.

And in awareness of that reality, the importance of not disgracing the sacrament or calling punishment upon ourselves by receiving it unworthily.

And the conditions for a worthy reception of the sacrament will undoubtedly give all cause to pause and reflect.

We should never attempt to receive the Lord in the Eucharist if we are knowingly in a state of mortal sin. And that kind of sin involves much more than a singular topic such as abortion.

For instance, we are in that state if we have deliberately not attended Sunday Mass, whether once or often. And let's say I am a parent and have given witness to my children that their Sunday obligation is actually optional. I am compounding that sin within my soul.

Being sexually active outside of the proper state of husband and wife is generally accepted in today's culture. Within our faith it is a mortal sin that I need to confess before I approach receiving the Lord in the Eucharist.

Similarly, advising or encouraging others to grave sin makes one unworthy to approach the Lord in Communion until after a sorrowful and worthy confession.

When the document comes forth from the Bishops' Conference, it will give us profound teaching and weighty insights as to what is at the center of our weekly prayer high point.

I would suspect that it will be surprising to some, and perhaps shocking to others. I would not be surprised if some say that it is too harsh and not reasonable in today's world.

It might lead some to decide to leave the Catholic Faith. That would be sad and tragic.

But the bishops cannot water down the truth or the significance of recognizing the paramount importance of knowing that the Blessed Sacrament is in fact the true presence of our Lord and we are not to dishonor Him by receiving it outside a state of grace.

“ Do not lose heart. Do not be afraid.

That is why I started this with the awareness of the importance of the sixth chapter of John's Gospel. In it we hear our Lord teaching us that unless we eat His Flesh and drink His Blood, we have no life within us.

He is very clear in the language of His teaching that He is not presenting a theoretical image of being open to Him.

He is not giving an analogy or saying that the Eucharist is meant to be a remembrance of Him, but not really Him.

And when, toward the end of the chapter, many of his disciples find the teaching too hard and decide to no longer follow Him, He doesn't call out and say: "Come back, you didn't understand. Let me explain it a better way."

No, He knows that they are turning away because they are unable to accept that what He has told them is the truth. He even asks the Apostles if they too would leave Him. But He will not change the gravity or importance of what He has revealed to attempt to keep the numbers of followers up.

So, pray for the bishops. Pray that they are courageous and strong in their faithful shepherding of the people of

God. Pray for them to give witness and teach in ways that brings the fullness of Christ's truth to our world. And pray for all the faithful.

That we might find their teaching an opportunity to deepen our appreciation for what the Lord gives us in every Mass. And that we are a witness to others to be grace filled and holy in all we do as we draw near the Lord in His most Blessed Sacrament, the Eucharist.

And do not lose heart. Do not be afraid.

As challenging and at times unpopular as our true faith might be in this world, remember the inspired words of St. Peter to Jesus when asked if they too would leave Him. Peter said: "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." ♦

– Msgr. Tom

RECIPE from the RECTORY

By Renee Heinemeyer,
Rectory Chef

Grilled Peaches

There is no better time to grill fresh fruit than in the summer months. As peaches ripen and are ready to enjoy, slice in half, grill for 10 minutes and top with this delicious sauce. When it is 'Palisades Peaches' time in Colorado in August and September, those poor peaches just don't stand a chance!

Ingredients

- 6 peaches (cut in half)
- 2 tbs. melted butter (or smart balance vegetable spread)
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 tbs. honey
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 -2 tbs. maple syrup

Directions

Pre-heat the grill to 400 degrees.

Mix all ingredients but the peaches together in a large bowl.

Add peach halves and fully coat them BEFORE grilling. If weather discourages outside grilling, these can be easily grilled inside in a raised ribbed grill pan. This will ensure the authentic "outside grilled" look!

Generously toss about in the sauce; then grill for approximately 10 minutes. Your peaches should display nice grill marks.

After grilling, ladle sauce over the peaches.

Best when served with Vanilla Bean Ice Cream.



Welcome Fr. Matt

get to know our new parochial vicar

By Hannah Crites

This summer St. Thomas More was blessed to receive a new parochial vicar, Fr. Matt Hartley.

Fr. Matt was born and raised on a farm in Hudson, Michigan. Since he's allergic to hay, he knew farming was not going to be in his future.

His family was Catholic, but weren't very active in their faith. By the time he was in college, Fr. Matt had completely fallen away from the Church.

Through the influence of friends and the Holy Spirit, he was slowly called back during his last semester in college. He began to read and listen to audio tapes about Catholicism and was called back in a very dramatic fashion.

He recognized that if what he was reading was true, his life needed to radically change. He began to pray daily, regularly attend confession and surround himself with other Catholics.

"I really started praying, 'God, what do you want me to do with my life?'" he said, "I never really prayed that way."

The invitation from the Lord to become a priest presented itself right away.

"I went from not going to Mass on Sunday to studying to be a priest in a span of six months," he said.

Fr. Matt approached his home diocese about entering seminary, who asked that he wait due to being fresh off of a conversion. But he was extremely zealous and approached Archbishop Charles Chaput, who invited him to participate in a spirituality year in Denver.

The spirituality year program was relatively new and certainly unique to the Archdiocese of Denver at the time.

It's a year of prayer and preparation, focusing on a new seminarian's spirit and human formation. Men embark



on a media and commerce fast, building a solid foundation that will support them through their seminary studies towards priesthood.

The Lord asked Fr. Matt to remain in the Archdiocese of Denver after spirituality year instead of returning to his home diocese. He has been in Denver ever since.

