“Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.”

Matthew 11:25
After a couple week’s cold and snowy weather, I thought it might be a good time to ask you to look ahead to a warm and pleasant opportunity to highlight your spiritual experience this year. Please give some thought to joining our parish pilgrimage to Oberammergau, Germany as well as various stops in Austria and Italy.

You might be aware that the village presentation of the Passion Play of Christ is offered only every ten years. If you have talked with anyone who has been to it in the past, you know what a special, moving, and holy experience this event is.

Plan on joining us this coming August 25 through September 2 as we take advantage of this faith-filled dramatization of the passion and death of our Lord, Jesus Christ. You don’t have to make the full payment now, but a down payment will assure you a place with the group. Come, and be blessed by the experience, the company and the opportunity to be on a pilgrimage with others who share our faith.

Speaking of sharing our faith, this weekend there will be around 1000 youth from around the Archdiocese of Denver on the Mountain Madness retreat up at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park. We have about 40 of our parish youth who are going to be on this retreat. I ask you to pray for them and for all in attendance. May this be a time of grace, joy and the wonder that comes from an encounter with the Lord.

And, I want to give one more invitation to the men of our parish to consider the WELCOME retreat that will offered here next weekend, February 22-23. The women’s WELCOME retreat was last weekend and proved to be a powerful experience for those on it. Men, if you haven’t given yourself a chance to come away with the Lord for the past year or more, consider giving Him your time and heart for Saturday and Sunday of this coming weekend.

You can find information and learn how to register by contacting the Marriage and Family Life office, specifically Sandra Schwab at sandras@stthomasmore.org or 303.221.9235. What a beautiful gift this would be just prior to this year’s Lenten journey. Please listen if the Lord is calling you to come aside and be on the retreat.

– Msgr. Tom
Today’s readings challenge us to reflect on the true state of our hearts as it relates to stewardship. Do we think of stewardship as something we take care of once a year, simply a matter of ticking off boxes on a commitment card — or do we choose to embrace it as a spirituality and way of life that allows us to grow in conformity to Christ every day?

Our first reading, from Sirach, teaches that our good God has given us freedom to make this choice: “If you choose you can keep the commandments.” “Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him.” What great dignity the Father bestows on us that He does not force us to commit to Him — rather He allows us the freedom to choose Him, even though He emphatically does not want us to reject Him through selfishness and sin.

Our second reading, from Corinthians, reminds us of the great joy that will be ours if we do choose to commit to God by the way we live our lives. “Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard… what God has prepared for those who love him.” Our Heavenly Father is more eager than we can comprehend to fill us with His grace and blessings. But we must choose Him. How do we do this? By keeping His commandments as our first reading instructs — by putting the teachings of our Lord and the Church into practice every day.

In our Gospel, Jesus illustrates the difference between an external observance of the law and a true conversion of heart. He says to His disciples, “Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” The Pharisees were the spiritual heavyweights of their day. They checked all the boxes when it came to the proper exercise of the religious practices required of their day. They checked all the boxes when it came to the proper exercise of the religious practices required of them. Yet our Lord says it wasn’t enough.

Why? They did not allow those practices to penetrate their hearts and change them internally. Jesus explains with a further illustration saying, “You have heard that it was said… you shall not kill… But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment.” Our Lord is asking us not only for exterior acts, but for a true change of heart. In stewardship terms that means seeing everything as a gift from Him, to be used for His glory and the good of others.

Let us examine the state of our hearts to ask ourselves if we have chosen to allow stewardship to become a way of life for us. Only then will we experience its true depth and heart-changing possibilities. The choice is ours.

— Catholic Stewardship Consultants
This Week’s Prayer Intentions

Pray for our ill parish members & relatives:
Jane Barth, Barbara Clarke, John Forst, Isabella Koester, Chuck Lieske, Charlotte McGarrity, Richard “Mac” McManus, Midori McMillan, Jeanne Rogers, Katie Winkler

Pray for our deceased parish members & relatives:
Wendell Dick, Edward Downey, Insoon Kim, Stephen Petrucci, Maureen Price, Linda Shomberg

Due to the Privacy Act, only immediate family members may request a name to be placed on the prayer list. Please call 303.770.1155.

