



*Autumn 2016*

A graphic featuring a large white cross on a green background. The cross is decorated with numerous fallen autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and red. To the right of the cross, the words "MISSION STATEMENT" are written in a serif font. Below that, a larger, bold text reads:

We are  
Saint Thomas More Parish,  
members of the  
living body of Christ,  
born again in Baptism and  
strengthened through the  
Eucharist to promote the  
Gospel values of our  
Catholic faith.

## Pastor's Reflections

*Be thankful for God's gifts and share them*



It is hard to believe that another summer has wrapped up and we are in the midst of cool, crisp, autumn weather. What a summer it was! Several new ministries for our young adults began.

Theology on Tap is meeting monthly and allows young adults between 21 and around 35 years old an opportunity to gather in a fun, relaxed atmosphere and discuss scripture and social issues.

Ladies in Fellowship and The Young Couples groups are meeting quarterly and provide young adults from our parish an opportunity to socialize with one another. The summer wrapped up with our annual picnic. A huge thank you to every parishioner for attending, providing food, assisting with games and setup and all the other things that go into making it successful. It was such a blessing to see our Hispanic community coming together with the Anglo community and sharing fun and food together.



*Continued on back*

# Stewardship

## *Stewardship Council created to help steer efforts*



Stewardship among Saint Thomas More parishioners is truly a blessing. Our parish family is more than generous with their time, talent and treasure and we are very lucky to have such a vibrant parish community.

Because stewardship at Saint Thomas More is such an integral part of the parish, we have recently formed a Stewardship Council made up of Saint Thomas More parishioners to help direct our stewardship efforts and give insight to the thoughts of parishioners as it relates to stewardship.

The council will work to bring the message and concept of Christian stewardship to life within the lives of our parishioners and the parish community.

The council will work with our Director of Stewardship to embrace all the ministries within the parish. The group will meet monthly and has been appointed by Fr. Brad. Each month, they will study the book "Stewardship: A Disciples' Response." The book is a pastoral letter written by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Members of the council appointed by Fr. Brad are: Rene Dawson, Joe Hobbs, Bridget Medley, Miranda Richison, Amy Ridley, David Shoultz, Lucy Shoultz and Craig Willett.

Please keep them in your prayers as they begin this journey.⊕

# Young Adult Ministry

## *New programs developed as part of young adult outreach*

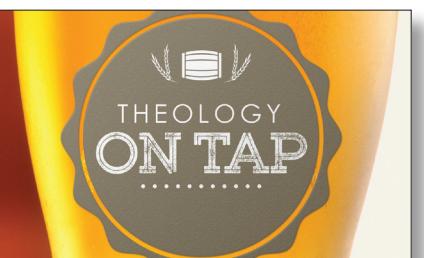


Saint Thomas More has several ministries for parishioners to be involved in. Whether you have a green thumb and want to help keep our parish campus beautiful, or you prefer to do your part in a quiet way helping prepare funeral meals or delivering communion to the home bound, there is something for nearly everyone.

An area that seemed to be lacking however, were opportunities for our younger adult parishioners to be involved in church life. Busy schedules and work life certainly play a role, but young adults always seem to find time to spend with friends. That's where our new young adult programs hit home. Why not take some of that time and grow spiritually as well as meet new people and have an evening of fun.

So far, our efforts seem to have taken off. Our Theology on Tap group meets once a month at an area restaurant or pub to socialize and discuss a particular topic such as political responsibility as it relates to faith or hear from a speaker. Bishop Medley spoke at an early gathering about being a good neighbor. He also shared his thoughts on Pope Francis' speech at World Youth Day.

Following on the heels of Theology on Tap, Ladies in Fellowship is designed for young women from 21 to around 35 years old. They meet regularly for social events, service projects and to share their faith experiences with each other. The Young Couples group also is meeting regularly for social events and service projects. These groups are off to a great start. For more information about our Young Adult programs, contact Melisa Mast at [mmast@stmore.org](mailto:mmast@stmore.org).⊕



# Spruce Up



Over the last few weeks, we hope you have noticed several long overdue maintenance and clean up projects have been undertaken around church and on campus.

Probably the most obvious was the replacement of the Bell Tower arches a few weeks ago. It was certainly not hard to miss the huge lift in front of church! However, there are several other small projects that are not as apparent but just as important. Early this fall, the eaves around the church and the parish hall were cleaned and painted. Further, on the 'far side' of the parish hall building, where the church offices are located, several panels in the eaves were replaced. They had warped and rotted over time giving birds and squirrels easy access under the roof.