He was ordained in 2006 and has served in eight parishes in the Archdiocese, including the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Denver where Msgr. Tom was pastor at the time. His last parish before St. Thomas More was St. Augustine in Brighton, CO.

Fr. Matt has a heart of a teacher. He loves preaching, teaching RCIA, leading youth groups and ministering in parish schools.

He is an avid reader with plenty of recommendations for those interested in learning more about theology.

One book being *The Life of St. Gemma Galgani*, which was written by her spiritual director, Ven. Germanus.

"There are three chapters on prayer in that book that are just stunning," Fr. Matt said, "It talks about the depths of prayer, the height of mystical contemplation and the mystical graces she received through prayer. Prayer isn't boring. There's so much more depth to prayer and Catholic spirituality."

He especially has a love for Catholic art and architecture. He loves visiting historical churches to admire their beauty. His office is filled with sacred art by Fra Angelico, Juan de Juanes and others. Some of his favorite saints are St. Gemma Galgani, St. John Vianney, St. Pio of Pietrelcina and St. Elijah, the prophet from the Old Testament.

His favorite part of being a priest is celebrating Mass.

"The Mass is sharing the moment of our redemption," he said, "It's greatest act of love in the history of the universe. That's epic. It's an ocean depth you'll never exhaust." ♦

The Power of One Degree

welcome retreat

By Jon Haubert

With COVID-19 restrictions lifting, I've come to realize how we have an opportunity to reflect and understand all of its impacts, not only as individuals, but as a community.

Statistics about the spread of the virus, the number of cases, deaths and economic effects are nearly everywhere you look. Less understood is the impact to religion.

Having gone through this, I have come to what I feel is an important realization. Fear and isolation might be the two most destructive weapons harming not just Christianity but more specifically, our Catholic faith.

A quick reflection during this 18-month period confirms that, as the virus spread, so did confusion. Mass times and opportunities to worship were reduced, eliminated or moved to online-only, the Eucharist was withheld and our physical communion with Christ was abruptly interrupted.



Parishioners gather for the CRHP Picnic in 2017.

What Parishioners Are Saying About the Welcome Retreat & Formation Experience:

"The program made me a better spouse, a better parent, a better friend."

"My faith has been strengthened."

"I've gained a Church community and family in Christ!"

"The Welcome Retreat reminded me that God is there for me no matter what and I am not alone in my struggles."

"That weekend marked the start of my strengthened faith life and profound joy in my awakened relationship with Christ."

Suddenly, we fell off course.

For many, our home doors were locked as we sat in silence for fear of speaking out, public shaming or alienation resulting from a positive COVID-19 test. By some studies, chaos and confusion have been so devastating that depression has tripled during this period. It has also forced massive divisions creating a very dark period, not just for us as a community, but for the nation, the world and for our Church.

The entire endeavor has been overwhelming and our faith has been pushed to the limit. Nonetheless, it's a clear example of how it is always darkest before the dawn.

Nearly two thousand years ago, eleven disciples sat in the upper room after the public crucifixion of Jesus Christ. There they hid, in the exact same spot that our Lord delivered to them the most profound gift and wisdom our world has ever experienced: His Body and Blood.

Their door was locked, too, and they remained in silence fearing that they would be discovered, shamed and put to death by the same torturous and humiliating execution.



Men's CRHP Retreat in 2012.



Women's Welcome Retreat Group in 2019.

There they remained, isolated from their families, and looking only to each other, not knowing what to do next. It was a shockingly similar setting to what many of us at Saint Thomas More may have experienced these past 18 months.

What saved the eleven disciples then, is shockingly similar to what will save us, now: a first-hand "He is here, among us" encounter with Christ.

We want to see the marks on His palms, we want to feel the breath of God on our faces and we want to witness the power and fire of the Holy Spirit in front of us.

What if I told you that was possible again?

In 2011, a parishioner-led ministry, called Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP), arrived at STM. CRHP began in 1969

in Ohio and is a weekend retreat program, specially held on separate weekends for men and for women.

After its inception, the men's and women's retreat ministry spread to various parishes across the midwest. Eventually, it arrived at a parish in St. Louis where Tom and Gigi Kaiser attended Mass. With a move to Colorado, and permission from then-presiding pastor, Fr. Andrew, the Kaisers brought CRHP to STM.

In June of 2011, the first retreat was held, and 17 parishioners witnessed first-hand the power of a modern-day Pentecost and the swiftness of how quickly the Holy Spirit travels.

Now, ten years later, more than 500 STM parishioners have participated in this retreat experience, and it continues to be a powerful, rebirthing opportunity for thousands of Catholics.

In recent years, it has taken shape under the direction of renowned Catholic author and spiritual advisor, Matthew Kelly. It has since been renamed Welcome.

What is Welcome?

Welcome, sometimes referred to as CHRP 2.0, starts with a weekend retreat at STM, where parishioners meet and get to know one another. There's no doubt that, in a parish as large as ours, getting to know one another can be challenging.

As one past attendee explains: "I met more people in one day than I had in the previous decade in the parish. That weekend started me on a path that resulted in a continuing growth in my journey with Christ. Participating in that first CRHP retreat changed my life forever, and in ways I could not have imagined. The stories of faith, life, and renewal that I heard, opened my heart so that I could live life – not just exist. It also marked the beginning of lifelong friendships with my CRHP brothers and sisters."

