Saint Thomas More
Catholic Community

The Jesuit Parish of the Twin Cities

Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018

The Third Sunday of Advent

A Prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent

Joy-filled Giver of Life,
let the anticipation of your
birth fill us with overflowing joy.
May our excitement and anticipation
be a sign to the world
that you are always near.
Amen

Join the Festival Choir for Christmas Day's 10:30 Mass

We have one more Festival Choir Rehearsal scheduled before Christmas arrives and you are most welcome to join in the music. **Practice begins at 7 pm on Wednesday, December 19, in the church.** Enter through the parking lot ramp door. Festival Choir is for singers in grades 9 and beyond. Please let us know if you plan to sing with the Festival Choir this year so we can prepare a music folder for you. Questions? Please contact Mary Ann at msexton@morecommunity.org or leave a message with Dana at 651-227-7669 x 306 and Mary Ann will get back to you!

'Tis the Season to Deck the Halls!

Remember a deceased loved one, honor a special family member, friend, or simply "give thanks" this year by donating money toward the purchase of Christmas poinsettias and other environmental essentials for our worship space. Special envelopes are available in the Community Corner. If you regularly receive donation envelopes, you may use the designated envelope in your packet. The names of donors and their loved ones/honorees will be published in the Bulletin during the Christmas Season.

Our New Website has Launched!

You may have noticed that we have a new website, if not check it out: http://www.morecommunity.org/. Please note that if you are used to going to the website via a bookmark or if it is saved in your cache as http://morecommunity.org/parish you'll need to redirect to the new address (above). It still needs more tweaking, updating, and initiation of some new applications but it has some new features available now. If you have suggestions, questions, or see errors, please contact me, Patti Day: 651-227-7669 x 302 or pday@morecommunity.org. Thank you!

Advent/Christmas Schedules are also available at each of the church entrances and in the Community Corner.

Advent & Christmas Schedule

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday, Vigil Mass, 4:30 pm

Sunday, 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Reconciliation, Saturday, 3:30-4:00 pm or by appt.

Christmas Feast Masses

Monday, December 24, 4:30 pm & 10:00 pm

Tuesday, December 25, 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Christmas Sing-along starts at 10:10 am for the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday

Holy Family, Sunday, December 30

See Weekend Mass Schedule Above

Mary, Mother of God

Monday, December 31, 5:30 pm

Eucharistic Adoration follows Mass with the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, 7:00 pm Benediction, & at 7:15 pm, toast the New Year with hospitality.

Tuesday, January 1, 10:00 am

Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday, January 6

See Weekend Mass Schedule Above

Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 13

See the Weekend Mass Schedule Above

Christmas Eve, 4:30 pm Family Mass - Come "Prepared"

Our 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass will feature music by members of our Parish Youth Choir; an interactive homily that is specifically directed to the young children in our assembly; and a procession by our children to enthrone the infant Jesus at our community crèche.

During this Advent Season of Preparation, all parents are encouraged to enrich their children's holiday experience by helping them focus on the Christmas Story that tells of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. And for those families who will be attending our 4:30 Christmas Eve Mass, this will help their children participate in Fr. Warren's Christmas Eve homily.

Come Together in Community to Mark the Passing of 2018

Offer Prayers of Petition, Gratitude, & Hope for 2019, 5:30-7:30 pm, Monday, December 31

We'll start with Mass celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God at 5:30 pm followed by Adoration and recitation of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. The evening will conclude with Benediction at 7 pm, followed by simple hospitality. Take advantage of this opportunity to offer prayer in gratitude for the challenges and blessings of 2018, and raise a toast in joyful hope for healing and blessings in the new year.

Rooted in the Gospels and formed by Ignatian spirituality, the mission of the Catholic Community of Saint Thomas More is to glorify God by our lives.

Community & Opportunities

Stewardship & Capital Campaign Reminder

Thank you to all who have returned your commitment cards for the annual stewardship and capital campaign! Those who have not responded were recently mailed a letter with commitment cards. Regardless of your decision on what to give to each effort, please return the commitment cards as soon as possible.

