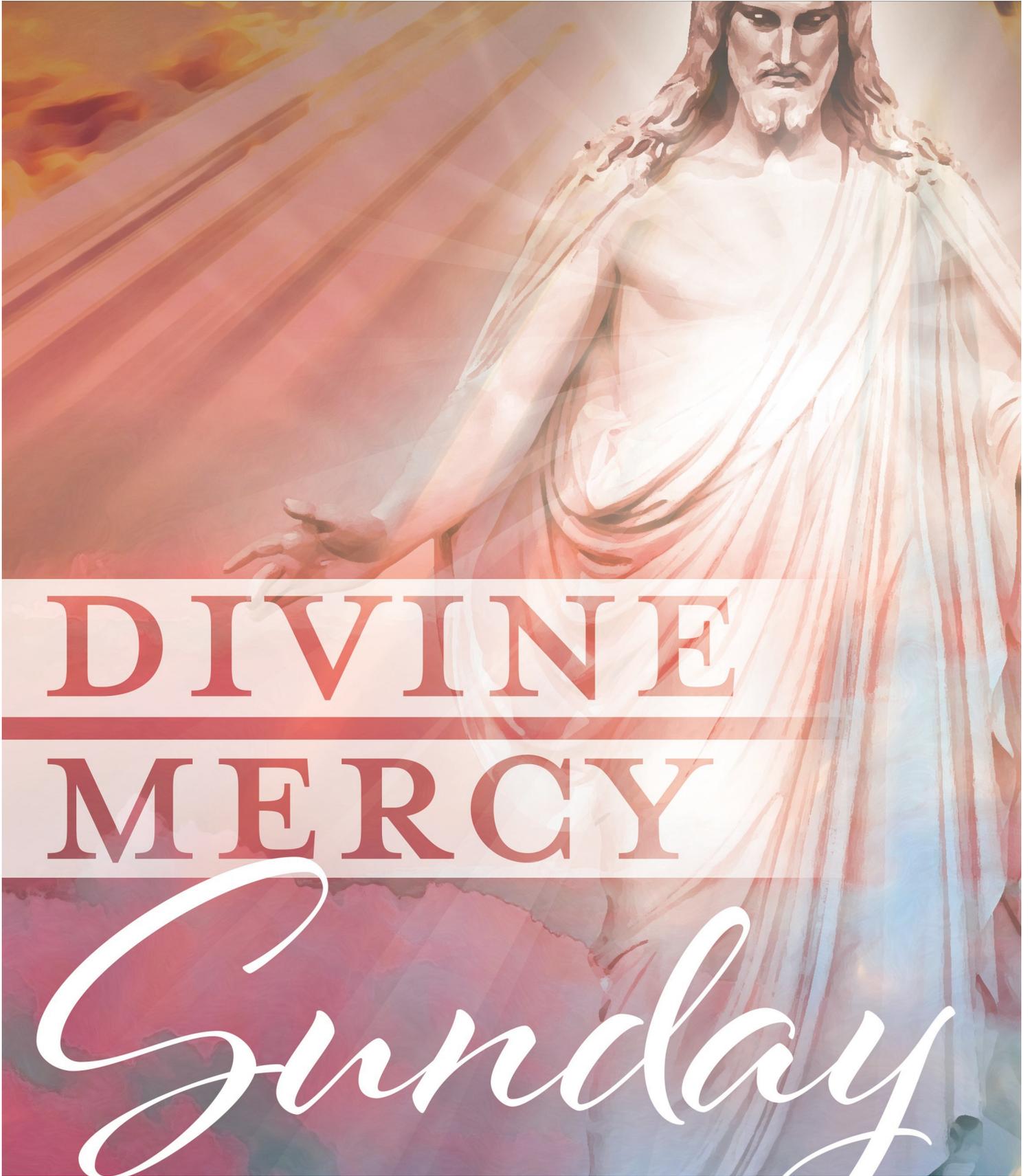


APRIL 19, 2020

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)



**DIVINE
MERCY**

Sunday

Inside

p2
Prayer
Requests

p3
Fr. Browning's
Words

p4
Special
Mass

p5
Divine
Mercy



St. Thomas More Catholic Church

www.stthomasmorechurch.org



Pastor
 Reverend Ryan Browning
rbrowning@stthomasmorechurch.org
www.fatherbrowning.com

Deacons
 Jack Roder

Parish Office - 847.888.1682
 Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:30pm

School Office - 847.742.3959
www.stmcentral.org

Religious Ed. Office - 847.888.4887

Parish Staff
 Visit our website for a staff listing
www.stthomasmorechurch.org/staff

St. Vincent de Paul

Are you in need?