But this isn't a networking forum or "get to know your neighbor" type event. This is an experience. It's a weekend of new friendships and fellowship that culminates in rediscovering the Holy Spirit, what the Catholic faith means and how it can fulfill our life's purpose.

What Matthew Kelly has discovered is that one small shift and new habit to put God back into your life is the first step in turning back to Him. Saying the Rosary, attending Adoration, tuning into Catholic radio or podcasts, listening to audio scripture while walking your dog, viewing videos like The Search on Formed.org, downloading the STM parish app or reading a Catholic book, are just a few examples of how you can rekindle your faith.

However, the central finding Matthew Kelly realized comes down to this: a trigger experience is the most impactful opportunity to begin good habits and alter your spiritual trajectory.

This fall, STM will be resuming our annual Welcome retreats, allowing fellow parishioners to reconnect with Christ and to connect with each other.

This one night, single-weekend retreat offers one of the greatest opportunities to rekindle the fire of the Holy Spirit that was first lit in us at baptism.

Attending a Welcome retreat can prove to be that small, but powerful shift you're looking for, and by changing the course of your life by just one degree, you'll see something new and different on the horizon.

Continue changing course, one degree at a time and you'll arrive at an entirely new destination.

We all have a deep desire to feel like we belong—and as Catholics, to feel welcome in our own parish.

For numerous STM parishioners, the Welcome retreat changed the trajectory of their lives, including the trajectory of their marriages and the trajectory of their children's lives, too.

As our parish re-opens, the time is perfect to take action, return to our faith, stand in His presence and be renewed. And the good news, literally, is that it doesn't take much. It all starts with an invitation. ♦

Welcome. CRHP 2.0

There is More to Life



Do you ever feel overwhelmed? Or the opposite – like something is missing in your life?

The reality is we've probably all experienced those kinds of moments in life. We all have a deep desire to feel like we belong—and as Catholics, to feel welcome in our own parish.

Women's Retreat: Saturday & Sunday, September 25 & 26
Men's Retreat: Saturday & Sunday, October 9 & 10

at St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

To reserve your spot, complete your registration online at stthomasmore.org/welcome-retreats.

Celebrating Community

fabulous fun festival

On Friday, July 2, over 900 parishioners gathered for a Fabulous Fun Festival! They enjoyed miniature golf, giant corn toss, carnival games, live music and delicious food. The evening began with Mass and the outdoor events followed. The event was reminiscent of the Fourth of July celebrations the parish hosted early in its founding. It was a wonderful way to kick off Independence Day weekend and a return to normalcy after COVID-19. ♦





Photography by Alphonsus Deodatus and Nicole Turner

Speaking the Truth in Love

inspired by the courage of st. catherine

By Dcn. Alan Rastrelli, M.D.
Homily from April 29, 2021

Jesus preached and lived His life in humble, courageous service to the people and the truth, exemplifying how to be a saint.

Out of love for their souls, Jesus exposed the hypocrisy of the religious and societal leaders who had strayed away from God's law of love.

We all struggle with this thorn, temptation to self-righteousness, rationalizing living by a different set of laws other than God's. This individualistic, secularist ideology now dominates our society and has spilled into our faith lives.

Our country, our world and our church are treading on the thin ice of a great moral and societal schism. Our government is passing laws and executive orders that expand access to abortion and transgender surgeries.

HHS has removed ethics review on research with aborted baby parts and "respectfully disagrees" with the



objections of the US Bishops.

Our papacy and magisterium are inviting only progressive ideological voices, including many pro-abortion supporters, to participate in Vatican organized conferences on health, environment, sexuality and family life.

The German synod of Bishops is close to separating from Rome as they drift further away from doctrines given us by Christ, embracing married priests, gay marriage, contraception and LGBT lifestyles.

Jesus encourages us to follow God's law and not those in positions of trust or stature who scandalously legitimize grave sin while claiming to be devout Catholics, jeopardizing the souls of many.

Out of love, Archbishop Aquila recently wrote two articles on the importance of the shepherds of the church to rescue the flock from losing their souls.

Quoting him, "For the church to live in eucharistic coherence, we must be willing to challenge Catholics persisting in grave sin. The truth may be hard to speak and hard to hear, but love speaks the truth. To approach the Eucharist casually and without the fear of possible condemnation is to risk one's eternal salvation. Because of the public scandal caused, this is especially true in the case of public officials who persistently govern in violation of the natural law, particularly the pre-eminent issues of abortion and euthanasia, the taking of innocent life, as well as other actions that fail to uphold the church's teaching regarding the dignity of life. The truth may be hard to speak and hard to hear, but love speaks the truth. To approach the Eucharist casually and without the fear of possible condemnation is to risk one's eternal salvation."

Virgin and Doctor of the Church, St Catherine of Siena, showed similar courage when lovingly reaching out to mend a divided church. She helped bring



St. Catherine of Siena Writing by Rutilio di Lorenzo Manetti (1630)

Pope Gregory XI from Avignon back to Rome. She sent numerous letters to princes and cardinals to help heal the Great Schism of the West under Pope Urban VI and defend what she calls the "vessel of the Church."

“ When you speak and proclaim the truth, look only to God's honor for the salvation of souls.

She wrote, “When you speak and proclaim the truth, do it fearlessly, looking only to God's honor for the salvation of souls...”