Please pray for God's guidance throughout this process as well as the campaign volunteers and entire Saint Thomas More Catholic Community. This is an important moment in our parish's history and we thank you for your interest!

Get Your Coffee Fix While Supporting STM Students

St. Thomas More 8th graders will be selling Dunn Brothers coffee after the Masses this weekend, with proceeds funding the students trip to Washington D.C. in April of 2019. Coffee can be ordered as whole bean or ground; come in three flavors: French Roast, Peruvian and Decaf and costs $15 per pound. Orders will be delivered by STM students in early January. Please support our STM students as they work to raise funds for a great learning experience in our nation's capital. For questions or to place an order, contact STM parent Kathleen Murray at kmurraymn@gmail.com or call 218-780-5800.

STM Married Couples - Save the Date for a Date Night!

The St. Thomas More Cana Dinner will be held on **Saturday, February 9, 2019 after 4:30 Mass**. Save the date! Much fun was had last year and this year will be even better!

Annual Prayer Service for Life

Tuesday, January 22, 10:30 am, Cathedral of St. Paul

All are invited to attend the annual Prayer Service for Life at the Cathedral of St. Paul on Tuesday, January 22, at 10:30 am. This is an ecumenical prayer service commemorating the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by abortion's aftermath. Archbishop Bernard Hebda will be the presider. Questions? Call Sonya at 651-291-4488.

Saint Thomas More School is Seeking a Part Time Coordinator

Saint Thomas More School is looking for a Part Time Extended Day Coordinator starting January 7th. The hours are 1-6 pm, Monday - Friday. On school release days, once a month, the applicant would need to be available by 11:30 am. This position is year-round so the applicant would need to be available during school vacations and in the summer. Rate of pay will depend on experience and qualifications. Please send resumes to Barb Larkin: blarkin@morecommuninty.org or call her: 651-224-9312.

Saint Thomas More Preschool is Seeking Assistant Teachers

Saint Thomas More Preschool is looking for two assistant teachers to work Monday/Wednesday from 8:30 am-12 pm, and Tuesday/Thursday from 8:30 am-1:30 pm, starting January 7th. Duties will include assisting classroom teachers with day to day activities. Pay will depend on qualifications and experience. Please call Barb Larkin: 651-224-9312 or send resumes to her: blarkin@morecommuninty.org.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated to help support the Hallie Q. Brown food shelf. Sixty pounds of non-perishable food items were delivered thank you for your generosity! **Let's try to reach seventy-five pounds for the month of December! Let's do it St. Thomas More Catholic Community!** Food collection bins are located in the church's Community Corner. If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact Brian Hefer : 651-227-7669 x 311 or bhefer@morecommunity.org.

Community & Opportunities

Call for Immigrant Support Donations

The Catholic Church, Pope Francis and the Society of Jesus have long advocated for immigration reform in the United States. St. Thomas More and its predecessor parishes, Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Luke, have a lengthy history of working with undocumented persons as advocates and supporters.

St. Thomas More's current work to support immigrants is in need of your financial support.

Our community acknowledges and respects the federal government's obligation to protect our borders and uphold our immigration laws. Nevertheless, we agree with the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference that immigration principals should always be at the service of human dignity and the common good of society. As of March 2017, St. Thomas More has committed to the following:

- Advocating for justice for immigrants on both local and national level
- Offering space on our campus for organizers, lawyers and community members to meet
- Listening and responding to the best of our ability, to the call and needs of our immigrant brothers and sisters
- Gathering for communal prayer to continually discern the movement of the Spirit in our work, action and lives
- Developing a robust referral program to put those asking for help and guidance in contact with local agencies able to provide that help and guidance

In addition, in response to our parish community's concerns, STM committed to support a sanctuary effort to open a space in our parish center for persons facing deportation, especially where deportation would separate parents from their children or would separate people brought to the United States as children from the only homes they have ever truly known.

In July 2017, the Holy Family Apartment (HFA) was opened and has served multiple families. Through our volunteers, we have accompanied these families and their needs, providing food and shelter, clothing, medical attention, translation services, connections with community and immigration/asylum resources, legal counsel, education, and spiritual support.

