



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.

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 9

Monday thru Thursday
5:15 p.m.

BACCALAUREATE MASS

Friday, December 13
7:30 p.m.

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.

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

Pete Chadderdon | ext. 234
Maintenance Manager
pete@sttomskazoo.org

Michele Cretsinger | ext. 273
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Marriage & Baptism Prep.
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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
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.

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Congratulations to
Colter Brooks Lombard

son of Trevor and Monica

who was baptized on Sunday, November 24, 2024

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

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 — St. Ambrose

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 — 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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 — Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

5:15 p.m. † Lorraine Seegmiller by Conni DiPiero

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 — Our Lady of Loreto

5:15 p.m. † Norma Dunham by McNally family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11 — St. Damasus 1

5:15 p.m. Josh Krone (living) by Jane Krone

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12 — Our Lady of Guadalupe

5:15 p.m. † deceased members of the Dembczynski family by Patty Anderson

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 — St. Lucy

Baccalaureate Mass

7:30 p.m. Graduating College Students

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 — St. John of the Cross

6:00 p.m. † Jennifer Worthams by Dave & Niki Worthams

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 — Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. People of the parish

10:30 a.m. † Rene Adrian by Joan Adrian

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

Monday Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Friday Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

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 Trinity, Prayer, Church Structure, Saints and saints, The Synod on Synodality, and Catholic Social Teaching. We invite anyone that has an interest in our OCIA meetings to contact us for information.

We will be meeting Sunday December 8 at 4 PM in the Cougar Room to discuss questions that you may have about Catholicism and to learn about the Incarnation, why God wants to be with each one of us.

All are welcome to any of our gatherings. Contact Fr. Paul (frpaul@sttomskazoo.org) or Claire McSwiney (claire.mcswiney@att.net) for handouts ahead of the Sunday gather-



A POST FROM FR. PAUL

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

What do you see in the drawing above? Some see a young woman; some see an old woman? It's easy to see something and have a different view!



Baruch, in the first reading, is speaking to God's people during the upheaval of the Babylonian exile. The prophet tells them God is ready to bring the exiles back home. It will be a glorious event. During his time, the people had lost hope that Jerusalem would ever be rebuilt. The prophet saw beyond their present captivity to a glorious future.

In our own time, there are many things that can depress us if we dwell on them all. From world events, to social/moral climate we live in, or even person sufferings/worries. Sometimes we need help to see beyond our present woes. We need hope. We need someone who is a prophet who can tell us spring will soon be here!

This is one of the goals of the readings this Sunday! This is what Jesus' birth is telling us. This is what the Eucharist is telling us. It's also telling us that we need to prepare. We have to prepare the way of the Lord! We do that with prayer, the sacraments and hope!

I hope you have a blessed day! Please take care!

Peace, *Fr. Paul*

Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Eve

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

7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Mass

Wednesday, December 25
Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Mass

HERE AT ST. TOM'S



Our next Women's Social group will meet on Monday, Dec 16th at 2 pm in the Social Hall. We will be celebrating Christmas with games (with a few small prizes), a small \$5 gift exchange (participation not mandatory) and Christmas treats. Please join us to meet other women of the parish.

SUNDAY SUPPER SIGN-UP BOOK IN THE NARTHEX

Supper is served after 6:00 pm Sunday Mass for College Students. Meals are prepared by parishioners. If you are interested the schedule for next semester is out now. Questions: email michele@sttomskazoo.org or call 269-381-8917, ext. 273 for more details.

BLOOD DRIVES

Mark your calendars for our 2025 Blood Drives:
January 9; April 10; June 12; September 4; December 4
Register to donate on January 9 at the link below.
<https://donateblood.versiti.org/coordinator/drives/view/11596825>

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).

2025 CALENDARS

available in the narthex. Thank you to Betzler Life Story Funeral Home for co-sponsoring with us.