This Week’s Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 16:
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00AM Robert Kilburn †
8:30AM Alan James Rastrelli & Family
10:30AM Mass for the People of Saint Thomas More
12:30PM George Washburn †
5:30PM Lillian Mae Eck †

Monday, February 17:
No 6:30AM Mass
9:00AM Doris Hupp †

Tuesday, February 18:
6:30AM Bob Stemper †
9:00AM Maureen Goggin † (School Mass)

Wednesday, February 19:
6:30AM Jannan McLellan
9:00AM Joseph B. Dowd, Jr. †

Thursday, February 20:
6:30AM Larry Leifeld †
9:00AM Monica Crowe †

Friday, February 21:
6:30AM Jennie Medynski †
9:00AM Joe Moschetto †

Saturday, February 22:
7:30AM Porfirio A. Rodriguez † (Music at this Mass for the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle)
4:00PM Joseph DiBlasi †
5:30PM Kasper Jahner †

Sunday, February 23:
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00AM Allan Steinke †
8:30AM Josephine Elder †
10:30AM Mass for the People of Saint Thomas More
12:30PM Patsy Lopez †
5:30PM Evelyn Hyatt †

Questions of the Week

Adult: When in your life have you been able to keep the spirit as well as the letter of God’s law?

Child: When have you taken the first step to make up with someone?

Ash Wednesday Schedule

Ash Wednesday, February 26:
• 6:30AM Mass
• 9:00AM Mass (Church & McCallin Hall)
• 11:00AM Word Service & Ashes
• 1:00PM Word Service & Ashes
• 6:00PM Mass (Church & McCallin Hall)

Masses at 6:30AM, 9:00AM and 6:00PM will include distribution of ashes and Communion. We will have two Word Services at 11:00AM and 1:00PM that include distribution of ashes, but will NOT be Masses and will NOT include Communion.

No 8:00AM confessions this day. School students will attend the 9:00AM Mass in McCallin Hall. Read future bulletins for inspiration, information and ideas for Lent.

Baptisms

We welcome
Madelyn Rose David
who was recently baptized.
For prayer requests, please visit our website or use our parish app.

Daily readings available on our website & parish app.

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Learn About the Knights

Join more than 300 other men in the Knights of Columbus at STM

Men of STM Parish, there is a place for you in the Knights of Columbus! Get to know other strong Catholic men and take real action to defend the Church, help the needy, build up the Kingdom of God and make a difference.

Saturday & Sunday, February 22 & 23: Come visit our table in the Narthex after all Masses next week and talk with members.

Questions? Please contact Tuan C. at tunacao@gmail.com or Daniel R. at dpramirez66@gmail.com.

Oberammergau Pilgrimage with Msgr. Tom

Join Us for this unique pilgrimage opportunity!

Join Msgr. Tom on a pilgrimage to Germany, Austria and Northern Italy. You will attend the Passion Play that is offered only every 10 years by the people of Oberammergau.

August 25–September 2:

Please visit rtijourneys.com/oberammergau-pilgrimage to register or for more information. For questions, contact Jo Holt at 303.221.9222 or joanneh@stthomasmore.org.

Welcome, New Parishioners!

Zachary Bryant
Melissa Cordova
Benet Fay
Janet Hattenbach

Adam Kelley
Skyler Morris
Linh Nguyen

Tom and Nikki Nguyen
Sarah Peel
Roberto and Catherine Pombo
Alec and Amy Ruffini
Ryan and Janelle Seals
Ryan and Paige Seals
Audley and Janis Webster
Devin and Kristie White
Hugh and Michelle Wong

The families of:
Kory and Amanda Andryscik
John and Elizabeth Ashton
Kevin and Patricia Carmen
Jason and Tamie Galasso
Rod and Sue Gallegos
Bradlee Henderson
Christian and Kathleen Kennett
Pamela Leland
Nicholas and Erin Li

We are very glad you’re here! If you are a new member of our parish (or have been here awhile but have not yet registered), please register on our website at stthomasmore.org, at our welcome desk in the Narthex or in the Parish Office. Please see the invitation below.

