

December 3, 2023
First
Sunday of Advent



WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 6:00 p.m.
Sunday
8:30 a.m.;
10:30 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

December 4 - 8

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
5:15 p.m.

Thursday 5:30 p.m. Vigil

Friday
Immaculate Conception
Kanley Chapel (WMU) - 12:10 p.m.
St. Tom's - 12:10 p.m.
St. Tom's - 5:30 p.m.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday and Sunday
5:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

STUDENT HOLY HOUR

Thursday 6:30-7:30 p.m.

HOLY HOUR

Friday 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC STUDENT PARISH

421 Monroe Street, Kalamazoo, MI

Parish Office is located at 1333 W. Lovell Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49006

Phone: 269-381-8917 Fax 269-381-0195

email: sttoms@sttomskazoo.org website: www.sttomskazoo.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Fr. Paul Redmond | ext. 264
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frpaul@sttomskazoo.org

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Parish Secretary
Safe Environment Coordinator
narcia@sttomskazoo.org

Deacon Frank Sila, Retired
frank.sila@sttomskazoo.org

Michael Zutis
Director of Music Ministry
zututriot@gmail.com

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT — We, the people of St. Thomas More Parish, gifted and led by the Holy Spirit, are called to build up the kingdom of God among the college communities of Kalamazoo. Diverse, yet one, we are called to be the Body of Christ, to praise and worship our Heavenly Father, to proclaim God's Word, to love and serve others, especially the poor and neglected. We welcome all into our parish family who wish to share in this mission.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of December 3

Sunday	Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37
Monday	Is 2: 1-5; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday	Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday	Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday	Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1; 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Saturday	Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday	Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8



Children's Mass Nativity Procession December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

Will YOU come and fill our stable?
Children in Pre-school thru Grade 4
4 Saturday Rehearsals

December 2, 9, 16, 23, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

SIGN-UP SHEET IN THE NARTHEX

Questions? Contact Judi Pike: mystyjp1414@yahoo.com or
Narcia Schultz-Acker: narcia@sttomskazoo.org

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

6:00 p.m. †Alphonse Berard by friend

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 — First Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. People of the parish

10:30 a.m. †Jean Homola by Jim & Barbara Gilbert

6:00 p.m. †Ernest Bedard by Deidre & Doug Smith

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4 — St. John Damascene

5:15 p.m. John Sommerfeldt (living) Jim & Mary Grace

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5 — Advent Weekday

5:15 p.m. †Helen Kemper by Mary Anne Munley

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 — St. Nicholas

5:15 p.m. †Rosalie Skocajski by June Edgar

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 — St. Ambrose

5:30 p.m. John Gaikwad (living) by Erica Fernandes
Vigil

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 — The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
at Kanley Chapel

12:10 p.m. Students and staff

at St. Tom's

12:10 p.m. †Patricia Bedard by Deidre Smith

5:30 p.m. †Jean Homola by Joe & Jan Haase

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 — St. Juan Diego Cuauhtiatotzin

6:00 p.m. †Hank Darragh by Jim & Mary Grace

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 — Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Barb Davis ((living) by Annette Maccardini

10:30 a.m. †Jan & Maria Josephine van den Homhmergh
by family

6:00 p.m. Bev Stokes (living) by Annette Maccardini

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

BAPTISM

Parents and godparents are expected to participate in a class before the celebration of this sacrament.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Couples planning to marry within the next year need to attend a marriage prep meeting.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR BOTH CLASSES

To register or for more information call the parish office at
269-381-8917 or email sttoms@sttomskazoo.org

RCIA/OCIA

For those in the RCIA/OCIA process, we are still in the stage of Inquiry. During this time of prayer and discernment we discuss the questions that our inquirers have about The Catholic Faith as they decide whether this is the right path for them. Over the years, you may have heard things about the Catholic Church, that may or may not be accurate. You may also want to join us to find out what the Church teaches or to deepen your relationship with God.

We will be meeting Sunday December 3
in the Cougar Room at 7 PM to discuss
The Church as an Institution and The People of God.

