



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 9TH, 2022



CELEBRATING THE PAST
COMMITTED TO THE FUTURE

ST. THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

GENERAL PARISH INFORMATION

Contact Us

St. Thomas More Catholic Community
130 N. Pecos Road Henderson, NV 89074
702-361-3022 | www.stmlv.org

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 5:30 pm.
Weekdays (Monday-Friday): 8:00 am
The Rosary & Chaplet of the Divine Mercy are prayed after weekday Mass on most days.

Confessions

Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45 pm
You can also call the Parish Office at 702-361-3022 make a weekday appointment

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

On the first Friday of the month (unless otherwise announced): 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Parish Office Hours

Sunday: 9:00 am to 1:30 pm
Monday-Thursday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
*Closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 pm
The Office is not open on Friday and Saturday

Community Center Office Hours

Sunday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Monday-Wednesday: 10:00 am to 5:30 pm
*Closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 pm
The office is not open on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Church/Chapel Hours (for personal prayer)

Monday-Thursday: 7:30 am to 4:00 pm
Friday: 7:30 am to 9:00 am

Gift Shop Hours

Sundays: 9:00 am to 1:30 pm
Monday-Thursday: 8:30 am to 12 noon
The Gift Shop is not open on Friday and Saturday

Food Pantry

We have a food pantry on our property with non-perishables that are available to our parishioners, families and friends. Please contact Cheryl Schwarz at 725-205-0606 to schedule a time to visit the pantry. If you would like to contribute, please drop off donations in the labeled, grey bin outside of our back Community Center doors.

Become a Registered Member

In order that we may better serve you, please register with the parish by visiting www.stmlv.org and fill out the online Registration Form. If you prefer to not register online, you can also pick up a registration form in the Parish Office.

Anointing of the Sick

Call the Parish Office at 702-361-3022 if you need to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at home or in a hospital. The Sacrament is also offered communally within the Mass. Announcements will be made about upcoming Anointing of the Sick Masses.

Funeral Planning

In the event of a death of a loved one, please call 702-493-1767 before making arrangements with any of the professional services.

Sacrament of Baptism

Our Baptism Preparation session, which is required, is offered on the first Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise announced) in the Community Center at 6:30 pm. This session can be attended at any time (even before the baby is born). More information, the required forms, and the class dates are available on our website.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Please visit our website for detailed information. You may also contact Pamela Trendell at 725-214-7069 to discuss availability and the preparation requirements.

Holy Communion for the Sick

If you are homebound, please call Patti Sabo at 702-269-3110 and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will visit you. In case of hospitalization, inform the hospital staff that you are Catholic and would like to receive Communion.

Vocations

Please consult with one of the priests.

Connect With Us

We have many options for our parishioners and guests to connect with us online. We encourage you to visit our website at www.stmlv.org, download our app, and "like" or "follow" us on:

Facebook– [facebook.com/stmhendersonnv](https://www.facebook.com/stmhendersonnv)
Twitter– [@stmhendersonnv](https://twitter.com/stmhendersonnv)
Instagram– [@stmhendersonnv](https://www.instagram.com/stmhendersonnv)
YouTube– [youtube.com/stthomasmorehendersonnv](https://www.youtube.com/stthomasmorehendersonnv)



STAFF AND OTHER CONTACTS

Clergy

Fr. Bede Wevita, Pastor
725-214-4652, frbwevita@stmlv.org

Fr. Joseph Quang Nguyen, C.Ss.R., Parochial Vicar
725-214-5444, frjnguyen@stmlv.org

Deacon Bill McManus
dcnbill@stmlv.org

Deacon Bob Rudloff
dcnbob@stmlv.org

Parish Staff

Amanda Dwyer, Director of Communications
725-214-5789, amandad@stmlv.org

Beth Lopez, Director of Finance
725-214-7020, bethl@stmlv.org

Cheryl Schwarz, Director of Outreach Ministry and Gift Shop
725-205-0606, cheryls@stmlv.org

