



CELEBRATING THE PAST  
COMMITTED TO THE FUTURE

# ST. THOMAS MORE

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 16TH, 2022



# GENERAL PARISH INFORMATION

## Contact Us

St. Thomas More Catholic Community  
130 N. Pecos Road Henderson, NV 89074  
702-361-3022 | [www.stmlv.org](http://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](http://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](http://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 Carpino 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

### Registered Members

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

*Ramir Lucas Calicdan Dampog*  
*Nina Celestine Caballero Payabyab*  
*Dreiden Matthew Villator*

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.

### 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](http://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.

### 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.

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

*Carmen Torres-Puigsubira*

From Gloria Rivera



### Taxes

If you are in need of a copy of your 2021 donations for tax purposes, please call Stacey in the Parish Office at 702-361-3022.

### 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/](http://www.stmlv.org/virtual-book-of-prayers/)

### Altar Flowers

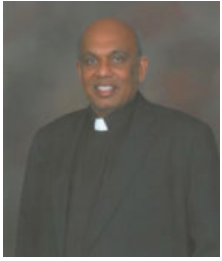
Would you like to honor a loved one, give thanks for an anniversary or accomplishment, or commemorate a loved one's birthday or death by sponsoring flowers on the altar? Please visit the Parish Office during business hours to discuss details and secure your preferred date.

### 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



Next weekend we kick off our annual Catholic Stewardship Appeal (CSA). I am extending an invitation to all of our Parishioners to please take part in this worthy cause. Not only does this help us at St Thomas More, it helps the wider Catholic Church and people across Southern Nevada.

Why is the Catholic Stewardship Appeal so vital to the works of the Diocese of Las Vegas and its members? It is how our diocese is able to support and fund many of the extended formation opportunities and important causes that many Catholics count on. This year, the Catholic Stewardship Appeal (CSA) will strengthen the faith of our brothers and sisters in the following ways: Pastoral Outreach (27%), Vocations (25%)—this is special because we have two of our own parishioners in the current Seminarian class, Continuing Education for Clergy (17%), Faith Formation (13%), Catholic Education (10%), and Campus Ministry (8%). You can read more about each category in the brochure that will be included in your CSA mailing. There will also be envelopes with brochures available in the foyer for non-registered parishioners starting next weekend. As Bishop George Leo Thomas stated, “through the giving of CSA, we may both obtain to a more perfect, spiritual vision, vision in our own lives, and offer that gift to others, as we together are transformed into good stewards and servants of the Lord, Christ Jesus.”

Last year, 715 households (we have over 6,000 registered households) pledged \$309,793.00, and as of January 9th, 2022, \$300,436.50 has been received. As a result, St Thomas More will collect \$48,491.50 which is over our assessment goal of \$251,945.00. With this, we are excited to announce that we will be putting new kneelers in the church next month. We will also continue to work towards financial healing from the pandemic which hit us hard the past two years. As stewards of the Church, God invites us to take responsibility for supporting our local Church and its causes. We do this through our weekly collections to support our parish where you worship. It is through CSA that we support the wider diocesan Church, its ministries, and worthy causes.

For those who gave to CSA last year, with much gratitude and with the utmost humility, I ask you to pledge the same amount again, if possible, to the 2022 Catholic Stewardship Appeal (CSA) in order to reach our new goal of \$251,327.00. You can contribute it all in one lump sum or make monthly payments.

For those who did not give, were not able to give, or those new to our community, with humility, I ask you to please help us increase our household pledges to at least 1,000 households and give whatever you can. Again, this can help benefit our parish in so many ways and we pray that you will please help us, not only reach our hefty goal, but surpass that goal, so that we can put it to good use. You can pledge any amount and make small payments, one lump sum, etc.

There are many options so that we can be as successful as possible. Remember, any and all contributions collected above our assessment comes back to us.

Our community is still celebrating 25 years since the dedication of our Church. We have already enjoyed events and celebrations and we have many goals and visions set in place to help us continue to celebrate and also to keep our worship space and community areas beautiful and sacred. Our visions and goals for our future continue to include replacing the kneelers in the church pews, as well as redoing the cushions, re-carpeting the Church, retiling the hall in the community center, updating the restrooms, and replacing the remaining air conditioning units that need replacement. This will assure that the next 25 years of parish life will be as successful and wonderful as the first 25 years. Although the past two years have been financially tough on our parish, we are called to have hope and believe that all things are possible through Christ and prayer.

