



A Ministry of the Jesuits



# St. Thomas More

December 4, 2022—Second Sunday of Advent

CATHOLIC CHURCH

*As disciples of Jesus, we look for God present in all things, that we might LOVE him and SERVE him in all things.*

## SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH & SCHOOL

636 W Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, Georgia 30030-2951  
[www.stmgaparish.org](http://www.stmgaparish.org)

## PARISH OFFICE

Phone: 404-378-4588  
Fax: 404-378-0506  
Email: [ParishOffice@stmga.org](mailto:ParishOffice@stmga.org)  
Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Closed for Lunch 12-12:30 PM

## SCHOOL

404-373-8456

## EMERGENCY NUMBER

678-337-8910

## SCHEDULE OF MASSES

### SATURDAY

5:30 PM (Vigil)

### SUNDAY

9:00 AM

10:15 AM\*

\*(outdoor, if above 50°,  
below 80° and no rain)

11:30 AM

5:30 PM

### MON—FRI

12:15 PM

## RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 to 5:00 PM  
or by appointment

## PARISH NURSERY

Available during the 9am Mass

## CHAPEL

Open weekdays during parish  
office hours.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINE

678-892-6163

Report suspected abuse by  
Church employees and  
volunteers to the  
Archdiocesan 24-hour Abuse  
Reporting Hotline:  
1-888-437-0764



## Upcoming Advent Events this Week

### Advent Taizé Service

Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 7:30pm—Church

### LGBTQ+ Group Advent Gathering

Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 7:00pm—Tucker Brewing Company

### Young Adults Advent Social

Sunday, Dec. 11 at 6:30pm—Parish Library

### Advent Reconciliation Service

Thursday, Dec. 15 at 7:00pm—Church

## Immaculate Conception

Thursday, December 8

Mass Times

7:00 am, 12:15 pm, & 7:00pm





## PRAYER REQUESTS

*At the weekday Masses this coming week, the presider will remember the following persons along with all the living and dead during the General Intercessions, and he may invite parishioners to say aloud the names of deceased loved ones.*

Mon., Dec 5, 2022 Denis Meagher †  
Thu., Dec 8, 2022 John Foley †

If you would like the presider at our weekday Masses to remember a loved one in the General Intercession for the sick or dead, contact the parish office at 404-378-4588. We will not accept any gift in return for the presider's praying for someone at Mass. In order to add a name to these lists, you must be either the person seeking prayers, an immediate relative of the one to be remembered, or have the express permission of the one to be remembered.

### Pray for those who are sick:

Eve Levea, Cathy Kubitz, Judy Jankowski

## STM PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

The STM Parish Council is a group of active parishioners who advise the pastor regarding significant parish matters pertaining to parish identity, mission, and ministries. Present members are: Paul Blackstone, Erin Brewster, Mary Ellen Davis, Larry Diehl, Lindsey Farrell, Tanya Frazee, Johnathon Kelso, Kunle Oguneeye, Drew Reynolds and Elizabeth Small. Leigh Holbrook serves an *ex officio* role.

### Pope Francis' December Prayer Intention:

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.



## STAFF

Fr. Bob Hussey, S.J., *Pastor*  
rhussey@stmga.org

Fr. Jim Stormes, S.J., *Parochial Vicar*  
jstormes@stmga.org

Leigh Holbrook, *Parish Administrator*  
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Stephanie L. Windon, *Administrative Assistant*  
SWindon@stmga.org

Todd Hines, *Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds*  
thines@stmga.org

Carl and Fran McColman, *RCIA Coordinators*  
rcia@stmga.org

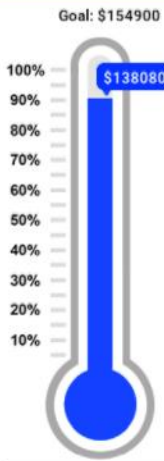
Mary Ann Brock, *Nursery* nursery@stmga.org

