



A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP DENNIS M. SCHNURR

June marks the end of the school year and the beginning of the vacation season. This summer, I invite you to do something on vacation that may be new to you – go to church, and not for the liturgy alone.

It is, of course, an important precept of the Church that Catholics have a serious obligation to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass every Saturday afternoon or Sunday. Legitimate exceptions include illness, severe weather, physical incapacity, or a travel situation that makes access to Mass impossible. Vacation, of itself, is not an exception. Rather, it is an opportunity.

Worshiping away from home allows us to encounter our faith from a new perspective. Spend some time noticing the art and architecture and you will see that most Catholic churches reflect what we believe in beautiful and unique ways. They are designed to help us pray. For this reason – although Mass can be celebrated anywhere – the worship space matters.

We were all reminded of this recently by the tragic fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. The near loss of the Cathedral called attention to the soaring architecture, beautiful stained glass windows, statues, Stations of the Cross, and relics that make Notre Dame a blessing to the Church, to France, and to the world. We continue to ask Our Blessed Mother to guide those who contemplate the future of this iconic house of worship.

The Notre Dame fire is being investigated as an accident. Just a few weeks before, however, three small, historically black churches in Louisiana were burned down in an apparent hate crime. And on Easter Sunday in Sri Lanka, two weeks after the Notre Dame fire, terrorist bombings of three churches claimed more than 290 lives.

These tragedies remind us that participating in the Eucharist is not only an obligation for Catholics, but also both a privilege and right that come from God. The Eucharist is the source and summit of who we are as Catholics (CCC 1324). Destruction of a church and the murder of people at worship inside evoke in us a special horror.

In the United States, freedom of worship is taken for granted. However religious liberty involves much more than that. It is also the freedom to live out our faith in the public square as we serve the community in faithful citizenship. That is what the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects in its very first words: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

Today, however, Catholic hospitals, schools, and charitable services (such as adoption and foster care) are under attack for upholding Catholic teaching about marriage and

sexuality. New federal legislation introduced in the House of Representatives, deceptively called the “Equality Act,” would force such institutions to choose between operating according to our faith and shutting down. This is the latest in a series of threats to religious freedom over the past decade.

The Catholic Church in the United States will highlight these challenges later this month with its annual observance of Religious Freedom Week. The week begins with the Feasts of St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher on June 22 and ends with the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul on June 29. All those saints were martyred for living their faith – the faith we share as Catholics.

This summer, please practice your faith and explore its riches in the churches you visit. Learn more about Religious Freedom Week at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops website (www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty). And please pray the Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty that you will find below.

Have a safe, rejuvenating, and blessed vacation season!

Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty

***O God our Creator,
from your provident hand we have received
our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
You have called us as your people and given us
the right and the duty to worship you, the only true
God, and your Son, Jesus Christ.***

***Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit,
you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the
world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the
Gospel to every corner of society.***

***We ask you to bless us
in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.
Give us the strength of mind and heart
to readily defend our freedoms when they are
threatened; give us courage in making our voices
heard on behalf of the rights of your Church
and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.***

***Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father,
a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters
gathered in your Church
in this decisive hour in the history of our nation,
so that, with every trial withstood
and every danger overcome—
for the sake of our children, our grandchildren,
and all who come after us—
this great land will always be “one nation, under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”***

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



NOTES FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

The music ministry program at St. Thomas More continues to be an active program within our parish. Many churches only have one adult choir or ensemble,

where we have three. We also have a growing children's choir, who lead their fellow students in song at the school Masses.

GENERAL INFORMATION

In the last year our music program has grown to over 40 active volunteers! A huge milestone for our parish, and I look forward to the continued growth of our program. We average approximately 12 children participating in children's choir for the school liturgies, 10 instrumentalists and singers for the 4:00 pm Saturday Mass, 14 - 15 routine choir members for the 10:00 am adult choir, and about 8 people on average with the gospel choir for the Noon Mass.

