



Priesthood Sunday

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presences in the sacraments.

Help Fr. Gordon and Fr. Lawton, and all priests, to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people.

Grant them the wisdom, the understanding and the strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.

Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest.

Amen



2506 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota FL 34231 941-923-1691 www.stthomasmoresrq.org

We are a welcoming Catholic community devoted to living out and celebrating God's Word and Sacraments by connecting people to Christ through faith, love and ministry.

Weekdays: 8:00 am Mass **Saturday:** 8:00 am, 4:00 pm, Masses; confessions at 3:00 pm **Sunday:** 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12 noon Masses

Office hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm; closed for lunch: 12:00-1:00 pm

For those with hearing aids: the church is equipped with the HEARING LOOP technology.
 You are encouraged to use the CFA donation envelopes found in the pew in front of you.

4:00 pm, 8:00 am, 10:00 am: Gathering Song We Gather Together

*Text: Wilt heden nu treden,
 Netherlands folk hymn; tr. by Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, alt*

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; He chastens and hastens his will to make known;
 The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing: sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, whose kingdom calls all to the love which endures.
 So from the beginning the fight we were winning: you, Lord, were at our side; all glory be yours!

Noon: Gathering Song

Gather Your People

Text/music, © 1991, Bob Hurd OCP Pub.

Gath-er your peo-ple, O Lord. Gath-er your
 peo-ple, O Lord. One bread, one bod-y, one
 spir-it of love. Gath-er your peo-ple, O Lord.

Verses

1. Draw us forth to the ta-ble of life;
2. We are parts of the bod-y of Christ,
3. No more harm on the moun-tain of God;
4. Wash us, Lord, in the wa-ters of life;

1. broth-ers and sis-ters, each of us called to
2. need-ing each oth-er, each of the gifts the
3. swords in-to plow-shares. Free us, O Lord, from
4. wa-ters of mer-cy, wa-ters of hope that

2 to Refrain

1. walk in your light.
2. Spir-it pro-vides.
3. hard-ness of heart.
4. flow from your side.

GLORIA (Sung)

Glory to God in the highest,
 And on earth peace to people of goodwill.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you,
 We glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,
 Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten Son,
 Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
 You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father,
 Have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord.
 You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the
 Holy Spirit, In the glory of God the Father. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Responsorial: Psalm 10

The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

Gospel Acclamation (Stand) *Your word, O Lord, is truth; consecrate us in the truth*

Gospel and Homily

Profession of Faith (Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin
Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen

General Intercessions

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

4:00 pm, 8:00 am, 10:00 am:

Whatever You Do

Willard F. Fabusch, b. 1930 © 1966, 1982 OCP Pub.

What - so - ev - er you do to the least of my
peo - ple, that you do un - to me.

Noon:

Amazing Grace - My Chains Are Gone

Tomlin/Giglio. Arr. Raney

PLEASE KNEEL or BE SEATED during the EUCHARISTIC PRAYER.

Memorial Acclamation

*Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection,
you have set us free.*

The Priests request that all of our Faithful return to their seats after receiving the Holy Eucharist for silent reflection and thanksgiving. The celebration of Mass is not complete until the Presider has given the Final Blessing.

Communion Hymn

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gath - ered at ta - ble as one in the Lord. We are
gath - ered as ^(*to - geth - er) peo - ple who are liv - ing the Word. Our
hearts and our spir - its are nur - tured by grace. It is
Je - sus who fills us. He is here in this place.

12:00 Meditation:

Be God's

Danielle Rose

Thank you for your support of our Parish Ministries.

Donations may be placed in the baskets, by the doors or by the baptism font, as you leave.

4:00 pm, 8:00 am, 10:00 am Sending Forth Prayer of St. Francis

Sebastian Temple, b. 1928 ©1967 OCP Pub.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light, And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek So much to be consoled as to console.
To be understood as to understand. To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life

Noon Sending Forth

We Are the Light of the World

Text/tune Jean A. Grief, b. 1898
© 1966 Vernacular Hymns Pub. Co.

1. Bless - ed are they who are poor in spir - it,
2. Bless - ed are they who are meek and hum - ble,
3. Bless - ed are they who will mourn in sor - row,
Theirs is the king - dom of God. Bless us, O Lord, make us
They will in - her - it the earth. Bless us, O Lord, make us
They will be com - fort - ed. Bless us, O Lord, when we
poor in spir - it; Bless us, O Lord, our God.
meek and hum - ble;
share their sor - row;
Refrain
We are the light of the world, May our light shine be - fore all,
That they may see the good that we do, And give glo - ry to God.

