

Saint Thomas More

Catholic Church



December 26, 2021 & January 2, 2022

Liturgy Schedule

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 4:30 PM

(No 4:30 PM Mass on Saturday, January 1)

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

DAILY MASS

7:30 AM (No 7:30 AM Mass on Saturday, January 1)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

(No Confessions on Saturday, January 1)

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

December 26, 2021 & January 2, 2022

Holy Family Sunday and The Epiphany

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, December 27:

Parish Office Open 8:00 AM til Noon

Tuesday, December 28:

Parish Office Open 8:00 AM til Noon

Wednesday, December 29:

Parish Office Open 8:00 AM til Noon

Thursday, December 30:

Parish Office Closed

Friday, December 31:

Parish Office Closed

Mass at 4:30 PM

Saturday, January 1: Feast of Mary Mother of God

Happy New Year!

Mass at 9:00 AM

No 7:30 AM or 4:30 PM Mass or 8:00 AM Confessions

Sunday, January 2: The Epiphany

Mass at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, & 11:00 AM

Monday, January 3:

Tuesday, January 4:

12:30 PM Rosary Makers

Wednesday, January 5:

9:00 AM Adult Bible Study

Noon Senior Card Group

6:30 PM Adult Bible Study

Thursday, January 6:

1:00 PM Adult Bible Study

6:00 PM Religious Education

Friday, January 7:

Saturday, January 8:

4:30 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 9:

Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, & 11:00 AM

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

Hearing assistance is available during liturgies at FM 89.1

The diocese is committed to helping victims/survivors of sexual abuse and to protecting children and vulnerable adults. Volunteers who supervise other volunteers who work with minors and vulnerable adults **are required to report** any suspected abuse by others they supervise. Contact: Roberta Smith, Victims Assistance Coordinator (509) 353-0442 Office Phone or (509) 998-8340 Cell.

You may also go to the Diocesan website.

<http://www.dioceseofspokane.org/safe-environment>.



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.

Weekly Stewardship — 12/12/21



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ekly S

4:30 PM	Linda Carper
7:30 AM	Leslie Stachecki
9:00 AM	Cindy Anderson
11:00 AM	Roger Devaney

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER

4:30 PM	Jerry Simmer & Sue Trautman
7:30 AM	Tom Machtolf & Kristi Masteller
9:00 AM	Chad Anderson & Paul Machtolf
11:00 AM	Dennis & Wendy Gunnels

Attention all Ministers of the Altar: You should have received an email asking for your availability to serve from January 16 through April 3. Please send your requests to Traci at receptionist@thomasmorespokane.org by January 5. Thank you.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
(www.dioceseofspokane.org).



Thank you to everyone who donated! You can still donate at www.dioceseofspokane.org. Remember, any excess donations will come back to our parish for our use. Our assessment this year for our parish was \$153,378.00. To date, our parishioners have given \$167,075.00!



Catholic Charities Christmas Collection
“Extraordinary Love for Extraordinary Times”
Please remember this important ministry during the Christmas season. There are envelopes in the back of the church or you may give online at cceasternwa.org.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter? We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth.

We are the great family. Let us love each other well.— *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

IRA Charitable Rollover

Congress has reauthorized and made permanent the IRA charitable rollover. If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can make a charitable gift of up to \$100,000 from your IRA. Your gift will qualify for your required minimum distribution and you will not have to pay federal income tax on the amount given directly from your IRA to charity. Please consider a gift to your parish or Catholic school.

For more info, contact your IRA administrator or tax advisor.

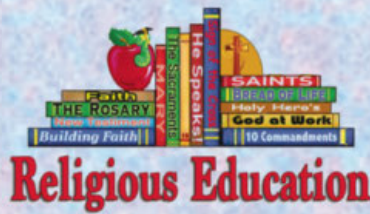
Synod

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/bollettino/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 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!

Youth Faith Formation



For children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade. This is a great way to fulfill your responsibility to raise your children in our Faith. We meet on Thursdays at 6:00 PM in the PACC. If you are a high schooler or adult who would like to help with this program, contact Alexa at alexious13@gmail.com. Registration is online.

Next Class is January 6.



Sacramental Prep—Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Communion
Parents meet in the PACC, children in the school.

Classes are Wednesdays at 6:00 PM

Upcoming Schedule:

January 19, February 16, March 2, & April 20.

Questions: Contact Tracy Acker at tracyacker83@gmail.com

Middle School and High School Youth Group

High School Youth Group meet on Tuesdays from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM in the St. Charles Youth room.

On the first Wednesday of each month, we will host adoration with a message, music, and confession available from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM at St. Francis Xavier. That week we will not meet at our usual time at St. Charles and STM.

Middle School students meet on Wednesday from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM in the St. Thomas More gym, except for the first Wednesday of each month—see above note.

For more information and upcoming events, find us online: www.ncymspokane.com or JJ at jnazzaro@dioceseofspokane.org. Be sure to check out the Mid-Semester Newsletter on our website.

Facebook: NCYSpokane
Twitter: NCYMSpokane
Instagram: NCYMSpokane



Our youth ministry will resume with our Adoration night on January 5.




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. We meet after the 9:00 AM Mass. Contact Al or Sharon Fry at 466-5951 for more information.



FORMED FAITH AT HOME
 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

Attention Senior Explorers: We may still have a few openings for our trip to Nashville and New Orleans in October of 2022. If you are interested in going, please call Traci in the Parish Office.