Chris Brennan, Building and Grounds
725-204-8591, chrisb@stmlv.org

Jenifer Jefferies, Pastoral Associate for Children's Faith Formation
725-204-9912, jeniferj@stmlv.org

Lisa Fairweather, Director of Music, Stewardship, and Community Building
725-214-5655, lisaf@stmlv.org

Mike Ryan, Parish Business Assistant to the Pastor
725-214-7064, miker@stmlv.org

Pamela Trendell, Executive Assistant to the Pastor
725-214-7069, pamt@stmlv.org

Regina Comple, Faith Formation Assistant and Safe Environment Coordinator
725-204-5559, reginac@stmlv.org

Rolyssa Sánchez, Pastoral Associate for Youth and Young Adult Ministries
725-204-9995, rolyssa@stmlv.org

Stacey Swiercinsky, Receptionist and Administration Assistant
725-214-3468, staceys@stmlv.org

Sujantha Fernando (Ferdy), Building and Grounds
725-204-8591, sujanthaf@stmlv.org

Ministry and Organization Contacts

Adult Faith Programs ... Parish Office, 702-361-3022

Altar Families/Servers ... Deacon Bob Rudloff, 702-260-0311

Asian/Sri Lanka Culture Ministry ... Fr. Bede Wevita, 725-214-4652

Baptisms ... email staceys@stmlv.org

Bereavement Ministry ... Pat Bettencourt, 702-528-6702

Building & Grounds ... Mike Ryan, 725-214-7064

CMG ... Regina Comple, 725-204-5559

Communications ... Amanda Dwyer, 725-214-5789

Confirmation (Teens) ... Rolyssa Sánchez, 725-204-9995

Couples Club ... Dan Bubb, 785-318-0566

Engagement Experience ... Pam Trendell, 725-214-7069

Extraordinary Ministers ... Lisa Fairweather, 725-214-5655

Faith Formation (Children) ... Jenifer Jefferies, 725-204-9912

Finance Committee ... Fr. Bede, 725-214-4652

Food Pantry ... Cheryl Schwarz, 725-205-0606

Funerals ... 702-493-1767

Gift Shop ... 702-445-7431

Homebound Ministry ... Patti Sabo, 702-269-3110

Hospitality Ministers ... Janie Davis, 702-361-2780

Lectors ... Jerry Fairweather, 702-994-4154

Little Kingdom ... Geraldine Montano Muguira, 702-236-4332

Marriage Preparation ... Pam Trendell, 725-214-7069

Marriage Encounter ... Bob & Beth Wiebers, 702-235-7948

Men's Club ... Dave Libby, 702-808-3589

Men's Prayer Group ... Mark Gilmour, 708-287-7120 (not 702)

Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MoMS) ... Joanne Greser,

702-521-9697 or Kathleen Walters, 702-274-4038

Music Ministry ... Lisa Fairweather, 725-214-5655

Nevadans for the Common Good ... Natalie Eustice, 702-630-3543

Outreach Ministry ... Cheryl Schwarz, 725-205-0606

Parish Events ... Lisa Fairweather, 725-214-5655

Parish Pastoral Council ... Fr. Bede, 725-214-4652

Piecemakers (Quilting) ... Pat Burkitt, 702-376-5410

RCIA (Becoming Catholic) ... Deacon Bill, 702-606-7548 (prefers text)

Safe Environment Ministry ... Kit Lambert, 702-759-5509

Scouts ... Shawn Broz, 702-275-8595

Senior Games/Socials ... Salvy Mc Ilvaine, 702-617-4547

Single Seniors (55+) ... Carol Capino Sturm, 702-606-3900

Small Church Communities ... Parish Office, 702-361-3022

Tele-welcoming ... Jane Stofferahn, 702-458-2138

Vanco (Online Giving) ... Beth Lopez, 725-214-7020

Victim's Assistance ... Ron Vallance, 702-235-7723

Welcome/Donut Sunday ... CJ Campagna, 702-768-3862

Women's Guild ... Marie Bevins, 702-501-2638

Young Adult Ministry ... Rolyssa Sánchez, 725-204-9995

Youth Ministry ... Rolyssa Sánchez, 725-204-9995

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome To Our Newly Registered Members

Albert Ochoa
Rita Nogra

We currently have 6,000+ registered households. Keeping our parish data system updated is very important to us. Please contact the Parish Office at 702-361-3022 to update your information.

