Saint Thomas More

Catholic Church



November 27, 2016

Liturgy Schedule

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 4:30 PM

Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM

DAILY MASSES: 7:30 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Friday – noon • Saturday - 8:15 AM

DEVOTION

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Monday - 12:01 AM through Saturday 4:00 PM

ROSARY

Daily - 7:00 AM • Friday evening - 7:00 PM

Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Bulletin items are due to the Parish Office by Monday at 4:00 PM. Please email your items to: receptionist@thomasmorespokane.org.

ST. THOMAS MORE

Website: www.thomasmorespokane.org

November 27, 2016

First Sunday of Advent

Parish Staff	
Phone	466-3811
Pastor	
Msgr. Robert Pearson	Ext. 208
rpearson@dioceseofspokane.org	
Parochial Vicar	
Fr. David Kruse	Ext. 204
dkruse@dioceseofspokane.org	
Assisting Priest	Ext. 200
Fr. Robert McNeese	
Parish Deacons	
Deacon Douglas Banks	Ext. 315
dougbanks@thomasmorespokane.org	
Deacon Tom Heavey	Ext. 200
theavey@dioceseofspokane.org	
Parish Staff	
Amy Nelsen, Director of Religious Ed.	Ext. 206
anelsen@dioceseofspokane.org	
Jennifer Siira, Business Manager	Ext. 201
Jsiira@dioceseofspokane.org	
Michelle Beer, Office Assistant	Ext. 200
mbeer@thomasmorespokane.org	
John Oss, Music Director	(H) 939-9919
Traci Loewen, Bulletin Editor	Ext. 200

School Staff		
Phone:	.466-3811	
Deacon Doug Banks, Principal	Ext. 315	
Maureen Durheim, Academic Vice Prin	Ext. 326	
Jim McCollum, Student Affairs, Vice PrinExt	. 322	
Mary Heavey, Secretary	Ext. 313	
Preschool	Ext. 431	

Ministry Contacts			
Pastoral Council Chair	Tim Kassa	467-1862	
Finance Council Chair	Brian Mather	467-4520	
Adoration	Sue Millersmith	467-0671	
Altar Society	Terry Hahn	487-0432	
Baptismal Preparation	Leslie Stachecki	466-4942	
Boy/Cub Scouts	Tom Brasch	342-0944	
Family to Family	Miriam Devaney	466-0740	
Grief Share	Kay Doyle	465-4980	
Helping Hands	Jim Voelker	459-6172	
High School Youth	Luke Manley	703-0139	
Knights of Columbus	Jim Weston	238-3271	
Ministry Coord.	Traci Loewen	466-3811	
Prayer Chain	Mary Bolka	466-0531	
Senior Explorers	Linda Zollinger	467-4843	
St. Elizabeth's	Sue Huss	466-2010	
St. Martha's	Lane Klees	939-5059	
St. Vincent de Paul	Loretta Thompson	466-2331	
Ushers	Steve Tiarks	344-9289	
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Here's what's happening at St. Thomas More this week:

Monday

28:

Tuesday

29: Rosary Makers, 1:00 PM

Wednesday

30: School Mass, 9 AM

Catholic Scripture Study, 9 AM & 6:30 PM

Game Day, Noon

Jr. High Youth Group, 7:00 PM

Sacramental Prep, 6:30 PM

Thursday

1: Catholic Scripture Study, 1:00 PM

Friday

2: Teacher In-Service Day, No School

Saturday

3: Mass 7:30 AM, 4:30 PM Confessions 8:15 AM SVDP District Council

Sunday

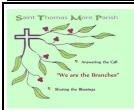
4: Mass 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM Second Sunday of Advent Giving Tree Gifts Due today

If you have questions about anything going on at St. Thomas More, call the Parish Office.