Several more small and medium-sized maintenance projects are on the list and will be tackled as time and funds allow. Our church and the grounds are beautiful and a significant investment. We want to take care of our investment just as you would your own home.⊕



## Upcoming Youth Ministry Activities



Between now and the end of the year, our Youth have many activities in which to be involved. For more information about any of our High School Youth Ministry has several upcoming activities listed below along with our middle school group that meets to play games, learn about saints, have bible study, pray the rosary and have adoration. Plus, there is a lot of great food! For more information, contact the parish office or send an email to Matt Rochette, Director of Youth Ministry at [matt@stmore.org](mailto:matt@stmore.org).

### **ODYC - November 18 - 19**

ODYC is an overnight youth conference for middle and high school students designed to give the participants an overview of the larger Church body from a Diocesan level. Youth in grades 6 -12 are invited to attend.

### **Confirmation Retreat - November 6**

Confirmation Candidates will be inspired and challenged to a stronger commitment to a life of holiness and discipleship.

### **The Big White Elephant Christmas Social - December 18**

This "Life Night" event for our LifeTeen youth combines a service project with an opportunity for teens to participate in a fun-filled gift exchange.

# Christmas Season

## Upcoming activities, Mass schedules and more



Christmas is a special time of year for friends and family and parish life at Saint Thomas More embodies the spirit of Christmas like few other places.

This year will be no different. In addition to Masses throughout the season, other ways to live in the spirit of Christmas are long-time traditions at Saint Thomas More. Our Giving Tree will go up just after Thanksgiving and we once again ask parishioners to remember those whose Christmas may not be as joyful because of the financial pressures the holidays put on families.

Saint Thomas More's Advent Wreath will be lit on the first Sunday of Advent. The wreath is a beautiful representation of our preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ during Advent leading up to Christmas.

Throughout the season, keep checking your bulletin for other opportunities to grow in your spiritual life and prepare for the coming of Christ.

The photos on this page were taken last year during the Christmas season. While the decorations at Saint Thomas More are always beautiful, take a few minutes to appreciate why we go to such lengths to make the church so welcoming and pleasing.



## Holiday Mass Schedules

The holiday season is full of hustle and bustle and Mass should have a spot on every parishioners 'to-do' list. Mass times for the coming holiday season are listed below.

**Holy Days of Obligation are noted in bold, italic print.** Don't hesitate to check our website for any changes or call the parish office at 270.534.9000.

### All Saints Day

All Saints Vigil Mass  
All Saints Day Mass

Monday, October 31  
Tuesday, November 1

6 p.m.  
7 a.m.

### All Souls Day

All Souls Memorial Service  
All Souls Memorial Mass @ Mt. Carmel Cemetery

Wednesday, November 2  
Saturday, November 5

6 p.m.  
10 a.m.

### Thanksgiving Day

Mass

Thursday, November 24

8 a.m.

### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Masses

Thursday, December 8

7 a.m.  
6 p.m.

### Our Lady of Guadalupe

Bilingual Mass

Monday, December 12

6 p.m.

### Nativity of Our Lord

Vigil Mass (Jubilate Youth Choir)  
Lessons and Carols (STM Choir and Instrumentalist)  
Mass During the Night

Saturday, December 24

4 p.m.  
7 p.m.  
8 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass

Sunday, December 25

9 a.m.  
11 a.m.

Christmas Day Mass (Spanish)

### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day)

Vigil Mass  
Mass (Regular Sunday Schedule)

Saturday, December 31  
Sunday, January 1

5:30 p.m.  
9 a.m.  
11 a.m.  
1 p.m.

Spanish

# Everyone Is Welcome

**Working toward more inclusive worship for all**



Several years ago, the Owensboro diocese established its Disabilities Awareness Committee to begin the process of helping each parish become a more welcoming place in which everyone may come to worship God. Kay Krueger represents Saint Thomas More on this committee, and one of the results of the committee's work is a booklet titled Toward Inclusive Community Worship. Copies of this booklet can be found in the church gathering space and the Works of Mercy Chapel, and the digital version is located on the St. Thomas More website.

The objective of this ministry is to help every

Catholic create an environment that recognizes the dignity, rights, needs, and potential of all in our Church family. The focus of the booklet is to address disabilities, physical and otherwise,

and how we can help disabled individuals to fully participate in our church activities. While we often think of disabilities as requiring a physical aid, such as a wheelchair, cane, or hearing aid, there are many disabilities that may be less obvious. Stacy Jones has been appointed as the Inclusion Representative at Saint Thomas More and will serve as the point person for addressing issues in which we can become a more inclusive parish. Stacy and Steve Du Perrieu, parish administrator, have arranged for a new handrail at the west entrance and identified several other changes to make our worship space safer and more accommodating for disabled parishioners.

