PASTOR

Reverend Richard Rosinski rrosinski@stthomasmorechurch.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Reverend Louis Tosto ltosto@rockforddiocese.org

DEACONS

Mr. Bob Newton Mr. Jack Roder Mr. Gregory Stevens

SAINT THOMAS MORE EDUCATION CENTER 847.742.3959

Preschool-Grade 8 www.stmcentral.org Mrs. Ann Hawkinson, Principal ahawkinson@stmcentral.org

Religious Ed 847.888.4887

Mrs. Michelle Tack, Director mtack@stthomasmorechurch.org

RCIA 847.888.4887

Mrs. Dody Bushbaum, Coordinator dbushbaum@stthomasmorechurch.org

SAINT EDWARD CENTRAL

CATHOLIC H. S.

847.741.7535

355 Locust Street, Elgin www.stedhs.org

MUSIC AND LITURGY 847.888.1682

Mrs. Jeanne Anne Aukofer, Director x 12 jaukofer@stthomasmorechurch.org

EVANGELIZATION 847.888.1682

Mrs. Sharon Hall, Director x 16 shall@stthomasmorechurch.org

YOUTH MINISTRY 847.888.1682

Mrs. Lisa Gaston, Director x 19 lgaston@stthomasmorechurch.org

BUSINESS OFFICE 847.888.1682

Mrs. Olga Pomella, Manager x 13 opomella@stthomasmorechurch.org

PARISH OFFICE 847.888.1682

FAX 847.888.3198

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:00 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend: Saturday 5:00 pm; Sunday 8:00, 10:00 am & 12:00 pm Weekday: Monday-Friday 8:30 am

Confessions: Saturday 3:30-4:30 or by

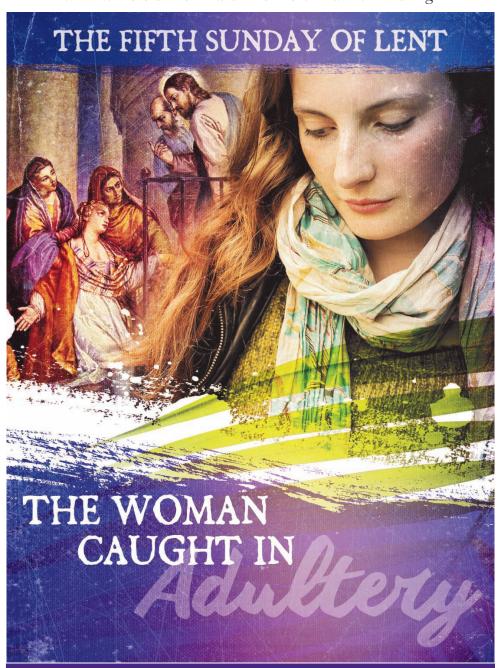
appointment

Rosary: prayed before the 8:30 am Mass Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesdays, 9:00 am

Benediction, 4:00 pm

Saint Thomas More

215 THOMAS MORE DRIVE • ELGIN, ILLINOIS 60123 www.stthomasmorechurch.org



MISSION STATEMENT

As Gospel stewards, grateful for what God has given, St. Thomas More Catholic Church community commits itself to the renewal of parish life through evangelization, worship, outreach to the poor, and community living.

NEWS & NOTES

From the Desk of RCIA Director, Dody Bushbaum...

The RCIA class has been alternating Mass times over the last couple of months to allow all in the parish to see that they are attending Mass, studying Scripture, and preparing to enter the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday, March 26. We hope you plan to attend the Easter Vigil Mass to witness their initiation into the Church. There will be 3 Baptisms, 8 Confirmations, and 7 First Holy Communions. THE RCIA Team truly appreciates your prayers, support, and example as we ALL help the catechumen and candidates increase their knowledge and faith.