Pastoral Council		
Tim Kassa, Chair	467-1862	
Bill Abt	467-7585	
Tom Brasch	838-7092	
Suzy Donovan	466-6032	
Kay Doyle	465-4980	
Sue Huss	466-2010	
Inga Weber	467-5986	
Karen Kraft	465-1980	
Kevin Kuttner	465-3021	
Kirk Niblock	370-4340	
Al Pry	466-5951	
Marilyn Richards	467-0128	
Art Schmidt	466-8874	

Finance Council			
Brian Mather, Chair	467-4520		
Rick Bacon	466-0870		
Dan Loewen	466-5789		
Paul Machtolf	467-7396		
Ann Reyes	466-2781		
Tim Thomas	466-4849		

Hearing assistance is available during liturgies at FM 89.1



We are the Branches

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But, when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily

and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given.

Sharing the Blessings...

Income	Budget—YTD	Received—YTD
Envelopes & Plates	\$253,780.00	\$227,568.00
Needed Weekly:	12,239.00	
Received 11/20:	8,937.00	
Mailed in:	3,358.00	
Auto Withdrawal:	50.00	
Total Received:	\$12,345.00	

Parish Council Minutes November 9, 2016

Pastor's Comments: Monsignor Pearson informed us that he likes to make decisions based on the input of the people. He takes all comments into consideration. It is important to him to know what the parishioners think.

Council members were asked to respond to two questions: What do you feel are the positive aspects of our parish? What do you feel we need to improve? Several different concepts were mentioned, including the possibility of having a parish mission.

Renewal Campaign: A lot has already been done. The roof has been replaced. The carpet down the aisles and most of the area, except under the pews, will be in place before Christmas. Then the sound system will be updated. Monsignor has asked Vince DeFelice to do the new tabernacle first, followed by the Stations of the Cross. Everything won't be completed until Easter of 2018. The campaign didn't reach the full amount needed to take care of the rectory loan. We are locked in to the 7 percent interest on the house loan. There is still money coming in however.

<u>Budget</u>: The Council reviewed the parish budget which had already been approved by the Finance Council.

<u>Membership</u>: The Pastoral Council membership was also reviewed in preparation for changes in membership next year.

Attention Ministers of the Altar: We will be making the new serving schedule soon. This schedule will run from January 8 until April 9. Please email the office with any requests you may have by December 11. Please email to: receptionist@thomasmorespokane.org Also, we will be putting up the signup sheet for servers for the holiday season in a few weeks. Please stop by and sign up to serve at a time that is convenient for you. Thank you.

Answering the Call...



- Adoration & Divine Mercy, volunteer one hour a week in the chapel, contact Sue Millersmith, 467-0671
- <u>St. Martha's</u>, provide a salad or dessert for funeral lunches, help set up and serve, contact Lane Klees, 939-5059
- Altar Society, help with church cleaning, fun social activities, and fundraisers for the church, contact Terri Hahn, 487-0432
- <u>St. Vincent de Paul</u>, make home visits to deliver food and offer assistance, contact Loretta Thompson, 466-2331
- <u>Family to Family</u>, an outreach program to the indigenous people living in remote communities of Guatemala. Call Miriam Devaney at 466-0740.
- St. Elizabeth's, ministers communion to the hospitalized and homebound each week. Call Sue Huss at 466-2010
- Helping Hands Ministry, helps elderly with household chores and repairs, Call Jim Voelker thru Catholic Charities at (509) 459-6172

To learn more about our parish's ministries and to hear testimonials from some of our parishioners about their experiences, watch the videos of our ministries at http://tinyurl.com/ministries-stm.