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 ••••• **Please take this bulletin home with you for future reference this week.** •••••
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Mass Intentions Sept. 25- Oct. 3

Saturday 8:00 am Fr. Gordon +Marina Pennacchia
 4:00 pm Fr. Adrian +Mary Taff
 Sunday 8:00am Fr. Lawton +Teresa Parravano
 10:00am Fr. Adrian +Joseph Spellman
 12noon Fr. Gordon +Cathy McDermott
 Monday 8:00am Fr. Lawton +Gabriella Totti
 Tuesday 8:00am Fr. Gordon +Sandy Coddington
 Wednesday 8:00am Fr. Gordon +Owen Murray
 Thursday 8:00am Fr. Lawton +Don LaBarge
 Friday 8:00am Fr. Lawton +Roger Roettger
 Saturday 8:00 am Fr. Gordon +Jeanne Connors
 4:00 pm Fr. Eric +Lloyd Chin
 Sunday 8:00am Fr. Gordon +Hank Peppard, Jr.
 10:00am Fr. Lawton +Pacita Cabaltica
 12noon Fr. Adrian +Martin & Delia Goodrick



The Sanctuary candle is lit in memory of the Hopkins Family - by Sandy Hopkins

Parish Staff

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frlawton@stthomasmoresrq.org
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Our 2021 St. Thomas More Parish Christmas party is hosted by the St. Thomas More Council 7826 Knights of Columbus. **The party will be held on Sunday, December 5.** Please reserve the date on your calendar.

The Christmas party committee is beginning to meet to plan the event which will include: a visit by Santa, a scrumptious dinner, beverages and dessert for all who attend. More information to come. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Grand Knight Jim Meyd, K of C Council 7826 via email: greygoose1@frontier.com.



Centering Prayer Group

Draw close to God in a Christian form of silent meditation

This is a method of movement into contemplative prayer; a way to open oneself to the Divine Presence and, through the healing of the Holy Spirit, to be of greater service to those around us.

If you are interested in joining the Thursday morning group, please contact Noreen Delaney at npolidoro@comcast.net or 941-228-1799. Please contact Bob Ferkenhoff at bferken@verizon.net or 941-350-6920 if you are interested in the Thursday evening group.

MARKING THE DAYS OF ORDINARY TIME

Sunday
September 26
**26th Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

We tend to live in closed circles of people because of comfortableness, like-mindedness, and shared values and beliefs. In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to "cut. . . off" from our manner of living any attitudes or behaviors that keep us from recognizing God's presence in a broader circle.

Monday
September 27

People are more than the worst thing they have ever done in their life.
~ Sr. Helen Prejean ~

Pray for those on death row and pray for the respect of all life -
even for those lives we find it easy not to care for.

Tuesday
September 28

**"It is great wisdom to know how to be silent and to look at neither
the remarks, nor the deeds, nor the lives of others."**

St. John of the Cross



Feast Day ~ Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Rafael

Each of these archangels performs a different mission in Scripture: Michael protects; Gabriel announces; Raphael guides. Earlier belief that inexplicable events were due to the actions of spiritual beings has given way to a scientific world-view and a different sense of cause and effect. Yet believers still experience God's protection, communication and guidance in ways which defy description. We cannot dismiss angels too lightly.

Thursday
September 30

**Gracious God, thank you for the gift of today.
May my living reveal your goodness. Amen.**



Feast Day ~ St. Therese the Little Flower

St. Therese attained a very high degree of holiness by carrying out her ordinary daily duties with perfect fidelity, having a childlike confidence in God's providence and merciful love, as well as her willingness to be ready to be at the service of others at all times.

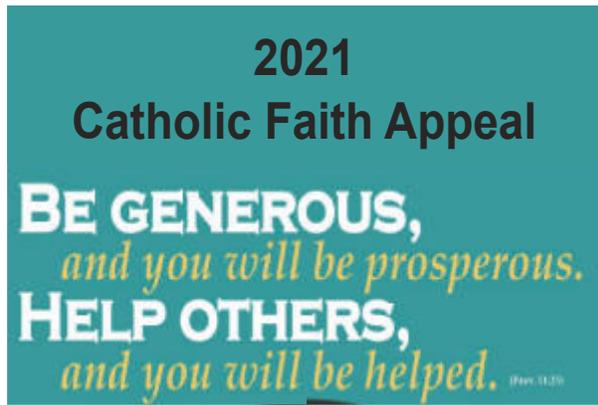


Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels

Perhaps no aspect of Catholic piety is as comforting to parents as the belief that an angel protects their little ones from dangers real and imagined.

