

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD, AUGUST 6, 2023

PARISH MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

Mission (Purpose)

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we the Catholic Community of St. Thomas More respond to our call to holiness.

Vision (Goals)

Empowered by Baptism, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and formed by the Word of God and the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, we live out our Mission by working together:

- To structure prayerful, vibrant, participatory, Sunday worship experiences.
- To provide Life Long Faith formation for all age levels.
- To care for the young, the old, the sick, the hurting and the needy, both inside and outside our parish.
- To promote faith sharing, prayer, support, learning and listening to one another as a model for nourishing and sustaining our faith community.
- To welcome back, with hospitality, those who have left our faith community.

VISITATION AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office, 424-3212, if a family member is seriously ill or facing/recovering from surgery and would like to see a priest or receive the Anointing of the Sick. Holy Communion is also available to those who are homebound on an ongoing basis.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please make arrangements for Baptism in advance through the parish office. Parents and godparents are required to attend a preparatory session.

MARRIAGE

Couples planning to marry will attend a marriage preparation program called Living in Love. Call office for appointment.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process of formation for full initiation into the Catholic Church. It is open to those never Baptized; those baptized in another faith; and Catholics who have not received First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

For more information, please contact Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate, 424-3212 ext. 104.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades One through Eight - Sunday 9:30 AM—10:45 AM

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

New members are welcome in our community of faith. Please call, 424-3212, or come to the parish

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please submit hardcopy and/or e-mail by 2 p.m. Monday.

CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL

St. John Paul II Regional School - (856) 783-3088
Principal: Mrs. Helen Persing



God our Father,
in the transfigured glory of Christ your Son,
You strengthen our faith by
confirming the witness of your prophets,
and show us the splendor
of your own sons and daughters.
As we listen to the welcoming voice of your Son,
help us to become heirs to eternal life
with him who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.



“If my people, who are called by My Name, **shall humble themselves**, and **pray**, and **seek My Face**, and **turn** from their wicked ways; **then** will I hear from heaven, and will **forgive** their sin, and I will **heal** their land.” *2nd Chronicles 7:14*

The collection for Sunday, July 30, 2023 was \$ 6,411.68. The budgeted amount was \$8500.

Tithing is a test of our stewardship over the property of God, a test of our honesty to return to God what is rightfully His, a test of our obedience to do what He told us to do, and a test of our love and desire to please Him with our lives. Tithing is a demonstration that we believe in God, and that we acknowledge that He is the provider of all material blessings. If you haven't the faith to believe that the tithe belongs to the Lord, neither can you have faith in Him to meet your financial needs. After all, if you don't believe that the tenth is His, you must not believe that the whole earth is His either. Without that confidence in His supremacy, there could be no confidence in His ability to provide our needs.

If you are trusting God for your eternity, surely you can trust Him for your temporal needs!



Stewardship Corner: The Transfiguration of the Lord Beloved Stewards

“...then from the cloud came a voice that said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.’” - *MATTHEW 17:5*

When Peter, James and John heard this they immediately fell, prostrate, to the ground and they “were very much afraid.” We Stewards may respond the same way when we hear God's voice. How many times do you become fearful when invited to participate more fully in the life of the Church? Or, when someone says something negative about the Church, are you afraid to respond? Remember, we too, are beloved sons and daughters of God; Jesus is there to help us, but we need to listen.

From the Pastor's Desk

When Should I Call for the Priest?

Dear Parishioners,

From the days when I was trained to be a priest in the seminary, we were reminded of a rather important consideration: **the sacraments of the Church are intended for the *living*.**

Usually being in close proximity to a hospital and various facilities for the aging, priests receive a significant number of requests to visit people in the hospital and nursing homes. Some people call asking for the *last rites* for their loved one. Others call for a priest to hear their confession or to bring them Holy Communion. Unfortunately, there seems to be a great variety in the levels of understanding—and even some confusion—regarding when a priest should be called to visit a patient/resident.

