



Spring 2016



MISSION STATEMENT

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.**

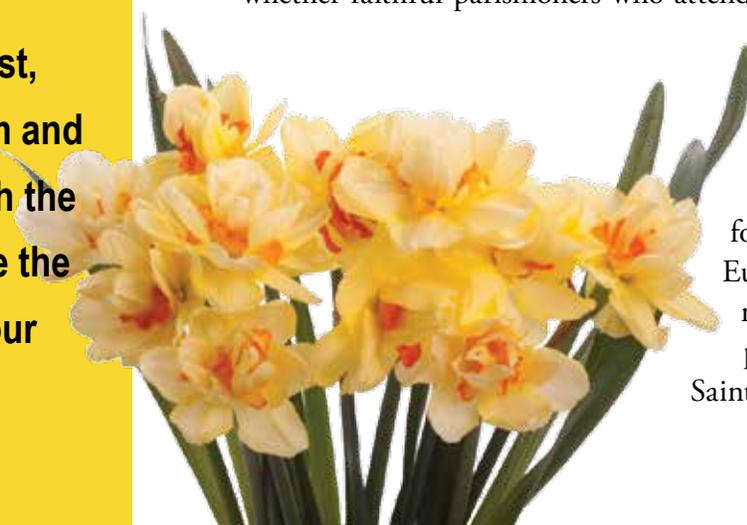
Pastor's Reflections *Thoughts on Easter and Holy Week*



It was truly uplifting to see so many worshippers at our Holy Week, Triduum and Easter Sunday liturgies. Although we hear the Gospel stories and experience the sorrow and ultimately, the joys of the Paschal Mystery each year, it is wonderful to observe how profoundly our sacred scriptures and traditions deeply touch those of us who gather during this most holy time of year.

What most people did not have an opportunity to observe was the considerable time and talent dedicated by our volunteers and staff to make the liturgies reverent and beautiful. Volunteers from our Art & Environment Committee decorated our worship space throughout the week, our choir and musicians practiced for many weeks to enhance our liturgies with sacred music and many liturgical ministry volunteers served as sacristans, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers and greeters. What wonderful examples of Christian stewardship!

Father Michael Charles and I greatly appreciated everyone who joined us, whether faithful parishioners who attend Mass every week, Catholics who attend Mass just once or twice a year, or non-Catholics who were perhaps here as guests of family members. Know that we welcome your presence always for weekend and daily Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, and for the many liturgical, educational and parish life opportunities here at Saint Thomas More.



Continued on back

Holy Week

A time of preparation



Holy Week is one of the most beautiful times of year at Saint Thomas More. The week is steeped in ritual and is a grand completion of the previous 40 days of lent.

Beginning on Palm Sunday with the recitation of the passion of Jesus to the lighting of the Paschal Candle at Easter Vigil Mass, the culmination of the sorrowful times of Lent are behind us and the renewal of life we see in the Resurrection boosts our spirit. ☩



Welcome...

We welcome our newest Catholics to the Church



On behalf of Fr. Brad and Fr. Michael Charles as well as the staff of Saint Thomas More and parishioners, we welcome you to the Church and to Saint Thomas More. We are certain that after a nearly year-long study, you are truly ready to start your new spiritual life here in the Church.

We all look forward to continuing your spiritual journey with you. ☩



Pictured below are the newest members of Saint Thomas More with their sponsors.

Front Row: Lynn Baker, Carrie Roach, Catherine DuPerrieu, Betty Kettler, Loanie Nguyen, Ivette Perrault

Middle Row: Kirk Studzinski, David Riley, Andrew DuPerrieu, Marge Wurth, Dau Pham Nguyen, Phuong Cao Nguyen, Trina Vaughn

Back Row: Fr. Brad Whistle, Genie Lasoski, Pat Cairney

Not pictured: Jeff Case, Patti Case, Lindey Gross, Brian Medlin



Photos from Holy Week...

The Crucifix is carried from the back of the church in procession.

The altar is bare and without the Crucifix as parishioners prepare for Easter Sunday and the memorial of the Resurrection.

Fr. Brad washes the feet of a parishioner during Holy Week.

The congregation processes into church on Easter Vigil with candles that have been lit from the Paschal Candle.

Also from Easter Vigil...

Fr. Michael Charles lights the Paschal Candle from the Vigil Fire.

Parishioners pass the "Light of Christ" from one candle to the next

Loanie Nguyen is baptized



Easter At Saint Thomas More

A celebration of the Risen Lord



aster, of course, marks the memorial of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, offering us a new spiritual beginning of our own.

The resurrection of Jesus coupled with the new life of spring, reminds us that it is never too late to “resurrect” prayer in our lives or renew our commitment to God. Perhaps now is a time to reflect on our commitment to God and the place of prayer in our daily lives. You may wish to consider committing yourself to an hour of adoration in our Works of Mercy Chapel or make a promise to yourself to pray the Rosary once a week in the beautiful Rosary Garden at Saint Thomas More.

We want also to thank everyone who helped make the Easter season joyful, especially lectors, servers at Mass, ushers and our beautiful Saint Thomas More choir. Their dedication and willingness to serve makes Mass and the other activities surrounding Easter and Lent a beautiful experience for everyone.

Enjoy the photos of the Easter Season. ☺



Annual Parish Picnic
 Sunday, August 28, 2016
 Saint Thomas More Campus

Food, Fun and Games will be on tap for our annual Parish Picnic. It's not too late to sign up to chair a committee or get your name on the list to help that day. We can't wait to see you there!