Contact Fr. Paul (frpaul@sttomskazoo.org)

or

Claire McSwiney (claire.mcswiney@att.net)

for information about the RCIA process.

FATHER PAUL'S POST

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The above is the first reading we hear from the Prophet Isaiah. It is a desperate prayer for God to come and save His people. It is considered to be one of the most sublime prayers in Scripture. The people of God were suffering and they knew it was because of their own pride/rebellion. They recognize it and ask for God's help and forgiveness. It is a good prayer for us as well as we start this Advent Season! This season, ask God to open our hearts to prepare for His coming!



"You, LORD, are our father,
our redeemer you are named forever.
Why do you let us wander, O LORD,
from your ways, and harden our hearts
so that we fear you not?
Return for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your heritage.....
Yet, O LORD, you are our father;
we are the clay and you the potter;
we are all the work of your hands."

Isaiah 63: 16-17; 64: 2-7

There are many ways to prepare our heart for His coming! There are several reflection booklets for daily meditation; I would invite you to spend some quiet time with the Lord in our Adoration chapel or keeping a Sacred Space at home: there are also several penance services that many of the area churches will be hosting! Ask the Lord how you are to prepare this Season for Christmas! May God bless you all!

Peace,

FR. Paul

HERE AT ST. TOM'S

SUNDAY SUPPER SIGN-UP SCHEDULE
Is now available for next semester.
January 14 is the first supper.


Thank you to everyone who has prepared meals, served and cleaned-up this semester. It is greatly appreciated by all! The last supper this semester is December 10

SUNDAY SUPPER AT ST. THOMAS MORE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10,

will be hosted by the Knights of Columbus Council at St. Mary's (Kalamazoo). The brothers of Council 9962 are looking forward to meeting the young men of the parish and Western Michigan University communities and to help them reactivate Council 16628 started here circa 2015. All (not just the guys) are welcome to join us and get to know the K of C and inquire of the things we do for our community, families, schools, and Church.

REACH, STRETCH, RELAX

Join us for group chair exercise class that targets balance, flexibility, range of movement and breathing. The class meets every Wednesday 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Cougar Room. This class is appropriate for "every body". Contact Matt Barretta at 343-7857 or 548-6837 for more information.

YOGA

Experience the benefits of yoga every Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00-11:00 am in the Cougar Room. Reduce stress, improve awareness, posture, strength, balance and flexibility. Uniting body, mind and spirit with instructor Gena Pezzoli. Bring a yoga mat if you have one. Suggested donation of \$10 to help our Feminine Care Product Ministry.

TOILET PAPER MINISTRY

Toilet paper donations for those in need. The back door of the office garage is open Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 PM or bring to church When you come to mass.

FOAM RECYCLING — Foam accepted at the parish garage only. Either inside the garage or in the large brown bin outside the door. Please make sure all foam is clean and free of food.

BLOOD DRIVE — Our next blood drive is Thursday, January 4. https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/156399

NOVEMBER 2023 SUNDAY COLLECTION

Target for November	56,604
11/5	13,957
11/12	9,181
11/19	11,202
11/26	8,078
Electronic gifts for November	22,634
Total gifts to date for November	65,052

COLLEGE STUDENT NEWS


BACCALAUREATE MASS:

Are you graduating this semester? We would like to honor our graduates by hosting a baccalaureate Mass and reception for you and your family and friends on Friday, December 15 at 7:30 PM. If you are interested, please email lisa@sttomskazoo.org with your name, photo, degree/program, and number of guests by or before Monday, December 11. Please also indicate if you would like to have a role in the Mass—reading, sharing your St. Tom's experience, music ministry, or something else. Dress code: You can wear your cap and gown/dress up or whatever you would typically wear to Mass.


MORE AT MIDWEEK

is Wednesday at 7 PM. This week will be the last one until the fall, and we will be celebrating the end of the semester with Karaoke and Just Dance!