In the name of Jesus, we strive to comfort, feed, clothe, and assist those in need. We serve in person, keeping all things confidential and preserving dignity. Please call our answering machine at **847.628.5170**.

Do you feel called to serve?

We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7pm alternating between St. Laurence and St. Thomas respectively. For more information, please contact conference president

Doug at StThomasMoreElginSVDP@gmail.com.

Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/SVDPSTM



SACRAMENTS

For a more in-depth look at the sacraments, please visit our parish website www.stthomasmorechurch.org.

Reconciliation: Confessions are heard every Wednesday 9:00-10:00am, Thursday 6:00-6:30pm, Saturday 3:30-4:30pm and Sunday 9:15-9:45am. Appointments can also be made for confessions to be heard when needed.

Baptism: Children of all ages and adults are welcome to the sacrament of Baptism. Baptism for children is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of each month at 1:00pm. 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 arrangements. Adults seeking Baptism should contact Linda McEwan at lmcewan@stthomasmorechurch.org.

Matrimony: Baptized Catholics are called to be married in the Catholic Church. Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance.

If you were married outside of the Catholic Church and would like to have your marriage blessed, we would be happy to guide you in that process.

Call the parish office to make an appointment with a priest to begin all marriage preparation.

Anointing of the Sick: The anointing of the sick is administered to bring spiritual and physical strength during an illness, for those having surgery, and for those near death. Call the parish office to make arrangements to receive this sacrament.

Prayer Requests

Join us in praying for members of our community who are sick or ailing. To add or remove a name on our prayer list, please call the parish office 847.888.1682. To keep our prayer list current, names will remain on the list for 3 months. After that time, please contact the parish office to renew names.

All that are affected by the COVID-19

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| †All Souls in Purgatory | †Reynaldo Mangila |
| †Brad Abell | †Jeanne Matsukis |
| †Cresenciano Bayona Jr. | †Fran Meek |
| †Chuck Benson | †Belinda Mockler |
| †Gracie Canning | †Maria I. Montejano |
| †Jay Connell | †Jennifer Moore |
| †Jessica Connell | †Gloria Neitzel |
| †Dan Coyle | †Izzy Nottolini |
| †Juanita Cundiff | †Delphine Ornelas |
| †Julie Daly | †Bruce Ostlick |
| †Dominick Girardi | †Florence Ostlick |
| †Angela Gusta | †Jessica Pefitti |
| †Vincent Gusta | †Jim Pinkawa |
| †Kathy Hamilton | †Deacon Bob Plazewski |
| †Frank Iori | †Charles Pruter |
| †Charles Joseph | †Lutie Regan |
| †Laura Keating | †Diane Schumacher |
| †Bev Kittler | †James Shumaker |
| †Joan Knott | †Lillian Stern |
| †Stephen Lange | †Renee Sweeney |
| †Amy Lara | †Mary Ann Vandervalk |
| †Dennis Lisiecki, Jr. | †Bob Voegtle |
| †Jenny Lisiecki | †Carol White |
| †Ann Marie LoPiccolo-Carlson | †Dave White |

Bereavement Ministry

Trained volunteers are available to provide spiritual support and comfort to all parishioners mourning a death loss. Please call the parish office at **847.888.1682**.

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.

FATHER BROWNING...

THOUGHTS, SCRIPTURE, AND MORE.



Divine Mercy Sunday

You may not know this, but I am a huge proponent of God's Mercy having experienced so much of it in my own life. I want all of us to be prepared for the great feast of mercy – Divine Mercy Sunday. No matter where you are in the practice of your faith, this Sunday is for you. This Easter season is an opportunity to reconnect with God and His Church and to prepare your heart for an experience of God's merciful love. Jesus is the answer to the longings and restlessness of our hearts.

Jesus tells St. Faustina, as recorded in her diary (#699): ***"I desire that the Feast of Mercy [Sunday after Easter] be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet."***

The promise made by Jesus is an astounding one. The Church also grants a plenary indulgence, but what Jesus promises is beyond that. It can only be gained for oneself, but it is essentially like a second baptism. We receive "complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." We literally get a brand-new beginning - no baggage remains (no temporal punishment due to sin remains).

Here is how to prepare for this amazing gift this year being in a pandemic and without the availability of the sacraments:

1. Make a good examination of conscience and then a perfect act of contrition. (Promise God to go to confession as soon as it is physically possible no matter how long it has been His mercy is for you).
2. Receive Holy Communion as soon as it is physically possible (until then you will receive the grace of communion through an act of spiritual communion).
3. Trust in God's merciful love. We can do this by praying "Jesus, I Trust in You."

