

### **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

### **ADORATION**

Wednesday 9:00pm  
Thursday 8:00am-Midnight

### **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. 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](http://sttomsbg.org/register)



**ENGAGE - A MESSAGE FROM OUR DEACON****WEEKLY CALENDAR****SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

*St. Paul Miki & Companions*  
 4:00pm—Reconciliation  
 5:00pm—Mass intention for  
 Joe Szymczak (D)  
 Heb 13:15-17, 20-21 | Mk 6:30-34

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

*Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
 10:00am—Mass  
 4:00pm—Reconciliation  
 5:00pm—Mass  
 9:00pm—Mass intention pro populo

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

*Sts. Jerome Emiliani &  
 Josephine Bakhita*  
 11:30am—Reconciliation  
 12:30pm—Mass  
 Gn 1:1-19 | Mk 6:53-56

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

5:00pm—Rosary for Life  
 5:30pm—Mass  
 6:00pm—Reconciliation  
 Gn 1:20-2:4a | Mk 7:1-13

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

*St. Scholastica*  
 11:30am—Reconciliation  
 12:30pm—Mass intention for  
 William & Mary Bihn (A,D)  
 9:00pm—Night of Worship  
 Gn 2:4b-9. 15-17 | Mk 7:14-23

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

*Our Lady of Lourdes*  
 5:30pm—Mass  
 6:00pm—Reconciliation  
 Gn 2:18-25 | Mk 7:24-30

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

11:30am—Reconciliation  
 12:30pm—Mass  
 Gn 3:1-8 | Mk 7:31-37

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

4:00pm—Reconciliation  
 5:00pm—Mass intention for  
 Stacey, Sam, & Katie Gilbert  
 Gn 3:9-24 | Mk 8:1-10

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

*Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
 10:00am—Mass  
 4:00pm—Reconciliation  
 5:00pm—Mass intention pro populo  
 9:00pm—Mass  
 Lv 13:1-2, 44-46 | 1 Cor 10:31-11:1  
 Mk 1:40-45

A - Anniversary | B - Birthday | D - Deceased

I was recently reading some work by Saint Bede, a Doctor of the Church from the 8th century in England. He was talking about Saint Mark's Gospel and its parallels to the Book of Genesis. Specifically, he said that if you look at the story of Adam and Eve (Genesis 2), the Bible says that, after the fall, God first addressed Adam, then dealt with Eve, and then finally spoke to the devil who was present in the form of a serpent. In Saint Mark's Gospel, immediately after the baptism of Jesus, He performs three miracles. In the first miracle, He drives out an evil spirit, then He heals Simon Peter's mother-in-law of a fever, and then He heals a man with leprosy. Saint Bede the Venerable notes that the order of the miracles is no coincidence: In Genesis, God addresses a male, then a female, then the devil. In Saint Mark's Gospel, the first miracle involved casting out the devil, then a female, then a male—the reverse order of Genesis. In a sense, Jesus is “undoing” what happened in the Old Testament. The stories in the Gospel reverse the events of the fall of human beings. The message is that Jesus is the New Adam and seeks to “turn us around” to the face of God. This weekend, we hear the reading about Simon Peter's mother-in-law, and next weekend, we turn to the story of the man with leprosy. Jesus continues to heal us today, even as He healed the people in Saint Mark's Gospel.

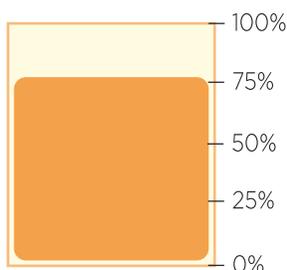
As we reflect on this parallel between Genesis and Saint Mark and the issue of confronting the devil and the healing touch of Jesus, this is also a reminder that the beginning of Lent is just around the corner. Ash Wednesday is on February 17. The pandemic presents a unique problem this year, as tracing ashes on the foreheads of hundreds of people brings about a potential health risk, and we have been asked by Rome and our bishop to consider an alternative. Oddly enough, the practice of placing ashes on a person's forehead is fairly unique to the United States. In Italy and throughout Western Europe and much of the rest of the world, ashes are sprinkled on top of a person's head on Ash Wednesday. The Book of Nehemiah states, “The

Israelites gathered together while fasting and wearing sackcloth, their heads covered with dust” (Nehemiah 9:1). It was a common practice in the Old Testament to pour ashes on one's head as a form of repentance. Later, the custom was changed to placing the ashes on the forehead, with the emphasis being changed from placing ashes on the head to putting them in a visible place. Therefore, it makes perfect sense to sprinkle ashes in the form of a cross on a person's head, rather than placing them on one's forehead, and is not only appropriate for safety during a pandemic but actually reflects the original customs of the Church that are performed around the world, even outside of concerns about the virus.