A few highlights:

- On Saturday, February 6, we celebrated the Rita of Sending at the 5 PM Mass. During this rite, Father Rich questioned the sponsors and those in the assembly as to the readiness of the catechumens and candidates to be sent (thus the Rite of Sending) to Rockford to stand before Bishop Malloy and be called to the Easter Sacraments.
- On Wednesday, February 10, the RCIA class participated in the Ash Wednesday service at 7 PM and entered the Period of Purification and Enlightenment. We learned about Lent and what it means to carry our Lenten cross.
- On Saturday, February 13, we attended the Rite of Election at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Rockford where Bishop Malloy questioned the sponsors and the RCIA Team as to the readiness of the group and we testified that they have been attending Mass, studying Scripture and preparing for initiation into the Church. He has called them to the Easter sacraments and they are now known as The Elect.
- On Saturday, February 27, we spent the entire day on retreat where the sponsors and candidates drew closer to God through prayer, reflection, Scripture and fellowship. The day ended with the First Scrutiny at the 5 PM Mass.
- Last Sunday we celebrated the Second Scrutiny at 8 AM Mass.
- This Sunday, the Third Scrutiny will be celebrated at the 10 AM Mass.

The scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. In the First Scrutiny, their spirit is filled with Christ the Redeemer, who is the living water (Gospel of the Samaritan woman); in the Second, the light of the world (Gospel of the man born blind); and in the third, the resurrection of life (Gospel of Lazarus).

Please keep Vicky, Jennifer, Kylie, Kristen, Makenna, Cindy, Adriana, and Nichole in your prayers and join us at their initiation at the Easter Vigil.



Feed the Hungry" – one of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Hope for Haitians is our STM Lenten Almsgiving sacrifice. HAITIANS Today we need to recognize the ease with which we can help alleviate some hunger.

In the village we are working on in 2016, we will provide a rice mill for the villagers so they can be more efficient in processing their hand harvested crops and help feed their families. This mill will also allow them to produce additional rice and flour to sell to other villages.

Help Hope for Haitians complete this village by making a donation during the parish Lenten almsgiving appeal. Each gift is truly appreciated.

Thank you to each of you who has been sacrificing to fill a donation box. If you would like to find out more about this ministry, please contact Amy McTeague at 630.730.0227 or at amy@hopeforhaitians.org or visit their Website at www.hopeforhaitians.org.



Anna Hasek, mother of Nadine Any

Walter Lowell, grandfather of Jennifer Garza

Virginia Klos

We pray for those who are ill:



Christine Baczeik, Helen Prayer Baier, Virgil Beard, Margaret Requests Brantley, Gracie Canning, Ian Chafee, Laura Christenson, Lee Coombs, Theresa Cortesi,

Milagrof Daquiwag, Edna Enriquez, Federico Enriquez, Enrico Espina, Ed Frederick, James Frederick, Nadine Frett, Mary Fusek, Wilma Gabanit, Linda Girardi, Josephine Hanson, Gloria Jean, Beverly Jelen, Gloria Jordan, Bev Kittler, Karen Kurelo, Carol Legenza, Sandra Listorti, Reynaldo Mangila, Mike McCall, Betty Mueller, Bruce Newberg, Tho Nguyen, Marian Peterson, Lutie Regan, Patricia Ricks, Manzella Rocco, Margaret Scherer, Lynn Schmidt, Cindy Schoeps, Diane Schumacher, Frank Scislowski, Frances Skytta, Dillon Smith, David Snelson, Larry Sorce, Lee Thomas, John Urguhart, Judy VanHanxleden, Perry Wells, Dan Weiler, Carolyn Wisniewski. Sharon Wolf

Almighty and Everlasting God, the eternal salvation of those who believe in you, hear us on behalf of your servants who are sick, for whom we humbly beg the help of your mercy so that being restored to health, they may render thanks to you in your Church. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORD OF LIFE

"What if our capacity to conceive and bring forth new life from our marriages isn't some kind of cosmic liability, but very real participation in the creative work of God himself?"

-USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life

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TIME, TALENT, TREASURE & NEWS



MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Stewardship of Treasure	\$83,370
Budget	
Variance	

MONTHLY TITHES

The following organizations received a tithe of \$490 for the month of February: Easter Food Baskets, ECC Phi Theta Kappa Pantry, and PADS. The St. Vincent de Paul Society received \$650.