As a general rule of thumb, whenever there is an emergency, call for the priest *immediately*. Tragedies such as car accidents, heart attacks, strokes and any unforeseen grave situation should prompt an **immediate call for a priest**. Please realize, however, that most priests lead a busy daily schedule and are not usually sitting around just waiting for an emergency call. We try to act promptly, but sometimes we can be in a meeting, teaching a class, hearing a confession, answering an important phone message, etc., and may not be able to drop everything we are doing instantly. If we hear that it is an emergency situation, we will do our best to respond as soon as possible.

If a patient is terminally ill or in a *hospice* situation, it is certainly appropriate to call for the priest to administer the *last rites*. The last rites of the Church include the opportunity for the **Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation** (confession), **Holy Communion** (*Viaticum*), and the **Anointing of the Sick** (formerly *Extreme Unction*). Ideally, these sacraments can be most beneficial when the person is conscious and is able to respond. Please do not wait until the person is *at the point of death* or *unconscious* before calling for the priest, especially if the illness is prolonged. The sacraments are available to bring spiritual consolation and comfort to the patient. Remember, the sacraments are intended for the *living*.

Additionally, there are times when a person should specifically ask for the *Anointing of the Sick*. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

The Anointing of the Sick "is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived." If a sick person who received this anointing recovers his health, he can in the case of another grave illness receive this sacrament again. If during the same illness the person's condition becomes more serious, the sacrament may be repeated. It is fitting to receive the Anointing of the Sick just prior to a serious operation. The same holds for the elderly whose frailty becomes more pronounced. (#1514 & 1515)

It is not unusual to find some people unwilling to request this sacrament for themselves or to hesitate to ask for it for their family member because of fear of sending the message that *death is imminent*. This sacrament, in conjunction with the reception of Holy Communion and a sacramental confession, may be a great spiritual consolation and a means of healing for the sick or elderly person. Again, the sacraments are intended for the *living*.

Moreover, in those difficult circumstances when the person has *already died* when the priest arrives, the priest is certainly available to pray for the deceased and to help to comfort the family.

Fr. Ed Namiołka, Pastor

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD, AUGUST 6, 2023

Ministry Schedule for August 12/13

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Marta Julie	G. Tyrrell	C. Betson-Smith	
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Becca Julie	K. Witts	K. Kraemer	Witts
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Becca Julie	D. Staton	C. Musso	M. Marsden



The meaning of the Radiant Glory of the Transfiguration
The Transfiguration is one of the most important events in Jesus' life. We Celebrate it as a Feast every

August 6.

"After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And He was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them".

Then..., the disciples could hear the Father's voice echoing from the cloud, declaring the only words the New Testament records Him speaking:

"This is my beloved Son, listen to Him".

Then..., as they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead and they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

Though the disciples did not understand his meaning, **the Transfiguration** is a promise of what is to come *because He will soon triumph over sin and death, over any kind of physical or spiritual suffering and death and be raised in the fullness of glory* – the glory of which they have just been given a glimpse.

The Transfiguration is a sign of what He wants to do in all of us: He wants us to share in His glory and make us so radiant that we begin to reflect the glory of God. So..., let's continue to open ourselves to Him, to cooperate to this beautiful work of transformation that He wants to operate in each one of us and, through us, in the whole world. Let's receive the Eucharist, Jesus Presence, as our nourishment which transform us and our relationships with one another in Him.



Eucharistic Adoration is an important practice in our faith that helps us to:

- Nurture our desire for Christ and grow in hunger and thirst for the Bridegroom who feeds His Bride on His own Flesh and Blood so that she may share ever more in His divinity.
- Maintain our union with Christ after we receive Him during Mass.
- Nourish social love and give us opportunities for adoration and thanksgiving, for reparation and supplication.
- Pray to the power and sacrifice that the Eucharist represents — the body of Jesus, who gave His life so that we may live
- Be inserted more deeply into the communion of the Mystical Body.

Eucharistic Adoration is held in the Chapel Monday—Friday after the 9:00 AM Mass. All are welcome to spend some time with the Lord.



The Hispanic Prayer Group meets 10:00 AM—12 noon, Friday, August 11th, in Classroom #1.