Many building structural issues related to physical

disabilities are addressed by compliance with the American with Disabilities Act passed by Congress in 1990. Though ADA

requirements have changed somewhat with time, the Saint Thomas More facilities were

constructed to be in full compliance when each of the buildings were built. However, ADA compliance alone does not make for a welcoming environment if handicap doors don't work, or wheelchair bound worshipers must sit in the back row where they can't see, or people with disabilities are ignored or treated differently from all others. An inclusive environment that is welcoming for all disabled persons requires much more than just having automatic doors and wheelchair ramps.

To become a more inclusive parish, we need to be cognizant, welcoming parishioners who make guests and those with disabilities feel invited and fully able to participate in all our church functions. All parishioners are encouraged to read through the Toward Inclusive Community Worship booklet to better understand some of the challenges that disabled individuals may have. When at any Saint Thomas More activity, look for ways that our church can exemplify Pope Francis' call for mercy, especially as it relates to disabled participants. If you have any suggestions for how our church facilities or parish activities can be modified to be more welcoming to all participants, please contact Stacy Jones at 270.210.0351. ☩



By: Bill Murphy

*"While we often think of disabilities as requiring a physical aid, such as a wheelchair, cane, or hearing aid, there are many disabilities that may be less obvious"*



# Holy Year Popes

**Brescia University hosts art collection**



Pope Francis has declared this to be an extraordinary Jubilee Year with a focus on the Mercy of the Church. Jubilee Years were established in the 14th century and have gone through several changes in the more than 700 years since the first was introduced.

The history of Holy Years and the Popes who have presided over them is outlined in a pictorial book "The Holy Year Popes: 1300 - 2016." The book is a companion piece to a new art exhibit at Brescia University in Owensboro.

This exhibit is a collection of Rev. J. Patrick Reynolds, JCL, former pastor at Saint Thomas More. It will be on display at Brescia from now until the end of November.

The book details each Holy Year Pope and their reign as well as descriptions of the art work in the gallery exhibit. The art features coins, stamps, intricate painted plates, embroidered tapestries and more.

The book also includes facts and stories surrounding the creation of Jubilee Years and how they came to pass, along with the unique perspective of each Pope regarding those years.

2016's Year of Mercy, for example, is an extraordinary year in that it falls outside the current norm of a Holy Year every 50 years. Originally, Jubilee Years were to be held every 100 years but early on, Pope Clement decided that at 100 year intervals, many of the faithful would live their lives without experiencing a Holy Year.

The book also describes the practice of Papal Indulgences and the history behind them as it relates to Indulgences being offered to the faithful during a Holy Year.

The exhibit and accompanying book are fascinating. If you are looking for a spiritual weekend get away, consider traveling to Owensboro to see the exhibit and, along the way, turn that get away into a true pilgrimage and visit the churches Bishop Medley has declared as pilgrimage sites for the Year of Mercy.

Interestingly, the designation of particular churches as pilgrimage sites dates back to the first Holy Year where pilgrims were encouraged to travel to Rome and visit churches within the city.

You will find more interesting facts in the book and at the exhibit. It is certainly not to be missed. ☩





## Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

270.534.9000 • [www.stmore.org](http://www.stmore.org)

### Masses

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Monday & Thursday | 6:00 p.m.           |
| Tuesday & Friday  | 7:00 a.m.           |
| Saturday          | 5:30 p.m.           |
| Sunday            | 9:00 am, 11:00 a.m. |
| Mass in Spanish   | 1:00 p.m.           |

### Pastoral Staff

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## Saint Thomas More Church

A Parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro

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## Pastor's Reflections (from page one)

A busy fall and holiday season is approaching. RCIA has begun with six members studying and discerning the Catholic faith. Please keep them in your prayers. All Souls Day Mass will be celebrated on November 2, and allows those of us who have lost a loved one this year to remember them and lift them up in our prayers. Just after that, it will be time for Advent. What a joyous time of the year when we can celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. Please join us each Sunday in Advent as we prepare for this most Holy event.

Finally, I would like to thank so many of you for submitting your Stewardship of Ministry forms to the office. It was so nice to see so many people proclaiming their stewardship for our parish by placing their form into the basket. There are so many ministries that provide for our parish and they would not be possible without your call to stewardship. In addition, I hope that you have joined me in giving to the Disciples Response Fund. This year's Disciples Response Fund Annual Appeal focuses on the instruction from Pope Francis, "Open your hearts to the mercy of Jesus." I ask you to prayerfully consider giving to this appeal. It directly benefits parishes, ministries and families in our diocese. By working together we can and will open our hearts to the mercy of Jesus. 

- Fr. Brad

## THE LAST WORD

*Psalm 107:1,8-9*

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.*

*The Word* is published by St. Thomas More Catholic Church  
for parishioners and those interested in the Catholic faith.

If you know someone who would like to be added to our mailing list,  
contact Lois Bell by email at [lois@stmore.org](mailto:lois@stmore.org)

*The Word* is written and edited by J. Patrick Kerr and St. Thomas More staff.

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