



St. Thomas More Catholic Parish & School

Christ the King | November 21, 2021

What's Inside:

- ◆ Happy Thanksgiving
- ◆ We're Hiring
- ◆ Our Lady of Guadalupe
- ◆ Christmas Gift Fair

*You say I am a king. For
this I was born and for
this I came into the world,
to testify to the truth.*

John 18:37

pastor's note



As you will be hearing this weekend, throughout the Archdiocese of Denver, from now until Christmas, the Archbishop has asked that we use the homilies at the weekend Masses to give an awareness of what we as the Church of Denver are all to be focusing our hearts, minds and spiritual efforts toward in preparation for the coming events in 2022. Specifically, we will be going on retreat together and over these weeks considering the core of our faith's good news and what it calls us to believe and live as members of the family of God, thanks to our baptismal call, with its rights and responsibilities.

Over these weekends, we will be trying to renew our awareness of what it means to listen to the Lord and hear ever more clearly what we are called to believe and do as children of God. In some ways, it is a month-long living out of the slide you often see prompting us to prayer following the homilies or after receiving communion. "Speak Lord, your servant is listening."

If you have ever been fortunate enough to go on a multi-day retreat you might recall that it often entails the retreat director giving you scripture readings to review and spend time prayerfully contemplating. I would like to suggest that over the course of the coming month you do that with the Sunday readings for each of the four weeks of Advent. Spend time in the week prior to the upcoming Sunday going over and prayerfully reflecting on the word of God for the coming Sunday. At the very least, spend some time in the day before you come to Mass reading them and seeing what they might be specifically saying to you.

If you have a Magnificat, you can easily see what the upcoming Sunday's readings will be. You can also look them up either in the missalettes in the pews in the days prior to the Sunday, or on the USCCB (the US Bishops') website. The readings for next Sunday, the 1st Sunday of Advent are as follows: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14; 1st Thessalonians 3:12-4:2; and Luke 21:25-28, 34-36.

I often suggest that a person takes up their Bible at home during the Advent season and reads through the Infancy Narratives in both Matthew and Luke. Of all that we read through this special, and at times too hectic, season it is always good to hear the Lord's voice. Consider adding the Sunday readings to your Advent journey this season. And pray for the successful outcome of the preaching efforts throughout the Archdiocese, and the fruits that will come from it in the new year.

— Msgr. Tom



Welcome to St. Thomas More!

Go and make disciples

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

Clergy

Pastor: Msgr. Thomas Fryar

Parochial Vicars: Rev. Matt Hartley, Rev. Rohan Miranda, O.C.D., Rev. Ivan Monteiro, O.C.D.

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

Parish Office

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

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

Daily Masses: Monday–Friday: 6:30 & 9:00AM. Saturday: 7:30AM

Confessions: Monday–Friday: 8:00AM,
Thursday: 6:30PM, Saturday: 8:30AM

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

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

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

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

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

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

a reflection on today's readings

Grow as a Disciple

Many Americans have a fascination with royalty. We love to follow the royal family in real life and via the binge-worthy Crown series on Netflix. As royal-watchers know, the crown isn't all it's cracked up to be! History and experience, too, show that earthly kingdoms include their share of divisiveness, betrayal and, at times, a total disregard for other people. Jesus gives us a different kind of kingdom and kingship to aspire to – one based on truth not fiction, and born of suffering and not succession. Jesus did not seek earthly glory but endured a crown of thorns and death on a cross to establish the kingdom of heaven – a kingdom that perfects us and unites us with the Holy Trinity. So it is fitting that as we end the liturgical year, we honor Jesus as King of the Universe – heaven, earth and all creation. Jesus established His kingdom by sacrificing Himself out of love for us. By our baptism we have a share in this holy identity, and therefore, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we have the authority and power to proclaim Christ's Kingship to all the world by our words and deeds. In this way we are able to serve the one true king, and participate in building God's kingdom on earth.

Go Evangelize

Some people aren't shy about saying where they stand: I'm especially fascinated by bumper stickers. We don't like to talk about politics or religion, but somehow it's OK to proclaim our most deeply held beliefs as we tool down the highway. As we celebrate Jesus as King of the Universe, it's a good time to ask ourselves: Is Jesus king of our universe? If so, how do we proclaim it? Bumper stickers can be fun, but sharing our belief in Jesus as our Savior requires human interaction. Introverts like me may find it difficult, but we can witness to our faith in a number of ways: Yes, through conversation, but also through the priorities we choose and the examples we set. As members of the kingdom of God – present on earth but not yet fully realized – our baptismal vocation is to participate in Christ's priestly, prophetic and kingly mission. We can ask Jesus to help us find the words and actions that best help us do so.