The lay faithful must do the same to challenge each other, our church leaders, and public leaders who have fallen into the trap. ♦

Dcn. Alan Rastrelli, M.D. enriches our STM parish family with his faithful deaconate service. As a clergyman and as a renowned palliative care physician, Dcn. Alan works tirelessly to promote the respect of all human life. We are so grateful for his wisdom and expertise.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

Wednesday, September 22 – Sunday, October 31

All STM parishioners are invited to participate in these five ways:

- ♦ Pray for an hour on **Friday, September 24** or **Saturday, October 9** from 7:00AM–5:00PM outside the local Planned Parenthood abortion facility (7155 E. 38th Avenue, Denver 80207).
Sign up now at 40DaysforLife.com/Denver (then “Sign Up for Vigil Hours”) or contact respectlife@stthomasmore.org.
- ♦ Attend Mass with Msgr. Tom at 1:00PM on **Friday, September 24** across the street from Planned Parenthood.
- ♦ Sign up for an hour of prayer (available 24 hours/day) outside the Littleton Planned Parenthood office (NW corner of County Line and Broadway) that distributes the abortion pill.
Sign up now at 40DaysforLife.com/Littleton (then “Sign Up for Vigil Hours”).
- ♦ Pray and fast for an end to abortion any day during 40 Days for Life (February 17 – March 28).
To sign up for a day, contact respectlife@stthomasmore.org.
- ♦ Commit to pray for one hour each month throughout the year outside Planned Parenthood through SaversOfSouls.org.

Gifts, Solace & Community

stm gift shop

By Kat Larson

The original gift shop at St. Thomas More opened December 14, 1988 and was named the Cloister Cove, Gifts for all Reasons. The shop was a small glassed-in showroom tucked along the hallway from the church to The Padre restaurant.

Ray O'Shea, long-time parishioner and recently deceased, was the manager. He and over 30 volunteers helped serve in this ministry of serving others.

The Cove was often overcrowded with patrons and it soon became evident that the Cloister Cove was meant for more than selling merchandise. People went there not just to shop but to find solace, support and community.

The grand reopening of the Cloister Cove occurred on May 25, 2001 with Joe Gallo as the manager. He had a vast knowledge of retail and began his mission not just to expand the shop's physical space but the inventory as well.

After the reopening, the news of the gift shop spread



The Cloister Cove before it was expanded in 2001.

and people from all different walks of life flocked to the shop. The volunteers who worked in the store always emphasized the pursuit of ministry.

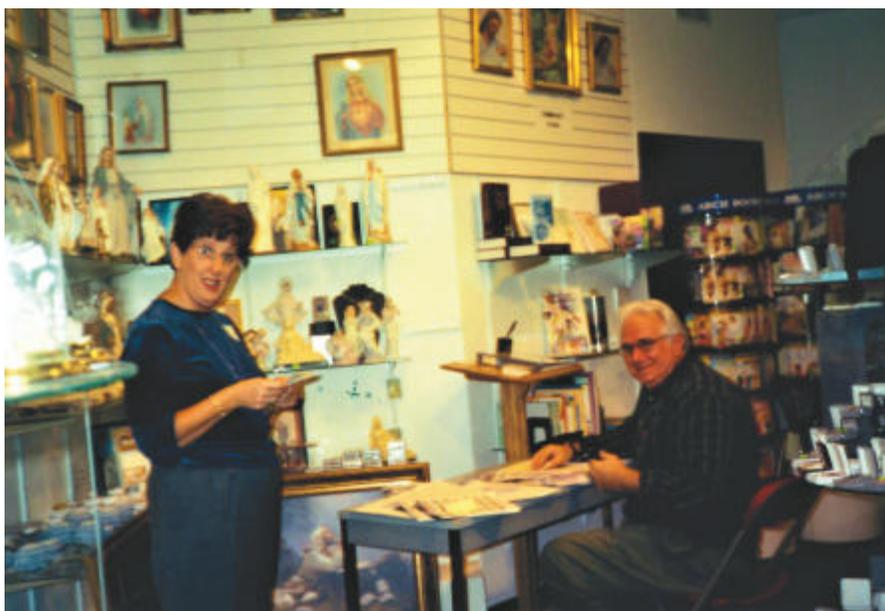
There is a dedication to meeting the customers "where they are." It is not uncommon for people to find themselves walking into the shop without being completely sure how they got there. There is no doubt that by the time they leave they will know.

God speaks in many ways, and the ministry offered by the gift shop is an unexpected way He reaches out to His children.

In 2008, Joe Gallo assisted with the design of the current STM Gift Shop and continued to serve as manager until 2012 when he retired.

Joanie Zagorsky then took on the management position. She brought a vast knowledge of retail but more importantly, a wisdom gleaned from the Catholic faith.

Joanie continues to carry on the primary goals of the gift shop to foster



Joe Gallo and Maureen McGuigan in the new STM gift shop.



Parishioners shop in the Cloister Cove.

industry abruptly but when God closes a door, He opens a window. Alisa saw an ad requesting help in the gift shop and now Alisa is part of the team.

The St. Thomas More Gift Shop has been part of many lives and that number continues to grow. The shop offers an array of wonderful items for purchase whether you are looking for a sacramental gift for a loved one or a personal treasure to grow your own faith, the gift shop is guaranteed to have it.

If you are searching for something deeper, for connection to God and community, you will also find it within the walls of the gift shop. There is an open invitation to anyone, no matter where you are in your life journey to visit the gift shop. ♦

the Gospel values, promote and support the sanctity of human life in our society and underline the importance of family, singles, youth and seniors. Joanie is constantly seeking new ways to strengthen the mission of connecting with people.

The shop has expanded its selection of books for young adults, seniors and people wanting to convert to the Catholic faith, or are facing tough decisions.

