

Saint Thomas More

Catholic Church



November 28, 2021

Liturgy Schedule

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 4:30 PM

Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, & 11:00 AM

DAILY MASS

7:30 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursdays – 4:30 PM-5:15 PM • Saturdays - 8:15-9:00 AM

ADORATION

3:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Mon thru Fri

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Bulletin items are due to the Parish Office by Monday at 4:00 PM. Please email your items to:
receptionist@thomasmorespokane.org.

ST. THOMAS MORE

Website: www.thomasmorespokane.org

November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

Parish Staff

Phone	466-3811
Pastor	
Fr. Pat Kerst	Ext. 208
Parish Deacons	
Deacon Douglas Banks	Ext. 204
Deacon Tom Heavey	
Office Staff	
Jennifer Siira, Business Manager	Ext. 201
John Oss, Music Director	Ext. 200
Traci Loewen, Bulletin Editor	Ext. 200
Jim Huss, Receptionist	Ext. 200
Alexis Ferrante, Religious Ed. Coord.	
Tracy Acker, Sacramental Prep Coord.	
J.J., Nazzaro, Youth Ministry Coord.	

School Staff

Phone:	466-3811
Jim McCollum, Principal.....	Ext. 315
Rachel McCann, Vice Principal.....	Ext. 326
Doug Banks, Vice Principal for Finance, Development & Facilities.....	Ext. 204
Jen Siira, Business Admin. & Preschool Dir.....	Ext. 201
Mary Heavey, Secretary.....	Ext. 313
Sheleis Mather, Secretary.....	Ext. 314

Oh Lord, give us a mind that is humble, quiet, peaceable, patient and charitable, and a taste of your Holy Spirit in all our thoughts, words, and deeds. O Lord, give us a lively faith, a firm hope, a fervent charity, a love of you. Take from us all lukewarmness in meditation and all dullness in prayer. Give us fervor and delight in thinking of you, your grace, and your tender compassion toward us. Give us, good Lord, the grace to work for the things we pray for.

—St. Thomas More,

1478-1535



THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

Monday, November 29:

Tuesday, November 30:

12:30 PM Rosary Makers

6:30 PM School Advisory Council Mtg.

Wednesday, December 1:

9:00 AM Adult Bible Study

Noon Senior Card Group

6:30 PM Adult Bible Study

Thursday, December 2:

1:00 PM Adult Bible Study

6:00 PM Religious Education

Friday, December 3:

Saturday, December 4:

4:30 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 5:

Mass at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, & 11:00 AM
Giving Tree Gifts are due this weekend.
Altar Society Raffle Ticket Sales

If you have questions about any of these events, call the Parish Office.

Hearing assistance is available during liturgies at FM 89.1

Please pray in a special way on November 30 and December 1—perhaps during Adoration time—for a positive result as the Supreme Court hears arguments in the *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women’s Health Case*, an important case with profound implications for legal abortion. The bishops of the United States, together with leaders of other Christian communities have launched an initiative. See www.prayfordobbs.com
We pray a decision is made to further the protection of the unborn children.



CHURCH SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Go to our parish website to fill out the proper paperwork. After we receive your information, you will be contacted to schedule an appointment.

Marriage: To schedule an appointment for marriage preparation, please contact a parish priest at least four months in advance of your desired wedding date.

Anointing of the Sick: Call the Parish Office to request a priest. If the call is after hours, you will be prompted on how to proceed.

TIME Talent Treasure

Weekly Stewardship (New figures unavailable)

Income	Budget—YTD	Received—YTD
Envelopes & Plates	\$267,300.00	\$240,122.00
Received: (11/14)		
In person		\$5,721.00
Mailed In		\$1,215.00
Online		<u>\$3,681.00</u>
Total		\$10,617.00
Needed Weekly	\$13,365.00	

Thanks to all who offer your stewardship donations to the parish on-line! You can set up a one-time or ongoing donation online at:

<https://parish.thomasmorespokane.org/give>



Ministers of the Altar

You should have all received the new schedule by email. If you haven't received it yet, please contact Traci in the Parish Office.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

It is the time of year when our bishop asks us to support the ministry and programs of the Diocese of Spokane through donations to the Annual Catholic Appeal. This Appeal provides the majority of the revenue with which the diocese carries out its mission, administratively and pastorally.



You can make your donation anytime you wish, using the envelopes you may have received in the mail or that are available in church, or using the on-line option (www.dioceseofspokane.org).

Our assessment this year for our parish is \$153,378.00, which is about \$4,000.00 more than our assessment last year. To date, our parishioners have given \$148,680.00, which is 97% of our goal. If we all give as much as we can, we will once again meet our assessed amount.

