St. Thomas More
Catholic Parish & School
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  •  February 9, 2020

World Marriage Day

What’s Inside:
• Virtual Marriage Retreat
• Join our Parish School
• Praying Prodigal Hearts Home
• STM Receives Award
The importance of the sacramental union of husband and wife in holy marriage is celebrated by the Church this weekend as Sunday is World Marriage Day. The role of a solid and grace-filled marriage in building up and strengthening society has been known and appreciated over the centuries. And in the theology of our faith, it is seen in a uniquely profound expression of God’s presence among us.

There is a prayer in the Marriage Ritual that speaks about the fact that marriage is the singular grace not taken away by Original Sin. Adam and Eve, even when sent out from the Garden of Eden, still had the blessing of their relationship with each other to assist them in the life that laid ahead.

One of the things I have a keen awareness of over the years is a growing lack of understanding among many Catholics that the sacrament of marriage, one of the seven special vehicles of God’s grace into their lives, their family and their home, is to be carried out and witnessed by the Church. Many are aware of the fact that the Church does not support a person entering into the union of marriage if there has been a previous marriage and divorce, barring the obtaining of an annulment which is in effect the ecclesial recognition that the previous union was not sacramental and thus binding in nature.

And many are unaware that although society recognizes civil and secularly celebrated unions, in the Catholic Church a couple needs to have their marriage witnessed and blessed by the priest or deacon in order for them to fully participate in the rest of the living out of their faith life, like receiving any of the other sacraments and being good candidates for the role of baptismal or confirmation sponsor for others. We often get individuals that are asking to have their children baptized that don’t realize that they themselves need to have their marriage blessed in the Church in order for them to fully witness the faith to their child. They are not even supposed to receive the Eucharist until such a blessing is carried out.

This whole process is called con-validation. The couple have been civilly married, or married in another denomination, but without the necessary interaction with the Catholic Church at the time. Then they come to have that marriage blessed within the Catholic Church so that the Catholic party/parties to the union can go to confession, go to communion and live out their faith in accord with the Church’s teaching (see 1631 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church).

This is another way of saying that the fact that couples are married, but it has not been a marriage blessed in or recognized by the Church, is a growing reality. If this reflects your own life situation don’t panic. I would encourage you to call the parish, talk to the folks in the Marriage and Family Life office and begin the process of having your marriage blessed in the Church so that the grace and presence of God may fill your union, enhance your family life and enable you to live out fully your Catholic faith with the enriching grace of the other sacraments.

Know that our hope and prayer is that all marriages are a tremendous source of God’s loving grace and strength in the lives of the couple, of their family and community. And we are wanting to do all we can to make that a reality in yours.

— Msgr. Tom
How to Pray With Your Spouse: Four Simple Steps

1. **Reconcile and Rejoice:** Set time aside weekly for just the two of you. Come together in a comfortable place or hold hands on a walk. Make the Sign of the Cross and take a moment to focus on being present to each other and to God. As you begin, take time to reconcile. Talk about how you might have hurt each other during the week. Then apologize and offer forgiveness. This will allow you to approach God with open hearts and to be united as you pray. Once you have reconciled, rejoice by offering a short prayer of thanksgiving to God.

2. **Discover God Together:** After reconciling and rejoicing, spend time discovering God together. There are a number of ways to do this. For example, you could read the Bible and talk about the passage. If you don’t know where to begin in the Bible then a good option is to read the Gospel passage that will be proclaimed at the next Sunday Mass. You can find Sunday readings at the USCCB’s Daily Readings.

3. **Share Your Love:** After discovering God together, you can deepen your prayer by sharing your love with each other. Sharing your love in the context of prayer may include a kiss, resting in each other’s arms, caring for an ill spouse, giving words of affirmation or any other meaningful way you communicate your love. Again, have a thankful heart as your intimacy is deepened in the presence of God.

4. **Serve Each Other:** As your time together draws to a close, remember to go in peace and to serve the Lord in each other. Prayer and intimacy never ends! Let your service and intimacy live on throughout every day, as you go about cooking, cleaning, listening, working and so on. The fruit that will come from your prayer routine will bless your marriage, deepen your love for God and each other and allow you to reflect the love relationship between Christ and His beloved spouse, the Church.

For daily marriage tips, helpful online articles, organizations to help support and enrich your marriage and many other great resources, visit the website: www.ForYourMarriage.org.

