

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH



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stmparish.net



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Join our email list at stmparish.net/email

Mass Times

Weekend

Saturday - 4:30pm

Sunday - 9am & 11am

Weekdays

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday - 8:15am

Tuesday - 6:45pm

No Mass on Thursday

Holy Days

Eve - TBD

Holy Days - 8:15am, 11:15am & 6:45pm

Confessions

Saturday - 3:30pm until 4:15pm

Rectory Hours

Monday - Friday - 9am-3pm

(The rectory is closed for lunch from 1-1:30pm)

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Schneider

Pastor

Rev. Donald E. Snyder

Retired, In Residence

Sr. Jane Reisinger, SND

Pastoral Associate

Liz Schneider

Business Manager

Lisa Carson

Office Manager

John Mastandrea

Development

Frank Kozuch

Music Director

Terri Sozio

Religious Education



St. Thomas More School
PreSchool thru 8th Grade

Meg Cosgriff - Principal
216-749-1660 | stmschool.com



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29 – VIGIL

*4:30 PM - Robin Tenaglia

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*9:00 AM - Helen Hanna

11:00 AM - People of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1 – ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:15 AM - Dorothy Castrigano

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2 – ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:45 PM - Kaduk & LoBue Families

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3 – ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

8:15 AM - All Souls' Day Intentions

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4 – ST. JOHN DAMASCENE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 – ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:15 AM - Norm & Flo Brown

2:00 PM - Wiltsie/Carson Wedding

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6 – ST. NICHOLAS

8:15 AM - Helen Wires

4:30 PM - People of the Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*9:00 AM - Patrick Huff

*11:00 AM - Donald & Maria Nunney

*Mass of Remembrance

Financial Blessings

The financial information for the weekend of November 23rd will be in next week's bulletin.

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

PARISHSOFT - FAITH DIRECT

Faith Direct is now ParishSoft. You can log in at giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/FD-684.

Have questions? Please call ParishSoft Customer Service at 866-930-4774 option 6.

ROSARY

Next weekend, December 6th & 7th, a member of the parish will lead us in the rosary a half hour before each Mass. Come early and join us!

THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

OLPI

Monday, December 1

4:00 PM - 9:00 PM Basketball Practice - Gym

Tuesday, December 2

#weGIVECATHOLIC

9:30 AM Praying the Sunday Readings - Rectory

4:00 PM - 9:00 PM Basketball Practice - Gym

6:00 PM - 6:30 PM Confessions - Church

6:30 PM - 7:45 PM PSR - School

Wednesday, December 3

4:00 PM - 9:00 PM Basketball Practice - Gym

Thursday, December 4

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM 60+ Club - Panera

4:00 PM - 9:00 PM Basketball Practice - Gym

Friday, December 5 Utopia Rental

4:00 PM - 9:00 PM Basketball Practice - Gym

Saturday, December 6

Utopia Rental

Rosary before Mass

Sunday, December 7

Rosary before Masses

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Confirmation -

Mass & Meeting: Church & Utopia Hall



III - Hannah Wiltsie & Vincent Carson (STM)



SUNDAY'S HYMNS

Processional Hymn: #73

The Advent of Our King

Offertory Hymn: #51

Waiting in Silence

Communion: #600

In the Day of the Lord

Closing: #599

Soon and Very Soon

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

The Lord be with you! When John Calvin broke with the Church in 1533 he understood the consequences. He had come to believe that God saved only a few people and the rest would be damned to Hell. Let's find out how.

Born in France in 1509 Calvin grew up in a devout Catholic family, and his father initially intended him to become a priest. After some college, however, John started studying law. Influenced by humanism - the practice of reading direct sources - he started to question contemporary theology.

In 1533 he had a profound change in belief. Calvin says that God changed his mind decisively in prayer, and he accepted the Protestants precepts of "Faith Alone" and "Scripture Alone." Matters came to a head, when his friend, Nicolas Cop, gave a homily that provoked an arrest warrant for heresy. Both fled Paris. Over the next few years Calvin devoted himself to writing *On the Institutes of Christian Religion*, his seminal work justifying the Protestant Reformation.