Baptism Blessings

Paris Chanel Aste

We recently welcomed these children into the Catholic faith. May our community embrace them and may our word and example be a reflection of God's love for them.

In Remembrance

Dominick Guida
Mary Catherine Lucero

Let us all keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Baptism Preparation

Our next Baptism Prep Session is scheduled for Wednesday, February 2nd at 6:30 pm in the Community Center. More information, the required forms and the class dates are available on our website at <https://www.stmlv.org/baptism>

Engagement Experience

We offer a two-day program for engaged couples called Engagement Experience. This event is required for all couples getting married at St. Thomas More. It is also available for couples who are planning to get married at another Catholic Church. For more information and to sign-up, visit our website at www.stmlv.org/engagement

Stay Informed

We have teamed up with a professional email and online marketing system called Constant Contact, to create a more efficient and quicker way of reaching out to our wonderful parishioners with news and information. If you have not signed up to be a part of our email database or you need to provide an updated contact, please visit our website and click the "connect" icon on the homepage.

The beautiful flowers on the altar this weekend are in memory of

**Dennis Calub and
Rosenda Calub**

From Eusebio & Virginia Mawanay



Men's Prayer Group:

Join us on Wednesdays at 9:00 am in the Community Center as we grow in faith and fellowship through prayer and studying the weekly Liturgy. The content is week to week...not a multi-week class, so drop in any time! If you're interested in learning more, please call or text Mark at 708-287-7120 (not 702). New members are always welcome!

Virtual Parish Book of Prayers

We have a virtual page for prayer requests. You can submit a prayer request or spend some time praying for the other public requests. It is a great way to stay connected. The direct link to this page is: www.stmlv.org/virtual-book-of-prayers/

Altar Flowers

Would you like to honor a loved one, give thanks for an anniversary or accomplishment, or commemorate a loved one's birthday or death by sponsoring flowers on the altar? Please visit the Parish Office during business hours to discuss details and secure your preferred date.

Masks Are Required

Masks are required by all individuals regardless of vaccination status. Thank you for your cooperation. If you are interested in purchasing one of our STM masks, please visit our Gift Shop during business hours.



A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR



I would like to begin with congratulating Sean-Matthew Flores. Many of you probably know him or know of him by now, because he has been a member and volunteer at STM for a while now. I am excited to announce that he is the new seminarian that has been accepted into the formation program for the Diocese of Las

Vegas! He has officially entered the Pre-Theology I level at Mount Angel Seminary. Sean-Matthew is a native of Guam. He recently completed a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from American University. Please pray him during his transition to seminary life and continue to pray for the other seminarians, including our own Robert Martinez, who is also at Mount Angel Seminary. Also, I ask that you pray for others who are being called to priesthood or religious life. If you would like to show your support and write to our seminarians (they truly appreciate it), the address is:

Mount Angel Seminary
One Abbey Drive
St. Benedict, OR 97373-9700

This weekend, we celebrate another epiphany or manifestation of Christ: his baptism in the Jordan River. Jesus, as pure and unblemished as he was, lovingly placed himself among us—among the human race and our sinfulness—and humbled himself at the hands of John the Baptist to receive the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was baptized, the Father's voice from heaven proclaimed Jesus as his eternal Son, and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove illuminated the true and unique Trinitarian nature of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through Him, with Him, and in Him. As we celebrate this mystery, let us recall our own baptism through water and the Holy Spirit, and strive to live lives that are pleasing to the Lord.

The proclamation of the date of Easter and the other moveable feasts on Epiphany dates from a time when calendars were not readily available. It was necessary to make known the date of Easter in advance, since many celebrations of the liturgical year depend on its date. Although calendars now give the date of Easter and the other feasts in the liturgical year for many years in advance, the Epiphany proclamation still has value. It is a reminder of the centrality of the resurrection of the Lord in the liturgical year and the importance of the great mysteries of faith which are celebrated each year.

