

September 12, 2021

*St. Thomas More Parish
Troy, Michigan*

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them,
“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me.”

Mr 8:34



REFLECTIONS FROM DEACON DON

Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

I recently had a deck installed on my house. The company that did the work did a great job, but as a tool maker part of me wants a perfect job. I have always worked in close tolerances and my natural instinct is that everyone would do the same. I struggle with some of the small gaps in some of the pieces that fit together but when you look at the overall project it looks great. I have learned over the years that not everyone can make things fit perfectly and have come to surrender my will to that fact.

In our first reading from Isaiah, Isaiah speaks of a surrender when he says, "I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard, my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting." Isaiah knows and has faith that the Lord would comfort him and save him.

In our gospel from Mark, Jesus summons the crowds with his disciples and says to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must pick up his cross and follow me." They have to surrender themselves and follow Jesus. Jesus also speaks of their faith when he says, "Whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it." Their loss of life is to surrender to the will of Jesus.

My old pastor told me that when I have problems in my life to put them at the foot of the Cross and let God take care of them. I was to surrender my troubles to God and it sounded easy. So I went into the chapel to do my Holy Hour in adoration and I placed my problems at the foot of the Cross and sat there in silence. The problem is that I took it back several times during that hour. It was hard to surrender my will to the will of God and let Him have my problems. It reminded me of a song by Rich Mullins called "Hold me Jesus". The line in the song that came to mind was, "Surrender don't come natural to me. I'd rather fight you for something that I don't really want, than to take what you give that I need." It is only when we have faith in God and surrender our lives to Him that He can do His work in us. We need to get out of God's way so He can save us.

God bless, Deacon Don



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

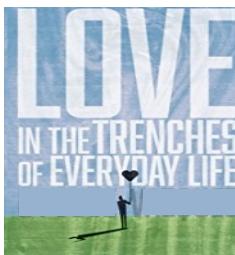
Catechetical Sunday, September 19, 2021



Catechetical Sunday is September 19 – please keep our volunteers in your prayers for a blessed and fruitful year as they give of their time and talent to our Faith Formation Program. This year's theme is "You Can't Give What You Don't Have." We are still in need of the following volunteers for Sundays 7:00 – 8:15 PM: 6th, 7th and 8th grade catechists.

The year will be kicked off with Marian Bart on Sunday, September 26, 7:00 PM – 8:15 PM in the church (see article below). Classes will begin the week of October 3. Please see the website for an updated schedule for the year.

Josylin Fermin Mateus
Director of Faith Formation



Everyone is Welcome to our
Parish Faith Formation Kick-Off!

"Love in the Trenches"
Sunday, September 26, 7:00pm
in the Church

Please join us for our Faith Formation Kick-Off Presentation of simple, meaningful ways to love each other faithfully in the "trenches" of daily life, presented by Marian Bart.

Marian is not new to STM. She has presented at the Women's Advent Tea in the past and has led our RCIA people in retreats. She currently ministers at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament as their Evangelization Coordinator and Media Director. Marian lives in Troy. She and her husband have raised five children; two in college and three out in the work force. Marian has a teaching degree from Penn State and a further diploma from Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit. She loves to make cheesecakes, read good-smelling library books, and encourage others to see themselves the way God sees them.

All are Welcome!

Josylin Fermin Mateus
Director of Faith Formation

PRAYER REQUESTS

THIS WEEK'S EUCHARIST INTENTIONS

Saturday	September 11
4:30p	Hazel and Paul Oades—by Family 20th Anniversary Remembrance of 9/11
Sunday	September 12
8:30a	Marion Debolski Tom Ermiger Jane Williams
11:30a	Peggy DeVos Jim Dunleavy Ron Lepri—6th Anniversary Frank & Miriam Lingeman—Birthday Remembrance
Wednesday	September 15
9:00a	Lottie McPherson—Birthday Remembrance
Saturday	September 18
4:30p	Genevieve Kawam—Birthday Remembrance
Sunday	September 19
8:30a	Nick Marinelli
11:30a	Peggy DeVos Jim Dunleavy John Peteuil—Birthday Remembrance



Congratulations to the new member of God's family, who was welcomed into the Catholic Church through the waters of Baptism on September 5, 2021

† Dylan Christopher Cribari

Son of Anthony and Cheryl (Laudicina) Cribari

May God bless and keep this little one safe in His tender love and mercy.