HICHERC	/CDEETEDC		NOVEMBER
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Saturday	4:30 P.M.	Kenneth La Grandeur and Jim Chatfield
Sunday	7:30 A.M.	Irene Kershinar & Marc Feldscher
	9:00 A.M.	Steve Tiarks & Cliff Frana
	11:00 A.M.	John Hoffman & Sons

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS & LECTORS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

Saturday, December 3:

Sacristan: Mary Bolka

4:30 PM Brian Mather, Linda & Rick Bacon, Jerome Simmer, Sue Trautman, Doris Doyle, Suzanne Donovan

Lector: Jeremy Zener

Sunday, December 4:

Sacristan: Jack Louie

7:30 AM Linda Fitgerald, Barb Goold, Patricia Moller, Kathy Ossello,

Suzanne Abbott, Frank & Kathy Vedelago

Lector: Greg Smith

9:00 AM Sacristan: Dan Loewen

Art Schmidt, Sherry & Ken Oakland, Patricia Wood, Paul

Machtolf, Fran McDonald, Martin Weber

Lector: Pat Michels

11:00 AM Sacristan: Dan Loewen

Timothy Palmer, Ursula Jochim, Cindy & John Omlin, Ann

Hart, Grant Becherini, Marie Smith

Lector: Christine Johnson

7:00 PM Sacristan: Roger DeShaw

Connie Darnell, Neil Anderson, Daniel Reis

Lector: Chaundra Ward

Altar Servers for Next Weekend:

Saturday, December 3:

4:30 PM Reagan Louie, Alexa Grace Mather, Megan Alber

Sunday, December 4:

7:30 AM Keng Xiong & Kehea Figueira

9:00 AM Katelyn & Nathan Doan, Jack Penders

11:00 AM Michael Parlang, Jacob Mark, Madona Dean, Sofia Mark **7:00 PM** Alexander Neyman, Bryten Gunke, Lilly Mena

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

For information in this section, please contact Amy Nelsen at 466-3811, ext. 206



Children's Liturgy of the Word Children's Liturgy of the Word meets on Sundays during the 9:00 & 11:00 AM Mass to provide the children on opportunity to hear the Gospel in a language they can understand. Each

Sunday we will talk about the Gospel with children preschool to 5th Grade. The discussions will be extended to teaching on the sacraments, moral decision making, and prayer. If you haven't registered, contact the Parish Office. Class dates: 12/4 & 12/11. Christmas Program is 12/18 at 10:15 AM.

Sacramental Prep:

Confirmation and First Communion for second graders has been changed to Saturday, May 13 at the 10 AM Mass. Sacramental Prep classes are all on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM: November 30, January 25, February 22, March 29, April 26

YOUTH NEWS

For information on our youth groups, contact Amy Nelsen at 466-3811, ext. 206



Junior High/Middle School

(Grades 6, 7, & 8):

MINISTRY

Calling All Superheroes!

Learning about This season we will be learning about the Holy Spirit and how HE helps us use our superhero gifts! Final meeting of 2016 and Christmas Party: December 14.





Northside Catholic High School Youth Group

(St. Charles, STM, & Assumption)

Assumption Parish from 7:00 to 8:30 PM For questions please contact Fr. Kruse at dkruse@dioceseofspokane.org. Questions? Contact Athena at 360-927-2001



Whether you have been attending Mass regularly with your family, or are newly exploring Catholicism, we welcome you! If you were baptized in another denomination, have never been baptized, or were baptized Catholic as an infant but not raised Catholic, the Christian Initiation Process may be for you. Call the Parish Office if interested.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Baskets

Last weekend, the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Thomas More Parish delivered Thanksgiving Day Food baskets to 62 families in our community. These deliveries provided a Thanksgiving dinner for 201 people, including 82 children. May God bless all of our parish families who helped us in different ways including making food and "spare change" donations, purchasing turkeys, preparing the food baskets on Friday, and those who gave up their Saturday morning to make the Thanksgiving basket deliveries.

You have been very generous in responding to our food request for our Christmas Baskets. Thank you! If you would like to donate a ham, you may drop it off at the Parish Office between 8 AM to 4 PM. We will be making Christmas deliveries on Saturday morning, December 10 at 9 AM. We welcome all who would like to help us deliver!