Divine Mercy Retreat

Join us as we open our hearts to the mercy of God.

We’ll explore the meaning of mercy in scripture; learn the steps necessary to reach forgiveness and overcome obstacles, such as hurt and anger.

Saturday, March 7:
9:30AM–3:45PM – Retreat
4:00PM – Confession
5:00PM – Mass
at Pax Christi Catholic Church
(5761 McArthur Ranch Rd)

Cost is $10. Our facilitator is Mary Braun-Payne, LCSW. Childcare will be available. Please plan to bring lunch before you arrive.

RSVP is required by Friday, February 21 to Rachel Daugherty at rdaugherty@paxchristi.org or 720.419.0129.

Respect For All Life

"A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise up to God..."

– St. John Paul II
If you are interested in getting involved with one of our many ministries, please visit our website at stthomasmore.org/programs-and-ministries for a full list of ministries and contact information.

Traveling Chalice
Praying for vocations this week:
The Kiker Family
To sign up for one of the available weeks, contact Karen Smoody at karens@stthomasmore.org.

Wedding
We pray for
Eileen and Keith Abele
who recently celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

Interested in Religious Life?
Are you being called to religious life?
Are you a woman open to discerning a vocation to religious life? Come to a FREE retreat hosted by Fr. Ryan O’Neill and religious sisters of the Archdiocese of Denver.
Saturday, February 29:
9:00AM–5:00PM at Spirit of Christ Church (7400 W 80th Ave)
Register at archden.org/vocations

Is the Priesthood For You?
High school boys discerning the priesthood are invited to a FREE retreat for prayer, Mass and brotherhood.
Sunday, March 15:
9:30AM–4:00PM at St. John Vianney Seminary
Register at archden.org/vocations.

New EMHC Training
We will have two training sessions in March for parishioners who would like to join the EMHC ministry.
Sunday, March 8: 2:00–3:30PM or Monday, March 9: 6:00–7:30PM in the church
EMHCs are needed for the:
❖ 4:00PM & 5:30PM Saturday and 7:00AM & Youth 5:30PM Sunday Masses.
❖ Nursing Home and Assisted Living and Hospital Ministries.
RSVP to Steve and Tiffany Franzluebbers at emhc@stthomasmore.org and specify which session you will attend.

CPR Class
Come learn life-saving skills.
Come celebrate your loved one by learning how to save their life at this free CPR/AED class by the American Heart Association.
Saturday, February 29:
5:00–8:00PM at Koelbell Library
Questions? Please contact Tina H. at 303.330.9020 or hartscpr@gmail.com.

If you are interested in getting involved with one of our many ministries, please visit our website at stthomasmore.org/programs-and-ministries for a full list of ministries and contact information.
Help Share Christ’s Love

With more parishioners eGiving with Faith Direct, our offertory becomes more consistent and predictable each month. This helps us do even more to spread Christ’s love throughout the community. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family with your time, talents and treasure!

To enroll in online giving, go to faith.direct/CO739 or download the free app and use our church code: CO739. You can also text the word ENROLL to 720.619.8959 to get started.

Thank you from Soles 4 Souls

The shoes you donated will be repurposed through Soles 4 Souls micro-enterprise program, which teaches people in developing nations how to start their own small business selling gently used shoes and clothing—a powerful and sustainable way for people to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

The 3,190 pairs of shoes you donated will provide four families with food, shelter and education for a year! Plus, you’ve helped prevent those shoes from ending up in a landfill. What an impact!

For Those Grieving the Loss of a Loved One

Grieving and mourning the death of a loved one is a different process for each individual.

God never intended that we suffer alone. He created us to care for and support one another.

Tuesdays beginning March 10:
7:00–8:30pm in the STM school library (second floor, above main entrance)

The STM Bereavement Support Group invites you for a 12-week facilitated series to help you cope with the pain of your loss, to encourage emotional healing and to provide support.

