



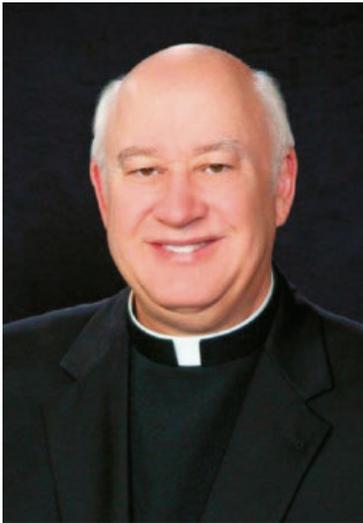
# *St. Thomas More* Catholic Parish & School

First Sunday of Advent | November 28, 2021



# CREATED

# pastor's note



Advent begins a new liturgical year of grace and blessing. This first weekend is a strong reminder and excellent opportunity to renew our commitment as children of God, disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ and recipients of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, to embrace the Gospel message and become the people of God in word and deed that we were actually created to be.

Being a Christian is about far more than having the most eye catching Christmas décor or the best and most flavorful recipes for the seasonal delights. It is about a day in, day out embrace of the call to holiness that sits before us all. May you take your call seriously as you give yourself to expanded prayer, acts of charity and mercy, and a renewed commitment to bring the blessings of Christ to every day and every person that fills the days in our life this coming year.

The key word for this weekend's message in our homilies and in our prayers is CREATED. The First Sunday of Advent is an opportune time to reflect on the beginning of all things, up to and including the events of our Salvation coming among us. It would be wonderful to take time this week to ponder the vastness of the created universe, and the immense love of the One who made all things, to give glory and show evidence of His love manifested and put there in order for us to be directed to Him.

In a setting in which we cannot, even in a lifetime, travel from one end of the universe to the other, (think of the last time you drove from Colorado to California or New York and how major a trip that was) we begin to comprehend the immenseness of a God who is so omnipotent and omnipresent. And to think that each and every one of us is a deliberate act of His creation gives us pause to reflect on what we are called to experience of His loving presence and how we can help others to recognize that themselves. Pray this week to be able to deeply and awe-fully contemplate the wonder of what God's creating actions have wrought.

As we enter the final weeks of the calendar year, and as some may be considering an end of the year donation to the parish, I would like to remind you that there are tax advantages to giving all or part of your required minimum disbursement (RMD) from a IRA or 401k fund directly to the church or non-profit. If you need further information about such a transaction, I encourage you to contact either your financial advisor or possibly someone at The Catholic Foundation (Deacon Steve's number is 303.468.9885). And thanks again for the wonderful and loving generosity so many of you have and continue to show to the Church. God bless you for that kindness.

– 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](mailto:adoration@stthomasmore.org).

**Sacrament of Baptism:** For baptisms, contact Sandra Schwab at [sandras@stthomasmore.org](mailto:sandras@stthomasmore.org) no less than one month prior to the baptism ceremony. Visit [stthomasmore.org](http://stthomasmore.org) for more information.

**Sacrament of Matrimony:** For weddings, contact Sandra Schwab at [sandras@stthomasmore.org](mailto: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.

# first sunday of advent

## A Gift for You



In preparation for our Savior's birth, STM is providing a book of Advent and Christmas reflections for you and your loved ones.

Please pick one up after Mass. One per family please. Blessed Advent!

I was created by  
God to be loved  
and to love.

## CREATED

*Ask for the graces of wonder and trust*

Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
who created these?  
He who brings out their host by number,  
calling them all by name –Is 40:26

### Read

- ◆ First three chapters of Genesis
- ◆ *Dei Verbum* (search online for "Vatican II *Dei Verbum*")

### Reflect

- ◆ There is one God who chose to create and everything He created is good
- ◆ We are the pinnacle of God's creation, made in His image and likeness
- ◆ We have reason and free will, which render us capable of genuine love
- ◆ We are made for relationship with God and with each other
- ◆ Real happiness means to be loved and to love
- ◆ Understanding God's nature (both His immense power and intimate love for us) leads to wonder and trust.