Each year the proper dates for Ash Wednesday, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, and the First Sunday of Advent must be inserted into the text. Those dates are found in the table which is included with the introductory documents of the Roman Missal.

Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts (for the year 2022):

On the **second** day of **March** will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the **seventeenth** day of **April** you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

[In those places where the Ascension is observed on Thursday: On the twenty-sixth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.]

[In those places where the Ascension is transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter: On the twenty-ninth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.]

On the fifth day of June, the feast of Pentecost.

On the nineteenth day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the twenty-seventh day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The 2021 Catholic Stewardship Appeal is complete. Our assessment goal from the Diocese was \$251,945.00. We had 708 participating households with \$305,053.00 pledged and \$292,621.00 received. This means our parish will receive back \$40,676.00. This is outstanding. We had the highest number of participating households in the Diocese. This really shows your commitment to our parish and to our Diocese. I want to thank you for that. I am very thankful for your continued support and involvement. I hope you show the same to our newly appointed Pastoral Administrator once I've departed for Sri Lanka and the 2022 CSA kicks off later this month.

Have a blessed week,



Fr. Bede Wevita
Pastor

Scam Alert: We want to remind everyone of an ongoing scam that has taken place here and at other parishes. Emails and/or text messages get sent to parishioners claiming to be one of the priests. They request help by asking for money and/or gift cards. Please know that no matter what the email address looks like or how convincing the email/text sounds... this is *not* Fr. Bede, Fr. Joseph or anyone else on staff. We care so much about our parishioners and do not want to see anyone get caught up in this.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Arlene Borski
Athena Gam Lake
Barbara Livingston
Bob Starbird
Brian Cross
Bruce & Darlene Zombory
CarolAnne Kardash
Ceferino Arboleda
Charlie Hensel
Danny Jacobs
Darryl & Ginny Abelt
Dave Wirshing
Delores Brown
Diana Stater
Dr. Nick Fiore
Elizabeth Martano
Franny & Jimmy Reyes
Felecia Cody
Felix Aguto Jr.
Jean Siriani
Jeanne Amlund
Jerry Thiele
Jocelyn Green
John Edward Rice
John Matthew Suzuki
† Julia Cruz
Justin Askari
Kaiden Cruz
Katie Dillon
Laura McManus
Lenny Tanchala Jr.
Lenny Tanchala Sr.
Leona Marquez
Librada Arboleda
Linda McDonell
Linda Murtaugh
Linda Steward
Liz A. Delsignore
Lloyd Gauff
Loren Kiner
Lorenzo Kneesel
LuAnn Ferron
Margaret Watson
Marguerite Viola

Mark Van Bavel
Mary Berndt
Mary Gallagher
Mary Solares
Maureen Fawcett
Michael Crisci
Michael David Gam
Michael Stanziale
Michelle Natale
Minerva Ciccarelli
Nelly Macahilas
Nicole O'Neill
Pasquale Amatulli
Pat Amatulli
Patrick Arboleda
Peter Selman
Raymond & Marion Lewis
Reiner Staffa
Reseth Oberg
Richard Fellrath
Rita Grillo
Ruth Ochoa
Selma Sikes
Simona Dye
Stella Van Aken
Stephanie Fiore
Suzanne Lutter
The Carranza Family
The Dougherty Family
The LaMonte Family
The Nuguid Family
Timothy Ingstad
Verilyn Bona
Virginia Guglielmo
Walter Gudaitis
Wendy Dwyer
Wilrose Robles

If you would like to add someone to the Pray For List, please contact Amanda Dwyer at amandad@stmlv.org or 725-214-5789. Names remain published for three months, unless otherwise requested. Thank you.

Novenas

Our Perpetual Mass Cards are now a 9 month Novena, which are said the last Friday at our morning Mass for nine consecutive months. A novena is a form of a traditional Catholic prayer that is prayed over nine days. A novena may be prayed nine days in a row, on the same day of the week for nine weeks, or on the same day of the month for nine months (for example, the First Friday). A novena may consist of prayers, intercessions, hymns, and readings from Scripture.