Can you imagine what we would be able to accomplish if we were to increase our participation as a community? Together we can achieve our goals, face the challenges ahead, and renew our commitment to one other as brothers and sisters in Christ and his Church.

Think about the many mouths we will feed, the people we will clothe and shelter, the many young men and women who will fulfill their vocations to serve God's Holy Church for the future of our children, the homebound elderly who get to celebrate weekly Mass with us from home, and you, who can continue your spiritual formation and education through the work of our diocese. It is what we are called to do and be. Those who can pledge, please be generous with your donation. For some, this donation may be a burden, and we understand that, so please do what you can. Any pledge given is a commitment for us to continue to perform the corporal works of mercy. God is truly present in our community when others see the good works from our fruitfulness.

Next week you will hear more about CSA at Mass and you should receive your Catholic Stewardship Appeal Pledge card in the mail. Please fill it out and return it to the office or drop it in our collection basket. Once received, an acknowledgment letter will be mailed to you. For those not registered, please pick up your envelope in the foyer of the church.

Please pray for the staff and I as we head into the upcoming transition. Next weekend is my last weekend here at St. Thomas More and I hope to be able to see and speak to as many of you as possible. I, of course, will continue to pray for you.



Fr. Bede Wevita  
Pastor

The Our Lady of Fatima statue that we have is available to take home with you to pray with. Parishioners have really enjoyed this, so we will continue it throughout the year. Invite friends/family over! If you're interested, please contact Pam at 725-214-7069.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

Arlene Borski	Mary Solares
Athena Gam Lake	Maureen Fawcett
Barbara Livingston	Michael Crisci
Bob Starbird	Michael David Gam
Brian Cross	Michael Juarez
Bruce & Darlene Zombory	Michael Stanziale
CarolAnne Kardash	Michelle Natale
Ceferino Arboleda	Minerva Ciccarelli
Charlie Hensel	Nelly Macahilas
Danny Jacobs	Nicole O'Neill
Dave Wirshing	Oscar Ayon
Delores Brown	Pasquale Amatulli
Dr. Nick Fiore	Pat Amatulli
Elizabeth Martano	Patrick Arboleda
Franny & Jimmy Reyes	Peter Selman
Felecia Cody	Raymond & Marion Lewis
Felix Aguto Jr.	Reseth Oberg
Jeanne Amlund	Richard Fellrath
Jerry Thiele	Rita Grillo
Jocelyn Green	Ruth Ochoa
John Edward Rice	Selma Sikes
John Matthew Suzuki	Simona Dye
Justin Askari	Stella Van Aken
Kaiden Cruz	Stephanie Fiore
Katie Dillon	Sue Vanlvanee
Laura McManus	Susan Berry
Lenny Tanchala Jr.	Suzanne Lutter
Lenny Tanchala Sr.	The Carranza Family
Leona Marquez	The Dougherty Family
Librada Arboleda	The LaMonte Family
Linda McDonell	The Nuguid Family
Linda Murtaugh	Timothy Ingstad
Linda Steward	Veralyn Bona
Liz A. Delsignore	Virginia Guglielmo
Lloyd Gauff	Walter Gudaitis
Loren Kiner	Wendy Dwyer
Lorenzo Kneesel	William Lauf
Lory Hill	Wilrose Robles
LuAnn Ferron	
Margaret Watson	
Mark Van Bavel	
Marty Marino	
Mary Berndt	
Mary Gallagher	

If you would like to add someone to the Pray For List, please contact Amanda Dwyer at [amandad@stmlv.org](mailto: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 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 Chrisholm  
5:30 pm Carmen Torres-Puigsubira

### Monday, January 17th

8:00 am † Georgeta Grauzer  
† Margrit Sofran

### Tuesday, January 18th

8:00 am † Helen Szot  
† Susana Sova

### Wednesday, January 19th

8:00 am † Nellie A. Villanueva  
† Ron Xuereb

### Thursday, January 20th

8:00 am † Christopher Curtis  
† John Curtis

### Friday, January 21st

8:00 am † Gloria Javier  
† Rosa Sanguansri Srimongkol

### Saturday, January 22nd

4:00 pm † Patricia Lochrie

### Sunday, January 23rd

8:00 am † Robert Lozano  
10:00 am † Henry Lucas  
12:00 pm Members of the Parish  
5:30 pm † Rose Fragapane

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.