PRAY FOR THE MILITARY



Major Matthew Altomari	Lt. 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
1st Lt. Michael Ehlen	Sgt. Jack Steinhauer
Major Charles Evans	Sgt. Kyle Stout
2nd Lt. Theresa Corsentino	Capt. Ben VanHerrick
SSgt. Daniel F. Jamison	Lt. Adam Weisgerber
M1st Class Megan Jamison	

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Rosanne Bishop	Christopher Rich
Tom Cavanaugh	Nicholas Rinehart
Gino and Luciana	Donnie Satawa
DiClemente	Joe Sokolowski
Diane Farrar	Deacon Michael Stach
Nancy Heffernan	Diane Thomas
Gregory Mack	Helen VanLoon
Jonathan Medved	Helen Walczak

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family of:

- † Nick Marinelli—husband of the late Joan
- † Deacon George Posavetz
- † Fr. James F. Wiegung
- † Jane Williams—friend of Michael & Teresa Nido

Prayer of Remembrance For 9/11

This date, 9-11, carries a heavy burden of memory.

Lord of Mercy, Prince of Peace,

This day does not pass in the calendar without our remembering. We remember images of death and destruction. Images that human eyes were never meant to see. We remember words our ears were never meant to hear, the tender last words of husbands and wives who would never embrace again.

We imagine the feeling of emptiness in the arms of children who at the end of the day could not find mom or dad for their welcome home hug. We remember our own feelings of emptiness as our sense of security, as our own confidence in the predictable order of life and work was radically shaken.

We remember the heroism of the many that lost their lives in saving others. We remember all those who suffered and died, we grieve for them still, friends and strangers alike, along with their families and friends.

And it is right that it should not pass from our memory. But today and in this prayer, along with our remembrance of profound loss, it also seems right that we give voice to our deep longing for peace, and with this prayer, commit ourselves to those actions that will draw us closer to our most ancient and most holy desire, peace among all God's children.

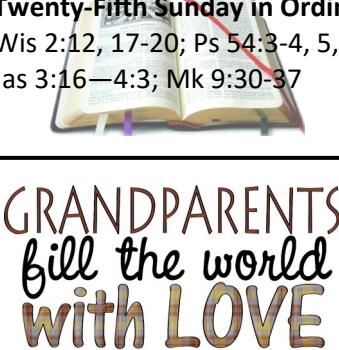
Dona nobis pacem. Amen.



WORSHIP

Readings for the Week of September 12, 2021

Sunday	Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 50:4c-9a; Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35
Monday	Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9; Lk 7:1-10
Tuesday	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
Wednesday	Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
Thursday	Memorial of Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs 1 Tm 4:12-16; Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10; Lk 7:36-50
Friday	Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20; Lk 8:1-3
Saturday	1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Lk 8:4-15
Sunday	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Wis 2:12, 17-20; Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8; Jas 3:16—4:3; Mk 9:30-37



Choir Rehearsals to Begin

With authorization from the Archdiocese, we can, and will begin Adult Choir rehearsals on September 16th at 7:30 PM in the church. Everyone is welcome to join! We will be socially distanced and having fun. Your love for singing is all that you will need to bring. If you have any questions, please let me know at bjfoos@gmail.com.

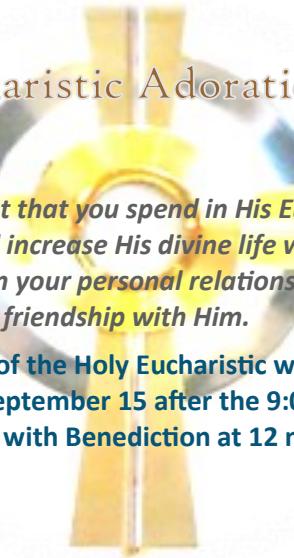
God Bless you,

Brian Foos
Director of Music

Eucharistic Adoration

Each moment that you spend in His Eucharistic Presence will increase His divine life within you and deepen your personal relationship and friendship with Him.

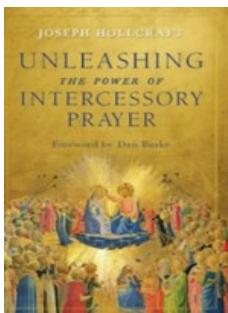
Exposition of the Holy Eucharistic will be on Wednesday, September 15 after the 9:00 am Mass and end with Benediction at 12 noon.