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

Tue., Dec 6	Rosary Group—8:00am to 9:00am—Church RCIA Weekly Meeting —7:00pm to 8:30pm—St. Julie Room Advent Taizé Service—7:30pm to 8:30pm—Church
Wed., Dec 7	S-Factor—2:00pm to 4:00pm—Parish Library Divorced/Separated Support Group—6:30pm to 8:00pm—Family Room Adult Choir Practice—7:00pm to 8:30pm—Church Centering Prayer Group—7:00pm to 8:30pm—Zoom Confirmation Prep—7:00pm to 8:30pm—Mulhern Hall
Thurs., Dec 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception—Mass times: 7:00am, 12:15pm, and 7:00pm—Church Tai Chi—6:00pm to 7:30pm—Mulhern Hall LGBTQ+ Bible Study—7:00pm to 8:30pm—St. Julie Room Men's Basketball League—8:00pm to 10:00pm—Gym
Sat., Dec 10	Tai-Chi—7:30am to 9:00am—Mulhern Hall Basketball (3rd-8th) - 12:00pm—9:00pm—Gym New Parishioner Reception—6:30pm to 8:30pm—Mulhern Hall
Sun., Dec 11	Bible Journaling—10:00am to 12:00pm—St. Julie Room Study with Jerry Pendrick—10:00am to 11:30am—Parish Library Coffee and Donuts—10:00am in front of Parish Library; 11:15am in Mulhern Hall Ignite Youth Group—6:30pm to 8:00pm—Youth Room YAM Advent Gathering—6:30pm to 7:30pm—Parish Library



# PARISH NEWS



## 2022 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

We thank everyone who made a pledge to this year's Archbishop Annual Appeal. This fundraiser serves so many essential works in our archdiocese. Our parish's 2022 goal is \$154,900. As of November 21, \$177,877 have been pledged, with \$138,080 of all pledged donations being paid. We appreciate greatly your commitment to making your pledge payments. A reminder that all pledges must be paid by Saturday, December 31. Any amount of our parish goal that is not met

must be covered by parish. If you are interested in making a pledge or a payment, simply complete a pledge card located in the Narthex, or online at [donate.archatl.com](https://donate.archatl.com). Please make sure to select St. Thomas More Catholic Church in the designation box. Find us under "AAA-Saint Thomas More"

## WELCOME TO STM, NEW PARISHIONERS!

Thomas Lea  
Rachel Parker  
Eryn, Craig, Baker, Grant, Maggie and Garrett Houck

## CONGRATULATIONS!



AvaSue Ade (parents Maxwell and Susan) celebrated the sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, November 20th.

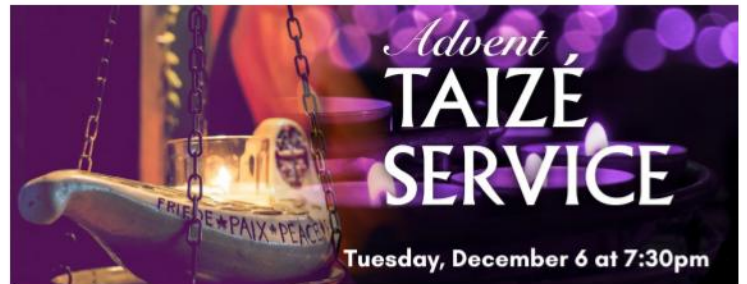
Benjamin Ross Ramby (parents Brent and Ruth), and Sophia and Jacob Mejia Hidalgo (parents Ismael and Solange) celebrated the sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, November 20th.



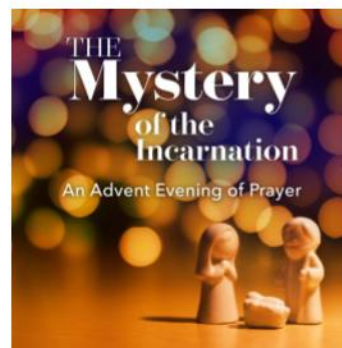
Robert and Virginia James celebrated the convalidation of their marriage on Monday, November 21st.

