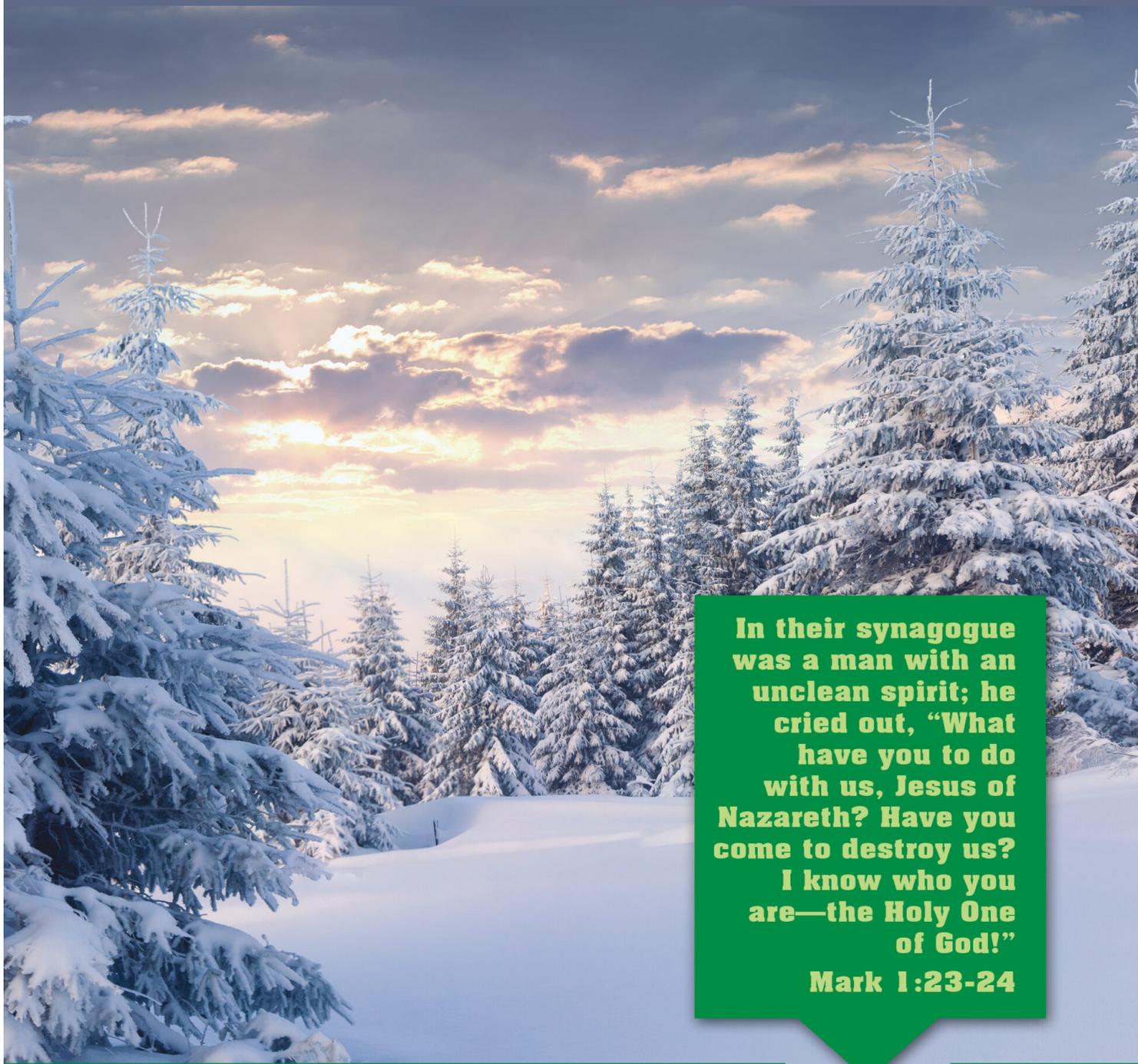


January 31, 2021

St. Thomas More Parish

Troy, Michigan



**In their synagogue
was a man with an
unclean spirit; he
cried out, "What
have you to do
with us, Jesus of
Nazareth? Have you
come to destroy us?
I know who you
are—the Holy One
of God!"**

Mark 1:23-24

4

**ORDINARY
TIME**



A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY

The recent inauguration of our new president, Joseph Biden, gives all of us the opportunity to look at the “state of our Nation” and unite in prayer for the good of our beloved United States. President Biden asked his friend and mentor, Fr. J. Leo O’Donovan, S.J. to lead the prayer at the inaugural ceremony. What follows is that prayer and I hope all of us can recite it in the quiet of our hearts and through our actions help make our country a true beacon of light and hope for its citizens and the world.