— Dr. Chris Stravitsch, *For Your Marriage*, an initiative of the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)
This Week’s Prayer Intentions

Pray for our ill parish members & relatives:
John Forst, Isabella Koester, Ann Morin, Jeanne Rogers

Pray for our deceased parish members & relatives:
Kelley Contreras, Barbara “Jan” D’Alessandro, Wendall Dick, Edward Downey, Insoon Kim, Stephen Petrucci, Maureen Price

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 9:
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00 AM Connie Villarreal †
8:30 AM Alma Rodriguez, Gloria Jaramillo, & Laura Rodriguez
10:30 AM Mass for the People of Saint Thomas More
12:30 PM John Heslin †
5:30 PM Nina Dogra †

Monday, February 10:
6:30 AM Sue Scofield †
9:00 AM Ben Rayos del Sol †

Tuesday, February 11:
6:30 AM Theodora Stolcis †
9:00 AM Ann Jenson †
(School Mass)

Wednesday, February 12:
6:30 AM Francis Leifeld †
9:00 AM James Hewitt †

Thursday, February 13:
6:30 AM Harriett Kamin †
9:00 AM Joan Grant

Friday, February 14:
6:30 AM Bernard Marcuccilli †
9:00 AM Aric & Ashley Rastrelli & Family

Saturday, February 15:
7:30 AM Tom Huels †
4:00 PM Wolfgang Raue †
5:30 PM Robert Martin †

Sunday, February 16:
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00 AM Robert Kilburn †
8:30 AM Alan James Rastrelli & Family
10:30 AM Mass for the People of Saint Thomas More
12:30 PM George Washburn †
5:30 PM Lillian Mae Eck †

Stephen Ministry

Experiencing a trial in your life?
Contact Stephen Ministry for help.

Life throws us a curve ball once in a while. Spending time talking to someone with a listening heart can make all the difference in the world.

Stephen Ministry provides one-to-one care to people in our community experiencing difficulties in their lives.

If you would like to talk to a Stephen Minister, please contact John D. at 303.304.0584 or Evelyn M. at 303.741.5458.

Respect For All Life

“When certain forms of suicide are made lawful, patients will be at risk, period. Every experience of our European peers demonstrates that abuse and coercion come with suicide and euthanasia.”

– Tom Shakely, Chief Engagement Officer at Americans United for Life

Praying Prodigal Hearts Home

Join us to pray for the return of our loved ones to the Catholic faith.

Thursday, February 13
7:00 PM in the Cry Room

Pray the Rosary, find fellowship and support others on the journey. Contact: Colleen Goffredi at 303.694.4864.

Baptisms

We welcome
Luke Gregory Chatterton
Stella Rose Schoniger
who were recently baptized.

Anointing of the Sick

Come receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick on Saturday, February 29 after the 7:30AM Mass.

All who are preparing for surgery, experiencing a long-term or terminal illness or experiencing health issues related to old age may receive the sacrament.
STM Receives Award

Congratulations STM parishioners!

Our parish has been selected for the 2019 Best of Englewood Award in the Religious Organizations category by the Englewood Award Program.

Each year, the Englewood Award Program identifies companies that they believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and enhance the positive image through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Englewood area a great place to live, work and play.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the Englewood Award Program and data provided by third parties.

Why Do We Think That Way?

Come to a special presentation by Ryan Kent!

Listen to Seminarian Ryan Kent speak about the surprising roots of our culture and world view. Discover how philosophers through the ages have influenced why we think the way we do.

Tuesday, February 18:
6:30–8:30PM in McCallin Hall

Questions? Contact John Cox at johnc@stthomasmore.org

Catholic End of Life Planning

Dr. Maria Gove, a Catholic physician ethicist presents end-of-life issues from a Catholic perspective including forms and documents. Join us for this informative session!

Wednesday, February 12 at 7:00PM or Sunday, February 23 at 2:00PM or in McCallin Hall.

Please RSVP to patricia.mcdaniel@uchealth.org.

Divine Mercy Retreat

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

Tuesday, March 7:
9:30AM–3:45PM in McCallin Hall

Hear the important messages Jesus gave to St. Faustina as revealed in her diary, Divine Mercy in My Soul; and receive His mercy and know that “There is nothing man needs more than Divine Mercy – that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate” —Pope John Paul II

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

Photo Directory Pick-Up

The St. Thomas More 2020 Photo Directories have arrived and are ready to be picked up!

If you had your photo taken for the 2020 directory, please pick up your copy in the Information Cove.

Questions of the Week

Adult: In what way might you be hiding the light of Christ from others? What could you do to improve this?

Child: How can you let the light of Christ in you shine for others this weeks?
Stewardship At Work

Donations on behalf of STM parishioners:

- $5,850 St. Vincent de Paul Society
- $4,000 Catholic Charities Beacon of Hope
- $2,575 Catholic Young Adult Sports
- $800 FOCUS Missionaries Support

Donations on behalf children’s charity:

- $500 Little Sisters of the Poor

Traveling Chalice

Praying for vocations this week:

The Curtis Family

To sign up for one of the available weeks, contact Karen Smoody at karens@stthomasmore.org.