STUDENT HOLY HOUR

Come for an hour of silent prayer, beginning and ending with a couple of traditional songs and prayers. Bring some spiritual reading, a prayer, journal, your a rosary, or anything else that helps you to connect with the Lord during this time. Come for the whole hour or 5 minutes in the Worship Space at St. Tom's on Thursdays 6-7 PM. Confession is normally available.

FIRST AND SECOND FRIDAY MASSES ON WMU'S CAMPUS:

Join Fr. Paul for Mass at 12:10 PM at Kanley Chapel every first and second Friday of the month through the academic year. The last one for the semester is December 8.

SUNDAY SUPPERS:

Sunday Suppers are a homemade meal hosted by our parishioners for college students in the Social Hall after the 6:00 PM Mass. Entree, salad, drinks, and desserts are served. The last two suppers until January are Dec 3 and 10.

SUNDAY SHUTTLE:

Are you a college student who would like a ride to a Sunday Mass? If so, please contact Lisa at lisa@sttomskazoo.org to ride the Sunday Shuttle or be paired with another student driving into Mass.

SOCIALS:

Follow us on Instagram @KalamazooCatholic or sign up for our weekly email or GroupMe to get info on new events first. Email Lisa@sttomskazoo.org to subscribe to our weekly email. Our GroupMe texting group can be found here: https://groupme.com/join_group/89335085/4QjZw0gk

"I was in prison and you visited me" Few people are able to visit people who are incarcerated.

A local group "COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY" with the support of the Diocesan Jail Ministry outreach is offering you an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the inmates in the local jail. We invite you to donate new Christmas cards and stamps (please keep separate) which will be given to inmates to send to family and friends. Please return your contribution by December 10th. For more information contact Sr. Mary Pung, CSJ at 269-313-6510. Drop in the box located in the narthex.

ADVENT

Projects 2023 Reaching Out To Those In Need



COMMUNITY HOMEWORKS Kalamazoo MI

Community Homeworks has been serving the Kalamazoo community since 2009. Their mission is to empower homeowners to maintain safe, sustainable and dignified homes. This is done in two main ways: First, the team at CHW provides critical home repairs at no cost to income-eligible homeowners. For instance, when a furnace malfunctions or there is a leaky pipe that causes significant damage, their team of skilled professionals respond with expertise and compassion; second, CHW hosts weekly workshops so that homeowners can learn basic skills related to routine maintenance. This means participants can learn how to change a furnace filter, fix a torn screen window, maintain a lawn mower, etc.



Securing and maintaining a home, according to research, is the number one social determinant to the overall health in a family. Community Homeworks mitigates costly barriers so that homeowners can reach their full potential. In essence, Community Homeworks is dedicated to helping people stay safely in their homes when life gets tough. In this way, they address equity within our neighborhoods as they empower families to build generational well-being.

The need for their programs is growing. In fact, in 2023, year-to-date data reveals a 22% increase in demand over last year. Any donation will be used for their critical home repair program which will be very busy during the cold winter months when heat is so necessary.

San Salvador

Parish of María Madre de los Pobres

ROMERO CENTER

At our sister parish, one small but special project is the day-center for senior citizens. Despite the country's constitutional requirement to care for the needs of vulnerable older persons, there are few resources dedicated to their needs. If families do not care for them, they are left to their own resources, usually living alone or on the streets, relying on the charity of others to give them a meal. For the past nine years, the parish has run a day-center for seniors on a shoestring budget, even selling handicrafts made by the seniors to provide some financial support. The center includes rooms to listen to music, watch TV, or sit and chat.



We are again adopting the Center as one of our Advent projects. The budget for the center pays for a daily meal and snack, handicraft supplies, the overhead costs to the parish of the building itself, and salaries for its two staff members.



ECUMENICAL SENIOR CENTER

Kalamazoo, MI

Mission Statement: To provide a broad spectrum of services, resources, and activities to enhance the quality of the lives of older citizens.

