



WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday
6:00 p.m.

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Week of December 2
Monday thru Thursday
5:15 p.m.

Friday
12:10 p.m.
Kanley Chapel, WMU

HOLY HOUR

Wednesday
8:00 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

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

Saturday & Sunday
5:00 - 5:30 p.m.

STUDENT HOLY HOUR

Thursday
6:00 p.m.

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC STUDENT PARISH

421 Monroe Street, Kalamazoo, MI

Parish Office located at 1333 W. Lovell Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49006
email: sttoms@sttomskazoo.org 269-381-8917 website: www.sttomskazoo.org

Parish Office Hours:

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

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Michael Zutis
Director of Music Ministry
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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.org

OCIA—ADULT INITIATION GATHERINGS

Inquirers, adults who are interested in becoming Catholic or finishing their Sacraments of Initiation, have been gathering on Sundays for the past few months. To date, some topics that we have explored include the persons of the Trinity and the Trinity as a whole, Prayer, Church Structure, Saints and saints. We invite anyone that has an interest in our OCIA meetings to contact us for information.

Please note that we will not be gathering on December 1, due to the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

All are welcome to any of our gatherings. Our next meeting will be December 8 at 4:00 PM in the Cougar Room.

Contact Fr. Paul (frpaul@sttomskazoo.org) or

Claire McSwiney (claire.mcswiney@att.net)

for handouts ahead of each Sunday gathering.



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 — St. Andrew

6:00 p.m. †Walter Bazali by Bazali-Walter family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 — First Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. People of the parish

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

6:00 p.m. †Maureen Sullivan by Judy Sullivan

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2 — Advent Weekday

5:15 p.m. †Deceased Sisters of St. Joseph

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 — St. Francis Xavier

5:15 p.m. †Austin Leigh

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 — St. John Damascene

5:15 p.m. Bishop Edward M. Lohse

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 — Advent Weekday

5:15 p.m. Students preparing for exams

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 — St. Nicholas

12:10 p.m. †Esther Landauer by McNally family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 — St. Ambrose

6:00 p.m. †John Sommerfeldt by Jim & Mary Grace

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 — Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Debra & Timothy Gleeson by Linda LaPrad

10:30 a.m. †Alphonse Berard by Rose Chaivre

6:00 p.m. People of the parish

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14; 1 Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

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 Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6



Advent Penance Service

here at St. Tom's
Monday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m.

A POST FROM FR. PAUL

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

First Sunday of Advent

Hello and happy season of Advent! Our faith makes its preparations starting today for the birth of our Savior!



However, this season is not just the celebration of Jesus' birth. We are also preparing for the day when He comes again to bring us into His kingdom! Advent tells us that Christ is coming. It also asks us if we are ready to meet Him? How do we get ready?

The Gospel from Luke today gives us insight: "Be vigilant at all times and pray...." What a wonderful suggestion! There are many opportunities to spend some time with the Lord this Advent season.

Please don't forget about the Advent books for daily reflections! See if you can plan to attend a daily Mass one time a week. If you can't attend here at the 5:15 Mass, there are several churches that offer morning Mass! We have the Adoration chapel and two times a week we offer a Holy Hour. Feel free to spend the hour or just a few minutes in the presence of the Lord! Don't forget about the Advent Penance Service. Our will be this Monday, Tuesday, December 02 at 6:30 pm! Saying we are sorry for any wrongs we have committed is a wonderful thing to give to the Lord!

I hope you can find one way to draw closer to the Lord during this Advent season as we inch closer to Christmas! May this time fill you with the peace and joy of Christ.

Sincerely, *Fr. Paul*



SOLOMON TURKSON

I was born in Ghana into a Christian home with my father being a Catholic and my mother being an Anglican. From childhood I was exposed to both churches however I loved the Catholic church and the community surrounding my dad's home church and I chose to be a Catholic. I was privileged to receive a Catholic education in High School and it instilled in me great discipline and good moral character which has lived with me from my young life till today. After my first degree and four years of working in Ghana, I decided to pursue a graduate degree in Hispanic Studies to fortify my Spanish knowledge and develop a good understanding of the world.