The shop assists St. Thomas More Catholic School and the Knights of Columbus to encourage the importance of family. It is involved in the Advent by Candlelight and Knights of Columbus Children's Christmas Party too, and to this day, all the profit from the gift shop is put back into improving the church community.

Joanie has great support for these efforts. Volunteers continue to play a strong role in the daily activities of the gift shop. The shop currently has five active volunteers—Tess Cicarelli, Mary LaCasse, Terry Maloney, Joan Olsen, Judy SanFlippo and Barb Tedesco.

Joanie recently hired Alisa Doiel to work with her and the volunteers. Alisa is originally from Nebraska, but has lived in Colorado for the past 14 years. She has been married to Tim for four years. They each brought one adult daughter into their marriage—hers is newly engaged and his is married with 4 children.

She is an active parishioner at St. Thomas More—volunteering as a greeter at Mass, Helping Hands and in the church library, but also volunteers outside the church. COVID-19 ended her work in the convention



Gift Shop staff Alisa Doiel and Joanie Zagorsky.



Gift shop volunteers in 2021.

32 Years of KOC at STM

charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism

By Bruce Tawson
Parishioner

Council 10205 was founded December 19, 1989 during Fr. Michael Walsh's pastorate at St. Thomas More. Pope St. John Paul II, a member of the knights, described the order as "Charity in Action." It is the largest Catholic lay organization in the world with approximately 2 million members, 454 of which belong to Council 10205.

For over 30 years, our knights have given back to the parish by organizing and producing popular social events such as St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dances, Italian nights, BBQ picnics, Steak Fry's Oktoberfests, children's Christmas parties and the extremely popular Lenten Fish Fry's.

Most of these activities were graciously supported by wives and women of the parish, formerly the Ladies Auxiliary. In particular, their cheerful and friendly help on the Fish Fry serving lines made our parishioners feel welcomed and appreciated. Not to mention their delicious homemade desserts!

The knights raised tens of thousands of dollars by providing sweat labor at a bingo hall in order to raise money to purchase a meeting hall. When it became apparent that the price of real estate in the area was prohibitive, the council donated over \$63,000 to good causes, including the STM church and school.

In addition, each year five seminarians receive financial support as they study for the priesthood.

The Knights of Columbus are steadfast in support of Pro Life. Knights organize and participate in praying the Rosary at Planned Parenthood. The Council has financially supported state council's ultrasound program, which places ultrasound machines at pregnancy clinics throughout Colorado.

When the church was renovated, the council donated funds it had raised to purchase a beautiful Marian statue for the Memorial Garden behind the Adoration Chapel. Other charitable activities include the Easter and



KOC honor guard prepared for Mass in 2010.



Past and present Grand Knights at the 25 Anniversary Celebration in 2014.

Christmas food drives, the Coats for Kids program and annual tithing to the church. The Knights are always very appreciative for the great support from STM parishioners for these activities.

In support of our youth, the Knights established scholarship programs for STM schoolchildren as well as a college scholarship program for Knights' children.

Each year, the Knights organize a basketball Free Throw tournament, awarding ribbons and medals to winners. Both boys and girls participate. Often, the Council organizes and staffs statewide KOC free throw



The 2015 free throw participants in the STM School Gym.

tournaments, at the request of the KOC State Council.

During World Youth Day, our Knights helped host some 200 French Youth. The new STM Perpetual Adoration Chapel was consecrated by the visiting French Cardinal. A large outdoor meal was organized by one of our Knights as a parting gift to the French Youth on their final day at the parish.

Our Blessed Mother is the patron of the Knights of Columbus. Every meeting begins with recitation of the Rosary. Every event begins with prayer. Once a year, a Memorial Mass is celebrated for fallen Knights. Brothers are never forgotten. Each year a spiritual retreat or weekend of prayer and camping is held by the Council.

A special Widows and Orphans Fund is available to wives and families needing financial assistance after the passing of a Brother Knight.

Council 10205 provides help to Brothers and parishioners alike with its "Helping Hands" program. The program provides assistance for odd jobs, repairs, relocation, lawn work or snow removal when someone is physically challenged or elderly.

The 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus is the Patriotic Degree. 4th Degree Assembly 2294 resides at St. Thomas More. Nearly two hundred Knights from the Church of the Risen Christ, All Souls and St. Thomas More comprise the Assembly's membership. The Assembly includes

an Honor Guard that brings dignity and solemnity to special occasions, including Rosaries for deceased members, funerals, Patriotic events and other unique activities by church officials.

Through its Chalice Program, the Assembly provides an engraved chalice to the family of a deceased member to be given to a priest of their choice. A member of the 4th Degree is referred to as "Sir Knight." Whereas a Third-Degree Knight is referred to as "Brother Knight".

Men have the opportunity to become stronger in their faith and more active in their Church and community when they join the Knights of Columbus. ♦



Knights of Columbus Children's Christmas Party in 2013.



Knights Serving food at a Lenten Fish Fry in 2018.

An Avenue for Brotherhood

men for all seasons



Men enjoy coffee, pastries and fellowship during a MFAS meeting.

In September, the men's group at STM, Men for all Seasons (MFAS) will embark on its 15th year. Participant Jim Davis was a catalyst to get it going back in 2007.

It is a complete team effort of the men involved to make it happen, but Steve Bell, Brad Maddock and Dcn. Steve Stemper have served as the leaders of the group and gather input from a solid Core Team of regular participants.