DECEMBER 2024 SUNDAY COLLECTION

Target for December	87,736
12/1	6,156
12/8	
12/15	
12/22	
Christmas	100
12/29	
Electronic gifts for December	7,899
Total gifts to date for December	14,155

NEWS AROUND THE AREA

KALAMAZOO REFUGEE FAMILIES

We are receiving about 500 arrivals per year to Kalamazoo through all agencies sponsoring refugees and immigrants. Kalamazoo first welcomed mostly refugees from Syria, starting in 2015. Now the families are coming from South America, Central America, Africa, and the Middle East. There are many ongoing needs, some one-time donations, and many ongoing volunteer opportunities. **Please call Elsie Romano at 269-312-9076 for more information.**

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL, KALAMAZOO

located at 513 Eleanor Street is in need of the following items
Sample size toothpaste, lip balm, deodorant, sample size shaving cream, Men's warm winter coats **excluding trench or dress coats**, new boxer briefs (medium and large), and men's jeans. Women's new underwear medium and large. We need warm new or gently used men's and women's hats and gloves. We always welcome all housewares including small working appliances, knickknacks, kitchenware, linens, and towels. Backpacks too. We have plenty of children's coats, but we could use children's hats and gloves and new children's socks and underwear. .

PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING WITH US.
Call 269-388-4544

HACKETT CATHOLIC PREP PROUDLY PRESENTS

Hans Christian Anderson's

The Little Match Girl

adapted by Amanda Piel



SHOWTIMES
Thursday, Friday,
and Saturday
December 12-14 at 7 pm
Saturday
December 14 at 2 pm

TICKET PRICES
Students & Seniors \$10
Adults \$12



Go to hacketttheatre.ludus.com
or scan QR to order tickets here.

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.



STUDY HOURS:

St. Tom's will be offering study hours in the Romero Room on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday of WMU/KVCC finals week — these blocks of time will be advertised on our Instagram @KalamazooCatholic. There are plenty of snacks and drinks to keep you going through this final push



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.

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. This week is the final supper of the semester. Suppers will return on Sunday, January 12.

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

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.

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

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](#)

KALAMAZOO AREA

Advent Penance Services



Priests in the Kalamazoo area parishes listed below 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 several services throughout the area, and priests will be available at the end of each service for individual confessions.

St. Ann, Gull Lake	Wednesday	11-Dec	6:30 pm
St. Martin of Tours, Vicksburg	Sunday	15-Dec	3 pm
St. Ambrose, Parchment	Tuesday	17-Dec	6 pm
St. Monica, Kalamazoo	Thursday	19-Dec	6:30 pm
St. Joseph, Kalamazoo	Friday	20-Dec	6 pm
St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo	Sunday	22-Dec	3 pm

 John D. Bradshaw, P.C. Attorneys at Law Parishioners 269-373-4400	 KEI 6185 W. KL Ave. 372-2035 www.keiecm.com	LAKELAND ASPHALT PAVING THE WAY SINCE 1959 INDUSTRIAL MUNICIPAL RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL FOR ALL YOUR PAVING NEEDS 964-1720	 MCM MECHANICALLY MINDED RELATIONSHIP DRIVEN 24 hour emergency service 269-349-3661 Design/Build Services for all Mechanical Systems Plumbing • Pipe Fitting • HVAC • Medical Gas Sheetmetal • Engineering • Energy Management 7184 DOUGLAS AVE. • KALAMAZOO	Scott Betzler Catholic Funeral Director <i>Life Story</i> FUNERAL HOMES Betzler BetzlerLifeStory.com (269) 375-2900	
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Katherine Bandos DMD  KALAMAZOO smiles DENTISTRY FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY www.kalamazoosmiles.com (269) 353-3700 Parishioner	 The GRANITE SHOP 375-1660 5180 South 9th Street www.centraltile.net	Central Tile and terrazzo co., inc.	Joldersma & Klein Funeral Home 269-343-2628 www.joldersma-klein.com "When you want to be treated like family" Licensed Funeral Director: Daniel D. Adams, Manager	Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.	
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