For more information contact the parish office



Memorial Day at Mt. Carmel
 A day of remembrance for our departed brothers and sisters

Join us at Mt. Carmel Cemetery on Monday, May 30, Memorial Day, at 9 a.m. to celebrate Mass. Just prior to Mass, the Civil Air Patrol will hold a flag ceremony honoring the members of the military buried at Mt. Carmel.



Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Inc.
 1500 W. 15th Street, St. Thomas, MO 64481
 Mt. Carmel Cemetery is open to All God's Children regardless of religious denomination. We invite you to call us for a tour of the grounds or for more information.

Coming Soon!

Feel the Bloom!
Grounds Ministry Work Day
 Saturday, April 30 9 a.m.

Join us for fellowship and a not-so-hard day's work appreciating the beauty of our campus and all that God has made.

ice cream social

Join us to celebrate the feast day of Saint Thomas More

wednesday, June 22
 works of mercy chapel
 vespers @ 6 p.m.

Ice cream will be served in the parish hall immediately following evening vespers

we look forward to seeing you!




Church doesn't have to just be for Sundays!

There are so many upcoming events and special days here at Saint Thomas More. Mark your calendar for any or all of these activities.

Keep your eye on the bulletin each week and regularly check our website at www.stmore.org for other upcoming events in which you and your family may want to participate.

Living the Faith

Teaching our children about their faith

By Donna Tarantino



This year marks 20 years that parishioner Patty Hughes has been sharing and fostering the growth of faith with Catholic children. Since 1996, she has served as volunteer catechist for 2nd grade students in the Paducah Faith Formation program; for 15 of those years, she has also served as volunteer catechist and facilitator for our Saint Thomas More Parish sacramental preparation program.

While parents are the first teachers of the faith, their children also receive education and preparation for their first sacraments in the Saint Mary School System and Faith Formation. Our parish, too, plays an integral role in the responsibility to offer proper formation for our children as they take those first steps along their journeys of faith. Parish classes are held in the fall and spring and augment the programs at St. Mary and Faith Formation. Together, these efforts help our parish children become fully prepared to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

Throughout 19 years of class planning and preparation, parishioner Joan Wientjes has volunteered her time and dedication as Patty's assistant catechist. While Joan downplays the importance of the help she provides, Patty insists, "We are a great team. I could not have done any of it without her friendship, inspiration, support, and assistance!"

It should be noted that Patty initially declined to be featured in our newsletter, since she does not seek recognition for her service. After some consideration (and encouragement), however, she decided to take an opportunity to express how sharing one's faith with young people is a powerful and rewarding experience. It is her hope that others might feel inspired to answer God's call to share their faith, too. (Is God calling you?)

Both Patty and Joan are longtime members of our Saint Thomas More parish family. Patty has worked for the Lourdes Hospital Lab for nearly 40 years. She and her husband Alan have two adult sons, Clay and Evan. Joan is a CPA; she and her husband Randy have two adult children, Calvin and Dawn.

When you see these loyal volunteers, please offer a word of thanks for their service and dedication!☺



IN YOUR PRAYERS

Remember our youth in your prayers as this spring

HOLY SPIRIT

FIRST COMMUNION
 April 24

CONFIRMATION
 May 7



Saint Thomas More
Catholic Church
270.534.9000 • www.stmore.org

Masses

Monday & Thursday 6:00 pm
Tuesday & Friday 7:00 am
Saturday 5:30 pm
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Mass in Spanish 1:00 pm

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Brad Whistle
Pastor

Rev. Michael Charles Ajigo Abiero
Parochial Vicar

Sr. Celia Sanchez
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Parish Bookkeeper
ellen@stmore.org

Pastor's Reflections (from page one)

Please join me in congratulating our new Catholics who joined the Church at the Easter Vigil. What a joy and pleasure to welcome them to our new family at the culmination of their year-long journey through our RCIA program. A photo of our new members is on page three of this issue of *The Word*. I encourage you to welcome them to Saint Thomas More.

We strive to be a welcoming parish, not only at Easter but also all year through. Extending a welcome to new members of our church is important because it makes a positive first impression and makes new parishioners feel at home. I send new members a personal letter, and our Welcoming Committee also reaches out through notes and personal phone calls. But, welcoming is everyone's responsibility. Be sure to offer a handshake or friendly greeting to newcomers; invite them to a parish social gathering or to become involved in ministry. Small gestures of kindness make a big difference! To our new parish family members - please be sure and introduce yourself to me and to Father Michael Charles. We look forward to getting to know you.

As a closing note to our spring newsletter, I ask you to join me in wishing the best to staff member Donna Tarantino, who will be leaving Saint Thomas More at the end of May. Donna, who has served our parish as Director of Ministries and Volunteers since 2005, will be leaving for a position at Saint Stephen's Cathedral in Owensboro. She has expressed to me her deep gratitude and appreciation for the wonderful parishioners she has worked with through many ministries, programs, projects, sacramental preparation, parish celebrations and more. As we bid Donna a fond farewell, she has asked me to encourage everyone's participation in continuing to make Saint Thomas More an active, vibrant parish and an excellent model of stewardship.

Know that I keep all of you in my daily prayers and ask for your prayers as well for Father Michael Charles and me as we continue to serve the good people of Saint Thomas More Parish. May the joy of Our Risen Lord remain with you throughout the Easter season and always. ☩

The Word is published by Saint 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. *The Word* is written and edited by J. Patrick Kerr and Saint Thomas More staff. Graphic Design by Patrice Hoffman and J. Patrick Kerr