

St. Thomas More
105 Gravity Rd.



Office hours
Monday - Friday
8:30am - 2:30pm

The Bully

February 23, 2025

PO Box 188, Lake Ariel, PA 18436

Parish office: 570-698-5584 Faith Formation: 570-698-7150

E-mail: office@stthomas-stmary.com

website: www.stthomas-stmary.com



@stmlakearielpa

St. Mary
334 St. Mary Church Rd.



Volume III, #32

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are a faith community, guided by the Holy Spirit, seeking to evangelize by creating a community where all are welcome, proclaiming the word of God, nourished by the Holy Eucharist and strengthened by the other Sacraments. We share in the power and love of Jesus Christ through word and example. And we pray for and encourage all Christian vocations.

Mass and Confessions

Confessions: Saturday 3:00pm - 3:30pm at St. Mary's
5:30pm—5:45pm at St. Thomas More or by appointment

Saturday Mass (Vigil): 4:00pm St. Mary's
6:00pm St. Thomas More

Sunday Masses: 8:00am St. Thomas More
9:30am St. Mary's
11:00am St. Thomas More

Daily Masses: See Mass intentions page 4

Parish Staff

Fr. Stephen Bosomafi	Pastor
Deacon Robert Warnock	Deacon
Deacon Andy Ciccaroni	Deacon
Jennifer Cruciani	Office Manager
Maureen Alunni	Director of Music
Michelle Mattern	Director of Youth
Jennifer Jerske	Faith Formation Coordinator—Children
Theresa Jones	Faith Formation Coordinator—Adult
Marian Menapace	Faith Formation
John Reimer	Engineer
Ralph Danise	Hall Manager
Teresa Arnone	Domestic Engineer
Diane Estus	Domestic Engineer

Do you wish to become a member of the Catholic Church?
Do you know anyone who wishes to join our Catholic Faith Community? Do you need to complete your Sacraments of Initiation and want to receive Confirmation?
Please call Theresa Jones at 570-698-7150 for further information.

Our weekly bulletin is sponsored by:
James Wilson Funeral Home

PO Box 7, Lake Ariel, PA 18436
570-698-5811

Milton James 1951-2014
Christopher James Director
Brian James Assistant
Mark James Assistant

Home of the Lake Region
Crematory
&
NEPA Pet Cremation Services

Sacramental Information

Baptism: All parents must attend the pre-baptismal class. To register for the class, please call Deacon or Mrs. Warnock at 698-5584 or 470-7601.

Weddings: Must be booked 6 months in advance so that we have time for all the paperwork and pre-Cana.

Anointing of the Sick:
May be celebrated at any time and especially after Masses on the weekends.

Priesthood or Religious Life:
We encourage young people interested in a life of service to call to set up an appointment to talk to Father Bosomafi.

Social Concerns Information

Our Parish Food Pantry is open every Wednesday from 9:00am to 10:30am for members of our community.

All items for the bulletin must be in by Monday at noon.

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 23, 2025

Jesus said to his disciples: "To you who hear I say,
love your enemies do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you,
pray for those who mistreat you" (Luke 6:27-28).

I would like to thank everyone for your tremendous show of love and support for my 50th birthday celebration. The gifts, prayers and well wishes are very much appreciated!!! I am half a century old!!!

Our readings teach us about mercy, forgiveness, and love. David in the first reading shows mercy to Saul by sparing his life even when he has the chance to kill him. This is a practical example of Jesus' admonition in the Gospel to "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you (Luke 6:27-28). We are invited to choose mercy over revenge. Jesus says: "forgive and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37).

We are also encouraged to show generosity to all—"Give to everyone who asks of you" (Luke 6:30). This generosity of giving without expecting anything in return, reflects God's love for us. Let us be assured of the many blessings in being generous to others—"Give, and gifts will be given to you, a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you" (Luke 6:38).

Thanks again for all your generosity and may God reward/bless everyone—Fr. Bosomafi

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Special Events Committee meeting, Thursday, February 27 at 7:00 in the conference room at St. Thomas More.

Ash Wednesday schedule. 8:15am Mass and Ashes at St. Mary's, 10:00am Mass and Ashes at Julia Ribaud's Nursing Home, 3:30pm Ash service at St. Thomas More, 6:00pm Mass and Ashes at St. Thomas More.

Stations of the Cross every Thursday morning after daily Mass at 8:15 at St. Mary's Church and every Friday evening after Adoration at 6:00 at St. Thomas More Church during Lent.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE

We need people from 10-2, please help!

Come, Let us adore the Lord! This and every Friday!

9:00am - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration chapel

- Private silent prayer and meditation

3:00pm - Divine Mercy Chaplet and Litany

5:30pm - Vespers/Evening Prayer

6:00pm - Closing Benediction

OUR GIFT TO GOD FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEB 15/16 WAS:

Income from offerings \$2,578.00

Income from offerings comparable
weekend last year \$5,904.00

Expenses paid last week: \$26,895.97
Breakdown available by contacting office.

