

St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish

421 Monroe Street, Kalamazoo

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE January 15 - 19

Monday thru Thursday 5:15 p.m. Friday at Kanley Chapel, WMU 12:10 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE:

No 5:15 p.m. Mass on Fridays at St. Tom's this semester

RECONCILIATION

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

STUDENT HOLY HOUR

Thursday 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

HOLY HOUR

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

Parish Office located at 1333 W. Lovell Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49006 Phone: 269-381-8917 Fax 269-381-0195 sttoms@sttomskazoo.org 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 Pastor frpaul@sttomskazoo.org

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Martha Reid | ext. 266 Bookkeeper martha@sttomskazoo.org deacon joe schmitt | ext. 274 Marriage & Baptism Prep. jhschmitt@charter.net

Narcia Schultz-Acker | ext. 261 Parish Secretary Safe Environment Coordinator narcia@sttomskazoo.org

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

Michael Zutis Director of Music Ministry zutzutriot@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.

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.ora

RCIA/OCIA

This weekend we celebrate the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome at the 10:30 AM Mass. In the Rite of Acceptance, those who are unbaptized move one step closer to the sacraments of initiation and are now Catechumens. Our brothers and sisters that have been baptized in other denominations celebrate the Rite of Welcome and are now Candidates. Please pray for our Catechumens and Candidates as they make this key step in their spiritual journeys:

| CATECHUMENS | CANDIDATES | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Lauren Morrey | Russ McRoy | Josiah Brace |
| Meadow Millard | Niki Millard | Jeff Rudel |
| Seth Millard | | |

There will not be a discussion this Sunday, January 14, at night. Contact Fr. Paul (frpaul@sttomskazoo.org) or Claire McSwiney (claire.mcswiney@att.net) for information about the RCIA process.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 — St. Hilary

6:00 p.m. Liesel Krone (living) by Jane Krone

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 — Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. † Mary Murdock (living) by Annette Maccardini

10:30 a.m. People of the Parish

6:00 p.m. †Patricia Bedard by Deidre Smith

MONDAY, JANUARY 15 — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

5:15 p.m. †David Dale by Diana Godish

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

5:15 p.m. **†**Lois Christ by Deidre Smith

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17 — Saint Anthony, Abbot

5:15 p.m. Pauline Bambrick (living) by George Hebben

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

5:15 p.m. †Rene Adrian by wife Joan

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

at Kanley Chapel

12:10 p.m. Vocations

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 — St. Fabian; St. Sebastian 6:00 p.m. Jennifer Krone (living) by Jane Krone

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 — Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. †Carolyn Safina grandmother of Michael Zutis 10:30 a.m. †Mary Ann Homrich mother of Sue Henshaw

6:00 p.m. † Mike Pawlowski by Nancy Vader

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of January

Sunday 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10;

1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

Monday 1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23;

Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday 1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28; Mk 2:23-28 **Wednesday** 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10;

Mk 3:1-6

Thursday 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7;

Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13; Mk 3:7-12

Friday 1 Sm 24:3-21; Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11; Mk 3:13-19 **Saturday** 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Ps 80:2-3, 5-7;

Mk 3:20-21

Sunday Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31;

Mk 1:14-20

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE — Jesus' question in today's gospel is still valid today: "What are you looking for?" What do you want from your spouse, children or parents? Families are populated with imperfect people. To expect perfection is unreal. To expect and accept imperfection is wisdom.

FATHER PAUL'S POST

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we start the Ordinary Time cycle in our faith, the Gospel this week is from John. One of the themes we hear is that

Jesus is the Lamb of God! What does this mean for us today? What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus, "The Lamb of God?"





years ago, he wrote that "It means putting innocence in the place of malice, love in the place of force, humility in the place of pride, service in the place of prestige. It is good work!"

The word "lamb" appears in several places in the New Testament. It almost always refers to Jesus. The lamb is not an oppressor, but is docile; a lamb is not aggressive, but peaceful. This is how Jesus is! He is like a lamb! This is a good image and reminder of who Jesus is and how we are to grow in our faith as we start this new year! Please take care and stay safe!

Peace,

se, fr, faul

JANUARY 2024 SUNDAY COLLECTION

 Target for January
 56,604

 1/7
 2,724

 1/14
 2,724

',' '

1/21

1/28

Electronic gifts for January 11,291
Total gifts to date for January 14,015

Skalamazoo Catholic

COLLEGE STUDENT NEWS

MORE AT MIDWEEK

Join us at 7PM to hear a talk from Jim Herm on Emmett Till in honor of MLK day this week. Pizza and pop in the Cougar Room starting at 7:00 PM, presentation from 7:30-9:00 PM. Praise and

worship will be back January 31!

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.

FRIDAY MASS AT KANLEY CHAPEL

This semester Fr. Paul will be offering Mass at Kanley Chapel every Friday! Mass will be at 12:10 PM in Kanley Chapel (located by WMU's Student Center).

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.