One or two of each, please:

- Jell-O Mix
- Canned Cranberries
- Fruit Cocktail
- Canned Corn

- Canned Peas
- Marshmallows
- Canned Yams
- Salad Dressing
- Box of Snack Crackers





Knight's Corner

Knight of the Month Roger Devaney

Officer's Meeting: First Tuesday of the Month General Meeting: Third Tuesday of the month 6:00 PM, Dinner

6:30 PM, Meeting

Dinner for November: Cheeseburger **Mark Your Calendars:**

Knights Christmas Dinner

December 3. 6:00 PM Social 7:00 PM Dinner \$30 per person if you pay before

Dec. 3 \$35 at the door

Choice of chicken, salmon, or prime rib—or all 3!



GAME DAY

Join us every Wednesday at noon in the Library for Game Day. This is a great way for you to get out of the house and meet some new people! We are always in need of new bridge and pinochle players! We also play other card and board games. Lunch is not served, so plan accordingly. Please join us!

Planning a Wedding?

To schedule an appointment for marriage preparation, please contact a parish priest at least six months in advance of setting a date.

Advertiser of the Week: Hair Etc.

Because of their generosity, our bulletin is printed free of charge. Check out their ad on the back of the bulletin.

Thank you to all of our loyal parishioners and businesses who have THANK YOU advertised on the back of our bulletin this year. Because of their generosity, we have been able to have our bulletin printed for FREE and in COLOR! Please take the time to



look over the list of businesses on the back of the bulletin and thank them for their support to our Parish by supporting their business. Also, if you would like to advertise your company or business, please call Sheila Miller at 1-800-616-4138.

"Put His Will in Your Will!" Clause for Christian Will

I give, devise, and bequeath to St. Thomas More Catholic Parish-Spokane, a Washington non-profit corporation (description of gift).

Coffee and Donuts

Join your fellow parishioners for coffee and donuts today following Mass. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for hosting this weekend!

Flock Notes Sunday This Weekend!

If you haven't signed up for this important communication feature, today is the day! If you were unable to sign up during Mass, simply follow these instructions:

- Text: StThomasMore to 84576 from your phone and follow prompts.
- Be sure to check the "Parishioner" box, along with any ministry group that you are involved.

Don't miss out on receiving important messages, last minute time changes, weather closures, or times of social and church events. It's easy, free, and a great way for you to stay in touch with your parish!

Attention St. Martha's

You are invited to attend a luncheon on December 1 at noon. This luncheon is hosted by Catholic Funeral Cemetery Services.

Attention Parishioners: Medicare Open Enrollment

If you want to change your Medicare Advantage or Medicare Part D plan, you have until December 7. If you have questions you can go to the Aging & Long Term Care Office at 1222 N. Post Street on any Tuesday through December 6 from 9 AM until 4 PM. You will be helped on a first come first served basis. Or visit www.altcew.org.

Senior Explorers! On the road again.... Per your requests,

we are off to the beautiful Bavarian village of Leavenworth!

January 11-12, 2017

Sign-up the weekend of Dec. 3/4 Don't miss out on another fun adventure!

Attention Parishioners:

Sorry...But your priests do not have access to the list of Catholics at any of our hospitals. Federal guidelines known as HIPAA prohibit access...so the only way we know that you are hospitalized is if you let us know. Please call the parish office and leave the information when you are entering any of the hospitals for treatment.

NEWS and HAPPENINGS FROM AROUND TOWN

- St. Charles Nativity Fair, 11/25, 26, & 27, Exhibits of over 1,000 Nativities from around the world.
- Silent Day of Advent Prayer, , 12/1, 9 AM-3PM, Bishop Thomas Daly, IHRC, Call
- **Weekend Advent Retreat for Men** and Women "Traveling through Advent with the Quiet Strength of Jo**seph**, 12/2-4, IHRC, Call 448-1224
- Catholic Charities Christmas Bureau, 12/8-17, Spokane Fair and Expo Center
- Retrouvaille Weekend Retreat, 2/10-12/27, Get help for your troubled marriage, visit

The Knights are missing their cash drawer. If you borrowed it, please return it to Dick ASAP.