Men’s Discernment Retreat

Are you a man open to discerning a vocation to the priesthood? Come to a FREE retreat for prayer, Mass and brotherhood.

Sunday, February 16:
9:30AM–5:00PM at St. John Vianney Seminary

Register at archden.org/vocations.

Interested in 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.

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.
Attention Ministry Leaders

Let us help you make the most of your ministry! Select all of your promotional media at one time. Provide the information about your event or program on the promotional submission form on our website at stthomasmore.org under the tab “Get Involved.”

The deadline for bulletin submittals is 10 business days prior to the Sunday of publication. For questions, please contact Irene Lindemer at irenel@stthomasmore.org.

New Life – Senior Singles

Thursday, February 13 – 5:30PM

For Those Grieving the Loss of a Loved One

C.S. Lewis once said, “When people ask me, ‘How long does grief last?’ I often answer, ‘As long as it takes.’”

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.

Welcome Retreat for Men

Men, come meet other men and share your faith and love for Jesus Christ!

Saturday & Sunday, February 22 & 23:
At St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

Register online or by completing the form (in the Information Cove). Cost is $50. For questions, contact Sandra Schwab at sandras@stthomasmore.org or 303.221.9235.

Oberammergau Pilgrimage with Msgr. Tom

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:
Cost: $5,170 (includes airfare and shared room)

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.

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 10:** 4:00PM – Bible and Beyond

**Tuesday, February 11:** 6:00PM – Echofire

**Thursday, February 13:** 6:00PM – Echofire

**Friday–Sunday, February 14–16:** Mountain Madness Retreat: "Image of God"

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**High School: Grades 9–12**

**Sunday, February 9:** 3:30PM – ASB Meeting

**Monday, February 10:** 7:00PM – Boy Scouts Troop 770

**Tuesday, February 11:** 7:00PM – Choir Practice (grades 8+)

**Wednesday, February 12:** 7:00PM – Breakaway

**Friday, February 14:** 6:00PM – Student Leadership Night

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**Mountain Madness**

Pray for our Middle School Youth!

Next weekend, **Friday–Sunday, February 14–16** middle school students will gather at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park to encounter God through a “mountain-top” experience.

Please keep our middle school youth in your prayers leading up to this powerful, life-changing weekend!

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**Steubenville of the Rockies**

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

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**Superbowl of Caring**

Last weekend was STM Youth Ministry’s annual Superbowl of Caring Collection. Volunteers stood outside of a local grocery store and collected 4,418 items and $1,280.08!

The food will benefit many local food pantries and Catholic apostolates! Thank you so much to all of our awesome volunteers!

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**Connect with Youth Ministry**

Phone: 303.220.3388

Website: stthomasmore.org/youth

Facebook: facebook.com/stmyouth

Instagram: @stmyouthcentennial

Flocknote: flocknote.com/stmco

& see the youth board in the narthex!
**Week at a Glance**

**Our parish school**

*Our parish school is a community of faith, academic excellence, service and virtues*

**Tuesday, February 11:**
9:00AM – School Mass (dress uniform)
6:00PM – Home and School Meeting
7:00PM – SAC Meeting

**Thursday, February 13:**
11:00AM – 3rd and 4th Grade Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

**Friday, February 14:**
STM Spirit Dress Day
10:15AM – Valentine’s Day Parties
11:30AM – Early Dismissal

**Connect with STM Catholic**

Phone: 303.770.0441
Website: stmcatholic.org
Facebook: facebook.com/stmcatholic.org
Flocknote: flocknote.com/stmco

**Join STM Catholic**

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

STM Catholic is a parochial school, deeply rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teaching of the Catholic Church.

In the spirit of Catholic tradition, 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 stmcatholic.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.

**outside the parish**

**Project Linus Volunteers**

Come make a difference.

Project Linus at Pax Christi Catholic Parish is hosting Make A Blanket Day.

**Saturday, February 15**
9:00PM–1:00PM
in the Great Hall at Pax Christi
(5761 McArthur Ranch Rd, Lone Tree)

Over 7.8 million blankets have been provided to some of the most vulnerable of our communities. There is always a need for more.

For more information, please contact Darrel Ryan at 720.219.2913.

**TOB Conference**

Discover the beauty of the Theology of the Body.

Join us for an introduction to Pope John Paul II’s Theology of the Body (TOB). Get a thorough understanding of God’s plan for humanity – a plan stamped right in their own bodies.

**Saturday, March 14**
Light of the World Catholic Church
(10316 W Bowles Ave)

This one day event includes four sessions by Bill Donaghy.

For more information or to register, visit archden.org/tob-conference.
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