Care has been provided by our STM volunteers and financial donations specifically tagged for immigrant support. Those monies have been used for the remodeling and furnishing of the apartment and to bring it up to code, as well as to provide the services needed for our ministry to guest families. Over the past year and a half since this ministry began, those initial funds have been substantially drawn down and need to be replenished.

Here's where you come in: We are asking you to consider adding support to our ministry. Can you consider a donation today, or possibly an ongoing commitment through a monthly giving program? Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Donations can be made via check in the weekly collections by writing "Immigrant Support" on the Memo line. One-time or sustaining donations can be set up by visiting https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/4504/Home/NewQuickGive and selecting "Immigrant Support" as the Fund to which you are donating. Thank you for your commitment and support.

Abria Pregnancy Resources is Seeking Volunteers

Abria offers a safe, non-judgmental and supportive environment for women and couples facing an unexpected pregnancy. Our clients experience friendship, hope, and encouragement through positive and life-affirming medical and personal support services, education, and resources. Help put a choice for life within reach! Abria Pregnancy Resources seeks volunteers to join in their mission of helping women and couples facing an unexpected pregnancy. We greatly need volunteers in Resource Navigation and Parent Education. Resource Navigators are a source of connection and support for clients. Parent Education Facilitators support clients by providing curriculum-based learning that empowers them to confidently assume their parenting role. Training provided. Locations in St. Paul and North Minneapolis. For more information call Gwen at 651-348-7799 or visit our website https://supporters.abria.org/.

Saint Thomas More School News!

On December 6th, the children of STM had a very busy day. The classrooms all received a visit from St. Nick (Father R. J.)! Then in the afternoon they put their shoes outside of the classroom; soon they found candy canes in their shoes. What a nice surprise!

The preschoolers enjoyed the day in their pajamas and had some warm and tasty hot chocolate!

The students also had a morning activity in their Houses and a beautiful Advent prayer service led by the 3rd graders. In the Houses the children made Christmas Cards for soldiers. What a terrific way to spread the Christmas Cheer and thank these wonderful men and women for their brave service to our country! So, as you can lots of exciting things were happening on this day!

Updates from the STM Free Store Team

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to serve 78 guests on November 17 and 33 guests on snowy December 1. We have been contacted by social workers and other community agencies, seeking clothing and household goods assistance. We have put together bins of clothing for The Listening House, which are then delivered by driver volunteers. The Free Store is fulfilling a need in the community, as we serve Christ by taking care of our neighbors. Some ongoing needs include clean, gently used coats/jackets, warm blankets and bedding, new socks & underwear. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please E-mail STMfreestore@morecommunity.org or call Mary Beth, 708-805-0151 or Mary, 612-432-2422. Again, many thanks for your support.

Calendar

Saturday, December 15

Church Cleaning	8 am-Noon	Church
1st Reconciliation	9:30-11 am	Church
Toy Give Away Event	11 am-1 pm	School Auditorium
Free Store Open	11 am-3 pm	School Basement
Reconciliation	3:30-4:30 pm	Church
Mass	4:30 pm	Church

Sunday, December 16

Mass	8 am	Church
Mass	10:30 am	Church

Tuesday, December 18

Mass	7:15 am	Church
Finance Committee	8-9:30 am	Parish Center
Advent Small Group	12-1:30 pm	Parish Center
Centering Prayer	5:30-6:30 pm	Church
Christmas Concert	6:30-7:30 pm	School Auditorium

Wednesday, December 19

Mass	7:15 am	Church
Retreat in Daily Life	8-9:30 am	Parish Center
School Reconciliation Serv.	8:30-9:30 am	Church
Youth Choir	4:15-5 pm	Church
Adult Choir	7-8:30 pm	Church
Adult Volleyball	7-8:30 pm	School Gym
Advent Small Group	7:30-9 pm	Parish Center
YA-Advent Small Group	7:30-9 pm	Parish Center
YA-Advent Small Group	7:30-9 pm	Parish Library

Thursday, December 20

Mass	7:15 am	Church
Retreat in Daily Life	7-8:30 pm	Parish Center

Friday, December 21

STM School Early Release @ 11:30 am

Mass	7:15 am	Church

Saturday, December 22

Reconciliation	3:30-4:30 pm	Church
Mass	4:30 pm	Church

Sunday, December 23

Mass	8 am	Church
Mass	10:30 am	Church

Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Parish Offices & STM School Closed