### Discuss

- ◆ What am I anxious about right now? Is my life filled with confidence and trust or am I riddled with anxiety and fear?
- ◆ What effect does contemplating the grandeur and magnificence of God and His personal love have on me and on my fears?
- ◆ What is my image of God?

Source: Fr. John Riccardo, *Rescued The Unexpected and Extraordinary News of the Gospel* (Frederick, Maryland, The Word Among Us Press, 2020.)

## Ideas for your Advent Retreat

## Advent App Features



Enrich your Advent retreat! During the holy season of Advent, grow closer to our Lord through spiritual encouragement and inspiration.

Our parish app has a new button for easy access to daily reflections, Advent videos and more!

For the app download link, text APP to 88202. Or, search for "myParish – Catholic Life" in your app store.

## Daily Advent Reflections



Grow closer to our Lord in the manger this Advent season with Dr. Tim Gray as he leads you through the Mass readings every day during Advent and Christmas.

Sign up for free at [Daily.Formed.org](http://Daily.Formed.org). Also, access all FORMED content simply through [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup) using St. Thomas More parish.

## Join Flocknote

All parish email communications, event information and links to important resources are sent to our parishioners through Flocknote to enhance your Advent journey.

To make sure you are signed up, please contact Nicole Turner at [nicolet@stthomasmore.org](mailto:nicolet@stthomasmore.org) or 303.221.9148 for help.

# prayer



## This Week's Mass Intentions

### 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 †

### Monday, November 29:

6:30AM Mary Zimmerman  
 9:00AM The Heath Family

### Tuesday, November 30:

6:30AM Lucia Ng †  
 9:00AM Andres & Mary Martinez †

### Wednesday, December 1:

6:30AM Yohanes Lim Sutjiadi †  
 9:00AM Elizabeth Perkins †

### Thursday, December 2:

6:30AM Jun Jun Danac  
 9:00AM John Scholtes †

### Friday, December 3:

6:30AM The Yee Family  
 9:00AM Patricia Gilmore †

### Saturday, December 4:

7:30AM Jordan Kaliher  
 4:00PM Andres & Mary Martinez †  
 5:30PM Lydia Denning †

### Sunday, December 5:

Second Sunday of Advent  
 7:00AM Helen Luoma † & Vern Luoma  
 8:30AM Gladys Ferro  
 10:30AM Mass for the People of St. Thomas More  
 12:30PM Michael Earley Dunn †  
 5:30PM Michael Earley Dunn †

## This Week's Prayer Intentions

### Pray for our ill parish members & relatives:

Lynn, Mike & Nick Kripakov, Jerry Lane, Dcn. Tim Walsh

### Pray for our deceased parish members & relatives:

Mary Alice Clark, Marilyn Kuptz, Tony Marino, Fr. Regis Scanlon, George Strack, Francis Visocky, Jon Wallace

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.

## 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.

### This Friday, December 3:

6:30PM – Praise music and reflection  
 7:00PM – Holy Hour with exposition & procession of the Blessed Sacrament  
 8:00PM – Refreshments

For more information, contact the parish office at 303.770.1155.

## Pray for the Supreme Court

Spend time with our Blessed Lord in Adoration.



The US Supreme Court will hear the case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* on December 1. This is the case that could overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal in all 50 states.

**Wednesday, December 1:**  
**One hour slots beginning at 12:00AM & continuing throughout the day.**

Please prayerfully consider signing up for an hour of adoration on this important day or stop by the chapel during this time. This is our greatest opportunity in a generation to end abortion and overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

Contact Melissa Ogburn at [melissaogburn@aol.com](mailto:melissaogburn@aol.com) for details..

## Praying Prodigal Hearts Home



Join us to pray for the return of our loved ones to the Catholic faith. Pray the Rosary, find fellowship and support others on the journey.

### This Thursday, December 2:

7:00PM in the Padre

Questions? Contact Colleen Goffredi at [chgoftredi@gmail.com](mailto:chgoftredi@gmail.com).

# faith



## Responding to Homelessness

Join us for this discussion on homelessness in our community.



Join Concerned Catholics of Colorado for a presentation on 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:**  
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](mailto:melissaogburn@aol.com)

## St. Joseph Workshop

Discover the second-greatest saint who ever walked the earth.