Please prayerfully consider a donation this year's ACA.



Our parish thanks the representative from Catholic Charities who spoke at Mass about Catholic Charities and invited us to support them with a donation. Please consider giving to this important ministry.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Preparing the Manger

Where do you fall in the "Christmas-songs-in-November" debate — do you like them, tolerate them, or outright hate them? There's no theological problem with Christmas songs in November outside of worship, even if it's not everyone's cup of tea. But there is a problem with getting so caught up in the baggage of the season — the trimmings, the gifts, the celebrations, all of which are marvelous in their own way — that you forget to prepare the manger.

Every good Catholic knows that Lent is a penitential season. It's hard to miss that point — Lent doesn't even have any fun songs you can groove to on the radio. We are pretty good at recognizing that Lent calls us to examine ourselves. To deny ourselves. To give of ourselves. And most of all, Lent calls us to prepare, as a good steward does, for the return of our master.

It's harder for us to remember that with Advent, but Advent is just as much of an opportunity for penance, preparation, and reconciliation to God — and just as much reason, too. The very name of the season — "advent" — encourages us to focus on what is coming, not what is already here. Be on guard, the readings tell us today, "so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and (the coming of the Lord) catch you unexpectedly, like a trap."

So let us not forget — our master's advent is upon us. And let us ask ourselves: how can we prepare the manger?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Synod

Pope Francis has convoked the Church in Synod. "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission" is the title of this synod. This process of "walking together" begins in parishes throughout the world through listening and consulting all who wish to participate in the next few months. If you wish to read the preparatory document, it can be found at <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bolletino/pubblico/2021/09/07/0541/01166.html>

The STM Parish Pastoral Council is discussing how best to facilitate the participation of any parishioners who wish to be involved. These opportunities will be scheduled for February/early March of 2022. The diocesan website (www.dioceseofspokane.org) will also have an on-line vehicle for receiving feedback after December 2, especially from those who will not yet be comfortable gathering in person.

The Synod is a marvelous opportunity to reflect upon the experience of the Holy Spirit in our lives, with whom each of us has been blessed, and in this reflection share together our life as church to see where the Spirit is leading us. Please keep the Synod in your prayers in the months to come!

"Put His Will in Your Will!" Clause for Christian Will

I give, devise, and bequeath to St. Thomas More Catholic Parish-Spokane, a Washington non-profit corporation (description of gift).



Check out the following opportunities to renew and/or expand your Catholic Faith:

RCIA: Are you or someone you know interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith and/or joining the church. Our classes have begun, but it isn't too late to join! We meet after the 9:00 AM Mass. Contact Al or Sharon Pry at 466-5951 for more information.





Don't forget to check out Formed.org

You will find bible studies, movies, documentaries, books, audio talks, and sacramental prep material from leading Catholic experts which will help you grow in understanding your faith. Parish code: 6HR79H

Altar Society Needs Your Help!

The ladies of the altar society are in need of 3 or 4 volunteers to assist with weekend church cleaning. The time commitment is minimal—one hour once every 10 weeks! You don't have to be a member to participate. For more information, call Pat Martin at 466-7358.



Benefit Dinner for Cor Christi, presented by the Knights of Columbus of the Spokane Diocese

Saturday, Dec. 4, Hemmingson Center Ballroom at GU

Special Guests: Bishop Thomas Daly, Fr. David Barnett

Support our future priests! Proceeds from this special benefit dinner will go toward the renovation of McGivney Hall, which will soon be the home of Cor Christi, the new program in Spokane for young men discerning the priesthood. Special violin performance by our very own Yvette Kraft!

Reservations: \$50 per person. Go to www.bishopwhitesem.org

Also, watch your mail or church pew racks for an invitation to financially support Cor Christi.



Immaculate Heart Retreat Center

Private Directed Retreats at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center are always available: Ignatian or Scriptural Spiritual Direction retreats. We can tailor a retreat to your spiritual and emotional needs. For more information or to register in advance, please call 448-1224 or visit www.ihrc.net

The Immaculate Heart Retreat Center is also looking for volunteers to help with their various ministries—help with the kitchen, Christmas decorating, yard and garden maintenance, and help in preparing rooms for their retreats. Contact Sr. Bernadette Pederson, Volunteer Coordinator.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

We have Shawls !!

If you need a shawl for someone who is ill, or in need of a warm blanket during a difficult time, please call Helen Durgan at 467-3147. She can arrange to meet you to pick up a shawl. Also, if you would like to give a shawl as a gift at Christmas, you can purchase a shawl for a minimal fee.