The music at the 4:00 pm Mass continues to be led by our guitar ensemble complete with piano, guitar, bass, violin, flute, and saxophone, as well as a handful of singers. The 8:00 am Mass is still led by organ/piano and cantor. The 10:00 am Mass is led mainly by piano, with occasional organ, as well as our teen-adult choir. The Noon Mass is continuing on in the gospel quartet style led by the gospel choir and accompanied by piano.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

From Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday, we encouraged all of our individual groups to combine together rather than all be separate. This created a wonderful musical experience of many talented instrumentalists and singers participating in all of the liturgies. The music ministry attendance was so full that we actually ran out of room in the choir loft! Don't worry, though, no one is ever turned away! We simply had to do some improvising! Confirmation was also a huge success, with the help of Laura Langland from St. Louis in Owensville. Confirmation was led by piano, organ, guitar, and representatives of our various choirs.

UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

As the Easter season draws to a close with Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, and Corpus Christi, there is still a lot of work ahead for the volunteer music ministers in our church. Upon completion of these major celebrations, we will defer back to our usual music. The Noon Mass will go back to our normal gospel setting of the Mass propers, the 4:00 pm and 10:00 am will go back to the standard setting we use, and the 8:00 am will begin singing the chant style Mass setting that was introduced shortly before Advent of 2018.

A once in a lifetime experience awaits current choir members as well as those looking to join! Internationally acclaimed composer, arranger, accompanist, and director of music Luke Mayernik along with his wife Cassidy Mayernik will be leading a 3 hour choir workshop on Thursday, July 11th, from 6:00 - 9:00 pm in the church. This

is an amazing opportunity for our choir to grow in knowledge, and a once in a lifetime experience to have a world-renowned composer working with them. Luke Mayernik is the composer of all of the responsorial Psalms that we use during Mass here at St. Thomas More, and is the current Director of Music and Liturgy at St. Susanna Parish in Mason. For More information on Luke Mayernik, you can visit his website: <https://www.lukemusic.com/>.

~ Douglas J. Stegeman



Eucharistic Ministers

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Submitted by Deacon Bob Brazier

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) who take Communion to the sick and homebound have a role in sharing the Church's total ministry to the sick after the manner of Jesus. In bringing Communion to the sick and homebound, the EMHC represents Christ and manifests faith and charity on behalf of the whole community toward those who cannot be present at Sunday Mass. This ministry is a sign of support and concern shown by the community for its members.

The EMHC becomes a vital link between the parish community and the member who is sick or homebound. It is beneficial for visits to the sick and homebound to occur after Sunday Mass so that the link between the parish liturgical celebration and the parishioner is maintained. Taking a parish bulletin also helps maintain that link. The parish may also have a special blessing and dismissal for EMHCs after Communion; the assembly is sending them forth to do their ministry on the behalf of the whole parish community.

According to the document Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass, "The Eucharist for Communion outside of church is to be carried in a pyx or other covered vessel; the vesture of the minister and the manner of carrying the Eucharist should be appropriate and in accord with local circumstances". Consecrated hosts are usually taken from the EMHC's home parish. Follow the procedures of the parish.

If you need to receive Holy Communion for your homebound, please either bring your pyx to the sanctuary and place it on the tray before Mass or wait until Mass is over and see the deacon or sacristan to receive the Holy Eucharist for your homebound. Also when receiving communion during Mass, you should only be receiving for yourself and not for those whom you will be taking communion to. Please come to the Sacristy and ask for communion for your homebound. The church needs to know who you are taking the Holy Eucharist to, so sign in the book of the homebound in the sacristy. By doing so, the church community can pray for the healing of the people that you are taking Communion to, and possibly go visit them.

Festival



JULY FEST



JULY 12-14

FRIDAY 6PM - 12AM ★ 800 OHIO PIKE
SATURDAY 5PM - 12AM ★ STTM.ORG/MINISTRIES/JULYFEST-2019
SUNDAY 1PM - 9PM



RAFFLE & CASINO FOOD & DRINK LIVE MUSIC KIDS' RIDES BID & BUY

4 Early Bird Drawings in June/July
June 10th - \$200
June 17th - \$150
June 24th - \$100
July 1st - \$50
Be sure to get your tickets turned in EARLY!!!

