

MASS TIMES

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 10:00am,
5:00pm, 9:00pm

Monday 12:30pm

Tuesday 5:30pm

Wednesday 12:30pm

Thursday 5:30pm

Friday 12:30pm

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00pm

Sunday 4:00pm

Monday 11:30am

Tuesday 6:00pm

Wednesday 11:30am, 9:00pm

Thursday 6:00pm

Friday 11:30am

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Wednesday 9:00pm

PARISH OFFICE

Monday to Friday

1:00pm - 5:00pm

FOOD PANTRY

Tuesday, Thursday and

First Saturday

10:00am - 12:00pm

SACRAMENTS

If you're interested in Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, or Holy Matrimony, please contact Fr. Jeff. Please note marriage prep must take place at least six months before your intended date.

REGISTRATION

Student parishioners and new members of our permanent community can register at sttomsbg.org/register

ENGAGE - A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR**WEEKLY CALENDAR****SATURDAY, JANUARY 23**

4:00pm—Reconciliation
 5:00pm—Mass intention for
 Stacey Gilbert-Osborne (B)
 Heb 9:2-3, 11-14 | Mk 3:20-21

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am—Mass
 4:00pm—Reconciliation
 5:00pm—Mass
 9:00pm—Mass intention pro popolo
 Jon 3:1-5, 10 | 1 Cor 7:29-31
 Mk 1:14-20

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

Conversion of St. Paul

11:30am—Reconciliation
 12:30pm—Mass
 Acts 22:3-16 | Mk 16:15-18

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

Sts. Timothy & Titus

5:00pm—Rosary for Life
 5:30pm—Mass
 6:00pm—Reconciliation
 2 Tm 1:1-8 | Mk 3:31-35

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

St. Angela Merici

11:30am—Reconciliation
 12:30pm—Mass intention for
 Bill Bihn (D)
 9:00pm—Night of Worship
 Heb 10:11-18 | Mk 4:1-20

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

St. Thomas Aquinas

5:30pm—Mass
 6:00pm—Reconciliation
 Heb 10:19-25 | Mk 4:21-25

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

11:30am—Reconciliation
 12:30pm—Mass
 Heb 10:32-39 | Mk 4:26-34

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

4:00pm—Reconciliation
 5:00pm—Mass intention for
 Tom & Kathy Wojo (A)
 Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 | Mk 4:35-41

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am—Mass intention pro popolo
 4:00pm—Reconciliation
 5:00pm—Mass
 9:00pm—Mass

Dear Friends,

I write you this letter on Martin Luther King Day. Early this morning, a man vandalized our Rosary Cathedral and lit a fire in an apparent attempt to damage the Church further and more permanently. Later in the day, as police approached the man to arrest him, a stand-off ensued for several hours that led to an attack on police officers and the shooting and death of Officer Brandon Stalker. National Guard Troops have been deployed to our Nation's Capital to oversee the what has previously been a peaceful transfer of power. Just days ago, some violent protesters stormed the Capitol Building which also resulted in death, injury, and fear. Many are still recovering around the nation from protests that have occurred in the last year which, turning violent, led to riots, arson, destruction, and looting. Though the civil rights movement has made great strides in our nation, we are still far from the genuine brotherhood and peace spoken of by Reverend Doctor King.

Each year on Martin Luther King Day, our nation pauses to reflect on the self-evident truth that all men are created equal and endowed by our creator with certain inalienable rights and among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is a tragic irony that this day of reflection always falls so near to the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, a decision which attempts to strip the right to life away from the unborn. The dream of brotherhood and peace in our nation and our current, violent experience of the lack thereof is not unrelated to this illusion of a right to abortion. Saint Mother Theresa, speaking in Washington DC in 1994, explained it thusly: "Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion."

We must do better. In action, word, and prayer, we must do our part to promote the Gospel of Life, which recognizes the dignity and sanctity of every human person without regard to age, mental capacity, race, religion, political affiliation, nationality, or any other differentiating category. May God, in His Mercy, show us the way forward.

Each year, around the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, my heart turns to two groups of people in particular: women who have had an abortion (and who find this anniversary to be a painful reminder of their past decision) and women who are facing an unplanned or otherwise distressing pregnancy.