Calvin traveled to Geneva to seek refuge from the French government's crackdown on Evangelical thought. He was invited to teach and preach in the city. Calvin and William Farel led the development of a new kind of religious community. Whereas the Church had used excommunication for mostly doctrinal ends, Calvin established that excommunication would be used if anyone would not repent of their sins. A board of elders would be consulted, and they would make sure that only the pure and virtuous would be admitted to church services. Eventually, the city council threw Calvin out of the city because his practices were so extreme.

Three years later the same council invited Calvin back after the situation had further devolved. In *Ecclesiastical Ordinances* Calvin created his blueprint for a new version of Protestantism. With clear roles and - even clearer moral boundaries - this presbyterian polity would not tolerate anyone or any idea going against it. With a governing council for the church and a strict doctrine, Calvinism was born.

Even as Calvin was still refining his theology, his practice of Christianity spread throughout Europe. Whereas Lutheranism remained largely a Germanic and Scandinavian experience, Calvinism and the presbyterian model spread in France, the Netherlands, and even to England. Calvin would not live to see how far his version of Christianity would spread. He died on May 27, 1564, and was buried, at his request, in an unmarked grave.

Next time we will delve into the theological depths of Calvin's and Luther's new religions. No one can deny that both of these men tried to live out their convictions. We will certainly question whether what they believed was worth their efforts. May the Lord, whose Mercy is infinite, always look with kindness upon us.

In His Sacred Heart,
Fr. John

TRAVELING MADONNA

This week the statue is at the home of:
The Carson Family.

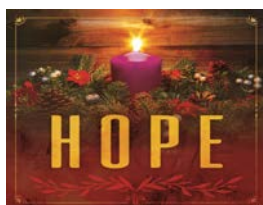
Please continue to pray for our host families as they share their home with our Traveling Madonna. Remember, if you take any pictures, send them into the rectory. **Please call the rectory to sign-up to host the Traveling Madonna in 2026.**

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

We will be collecting **NEW** adult hats, scarves and gloves. Please put your items in the brown donation box in the main vestibule of the church by Sunday, December 7th.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Father: O Lord,
stir up Thy might,
we beg Thee, and
come, that by Thy
protection we may
be rescued from
the threatening dangers
of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance.
Through Christ Thy Son, our Lord.
All: Amen.



SEMINARIAN OF THE MONTH

Jeremy Shafer
St. Mary,
Berea

IV Theology, St. Mary

Please keep Jeremy and all seminarians in your prayers as we continue to pray for vocations. To let him know that he is in your thoughts and prayers, send a card to him at 28700 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe, OH 44092.



ADVENT GIVING TREE

If you or someone you know **who lives within the parish area** is in need of assistance, please contact the rectory. The deadline to register is **November 30th.**

The Advent Giving Tree is now up! If you are able, please take a tag or two and return them in an envelope marked "Advent Giving Tree." To make things a little easier, please attach the activation slip with the gift card. The tags & gift cards can be dropped off at the rectory or into the collection basket by **Sunday, November 30th.** These tags represent the needs of local families during the holiday season. Thank you for making the season bright!





PRAYER REQUESTS

Baby Elijah, Baby Juliet, Baby Kevin, Donna Baker, Albert Becerra, Barbara Behlke, Michael J. Bogucki, Robert Bonus, Jr., Avianna Burgos, Nancy Butler, Traci Kelber-Byrne, Michael C., Janet Call, John Callahan, Tracey Carlisle & Toni, Harper Lee & Leslee Godwin Crum, Lori Curry, Lisa Cwalinski, Barb Davis, Rosie DeJesus, Diana & Greg Downes, Sharon Erich, Tom Erich, Dave Finohr, Patricia Foerster, Norma Gademer, Tina Galaida, Judy Gallagher, Joel Gorski, Monica Gribb, Joanne Hallick, Sara Hardy, Ruth Hargis, Mary Beth Hayet, John Hearn, Bobby Hengood, Eddie Hengood, Jr., Pat H., Ed & Dianne Hlavacek, Michel Howe, Barbara Hughes, Margaret Ann Jablonski, Joshua, Joan Kalal, Francine Kawentel, Jesse Kazimer, Freddy Kinsey, Betty Konopka, Melissa Korhely, Shirley Kowall, Janice Kuchar, Al Lada, Richard Lewis, Lucy Magyar, Luigi Mangione, Jane McClure, Rev. Joseph McNulty, Vinny Mercurio, Gail Michal, Dan Misch & Christine DeMarco, Rafaela Morales, Shirley Mulmall, Josalynn Murray, Bridget Nnabugwu, Chuck Nohejl, Ellen Omilanowski, Jack Palumbo, Jean Palumbo, Jim Palumbo, Jodi Palumbo, Pat Palumbo, Peggy Palumbo, Kenny Parks, Betty (Gruntkowski) Popow, Jim Popow, Ronald Patten, Vinny Rini, Paula Ritter, Judy Romaniw, Michael S., Janet Sekerak, Mike Sekerak, Susan Sidley, Elaine Smet, Bill Smith, Special Intention, Margie & Don Spitz & family, Jennifer Stancato, Sean Szill, Joy Turner, Julianna Turner, Kevin Vest, Tom Wenderoth, Leroy & Patricia Werley, Norma Westrick, Kathy Yomack & family, Evie Zalar, Marian Zawadzki & Phyllis Zindroski.