Yet guardian angels are not just for children.

Their role is to represent individuals before God, to watch over them always, to aid their prayer and to present their souls to God at death.



Time to commit and support the many programs and outreach programs of the Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA).

Our St. Thomas More Parish is committed to raising \$290,000 for the 2021 CFA, of which we have pledged to-date \$198,708 and collected to-date \$190,410. **We need an additional \$100,000 by the end of December to make our goal.** Recall, this is a mandatory commitment to the Diocese by our Parish and is separate from weekly offertory collections.

We are asking all parish members, to look at your financial position and donate generously to CFA. **Specifically, for 100 families to make a donation of \$500 and 50 families to make a donation of \$1000+.** All donations are gratefully accepted and appreciated and any amounts are welcome in addition to the above objectives.

CFA envelopes are located in the church pews or you may call the Parish Office at 941-923-1691 or email marym@stthomasmoresrq.org to request a CFA donation envelope. We need YOU to make this happen. Please be generous in supporting St. Thomas More Parish's commitment to the Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA).

Your donations to CFA assist the many ministries, programs outreach throughout our Diocese. These include:

- Evangelization
- Youth and Adult Outreach
- Respect Life
- Peace and Social Justice
- Parish Services
- Hispanic Apostolate
- Prison Outreach
- Marriage Services
- Faith Formation
- Catholic Education
- Missions
- Parenting Skills
- Vocational Training
- Financial Literacy
- Vocations and Clergy
- Food Pantries
- Food Banks
- Soup Kitchens
- Homeless Shelters
- Single Mother with Children Housing
- Low Income Housing
- Disaster Relief
- Mass on TV
- Many other programs and charities



We welcome the newest members to the St. Thomas More Parish Family!

Kimberely & James Amos; Megan Manhard
 Terese & Keith Baker; Ryan
 Christy & David Cohen; Bryson, Micah
 Jennifer & Christopher Dibert; Paul, Grant, Annabelle

Jeffrey Kelley
 Maria Kelly
 Courtney McWilliams; Brianna
 Ellen McWilliams
 Rebecca & Ray Santelli



Twelve Baskets Food Pantry

This week, the pantry is in need of

- spaghetti sauce
- canned meat
- cooking oil
- Hamburger Helper
- soup

Please do not donate oversized items, as there is no shelf space for larger items. We **do not** need empty egg cartons.



St. Thomas More Women's Club News

Attention STMWC Ladies:

Café Allegro Jazz night has been **MOVED to 6:00 pm, Tuesday, October 19.**
 Join us at 1740 E. Venice Ave, Venice. Please text or email Carol McKeone if you would like to attend: carol@cmckeone.com or 708-363-1023.

- * October 7 General Meeting
- * October 12 Book Club – *Blasphemy: Sentenced to Death Over a Cup of Water* by Asia Bibi
- * November 9 *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather
- * November 11 Thanksgiving Dinner
- * December 2 Christmas Luncheon at Prestancia
- * December 14 Book Club – *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

Please note: you do not need to be a registered member of the Women's Club to be part of the book club.

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Featured This Week:

Real+True

UNLOCK THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND ENCOUNTER ITS PULSATING HEART: JESUS CHRIST

The *Catechism* is not a textbook, a collection of ideas, or a set of rules. It is the faithful echo of a God who wishes to reveal himself to us and desires us to respond. Starting today, you can watch videos from Real + True, a new and exciting global apostolate with a mission to share the gift of our faith by creating beautiful, captivating, and relevant content inspired by the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.



Sign Up!

1. go to Formed.org
2. click on sign up
3. Click on sign up as a parishioner
4. Type in St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Sarasota, FL



BIBLES ON THE BEACH SUNDAY, SEPT 19TH

Thanks to all who came out to Siesta Key Beach for fun, food and reflection!

SUNDAY, SEPT 26TH 6 TO 8 PM SPIRIT CENTER

High School Teens are welcome to join us for fun,
food and a conversation on justice..



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION



A Family of Believers:



OPENING DAY!
Our families came together on Sunday, Sept 19th. We are excited to begin the year with our theme of TRUST!

Our next session is **October 17th.**
Please REGISTER!



Calling all men of STM Parish: October 9-10

Do you want to help STM and our parish community? Are you a practicing Catholic man over the age of 18? Are you new to the parish or a part time resident and want to meet other men who share your values and interests?