Envelope packets mailed: **361**

Envelopes returned last weekend: **55**

Anyone who missed Mass the last two weeks because of weather can put their envelopes in with the next collection or drop off to office.

We are currently sending out 361 packets of envelopes at a cost of \$240.43 every other month. In light of good stewardship, we ask that if you are receiving envelopes that you please use them or contact the office to have your name removed from the list.



PLEASE PRAY FOR
all intentions in our Prayer Baskets.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

First Reading—Praise no one before he speaks. (Sirach 27:4-7).

Psalm—Lord, it is good to give thanks to you (Psalm 92).

Second Reading—God gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:54-58).

Gospel—From the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks (Luke 6:39-45).

SECOND COLLECTION: Our second collection next weekend will be for the Care & Education of the Priests of the Diocese of Scranton. Envelopes can be found in your packets. We will hold collection at all Masses on Ash Wednesday, March 5, for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the church in more than 25 countries that are still struggling to recover from former communist rule. It also aids communities throughout the region that are affected by the war in Ukraine. Envelopes are in your packets and the entrances to both churches.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Thank you to the Pajak family for their donation for flowers at St. Thomas More this weekend in memory of Patricia J Pajak (7th Anniversary). Thank you to Philip and Jean Pruss for their donation for flowers at St. Mary's this weekend in memory of her Mom Margaret Pawloski. Anyone interested in donating for flowers at either church may call the parish office. The cost is \$50.

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING: Thursday, February 27 at 7:00 pm in the conference room at St. Thomas More. Please join us to keep our fun events happening, **we need your help.**


VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We need people to have their feet washed during Thursday, April 17, 7:00 pm Mass at St. Thomas More Church. Please contact the office to sign up for this wonderful opportunity.


NEW LITURGICAL SCHEDULE: The next schedule will be done on Wednesday, February 26 and will cover March 5 through April 27. This schedule will include all of Lent and Holy Week. That includes extra or different Masses for Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. Just a reminder that it is easier to not schedule you than it is for you to find a replacement. Please have all dates of unavailability or requests to be on in to the office by Tuesday, February 25. If you are using the new online Web terminal you can just input the dates you are unavailable there. We are looking for new lectors, hospitality ministers, and extraordinary ministers especially for our 6:00 Saturday Mass, contact the office to help.

SNOW/WEATHER REMINDER: If the Western Wayne School District has a two hour delay or closing on a Wednesday, the Food Pantry will be closed. **If they have a delay or closing on a Thursday, the daily Mass at 8:15 will be moved from St. Mary's to St. Thomas More.** If the Governor of Pennsylvania orders a State of Emergency due to Weather all weekend Masses at St. Mary's will be canceled and the Masses will only be held at St. Thomas More Church.

NOAH AT SIGHT & SOUND THEATER: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 we will be holding a bus trip to Lancaster for the production of Noah at Sight & Sound Theater. Cost is \$200 per person, which includes round trip transportation, a reserved seat at the show and a delicious buffet style dinner at Miller's Restaurant (meal, taxes and tip included). You can register now to save your seat and the deadline for final payments is April 11, 2025. **Reservation deadline 3/14.**

CHORAL SOCIETY SCHEDULES LENTEN CONCERT: In a 75 year tradition of inspiring prayer and meditation through music, the Catholic Choral Society will present their annual Lenten Concert at St. Joseph Mareello Church, 237 William Street, Pittston. It will be held on Sunday, March 9th at 4PM. In addition to the Choral Society, the concert will feature the combined parish choirs of St. Joseph Mareello; director, Brandon Jopling, and of St. John the Evangelist; director, Michael Sowa. Ann Manganello is music director of the Catholic Choral Society and Linda Houck is accompanist. The concert is open to the public free of charge. There will be a good will offering.

**Knights of
Columbus®**



Knights Knews

What will you do for Lent?

This bible study is open to all MEN of the parish. You do NOT have to be a member of the Knights of Columbus.

- "Walk Through Christ's Passion"
- 5 Weeks on Wednesday nights @ 6:30 pm
- Meet in the parish conference room
- March 12, 26, April 2, 9, 16

Join us!


RSVP required call Dan Baron 914 419-1968

kofc7403.com

**"Love your enemies and
do good to those who hate you."**

(Luke 6:27)

Priests, religious brothers and sisters, and married couples are each called to live out a vocation rooted in love and forgiveness. Is God calling you to witness to His mercy and compassion through a religious vocation? Talk to your priest.



Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Call or Text: Eric Pass 980-333-5050 Liz Pass 516-375-8133

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, February 24	6:30pm(STM)	Bernice Maiocco by Carol & John Haase
Tuesday, February 25	10:00am(JR)	Ronald Grande by Ann & Garry Garrison
Wednesday, February 26	8:15am(STM)	Michael Keane by Edna Moran
Thursday, February 27	8:15am(SM)	Birthday Blessings for Cathy McGuire by Carolyn Guy
Friday, February 28	8:15am(STM)	Birthday Blessings for Carol Haase by Carolyn Guy
Saturday, March 1	8:15am(SM)	Joseph Koniszewski by Knights of Columbus #7403
	4:00pm(SM)	James Fisher by St. Mary's Altar & Rosary Society
	6:00pm(STM)	John Yatonsky by his Wife Margaret & Family
Sunday, March 2	8:00am(STM)	Patricia Panko by Raymond & Christine Reed
	9:30am(SM)	For The Parish
	11:00am(STM)	Deceased Members of the O'Neill Family by Gregory & Peg Wilson

If the Mass is your intention, we ask that you please be at the Church 15 minutes prior to Mass and let the Minister of Hospitality know that the Mass is your intention and you would like to present the gifts.



Are you smarter than a Confirmation student? The Adult Faith Formation Team will be holding a friendly competition on matters of faith using game show formats. It will be held on Fridays in Lent after the Stations of the Cross. The topics will be as follows:

3/7 - Why we do what we do? Customs & Traditions

3/14 - Who are they? Saints & Miracles

3/21 - Why do we use that? Symbols of our faith

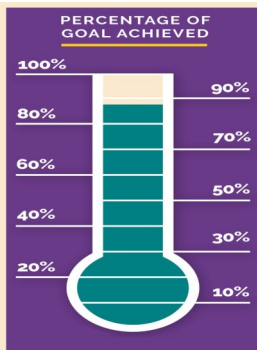
3/28 - You pray like what? Pray Types & Formats

4/4 - (Youth Group presentation)

4/11 - What does that mean? Mass Words & Phrases

Please join us for one or all of the weeks for an evening of fun and faith!

Stations of the Cross are every Friday during lent at 6:00 at St. Thomas More Church.



The Catholic Ministries Appeal is currently at 86% of its overall goal

Will you help us go over the top?

By supporting the Catholic Ministries Appeal, you help provide funding for essential ministries throughout the eleven-county area of the Diocese of Scranton. Through our unity and stewardship, we are able to attend to the physical and spiritual needs of our friends and neighbors throughout northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.



Volunteers Needed Contact the office today!

OUR CALL TO SERVE
CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Donate now at
AnnualAppeal.org,
call (570) 207-2250 or
click this QR code

THE SUNDAY FUNNIES



The Food Pantry needs this week are:

Fruit

Please note: we cannot accept anything with an expired date.

Thanks for your continued support!



SUPPORT THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE



RESTORE THE CHURCH BUILD THE FUTURE

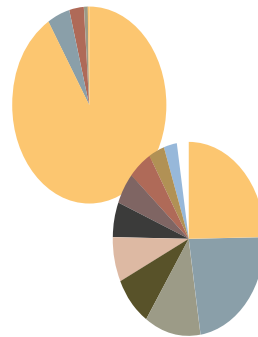
Decades ago, the bishops of the United States established a program to aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe and help it rebuild after decades of communist oppression. The program is funded by an annual collection taken up in dioceses across the United States. That response continues today, even as the rebuilding Church faces the new challenges of war and the mass migration of refugees.

From the beginning of the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and the subsequent war, the Catholic Church has vigorously responded to the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe by offering shelter, food, medicine, and necessities—as well as spiritual support and comfort—to displaced persons and other war victims. Among those leading this charitable response are the consecrated religious sisters and brothers of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Whether by providing shelter and basic necessities to internally displaced persons who have fled their homes for safety in other regions of the country, or by helping priests provide pastoral and humanitarian support in areas where the fighting is most heavy, these sisters and brothers have truly showed Christ's mercy to those most in need.

For them, the human suffering of war is compounded by the unique challenges that wartime conditions present for them as consecrated religious. Questions of how religious communities balance ministry to the needy with the sisters and brothers' needs to live their vows of prayer and community under such extraordinary circumstances require thoughtful responses.

Aided by funding from the collection, the Patriarchal Curia of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church gathered sisters, brothers, and their superiors for the spiritual renewal of a pilgrimage as well as formation sessions to address the challenges facing their communities. Your support for the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe is a vital way for you to make a tangible difference in the lives of Catholics in Ukraine and more than 25 other countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

More information about the collection and the range of projects it supports can be found at www.usccb.org/cee.



EXPENSES

Grants and Donations	90.60%	Program Costs	5.19%
Promotions and Fundraising Expenses	3.23%	Administrative Expenses	0.97%
Total Expenses	\$9,665,263		

2023 DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS
Total Number of Grants Approved: 329
Total Amount Approved: \$8,755,833

PROGRAM AREA	GRANTS	AMOUNT	PERCENT
Construction	60	\$2,201,384	25.14%
Emergency*	7	\$1,890,000	21.59%
Evangelization	82	\$1,346,352	15.38%
Operational Support	31	\$720,215	8.23%
Scholarships	67	\$573,407	6.55%