INAGURAL PRAYER

Rev. Leo O’Donovan, S.J.

Gracious and merciful God, at this sacred time we come before you in need, indeed on our knees.

But we come still more with hope, and with our eyes raised anew to the vision of a more perfect union in our land—a union of all our citizens to promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

We are a people of many races, creeds, and colors, national backgrounds, cultures, and styles, now far more numerous and our land much vaster than when Archbishop John Carroll wrote his prayer for the inauguration of George Washington 232 years ago.

Archbishop Carroll prayed that you, O Creator of All, would assist with your spirit of ‘holy counsel and fortitude, the president of these United States, that his administration might be conducted in righteousness and be eminently useful to your people.’

Today we confess our past failures to live according to our vision of equality, inclusion, and freedom for all.

Yet we resolutely commit still more now to renewing the vision, to caring for one another in word and deed, especially the least fortunate among us, and so becoming a light for the world.

There is a power in each and every one of us that lives by turning to every other one of us—a thrust of the Spirit to cherish and care and stand by others and above all those most in need. It is called love and its path is to give ever more of itself.

Today it is called American patriotism, born not of power and privilege, but of care for the common good with malice toward none and with charity for all.

For our new president, we beg of you the wisdom Solomon sought when he knelt before you and prayed for an understanding heart so that I can govern your people and know the difference between right and wrong.

We trust in the counsel of the letter of James: “If any of you lacks wisdom you should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault and it will be given to you.”

Pope Francis has reminded us how important it is to dream together. “By ourselves,” he wrote, “we risk seeing mirages, things that are not there. Dreams, on the other hand, are built together.”

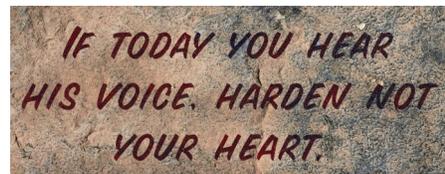
Be with us, Holy Mystery of Love, as we dream together.

Help us under our new president to reconcile the people of our land, restore our dream, and invest it with peace and justice and the joy that is the overflow of love.

To the glory of your name forever. Amen

Have a wonderful week. Stay well and let’s remember each other in prayer.

Msgr. Tom Rice



Readings for the Week of January 31, 2021

Sunday	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28
Monday	Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24; Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Wednesday	Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; Saint Ansgar, Bishop Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a; Mk 6:1-6
Thursday	Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11; Mk 6:7-13
Friday	Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc; Mk 6:14-29
Saturday	Memorial of Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs Heb 13:15-17; 20-21; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mk 6:30-34
Sunday	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

PRAYERS IN OUR PARISH

THIS WEEK'S EUCHARIST INTENTIONS

- Saturday January 30**
 4:30p William Champion—2nd Anniversary
 Tom Rosenbergh
- Sunday January 31**
 8:30a Virginia Gabriel
 11:30a Thomas Aylward—Birthday Remembrance
 Jose' Enrique Quirarte and Reynoso Family
 for his eternal rest
- Wednesday February 3**
 9:00a Richard LaPalm—Special Intention
 Sylvester Surowka—15th Anniversary
- Saturday February 6**
 4:30p Veronica Chick—6th Anniversary (2/5)
 Gail E. Steinhauer-Jensen—2nd Anniversary
- Sunday February 7**
 8:30a Asuncion Andaya Bangas
 Janet Kathleen O'Brien—9th Anniversary
 11:30a Allie Behr—17th Anniversary (2/11)
 John Hascall—Special Intention

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

PRAY FOR THE SICK

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Rosanne Bishop | Tom Lingeman |
| Jim & Maurine Brennan | Janice Malas |
| Bill Budowick | Michael McKay |
| Tom Cavanaugh | Kathy Mills |
| Lauri Dannemiller | Daniel O'Hara |
| Judy DeKeyser | Simona Paul |
| Kathryn DePorre | Jerome Schroeder |
| Nancy Heffernan | Carol Simmons |
| Amanda Koleszar | Joe Sokolowski |
| Dennis Leonowicz | Helen Walczak |

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family of:

- † **Deacon Kevin M. Breen**
- † **Jack McKay**—brother of Don McKay
- † **Msgr. Richard Osebold**
- † **H. Eugene Weiss**—father of Leslie Ward

"Blessed are those who have died in the Lord; Let them rest from their labors for their good deeds go with them."



Presentation of Our Lord February 2

Jesus our Light and salvation is here. He brings with him cleansing, consoling, and communing. He also compels a choice. Choose him now, run to him, he is here and he is calling!