Altar Society

Altar Society Meeting
January 4
9:00 AM
Library
Continental Breakfast will be served.



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.



We have Shawls !!

Prayer Shawl Ministry
 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 842-8373. She can arrange to meet you to pick up a shawl. **Our next meeting will be Monday, January 10 at 1:00 PM in Conference Room 1.**



Bishop Daly is asking Catholics in Eastern Washington to support this campaign. The Vatican will soon announce new requirements for formation before men begin seminary. Bishop White seminary is one of the first seminaries in the country to respond to these new requirements. They have purchased a new building one block from the current seminary that has been renamed McGivney Hall. McGivney Hall will be the new home for our future seminarians and the new Cor Christi program. For more info visit bishopwhitesem.org.

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



Thank you to our advertiser of the week: **HobbyTown USA**. Please support this business as well as all of the other businesses listed on the back of our bulletin. Because of their generosity, we are able to print our bulletin free of charge.

Also, we still have a few spaces open for new advertisers. Please call Shannon Miller if you would like to advertise. Her number is on the back of the bulletin.



Knights' Corner
 Thanks to our Parish supporters, your Knights Council donated 72 coats for kids to two local elementary schools and the boys and girls Club of Spokane. Your generosity reflects the love of community that is a special mark of our parish. Thank you.



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.

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**

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Week of December 26:

Sun.	7:30 A.M.	Leroy Weber
	9:00 A.M.	Agnes Ferguson
	11:00 A.M.	Roland Torngren
Mon.	7:30 A.M.	Scott Hobbs Family
Tues.	7:30 A.M.	Richard Braddock
Wed.	7:30 A.M.	Alexander DeRyan Family
Thurs.	7:30 AM.	Lucille Weber
Fri.	7:30 A.M.	Martin & Jane Weber Family
	4:30 PM	Lambert & Joan Sanders

Week of January 1:

Sat.	9:00 A.M.	Joe Pence
Sun.	7:30 A.M.	Susie Crowell & Family
	9:00 A.M.	Marie Young & Family
	11:00 A.M.	Frank & Terry Young & Fam.
Mon.	7:30 A.M.	Mary Ann Niehenke
Tues.	7:30 A.M.	Sharon Miller
Wed.	7:30 A.M.	
Thurs.	7:30 AM.	
Fri.	7:30 A.M.	
Sat.	7:30 A.M.	
	4:30 P.M.	Teresa Hoa Nguyen
Sun.	7:30 A.M.	STM Parishioners
	9:00 A.M.	Mark & Sally Young & Fam
	11:00 A.M.	Bruce & Claudia Young & Fam

Mass Schedule for the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God: (Not a Holyday of Obligation this year)

Friday, December 31: 4:30 PM
Saturday, January 1: 9:00 AM

There will be no 7:30 AM Mass, 8:00 AM Confessions, nor 4:30 PM Mass on Saturday, Jan. 1

Giving TREE

The generosity of our parishioners was so apparent by the amount of gifts you donated to the Giving Tree. We always worry about the amount of tags we put on our tree, but the STM Parishioners once again, came through! The gifts were beautifully and thoughtfully wrapped. Because of your generosity many families will have a merrier Christmas! We thank you all!

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Food Collection

For Christmas, the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Thomas More Parish, and the "Giving Tree" ministry, provided food baskets and presents to 53 families in our neighborhood community. We delivered gifts and a Christmas dinner to 178 people, including 72 children. So many of our families expressed their thanks to all of you for the generosity of St Thomas More Parish. We ask God's blessing on all those who gave their treasure, time and talent and made it possible for us to serve these families:

- We received nonperishable food donations to fill the baskets.
- We thank the STM school children for their Advent food collection.
- The monthly "spare change" collections and extra holiday donations allowed us to buy perishable items like milk, margarine, fresh fruit, salads, vegetables, and hams.
- We thank Bargain Giant, and Peirone Produce Co. for their assistance in acquiring the perishable food items at a discount.

We thank our parishioners who helped with our Christmas deliveries. You all responded with love, enthusiasm and caution!

Thank you!

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



Dear St. Thomas More Community,

The season of Advent provides an opportunity for teachers and students to live our mission to "Know, Love, and Serve God."

During the Advent season, the students gather daily in the school hallway around the Advent wreath for prayers and reflections. In the classroom, students do an activity associated with the Advent prayer for the day.

Our 8th graders just finished up their second retreat of the year. This is a great time for our students to get closer to God and find themselves.

The 2nd grade students and others received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. They reflected on things they had done or failed to do, so they would become closer to God.

We are focusing on serving God by serving others thru the support of the parish St. Vincent de Paul ministry. We are currently doing a food drive to help restock the shelves. Last year we set a record and I had to have a mohawk for the year. Sorry to disappoint, but the mohawk is not on the table this year.

We are grateful to the St. Thomas More parish and our community for their continued support of our school mission and the opportunity to provide a Catholic education for all.

Everyone is busy with holiday decorations, shopping, and gatherings. Our prayer is that Advent will most importantly be a time to better prepare ourselves for the greatest gift we will receive at Christmas, Our Lord Himself.

We pray that your advent will be filled with grace and blessings for you and your families.
Peace and Blessings,

Jim McCollum

Need Help Shoveling?
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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