These are for the living and deceased and the suggested donation is \$20.00. If you're interested, please visit our Parish Office.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 8th

4:00 pm † Fleurette Johnson

Sunday, January 9th

8:00 am Members of the Parish

10:00 am † Sarah Wallace

12:00 pm † Paul Farrell

5:30 pm † Christopher Schwarz

Monday, January 10th

8:00 am † John Koloski

† Lester Usi

Tuesday, January 11th

8:00 am † Ana Mendiola

† Lucia Narcis

Wednesday, January 12th

8:00 am † Manuel E. Saoit

† Nancy Gibbons

Thursday, January 13th

8:00 am † Gerald Irish

† Michael Hozo

Friday, January 14th

8:00 am † Gloria Javier

† Justin Ross Dougherty

Saturday, January 15th

4:00 pm † Anna Ybarra

Sunday, January 16th

8:00 am Members of the Parish

10:00 am † Rebecca Kalbfleish

12:00 pm † Sonny George Christolm

5:30 pm Carmen Torres-Puigsubira

If you're interested in reserving a Mass Intention, please visit our Parish Office during business hours. These intentions are prayed for silently by the priest at Mass and are not announced during Mass.

WEEKLY CONTENT

Today's Readings:

First Reading

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (40:5)

Psalm

O bless the Lord, my soul. (Ps 104)

Second Reading

He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. (Ti 3:5)

Gospel

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. (Lk 3:22)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981,
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Readings for the week of January 9th:

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/
Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/
Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14;
3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/
Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5,
7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/
Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/
Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5,
6-7/Mk 2:13-17

Observances for the week of January 9th:

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Friday:

Saturday:

Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Live The Liturgy—Inspiration for the Week

Jesus stood in line with everyone else and was baptized. There is something incredibly humbling about how this must have played out. Then, God did something truly awesome and inspiring. Through a very gentle and simple action he let the world know about the special relationship He shares with Jesus. That's exactly what is so incredible about our baptisms as well! Through those holy waters God announces to the world the special place we also occupy in His heart. We no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. We do not need to fumble around, tripping over ourselves and wondering why we are even here. The answer has been given. All we have to do is live out the vocation we have received, to live the Gospel in fidelity to our Creator. There is nothing to fear and worry has no place. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor and God is very pleased.

Saint of the Week—Examples of our Faith

St. Hilary of Poitiers | January 13

Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 – c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ's divinity. From Phrygia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy.

Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.

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Gospel Meditation—Gain A Deeper Understanding of Scripture

The Baptism of the Lord

"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ."

— Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

©LPi

Why Do We Do That?—Catholic Life Explained

Question:

At my grandson's Baptism, the priest put a bib on the baby. I do not remember seeing this before. Why is this done? Is it something new?

Answer:

When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head. Others are simply placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: "See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity ... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers, and this is symbolized by the white garment.

Questions of the Week—We Encourage You To Reflect & Respond To Scripture

First Reading:

The prophet Isaiah was called to bring words of comfort and good news to the beleaguered Israelites held captive in Babylon. How do you minister to those in your life struggling to find God's presence?

Second Reading:

Paul taught Titus that baptized believers are called "to live temperately, justly, and devoutly." How well do you think you live by this moral and ethical standard?

Gospel:

We hear today the account of the baptism of Jesus and God's words from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." What do you imagine Jesus did (prior to the start of his public ministry) that was so pleasing to God?

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Everyday Stewardship—Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

I Hope I Am Like Him

“Who is this Christ? Is he like you?”

Perhaps you’ve heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

“He is nothing like me,” the saint is said to have answered. “But I hope I am like him.”