March 12 - 13, 2016

On March 12th & 13th, we have an occasion to help those in need, and assist victims of war, oppression and disaster by participating in the 2016 International Appeal collection which includes:

Peter's Pence
Catholic Relief Services
Aid to Central and Eastern Europe
Rockford Diocese's Response to World-wide Disaster
Rockford Diocesan Priests' Pension
Catholic Elementary School Financial Support for the
Diocese of Rockford

Please bring the International Appeal envelope to Mass, or donate online at: www.rockforddiocese.org/donate

Thank you for your generous gift.







STM OPEN ENROLLMENT

St. Thomas More School is now enrolling preschool 3year olds

through 8th grade students. Call 847.742.3959 for a tour!

St. Thomas More School, 1625 W. Highland Avenue, Elgin, is now taking registrations for the 2016-2017 school year. You are invited to tour the school and learn more about our 3 year old preschool, all day Kindergarten and Grade 1-8 programs. St. Thomas More School offers a challenging academic program, provides solid faith formation, excellent teachers, small class sizes, School Speak (on-line grading program) for parents, no-cut sports program, After Care, after school extra-curricular programs, and an optional hot lunch program.

St. Thomas More School is in its 56th school year of offering a tradition of excellence in Catholic education. There are many success stories involving our alum and their continued academic success in high school or their achievements in their careers.

Please contact the school office at 847-742-3959 for more information, a school tour, or a shadow day.



ST. EDWARDS HIGH SCHOOL

St. Edward Central Catholic High School is now accepting applications. Forms, requirements and other details can be found at www.stedhs.org. To schedule a shadow day for your 8th grader, contact Mrs. Cholewa at acholewa@stedhs.org.

TIDAL WAVE 2016

St. Edward Central Catholic High School will host the 27th Tidal Wave fund raiser on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at the Chicago Northwest Marriott in Hoffman Estates, IL. The theme of the Elgin area high school dinner auction event is "Shine Bright Like A Diamond". Christine and Blake Rejman are chairing this event that will begin the school's 75th anniversary celebration.

Joseph McMahon will be recognized as the Alum of the Year. Joe and his wife, Teresa Snellgrove McMahon, are graduates of the class of 1984. Joe currently serves as Kane County State's attorney. This award is presented to alum to recognize their accomplishments and contributions for the betterment of the community. Sandra Bockman will receive the St. Gregory the Great Award for her 33 years of dedication to St. Edward High School students and her pursuit of excellence in Catholic education. Scotts Miracle Grow will receive the Patron of the Year Award at the event.

The silent auction opens at 5:30 p.m. with electronic bidding and social hour. Dinner, entertainment, raffles and live auction will follow. A special feature of the evening will be the Guardian Angel segment to raise funds for the financial assistance program.

To donate a gift, receive a sponsorship, or to make reservations for the event please contact the Tidal Wave office at *tidalwave2016@stedhs.org* or call 847.741.7535 x123.

WELCOME TO ST. THOMAS MORE!

If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Thomas More, registration forms are available on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space-OR-call the parish office at 847.888.1682 to request a form. Return your completed registration form via mail or place it in the Sunday collection basket.

FOCUS ON THE WORD & NEWS

CYCLES OF FAITH

5th Sunday of Lent

In the 2012 film Smashed, which won the US Dramatic Special Jury Prize for Independent Film Producing at the Sundance Film Festival, Mary Elizabeth Winstead plays Kate, a young wife who struggles to get sober. She and her husband (played by Aaron Paul) like having a good time. But when her partying spirals downward, Kate fears that her job as an elementary school teacher is at risk and she needs to deal with her alcoholism. The film chronicles Kate's (and her husband's) attempts to achieve sobriety, even as she discovers that her past can deeply affect her future. The woman in the Gospel is unexpectedly brought before Jesus today. She is exposed in front of everyone. Here she is, being confronted with shame, and sin, and all the condemnation that the indignant elders could heap upon her. Jesus points out to her accusers their own shortcomings, and in light of that, they all fade away. She is left before him alone, and he admonishes her to avoid sin in