PRAY FOR THE MILITARY



- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Major Matthew Altomari | ENS Julia Jermstad |
| SSgt. Cory Borders | Lt. Christopher Mitek |
| Lt. Andrew Boschert | OS2 Emily Muhlenbeck |
| Major Phil Brule | Airman 1st Class Calen Nido |
| Sgt. Maj. Patrick Corcoran | Senior Airman Grant Pensa |
| Capt. Joel Cortright | LTjg. Bradley Pienta |
| ENS Michael Dwyer | Capt. Nick Pollock |
| Major Charles Evans | Spc. Jack Steinhauer |
| Spc. Evan K. Fowler | Sgt. Kyle Stout |
| 2nd Lt. Theresa Corsentino | Capt. Ben VanHorrick |
| SSgt. Daniel F. Jamison | Lt. Adam Weisgerber |
| M1st Class Megan Jamison | |



Catholic Schools Week Prayer January 31-February 6

God of all creation, we know you care for all of us and desire only what is good for us. Please guide those who make policy decisions and laws that affect all of us, that these decisions will work for the good of the most vulnerable in our society. Help us to have the courage to speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Catholic Schools Week Scripture

1 John 4:19-21. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

IN OUR PARISH



Adult Faith Formation Theology of the Body Study

St. John Paul II uses scripture to teach us how our bodies can make “visible what is invisible: the spiritual and the divine. It has been created to transfer into the visible reality of the world the mystery hidden from

eternity in God, and thus to be a sign of it.” Who should participate? Everyone who has a body! I’ve led this study with mothers and daughters, divorced and single young adults, engaged people, newlyweds, and a couple who has been married for 61 years. If you have any questions or would like to sign up for the study, email josylin@stmoffice.com or call 248-647-4680. Study will begin the week of February 14.



Ash Wednesday

— Lent Begins

February 17

Mass, 9:00 AM



PARISH DIRECTORY

The parish directory is now available in the Social Hall. A limited number of copies were printed so those that completed the original INFORMATION REQUEST FORM and submitted by the deadline, will receive a directory at this time. Any remaining directories will be available after February 22.

2020 Contribution Statements

The parish will NOT be mailing out Contribution Statements this year. If you would like your Contribution Statement you may choose one of the following contact methods to obtain:

- Complete the form below and drop in the offertory box or mail to parish
- Email Lois Sokolowski and request statement – lois@stmoffice.com
- Call the parish office and request statement - 248-647-2222

REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT FOR 2020

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ENVELOPE # (IF KNOWN) _____

PHONE NUMBER (IN CASE OF QUESTIONS) _____

MINISTERS FOR MASS—FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—FEBRUARY 6 & 7, 2021

MASS TIME	4:30 PM Saturday	8:30 AM Sunday	11:30 AM Sunday
CELEBRANT DEACON	Msgr. Tom Rice Don Baross	Msgr. Tom Rice Larry Jeziorski—Acolyte	Fr. Bob Spezia Michael Stach
READER	Phil Kotwick	John Hannigan	Tom Catalano
SERVERS	James Wood	Marcus Lee	Duarte Bobone
USHERS	Jim Hager Cary Sheremet Ernesto Tuazon Jim Ward	John Gielniak Gerry Gostomski Dan Hayden Mike Morrison	Zack Azzam George Halter Marvin Olane Mark Parent Mike Tauscher
MASS COORD.	David Michalak	Larry Jeziorski	Marvin Olane

UNLEASH THE GOSPEL

EVANGELIZATION

Meet the “Family”

By John Hannigan

Beginning July 1st, STM will be part of a *Family of Parishes*. Adopting this model of parish cooperation is in direct response to the call of the Spirit heard at Synod 16 and articulated by Archbishop Vigneron in his letter *Unleash the Gospel*, to bring to all the Good News of the Kingdom of God and make disciples for Jesus Christ. This call to evangelization “must be the driving focus of parish life.” *Families of Parishes* aims to renew parish structures to aid our transformation into a radically missionary diocese.

STM is in the first wave of parish realignment and will become a member of South Oakland Vicariate “Family 3” together with **Sacred Heart of the Hills** (just up Adams Rd. in Auburn Hills), **St. Damien of Molokai** (on Woodward Ave. in Pontiac), and **St. Hugo of the Hills** (on Opdyke Rd. in Bloomfield Hills). This is a partial homecoming of sorts because STM was originally split off from St. Hugo’s.