We Need Ushers!

Help with greeting sher parishioners, seating them during

Mass, taking up collection, and other duties to help with the flow of Mass. This is a great ministry for couples or families. You can serve at the Mass of your preference. Call Steve at 344-9289.

**** Altar Society Raffle

Congratulations to the following winners of our raffle:

Maggie Frein-winner of gift card tree

Beth Martens-winner of wine basket

Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket or helped with the raffle. We appreciate your support!

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Please pray for those who are ill in our Parish and for those who are dying or who have died. Never doubt the power of prayer! If you would like to add someone to our prayer chain, call Mary at 466-0531 or Pat at 466-3163.

Mass Intentions

Attention Parishioners: We are now doing Mass Intentions at the weekend Masses. The name of the person for whom the Mass is offered will not be read during the Mass but will be remembered as the Mass Intention.

Novemb 1	<u>er 28:</u>	
7:30	A.M.	Charlie & Colleen Thomas
7:30	A.M.	Jean Keiffer
7:30	A.M.	Joseph Pham
7:30	A.M.	Lewis Oriard
7:30	A.M.	Elizabeth McConnell
7:30	A.M.	Robert Abell
4:30	P.M.	Ed Parkes
7:30	A.M.	Special Intetion
9:00	A.M.	Ed Tyllia
11:00	A.M.	Our Parishioners
7:00	P.M	Sprovieri Family
	7:30 7:30 7:30 7:30 7:30 7:30 4:30 7:30 9:00 11:00	7:30 A.M. 7:30 A.M. 7:30 A.M. 7:30 A.M. 7:30 A.M. 7:30 A.M. 4:30 P.M. 7:30 A.M. 9:00 A.M.

<u>November</u>

- 27: Isaiah 2:1-4; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44
- 28: Isaiah 4:2-6; Matthew 8:5-11
- 29: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24
- 30: Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22
- Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 1:
- Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31
- Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 3:
- Isaiah 11:1~10; Romans 15:4~9, Matthew 3:1~12

Family Holy Hour, Tuesdays, 7:00 PM, STM Chapel

You are invited to join us in praying for ourselves, our families, or friends. We pray the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Eucharistic songs before the Blessed Sacrament for all prayer petitions people have requested in our prayer petition book, the parish prayer chains, or those that are placed in the Tuesday night prayer petition basket.

ADORATION

We need substitutes for all hours. Substitutes are invaluable to our ministry to keep Perpetual Adoration running 24-hours a day. Please call and add your name to the list for a time convenient for your schedule. You will be a blessing to others and at the same time, you will be blessed abundantly.



We are in need of the following hours: Mondays 1:30 AM to 3:00 AM Thursdays 2:00 AM to 3:00 AM; 3:00 AM to 4:00 AM; 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM Saturdays: Noon to 1:00 PM

Call Sue Millersmith at 467-0671 if you can help.

Vatican Guidelines on Cremation

According to guidelines from the Vatican's doctrinal office, cremated remains should be kept in a "sacred place" such as a church cemetery.