Have you ever wanted to draw closer to Saint Joseph but 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 this Year of St. Joseph!

**Saturday, December 4:**  
7:30AM–2:45PM at St. Thomas More  
(Mass at 7:30AM in the Church followed by check-in at 8:15AM)

Daniel Campbell, Director of the Lay Division at St. John Vianney Seminary, will be leading the workshop. This powerful day will feature 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/registration](http://sjvlaydivision.org/registration).

## 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 reflection. Host a table and invite friends to dinner and a dynamic presentation from Sr. Maris Stella of Sisters for Life.

**Thursday, December 2:**  
6:30PM in McCallin Hall

Reservations are required online by scanning the QR code with your phone. There is no charge. Questions? Contact Jan Ahern at [janahern.ja@gmail.com](mailto:janahern.ja@gmail.com).

## Men's Advent Day of Recollection

All men are invited for prayer, reflection and to grow in faith.



Spend a morning with men of the parish for fellowship and an opportunity to deepen your faith during Advent.

**Saturday, December 11:**  
8:15AM–1:00PM

Our keynote speaker will be Sean Dalton. The day's theme is: "He Rules the World with Truth & Grace. Men, Does He Rule Your Heart?" A light breakfast will be provided. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus 10205.

For questions, contact Bobby Rogers at [bobby.rogers1@gmail.com](mailto:bobby.rogers1@gmail.com) or 303.549.0950.

## Questions of the Week



**Adult:** What have been the strengths of your prayer life? What habit of prayer could you strengthen during this Advent season?

**Child:** What prayers will you say each day and each week during Advent?

# 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!

**This 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](mailto:youth@stthomasmore.org) or 303.220.3388. See page 7 of this bulletin for details about toy donations.

## 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 promotion 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 celebration of their ceremony for their Sacrament of Holy 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](http://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 school positions or to apply, please contact Gretchen DeWolfe at [gretchend@stthomasmore.org](mailto:gretchend@stthomasmore.org).

# CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR

**This Sunday, November 28**  
**7:30AM–3:00PM**  
McCallin Hall

Come shop for meaningful, unique Christmas gifts for your loved ones by local Catholic artisans & authors.  
Door prizes and fun for all!

Sponsored by the St. Thomas More Gift Shop.  
Contact: [giftshop@stthomasmore.org](mailto:giftshop@stthomasmore.org).



Learn more about our faith, saints, parish ministries and other announcements on social media. "Like" our St. Thomas More Catholic Parish page on Facebook and follow @stmccatholicparish on Instagram!

# treasure



## Celebrate Giving Tuesday With eGiving to Our Parish

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to STM using Faith Direct on Giving Tuesday!



Giving Tuesday is a day to thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us and to look within to see how we can help others.

Building upon that feeling of generosity and compassion, St. Thomas More humbly invites you to prayerfully consider enrolling in eGiving for your recurring weekly offering and help continue our ministry to our community.

**Tuesday, November 30**

To enroll in online giving, visit [faith.direct/CO739](http://faith.direct/CO739) or text the word ENROLL to 720.619.8959.

**Thank you** for your continued support of our parish family.

## Project 600 Toy Donations

Bring joy to children this Christmas!



This is the final weekend to donate! **Through this Sunday, November 28:** Please donate unwrapped, brand-new toys (for four & five-year-old children) in the labeled boxes at church entrances.

Contact [youth@stthomasmore.org](mailto:youth@stthomasmore.org) or 303.220.3388 for questions.

## Angel Tree Children's Gifts

Brighten this Christmas for a child!



Make Christmas come alive in the life of a child of a prisoner! Gifts will be collected before all Masses **next Saturday & Sunday, December 4 & 5.**

Sign up online at [signupgenius.com/go/10c0d49aeaa23a0f5ce9-angel1](http://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.

Thank you to all who have helped Angel Tree families over the past 34 years! For questions, contact Pat Corder at [pscorder@msn.com](mailto:pscorder@msn.com) or 303.725.4861.

## Safeguard Faith at College

Learn how we can help keep our beautiful faith alive through the college years.



