

### **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 and Thursday  
10:00am-12:00pm  
Wednesday 3:30pm-5:30pm

### **SACRAMENTS**

If you're interested in Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, or Holy Matrimony, please contact Fr. Jeff. Marriage prep must begin 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)

*joy*



**WEEKLY CALENDAR****SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11***St. Damasus I*

4:00pm—Reconciliation

5:00pm—Mass intention for

Stacey, Sam, &amp; Katie Gilbert

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 | Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12***Third Sunday of Advent*10:00am—Mass intention *pro populo*

4:00pm—Reconciliation

5:00pm—Mass

9:00pm—Mass

Zep 3:14-18a | Phil 4:4-7 | Lk 3:10-18

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 13***St. Lucy*

11:30am—Reconciliation

12:30pm—Mass intention for

Bob Desmond (B)

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a | Mt 21:23-27

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14***St. John of the Cross*

5:00pm—Rosary for Life

5:30pm—Mass

6:00pm—Reconciliation

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 | Mt 21:28-32

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15**

11:30am—Reconciliation

12:30pm—Mass intention for

Paul Weinandy (D)

7:00pm—Solemn Vespers

Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21-25 | Lk 7:18b-23

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16**

5:00pm—Rosary for Vocations

5:30pm—Mass intention for

Fr. Francisco Caballero (D)

6:00pm—Reconciliation

Is 54:1-10 | Lk 7:24-30

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17**

11:30am—Reconciliation

12:30pm—Mass intention for

David Martini (D)

Gn 49:2, 8-10 | Mt 1:1-17

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18**

4:00pm—Reconciliation

5:00pm—Mass intention for

Patrick Vermaaten (D)

Jer 23:5-8 | Mt 1:18-25

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19***Fourth Sunday of Advent*10:00am—Mass intention *pro populo*

Mi 5:1-4a | Heb 10:5-10 | Lk 1:39-45

To schedule a Mass intention for a loved one, please contact the office.

Anniversary (A) | Birthday (B) | Deceased (D)

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR**

Dear Catholic Falcons,

I'm praying hard for you all this week as you tackle exams and prepare to depart for Christmas break! Make sure to make frequent use of the great prayer at the bottom of this page to St. Joseph of Cupertino, the patron of exam-takers! Congratulations to all of our December graduates who might be taking exams for the very last time! Remember that you'll always have a home away from home here at St. Thomas More, wherever the adventure of life might take you!

Before you depart for break, make sure to include the Sacrament of Reconciliation in your plans to prepare for Christmas. These holy days and the coming new year are a chance to begin again with Jesus and to put behind you all of the things that make you less of the Christian man or woman that God is calling you to be. This Wednesday, December 15, is our Day of Mercy at St. Thomas More. I will be in the confessional every hour, on the hour from 9am-9pm and will stay each hour as long as there are folks who want to confess their sins. In addition, we'll offer our regular confession times at 11:30am on Monday and Friday this week as well as at 6pm on Tuesday and Thursday. Remember that our Tuesday confessor is a visiting priest, as usual. Confession can be a nerve-wracking thing for so many, but God's mercy is so good and His Grace is so worth-it. Whether it's been days, weeks, months, or years, come back to the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week. Be not afraid!

This is the last weekend for our 5pm and 9pm Sunday Masses until the new year. Sunday Evening Masses and confession will resume on January 9. We'll also take a pause from our Thursday adoration until the new semester has begun.

For the member of our permanent community and any students who might be staying with us over break, we will celebrate Christmas together with Christmas Eve Mass at 5pm, Midnight Mass at 12am, and Christmas Morning Mass at 10am. Prayers for a blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and safe travels!

Fr. Jeff

*Prayer to*

**ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO**

FOR EXAM WEEK

O humble St. Joseph of Cupertino, singularly favored by God in overcoming the difficulties of study and the worries of examinations, implore the Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and strengthen my memory in search of His truth and wisdom. Help me especially in the decisive moments of my examinations, protecting me from that forgetfulness and disturbing anxiety which often affect me. May I succeed in offering God my finest work and may I grow in knowledge, understanding, humility, and charity. May everything that I attempt to learn in life be offered in faithful service to God, from whom flows that wisdom which leads to eternal life.

Amen.