To sign up, please contact Bill Ross at billross303@gmail.com or 303.522.1092.

New Life – Senior Singles

A social, spiritual group for single, widowed, divorced & separated persons.

Thursday, February 20 – 7:00PM


Saturday, February 29 – 11:30AM
“Leap Year Lunch” at Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Parker. Contact: Vicki T. at 303.773.8410.

Learn about other announcements, events and ministries at our parish by liking our “St. Thomas More Catholic Parish” page on Facebook!
Middle School: Grades 6–8

Monday, February 17: No Bible and Beyond
Tuesday, February 18: No Echofire
Thursday, February 20: 6:00PM – Echofire Movie Night
Saturday, February 22: 9:30AM – From the Heart Nursing Home Visit

High School: Grades 9–12

Tuesday, February 18: 7:00PM – Choir Practice (grades 8+)
Wednesday, February 19: 7:00PM – Breakaway

Steubenville of the Rockies

Catch a glimpse of being part of the universal church!

Steubenville of the Rockies is an annual high school conference for young Catholics.

Friday–Sunday, June 19–21: Crowne Plaza

During the conference youth will have the opportunity to attend Mass, reconciliation, adoration and talks while growing in deeper community with the Church. $50 deposit. Space is limited.

Contact Cheyenne Secor at cheyennes@stthomasmore.org or 303.220.3388 x.3 or David Tschumper at youth@stthomasmore.org

Outside the Parish

Women’s Lenten Retreat

Join us for the 20th annual Women’s Journey Retreat this Lent!

Reflect, pray, experience God’s love and be supported by other women of faith as you journey with Christ this Lent.

Friday – Sunday, March 13 – 15
YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park

For details and to register, visit coloradocatholicretreats.org.

For questions, call or text Patti Hayes at 720.608.1607. For carpooling, contact Karen Smoody at 303.588.0461 or ksmoothie56@gmail.com by Friday, March 6.

Senior Check-in

Arapahoe Sheriff Department’s Senior Check In is a program that allows us to learn about the well-being of isolated seniors in Arapahoe County.

Studies show 29% of seniors in the U.S. live alone.

Older adults who join will receive a weekly call by a volunteer to make sure they’re doing okay. The program offers peace of mind for relatives living out of the area and lets seniors know that someone cares.

To learn more, email seniorcheckin@arapahoe.gov or visit co.arapahoe.co.us/2022/Senior-Check-In.
Week at a Glance

Monday, February 17:
No School – Presidents’ Day
Lion’s Den Closed

Tuesday, February 18:
9:00AM – School Mass (dress uniform)

Friday, February 21:
STM Spirit Dress Day
End of Second Trimester

Join STM Catholic

Enrollment for preschool–eighth grade is now open! Consider our parish school for your children’s education!

STM Catholic brings the whole person to Jesus Christ and through excellence in education prepares our students to serve the Church and community now and in the future.

To learn more about our school for preschool through eighth grade or to schedule a personalized tour, please visit stm catholic.org or call 303.770.0441.

Our preschool currently has spots open in our 3 & 4 year old programs.

For a tour of the preschool, please contact 303.770.1155 x.832 or preschool@stthomasmore.org.

STM Catholic is Hiring!

St. Thomas More Catholic is accepting applications for an Assistant Principal for the 2020-2021 school year.

Candidates must possess the following:
• Be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Roman Catholic Church.
• Have a strong commitment to the importance of Catholic school ministry in the Church.
• Master’s Degree preferred with experience in administration, supervision, curriculum, instruction, or other related fields.
• Have a minimum of five years teaching or administrative experience in the Catholic Schools.
• Hold a current, valid teaching or administrator’s license

If you would like to apply, please email your resume to Gretchen DeWolfe at gretchend@stthomasmore.org.

Creativity in English

The seventh grade spent their January reading *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie. As their final project, they created a photo editorial of the novel. They created the book in 30-40 pictures in four groups. The kids did an awesome job, collaborated well and let their usual creativity shine! Way to go, Class of 2021!
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