MINISTERS FOR MASS—TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—SEPTEMBER 18 & 19, 2021

MASS TIME	4:30 PM Saturday	8:30 AM Sunday	11:30 AM Sunday
CELEBRANT DEACON	Msgr. Tom Rice Larry Jeziorski, Acolyte	Msgr. Tom Rice Don Baross	Fr. Bob Spezia Michael Stach
READER	NOT FILLED	Bridget Kavanaugh	Keith Knauss
SERVERS	Amy Surowiec	Christine Temple	Matthew Azzam
USHERS	Cary Sheremet Ernesto Tuazon Jim Ward	John Gielniak Gerry Gostomski Dan Hayden Tom Hemak Mike Morrison Frank Sikorski	Zack Azzam Norm Cicone George Halter Marvin Olane Mark Parent Mike Tauscher
MASS COORD.	Cathy Mitchell	David Michalak	Marvin Olane

IN OUR PARISH



AOD Virtual Event

**St. Thomas More Watch Party
Unleashing the Power of
Intercessory Prayer
Morning of Reflection
Saturday, September 18
9:00 to 11:30 AM**

Join us for this virtual gathering as our guest, Joseph Hollcraft, author of *Unleashing the Power of Intercessory Prayer*, shares insight to key steps to boosting your intercessory prayer's power and efficacy. Following, we will also hear about the 5th Good Habit with a talk on the Spirit of Cooperation.

Join STM's Prayer and Intercession Team in Room 2 for a "Watch Party" where we can participate as a group!

For more information contact Mary Ann Hannigan
mhanniga@gmail.com.

Join Us for Lunch!



Fun for Seniors

The parish is beginning our Senior Luncheons again on Thursday, September 23rd at noon. Lunch will be Hot Dogs, Chips, Salad, and Drinks. We will be inviting Seniors from Sacred Heart so we can meet members of our Family of Parishes. Donation is \$5.00

Please RSVP by Monday, September 20th, 248-647-2222.

Book Club

The STM Book Club has had occasional outdoor meetings since 2/20, but now is ready to come indoors to continue this eleven year parish social activity. The September meeting will be Tuesday, 9/21 at 10AM in Room 2. If indoor activities do not resume, and the weather is nice, we will meet in the Reflection Garden. The book this month is a novella in the Romance genre, *Sailing Into the Heart* by Tana Jenkins. It is set in the present day on Mackinac Island. The book is available on Amazon or can be found online on Scribd with a 30-day free trial subscription. Please join us the 21st for the discussion.



Jail Outreach Ministry

With fall and cooler temperatures on the horizon, Oakland County Jail Outreach Ministry is looking to collect new, washable blankets to be distributed to former inmates or their family members in need.

Many inmates call a car or the streets "home" upon their release from jail. A warm blanket and knowing someone cared enough to provide it, can make all the difference to a person in need.

Please consider donating a blanket during the months of September and October. A labeled collection bin will be in the gathering space. The blankets will be delivered to Outreach Ministries as they are collected.

STM has loyal Jail Outreach supporters. Thank you so much for your care and generosity!!!!



St. Thomas More Blood Drive

DONORS NEEDED

to donate Blood on
Wednesday, October 6, 2021
12:00 – 6:00 pm in the Social Hall

Together, we can save a life..... Please volunteer to be a donor at the STM American Red Cross Blood Drive.

To sign-up to be a Donor:

Visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code - **stthomasmore** or sign up on the schedule at the Information Counter. When online, complete the **RAPID PASS** form for quicker registration.

Also, it does not matter when you received, didn't receive a Covid vaccination. You will only be asked which type you received (Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson).

Volunteers are needed to help during the Blood Drive

If you are able to do a 3 hour shift, 12:00-3:00pm or 3:00-6:00pm, for more information, or if you have any questions, please call Chris Reynaert at 248-645-2663 or email chris.reynaert@gmail.com.

UNLEASH THE GOSPEL

EVANGELIZATION

"Get behind Me, Satan"

by John Hannigan

This weekend we remember the 9/11 attacks 20 years ago. Television shows reflect on the terror, the dead, and confusion as the Towers fell and the Pentagon burned, as well as on the courage of those who ran to help or brought down Flight 93. In the days that followed, churches filled and we puzzled through what happened. When I commented then on the evident influence of Satan, a friend rebuked me saying there was no Devil. People did this. But Satan is a real person active in the world and not some abstract evil. We do well to remember that. The poet Baudelaire said "the greatest trick the Devil ever pulled was convincing the world he didn't exist."

During recent travels we'd been hearing the Rolling Stones' song *Sympathy for the Devil* on the radio. The lyrics do not praise the Devil but depict Lucifer boasting what he does: "*for long, long years, stole many a man's soul and faith.*" He brags he "*was 'round when Jesus Christ had his moment of doubt and pain,*" and present at assassinations, wars and the murders of innocents. He turns the world upside down, "*confusing you is just the nature of my game; Just as every cop is a criminal and all the sinners saints.*" A deep truth in the lyrics is that people bear responsibility. Lucifer seems pleased that "*after all it was you and me ... you're to blame.*" Satan tempts and we have the freedom to act or not.

Today's Gospel includes an episode when Jesus confronts Satan (Mark 8:32-33). Peter aims to turn Jesus from the Cross but Peter is confused, tempted to seek his own way and not God's way to our salvation. Jesus knows Satan's work, knows "he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44), and has dealt with his temptations before (Matt 4:1-11; Mark 5:1-13).