## Today's Readings:

### First Reading

As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you. (Is 62:5)

### Psalm

Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations. (Ps 96)

### Second Reading

But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. (1 Cor 12:11)

### Gospel

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him. (Jn 2:11)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981,  
1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation.  
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## Readings for the week of January 16th:

**Sunday:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/  
1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

**Monday:** 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21  
and 23/Mk 2:18-22

**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/  
Mk 2:23-28

**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2,  
9-10/Mk 3:1-6

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a,  
10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12

**Friday:** 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/  
Mk 3:13-19

**Saturday:** 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3,  
5-7/Mk 3:20-21

## Observances for the week of January 16th

**Sunday:** 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Monday:** Martin Luther King Day; St. Anthony, Abbot

**Tuesday:** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**Wednesday:**

**Thursday:** St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St.  
Sebastian, Martyr

**Friday:** St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

**Saturday:** Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of  
Unborn Children

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## Live The Liturgy—Inspiration for the Week

Relationships are hard to clarify. Determining whether people in our lives are simply acquaintances and associates or a deeper level of friend is a journey that takes time. Identifying and celebrating those people who really care about us is a lifelong adventure that involves both moments of intense elation and heartache. Some relationships are more easily definable than others. Two people who are in love must decide whether the love they share has the freedom and depth necessary for lifelong commitments. Other relationships may look like friendship but may harbor grave dysfunction and toxicity. Discernment is needed on all fronts. Our relationship with God also needs definition and discernment. God has taken creation as His spouse and human beings as His children. God delights in us and all that He has made. The wedding feast at Cana demonstrates God's investment in all of this, especially our happiness. Life is a time for celebration and great rejoicing!

## Saint of the Week—Examples of our Faith

St. Sebastian | January 20th

Not much is known about the life of St. Sebastian (256 – 287), except that he was a Roman martyr whose name has been mentioned throughout history since early 350. We see St. Sebastian many times in art, especially from iconic paintings from Guido Reni, Andrea Mantegna and Hendrick ter Brugghen. Historical scholars now agree that a spiritual story has the beloved saint entering the Roman army because only there could he assist Christian martyrs without arousing suspicion on himself. Eventually he was found out, brought before Emperor Diocletian and delivered to Mauritanian archers to be shot to death. Pierced with arrows, he was left for dead, but managed to survive. He recovered from his wounds but still refused to leave. One day, St. Sebastian took up a position near where the emperor was to pass. He confronted the emperor, condemning him for his cruelty to Christians. This time the sentence of death was carried out, and St. Sebastian was beaten to death with clubs. Today he is the patron saint of athletes.

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### Gospel Meditation—Gain A Deeper Understanding of Scripture

God delights in you. How do you feel when you hear that? Delight usually comes with an exuberant flow of joy that seemingly arises from one's toes with the expression of great glee. Reflecting upon the deep measure of joy God has in us can be a source of joy for ourselves. Delight is infectious. A very young brother and sister were playing on the beach when the all too familiar ice cream truck made its daily rounds. The boy shook with excitement and delight as he took his sister's hand and exclaimed, "The ice cream man is here, isn't it great!" As they ran off toward the truck, one could hear the girl reply, "Yeah, I can't wait!" The experience of a child's delight in something so simple as ice cream, lifts our spirits from our burdens and transports us to the lighter, more innocent side of life.

Life is not meant to be a burden. Believe it or not, God actually wants us to be happy! In fact, the wedding feast at Cana shows us that God even puts His blessing on our happiness. It is okay to celebrate the wonder of ourselves and others. Life is good. It is always interesting to note that Jesus saves the good wine until last. You would think it would be the other way around. The superb quality of Jesus' wine points to the superior quality of life we find in Christ. It is not a life of burdens but a life of wonder and delight! In Christ, we are lifted from the superficial and mundane to a life of purpose, hope, and love.