Many young people leave for college and don't take their faith with them. About eight out of ten students raised in the faith stop practicing by age 23. You can make a difference and help strengthen our faith.

**Saturday & Sunday, December 4 & 5: After all Masses in the Narthex**

Come meet FOCUS missionary Nikki Schroeder and her family to learn how you can safeguard the faith of our students while they are away at college.

With FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students), your prayers and financial support are changing a generation!

## Help Our Parish Receive Multiple \$1,000 Grants

The Catholic Foundation, our planned giving partner, has launched a limited time challenge that provides \$1,000 unrestricted grants to our parish! Anyone can participate. This is how: Leave any charitable planned gift in your will through The Catholic Foundation = \$1,000 grant to our parish to use now.

The Catholic Foundation is here to help you achieve your charitable goals while helping our parish with long-term success. To learn more and participate in the challenge for the grant, please contact The Catholic Foundation at 303.468.9885 or visit [www.TheCatholicFoundation.com](http://www.TheCatholicFoundation.com).

# social



## Donut Sunday



Join us for food, fellowship and fun!

**This Sunday, November 28:**

In the Padre after the 7:00AM, 8:30AM, 10:30AM & 12:30PM Masses

## New Life – Senior Singles



New Life Meeting

**Friday, December 3:**

6:00PM in St. Peregrine Hall 2 (downstairs, elevator available)

We will vote on charities for our annual donation and review activities for January, February and March.

Happy Hour

**Thursday, December 9:**

4:00–6:00PM at Blue Spruce Brewery (4151 County Line Rd.)

Contact: Helene Carter at 303.683.5238.

# vocations

## Weddings



We pray for

**Roseann Bohannon & Thomas Roemen**

who recently celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

## Traveling Chalice



Praying for vocations this week:

**The Carmelite Priests**

To receive the traveling chalice, contact Karen Smoody at [karens@stthomasmore.org](mailto:karens@stthomasmore.org).



Please pray for our seminarians and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Visit [denverseminarians.org](http://denverseminarians.org) for more information & a prayer list.



## memories from our parishioners



*A little SongFest with Fr. John Paul Leyba, Deacon Gary Rogge and friends in early 2000's!*

# a reflection on today's readings

## Grow

As the days grow shorter and darker, I am especially ready for Advent wreaths and nativity sets; sparkling lights and singing angels. More than ever, I eagerly anticipate the joyful celebration of Christ's birth. But today's readings for the first Sunday of Advent point us to the end of time, when Jesus returns in glory. Wait a minute, what? I don't want to think about the dismay and fright that Jesus foretells in the Gospel, I want to think about shepherds and holy nights. We really can't do one without the other, however, and the underlying message of the readings is one of hope and reassurance: Our God keeps His promises. He is faithful to the covenants He makes. He loves us so much; He offers us new beginnings. Our God became one of us, died to save us, and will give us the strength to be ready to greet Him when He comes again. "Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand," Jesus says. Pray that our preparation for Christ's birth will make us all the more ready for His return.

## Go

We are a society and culture that focuses a lot on the outward signs of preparation, and there is a lot of pressure to make it all perfect. Pinterest boards, social media groups, magazine photos, clothing catalogs: all show perfectly dressed people with perfectly adorable dogs standing in front of exquisitely perfect Christmas trees, on perfectly unblemished snow. But perfection in the exterior is not the Christian goal. Our interior preparation – how we make ourselves ready for Christ now, and at the end of time – is the focus of Advent. It is an opportunity for repentance, and a joyful new beginning in our relationship with God. It is a time to recommit ourselves to the covenant He made with us, and the psalm and the second reading offer assistance in doing so. Make time each day to dive in and explore what Scripture reveals about "conducting yourselves to please God."

## Pray

Pray the psalm from the first Sunday of Advent each morning. Ask God to open your heart to ways you can be more just. He will teach you, guide you and strengthen your heart so that you can stand upright to face whatever challenges come your way.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths,  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my savior,  
and for you I wait all the day.

– Written by *The Faithful Disciple*

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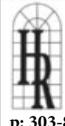
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