Content has varied each year, as you would expect, but what hasn't varied is the basic format with the keys being a one hour block starting at 6:20AM on Friday mornings (usually 13 weeks in the fall and 13 weeks in the spring), and two major components each week: content then men sharing with one another at their table (about 10 guys at each).

When we are in session in McCallin Hall, we typically have 120-140 men each week spread over 19 small group tables.

Here are some thoughts from just a few of the hundreds of participants we've had through the years:

Tom Perchiazzi, Jr.

I joined when my family moved here 14 years ago. MFAS has helped me grow as a Catholic father and husband and I've made some lasting relationships with men that have been there for me during challenging times. MFAS is a brotherhood and worth embracing!

Steve Zahorik

Over the past 14 years I have grown in my understanding of God, the church, the Bible, the men at my table and me (and my responsibilities as a man, husband, father and friend). I appreciate the opportunity to listen to the thoughts of other men during that "Godly" hour of the morning!

Craig Pike

For me, MFAS was a perfect complement as I was going through RCIA a couple years ago. I joined the group shortly after RCIA started and topics and discussions in both seemed to perfectly fit together.

I don't remember the theme for my first season but it was a lot of deep dives into scripture and it really helped



Men talk after a MFAS meeting is dismissed.

reinforce what I was learning in RCIA giving me that strong base of knowledge of Catholicism.

I'm probably biased but I don't think I could have joined a better table (Table #7) for someone new to the faith. The men at that table have such a strong faith and really know how to share their knowledge which was exactly what I needed as I struggled with a few "beliefs" of our faith. The subsequent seasons have driven home and really affirmed my decision to become Catholic.

As difficult as the past year has been, not being able to be in person in McCallin Hall, it was also a blessing as I think I took for granted how important camaraderie and fellowship is in our spiritual lives. The content is great, but being able to share my faith with my brothers is the glue.

Steve Shiners

MFAS has meant to me a way to use the unique gifts the Holy Spirit gives me as a man, so I may lead my family and others by my actions and words. This way I can help our society that desperately needs to understand how to live as God intended.

Al Lindeman

MFAS is a great program that keeps me connected and allows me to grow in my faith. The program we just finished was excellent and allowed for us to examine who we are and where we are going in our faith.

The discussion group after the program video allows us to identify other perspectives of the message and the

STM Men!

Join us for Bishop Barron's series
Catholicism: The Pivotal Players

Beginning Friday, September 17
at 6:20AM in McCallin Hall

Discover the stories of the Catholic Church's most influential people in an adventure across the globe.

questions we reflect on. I look forward to meeting in person again in September.

Dcn. Steve Stemper

One of the best things about the group is that regardless of where you are in your faith walk and degree of understanding our faith, you will get something not only from the program content, but probably more from the men you develop relationships with. Men need to be in relationship with other men, and MFAS is an excellent avenue for that.

There is absolutely no experience or knowledge needed to attend, so we hope you too, (whether brand new or returning from attending in the past) consider joining us starting Friday, September 17! Feel free to call me at 303.867.0610 with any questions. ♦

St. Thomas More
Catholic Parish & School

50th 1971-2021

2021-2022 Guide Book
stewardship of our time and talent

Check Out Your New Guide Book!

Your new 2021-2022 Guide Book is on its way to your mailbox! Use this handy reference booklet to explore the various ministries and programs here at St. Thomas More.

Our mission is, as Christ commanded, to "Go and make disciples" and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to build the Kingdom of God. Through the various ministries and opportunities at STM, we can embrace this call.

Take time to discern where you and your family would like to be involved in serving our parish and the greater community, from ministries that assist during Mass, children's religious education, community outings, prayer groups and opportunities to serve the wider body of Christ and more!

We thank the generous sponsors who through their support, we are able to provide this guide book at no cost to our parish. We encourage you to think of them first as needs arise in the future.

Evangelizing on the Green

men's golf league

By Steve Shiners

During the 1990s and 2000s, there was a ministry called the St. Thomas More Men's Golf League led by George Strack. Parishioners could play a nine-hole round of golf and socialize on Thursday nights in the summer months, all at Wellshire Golf Course in Denver. The season also featured two eighteen-hole tournaments, mid-year and after the close of the regular season, at alternate sites. Parishioners Harry Allen and Jeff Ross ran the league during this period of time.

After 2012, there were not enough men from the parish interested in keeping the league going, so non-parishioners filled in. While this did provide an opportunity for evangelization, the league changed its name to the 'Wellshire 9ers.' The 9ers continue to play. ♦



STM Golf League during the celebration after the 2012 mid-year tournament.

Take home a special memento celebrating our 50th Anniversary!



This beautiful ornament is a replica of the crucifix in the sanctuary and our special 50th anniversary logo!



Visit the gift shop or the parish office to preorder this anniversary Christmas ornament!

Cost is \$10. Ornaments will arrive in November, in time to decorate the tree! Questions? Contact the gift shop at giftshop@stthomasmore.org.

Making a Splash with Moses

vacation bible school

Vacation Bible school came back in a big way after being postponed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Children gathered to learn about Moses in the desert through songs, skits, activities and lots of fun during the water day.

Moses himself even made a visit to share the story of the Exodus! We can't wait for next summer's VBS! ♦



Photography by Nicole Turner



The Lion's ROAR

stm catholic school

Welcome to Kili Hady!

stm catholic's new assistant principal

By STM Catholic School
Faculty & Staff

STM Catholic is pleased to welcome our new Assistant Principal, Kili Hady. Mrs. Hady comes to us from St. Francis de Sales where she was the principal. She has taught fourth and fifth grade as well as middle school literature.