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

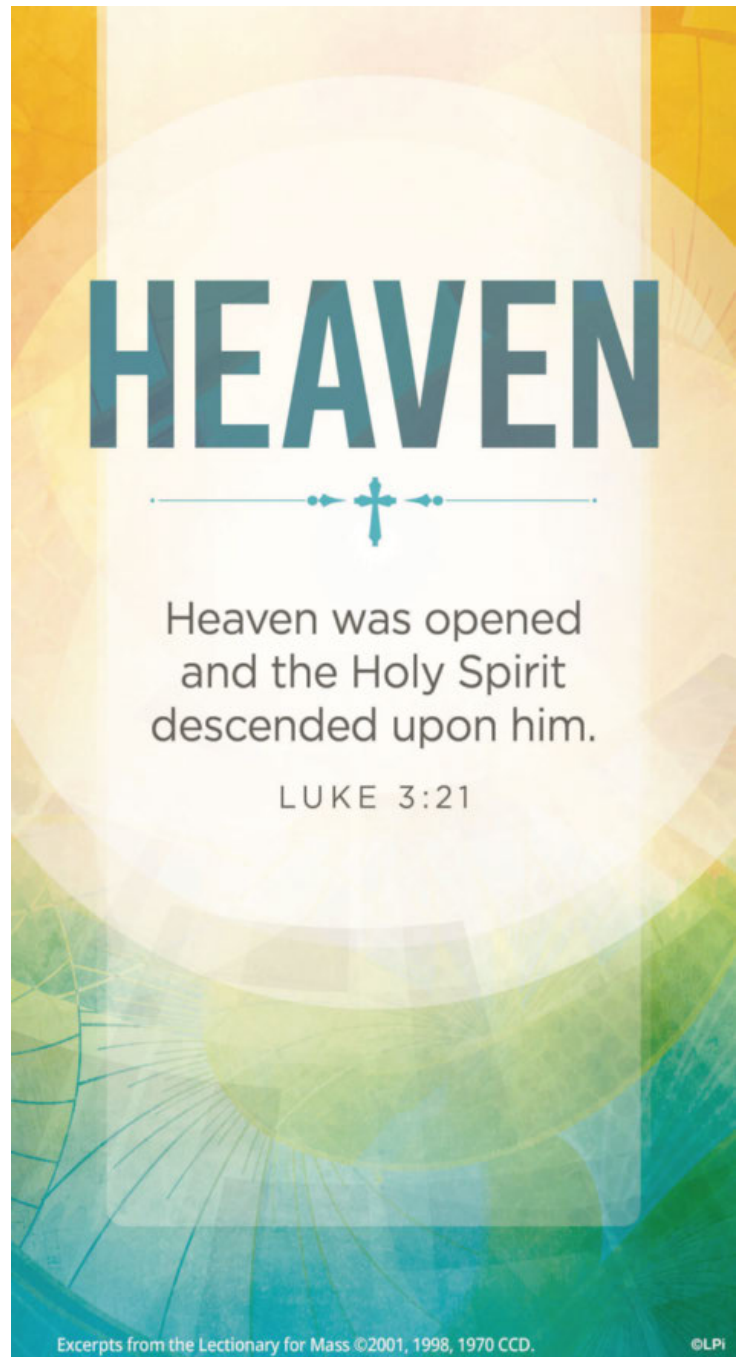
Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. “One worthier than I is coming,” he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God’s will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

Let’s examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God’s plan?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, *MTS*

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A Simple Prayer—The Baptism of the Lord

Lord Jesus, your coming into our world is pure gift. Make us worthy ambassadors of your name and your kingdom, providing a well of expectant hope for a weary world.

©Daily Reflections for Advent & Christmas by Catherine Upchurch



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Formation Opportunities For All Adults

Here at St. Thomas More, we provide opportunities for you to continue your own faith journey and growth. On our website is a schedule of different formation sessions for you to consider. Each event is a one-off formation session that does not require you to have attended any previous session (with a few exceptions as indicated). You can drop in anytime that works for your schedule. The sessions are open to **ANY adult**. Registration is not required and there is no cost. For more information, visit our website at www.stmlv.org/adults

Adult Confirmation

The 2022 Spring Session begins in March! More information can be found on our website at www.stmlv.org/adult-confirmation

RCIA

Interested in becoming Catholic and receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist? Want to find out more about the Catholic faith? Join us!