SMALL GROUP/BIBLE STUDY

Our small groups bring college students together in an intimate setting to share life, pray with and for each other, and learn together about the teachings of Christ and how we live them on campus, among our friends and families. These are student led and it costs nothing but your time and willingness to build these authentic friendships. They are about an hour a week for typically 6 sessions. Sign up using this link and a leader will reach out to you soon: https://forms.gle/fn1hnTgVZTq5838Z6

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL KEYCARD

Did you know you can get 24/7 prayer access with keycard to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel? Get direct access in and out of outside door near the main doors to the church. The paper application for the card is available in the rotating info stands in Narthex. Submit to the parish office or put in collection basket.

KVCC STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Calling all KVCC students! We are working with interested students to get a Catholic student organization officially approved on KVCC's campus. If you are interested in being put on the list for details about our big kickoff event in January or February, please email <u>Lisa@sttomskazoo.org</u> to get details.

SPRING COLLEGE STUDENT RETREAT

Save the date now to retreat with other college students to Pretty Lake Camp in Mattawan, MI the weekend of February 23-25. More details about sign up, cost, and theme will be available soon. We will offer a 50% discount to students who register with the parish (Full page pink form)!

SUNDAY SHUTTLE

Are you a college student who would like a ride to a Sunday Mass? If so, 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/89335085/4QiZw0gK

HERE AT ST. TOM'S

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.

SUNDAY SUPPER SIGN-UP SCHEDULE IN THE NARTHEX

If you are interested in preparing a meal, helping set-up, serve or clean-up check the schedule in the narthex. If you have questions about Sunday Suppers email michele@sttomskazoo.org or call her at the parish office, 269-381-8917, ext. 273

WOMENS SOCIAL GROUP

Our next Women's Social Group meeting will be Monday, January 15, at 2:00 pm in the Cougar Room. This month we will plan our agendas for the next several months. Please join us and meet other women of our parish.



During the month of January we will hold a Coat Drive for St. Vincent De-Paul on Elenore Street, Kalamazoo. Items needed are: Warm NEW OR GENTLY USED CLEAN WINTER COATS for

men, women and children (size 4 and up), Warm MITTENS AND GLOVES. Please bring only the items requested.

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. Reach, Stretch,

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.

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC STUDENT PARISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES — DECEMBER 5, 2023

PRESENT: Christine Berro, Lowell Rinker, Glen Roehrig, Nancy Neumann, Tony Dugal, Mark Krinock, Tom Redmond, Nadine Deak, Fr. Paul, from student ministry team – Erin May & Allison Judge.

Fr. Paul opened the meeting with a prayer.

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT:

Lowell reports that the parish's first quarter this year is comparable to last year and we are in "good shape". Discussion the focused on the lack of donations to the Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA). Only 31% of the parish is presently donating to the BAA. Right now, the parish is collecting on old pledges until Easter. At the present time the parish has a reserve to cover the shortfall from donations; but it is uncertain what would happen if the parish did not have any reserve funds. The diocese determines how much the parish will donate and if the money is not directly given by the parishioners, then the difference is made up with parish finances. We would like to see at least 50% of the parish donating. The council feels that it would help if parishioners knew how their annual funding of this appeal was utilized in the diocese. Fr. Paul will be sending out a letter to all parish households regarding the BAA.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

PARISH ATTENDANCE: The number of attendees at Mass continues to increase. In 2020 (Covid), weekend attendance was 180 in person (many were on live streaming); in 2021 attendance was 445, in 2022 it was 545 and now in 2023 it is 620. Prior to Covid, the average was greater than 700. We believe our welcoming atmosphere and the religious education program contribute to our increasing numbers.

NEW PART TIME STAFF MEMBER: Elizabeth Emmert has been hired to help in the office on a part-time basis. Her husband is a grad student at WMU. More help was needed in the office as we now have 85 students in the religious education program, which Narcia manages.

STATUS ON APARTMENT RENOVATIONS: Apartments 1, 2, 3, & 4 are finished. Number 5 is soon to be completed and work on number 6 is ongoing. Work on these two should be completed by early next year. The cost of the renovations has been advantageous to the parish. All appliances were purchased at cost and the parish paid for labor only. The Romero Room was refurbished using the funds of an insurance claim. This room is utilized by students. The student ministry council members stated that the students want this to be a place to hang out. There will be a key card entry for students utilizing this room starting in the spring.

EXPANSION OF THE HORNET ROOM: Construction will probably start on the expansion of the Hornet Room in January or February. The room will be extended into the Narthex up to the pillar where the St. Thomas More portrait is located. Right now, the room is much too small to be utilized. There are still a few approvals to obtain from the diocese but this will not be a problem.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: The program is going well; we have 85 students in attendance. Approximately 7-10 families have now registered as parishioners because of their children being in the program.