Action

Advent starts next Sunday! Just as we prepare for major holidays like Christmas and Thanksgiving, we can start roughing out an Advent "menu." How will we observe as a family this year? What are our goals for the season? What can I accomplish in the week ahead to free up Advent for prayerful preparation?

– Written by *The Faithful Disciple*

prayer



This Week's Mass Intentions

Sunday, November 21:

Christ the King
 7:00AM John Kammer †
 8:30AM Jon Stemper
 10:30AM Mass for the People of St. Thomas More
 12:30PM Michael B. Hilger †
 5:30PM Mike Fossier †

Monday, November 22:

6:30AM Liam Stemper Christianson
 9:00AM Marie & George Brown †

Tuesday, November 23:

6:30AM Agnes Dechant †
 9:00AM Luz Pileggi

Wednesday, November 24:

6:30AM Fr. Herman Jayachandra †
 9:00AM The Dcn. George & Bonnie Brown Family

Thursday, November 25:

No 6:30AM Mass
 9:00AM Celebrant's Intention

Friday, November 26:

6:30AM Dennis Rorick †
 9:00AM Sally Palmer †

Saturday, November 27:

7:30AM Tony Marino
 4:00PM Julianna Dalton & Family
 5:30PM Jere Atkinson †

Sunday, November 28:

First Sunday of Advent
 7:00AM The Dilger, Voigt & Markey Families
 8:30AM Kate Breen
 10:30AM Mass for the People of St. Thomas More
 12:30PM Janet & Ian Lyon †
 5:30PM Msgr. John Slattery †

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for our ill parish members & relatives:

Sheri Jeske, Jerry Lane, Donald Wise

Pray for our deceased parish members & relatives:

Mary Alice Clark, Tempesta Concetta, Marilyn Kuptz, Tony Marino, Fr. Regis Scanlon, Alice Sedivy, George Strack, Carmen Trujillo, Francis Visocky, Gail Vittitoe, Jon Wallace, John Bartholomew Winkler

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

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Visit the missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Come venerate a special missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Thanksgiving!

Thursday, November 26
at the 9:00AM Mass

This image is an exact replica of the original image of Our Lady left on the Tilma of St. Juan Diego in December of 1531. For more information, visit triumphofmary.org or contact the parish office at 303.770.1155.

St. Joseph Workshop

Discover the second greatest saint who ever walked the earth.



Have you ever wanted to draw closer to Saint Joseph, but you didn't know how? Ever wondered why we exalt him with the titles that we do in the Litany of Saint Joseph? Don't miss out on a special event for the Year of St. Joseph!

Saturday, December 4
at St. Thomas More
7:30AM Mass in the Church
8:15AM Check-in

Daniel Campbell, Director of the Lay Division at St. John Vianney Seminary, will be leading the workshop.

Mass, lunch, three talks on St. Joseph, prize giveaways and more!

Cost is \$50. To learn more and to register, call 303.715.3195 or visit sjvlaydivision.org.

Praise and Worship

Come to an evening of music, reflection and adoration.



Bring your family to the next STM Night of Praise and Worship. Lift your voice and your heart with uplifting music, inspiring reflection and adoration.

Friday, December 3
6:30PM – Praise music and reflection
7:00PM – Holy Hour with exposition
8:00PM – Refreshments

We will also have a procession of the Blessed Sacrament.

For more information, contact the parish office at 303.770.1155.

faith



Advent by Candlelight

Prepare your heart for the coming of the Prince of Peace.



STM Catholic School and FIAT invite you to an evening of food, fellowship and Advent reflection. Host a table and invite your friends to dinner followed by a dynamic presentation from Sr. Maris Stella of Sisters for Life.

Thursday, December 2
6:30PM in McCallin Hall

There is no charge, but reservations are required. Scan the QR code with your phone's camera app to save your spot!

Questions? Contact Jan Ahern at janahern.ja@gmail.com.

Happy Thanksgiving!

"Give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thess. 5:18



Happy Thanksgiving from the Clergy and staff of St. Thomas More! We hope it is a blessed day filled with love.

Thursday, November 25

There will **not** be a 6:30AM Mass on Thanksgiving Day. Join us for 9:00AM Mass

Parish offices will be closed on Thursday & Friday, November 25 & 26.

Responding to Homelessness

Join us for this discussion on homelessness in our community.



Join Concerned Catholics of Colorado in a presentation regarding homelessness, housing and ballot initiatives. We will hear from Centennial Mayor Stephanie Piko as well as Christ in the City regarding the problem of homelessness in our community and how we can help.