If you answered YES to these questions, we invite you to join us as a member of the new STM Knights of Columbus! Saturday and Sunday, October 9-10, we will provide more information on how to join and share in the work of the Knights.

Now is the time to join us as a new member and to share the many gifts God has given to each of us. No man is too busy to become a Knight of Columbus. We have over 200 members at STM and regardless of their schedule or other commitments; they found that the Knights of Columbus add something significant to their lives.

We look forward to meeting you! Just introduce yourself to one of the men outside the church on Saturday or Sunday, October 9-10, or simply take the information they will provide. For those of you who will not be attending the Mass in person, please contact us at rneller65@outlook.com or call 513-708-0528 to answer any questions or gain more information how to join us.



A BETTER KIND OF POLITICS
Civilize It

Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics is a nonpartisan initiative that seeks to assist Catholics to counter polarization and division in Church and society by following the example of the Good Samaritan, who challenges us to “become neighbors to all” (*Fratelli Tutti*, no. 80).

Respond to Pope Francis’ call to build “a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good” (*Fratelli Tutti*, no. 154) by pledging:

CHARITY ~ CLARITY ~ CREATIVITY

Learn more and commit to #ABetterKindofPolitics at civilizeit.org.



In honor of St. Vincent de Paul on the occasion of his Feast day, Monday, Sept. 26, consider a donation to the Vincent de Paul Society. Members help the poor and homeless in our community.

Noble Saint Vincent de Paul, beloved servant of the poor, may we follow your example and do good works among those whom society has abandoned, enslaved, or forgotten.

Inspire us to feed the hungry, to love a child, to provide comfort and medicine to the sick, to clothe those whose garments are threadbare, and to offer hope and our Lord’s words to all who need respite.

Pray for us to our beloved God that we may commit ourselves selflessly to doing the same charitable acts that you did all your life, and intercede with him, that we may have the favour of his guidance and strength and love upon this important and meaningful work.

Amen.



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 2021

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic Church remains at the forefront in speaking out on the issue of the sanctity of life, from conception to natural death, regardless of age or condition. This year, we are focusing on St. Joseph, defender of life. His unhesitating adherence to God's will as he faithfully and lovingly protected the Christ Child and the Blessed Mother bears witness to our own call as Christians. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between.

Each October the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday of October is observed as Respect Life Sunday. During the weekend of October 2 and 3, 2021, Parishes across the Diocese of Venice in Florida will conduct a special collection to enhance this life-affirming work of the Diocesan Respect Life Office. These funds help facilitate our witness as a faith community in southwest Florida.

Please continue to pray for a greater appreciation of the sacredness of all human life. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this annual collection so that the Diocesan Respect Life Outreach can be expanded.

May God bless you with a deep appreciation for the gift of life and the courage to defend the sanctity of life. Let us remain united in prayer.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida

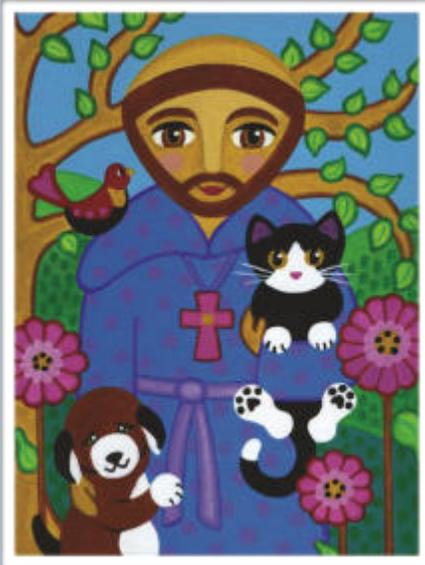
**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults begins Sunday, Sept. 26, 11:00 am
in the Chelsea Lancaster Room**



Do you know someone who is not baptized or who is baptized in a non-Catholic tradition and thirsts for a faith journey?

Those who thirst could be your neighbor, spouse, parents or children. Perhaps you were baptized Catholic and missed the sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation. It is never too late; we are all on the journey!

We welcome all inquiries. We realize you will have questions before making the decision to receive the sacraments. We invite all those who have questions to contact Robbie to begin the conversation: **941-923-1691** or **robbie@stthomasmoresrq.org**



St. Francis of Assisi is the Patron Saint of Animals because of his endearing devotion and tenderness towards all animals.