To those women among us who have had an abortion, I wish to make the words of St. John Paul II my own: "The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed.

Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To the same Father and his mercy you can with sure hope entrust your child. With the friendly and expert help and advice of other people, and as a result of your own painful experience, you can be among the most eloquent defenders of everyone's right to life." To find hope and help after an abortion, Project Rachel stands ready to support both women and men affected by abortion. Call Kerstin at **419.260.5811** or email her at kpakka@toledodiocese.org.

To those women who may find themselves confronting an unplanned pregnancy or faced with difficult pregnancy choices, the HerChoice Pregnancy Center, located adjacent to our parish parking lot across from Dunkin' Donuts, stands ready to support and guide you no matter what your story is. You can make a COVID-safe appointment at www.bgpc.org or by calling **419.354.4673**.

In these distressing times, let us call to mind frequently these words of St. Paul: "Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, and persevere in prayer" (Rom 12:12).

Yours sincerely in Christ,
 Father Jeff

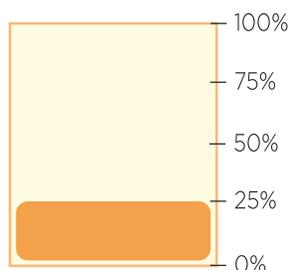
EMPOWER OUR PARISH**PARISH WEEKEND COLLECTION**

January Goal = \$25,000.00

Online Donations

January 30/31

January 23/24

January 16/17 = **\$1518.00**January 9/10 = **\$2,077.25**January 2/3 = **\$2,845.00****ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY**

Our food pantry will be open Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:00am to 12:00 noon, and face masks will be required. Beginning in December our volunteers will also be available the first Saturday of each month from 10:00am to 12:00 noon. This week we are asking for donations of egg noodles and grape or strawberry jelly.

**PISANELLO'S PIZZA COUPONS**

Looking for an easy night without cooking, while supporting our St. Vincent de Paul food pantry in an ongoing fundraiser? Purchase coupons anytime in our parish office **now at \$3.00** each for a 7" two-topping personal pizza from Pisanello's located downtown.

SPRING SEMESTER HOLY HOURS

Challenge yourself this Spring with a committed holy hour, beginning this Thursday, in Eucharistic Adoration. Sign up to cover a weekly holy hour by visiting sttombsbg.org/adoration. All are invited to stop in and pray with the Blessed Sacrament in silent adoration. If you would like to fill in occasionally to cover an hour, text **HOLYHOUR** to **84576**.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

OUR PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Jeffery Walker, STL, fr.jeffwalker@sttombsbg.org

Deacon

Deacon Dan Brahier, PhD, deacondan@sttombsbg.org

Parish Manager

Theresa Williams, theresa@sttombsbg.org

Director of Campus Ministry

Alicia Schmiesing, alicia@sttombsbg.org

Director of Music

Edward Gerrity, edward@sttombsbg.org

Director of Marketing & Administrative Assistant

Sophia Bauer, sophia@sttombsbg.org

Bookkeeper

Kathy Helm, kathyhelm@sttombsbg.org

Catholic Falcon Community President

Shannon Carmon, carmos@bgsu.edu

Newman Housing Ministers

Mary Wires

Allison Mancarella, nhminister@sttombsbg.org

Buildings & Grounds Team

Ray Kagy, ray@sttombsbg.orgJohn Souder, john@sttombsbg.org

Sacristan

Kathy Wojciechowski, kathy@sttombsbg.org**CUE FROM THE PEW**

Children's Letters to God:

"Dear God, I read the Bible. What does begat mean? Nobody will tell me."

—Allison

"I bet it is very hard to love everyone in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I'm having a hard time loving all of them."

—Nan

"Dear God, If You watch me in church on Sunday, I'll show You my new shoes."

—Mickey

PRAYING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

To add intentions to our list, or request an intention for a Mass, please contact the parish office.