The R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), also called the Baptismal Catechumenate, is a process of initiation into the Catholic Community of Faith for persons who are experiencing a conversion in their lives and seeking either Christian baptism in the Catholic Church or full Communion with the Catholic tradition of Eucharist and Confirmation.

The first step is to attend our Inquiry sessions. They take place on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month in the Community Center. There is no beginning or end to Inquiry and will continue all year round. You are welcome to drop in at any time to join us.

More information can be found on our website at www.stmlv.org/rcia

Senior Groups

If you are an active single senior (55+), looking to meet new friends in our community...then join us on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am in the Community Center. For more information on these gatherings, please contact Carol Capino Sturm at 702-606-3900.

Our seniors games group gather for lunch (provided by the church) and games in our Community Center the second Thursday of each month at 11:30 am. Anyone 55+ is welcome!

GriefShare Bereavement Ministry

It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before.

"Going to GriefShare feels like having warm arms wrapped around you when you're shivering."

GriefShare groups meet weekly (Wednesdays from 9:30 am-11:00 am in Room 9 of the Community Center) to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life.

Pre-registration is required and costs \$20 to purchase materials for the ministry.

All meeting dates are available on our website. You can also register and pay online as well. Go to www.stmlv.org/bereavement

Current Information

For all the latest information on events, meetings, etc., be sure to visit our newly designed website at www.stmlv.org/current-announcements



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THURSDAY MORNINGS
9:30 - 11:30 AM
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER

WE WILL GATHER ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

JANUARY 13, 20, 27
FEBRUARY 3, 10, 17, 24
MARCH 10, 17, 24, 31
APRIL 7, 28

*ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE LITTLE KINGDOM COORDINATOR: GERALDINE AT 702-236-4332

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

High School Youth Ministry

The STM Youth Ministry is open to all high school teens in grades 9-12 (no registration needed). This ministry is for all teens—whether they are committed to growing in their Catholic faith, are still seeking answers about the faith, or are just simply looking for a fun and safe place to hang out.

Join us on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Community Center!

We encourage you to check the calendar for our meeting dates before coming. The full calendar is available on our website at www.stmlv.org/youthministry

As long as they are also in high school, teens may bring a friend with them.

Our primary goal as a youth ministry is to create a safe, positive, faith-based environment for teens to learn about and grow closer to Christ, all while building fellowship and community. Our mission is to guide our youth to become the disciples they are all called to be because they are all made for greatness!

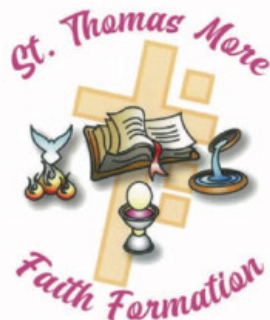
"Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity." – 1 Timothy 4:12

For more information on Youth Ministry, please contact Rolyssa at rolyssa@stmlv.org or at 725-204-9995

Faith Formation (Religious Education)

The Faith Formation Team at St. Thomas More welcomes you and your family. Our mission is to help you grow in your Catholic faith, regardless of age or where you are on your journey. We have opportunities for ALL AGES. Our K-8 programs have classes on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. If you're interested in more information about any of our programs or if you'd like to volunteer, please visit our website at www.stmlv.org and click on Faith Formation, contact us by phone at 725-204-9995, email us or stop by the Community Center to see us in-person!

All calendars, required workshop dates for parents/guardians, and other forms are available on our website at www.stmlv.org/downloads



PROMISE TO PROTECT



PLEDGE TO HEAL

BELIEVE IN THE POSSIBILITY OF HELP AND HEALING. THERE IS HOPE.

Your local Victim Assistance Coordinator is available to help you or anyone who has been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church. We will listen to your needs and support you. We will help you make a formal complaint and arrange a personal meeting with the bishop, or his delegate, if desired. We encourage you to come forward and speak out.

