



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 16
Monday thru Thursday
5:15 p.m.

NO MASS

Friday, December 20

HOLY HOUR

Wednesday
8:00 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

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

Saturday & Sunday
5:00 - 5:30 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.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve — Tuesday, December 24
5:00 p.m. Children's Mass
with Children's Nativity Procession — doors open at 4:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Mass

Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25
10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Mass

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
Mae Bakken*

daughter of Matthew & Allyson
who was baptized on Sunday, December 8, 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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18
Monday	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Thursday	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Friday	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Saturday	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Sunday	Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

MASS INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16
5:15 p.m. †Danny S. Root by Root family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17
5:15 p.m. Tim Krone (living) by Jane Krone

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18
5:15 p.m. †Dick McEvoy by McNally family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19
5:15 p.m. †Melina Bazali by Bazali-Walters family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20
No Mass

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 — St. Peter Canisius
6:00 p.m. Gail Lord (living) by Jim & Mary Grace

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 — Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:30 a.m. People of the parish
10:30 a.m. †Ted Nielsen by Dave & Niki Worthams
6:00 p.m. †Claudia Mallon by Deidre Smith

A POST FROM FR. PAUL

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

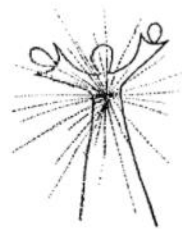
The theme for the Third Week of Advent is really summarized well in the Psalm refrain this week: "Cry out with joy and gladness, for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel." It's a wonderful theme spelled out in all the readings this Sunday!

What are some things that keep us from having that type of joy? Here are some things that come to mind: 1) Feeling sorry for oneself; 2) Constantly putting other people down to make ourselves look smarter or better; Putting ourselves down all the time; 3) Holding on to anger and resentment. This only eats us up inside and does not produce joy. We have to forgive. 4) Thinking that having more things is going to make us happy. Things only satisfy us momentarily. 5) Fear and Worry: St. Paul writes that we should have no anxiety at all.

What can lead us to joy? We must decide to be joyful. St. Paul says "rejoice" as if it is something for them to choose to do rather than being something that just happens to them. Abraham Lincoln was quoted as saying that most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.

Choose to be joyful this Advent Season! Take care!

Peace, *Fr. Paul*



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. MARTIN OF TOURS — 5855 East W Avenue, Vicksburg
Sunday, December 15 - 3:00 p.m.

ST. AMBROSE — 1628 East "G" Avenue, Parchment
Tuesday, December 17 - 6:00 p.m.

ST. MONICA — 534 W. Kilgore Road
Thursday, December 19 - 6:30 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH — 936 Lake Street, Kalamazoo
Friday, December 20 - 6:00 p.m.

ST. AUGUSTINE CATHEDRAL
542 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo
Sunday, December 22 - 3:00 p.m.

HERE AT ST. TOM'S

ST. TOM'S Women's SOCIAL GROUP

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.

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 269- 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

Register to donate on January 9 at the link below.

<https://donateblood.versiti.org/coordinator/drives/view/11596825>



DECEMBER 2024 SUNDAY COLLECTION

Target for December	87,736
12/1	6,156
12/8	10,150
12/15	
12/22	
Christmas	125
12/29	
Electronic gifts for December	11,244
Total gifts to date for December	27,675

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 15 at 4 PM

**in the Cougar Room to discuss questions
that you may have about Salvation.**

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 gathering.



COLLEGE STUDENT NEWS

**More at Midweek, Student Holy Hour,
and Sunday Supper will return in January**

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

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.

**KVCC STUDENTS — "Fr. Paul and Wyatt will be
back on KVCC's campus in January for the Big Chill.**

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](#)

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

St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish
Parish Operations Report
July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024

	<u>Actual</u>		<u>Budget</u>	
Income				
Sunday Collections	193,221		190,110	General fund collection
Facilities Maintenance Fund donations	10,619		6,000	Facilities maintenance fund donations
Other	9,979		21,712	Income from facilities rental, parents of students, retreats, Hardings rewards, memorials and religious ed fees
Gain/Loss on Diocesan Funds	31,421	(1)	-	change in account balances year to date
Total Income	<u>245,241</u>		<u>217,822</u>	
Expenses				
Support for CSGK	30,000		30,000	annual parish support for CSGK (Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo)
Parish Tithe (Donations)	6,000		9,687	our parish tithe donations to other ministries / services (up to 5% of Sunday donations)
Service to Parishioners	11,079		10,750	handouts, religious ed, retreats, RCIA, music and liturgical supplies
Student Ministry	8,049		7,525	student retreats, student suppers and other student activities and campus ministry programs
Salary and benefits	110,447		117,319	all clergy, lay and support staff
Office Operations	12,423		12,475	office supplies and processes
Buildings and Maintenance	27,038		25,814	all building maintenance and utilities - church, office building, apartment building, rectory
Facility Insurance Premiums	6,152		5,750	required insurance through Michigan Catholic Conference
	<u>211,188</u>		<u>219,320</u>	
Building Furnishings & Equipment	65,555	(2)	64,375	budgeted capital improvements and equipment
Total Expenses	<u>276,743</u>		<u>283,695</u>	
Net Income (expense) before transfers	<u>(31,502.30)</u>		<u>(65,872)</u>	

(1) This amount represents unrealized gains (losses) on held investments, due to change in market value.

(2) Completed projects included completing Hornet meeting room expansion project, rectory carpet and new parish vehicle.

Anyone who wants a copy of the entire revenue and expense statement and/or budget for the period
can call the parish office and we will be glad to provide that information to you.

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.

 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 Parishioners	CONGREGATION OF St. Joseph NAZARETH are currently offering our friends and neighbors a unique kind of assisted living experience in a warm and friendly environment. For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Tammy Nelson - Marketing Director (269) 381-6290 or tnelson@csjoseph.org www.csjinitatives.org/kalamazoo	DISCOVERMASS	DOUBLEDEE MECHANICAL SERVICE PLUMBING • HEATING COOLING • REFRIGERATION Terry Doubledee 269-615-3702 info@doubledeemechanical.com
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