God is with us through the long haul, through the challenges and sorrows as well as the successes and accomplishments. In spite of the fact that we often wander from the path, God's celebratory delight in us remains. As spouses are asked to remain faithful to each other through whatever life brings, God remains faithful too. This promise remains through this life and into the next. All we have to do is take the advice of Jesus' mother to heart when she says, "Listen to him." This wisdom saves us from foolishly giving in to the illusion that we can make better wine than Jesus.

### Questions of the Week—We Invite You To Reflect and Respond to Scripture

**First Reading:** The prophet Isaiah used marriage imagery (bridge and groom) to describe the Lord's love for his people, Israel. What do you see as some implications of this marriage imagery?

**Second Reading:** Paul taught the Corinthians that the individual gifts of the Holy Spirit are meant to benefit and unify the community of faith. How do you use your spiritual gifts within your faith community?

**Gospel:** Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana was one of the first public "signs" he performed revealing his divinity. It also showed Jesus' compassion, sparing the family shame at running short of wine. How do you imagine the family reacted to Jesus' intervention and rescue?

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### Everyday Stewardship—Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

"If every flower wanted to be a rose," wrote St. Therese of Lisieux, "spring would lose its loveliness."

Who is God asking you to be today? There is an obvious answer that springs to mind right out of the gate. God wants me to be a good person (a good father, a good husband) today; today, God wants me to be a saint.

But this answer fails to get to the heart of the question. We are all striving today to serve the same Spirit, but we are given different gifts to do so. The one who has the gift of knowledge may fail if today he decides he wants to be a healer. The one who has the gift of "varieties of tongues" might falter in the expression of wisdom.

Think about the wedding at Cana and the players in the scene: the servers, the guests, the bride and groom. They all have a unique role to play, and though it is to the servers that Mary gives the instruction, "Do whatever he tells you," her words apply to all.

Today, are we called to be the servers — do we wait on God's instruction and carry it out, no matter how foolish or impossible it may seem to our human ears? Are we asked to be the disciples, to bear witness to a miracle and to give our testimony? Are we called to imitate the Blessed Mother herself and give encouragement to follow God's word?

Let us examine our gifts and listen in the silence of our hearts to the direction of the Spirit. Then and only then, let us do whatever He tells us.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

### Why Do We Do That?—Catholic Life Explained

**Question:** How can we pray for the dead throughout the year?

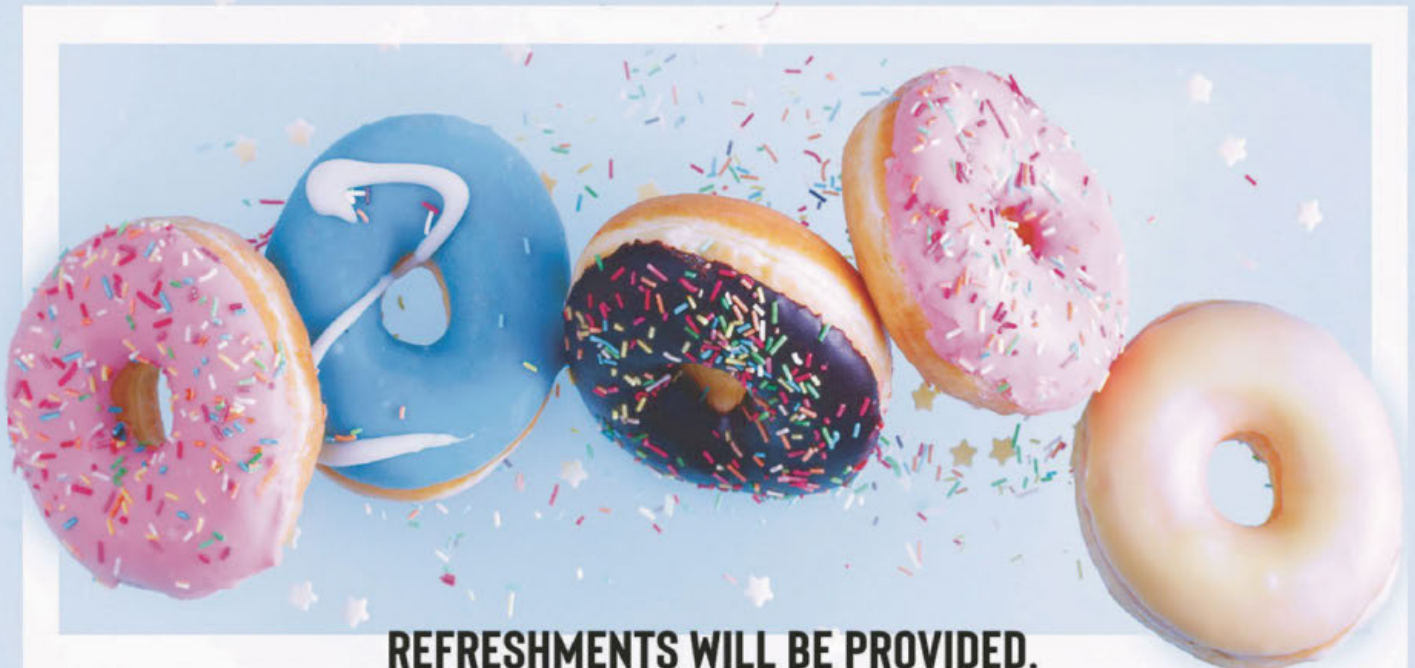
**Answer:** We commemorate the faithful departed on November 2nd each year. However, we can and should continue to pray for the dead. Our growth in Christian perfection takes a long time. At the time of our death, many of us might not be saints yet. But God, in His mercy, allows for those who love Him to experience purification after death. Our word for that state is Purgatory. It's the antechamber of heaven, so to speak. We know we're getting in the house, but we're not quite ready to go all the way in. There's rain to shake off our coats and dirt that's clogging our shoes.