Men's Discernment Retreat

St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, CA

February 25-27, 2022

Key note speaker, Bishop Thomas Daly

Limited to single men 21 years of age and older

If interested, contact Rev Kyle Ratuiste at kratuiste@dioceseofspokane.org

Advent Retreat Morning

In Quiet Stillness We Wait: Responding with a YES to the Incarnation

Sat., Dec. 4, 9:30 AM—12:30 PM

Virtual Retreat—Zoom

Email Sr. Patricia at pnovak.sjfc@gmail.com

\$15 suggested donation

Parishioners: Did you know our bulletin is printed free of charge thanks to the parishioners or business owners who advertise on the back of our bulletin. Please support and thank them by using one of their services. If you are a business owner and would like to have an ad in our bulletin, contact Shannon Miller. Her number is listed on the back page.





Knights' Corner

Thanks to all who bought breakfast burritos and raffle tickets! We appreciate your support!



Please pray for those who are ill in our Parish and for those who are dying or who have died. Never doubt the power of prayer! If you would like to add someone to our prayer chain, call Mary at 466-0531.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK		
Week of November 28		
Sat.	4:30 P.M.	Chester & Veronica Bonk
Sun.	7:30 A.M.	Sheila Sullivan
	9:00 A.M.	Jean Keiffer
	11:00 A.M.	STM
Mon.	7:30 A.M.	Donna Abel
Tues.	7:30 A.M.	Alice Stevens
Wed.	7:30 A.M.	John Roy Devaney
Thurs.	7:30 AM.	Lambert & Joan Sanders
Friday	7:30 A.M.	Donna Abel
	7:30 A.M.	Paul Becker
Sat.	4:30 P.M.	John Tich Nguyen
	7:30 A.M.	STM
	9:00 A.M.	Martin Dineen
Sun.	11:00 A.M.	John R. Devaney



ADORATION

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta has stated, "The fruit of silence is Prayer, the fruit of prayer is Faith, the fruit of faith is Love,...the fruit of love is Service, the fruit of service is Peace." St. Padre Pio's words, "Confide your needs to Him, along with those of others."

**Adoration is open Mon. thru Fri.
3:00 PM to 7:00 PM**



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"THE DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL FULFILL THE PROMISE I MADE TO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH."

— JEREMIAH 33:14



Giving TREE

We still have a few tags left for the taking. This year, we will be providing each adult one gift card for \$25 and each child with two gifts—one toy and one clothing item. Please stop by and take a tag or two to help someone less fortunate. Gifts will be due back **NEXT WEEKEND** Sunday, December 5.

St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving/Christmas Food Collection

Last weekend, we delivered Thanksgiving Food Baskets to families in our community. These deliveries provided a Thanksgiving dinner for 165 people, including 65 children. May God Bless all our parish families who helped us in different ways, including making food and "spare change" donations, and those who assisted us making the basket deliveries.

We are now collecting food for our Christmas Baskets. Food items can still be dropped off in the vestibule at our SVdP container this week. If you would like to donate a **Ham**, you may drop it off in the Parish Office between 8:00 AM and Noon PM, M-F. **We will be delivering our Christmas Baskets on Saturday, December 11.**

GROCERY LIST

- Jell-O
- Canned Cranberries
- Canned Fruit Cocktail
- Canned Peas
- Bagged Marshmallows
- Canned Yams
- Salad Dressing
- Boxed Snack Crackers (One or two of each please)



Please remember, if you are unable to attend Sunday Mass it is livestreamed on Sunday mornings.



Dear St. Thomas More Community,

We have been very busy this fall at St. Thomas More!

We had a very successful Fund Run on October 1st! We had overwhelming support and generosity from our St. Thomas More Community to ensure that all students can receive a Catholic education.

Following Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'*, our students have been busy caring for our earth and community in our C-STEM garden. We were able to harvest a bountiful crop to support our local St. Vincent de Paul ministry. St. Thomas More students are learning the value of gardens, caring for the earth, and supporting our community. Mrs. Barnes worked many hours and with many students to bring the harvest to fruition.

Our 8th graders are hard at work earning money for the end of the year Washington DC trip. With the help of Jack Louie and an army of volunteers, we had a successful take-out Chinese Dinner. Remember if you need help with fall cleanup, we have 8th graders that would love to work to earn money for their Washington DC trip.

Thank you for the ongoing support of the Parish and St. Thomas More community to ensure students can receive a Catholic education.

Humbly,

Jim McCollum



Need Help With Your Fall Yard Clean Up?
Don't forget about our 8th Graders who are now busy earning money for their DC trip next May. If you need help with cleaning or yard work, contact Jennifer Onzay at: STMDCTRIP@gmail.com



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Holiday Remembrance
 Honoring those who passed this year.
 Dec. 5th • 2pm
 All are invited • Call to RSVP

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