Immediately I got into Kalamazoo in December 2022 I searched for the nearest Catholic church and found St. Thomas Catholic Church and it has been my home church in the USA ever since. I can affirm that the order of mass is the same with the same liturgy of the word and liturgy of the Eucharist and we observe the same religious practices and faith. There is a deacon and also some Catechists similar to St Thomas. However there are more mass servers during Sunday service, One of my biggest shocks however was the fact that Easter Friday and Easter Monday was not declared as a national holiday as it happens in Ghana. Also Sunday worship in Ghana lasts approximately two hours compared to one in St. Thomas. There are more choristers and instrumentalists and most of the songs during worship are danceable making the worship entertaining. I would like to add that I am yet to witness a marital sacrament but it is quite common in St. Francis of Assisi Ghana with at least one each month. Due to the multicultural and multilingual environment in Ghana, the local Ghanaian languages is infused into the mass. Also the laity in Ghana is a very youthful one compared to an adult and older population here at St Thomas.

I will like to add that I really love to fellowship at St. Thomas Catholic Church and I appreciate the reception and the sense of belonging I have received from the church. Also I love Sunday student suppers and I am very grateful for that too.

HERE AT ST. TOM'S

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.

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.

TOILET PAPER MINISTRY

We collect toilet paper year around for those in need. You may drop it off at church when you attend Mass or bring to the office at 1333 W. Lovell St., (corner of Monroe & Lovell Streets) during our normal business hours (see bulletin cover for parish office hours).

BLOOD DRIVES

Mark your calendars for our 2025 Blood Drives:
January 9; April 10; June 12; September 4; December 4

"I was in prison and you visited me." Not everyone is able to visit people in jail.

The Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo Prison and Jail Ministry is offering you an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of inmates. We invite you to donate

NEW CHRISTMAS CARDS IN STAMPED BUT UNSEALED ENVELOPES

for inmates to send to family and friends. Please provide these by December 8th.

SIMPLY PLACE THE CARDS - IN STAMPED BUT UNSEALED ENVELOPES INTO THE DROP BOX IN THE NARTHEX.

For more information contact Tom Lucking at 269-598-3608.



NOVEMBER 2024 SUNDAY COLLECTION	
Target for November	58,491
11/3	15,145
11/10	10,945
11/17	8,804
11/24	16,133
Electronic gifts for November	22,952
Total gifts to date for November	73,979

THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL is a heartbreaking play adapted for the stage by Hackett Catholic Prep senior Amanda Piel. It tells the story of a poor, impoverished young girl who struggles to sell matches on a cold, snowy New Year's Eve. Barefoot and with tattered clothing, she is unable to find warmth or shelter. Desperate, she begins lighting her matchsticks to keep warm, and with each match that she strikes, she experiences vivid, comforting visions. At its core, *The Little Match Girl* is a poignant commentary on poverty, loneliness, and the contrast between the harshness of reality and the warmth of hope and imagination.

The Little Match Girl will be preformed in the Hackett Catholic Prep Auditorium December 12, 13, and 14 at 7:00p.m. and a matinee performance on December 14 at 2:00 p.m.

2024 ADVENT PROJECTS

reaching out to those in need

COMMUNITY HOMEWORKS

Kalamazoo MI

www.communityhomeworks.org/

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 **three** 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; third, CHW just launched a tool lending library so participants can borrow the tools needed for simple home repairs.



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 2024, year-to-date data reveals a 27% 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.



OPEN SCHOOL

Maria Madre de los Pobres
El Salvador

This is a project for prevention of youth violence through academic, recreational and productive

workshops that promote identity and strengthen life skills, fostering a culture of peace, promoting human development always taking into account the development of leadership in girls, boys and adolescents from the communities surrounding the María Madre de los Pobres parish.