Here on earth, we can pray for the souls in Purgatory. One way is to request that your parish offer a Mass for the intention of a specific loved one. We can also remember the departed in our daily prayers. Just as we have special intentions for family and friends here on earth, we can pray for those who have died. It's also a good act of Christian charity to pray for the forgotten, those who have no one else to pray for them. God knows who they are!

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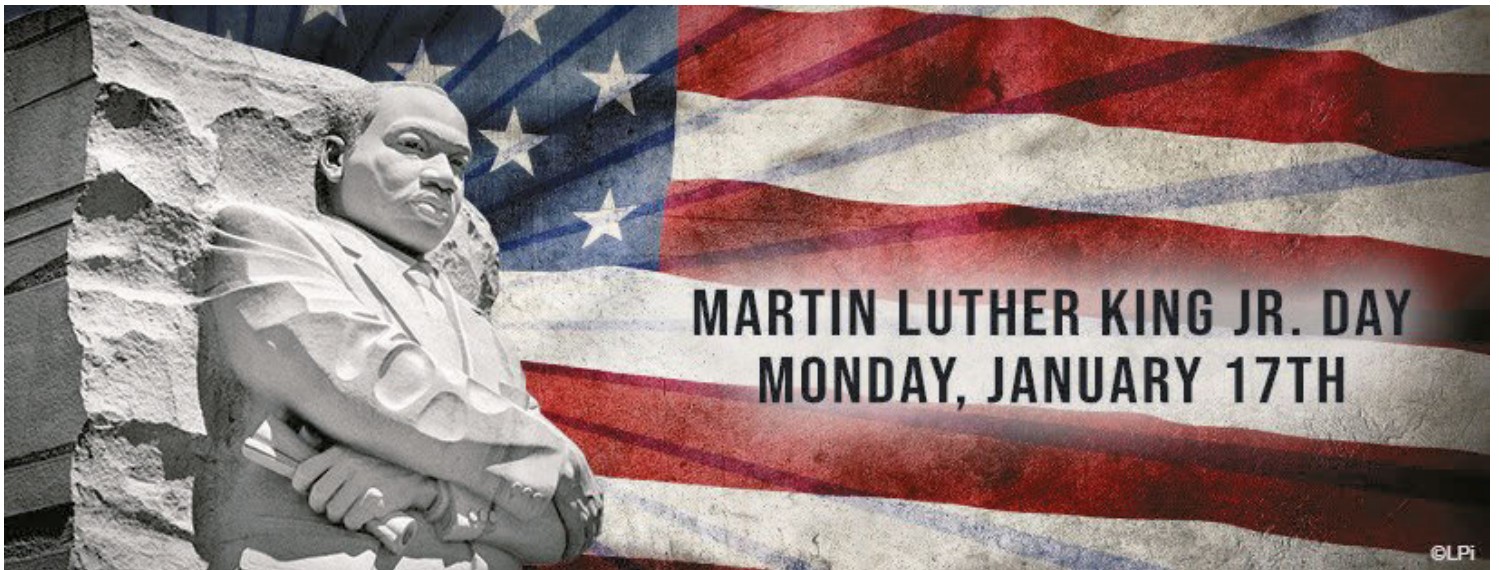