Mrs. Hady received her undergraduate degree in Political Science and Sociology from the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth, KS.

She holds dual Master's Degrees from the University of Phoenix (K-6 Education) and Regis University (Educational Leadership/Principal Licensure). She also has two daughters, ages 6 and 12.

Mrs. Gretchen DeWolfe, STM Catholic Principal, says, "We are extremely excited and blessed Mrs. Hady has joined the STM Catholic family! Her unwavering faith and many years of experience in administration will take our school community to the next level. I am eager to see where the next weeks and months take us with her in the Assistant Principal position!"

Mrs. Hady does not only bring a wealth of knowledge in education and leadership, she also brings a new level of enthusiasm in our community. Teachers and students are excited to welcome her into our family.



STM Catholic's new Assistant Principal, Kili Hady.

Middle school social studies and literature teacher, Abby Basile says, "We are so excited in the middle school to have a new Assistant Principal! We have heard wonderful things about Mrs. Hady and are looking forward to the energy, enthusiasm and expertise she will bring to make STM Catholic even better!"

Tammy DeLaCuesta (third grade) says, "We are thrilled to have her on board and are looking forward to a fantastic school year. She will bring with her a wealth of knowledge to all of us on staff."

Outside of education, Mrs. Hady is excited to share her many interests with our school. As a fifth generation Colorado native, she loves everything to do with being outdoors and camping.

STM middle school students are looking forward to her participation in the eighth grade retreat. Sophie Abar, Beta Club President, says "We are really excited to have her join us this year for our retreats and Beta Club. It will be fun to get to know her."

As a former literature teacher, her interests also include reading. When asked her current favorite recommendation, she believes parents and parishioners should read *Left to Tell*, a beautifully written biography about a Catholic survivor of the Rwandan Holocaust. ♦



memories from our school



Parishioners Gather for the Groundbreaking of the future STM Catholic School on October 25, 1993.

Over the last 26 years, STM Catholic School has been blessed to educate many wonderful students. As our parish looks back during this 50 year anniversary celebration, we are especially grateful for our school. We are glad to share these memories from our school pulled from our archives.

To celebrate this anniversary, we want to dedicate this page of the *More Informed* to these special moments. If you have photos you would like to submit, please email moreinformed@sthomasmore.org or visit the parish office with your photos. ♦



STM Catholic school student choir concert in 2004.



Preschoolers thank Fr. Andrew Kemberling during priest appreciation day in 2009.



Students venerate a relic on All Saints Day in 2013.



Aidan Benze saying the pledge of allegiance while distance learning during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.



The SPARK

middle school & high school youth

Restored in Christ

steubenville of the rockies

By Christina Hale
Youth Ministry Intern

This past May, I graduated from high school. With all the combustion of college and the future, this retreat couldn't have come at a better time. A full weekend spent with the Lord, in community with my friends, incredible speakers and great souvenirs was the restoration that I needed.

Throughout the weekend we heard many incredible speakers including, Fr. Leo Patalinghug, Sr. Mary Elizabeth Albers, Chris Stefanick, Katie Prejean McGrady and Oscar Rivera Jr. Each one had not only an amazing story but were insightful and passionate. A speaking point that stuck with me the most throughout the weekend was Fr. Leo saying that Jesus sees each of us and we have to choose to see Him. He said this during Adoration on Saturday night, reminding us that Jesus Christ, our Lord is present in the Holy Eucharist. It was a beautiful evening, full of joy.

Adoration has always been one of my favorite parts of the Catholic faith. We are so blessed to have the Lord present with us; looking back at us as we look at Him. This year at Steubenville of the Rockies, we had Adoration twice, once Friday night and once Saturday night. Both nights were incredible, but the night that will stay with me forever was Saturday night. On Saturday night, I felt the Lord in a way I haven't in a long time. The reassurance that He is with me and He loves me was truly overwhelming.

There's a lot of beauty that happens when Christ comes into your life. There's also a lot of beauty when you



STM Youth at Steubenville of the Rockies in 2021.

watch your friends accept Christ into their own lives. Throughout the weekend, I grew closer to my peers. Watching my friends, and myself, grow closer to each other and grow closer to Christ was a gift to witness. We prayed together, laughed together, cried together and helped each other towards the Lord. A moment of pure joy was when a few of us prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet together at the end of each night. It was so joyful as we all sat in the hotel lobby's sofas with our Rosaries, in our pajamas, worshipping our Lord.

Steubenville of the Rockies 2021 was something I will never forget. The Lord has blessed me in many ways; Steubenville of the Rockies is one of the greatest blessings. This weekend I was restored in Christ, and I couldn't be more joyful. This joy I will hold onto and allow to grow! ♦

Facing Fear With Faith

stm youth competes in national judo competition

By Matt Rogers
Youth Ministry Volunteer

For as long as I can remember, sports have been a way to test the limits of human strength, endurance and even faith. When you train every day to achieve some sort of goal, such as winning a baseball or basketball championship, it tests your human and sometimes even spiritual capacity. I would argue the same goes for Judo. Judo is a Japanese martial art that focuses on throwing an opponent to the ground and/or submitting them to win a match.