Norma Stowe • Eileen Martini • M. Blankenship • Chris Stratton • Brian Shoup • Mary Bobinski • Izac Szymczak • soul of David Kline • Elizabeth Barringer • the family and soul of Sr. Theresa Milne • Cheryl Powell • Georgiana Miller • Carter • Richard Booms • Gary Heba • Allen Heringhaus • Marie Martini • Kate Michelman • Anne Goldstone • Fr. Jason Kahle • Joyce Hinesman • The family and soul of Cheryl Carroll

EXPLORE OUR COMMUNITY IN FAITH**GIVEMORE**

Scan to give a one-time donation to our Sunday Collection, Maintenance, Mission Support, and Endowment campaign today! Want to give a recurring gift? Visit our parish site at www.sttomsbg.org/donate

MARRIED COUPLES NEEDED

For the past number of years, St. Thomas More Parish has hosted a Joy-filled Marriage weekend workshop for engaged couples, led by the Toledo Diocese. This year, the diocese is asking for three couples directly from our parish to assist in leading discussions and provided talks, alongside the head coordinating couple, throughout the weekend. If you are a married couple wishing to learn more about how you can share your own joy-filled marriage the weekend of June 5/6, please contact Sophia at sophia@sttomsbg.org.



Statement of the Diocese of Toledo Regarding

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

With the moral and general concerns of the current vaccine, please view Bishop Thomas's statement release via social media or go to bit.ly/38Bs4nK

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

Animal Hospital at West Ridge

419.354.PETS

We encourage parishioners to patronize our bulletin sponsors. Their advertising allows our bulletin publications to be free of charge to the parish. A big thank you to our local sponsors!

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

A reputable research scientist attempted to publish results of a well-designed study that concluded that abortion has a negative impact on the psychological well-being of women. This study by Dr. David Ferguson, a pro-choice researcher who was attempting to disprove abortion's psychological effect on women, found that 42% of women who have had abortions had experienced major depression within the prior 4 years—almost double the rate of women who never became pregnant. The study also indicates that women who have had abortions are twice as likely to drink alcohol at dangerous levels and 3 times as likely to be addicted to illegal substances. The study also found that the risk of anxiety disorders was doubled.

The study was undertaken with the position of validating the viewpoint that abortion did not increase mental health problems. Much to the surprise of the researching team, the exact opposite was true. When Dr. Ferguson's results were presented to New Zealand's abortion supervisory committee, Dr. Ferguson was discouraged from publishing the results. Despite his political beliefs, he felt that this would be "scientific irresponsibility." He said that abortion is a traumatic event, involving loss and grief that may predispose women to mental illness.

Marissa Ogle, MD

"Still Healing"

PRAYER TO OVERCOME INDIFFERENCE

All too often, Lord, we turn away from the world's many problems, which seem too big, too complex, or too far away. Forgive us our indifference.

It is easier, Lord, to see only what is around us: Our lives, our homes, our challenges. Forgive us our isolation.

Help us to see with your eyes: Eyes which notice one another and help us understand.

Help us to dream your dream: of communities that reach out and dialogue and where diverse people creatively cooperate.

Help us to be people of solidarity and action, so moved by prayer, encounter, and understanding that peace can become a reality.

Amen

Prayer provided by USCCB, 2020

THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

MORE IN MINISTRY

APPLY TO LIVE IN OUR
**NEWMAN CATHOLIC
 LIVING COMMUNITY**

Visit sttomsbg.org/housing to apply today

WANT TO JOIN A
**BIBLE
 STUDY?**

Visit us Online for all times
 and more details at

sttomsbg.org/bible-studies

THE SEARCH

FINDING THE MEANING OF LIFE

Why am I here?
 What's life all about?
 What happens when we die?

Join or lead a small group this Lenten season based on the Formed series, The Search, by Chris Stefanick. Let this be the journey you don't miss out on.

Email Alicia at alicia@sttomsbg.org for **MORE**



Check us out on Band, the perfect app for groups. Search for Catholic Falcon Community and get connected today!

Come pray with us for the
**LITURGY OF THE
 HOURS**

Join the Newman Catholic Living Community each Monday evening—specifically for Night Prayer—at 9:30pm in the church. Give back to the Lord your day by ending with psalms and canticles taken directly from scripture.

All are invited to pray with the community and, did we mention that prayer will end with

“MIDNIGHT” SNACKS?

For more information, contact
nhminister@sttomsbg.org

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

WEDNESDAYS || 9:00PM

ADORATION | PRAISE & WORSHIP | CONFESSION



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