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IN THE COMMUNITY  
CENTER AFTER ALL MASSES  
TO WISH FATHER BEDE  
FAREWELL.**



**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.**

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS



### **Office Closed**

In Observance of the holiday, our offices and Gift Shop will be closed on Monday, January 17th, 2022.

### **Candlemas**

On February 2nd, we celebrate a joyful event told in the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke, called The Presentation of the Lord. When Jesus was 40 days old, Mary and Joseph brought him to the Temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. There, they met the righteous Simeon and the prophetess Anna. God rewarded them by allowing them to see the one who was Savior and to hold him in their arms. When the presentation was completed, Mary and Joseph, and Jesus, returned to their hometown. There they created a home and a family life where Jesus grew up, becoming strong and wise, and the grace of God was upon him. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed. Simeon called Jesus "a light to the nations." This sparked the tradition of blessing enough candles to last an entire year. It is a feast of light and the light of Jesus' presence in the world has been celebrated on this day for many centuries. We invite you to bring an unlit/unused candle from home with you or you can purchase a beeswax candle at church for the liturgy on Wednesday, February 2nd at 8:00 am.

### **Blessing of the Throats**

The Blessing of the Throats is a sacramental of the Roman Catholic Church, ordinarily celebrated on February 3rd, the feast day of Saint Blaise of Sebaste. Blessings are called "sacramentals" because they prepare us to receive the grace of the sacraments and help us to grow to be more like Christ (see Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1670).

We invite you to join us on Thursday, February 3rd for our weekday Mass at 8:00 am and for a blessing.

### **Women's Guild**

All women are invited to join our Women's Guild for their monthly meeting on January 20th at 6:30 pm! It's Italian-themed food, so come hungry! For more information, please contact Marie at 702-501-2638 or Pat at 702-283-8926.

### **Senior Groups**

Are you an active single senior 55+, looking to meet new friends in our St. Thomas More Community? Join us on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am in the Community Center. For more information, please contact Carol Carpino Sturm at 702-606-3900. On the second Thursday of each month at 11:30 am, all seniors (55+) are invited to join us for lunch and games. During this time, we'll recognize birthdays, anniversaries, and other high points. For more information, please contact Salvy Mc Ilvaine at 702-617-4547.

### **Men's Club**

All men are invited to join us for our next fellowship breakfast on Tuesday, January 18th at 8:30 am at Black Bear Diner (Green Valley Pkwy/Sunset). We have a great Men's Club at STM and if you're over the age of 21—then you're already part of it! 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 and breakfast gatherings. Our Men's Club concentrates on having fun while learning and helping. The next meeting will take place on Monday, February 7th at 6:00 pm in the main space of the Community Center. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Dave Libby at 702-808-3589 or email him at [stmomensclub@gmail.com](mailto:stmomensclub@gmail.com)

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.stmlv.org/rcia)

### 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](http://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](http://www.stmlv.org/downloads)

### 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](http://www.stmlv.org/bereavement)



### Mass for Life

A local "Mass for Life" will be celebrated on Friday, January 21st at 12:15 pm! January 22, 2022 marks the 49th anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision, Roe v Wade. In the last 49 years, there have been 63 million reported abortions in the U.S. On Friday, January 21st, the Diocese

of Las Vegas Respect Life Office will sponsor a Mass "for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life, and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion". The Mass "For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life" will be celebrated by Bishop Gordon at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Church (315 Casino Center Blvd) at 12:15 pm. Following the Mass for Life, there will be an ecumenical hour of public prayer at the Lloyd George Federal building nearby. All are welcome to join in prayer there also!

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# GIVING

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**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.