## MONASTERY GOODS SALE

The Knights will be selling fudge, biscotti, fruitcake, and other goods made by the monks of the Monastery of the Holy Spirit after all Masses this and next weekend. The proceeds will be going to support the conservation of the monastery grounds. These goodies can make wonderful gifts to share with friends and family this holiday season. Thank you for your support!



The feast of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is on Thursday, December 8. This is a Holy Day of Obligation this year. The feast day Mass times will be 7:00am, 12:15pm, and 7:00pm. There will be no vigil Mass on December 7.



## THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION: AN ADVENT EVENING OF PRAYER

Enter into the mystery of the Incarnation through prayerful contemplation of the scriptures, music, and an opportunity for individual art. This unique evening of reflection will draw from the contemplative approach of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Join us on Monday, December 12 at 7:00pm in the Julie Room.



## YOUTH NEWS



### PARISH SERVICE PROJECTS PAGE

Looking for a service opportunity for Faith Formation, need to get service hours for school, or just looking for ways to serve your community? You can now visit our Service Projects page at [stmgaparish.org/service-projects](http://stmgaparish.org/service-projects) for a full listing of organizations that offer volunteer opportunities.



### JYLT RETREAT

Juniors and Seniors! The Jesuit Youth Leadership Team (JYLT) first retreat will be December 9th through 11th at Tybee Island! To register, visit [bit.ly/JYLTWinterRetreat](http://bit.ly/JYLTWinterRetreat)

For more information, contact Leigh at [holbrook@stmga.org](mailto:holbrook@stmga.org).

### MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS VOLLEYBALL OPEN GYM

The CMLA Boys Volleyball League for Middle School Boys grades 6—8 starts on March 4. There will be an Open Gym on Sunday December 4, 11, and 18 from 1:00 to 3:00pm in the STM Gym for boys who have never really played volleyball outside of P.E. but are interested in potentially joining the league. The Open Gyms are totally optional, and you are welcome to come anytime during the two-hour time period. If you are interested in being added to the Volleyball email list for updates on the league and open gym dates and times, please email Katherine Decker at [katedecker151@gmail.com](mailto:katedecker151@gmail.com).



### IGNITE HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT INTEREST

**IGNITE High School Teens!**  
The IGNITE High School Retreat will be on the weekend of January 13-16 (MLK Weekend). Would you attend? We would like to know your thoughts! Visit

[bit.ly/ignite-retreat-interest](http://bit.ly/ignite-retreat-interest) or scan the QR code to fill a brief four-question questionnaire to share your thoughts. If cost is an issue, scholarships are available to assist in defraying the cost. Please respond by next Sunday, December 11th.



### DATES TO REMEMBER

Middle School Boys Volleyball Open Gym—Dec. 4 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm

JYLT Retreat—Tybee Island—Dec. 9-11

Middle School Boys Volleyball Open Gym—Dec. 11 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm

## FAITH IN ACTION

### DONATE WARM CLOTHING DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER!

We are collecting sweats shirts and sweatpants all weekends during the month of December for persons at the warming centers being ran by House the Unhoused DeKalb. We are in need of adult sizes L—3XL and children sizes. We are also in need to volunteers to prepare meals and to work overnight at the warming centers. For more information, contact Leigh Holbrook at [holbrook@stmga.org](mailto:holbrook@stmga.org).