Xavier Tixier, one of our youth, recently started training under former Olympian Grace Jividen Truesdale and myself at Gracie Judo Club in Littleton. He quickly entered the USA Judo National competition in Salt Lake City that took place in March. This was his first competition ever and at the time, he was only three months into his training. I'd be lying if I wasn't a little bit nervous for him because the individuals he would be fighting were elite level fighters and most beginners start at the state level. However, COVID-19 has impacted our ability to have state competitions. Additionally, the risks are higher in a judo competition compared to other sports. Your body is put to the test and the chances of serious injury are higher because it's a combat sport.

Xavier was in two different divisions. He was in the standard youth division which featured fighters from around the country and then the novice division which



Xavier takes first in his division.

is geared more towards beginner competitors. As a coach and as an athlete, I think sometimes sports put our faith to the test as well. Faith that we'll do well, and faith that we won't get seriously hurt. Xavier didn't demonstrate any level of panic or concern when he started fighting (though he told me afterwards he was a little nervous). I like to attribute



Matt and Xavier at the USA Judo National competition in Salt Lake.

this to what he was doing before every fight. He would bless himself with the sign of the cross and say a quick prayer, which I honestly think was what kept him so calm and focused, which helped him in the long run. He was able to beat several individuals who were two to three ranks above him, which put him in sixth place in the standard division (out of 11 fighters) and he took Gold in the novice division, beating another young man who put a lot of heart into his fight.

Fear can be a large component of this sport. Fear of losing, fear of getting hurt, fear of disappointment or embarrassment, the list goes on. And too much fear can cause you to lose focus on what is going on and panic. But one thing I think it forces us to do is to face fear and we really can't do that without our faith in God. Having the awesome opportunity to watch one of our STM youth grasp onto his faith and really use it in this context was, frankly, inspiring. Greg Johnson and the STM Youth team work so incredibly hard to ensure that our youth grasp onto their faith and apply it on all aspects of their lives and it's wonderful to know that their influence is impactful and meaningful. It was very clear that Xavier's faith was paramount as he ran to it when he felt he needed to, and it helped immensely.

This fall, Xavier will be traveling to Orlando Florida to compete in another national event. Please join me in praying for him, his safety and success. His example and representation of faith is something that every STM parishioner, youth leader and community member should be proud of because he represents it so well. ♦

No Small Feat

world youth day 1993 at stm

One of the most lasting events our parish has ever had the blessing to witness was World Youth Day on August 10 through August 15, 1993. Pope St. John Paul II hand selected Denver to be the city to host the event. Between half a million and one million people from over 100 nations came to Denver and relied on the local churches and communities to accommodate their needs.

About 913 St. Thomas More families hosted 2,300 French pilgrims and countless volunteers packed lunches, offered rides and welcomed pilgrims during their stay in Denver. The event was a huge success and we are still feeling the impact of it 28 years later!

The following is an interview *More Informed* conducted with David Tschumper, a long time youth minister at St. Thomas More who was present at the event:

What was the community reaction when it was announced that World Youth Day was coming to Denver?

I think there was a lot of excitement, but also a bit of skepticism. A lot of us were used to the local church. The Pope was not in our everyday thoughts. He was a very far away personality. For those that were involved in WYD 1993, that perspective would certainly change.

What was planning for World Youth Day like? What challenges did you run into?

I was hired just a few months before they had announced WYD. I was in charge of high school, middle school and



young adults ministries and then I was in charge of WYD. We ended up registering over 900 participants. 600 of those would end up taking part on their own. 300 of those were youth and young people that needed chaperones. Then we were assigned to 2,300 French kids. Committees sprung up to handle the French, but I was part of that as well. It was no small feat to find them housing, transportations, lodging and food. But the parish really pulled together and helped make it happen.

Do you have any favorite moments?

My favorite moment from WYD 1993 was the opening ceremony at Mile High stadium. The place was rocking. It was the first time that I had ever seen a Pope. Seeing Pope St. John Paul II for the first time was simply amazing. We were crying and we did not know why. The chants of, "Pope John Paul II, we love you!" rang out all night long. The Pope responded with, "Pope John Paul loves you too" and we felt it.

You've been to several WYDs in other countries throughout the years. Is there anything that made WYD '93 unique?

I have had the privilege of taking teen and adults to 10 different World Youth Days. Denver, Manila, Paris, Rome, Toronto, Cologne, Sydney, Madrid, Rio and Krakow. Denver was special, because it was in our hometown. It had a major impact on vocations, churches and apostolates in Denver and the US.

What are some fruits you have seen in the years since World Youth Day that remain today?



I just think it had a lot fruit. One example is Sue (Frank) Lythgoe. She was one of our STM Youth Ministers for 14 years. She had a real conversion at WYD, which led her into Youth Ministry. Now she is doing ministry with her family. I met Pete Fuller at World Youth Day 1993. He was helping with the call center that we had set up on campus. He kept getting all of these phone calls for me and didn't know who or where I was. I did not have a cell phone at the time. He met me and discovered that I needed a lot of help in Youth Ministry. He has been a volunteer ever since. It also had a great impact on me personally. I got engaged a couple of days after WYD 1993. My wife and I had the joy of experiencing the WYD together. She was one of my group leaders for the event. It bonded us in a tangible way. Our marriage is definitely a fruit of World Youth Day 1993. World Youth Day has been a big part of our Youth Ministry for almost 30 years. It was amazing! ♦



Photos from STM Archives and Leona Buczkowski.



ST. THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC PARISH IN CENTENNIAL
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Time Sensitive Material

Only in Christ can men
and women find answers
to the ultimate questions
that trouble them.

– Pope St. John Paul II
WYD Denver, 1993