The Victim Assistance Coordinator in your (arch)diocese/eparchy is:

Diocese of Las Vegas (702) 235-7723



Men's Club

Hey men! Guess what, if you are over the age of 21, you are a member of the Men's Club. Have you been struggling with your faith? Would you like to help others and share in some Fellowship with other like-minded men? Then come to our monthly meetings. Our Men's Club concentrates on having fun while learning and helping. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Dave Libby at 702-808-3589 or email stmoremensclub@gmail.com

Women's Guild

All women are invited to join our Women's Guild for their monthly meetings. For more information, please contact Marie at 702-501-2638 or Pat at 702-283-8926.

Piecemakers

We have beautiful, scripture quilts available for anyone that sick, going through treatment, grieving, etc. If you'd like more information on joining the group or you're interested in receiving a quilt, please contact Pat Burkitt at 702-376-5410.

If you are able to donate, we encourage you to utilize one of the options below:

Online Giving is secure, easy to set up and allows you to schedule recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have internet access. We use an online company called Vanco (which may also say eservicepayments). You can visit our website for more information.



Give by Text is a quick way to make a donation by using your smart phone to send a text message to 702-903-2248 with the amount you would like to give. Make sure to include the dollar sign before the amount and within seconds you'll receive a text with a link to register.



Scan our QR Code which was created specifically for our community. When you scan this image here (simply open your phone's camera and direct it toward the QR), it will instantly connect you to the mobile version of our online giving web page.

In-person Options If you are attending Mass, you can participate during the offertory with cash, checks or your weekly envelopes. If you are a registered parishioner and you want to start receiving envelopes, please contact the Parish Office. We also have a drive up option for parishioners to drop off their donations. This dropbox is also a secure and easy option.



The weekly financial reports were not available at the time of this bulletin's transmission.

We are very grateful for your continued support for this great community. Thank you!

- - - - -

Remember The Church In Your Will

The money given in the regular collection often covers only the basic running costs of your parish. Remembering the Church in your Will is a wonderful way to give thanks for your faith and support the future work of the Church locally. If you wish your parish to benefit, you can ask your Will-writer to use particular wording to enable this. A legacy gift to your parish church could pay for many things...for example:

- Structural improvements, to make existing buildings more welcoming and accessible
- New facilities for the parish and the local community
- Ministry to young people, the elderly or other groups

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Sign-up for our online giving program through Vanco. It's easy, secure, and it will keep your donation records organized. Learn more by visiting our giving webpage at www.stmlv.org/give-now

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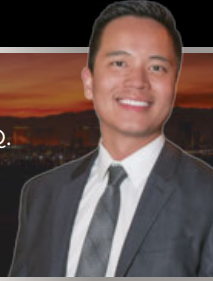
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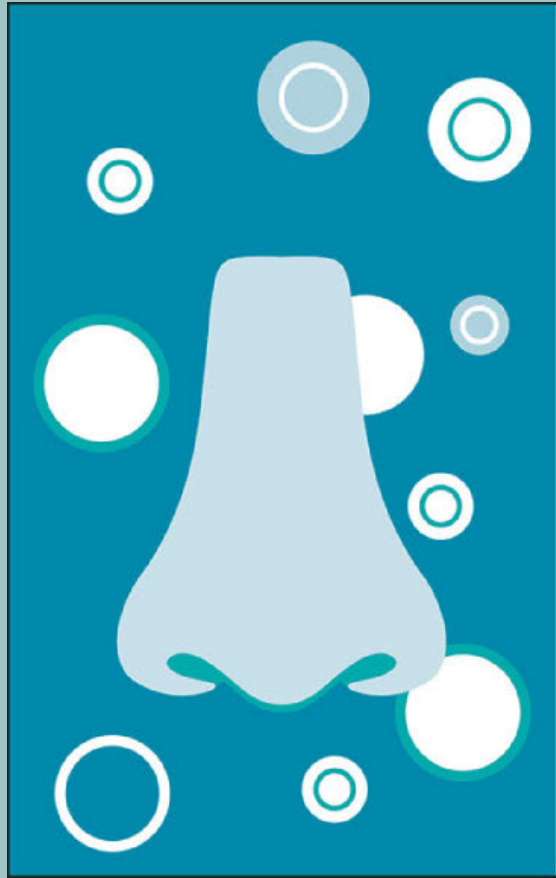


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