The ESC is seeking financial support for our capital building expansion project so we can continue to provide quality programs and services to seniors living in and around the City of Kalamazoo. The project will include the renovation of our current building located at 702 N. Burdick Street in Kalamazoo and the addition of up to 10,000 square feet of new construction attached to the current building out the back parking lot.

New construction will include an upgraded kitchen that will allow ESC to nearly double the number of people to be served in a sit-down meal setting. Also included will be the addition of two handicapped accessible restrooms, improved storage and drop off area for donations, and a distribution area for food, household items and other supplies. An atrium will welcome guests in a brightly lit area with views to the upper level and the ground level garden patio. Moveable walls will allow the larger public area to be expanded into the atrium to accommodate larger gatherings.

The second floor will consist of a large multi-purpose space that can accommodate a wide range of activities and fitness programs and will include an exercise wall. A dedicated game room with pool table and fitness area for stationary exercise equipment and a self-serve beverage area will be available to our seniors. In addition to the administrative office spaces, ESC has planned a community office whereas local service providers can meet privately with clients and offer a variety of much needed services to include case management, dental, medical, mental health, etc. Also included are two additional handicapped accessible bathrooms with a soaking tub and a separate shower for emergencies, washer and dryer and storage for distribution of emergency supplies for clients.

ESC wants to thank St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish for their continued support and trust. We take pride in being a long-standing organization that provides quality programs that meet the needs of seniors in this community. We know that we could not do our important work without your support.



Conceptual Model Renderings

Your donations to these projects may be turned in to St. Tom's in the attached envelope. Donations will be accepted throughout the Advent and Christmas season.



OPEN DOORS Kalamazoo

Open Doors helps homeless individuals & families become self-supporting. They have a growing number of households in their residence and our parish families will bring Christmas to them by providing presents for the children and parents. Open Doors deeply appreciates St. Tom's participation in The Giving Tree.

You are invited to take a gift tag from the tree in our narthex .

THIS YEAR WE ASK THAT WRAPPED GIFTS WITH TAGS ATTACHED
BE RETURNED TO THE CHURCH ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Friday, December 15 - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Weekend Masses December 16 and 17

Monday, December 18 - 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Please call the parish office by Monday, December 11 if you are unable to return on the above dates to arrange for drop-off



KALAMAZOO AREA ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Priests in the Kalamazoo area parishes are working together during the Advent season to offer a schedule that meets the needs and convenience of many people. Rather than every parish having its own service and trying to find priests to assist at each one, we are going to offer eight services throughout the area, and priests will be available at the end of each service for individual confessions.

ST. AUGUSTINE CATHEDRAL
542 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo
Sunday, December 3 - 3:00 p.m.

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA
1150 W. Centre, Portage
Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 p.m.

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS
5855 East W Avenue, Vicksburg
Sunday, December 10 - 3:00 p.m.



ST. THOMAS MORE
421 Monroe Street, Kalamazoo
Monday, December 11 - 6:30 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH
936 Lake Street, Kalamazoo
Wednesday, December 13 - 6:00 p.m.

ST. MONICA
534 W. Kilgore Road
Thursday, December 14 - 6:00 p.m.

ST. AMBROSE
1628 East "G" Avenue, Parchment
Tuesday, December 19 - 6:00 p.m.

PRIVATE RECONCILIATION AT ST. TOM'S

Every Wednesday 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 23 — 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 24 — 8:30 a.m.

Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24 - Christmas Eve (Sunday)

5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Vigil Mass
(Church doors open at 4:00 p.m.)

7:30 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass

10:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass

December 25 - Christmas Day (Monday)

10:00 a.m. Christmas Mass

6:00 p.m. Christmas Evening Mass



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of St. Joseph**are currently inviting lay individuals to live
with them in their residential complex at
2929 Nazareth Road in Kalamazoo.Assisted living apartments
are currently available.For a tour contact Tammy Nelson,
Marketing Director (269) 381-6290
or tnelson@csjoseph.orgwww.csjinitiatives.org/kalamazoo**Joldersma & Klein Funeral Home**269-343-2628
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