While alcoholism is understood to be a disease and not so much a moral failing, there is human suffering that can be fallout from such an affliction. That's why one of the Twelve



Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

- In 8:6b-7

Steps in Alcoholics Anonymous is to be willing to make amends to all persons that have been harmed. Making amends is also part of the sacrament of penance. When confessing our sins, there is the expectation that we will have to make some sort of restitution. That's what real penance is: an amendment, that is, a correction of one's life. We've spent part of Lent examining our lives and assessing where we have failed in living according to God's will. Like Kate in the movie, maybe we've had a sudden moment of insight. Or maybe we've just come to the realization of what we need to correct. Now is the time for us to confess, to do penance, and to be reconciled to God and neighbor.

EN THEOS

Q: Lent always seems to help me renew my relationship with God and strengthen my religious practice. Do you have any suggestions as to what I could do to achieve that the rest of the year?

A: The obvious answer may seem to be to do whatever you do during Lent all year round. But part of the power of Lent is that we focus as a community on renewing our faith and preparing for Easter. Our Lenten practices have a purpose and a goal. Therein lies the secret. When we focus our efforts on one virtue, or try to change one bad habit, or seek to deepen our understanding of one aspect of faith, we focus our efforts and give our full attention to what we are trying to accomplish. We tend to be more successful achieving our goals. More importantly, it has a ripple effect in our lives: one thing changes or is added to the spiritual mix of our lives and many aspects are changed.

All too often we leave our spiritual growth to chance and the practice of faith to habit, and then wonder why we have no sense of growth or progress. Think of it in terms of exercise. We walk, lift weights, bend and stretch to attain the maximum benefit from what we do. In addition, to keep those benefits, we eat healthful food and get enough vitamins and rest. Spirituality requires the same kind of attention: we pray, fast, read the Bible, receive sacraments, and do charitable work to maximize the benefits of practicing faith. Keeping Lent year round keeps us in spiritual shape!

FOR OUR CHILDREN

Sharing the Gospel

When we do something wrong, God does not want to punish us, he just wants us to stop, learn from our mistake, and make better choices next time. Remember that the next time you catch a friend sinning. Talk to your friend, and gently help your friend do what is right.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to be kind to my friends when they make mistakes. Help me remember that sometimes I make bad choices. Something to Draw

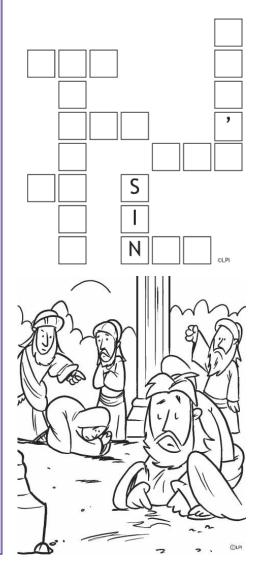
Draw a picture of Jesus next to you, helping you after you have done something wrong.

Mission for the Week

Name one thing you have done wrong. Jesus can forgive you for your mistakes.

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

You may go now, but don't sin anymore.



PARISH & COMMUNITY EVENTS

FELLOWSHIP CLUB



Parishioners 55 hears and older are invited to join the Fellowship Club for our annual St. Patrick's Pot Luck Lunch on Tuesday, March 15 at 12 Noon in the Chelsea

Room. Our speaker will be Deacon Greg Stevens. He will share his journey to becoming a deacon. Bring your favorite food to share. Wear green to join in the St. Patrick's Day fun!

MAGNIFICAT

Join us and Fr. Stephen Glab at Resurrection Parish in Woodstock, IL. (2918 S. Country Club Rd.) for a Day of Renewal on Saturday, April 2nd from 9 am-3 pm. Father will be speaking on "Life of Grace" and "Flesh vs. Spirit." Come experience why he is known locally as a great homilist. It is a free event, call Dee Slowey at 815.893.4061 to attend. Participants are strongly encouraged to bring a sack lunch. Coffee, tea & water provided.

PASSION PLAY

STM students will perform a Passion Play on March 23 at 8:15 PM in the school gym. A second performance will be held on Thursday, March 24 at 11:30 AM. All are welcome to attend!