Wednesday, December 1
at 7:00PM in McCallin Hall

Please bring travel size toiletries for donation to this event. Contact Melissa Ogburn at 303.908.7129. or melissaogburn@aol.com

vocations

Traveling Chalice



Praying for vocations this week:

The Plank Family

To receive the traveling chalice, contact Karen Smoody at karens@stthomasmore.org

Questions of the Week



Adult: In what ways is Jesus the ruler of your life?

Child: How can you show that you honor Jesus as the king of your life?

Celebrating an Anniversary



Harley (Bo) & Theresa (Terry) Bohannon – 61 years
Dan & Linda Micka – 50 years

Happy anniversary! If you would like your anniversary to be published, email bulletin@stthomasmore.org.

treasure



eGiving on Giving Tuesday

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to STM using Faith Direct on Giving Tuesday, November 30.



Next Tuesday is Giving Tuesday, a day to thank God for the blessings that He has bestowed upon us and to look within to see how we can help others. Building upon that feeling of generosity and compassion, STM humbly asks you to prayerfully consider enrolling in eGiving for your recurring weekly offering.

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

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family

K of C Food Drive

Your generosity supports local food banks.



Thank you for feeding the hungry in Denver! Please return your boxes of non-perishable food to the trucks in the church parking lot **this weekend!**

Contact Fred at 720.353.8462 with questions. Thank you for your generosity! Sponsored by Knights of Columbus 10205.

Sign Up For Angel Tree

Brighten this Christmas for a child!



Make Christmas come alive in the life of a child of a prisoner!

Sign up online at signupgenius.com/go/10c0d49aeaa23a0f5ce9-angel1 or open your camera app and scan the QR Code. There will be no sign ups in the Narthex after Masses this year.

Gifts will be collected the weekend of December 5.

Thank you to all who have helped Angel Tree families over the past 34 years! If you have any questions, please contact Pat Corder at pscorder@msn.com or 303.725.4861.

Project 600 Toy Donations

Bring happiness to children this Christmas!



LAST WEEK TO DONATE!

Please donate unwrapped, brand-new toys (for four & five year old children) in the labeled boxes at church entrances.

Now through Sunday, November 28

For many of the children who attend our Project 600 Christmas Party, these donated toys are the only Christmas presents they will receive this year.

For questions, contact David Tschumper at youth@stthomasmore.org or 303.220.3388.

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

Thank you for supporting our parish!

Thank you STM!

Thank you for your generosity!



The St. Joseph Hospital Foundation would like to thank the parishioners of St. Thomas More for their overwhelming generosity to the New Life Baby Shower. It was a huge success! We are enormously grateful. Your donations will help support mothers and babies in need.

time & talent



Project 600 Volunteers

Wonderful opportunities for middle & high school youth and adults to volunteer to help with Project 600



Project 600 is a huge effort and we need your help to make it a success!

Friday, December 3: 3:00–7:00PM:
Wrapping Party in the HS Youth Center and McCallin Hall

Sunday, December 5: 3:00–5:00PM:
Party Set-Up in the HS Youth Center & McCallin

Monday, December 6: 7:45AM–4:00PM:
Christmas Party

For questions, contact David Tschumper at youth@stthomasmore.org or 303.220.3388.

We're Hiring!

Join our wonderful parish/school staff and help serve our parishioners! We have a number of positions available.

Serve our Parish!

Information Coordinator (full-time) – Support parish with timely publications and promotions of parish events and programs to assist in evangelization and stewardship.

Children's Catechesis Coordinator (full-time) – Create, develop and implement various children's catechetical and sacramental programs for the Office of Catechesis.

Marriage Coordinator (part-time) – Promote the sanctity of marriage while coordinating and supporting marriage preparation and marriage ministries within the St. Thomas More parish community.

Wedding Coordinator (part-time) – Accompany couples through the planning and execution of their ceremony for their Sacrament of Matrimony.

Childcare Provider (part-time) – Provide childcare for various church events and ministries.

For more information on these positions or to apply, please visit stthomasmore.org/job-opportunities.

Serve our School!

2nd & 3rd Grade Teacher Assistant (part-time) – Provide support for our teachers and students in our school.

Middle School Learning Assistant (part-time) – Provide academic support in and out of the classroom with our Middle School team.

For more information on these positions or to apply, please contact Gretchen DeWolfe at gretchend@stthomasmore.org.

Help Make Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Materials

Help us bring CGS to STM!



This interactive form of children's Faith Formation is coming to STM this fall! Children work with hands-on materials to explore the mysteries of our faith. CGS provides an opportunity for the parish to come together to help make the learning materials.