### CARE FOR CREATION WEEKLY RECOMMENDATIONS

Georgians will vote again for U.S. Senate to settle the race between incumbent democrat Sen. Raphael Warnock and Republican challenger Herschel Walker. As of today you have two options to make your vote count. You should return your vote by mail ballot to your county elections office in person. Your ballot must be received by 7pm on December 6. On election day, in-person voting will take place from 7am to 7pm. You must vote at your designated polling station. Don't forget to bring your photo ID with you to the polls to vote. If you do not have an ID with you, you can cast a provisional ballot but will have to bring an ID to your county elections office to cure your ballot by December 9, 2022. You can find your assigned polling location on your voter registration card, by visiting the Secretary of State's voter page (<https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>) or by contacting your County Board of Registrar's Office (<https://elections.sos.ga.gov/Elections/countyregistrars.do>)

### SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS UNTIL DECEMBER 23!

Our social justice committee, Faith in Action, is soliciting applications for the award of social justice grants for 2022-2023. For more information, visit [stmgaparish.org/social-justice-ministries](http://stmgaparish.org/social-justice-ministries), or contact Robert Weaver at [weaver1776@bellsouth.net](mailto:weaver1776@bellsouth.net)

### WAYS TO SERVE

Serve Dinner at the Gift of Grace House—Sundays at 4:30pm and Thursdays at 5:00pm—Contact Jen at [jengossett@gmail.com](mailto:jengossett@gmail.com) for details

Make Sandwiches for the shelter at the Shrine—Dec. 4 from 10:00am

Make Christmas Ornaments with AGAPE—Parish Library—Dec. 14 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Visit our Service Projects page at [stmgaparish.org/service-projects](http://stmgaparish.org/service-projects) for more information on these and other service opportunities

## PARISH FINANCES

**We encourage you to give to support our parish.**

### Ways to Give

You can give a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift. To donate, either:

1. Scan this QR code with your phone's camera



2. Visit our website and Click on 'Donate'  
[www.stmgaparis.org](http://www.stmgaparis.org)

3. Text 'Give' to  
512-559-3279

4. Mail to the Church:  
St. Thomas More Church  
636 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.  
Decatur, GA 30030-2951

5. Place your offering in the basket at Mass

**Thank you for your generosity!**

### ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Parish Goal: \$154,900  
Received: \$138,080 as of 11/21/2022  
Total Pledged & Received: \$177,877

Thank you to all parishioners who pledged to the 2022 Archbishop's Annual Appeal. It is not too late to make a pledge or donation; simply complete a pledge card located on the information table in the Narthex, or online at [donate.archatl.com](http://donate.archatl.com). Please make sure to select St. Thomas More Catholic Church in the designation box. Find us under "AAA-Saint Thomas More"

### UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 11—Retirement Fund for Religious  
December 28—STM's St. Vincent de Paul Society  
December 25—Catholic Charities Atlanta



**TOGETHER IN FAITH**

## WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

### RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 4pm - 5pm, or by appointment.

### RCIA

RCIA — the program for learning about Catholicism and/ or preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation — invites you to come and learn and discern with us. We'll be meeting virtually over the summer and in person beginning in the fall. RCIA is a safe space to pray together and have honest conversation about what it means to be a faithful Catholic in today's world. There's no obligation: you're welcome to participate in our program even if you don't think you want to become a Catholic or if you're not sure. If you would like to explore the spirituality and teachings of our Catholic faith contact Fran and Carl McColman at [rcia@stmga.org](mailto:rcia@stmga.org) or register at [www.stmgaparis.org/rcia](http://www.stmgaparis.org/rcia).

### ANointing of the Sick

Call the Parish to request the sacrament at home or in the hospital. The sacrament is not only for those close to death, but also for those who are seriously ill or infirm and in need of the community's prayers and support. The anointing can be given multiple times.

### BAPTISM

To schedule a Baptism, contact [ParishOffice@stmga.org](mailto:ParishOffice@stmga.org), 404-378-4588 or visit [stmgaparis.org/baptism](http://stmgaparis.org/baptism). The link to

the registration form is available under Baptisms on the website.

### FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST EUCHARIST, AND CONFIRMATION

If you or your child want to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation for the first time, or to be confirmed, contact the Parish Office at 404-378-4588.