Please call the rectory by noon on Monday to add a name to the list.

60+ CLUB

Thursday, December 4th - Christmas get together at Panera Bread on Tiedeman. Bring a wrapped \$10 gift for gift exchange. Buy your lunch there and join us in the back room which is reserved for the group from 1-3pm.



Thank You for Last Year's Success!

Thank you for your incredible support during last year's campaign! Because of your generosity, we successfully renovated the Rectory garage doors, and they look fantastic! Your donations make a real difference!



#WeGiveCatholic: Giving Tuesday, Dec. 2nd!

Help us reach our \$40,000 goal to beautify our church! Funds raised will first be used to complete essential lighting, sound, and aesthetic enhancements to our confessionals. Any additional funds raised will go towards installing TVs in the vestibule for digital communication, updating our Stations of the Cross, and general church enhancements!

Early Giving is happening now (and earns you raffle entries!).

Give Today! Drop off an envelope marked #WeGiveCatholic or donate online. Visit our webpage for full details and prize listings: <https://www.wegivecatholic.org/organization/St-Thomas-More>

WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 6/7

MASS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS	SERVERS	CELEBRANT
4:30 PM	Jill Parks Sheryl Finohr Nina Ferguson David Marks	Peggy Palumbo Tim Lozar	Emma Wright Noah Nguyen	Fr. Don Snyder
9:00 AM	Bonnie Kaznoch Chris Koch Jennifer Mladineo Terri Sozio	Jaclene Zauszniewski Mary Lou LoBue	Noah Redloske Ainsley French	Fr. Don Snyder
11:00 AM	Linda Rafferty Joanne Uhl Bernie Barker Patty Riegling	Mike Sommers Madelyn Koranda	Geovana Fagher	Fr. John Schneider

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

The first few months of school have provided many exciting and educational activities for the eighth grade students! During our fourth annual "Got Prayer" Retreat hosted by Trinity High School, the eighth graders participated in a number of spiritual activities, including meditation, adoration, and inspirational witnesses given by the high school students. The eighth graders were able to share this impactful, prayer-filled day with students from St. Mary Byzantine.

The middle school students are all well into their first novel studies of the year (8th - *Legend* by Marie Lu; 7th - *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan; and 6th - *Refugee* by Alan Gratz). Throughout our novels, the students have been practicing their analytical skills, specifically related to types of conflict, symbolism, and tone/mood. We will be focusing on character and author point of view, along with parallel themes, in the coming weeks.

In English, the middle school students have been exploring roots and prefixes to better understand the origins of a wide variety of grade-level words, while also finishing up units on sentence structures and functions to help strengthen their overall writing skills.

Our recent middle school activities have also included an in-class readers' theater, which gave the students a new appreciation for the hard work that goes into putting on a theatrical production. They also had the opportunity to see that work put into practice when we attended St. Ignatius High School's production of *Clue*. The students enjoyed the experience, and even got to try their hands at a live version of *Clue* when we returned to STM!

We have had a strong start to the school year, and we cannot wait to see what other fun activities the rest of the year will bring!



Mrs. Elizabeth Petit
8th Grade Homeroom
Middle School Teacher - Reading/English

CONGRATULATIONS!

Fr. John recently received the following letter from Frank O'Linn, Secretary of Education and Superintendent of Schools.