DIVORCE MINISTRY

Divorce isn't always black and white. For a variety of reasons some legitimate and some definitely not, Catholics find themselves civilly divorced. It can be a time for panic, fear, anger, depression, rage, anxiety and sometimes a temptation to even lose faith. It is also a time where you have many questions about the Church and its teachings. The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide is a powerful DVD series to help you find peace, power, and a renewed passion for life. Our parish group will meet weekly beginning Monday, March 28 at 7 PM for 13 weeks. Cost is \$25. Call Sharon Hall at the church office for more information.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Bereavement trained volunteers are available to provide spiritual support and comfort to all parishioners. If you would like to be contacted, please call the church office at 847.888.1682.



St. Patrick's prayer for the faithful captures the wonderful spirit that made him Ireland's patron saint and one of the world's most beloved missionaries.

Born in Britain shortly before the 5th century, St. Patrick was taken captive to Ireland by raiders at the age of 16. He lived there for 6 years as a shepherd under harsh conditions and became intensely devoted to God in prayer, as he put it,

"because the spirit was then fervent within me." Tradition has it that divine dreams inspired both his escape from captivity in Ireland and his return there later in his life as a bishop.

Although he faced his share of resistance, St. Patrick was so successful in preaching the Gospel and organizing the Church in Ireland that he is largely credited with converting the Irish to Christianity.

St. Patrick's Prayer

May the Strength of God pilot us. May the Power of God preserve us. May the Wisdom of God instruct us. May the hand of God protect us. May the Way of God direct us. May the Shield of God defend us. May the Host of God guard us against the snares of the evil ones, against temptations of the world.

May Christ be with us! May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us, Christ be over all!
May thy salvation, Lord, always be ours,
this day, O Lord, and evermore. Amen.
www.ourcatholic prayers.com

St. Joseph's Table Tradition

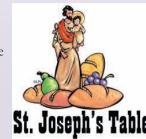
During a time of drought and famine, no rain fell on Medieval Sicily. Food crops for both people and livestock withered and died. The people prayed to St. Joseph for help.

There was rejoicing when the clouds opened, pouring the desperately needed rain onto the earth. After the harvest, to show their gratitude, the people prepared a table with special foods to honor St. Joseph and to share with the poor. After thanking and honoring the saint, they distributed the food to the less fortunate.

The tradition of a St. Joseph's Table came from this event. A St. Joseph's Table is a three-tiered display representing the Trinity. A statue of St. Joseph is placed on the top tier. A special, smaller table is set for the Holy Family at the front of the display. Tables are filled with food, flowers, candles, and pasta. Giving food to the needy is an important part of the tradition. As time went on, tables grew larger, more ornate, beautiful and bountiful.

Many symbols are found on the table. Bread crumbs on spaghetti represent dust on the carpenters workshop floor. White lilies symbolize transformation and purity. Breads are often baked in the shapes of carpenter's tools, canes, or chalices. Wine recalls both the

miracle at Cana and, with the bread, the Last Supper. Blessed fava beans are often on the table. Once considered cattle feed, fava beans survived the drought, sustaining the people and saving them from starvation. It is believed that if you carry the beans in your coin purse, you are never without resources. Fava beans are also kept in the pantry so there will always be food. The bread and pastries are sold to raise money for charity. A traditional pasta dinner is often served.



CALENDARS & SCHEDULES

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, March 14

8:30 am Donald Giroir

Melchor V. Marinas

Tuesday, March 15

8:30 am Powers Washer

Dale DeWitt

7:00 pm Leo O'Reilly

Louis Mateja

Wednesday, March 16

8:30 am Jerry Kinsella

Lowell Ray Haire

9:00 am-10:00 am-Confessions

Thursday, March 17

8:30 am Jim Thornton

Joseph Masella

Friday, March 18

8:30 am Peggy Franklin

Frank Ybarra

Saturday, March 19

5:00 pm Diane Nierzwicki

William Ure

Sunday, March 20

8:00 am People of St. Thomas More

Amy Peebles

10:00 am Bill Molitor

Valentine Thompson

12:00 pm Andrew & Barbara Chang



SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30-4:30 pm

or by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick: By appointment. Baptism: The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the first and third weekends of the month at 1:00 pm or during the 5:00 pm or 12:00 pm Masses. Parents need to be registered members and should be faithful in attending Mass. Participation in a baptismal preparation class is required. Please call Sharon Hall at the parish office to make an appointment: 847.888.1682 extension 16. Matrimony: Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance. Couples must meet with a priest to set a

preparation program. Sick & Homebound

If you are unable to come to church and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the parish office: 847.888.1682.