Ashes should not be divided up between family members, "nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry or other objects." The church has allowed cremation for decades, but the guidelines make clear that the Vatican is concerned that the practice often involves "erroneous ideas about death." Those ideas run the gauntlet from deeply nihilistic to New Age-y, the Vatican says, from the belief that death is the definitive end of life to the notion that our bodies fuse with nature or enter another cycle of rebirth. So, in a sense, the Vatican's guidelines on cremation aren't really about cremation. The church's true targets are modern societies' increasingly secular notions about the afterlife and the trivialization of dead bodies making the departed into mementos for the living instead of temples made in the image and likeness of God. As cremation has become more popular—nearly half of Americans said they were at least "somewhat likely" to choose cremation—the Vatican, like other religious institutions, has struggled to keep pace with the trend. Catholic funeral rites should not be denied to those who had asked to be cremated, the church said. But in recent years, "new ideas" contrary to the Catholic faith have become widespread, the Vatican said. Pantheism (worship of nature), naturalism (the idea that all truths are derived from nature, not religion) and nihilism (a deep skepticism about all received truths) are particularly problematic. If cremation is chosen for any of those reasons, the deceased should not receive a Catholic burial. In the U.S., cremations have taken on a highly personalized and commercial aspect. Practices such as scattering ashes under a favorite tree, or scattered over bodies of water, etc. have become increasingly more popular. Such practices are sacrilegious, the Vatican says. Catholicism teaches that all people will be resurrected—both body and soul—at the end of days. Cremation does not "prevent God, in his omnipotence, from raising up the deceased body to new life," the Vatican says, but it does raise the possibility that the deceased's body, which the church believes is sacred, will not be properly respected by ancestors and relatives. "By burying the bodies of the faithful, the church confirms her faith in the resurrection of the body, and intends to show the great dignity of the human body as an integral part of the human person whose body forms part of their identity", the guidelines state. Burial, the church says, is the best way to demonstrate "esteem" for the deceased, and cremains can only be kept at home with

special permission from the Bishop.

Life and Family Issues:

Every marriage matters, because every marriage comes from the hand of God. God brings a man and a woman together to love and support each other. Their love becomes visible in their treatment of each other and in their acts of generous service.

MARRIAGE TIP: Make a little sacrifice for your spouse today—giving up your cell phone for the evening, choosing not to complain throughout the day, etc.

FEATURED ARTICLE: Try a 5-Point Tune Up for Your Marriage: http://www.foryourmarriage.org/try-a-five-point-tune-up-for-

Help for Pornography Issues: www.integrityrestored.com

• Help for Families with Same Sex Attraction Issues: www.couragerc.org

•Help for Hurting Marriages:

Retrouvaille: http://www.retrouvaille.org/

The Third Option: http://www.thethirdoption.com/

Natural Family Planning (NFP) Classes: 474-2400, Natural_Family_Plann@providence.org

Crisis Pregnancy Resources: 1-800-395-HELP

• Post Abortion Healing: Project Rachel, www.hopeafterabortion.com, 888-456-HOPE

• From Pope Francis: "The spirituality of family love is made up of thousands of small but real gestures."





Upcoming Events December:

Friday, December 2: Teacher In-Service Day, No School

Thursday, December 8: School Mass Immaculate Conception, 9 AM

Saturday, December 10: 8th Grade Chinese Dinner

Tuesday, December 13: Pre-School Christmas Program, 7 PM

Wednesday, December 14: School Penance Service, Grades 3-8, 9 AM

Thursday, December 15: Christmas Program, 7 PM

Friday, December 16, School Mass, 9 AM December 17-Jan 8: Christmas Break

Mark your Calendars:

December 5, noon to 6PM

Blood Mobile



Help save someone's life by donating blood, and help our school earn money for our CSTEM program. Must have 30 donations to qualify.

8th Grade Labor Force: Our 8th Graders are all eagerly trying to earn money for their trip to Washington, D. C. next spring! Call them if you need baby sitting, yard work, or other needs around your house. Call April Boharski at 262-0291 or 230-4945. Her email is boweb@msn.com.

St. Thomas More Preschool: Call Jennifer at 466-3811, x 201.

For questions about our school, call Deacon Doug Banks at 466-3811, ext. 315.



STM Giving Tree

Our Annual Giving Tree is up and decorated. Please stop by the tree after Mass and take a tag or two to help someone less fortunate in our neighborhood. Please return your <a href="https://www.weapped.com/wrapp

important that your gifts are returned on time so that the committee can sort and distribute the gifts on time. Thank you, as always, to all of you for supporting this awesome ministry.