OBJECTIVES:

- To promote in 20 young people human and Christian formation, critical awareness and peaceful actions to confront their conflicts
- Contribute to improving the academic performance of 20 young people through the creation of a homework club
- To boost creativity, skills and abilities in 20 young people by developing fun and productive workshops for one year



ROMERO DAY CENTER

Maria Madre de los Pobres
El Salvador

It is a space in the Parish of Maria Madre de los Pobres where adults over the age of 65 and those with a disability who are in a situation of extreme poverty

and at social risk are provided food, health care, and space to be productive. The general objective is to contribute to a better quality of life for older adults from a biopsychosocial approach promoting dignified, healthy and active aging.

OBJECTIVES:

- Provide food assistance to 25 people over 65 years of age, people with disabilities and socially abandoned
- Provide basic and emergency medical care to 25 adults over 65 years of age, people with disabilities and socially abandoned
- Promote independence through workshops that stimulate cognitive, motor and social abilities of participants

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.

COLLEGE STUDENT NEWS


THE ROMERO ROOM is available 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Monday-Saturday for students to hang out and study.

There are areas to work, lounge, and cook--featuring a TV and full kitchen with snacks and hot and cold drinks. The Romero Room is on the bottom floor of the brick building next to the church. Park in the main church lot, walk up the hill to 409 Monroe St., swipe your keycard at the front door, go down the stairs, and turn to the left. **NEED A KEYCARD? Look for the blue application form** located on the table inside the entry of the church or ask in the parish office.


WITH FINALS WEEK APPROACHING, ST. TOM'S WILL BE OFFERING STUDY HOURS IN THE ROMERO ROOM.

Request keycard access now to have a quiet place to study now and all next semester. There's plenty of snacks & drinks to keep you going through the final push for the semester.

WMU & KVCC - CARE PACKAGES

After all the Masses next weekend, December 7/8 there will be care packages out for WMU & KVCC students. We hope the end of your semester goes well!

SUNDAY SUPPERS

is a homemade meal hosted by our parishioners for college students in the Social Hall after the 6:00 PM Mass. Entrees, salads, drinks, and desserts are served. Drawings every Sunday for a chance to win a \$25 gift card for Starbucks or Walmart.


ARE YOU A COLLEGE STUDENT WHO WOULD LIKE A RIDE TO SUNDAY MASS?

to get on the list for the Sunday Shuttle. Contact Wyatt at wyattcupp02@gmail.com

YOUNG ADULT WOMEN

looking to start the New Year refreshed in faith? Discuss and learn about our feminine genius through the writings of Saint John Paul II and our amazing fertility through FEMM. This 1-day retreat is designed for unmarried young adult women (young professionals, students, engaged, or dating women are all welcomed!). Check-in in the Cougar Room on Saturday, January 11 at 9:30 AM. The retreat will end around 8:00 PM and includes Vigil Mass as well as an opportunity for adoration and confession. \$35 includes materials and meals. Limited to 20 participants, so be sure to save your spot soon. Sign up here: [New Eve Retreat Registration](#)

HOLY HOUR

with Eucharistic adoration and confession in the Worship Space at St. Tom's on Thursdays from 6-7 PM. Life is rarely quiet, but it's quiet here. Listen to Jesus speak to your heart.

JOIN FR. PAUL FOR MASS AT 12:10 PM

on campus at Kanley Chapel every Friday during the academic year.


MORE AT MIDWEEK

Join us this Wednesday, we're spreading holiday cheer by visiting a senior center! Join us as we deliver Christmas cards and cookies, spend time with the residents, and share the joy of the season. Wear your favorite festive attire—whether it's red and green, merry Christmas clothes, or an ugly sweater—and help make the season bright!

KVCC STUDENTS!

We are active on the Texas Township campus as a new club this year—Kalamazoo Catholic at KVCC—Fr. Paul and Wyatt are on campus 11:00-1:00 on Tuesdays in room 1030 near the cafeteria with snacks to break open and discuss Scripture. Stop in to check it out.

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 Student

ARE YOU GRADUATING THIS SEMESTER?

We would like to honor our (almost) graduates by hosting a baccalaureate Mass and reception for you and your family and friends on Friday, December 13 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 9**. Please also indicate if you would like to have a role in Mass — reading, sharing your St. Tom's experience, music ministry, bringing up the gifts, or something else. Dress code: You can wear your cap and gown/dress up or whatever you would typically wear to Mass.