Our new family will be sharing resources and programs. A Family allows the priests, deacons, religious, lay staff – and parishioners – in each parish to better share their gifts and talents. Here are some of the key leaders of the member parishes:

- Sacred Heart: Fr. Richard Cevalier, pastor; Jack Parent, deacon, and Michael Merlo, pastoral associate.
- St. Damien: Fr. Jacob Van Assche, administrator; Fr. Grayson Heenen, associate pastor.
- St. Hugo: Msgr. Anthony Tocco, pastor; Fr. Dominic Macioce, associate pastor; Sr. Barbara Rund, pastoral associate; and two deacons Michael Smith and Oscar Brown. (Msgr. Tocco announced his retirement a few weeks ago. A replacement has not been named.)
- St. Thomas More: Msgr. Thomas Rice, pastor; Michael Stach, deacon and pastoral associate; and Don Baross, deacon.

Each parish also has one or more priests serving as senior associates and/or weekend assistants.

Much about *Families of Parishes* is yet to be determined (<https://www.familiesofparishes.org/>), such as leadership, organization, operations and lay involvement. It will be exciting! Pray for continuing inspiration from the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Ste. Anne and all our parish patron saints.

Comments/Questions? UnleashSTM@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP

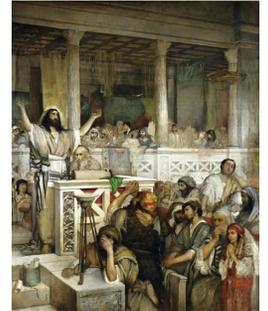
TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our readings today remind us of God’s authority.

As we reflect on our Gospel, we recognize that God possesses all authority and that we want to give Him all authority. Jesus was teaching in the synagogue on the sabbath. All were fixed on His words and astonished at what He had to say. Suddenly everyone’s attention shifted to a man with an unclean spirit who



began to question Jesus and His authority. Jesus responded, “Quiet, come out of him!” and removed the evil spirit from the man. All were amazed at the healing of this man.

Life can sometimes look like the synagogue in Capernaum. We are living as disciples of Christ when we suddenly recognize evil around us — through events in our lives, temptations we are enduring, or by falling into sin. It can distract us, consume our attention, or even cause us to despair. In these moments of trial, we must remember the Healer in our Gospel today. Recall His words, “Quiet, come out of Him!” Jesus has the power and authority over evil, for He has conquered sin and death. He also has the power and authority over us. And when we invite Him to have that authority, He will heal us and help us persevere.

Today, we are reminded that God is in control and that we want Him to be in control. He is the loving Healer that will work miracles in our lives if we give Him the authority to do so.

Sent on Mission: Prayer for Families of Parishes

Father in Heaven, renew your wonders in our time, as though by a New Pentecost.

Holy Spirit, increase your gifts in us to move boldly into Families of Parishes with confidence. Deepen our desire for every person to encounter Jesus anew, grow daily as his disciples and give witness to his love and mercy. This is our mission! And we embrace it anew.

Grant that your Holy Church in Detroit, praying perseveringly and insistently with one mind, together with Mary, the mother of Jesus, and guided by St. Joseph, Ste. Anne and Bl. Solanus Casey, may increase the reign of the Divine Savior, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

St. Thomas More Parish Directory

4580 Adams Rd., Troy, MI 48098

PARISH OFFICES: 248-647-2222

FAX: 248-647-8192

FAITH FORMATION: 248-647-4680

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30 am to 4:00 pm
Closed for lunch 12:30 to 1:00 pm

inquiry@stmoffice.com

www.stthomasmoretroy.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, 4:30 pm

Sunday, 8:30 am and 11:30 am

Wednesday, 9:00 am

Holy Days: 9:00 am and 7:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday at 3:00 pm

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Thomas G. Rice, **Pastor**
248-647-2222 x. 1111

Weekend Mass Assistance

Fr. Robert Spezia

Deacon Don Baross

248-647-2222 x. 8888

dcndonb@stmoffice.com

WORSHIP and CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Deacon Michael Stach, **Pastoral Associate**

248-647-2222 x. 5555

dcnmichael@stmoffice.com

MUSIC MINISTRY

Brian Foos, **Director**

248 -647-2222 x. 4444

bjfoos@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE

Lois Sokolowski, **Business Manager**

248-647-2222 x. 7777

lois@stmoffice.com

Kathy Strong, **Parish Secretary/Bulletin**

248-647-2222 x. 3311

kathy@stmoffice.com

FAITH FORMATION

Josylin Mateus, **Director**

248-647-4680 x.5533

josylin@stmoffice.com

Ella Prendi, **Secretary**

248-647-4680 x.5544

ffsecretary@stmoffice.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

Debbie Knauss, Website and Facebook

stmwebsite@stmoffice.com

MAINTENANCE

Ben Olar

Pete Whiting

248 -647-2222 x. 4422