CAMPUS MINISTRY: The fall retreat was a success. There were 23 students in attendance which is the highest number since Covid. More at Midweek has recently had a slump in attendance because there were a few weeks when other events happened at the parish on that night. There is really good attendance at the Sunday Student Suppers. Lisa will be going on maternity leave soon, so they are working on getting another driver for Sunday Supper. Bishop Lohse recently came to celebrate Mass and have supper with the students.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: The prospect of installing stations of the cross in the worship area was discussed. There will be an attempt to locate the stations that had been in the old worship space. They are thought to possibly be in storage at St. Augustine. Fr. Paul will check. The policy adopted at the time of the construction of the present worship space is to solicit bids from local artists which are reviewed by the Parish Art Committee. Members of the committee will be notified of this request.

GOALS FOR THE YEAR: In an attempt to continue religious education past the sacrament of Confirmation, it is proposed that St. Tom's partner with St. Ambrose to start a youth group. This may be difficult with students in high school occupied with lots of other activities. One of the items of importance that came up at the Synod on Synodality is the need for continuing education for all Catholics. Different approaches to disseminating information were discussed. Having learning sessions with different speakers was one approach. Another would be to solicit questions from parishioners to be answered weekly in the bulletin. The latter approach will be tried out.

Fr. Paul closed the meeting with a prayer.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE AREA

Once in a Blue Moon Garage Sale Friday, March 15, and Saturday, March 16, 2024

Make a difference in your diocese AND community! Did you know that the Once in a Blue Moon Garage Sale for St. Augustine Cathedral School accepts donations many times per year in preparation for the **HUGE** sale in March?

We accept most items in <u>clean and good condition:</u>

ESPECIALLY NEEDED:

Furniture, baby items (but no cribs please), appliances, housewares

Please wait to bring furniture/large items the week of the sale

We **DO NOT** accept:

Sleeper sofas, large exercise equipment, tube TVs, mattresses, or personal pillows No baby cribs, car seats, filing cabinets, or hazardous materials (paint, cleaners, etc.)

Donation drop-off date:

Saturday, January 20 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Additional drop off dates will be added, stay tuned!

Donations will be accepted at the rear of the Crowley Center next to the school. Donations are tax deductible and receipts are available. Questions? Call the school at 349-1945

THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

Come Holy Spirit!

will be hosting the annual Men's Cursillo Weekend, February 22-25, 2024, at the Amigo Center in Sturgis, MI. This is a great opportunity for all Catholics to Spiritually Re-



new our Faith. The weekend is geared to those over 18 years of age. Come, and encounter Christ! For questions about Cursillo, the retreat, or any of the activities below contact Angela Martin, 269-208-5192

DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO CURSILLO - UPCOMING EVENTS

February 4 - Please join us at the Ultreva, praying with the #77 Men's Team as they prepare for their upcoming weekend. This Ultreya will be held at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Three Rivers, 4:00-6:00 pm

February 22-25 Men's #77 Weekend - Prayers throughout the weekend welcome

March 17 - Ultreya, Location to be determined - We are looking at a St. Patrick's Day Theme

April 13 or 14 - Ultreya, Location to be determined October 17-20, 2024 - Next Women's Weekend

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

This gathering for adults with cognitive/developmental disabilities is a time of fellowship, activities and reflection on the Sunday readings and a simple dinner. We will gather on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 6:00 - 7:30p.m in the Fellowship Room in the Stanley Centre at St. Catherine of Siena, 1150 W. Centre St., Portage. All are welcome! Upcoming gatherings are Jan. 24, Feb. 28, Mar. 27, and Apr. 24. Contact Lisa Irwin, <u>lisairwin@ccdok.org</u> or 381-9800 x227 to RSVP or for more information.

9 DAYS FOR LIFE

You're invited to join thousands of Catholics nationwide in prayer for the protection of human life during a special novena called 9 Days for Life. Visit **9daysforlife.com** to sign up to receive daily prayers from January 16th through the 24th.

from the St. Tom's Team & Staff



to everyone for the holiday treats, visits to the office, and the cards and letters. Also to those who helped with decorating the church for Advent and Christmas.

We appreciate you!



24/7 ACCESS TO ST. TOM'S **BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL**

The chapel can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by a personal access card that can be issued to interested parishioners. The coded card merely needs to be flashed within

inches of the proximity reader and the chapel door will be electronically unlocked. Interested parishioners need to apply for their personal access card. The application will be reviewed by the Pastoral Team for approval. Please note: that if it is past open hours for the church, one would not have access to restrooms or public telephone. All pray-ers are encouraged to bring their own cell phones for emergency calling. As a security measure, there is a video camera in the chapel. The camera is not actively monitored by anyone, but a recording can be accessed the next day if anything is noticed amiss. Our Blessed Sacrament Chapel is a wonderful environment to share one's concerns, hopes and fears in the presence of our living Lord. A \$5.00 refundable deposit is required.

THANK YOU

to all who donated blood last week we exceeded our goal of 27 with 29 donations. Our next drive is Thursday, April 4. Register to donate at the link below.

https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/ drive_schedule/157389

The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBAR) has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. To make a report, visit ReportBishopAbuse.org or phone (800) 276-1562. When a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential.

John D. Bradshaw, P.C.

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We will take care of all the paperwork moving the vehicle!

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www.csjinitiatives.org/kalamazoo



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