On Ash Wednesday, we will be hosting five opportunities for students and permanent community members at Saint Thomas More University Parish to begin the Lenten Season. There will be Liturgies of the Word (without Holy Mass) at 7:00am in church, and at 12:30 and 3:30pm on campus in the Grand Ballroom of the University Union, and Holy Mass with ash distribution at 5:30 and 9:00pm back in church at St. Tom's. At all Masses and services, ashes will be sprinkled on the head while the minister says the traditional words of repentance. It is expected that all will be wearing face coverings at these Ash Wednesday Masses and services.

Today is a perfect opportunity to begin to think about what you might do that is special this Lent, as we look to the practices of prayer, fasting, and giving of ourselves. As we approach this important Season, let us take some time to reflect on how Jesus is “undoing” the mistakes we have made and is preparing us for eternity with Him.

Yours in Christ,  
 Deacon Dan Brahier

**EMPOWER** OUR PARISH**PARISH WEEKEND COLLECTION**January Goal = **\$25,000.00**Online Donations = **\$6,017.00**January 30/31 = **\$4,956.62**January 23/24 = **\$1,391.01**January 16/17 = **\$1,518.00**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, Thursday, and First Saturday mornings from 10:00am to 12:00 noon, and face masks will be required. This week we are asking for donations of egg noodles. You can also give back to our Food pantry if you have a Kroger Rewards card. Simply search for the Kroger Community Rewards and connect your rewards card to the St. Thomas More Parish Food Pantry!

**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.

**DEBT IS THE THIEF OF YOUR FUTURE**

No more money stress—ever! It's possible when you know how to handle your finances. Join our Financial Peace University class, and we'll learn how to dump debt and build wealth. Visit [fpu.com/1133348](http://fpu.com/1133348) to sign up and learn more. Class starts Thursday, February 25.

**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@sttomsbg.org](mailto:fr.jeffwalker@sttomsbg.org)

**Deacon**  
Deacon Dan Brahier, PhD, [deacondan@sttomsbg.org](mailto:deacondan@sttomsbg.org)

**Parish Manager**  
Theresa Williams, [theresa@sttomsbg.org](mailto:theresa@sttomsbg.org)

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Alicia Schmiesing, [alicia@sttomsbg.org](mailto:alicia@sttomsbg.org)

**Director of Music**  
Edward Gerrity, [edward@sttomsbg.org](mailto:edward@sttomsbg.org)

**Director of Marketing & Administrative Assistant**

Sophia Bauer, [sophia@sttomsbg.org](mailto:sophia@sttomsbg.org)

**Bookkeeper**  
Kathy Helm, [kathyhelm@sttomsbg.org](mailto:kathyhelm@sttomsbg.org)

**Catholic Falcon Community President**  
Shannon Carmon, [carmos@bgsu.edu](mailto:carmos@bgsu.edu)

**Newman Housing Ministers**  
Mary Wires  
Allison Mancarella, [nhminister@sttomsbg.org](mailto:nhminister@sttomsbg.org)

**Buildings & Grounds Team**

Ray Kagy, [ray@sttomsbg.org](mailto:ray@sttomsbg.org)

John Souder, [john@sttomsbg.org](mailto:john@sttomsbg.org)

**Sacristan**  
Kathy Wojciechowski, [kathy@sttomsbg.org](mailto:kathy@sttomsbg.org)

**CUE FROM THE PEW**

A little nine year old girl was in church with her mother when she started feeling ill. "Mommy" she said "Can we leave now?" "No" her mother replied. "Well, I think I have to throw up!" "Then go out the front door and around to the back of the church and throw up behind a bush." In about two minutes the little girl returned to her seat. "Did you throw up?" her mother asked. "Yes" the little girl replied. "Well, how could you have gone all the way to the back of the church and return so quickly?" "I didn't have to go out of the church, Mommy" the little girl replied, "They have a box next to the front door that says 'for the sick'"