Throughout his life and travels, St. Francis preached and demonstrated love and care for all of God's creation. As a church we celebrate his legacy at our annual Animal Blessing.

The Blessing of the Animals

**Sunday, October 3
2:00 pm outside the church**

All God's critters are invited!

Notable Events

- **40 Days for Life peaceful activism prayer vigil Tuesday, Sept. 28; 7 am-7 pm**, at Sarasota's Regional Parenthood, 736 Central Ave. Details: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/Sarasota>

- **Diocese of Venice Traveling Rosary Congress:** Thursday, September 30, Opening Mass at 6 pm Incarnation Parish, Sarasota
Adoration with Rosary: 7 pm - 6 pm (24 hrs)

Friday, October 1, Opening Mass at 6 pm
St. Martha Parish, Sarasota
Adoration with Rosary: 7 pm - 6 pm (24 hrs)

Saturday, October 2, Opening Mass at 6 pm
Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Lakewood Ranch
Adoration with Rosary: 7 pm - 6 pm (24 hrs)

- **Tips for planning your estate, presented by The Knights of Columbus at St. Thomas More. Thursday, Sept. 30 at 7:00 pm.** Register: register07826.flkofc.com or contact Jim Meyd greygoose1@frontier.com

- **Diocesan Marriage Conference, Saturday, October 2; 10 am-5pm** Details: <https://forlifeandfamily.org/events/th21-vnfl-ss/>



In today's gospel Jesus tells his disciples: "Anyone who gives you a drink of water because you belong to Christ will not, I assure you, go without his reward." On September 27, the Church will celebrate the feast of St. Vincent de Paul. The members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are on the front line in laboring for the poor, they are among the first to know their real needs.

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist families, providing food, helping with utility, rent and other bills. God Bless You!

The healing power of the presence of Jesus

Dear friends at St. Thomas More,

I am very happy and honored to be back in this beautiful faith community. I want to share with you that some time ago, I received a call telling me that my mother had cancer. It was a very difficult moment for all of us as a family, because the disease is a condition that does not warn us when it will arrive; it simply knocks on the doors of our lives and makes us reorganize many of our projects.



I traveled to Colombia and spent a few months at my parents' house after two years without visiting them. During those days, I was able to experience the healing power of Jesus through the Eucharist, prayer and family affection. My mother was getting better every day.

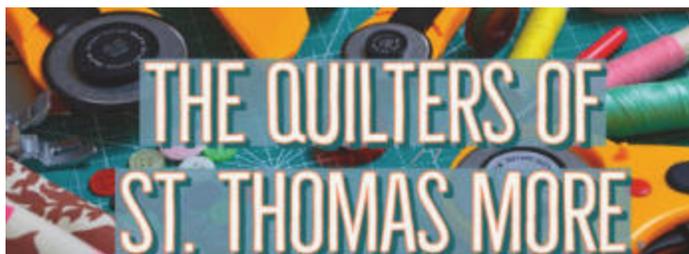
All of us through our closeness, affection and intercessory prayer can be cooperators with the Divine Physician Jesus Christ in the lives of people who are sick, not only in body but also spiritually. All of us are called to be instruments of God's love in the lives of others. I invite you this week to pray or visit or call someone who is going through a time of illness or difficulty and express your love and support. I assure you that God will grant you many blessings, as Jesus promises in this Sunday's Gospel: "Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward." (Mark 9:41)

Seminarian Alejandro Roldan; alejandro@stthomasmoresrq.org

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The group is meeting and looking for new members! The group meets on the **first and third Wednesday monthly, 1:30-3:00 pm** in the Chelsea Center. You may contact parishioner Beth Meyd at 941-923-7517, for information.

If you, or a loved one, are in need of a prayer shawl, you may stop by the Parish Office during the week to pick one up. Also available are lap robes.



Join the group, which meets on Mondays and Thursday mornings at 9:30 am in the Spirit Center. If you have questions, contact Diane Kestner at 941-927-1605.

At the Parish Office

You are now able to use a credit card for offertory, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Mass intentions, Faith Formation registration, CFA and other donations.

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

2711 Mall Drive in Gulf Gate

Your purchases of clothing, furniture, toys, books, jewelry, decor items, household goods and more, helps the St. Vincent de Paul Society conference in our parish offer services to the poor among us. The store is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If you wish to donate items, please call the store at 941-444-9343 to find out what items they will accept. Donation drop-off is Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. If you have furniture to donate, please email manager@svdpsarasota.org to arrange for pick up.

*Thank
you*

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