date and must participate in a marriage

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, March 14

9:00 am Bible Study-Westminster Room 4:30 pm Youth Choir-Lancaster Room

6:00 pm Women's CRHP-Chelsea Room 7:00 pm Bible Study-Westminster Room

Tuesday, March 15

12:00 pm Fellowship-Chelsea Room 7:00 pm MOMS-Canterbury Room

7:00 pm Lenten Mass-Chapel 7:30 pm YAM-Chelsea Room

Wednesday, March 16

9:00 am Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

4:00 pm Benediction-Chapel

4:00 pm Bible Study-Canterbury Room 6:00 pm H.S. Choir-Lancaster Room

6:30 pm Bible Study-Westminster Room

7:00 pm RCIA-Chelsea Room

7:00 pm Adult Choir-Lancaster Room

Thursday, March 17

9:00 am Prayer Group-Tudor Room 1:30 pm Stations of the Cross-Church 6:30 pm Spred-Westminster Room 7:00 pm Finance Council-Tudor Room

Friday, March 18

9:15 am Women's Prayer Group

-Canterbury Room

6:00 pm Simple Supper-Chelsea Room 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross-Church

7:30 pm Filipino Choir-Lancaster Room

Saturday, March 19

7:00 am Men's Fellowship-Canterbury Room 7:30 pm Filipino Choir-Lancaster Room

After Masses Next Week

Hope for Haitians

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF March 13th, 2016

Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-6 Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62

In 8:12-20

Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, Tuesday:

16-21/In 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95

Dn 3:52-56/In 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-9

In 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-7

In 10:31-42

Saturday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16

Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Rom 4:13,

16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a Next Sunday: Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7

Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24 Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14--23:56



WEEKEND: MARCH 19/20

5:00 pm Father Louis 8:00 am Father Louis 10:00 am Father Rich

12:00 pm Father Rich

Altar Servers

5:00 pm A Tiu, I von Rohr, M Witecha 8:00 am HI Garcia, I Lococo, E Rolando

10:00 am B Lukowski, B McKee,

E Menendez

12:00 pm H Herrero, E & A Stuart

Lectors

5:00 pm M Cannizzaro 8:00 am E Weber, D Ymson 10:00 am | I Wiel, B Brown

12:00 pm M Ramos

Musicians

5:00 pm High School Ensemble 8:00 am J Tendy, M McCarty,

J A Aukofer

10:00 am Adult Choir

12:00 pm M Lee, R & M Arcales,

E & M Nguyen, N Trevino

Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm | Taeyaerts, E Thompson,

G Stevens, J McCreight, G McGann, M Roman,

L Asmussen

8:00 am L Becci, M & S Beyer,

J Hanschmann, C Hopkins,

J Roder, L Heuer

10:00 am M Gogoel, K Mudgett, S Schultz,

R Wiel, B Newton,

M Zimmerman, M Thompson,

A Santarromana, D Varley

12:00 pm S Matson, G Stuart, B Newton HOLY THURSDAY-MARCH 24

Altar Servers

7:00 pm H Herrero, C Kriens, J Lococo,

E Mendoza, E Rolando

Lectors

L Lesniak 7:00 pm **Eucharistic Ministers**

L McEwan, B Cruz, C Voris, 7:00 pm

L Asmussen, S Matson

GOOD FRIDAY-MARCH 25

Altar Servers

3:00 pm A & E Stuart

Lectors

3:00 pm F Celarek

Eucharistic Ministers

3:00 pm L Rakowski, S Beyer, K Newton

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