Do you feel called to help color, cut, hand-write scripture books, paint or do wood working? Youth can earn volunteer hours for helping. Trained catechists are also needed to make CGS a reality at STM.

Contact Yvette Ramos at yvetter@stthomasmore.org or 303.221.9176 for more information or scheduling a CGS presentation at your ministry meeting.

Don't Miss Out

Stay connected with STM!



If you are not receiving regular updates from STM via text or email, you may not be signed up for Flocknote. To make sure you are signed up, please contact Nicole Turner at 303.221.9148 or nicolet@stthomasmore.org for help.



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

social



New Life – Senior Singles



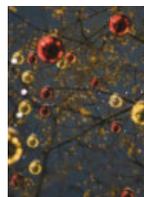
Join us for “Christmas in Killarney” at the Parker Arts and Cultural Center!

Saturday, November 27 at 2:00PM

Cost is \$54. We will have dinner at Rory's Diner. Contact Vicki Turner at 303.773.8410.

Singles Lights and Social

Kick off the holiday season with this fun event!



Get into the Christmas spirit by joining the STM Singles Social group (35-55 year olds) for fun and fellowship involving dinner and a Hudson Christmas Extravaganza of Lights!

Saturday, November 27
at 5:00PM

We will enjoy delicious soul food at Nono's Cafe followed by a Christmas lights walk at Hudson Gardens. BYOT presale or at the door at Hudson Gardens. RSVPs are appreciated.

Send questions and RSVPs to STMSinglesSocial@stthomasmore.org.



memories from our parishioners



A parishioner carves a turkey during the "friendsgiving" Thanksgiving celebration in 2010.

CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR

Sunday, November 28
7:30AM–3:00PM

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not a day but a season: a thanksgiving reflection

By Dcn. Ray Duplechein

With fall comes change. Our culture pushes us to hurry, get it done, now! For our spiritual integrity, we do well to take a longer view beyond the present moment, to look out into the future, beyond today, this week, this year. Thanksgiving is not about a day but about a season; a season of gratitude.

Gratitude is of the Heart

It can only grow from there, and when it blooms it is expressed in each of us as Joy! Beyond nice thoughts and pithy words is the struggle that is our daily manner of living. Life can be messy but it is also manageable.

Few of us escape the messiness of our current culture and the challenges we face in our careers and families. Life inevitably proves to be difficult, but it does not have to be burdensome. The challenge of the Christian life is to know who we are and to whom we belong. As daughters and sons of God, through grace, we possess all that is needed to nurture gratitude in our lives.

To Remember and to Recall

We began the season of gratitude on the first two days of November with the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls. To remember those who have gone before us in the faith and in our families. We are who we are as a result of those who formed and molded our lives. So the first fruit of gratitude is to remember those people who positively influenced our lives and nurtured us.

The goal is to pass along wisdom, knowledge and understanding to those who surround us; parents, siblings, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors and co-workers. We are called to praise God for the wonderful work of our lives; He sends us to fill the lives of other people with good things.

Joy, Joy, Heartfelt Joy!

Thanksgiving begins with a gaze upon gratitude. In our Archdiocese many suffer from an inability to be grateful, they suffer homelessness, malnutrition, lack of basic healthcare, racism, fear of deportation, loss of affection, broken relationships. The list is long. But for the grace of God, any one of us could find ourselves in a seemingly hopeless situation. Hope nurtures gratitude which is rooted in the heart, and feeds the soul. Gratitude always stands ready to be embraced.



It beckons us to turn a cheek to the hurts of the world, it brings light to the darkness in any situation and leads us to thanksgiving. Gratitude helps to protect our soul from doubt and fear. With gratitude the soul rejoices and experiences the gift of Joy – heartfelt Joy.

For the Fruits of His Creation

Thanks be to God, for He alone created us, redeemed us and sanctifies our lives. Finally, the challenge for each of us is this. Gratitude is not quaint thought, or a nostalgic feeling. Gratitude is a commitment to accept God's gift of grace, to praise Him, and to use the gift of grace to give ourselves away to others. The key to a happy and holy Thanksgiving is to recognize that it is in giving that we receive. A gift that is freely given is a gift well received.

May God's abundant blessings accompany us in the coming days as we remember and recall with gratitude in our hearts, all that He has done for us. May we respond to His grace with heartfelt joy so that our countenance will be for all an encounter with holiness, mercy, compassion and love. Even if we eat too much, there is still plenty of room for lots of gratitude and joy!

Happy Thanksgiving!

This article was originally published by *The Word Among Us* on November 22, 2017. ◆

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