## Weekly Financial Report for January 8th/9th

Total Combined Collection .....	\$29,522.83
Weekly Collection Goal .....	\$32,500.00
Over/(Under) .....	(\$2,977.17)

## Previous Financial Reports...

### Friday, December 24th and Saturday, December 25th

Total Combined Collection .....	\$67,110.60
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### Sunday, December 26th

Total Combined Collection .....	\$11,347.00
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### Friday, December 31st and Saturday, January 1st

Total Combined Collection .....	\$4,623.00
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### Sunday, January 2nd

Total Combined Collection .....	\$47,862.00
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**Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!**



### Next weekend's Second Collection:

Support for various pastoral projects throughout Latin America and the Caribbean is made possible through the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Projects are at the continental, regional, diocesan and local levels, and include the work of evangelization, formation of laity, religious and seminarians, as well as youth ministry and catechesis. Funding is limited to programmatic expenses and excludes building construction except in cases of emergency. This special collection channels aid through the bishops' conferences of Central and Eastern Europe to meet the needs of rebuilding the Church: training seminarians and lay leaders, supporting social service programs, youth ministry, pastoral and catechetical centers, schools, church construction and renovation, and evangelization through Catholic mass media.

-----  
**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](http://www.stmlv.org/give-now)**

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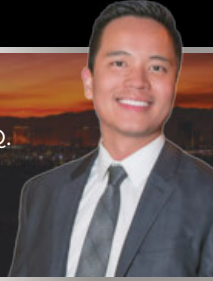
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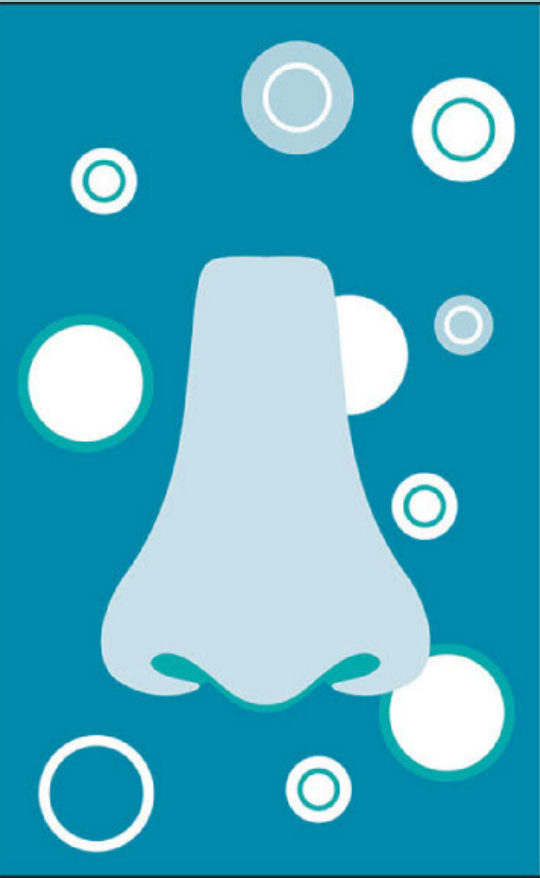
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# MoMS

## Ministry of Mothers Sharing

is starting a new group in February!

If you are interested in becoming a member of a new MoMS group and participating in the 'Grace Within' 10 week Spiritual Journey, then please join us

**Wednesday, February 9th**  
**at 6:30 pm**  
**Wine & Cheese Night**

and an informational meeting in the main space of the Community Center with current MoMS and guests. The new session begins in mid-February and with details provided at the meeting. Registration is \$45.00, which includes a celebration dinner and materials.

**What is the Ministry of Mother's Sharing?**  
We are mothers, grandmothers, stepmothers, Godmothers, like-mothers who meet to deepen our spiritual self with like minded Catholic women. Our goal is to grow into a deeper relationship with our loving God, with Mary, Mother of Jesus, and with one other.

**Women of St. Thomas More,**  
**now the time to renew your spiritual self!**

To attend, please sign up at the MoMS table in the church foyer Jan 29/30 & Feb 5/6, or call, or text any of the following:

Lynne Sherlock, New Groups Coordinator @ 860-227-2397

Kathleen Walters, MoMS Co-Coordinator @ 702-274-4038

Joanne Greser, MoMS Co-Coordinator @ 702-521-9697