GRAND RAFFLE

- 1st - 2 Year Lease on 2019 Ford Escape SE* or 2019 Ford Fusion SE* OR \$10,000 cash*
*Subject to IRS tax withholding at time of prize delivery.
- 2nd - Two 2019-20 UC Basketball Season Tickets (\$1100 value)
- 3rd - Two 2019-20 Xavier Basketball Season Tickets (\$600 value)
- 4th - \$500 cash 5th - Samsung 4K 55" Smart TV
- 6th - \$250 cash

CATHOLIC TUITION RAFFLE

Greater Cincinnati Catholic K-12 - Split the pot

HELICOPTER GOLF BALL DROP RAFFLE

Closest to pin wins \$1,000*
*Split the pot if less than 400 tickets sold



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CANNED GOOD RAFFLE

1 canned good or \$1 = 1 ticket, \$500 Prize

FRIDAY ROCKIN' THE 'MONT

- 7:00pm The Billy Rock Band
- 9:30pm That Arena Rock Show

SATURDAY JULYFEST COUNTRY JAM

- 6:00pm Angela Combs & Harold Kennedy
- 7:15pm Amy Sailor Band
- 9:45pm Kevin McCoy Band

SUNDAY RIB'N AND BLUES

- 2:30pm Ben Levin and the Heaters
- 5:00pm Jay Jesse Johnson Band
- 7:00pm The Doug Hart Band



Parking for passenger cars available on-site.
Shuttle parking available at WT Elementary and Recker & Boerger on Friday & Saturday.

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Each year **JULYFEST** is asked to raise \$50,000 which is designated for the parish general operating budget. Funds raised over and above go towards capital improvement projects within the parish. Last year those funds paid for replacement of the outdated bell system for the church. This year we are looking to add restrooms to the picnic shelter.

To help offset expenses **JULYFEST** is looking for a business or family to sponsor part or all of the \$10,000 grand raffle prize money.

Deuteronomy 15:10 ~ Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.

If you or your business would be interested please contact Linda Caskey at 513-309-8447 or at julyfest@sttm.org.



DESSERTS NEEDED FOR JULYFEST!!!

Please consider making one of your scrumptious desserts for this year's **JULYFEST!!!** Nothing tops off a wonderful **JULYFEST** festival entrée, like a homemade dessert from one of our talented parishioners!!! Desserts can be dropped off on Thursday evening July 11th after 6:00 pm or Friday morning July 12th in the Parish Dining Hall. If you are able to help, please contact Mary Helen Evans at 513-509-5448 or by email at mhevens50@gmail.com. If you are unable to drop them off Mary Helen will make arrangements to pick them up.



PRIME RIB IS BACK!

Returning for 2019 will be the incredible **JULYFEST SUNDAY PRIME RIB AND PORK LOIN DINNER!!**

\$14 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under
Choice of Prime Rib or Pork Loin
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy

- Corn
- Green Beans
- Salad
- Mac & Cheese
- Rolls
- Chicken Nuggets
- Iced Tea
- Lemonade

Homemade Desserts
Beer and Wine Sold Separately



DINNER WILL BE SERVED SUNDAY, JULY 14TH, FROM 1:00 PM UNTIL 8:00 PM OR UNTIL IT RUNS OUT!

From the delicious sausage sandwiches, to our traditional **JULYFEST** food booths, **JULYFEST** offers something for everyone. Food items this year include delicious items from local vendors; Kona-Ice, Johnny's Creamy Whip, LaRosa's, as well as beverage offerings from Streetside Brewery, Ohio Eagle Distributing and Fulton Grove Winery.



JULYFEST VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Our 2019 **JULYFEST** website is now available to register for your slot to volunteer for this year's festival, July 12-14. To sign up go to our STM website at www.sttm.org and click on the SignUpGenius logo found in News & Current Events. Thank you all so much! Without our volunteers, there would not be a festival. For questions please contact Chrissy Bath at chrissybath@hotmail.com.



ATTENTION JUNIOR HIGH PARENTS!!!

Is your son or daughter looking for service hours? (Of course they are!) Looking for service opportunities? Well...look no MORE!!! The 2019 St. Thomas More **JULYFEST** is a great way to add service hours AND help the parish's biggest fundraiser! (And it will be a GREAT time!) The **JULYFEST** volunteer website, SignUpGenius, is LIVE!!! Just go to the parish website for more information. Contact **JULYFEST** volunteer co-chair Chrissy Bath at chrissybath@hotmail.com with any questions! Volunteer early (and often) for prime slots!

JULYFEST CASINO

- Hold 'Em
- 7 Card Stud
- Black Jack
- Let It Ride



Table service for all players!
Casino BIG SCREEN televisions!