The Church also offers a plenary indulgence to the faithful that day (we can obtain it for ourselves or a

deceased person). To obtain this indulgence we have to do the following:

1. Sacramental confession (as soon as possible)
2. Receive Holy Communion in the state of grace (as soon as possible)
3. Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father - Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
4. Be detached from the affection for sin, even venial sin. It is enough to foster the desire to not commit a voluntary sin.
5. Take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy or in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (exposed or reserved in the tabernacle) pray an Our Father, the Creed, and "Merciful Jesus, I trust in You!"

A Note on Perfect Contrition:

Where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by votum confessionis, that is, by the firm resolution to have recourse, as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (cf. CCC, no. 1452).

Perfect contrition means a sorrow for sin out of love for God. It does not mean being "perfectly sorry."

Perfect contrition is **sorrow for sin out of love for God and His goodness**, whereas imperfect contrition (while still a gift of God) is sorrow for sin due to a fear of hell, judgment and punishment (CCC 1452-1453).

A Note on Spiritual Communion:

It is a beautiful and praiseworthy tradition to recite an act of spiritual communion when one is unable, for whatever reason, to receive Holy Communion. It obtains the grace of Communion.

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things,
and I desire You in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though You were already there,

I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You.

Permit not that I should ever be separated from You.
Amen.

JESUS
CHRIST IS
THE SAME
YESTERDAY,
TODAY,
AND
FOREVER.



©LPi

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Sunday

Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]
/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

Monday

Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]
/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday

Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]
/Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday

Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]
/Jn 3:16-21

Thursday

Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20
[7a]/Jn 3:31-36

Friday

Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]
/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday

1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 [2]/Mk
16:15-20

Next Sunday

Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11
[11a]/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

Q

WHERE DID THE FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY COME FROM?



A:

If you were born well before the year 2000, you know the feast of Divine Mercy has not always been celebrated in the Church. In the early 1900s, a young Polish nun began receiving private revelations. Jesus appeared to her during her times of prayer, speaking a message of mercy and love for the world. She received a set of prayers — the Divine Mercy

Chaplet — and the request to have a feast day established to remind the Church of the mercy of God. St. Faustina died in 1938, on the cusp of war and in the midst of one of the most violent centuries in the history of the world.

Her story and her diaries began circulating in Poland and beyond. It quickly became apparent that this was a holy young woman, and the cause for her canonization opened. In the year 2000, she was canonized by the first-ever Polish pope, St. John Paul II. On her canonization day, he established the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, “a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind with experience in the years to come.”

©LPi



©LPi

Special Mass on 4.23.20

Join us on our **Facebook Live page** or **YouTube Channel** on **Thursday, April 23rd at 10:00am** for a special Mass to honor and pray for all of our Medical Professionals & First Responders who are on the front lines battling this COVID-19 pandemic. In the comments during Mass, please let us know the names of your loved ones who are working tirelessly to battle this pandemic.

Also, please share www.youtube.com/channel/UCwmm_-MluJkjuKJOgLPXVUQ or www.facebook.com/St-Thomas-More-Catholic-Church so your friends and their friends can tune-in to share their loved ones names and pray with us.

How to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet Prayer

Optional Opening Prayer

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

(Repeat 3 times) O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!

Our Father, Hail Mary and the Apostle's Creed For each of the five decades

(On each "Our Father" bead of the rosary, pray)

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

(On each of the 10 "Hail Mary" beads, pray)

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Concluding prayer

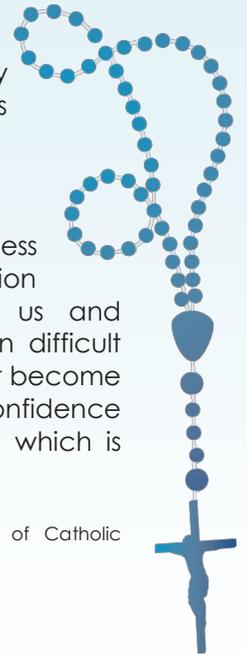
(Repeat 3 times)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Optional Closing Prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

Copyright © 2012, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.



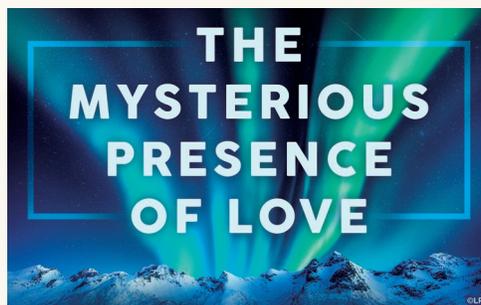
Gospel Meditations

A person was going through a very dark time, questioning the meaning of life, not feeling very purposeful or worthwhile, and feeling disconnected and unappreciated. Suddenly, they gazed up at the night sky, found themselves in awe of all the stars and constellations, and exclaimed, "I am here on purpose and I am loved!" Having been brought by God to this moment of intense connection and awareness, his life changed from that moment on.