## OUR PARISH FAMILY

## PARISH WEEKEND COLLECTION

November Goal = \$20,000.00

Other Giving (Not available at print)

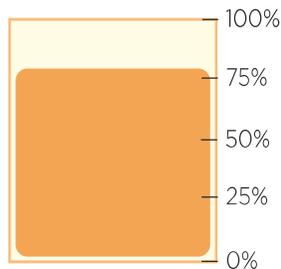
Online Giving (Not available at print)

Nov 27/28 = \$1,315.75

Nov 20/21 = \$6,787.00

Nov 13/14 = \$1,866.02

Nov 6/7 = \$6,100.00



## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY

We are asking for donations of tuna, cereal, and spaghetti noodles and sauce at this time. You can also give back to our food pantry if you have a Kroger Rewards card by going online to Kroger Community Rewards and connect your rewards card to St. Thomas More 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 at \$3.00 each for a 7" two-topping personal pizza from Pisanello's located downtown.

## CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

We are looking for singers and instrumentalists (horns or strings) for our Christmas Eve and Christmas morning Masses. If you are interested in singing or playing for any of our three Masses (5pm, Midnight, or 10am), please reach out to our music director, Ed Gerrity by phone (419.503.3173) or email ([edward@sttomsbg.org](mailto:edward@sttomsbg.org)). Thanks in advance!

## DAY OF MERCY

This Wednesday Fr. Jeff will be available each hour on the hour, beginning at 9:00am to hear confessions during the Day of Mercy. All are invited to take advantage of this Sacrament during the Advent season, and will conclude at 9:00pm. A guide to a good Confession can be found outside of the Confessional booth for anyone to take.

## OUR PARISH STAFF &amp; STUDENT LEADERSHIP

## Pastor

Rev. Jeffery Walker, STL, [fr.jeffwalker@sttomsbg.org](mailto:fr.jeffwalker@sttomsbg.org)  
Schedule a meeting at [go.oncehub.com/frjeffwalker](http://go.oncehub.com/frjeffwalker)

## Deacon

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

## Parish Manager

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

## Director of Campus Ministry

Justin Leiner, [justin@sttomsbg.org](mailto:justin@sttomsbg.org)

## FOCUS Team Director

Heather Fleury, [heather.fleury@focus.org](mailto:heather.fleury@focus.org)

## FOCUS Missionaries

Julia Waters, [julia.waters@focus.org](mailto:julia.waters@focus.org)

Jenna Dedek, [jennifer.dedek@focus.org](mailto:jennifer.dedek@focus.org)

Luke Hellwig, [luke.hellwig@focus.org](mailto:luke.hellwig@focus.org)

## Director of Music

Edward Gerrity, [edward@sttomsbg.org](mailto:edward@sttomsbg.org)

## Director of Marketing &amp; Administrative Assistant

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

## Director of Mission Support

Toni Marsteller, [toni@sttomsbg.org](mailto:toni@sttomsbg.org)

## Bookkeeper

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

## Newman Resident Ministers

Anna Findlay, [nhminister@sttomsbg.org](mailto:nhminister@sttomsbg.org)

Tucker Howard, [nhminister@sttomsbg.org](mailto:nhminister@sttomsbg.org)

## Buildings &amp; Grounds Team

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

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

## Parish Counselor (Telehealth)

Luke Brown, LPC, [lukebrown@sacredheartcleveland.com](mailto:lukebrown@sacredheartcleveland.com)

## Sacristan

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

## St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

Jo Graber, [stvdpg@gmail.com](mailto:stvdpg@gmail.com)

Linda Kuns, [stvdpg@gmail.com](mailto:stvdpg@gmail.com)

## PRAYING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

To add a loved one to our list, please contact the office.

Norma Stowe • Eileen Martini • M. Blankenship • Chris Stratton • Brian Shoup • Mary Bobinski • Izac Szymczak • Elizabeth Barringer • Cheryl Powell • Georgiana Miller • Carter • Richard Booms • Gary Heba • Allen Heringhaus • Marie Martini • Kate Michelman • Anne Goldstone • Fr. Jason Kahle • Janet Laughlin • the souls of Larry and Laura, spouse and daughter of Eileen Bostwick • Bonnie Wilcox • Corney Collins • Johnnie Haas • Sutton Brown • John Buckenmyer

## Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24 | 5:00pm & Midnight

December 25 | 10:00am

## IN OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

### EXHIBIT OF EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES

An exhibit of the Eucharistic Miracles from around the world will be on display at St. Patrick's Parish in Grand Rapids on Saturday, December 18, 9:00am-6:00pm and Sunday, December 19, 7:30am-1:30pm. This exhibition presents many Eucharistic Miracles through photographs and historical descriptions. Through the centuries, the Church has recognized these miracles from various countries as a testimony to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Please take some time to view the displays and learn about the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER SERVICE

Looking for a meaningful way to celebrate New Year's Eve? Close out the year in prayer as requested by Our Blessed Mother. You are invited to a prayer service at St. Aloysius Clare Chapel (off of Enterprise St. behind Taco Bell) at 11:00pm on December 31 for a holy hour of prayer, praise, thanksgiving and intercession.