When Jesus says, "Get behind Me Satan," He puts Himself between Satan and Peter. Jesus shows that the Cross, His "*moment of doubt and pain,*" is His victory and nothing Satan can brag about. The truth is Satan is defeated by the Death and Resurrection of Christ. Yes, temptation remains and we do fall. In our pride, we stray, go our willful way, whether spectacularly as on 9/11 or in the recesses of our hearts. But in humility, let us pray "thy will be done ... lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Let's keep Jesus in front of us by prayer and the sacraments. He is ready to stand resolutely between us and Satan, waiting for us in the Eucharist and in the confessional. By Christ's strength we can resist the temptations of the Evil One.

Comments/Questions? UnleashSTM@gmail.com

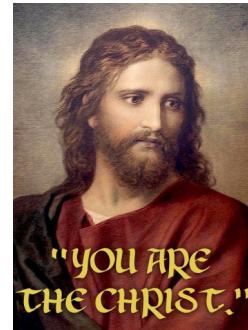
STEWARDSHIP

TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

Stewardship Thoughts

September 11 & 12, 2021

The prophet Isaiah tells us that the Lord God helps us in times of opposition or persecution. In St. Mark's Gospel, Jesus, in teaching His disciples of His own death and Resurrection, professes that we must take up our cross daily and follow Him. He continues and proclaims, *Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the Gospel will save it.* These instructive statements are Christ's requirements for discipleship. St. James gives us a foundation of our Catholic faith: *faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.* Faith and works go together. What a powerful message! As disciples of Jesus, we are called through our Baptism to serve the Church by personalizing Jesus in our lives. Through the gifts of joy and peace that He grants us, we are inspired to give our prayers, service, and generosity back to God in thanksgiving. One way we do this is to serve our less fortunate brothers and sisters. How are we responding to a call to service? Discover your God-given gifts through the *Called and Gifted* program.



Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

Pope Leo XIII wrote this prayer in 1884 to help the Church deal with "spiritual warfare" with Satan. For decades, Catholics recited this prayer at the end of each Mass until discontinued after Vatican II. However, in 1994, Pope St. John Paul II again asked us "to recite it to obtain help in the battle against the forces of darkness and against the spirit of the world." It has become a common part of daily prayer and is again being recited after Mass in some parishes.

*Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our protection against the wickedness and snares
of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray.
And do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the
Divine Power of God, cast into hell, Satan and all
the evil spirits who prowl across the world seeking the
ruin of souls. Amen.*

COMMUNITY NEWS



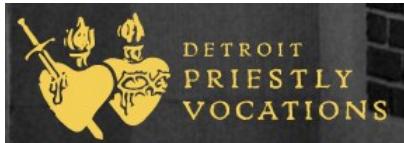
St. Catherine of Siena Academy

JOIN US for our Open House!

**Sunday, September 19 12:00 – 2:00pm
28200 Napier Rd, Wixom, MI 48393**

Deciding on which high school is best for your daughter? St. Catherine of Siena Academy is an all-girls Catholic high school located in Wixom, MI. Our mission is to educate young women to know their feminine genius – their dignity, identity, and gifts as women created in the image of God! Rooted in their identity as daughters of God and formed by our rigorous academic program, our graduates are empowered with the courage to live boldly and bring their unique gifts to the world. Learn more about the athletic, extracurricular, academic, and faith opportunities that await your daughter in the SCA sisterhood by visiting www.saintcatherineacademy.org and registering to attend our upcoming Open House! Registration to Shadow is available online as well!

Register today and be a STAR for a day at SCA!



DISCERNMENT WEEKEND

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

The Archdiocese of Detroit Office of Priestly Vocations offers resources for any young men discerning the priesthood. A Discernment Weekend is a unique experience for men (ages 18-55) who feel a call to the priesthood. Spending four days living at the seminary provides them with a first-hand opportunity to see what it's like from the inside and to discern with like-minded men.

If you know any men who are interested and would like more information, please contact us. Those interested must have a meeting with Fr. Craig Giera, Director of Priestly Vocations, before they are allowed to register.

Our new website has information on applying to seminary, frequently asked questions, and how to get in touch with the vocation director.

**are you called
to priesthood?**

Learn more at www.detroitpriestlyvocations.com

PARISH DIRECTORY

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4580 Adams Rd
Troy, MI 48098

PARISH OFFICES

Main Office: 248-647-2222
Faith Formation Office: 248-647-4680
Fax: 248-647-8192

Hours: Monday - Thursday

9:30 am to 5:00 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

Father Robert Spezia

Deacon Don Baross

248-647-2222 x. 8888 dcndonb@stmoffice.com

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