### MATRIMONY

To schedule a wedding, contact [ParishOffice@stmga.org](mailto:ParishOffice@stmga.org) or 404-378-4588. Note: Persons desiring to be married at St. Thomas More will be required to participate in a marriage preparation program. For more information on the sacraments at STM please visit: [www.stmga.org](http://www.stmga.org), and click on "Sacramental Life."

### FUNERALS

In the event of the death of a loved one, call the parish and ask to speak with the priest on duty. He will attend to your needs and offer advice on how to proceed with funeral planning.

### CHAPEL

The chapel near the entrance of the church is available for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and is open on weekdays when parish offices are open.



# ADULT FAITH FORMATION

## WEEKLY EVENTS AT STM

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Mondays-7:00 pm to 8:30 pm-Mulhern Hall & Zoom  
Contact Lisa at [lisaacb@gmail.com](mailto:lisaacb@gmail.com) to register for spring session.

### NOT YOUR MAMA'S ROSARY GROUP

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, 8:00 am-9:00 am, Parish Library;  
Other Tuesdays, 8:30am-9am,  
Zoom (email [erin.e.brewster@gmail.com](mailto:erin.e.brewster@gmail.com))  
All are invited to the weekly rosary group.

### SCRIPTURE STUDY WITH LOUANNE

Tuesdays, 1:00 pm, Zoom  
Pray with and explore the Sunday scripture reading from a historical and theological perspective. Email [bachner@juno.com](mailto:bachner@juno.com).

### CENTERING PRAYER

Wednesdays, 7:00 pm to 8:30pm—Zoom  
Email Joanna Brunson at [columbus4x@gmail.com](mailto:columbus4x@gmail.com) to join.

### LGBTQ+ BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the St. Julie Room  
Join us as we reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings and spend time in conversation about what they mean for our lives.  
All are welcome!



### BIBLE STUDY WITH JERRY PENDRICK

Sundays from 10:00am to 11:30am in the Parish Library

## STM PARISH EVENTS

### ADVENT TAIZE SERVICE

*Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022, 7:30pm, Church*  
Gather in prayer, reflection and song as we focus and prepare for the birth of the Jesus Christ the Lord, the Light of the World.

### THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION: AN ADVENT EVENING OF PRAYER

*Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, 7:00pm, St. Julie Room*  
Enter into the mystery of the Incarnation through prayerful contemplation of the scriptures, music, and an opportunity for individual art.

## STM SUPPORT GROUPS



#### TRAUMA

2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS, 6:30P. FAMILY ROOM  
Contact Erin Vaughn at [erin.vaughn1292@yahoo.com](mailto:erin.vaughn1292@yahoo.com)

#### DIVORCE/SEPARATION

1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAYS, 6:30PM. FAMILY ROOM  
Contact Kelly Marriott at [kelly.marriott7@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.marriott7@gmail.com)

#### GRIEF/LOSS

1ST SATURDAYS, 6:30P. JULIE ROOM  
Contact Mary Delaney at [creativecorecounseling@gmail.com](mailto:creativecorecounseling@gmail.com)

These peer support groups are not a replacement for professional counselling.

For immediate crises, including thoughts of suicide, call the Georgia Crisis and Access Line at **800-715-4225** or text **HOME** to **741741**.

## IGNATIUS HOUSE

### ADVENT WEEKEND RETREAT: WAITING IN JOY

*December 9-11, 2022*

'Prepare heart, mind, and soul for the holy season of Advent on a weekend retreat at Ignatius House. Your retreat will draw from the 500-year-old tradition called "Ignatian spirituality". Ignatian spirituality invites us into a life-giving relationship with God and neighbor through prayer and contemplation. The retreat includes guided presentations and plenty of personal time for reflection and rest. Topics will include discernment techniques in the Ignatian tradition, journaling, imaginative composition of place, and the Examen. For more information and to register, visit [ignatiushouse.org](http://ignatiushouse.org)



### EVENTS AT IGNATIUS HOUSE THIS ADVENT SEASON

#### Various Dates

'Peace doesn't have to wait until Christmas Eve! Let these days before Christmas include time for stillness and prayerful reflection. Ignatius House will help you leverage a 500-year-old Jesuit tradition to make room for God. Advent is a time of anticipation and quiet preparation. It marks the beginning of a new spiritual year, when we contemplate arrival of the Christ child, Emmanuel — God with us. It is a time to express hope for the graces to come through the gift of God on Earth, walking among us all.