### KOFC SNOW SHOVELING

If there is anyone in our community who may be in need of snow removal this winter but is unable to take care of it themselves (for whatever the reason), the Bowling Green Knights of Columbus would like to help! Please contact Joe Macsay at 419.438.3480 or [joe.macsay@gmail.com](mailto:joe.macsay@gmail.com) to let the Knights know of your need or for any questions.

### IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

As the Supreme Court prepares to hear a case that could challenge the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion, pro-life groups are rolling out a series of campaigns to educate Americans about abortion.

Eric Scheidler, Executive Director of the Pro-Life Action League, told Live Action News that one of the campaign's goals is to let the Supreme Court know, "We don't accept this, we've never accepted it and that we have got their back and we want them to know that there's a massive movement out there among the American people that is ready to receive an overturning of this horrible precedent."

"Women who have been told your freedom, your liberty, your pursuit of happiness depends on your ability to destroy the life of your own child – that's a horrible message to send to women," Scheidler said. "It's a horrible message to send to a man that you can get out of the responsibilities of fatherhood, the responsibilities that you take on when you get involved in a sexual relationship with a woman". He emphasized, "This is something, this is a moment for every pro-life American to get involved, really inviting our fellow pro-life Americans to be an active part of this historic moment."

**Samantha Kamman**  
Live Action News

### LIGHTING THE ROSE CANDLE

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple, and one is rose...The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over, and they are close to Christmas.

Excerpt provided by Catholic Current, USCCB

### MARCH FOR LIFE

Join in on the 2022 college student and young adult trip to the March for Life in Washington, DC, January 20-22. Buses will leave Thursday, January 20 at 2pm from St. Thomas More. We'll spend Thursday and Friday night at the Marriott in downtown DC. We will leave at 2 pm Saturday, January 22, for home. Only \$149 for college students and \$249 for adults. Payments due Dec. 3. Email Peter Range for more info at [prange@toledodiocese.org](mailto:prange@toledodiocese.org)

### THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



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# Family and the Holidays

*A Sacred Heart Counseling  
Reflection Parts 1 & 2*

In past years, I have reflected on how difficult the holidays can be for some families. This year, I thought that it might be helpful to have a more in-depth reflection on navigating potential family problems during this holiday season. In my experience as a counselor, this time of year can be particularly difficult for families who have interpersonal conflicts and struggles with other family members. When these struggles are present, it can take away from the entire holiday spirit of generosity, hospitality, and focus on Christ. They can also leave us with deep emotional wounds and feelings of rejection. This can obviously have a significant impact on our mental health and spiritual lives. Today, I want to discuss preparing for family gatherings where tensions might arise. It is important to remember to stay focused on what we can control. It is too easy to worry and become angry about things that are outside of our control, but what can we do about things we cannot control? Nothing. The only thing we can control is our reaction to the difficult things we encounter. If you know your uncle is going to complain about the food or your sister is going to bring up politics that you do not want to discuss, prepare for these encounters by focusing on how you can react (or not react) to what happens. Think of strategies for staying calm and peaceful in the midst of the chaos and then use them when the day comes. Maybe this means redirecting the conversation by changing topics or simply not engaging in the conversation at all. These are things within your control!

This week, we will be continuing our discussion of surviving family conflicts during the holiday season by reflecting on avoiding battles of loyalty and allegiance. An example of this is an individual or group wanting to avoid in-laws during the holidays. If you struggle with your in-laws, you are not alone. It is one of the most common complaints that I hear this time of year. One thing that is important to reflect on is how rifts between families can cause people in the middle to feel like they have to choose sides. An example is a husband who does not want to visit his wife's family and so he does his best to avoid them or becomes angry with them frequently. Imagine the position that this puts the wife in. She can feel like she has to choose sides or that she has to be loyal to her family of origin or to her husband. Obviously, this can cause many difficult feelings for the wife. It might be useful for the husband to prioritize his wife's wellbeing and mental health by finding ways to maintain a functioning and cordial relationship with his in-laws. It is not going to be easy, but it will help to find some sense of harmony and peace between all parties involved. As we discussed last week, we cannot control other people's behaviors, only our reactions to these behaviors. If this is a regular struggle, it might also be helpful to pursue counseling. Counseling can be very helpful for navigating together the difficulties involved when two or more families come together.

*Luke Brown, LLPC*



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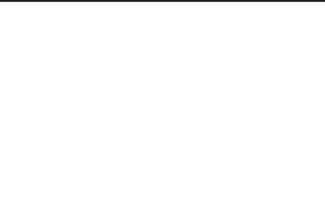
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