If we are always preoccupied with the challenges, obligations, and stuff of daily life, we can easily miss the wonderful opportunities when the resurrected Christ is knocking at our door. If we open ourselves to the fullness of experience, we will find ourselves listening and embracing all that is around us, being caught up in the magnificence of creation's grandeur and knowing in our

heart and soul that God is and I am.

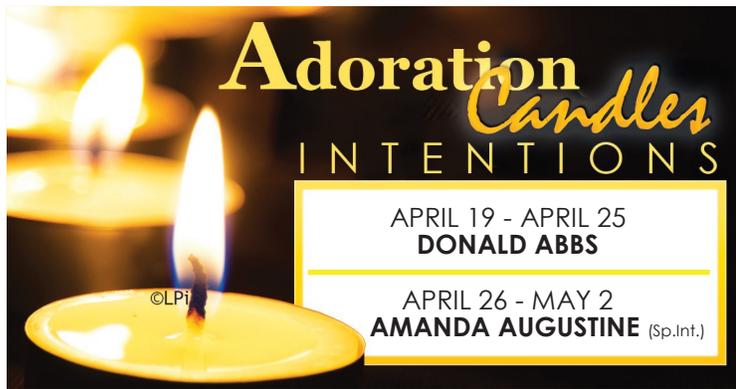
While that sounds like a simple, tell-me-something - I don't-know kind of revelation, it is life changing when it takes root in the depth of a person's soul. Stumbling upon this awesome truth and internalizing it doesn't require an assent of the



mind. It beckons for a claim on our soul. We find ourselves knowing something profound that cannot be explained or reasoned, but purely is. When we are caught up in an experience and encounter the truth, it doesn't matter how all of the

pieces got put together. Truth is simply truth. The "my Lord and my God" responses we utter are not evoked because all of the pieces of faith and life make reasonable sense. The "my Lord and my God" affirmations come when we are lifted up out of our preoccupations and silliness and are in the presence of mystery and mercy.

God is mystery, one who is beyond our grasp but at the same time within our reach, knowable yet unknowable. And when in the presence of mystery, there comes an intense experience of mercy. We know deep within the essence of ourselves — and in the very life of creation — this beating, unconditionally accepting, life-sustaining, profound, mysterious yet familiar presence of love. We have found our peace. "Peace be with you." Breathe in and breathe out. Peace.



Adoration Candles INTENTIONS

APRIL 19 - APRIL 25
DONALD ABBS

APRIL 26 - MAY 2
AMANDA AUGUSTINE (Sp.Int.)

Groceries

Are you a member of our parish who are having some financial difficulties? Then you are welcome to visit **Food for Greater Elgin** to get access to groceries. You are able to shop once a week. Also, if you are over 60, there are specific days and times to shop.



For more information, please visit <http://www.foodforgreaterelgin.org/get-help/>

Bulletin Deadlines

MAY 3RD BULLETIN	MAY 10TH BULLETIN
Materials Due: April 20, 2020	Materials Due: April 27, 2020

Mass Intentions for the Week

If you would like to have a Mass said for someone, call the parish office to schedule. The contribution for reserving the intention of a Mass is \$10.00.

monday APR 20	8:30 am Lauren Rice, Those who have died from the COVID virus
tuesday APR 21	8:30 am Those who are sick and suffering
wednesday APR 22	8:30 am Ann Holtman
thursday APR 23	8:30 am Medical Professionals & First Responders
friday APR 24	8:30 am John Henn
saturday APR 25	5:00 pm Lee Peterson, Clifford Fredericks
sunday APR 26	8:00 am Jennie Saverino, Christine Baczek 10:00 am Victor & Charlene Centanni, Tullio Umlauf 12:00 pm People of STM, Ida & Francis Cox & Ella Chafee

The parish office and all parish gatherings/events/Masses/confessions are cancelled until further notice.

Join our Social Media Community

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION



FLOCKNOTE
 Let's keep in touch!
 Text "stmelgin" to 84576 or visit flocknote.com/stthomasmore37



INSTAGRAM
 Follow us on Instagram to share your faith...through pictures!
[instagram.com/stmcclgin](https://www.instagram.com/stmcclgin)



FACEBOOK
 Like our Facebook page to stay connected to our community!
[facebook.com/StThomasMoreCatholicChurch](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasMoreCatholicChurch)



YOUTUBE
 Subscribe to our YouTube Channel
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)
 Search for **St Thomas More Church**

Please Subscribe HELP US REACH 1000 SUBSCRIBERS!!