For more information and to register for any of these events, visit [ignatiushouse.org/advent2022](http://ignatiushouse.org/advent2022)



## SCHOOL NEWS



**Saint Thomas More Catholic School**  
Pre-K4 - 8th grade

Pre-K4 & Kindergarten Q&A  
December 7, 9:30 a.m. - Register at [stmga.org](http://stmga.org)

### ADMISSION EVENT: PRE-K4 AND KINDERGARTEN Q&A WITH TOUR

We invite prospective parents of Pre-K4 and Kindergarten students to learn about "a day in the life of" from the Pre-K and K teachers. At STM, our students experience joy in learning and live their Catholic faith in action, all within the support of a loving, diverse, and inclusive community. Our National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence models the Jesuit tradition of developing the whole child, and our highly qualified teachers and staff work together to help every child achieve to their fullest potential. At our Pre-K4 and Kindergarten Q&A, meet our faculty, hear from our students and parents, ask questions, and take a tour around our vibrant campus. Register to attend at [stmga.org/register](http://stmga.org/register).



**STM Greenery Sale**  
STM School receives 15% cash back on each sale!

Merry Christmas

[lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/299236](http://lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/299236)

Scan QR  
to Order



### STM GREENERY SALE

Brighten up your home with beautiful wreaths and centerpieces or send as a gift. Order now for Christmas! Free Shipping! STM receives 15% cash back on each sale, with all proceeds committed to supporting our school. Order online now and select your preferred delivery date at [www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/299236](http://www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/299236)

For more School News, please visit [www.stmga.org/news/](http://www.stmga.org/news/)

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

You are invited to join the Archdiocese of Atlanta Choir for "Come Let Us Adore: An Evening of Carols and Scripture for The Season," on **Friday, December 16, at 8 p.m.** at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 2855 Briarcliff Road NE, Atlanta 30329. The choir, directed by music minister Dónal Noonan and accompanied by associate musical director Catlin Norton on piano, will present a variety of Christmas carols and Scriptures as a gift for all those who wish to enter joyfully into the season. A chamber orchestra and representatives from various cultures present in the archdiocese will make this an evening to remember.

### MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

The Office of Vocations invites all men ages 18-35 who are thinking about a life in the priesthood to their Men's Discernment Retreat, which will be held on **December 26-27, 2022** at Ignatius House. This retreat is a unique opportunity to spend a couple of days away from your normal routine with other men who are also questioning what the priesthood is all about. You'll have the chance to talk to seminarians who are in various stages of preparation for the priesthood. You may register at [calledbychrist.com/events](http://calledbychrist.com/events) or by scanning the QR Code with your smartphone camera. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Rey Pineda at [rpineda@archatl.com](mailto:rpineda@archatl.com) or 404-920-7460.




### BULLETIN ADVERTISERS NEEDED!

Diocesan, our bulletin publishing partner, is working to renew the ads currently running on our bulletin and to secure NEW bulletin ads. The bulletin is available in print and digitally online. We are grateful that this crucial communication piece is provided to our parish at no cost THANKS to the generous advertising support of our parishioners and community-minded businesses. Consider placing an ad in the bulletin on behalf of your business, non-profit, family OR to memorialize a loved one. Contact Mary Frericks at 404-771-2564 or [MFrericks@Diocesan.com](mailto:MFrericks@Diocesan.com) for pricing and other information.

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St. Thomas More School Parent & Parishioner

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