Mass	4:30 pm	Church
Mass	10 pm	Church

Tuesday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Parish Offices & STM School Closed

Mass	8 am	Church
Mass	10:30 am	Church

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 15

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Mass 4:30 pm ✝ Allison Grossman

Sunday, December 16

Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Mass 8 am STM Community

Mass 10:30 am ✝ Fr. Tom Garvey

Tuesday, December 18

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Mass 7:15 am ✝ Laura Marshek

Wednesday, December 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Mass 7:15 am ✝ Beverly Boehm

Mass 8:30 am STM Community

Thursday, December 20

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

Mass 7:15 am ✝ Michael Hagen

Friday, December 21

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Mass 7:15 am ✝ Fr. Martin Fleming

Saturday, December 22

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

Mass 4:30 pm STM Community

Sunday, December 23

Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Mass 8 am ✝ Stephen Golla

Mass 10:30 am ✝ Jeffrey Otis, Sr.

Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Mass 4:30 pm ✝ Mary Ellen Sarafolean

Mass 10 pm ✝ Robert Schrantz

Tuesday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Mass 8 am ✝ Hubert Hickey

Mass 10:30 am STM Community

Contact / Visit Us

Staff Contacts

PARISH CENTER TEL: 651-227-7669, unless otherwise noted

Fr. Warren Sazama, S.J. - Pastor, x 312
wsazama@morecommunity.org

Fr. R.J. Fichtinger, S.J. - Assisting Priest
rjfichtinger@morecommunity.org

Carol Arend - Pastoral Care/Weddings, x 305
carend@morecommunity.org

Patti Day - Communications Director, x 302
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Deacon Tom Dzik, x 317
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Brian Hefer - Faith Formation/Justice & Service, x 311
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Nicole Johnson - Office Manager/Pastor's Admin. Asst., x 301
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Tom Kohler - Facility & Maintenance Director, x 308
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Pat Lofton - School Principal, 651-224-4836, x 303
plofton@morecommunity.org

Dana McCarthy - Liturgy, Music & Worship, x 306
dmccarthy@morecommunity.org

Eli Pollock - Youth Choir Director, 651-224-4836
epollock@morecommunity.org

Mary Ann Sexton - Adult Choir Director
msexton@morecommunity.org

Elizabeth Thimmesh - School Admissions & Dev. Director
651-224-4836, x 302 ethimmesh@morecommunity.org

Quick Contacts

General Questions - parish@morecommunity.org - x 301

Baptisms - bhefer@morecommunity.org x 311

Bulletin/Website - pday@morecommunity.org - x 302

Calendar - njohnson@morecommunity.org - x 301

Free Store - stmfreestore@morecommunity.org

Liturgy Schedule - liturgyschedule@morecommunity.org x 306

STM School - info@morecommunity.org or 651-224-4836

Weddings - carend@morecommunity.org x 305

Women's Group - womensgroup@morecommunity.org

Young Adults - youngadults@morecommunity.org

Offices

Parish Center & Church

1079 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105-3004
8 am-4 pm, Monday & Friday
TEL 651-227-7669 (Nicole Johnson)
FAX 651-227-0847
parish@morecommunity.org
http://www.morecommunity.org

Saint Thomas More School

1065 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105-3004
7:30 am-3:30 pm, Monday - Friday
TEL 651-224-4836 (Carol Ney)
FAX 651-224-0097
info@morecommunity.org
https://school.morecommunity.org/

Our Wider Catholic Community

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777 Forest Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106-3857
TEL 651-291-4400
http://www.archspm.org/

Midwest Jesuits

http://jesuitsmidwest.org/

Society of Jesus

http://www.jesuits.org/index

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

http://www.usccb.org/

Vatican

http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html

STM Church
http://www.morecommunity.org/parish/

STM School
http://school.morecommunity.org/

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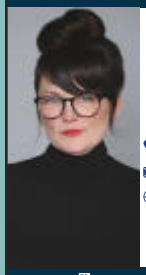
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