Casino hours of operation:
Friday – 6:00 pm to 1:00 am
Saturday – 5:00 pm to 1:00 am
Sunday – 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm

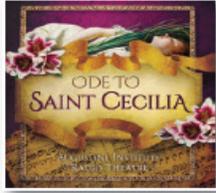
MIDWAY ATTRACTIONS

- Big 6
- Money Wheel
- *NEW* Big 9
- *NEW* Roulette
- Pull Tabs
- Beat the Dealer
- Over/Under
- *NEW* KISSEL MIRACLE MIDWAY
- HUGE new layout!!!
- All new food section!!!
- Special priced ticket options!!!
- GIANT CHILDREN'S AREA!!!**





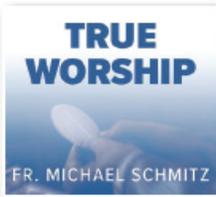
Enjoy FORMED This Summer



Ode to Saint Cecilia

Hear the dramatic story of a modest young woman from Rome whose life has influenced poets, composers, and painters. Enjoy these other audio dramas as well:

- ▶ *Brother Francis*
- ▶ *The Trials of Saint Patrick*



True Worship

Father Michael Schmitz takes you deeper into the Mass. Check out these other popular Lighthouse Talks:

- ▶ *Made for Greatness* by Leah Darrow
- ▶ *Marriage and Family* by Scott Hahn
- ▶ *What's So Great about Being Catholic?* by Jason Evert



Beloved: Living Marriage

Strengthen your marriage with a practical video series that will help you put faith at the center of your relationship so it can thrive.



Ignatius of Loyola

This modern and very human movie is an incisive and thrilling look at Saint Ignatius's transformation into a soldier-saint.



Joan of Arc

Witness the story of the legendary warrior and saint who, at seventeen, led one of the world's greatest military campaigns.



God with Us

Children and adults alike will be captivated by this account of Jesus's life, featuring vivid storytelling and high impact animation.

For more great content, sign up for free at www.stthomasmoreformed.org

FORMED®

Growing Together in Faith



Faith Formation

Let us help you teach your children the Beauty of the Catholic Faith!

In St. Thomas More's Sunday School, Parish School of Religion (PSR)

September 8, 2019 - May 3, 2020

Register Now!

- ◆ Visit our parish website: www.sttm.org
 - ◆ Click on Faith Formation
- ◆ Under Children's Faith Formation, click on Parish School of Religion
- ◆ Download and complete the Registration Forms
 - ◆ Send forms to Kate in the parish office

We Welcome All your Children!!



SCHOOL UPDATE!

Submitted by Candy Hurley, Principal

Congratulations to former St. Thomas More School students Myles Bailey and Madison Boeckman,



who are valedictorian and salutatorian of the McNicholas Class of 2019. We are so proud of Myles and Madi, and wish them the very best as they continue their educational journeys!

It has been a whirlwind of a school year at St. Thomas More School with much learning happening! Our students grew spiritually, academically, socially, and physically through a variety of activities that kept them engaged in their learning while having fun. Service projects included prayer partner projects for our home-bound parishioners as well as a variety of projects for St. Vincent de Paul.

Even though our Catholic Schools Week was cut short due to bad weather, our all school retreat, presented by the youth team from the Jesuit Spiritual Center was a fun-filled day increasing our relationship with Jesus. New this year was the 8th grade basketball game against the seminarians. It was a great way for our students to see that young men who will be devoting their lives to Christ as His priests can have fun and enjoy life just as they do!

The end of the school year brought about many learning activities such as our first grade classrooms being transformed into a “camp” complete with tents, a “bear cave” for reading, as well as areas for learning about science, religion, social studies, and math! The first graders felt like they were on a special adventure all week! The Junior High students were kept busy learning by dissecting dogfish sharks and fetal pigs as well as making videos where they were newscasters depicting the ‘40s through the ‘80s!

Our PTO Walk M.O.R.E. raised a record \$12,000 to purchase new tables for the lunchroom, crucifixes for areas of the school, and new basketball hoops.

We also celebrated Vickie Ditchen’s service of over 30 years to our school and parish. We wish her well in her retirement and are so thankful for her presence in our school.



There are openings in every grade for the coming year. Check out our website at www.sttmschool.org or call the school office (753-2540) for more information or to set up a personal tour.



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