Congratulations! Your school - and especially the leadership of your principal - has earned recognition for **Academic Excellence**. This award, made possible through the generosity of anonymous benefactors, honors strong leadership and inspires continuous improvement. It reflects the expectation set forth in the Code of Canon Law that "the instruction which is given in [Catholic schools] is at least as academically distinguished as that in the other schools of the area" (Can. 806 §2). Every elementary school was considered for this honor based on performance in reading and mathematics on the NWEA MAP assessment, as aligned with Ohio's proficiency standards. Your results stand out among your peers and affirm your commitment to providing every child of God with an excellent education.

This recognition affirms that purposeful, faith-filled leadership leads to academic excellence. Thank you for your dedicated service to your students, faculty, and school community.

Congratulations Ms. Cosgriff! We are so proud of you! St. Thomas More is so blessed and honored to have you here leading our faculty and students!

ENROLLMENT

It has been a very busy and exciting season for enrollment at St. Thomas More School! In September alone, we welcomed 38 new students into our school community. Our third and fourth grade classrooms have reached capacity and now have an active waiting list.

We are currently accepting applications for enrollment and continuing to schedule tours for prospective families. If you know someone interested in learning more about STM, please encourage them to contact Mrs. Schultz at the school office. We would be happy to share what makes our community special.

Enrolling at St. Thomas More Catholic School provides students with far more than academics. Our school offers a nurturing, faith-filled environment where children grow in character, develop strong values, and build a foundation for lifelong learning.

Mark your calendars! Our next **Open House** will be held on **January 25, 2026, from 12-1:30pm**. We look forward to welcoming alumni, current families, and prospective families to visit classrooms, meet our staff, and experience the vibrant community that makes STM such a wonder place.

Hope to see you there!
Mrs. Sarah Schultz

St. Thomas More Parish Calendar
December 2025

December 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 1 Basketball Practice 4-9pm	 2 Basketball Practice 4-9pm	 3 Basketball Practice 4-9pm #GIVING TUESDAY Praying the Sunday Readings 9:30am Basketball Practice 4-9pm Confessions 6-6:30pm PSR 6:30-7:45pm	 4 Basketball Practice 4-9pm 60+ Club 1-3pm @ Panera Basketball Practice 4-9pm	 5 Utopia Rental Basketball Practice 4-9pm	 6 Confessions 3:30-4:15pm Rosary before Mass	
 7 Rosary before Masses Confirmation Meeting: 9am Mass 10-11:30 Meeting 	 8 NO ATHLETICS Mass Schedule: 8:15am & 6:45pm 	 9 Women's Guild Meeting 11:30am Basketball Practice 4-9pm Confessions 6-6:30pm PSR 6:30-7:45pm	 10 St. Nick's Fair 12pm 60+ Club: Queen of the Holy Rosary Shrine @ Incarnate Word Basketball Practice 4-9pm	 11 St. Nick's Fair Basketball Practice 4-9pm	 12 St. Nick's Fair Basketball Practice 4-9pm 2nd Collection - Retired Religious	
 14 Breakfast with Santa 2nd Collection - Retired Religious 	 15 Basketball Practice 4-9pm Christmas Concert 6:30pm	 16 Basketball Practice 4-9pm Friends Supporting Friends 4-6pm Confessions 6-6:30pm PSR 6:30-7:45pm	 17 Basketball Practice 4-9pm	 18 Basketball Practice 4-9pm	 19 School Dismissal 1pm Basketball Practice 4-9pm	
 21 FIRST DAY OF WINTER 	 22 NO SCHOOL Basketball Practice 4-9pm	 23 NO SCHOOL OR PSR Basketball Practice 4-9pm 	 24 NO SCHOOL OR ATHLETICS RECTORY CLOSING AT NOON Mass at 4:30pm & Midnight	 25 RECTORY CLOSED NO SCHOOL OR ATHLETICS Mass at 9am & 11am 	 26 RECTORY CLOSED NO SCHOOL OR ATHLETICS	
 28 	 29 NO SCHOOL Basketball Practice 4-9pm	 30 NO SCHOOL OR PSR Basketball Practice 4-9pm	 31 NO SCHOOL OR ATHLETICS RECTORY CLOSING AT NOON Mass at 4:30pm 