Stay connected with us at [sttomsbg.org](http://sttomsbg.org) or text **STTOMS** to **84576**

**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](http://www.sttomsbg.org/donate)

**PRO-LIFE END OF LIFE WORKSHOP**

Foundation for Life presents a pro-life End-of-Life workshop with topics: end-of-life decisions; advance directives; healthcare power of attorney; important addendums; optional documents. Speakers include Pat Oedy-Murray, who teaches Theology at Lourdes University; Medical Ethics at Mercy College; and Moral Theology to Diocesan Deacon Candidates and hosts a radio show on Annunciation Radio and Kathy Woodward, who has practiced law for over 32 years in Toledo and, in the course of her practice as an estates and trusts lawyer, has assisted her clients to work through all of the issues faced by the pro-life movement. The workshop will be held Tuesday, February 23, from 6:30-8:30 at Westside Community Church at 6045 W. Bancroft in Toledo. Cost is \$15. RSVP at [www.fflnwo.org](http://www.fflnwo.org) or call 419.535.5800.

We pray for all married couples: that they may strive daily to faithfully and lovingly live out their marriage vows, bearing witness to the love God has for each of us.

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**IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE**

A Knights of Columbus/Marist Poll released on January 27th found that the majority of Americans continue to support restrictions on abortion. The poll also found that the percentage of Americans who oppose the taxpayer funding of abortion has increased.

76% of Americans favor restrictions on abortion. This is an increase of six percent since January 2020. Of these, 25% said abortion should be restricted to the first three months of pregnancy, 28% said abortion should only be allowed in case of rape, incest, or to save the mother's life, and 11% said abortion should only be legal to save the mother's life. It's important to note that abortion is never medically necessary to save the life or health of the mother. Only 15% of Americans overall and 27% of those who identify as "pro-choice" said they support abortion for any reason up until birth as Roe v Wade and Doe v Bolton allow.

Additionally, 58% of Americans oppose using taxpayer dollars to fund abortion within the United States and 70% of Americans oppose abortion due to a diagnosis of Down syndrome—including 56% of those who consider themselves "pro-choice".

**Nancy Flanders**

[www.liveactionnews.org](http://www.liveactionnews.org)

**FORTY DAYS FOR LIFE**

Join in the Diocesan 40 Days for Life campaign, held from February 17 - March 28, by praying, fasting, and/or participating in peaceful prayer vigil and community outreach. Prayer volunteers are especially needed to pray outside Capital Care, the last abortion facility in Toledo. Sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address, [40daysforlife.com/toledo](http://40daysforlife.com/toledo). A few 40 DFL signs are available in the parish office. Donation would be appreciated.

**FISH FRY DINNERS**

Hosted by the Knights of Columbus

**FEBRUARY 19**

**MARCH 5**

**MARCH 19**

Meals served 4:30-7:00pm at  
**ST. ALOYSIUS CHURCH**  
in Hartman Hall

All meals are carry out only at \$9.00  
for adults and \$5.00 for kids 6-12.

**THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION**

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

# MORE IN MINISTRY



*"Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' [Jesus] replied to him, 'Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'"*

Luke 23:42-43

Join us for the first of a three-day retreat series centered around renewing our hope in Christ. Through student testimonies, small group conversations, and entering into the community life of St. Tom's, you'll be empowered to encounter the world around you and deepen your relationship with the Lord. If you cannot join in person or do not feel comfortable, a virtual option is available.

**FEBRUARY 27 || 1:00-6:00PM**

(Register at [sttomsbg.org/elpida2021](http://sttomsbg.org/elpida2021))

**MARCH 6**

**MARCH 13**

## ASH WEDNESDAY

*"You are dust and to dust you will return."*

-Genesis 3:19

Join us for the beginning of the Lenten season. The first three celebrations will consist of the Liturgy of the Word only. The last two times will consist of both Liturgy of the Word and Eucharist. *All times will offer the distribution of blessed ashes.*

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

7:00am (St. Tom's)

12:30pm (Union)

3:30pm (Union)

### HOLY MASS

5:30pm (St. Tom's)

9:00pm (St. Tom's)





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