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is ongoing. Registration forms have been emailed to all returning students. **Forms may be found on the Parish website:** stthomasmorenj.org. On the left hand side, click on Religious Education Registration form. **A late fee of \$50 will be charged for all registration forms received after August 15th.**

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD, AUGUST 6, 2023

Weekly Intentions



SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

9:00 am Tomas Abustan r/b Juanita Vasayllaje

4:30 PM Emilia Machesani r/b Vince

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

8:30 AM Fr. Brian O'Neill r/b Roy Targonski

11:00 AM Lucien Picard r/b Romaine Frattuna

MONDAY, AUGUST 7

9:00 AM people of the parish

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

9:00 AM Deacon Ed Protzman r/b Helen

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

9:00 AM living & deceased members of Morgan family in Ireland

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

9:00 AM Bridget Namiotka r/b family

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

9:00 AM Alice Bradley r/b Kevin Byrnes

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

4:30 PM Marty Blumberg
r/b Joan Feinberg & family

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

8:30 AM Mary Jo Einstein r/b Franciscan Sisters

11:00 AM Teodoro Barrientos & Alicia Amador
r/b family



Check www.MassTimes.org for scheduled Masses at your vacation destination.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for August.

For World Youth Day We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives

2023 APPEAL: "For the Life of the World"

St. Thomas More Parish

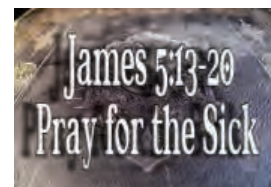
Goal: **\$89,700**

Total to Date: **\$43,995.00 —49%**



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: *THE SICK...*

Kristina Acevedo, Caroline Bancheri, Jim Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Pat Beaney, Joe Centonze, Ray Chuisano, Elva Clark, Grace Cobin, Tammy Colon, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, Mary Cowan, Catherine Diana, Fr. George Donfurtang, Elizabeth Garber, Eileen Gerie, Eileen Goodwin, Marjorie Graham, Helen Kane, Marion Kapischke, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, John Lane, Bob Lento, Marie Manalo, Carter Oakley, Tina Petrone, Helen Protzman, John Ravena, Eleanor Rizzo, Dom Sacca, Carlos Santiago, Teddy Shaffer, Grace Sklencar, Joe Sklencar, Claire Spence, Dick Spence, Dale Strack, Stacia Strack, Michael Suralik, Pat Suralik, Ed Targonski, Sr., Roy Targonski, Ann Vigrass, Sarah Warner.



PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...

SPC Jordan Beckman, Captain Patrick J. Bones, USMC, Major Anthony R. Cosentino, USAF, TSgt. John P. DeYoung,

Sam Houston, USN, Lt. Nicholas G. Iannuzzi, SSgt. Kris Knaup, Lt. Christopher Mawn, Lt. Jacqueline A. McCabe, SN Christian Mele, PFC Sonny Morrison, Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa, Sisi Tyrrell, USMC, SPC Nicole Williams, and *all those serving our country.*

Looking Ahead!

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary
Mass, September 24, 2023.

3:00PM Mass St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Absecon.

If in the year 2023 you are celebrating a milestone anniversary of 25, 50, 60 or 70 years or more, you are invited!

Registration forms are available in the Parish Office.



Eucharistic Revival (Quotes from Pope Francis)

"Adoration: that is the attitude we need in the presence of the Eucharist." (Homily— June 6, 2021)

"Besides physical hunger, people experience another hunger that cannot be satiated with ordinary food. It's a hunger for life, a hunger for love, a hunger for eternity." (Homily— June 19, 2014)

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD, AUGUST 6, 2023

Please note that we put the following week's Gospel passage in this space so you can prepare all week for Proclamation of the Gospel the following Sunday. Faith Sharing helps ordinary people connect their faith with everyday life experiences

Small Christian Community Faith Sharing

Excerpt from the Gospel for the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 13, 2023- Matt. 14:22-33

During the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came toward them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.

Commentary:

Part of the purpose for this Gospel passage was to encourage the community. This account was written fifty years after the Resurrection event. Matthew's audience is suffering opposition, rejection, even persecution. They are beginning to worry that the risen Lord has abandoned them as well. Here Jesus reassures his followers, telling them not to be afraid. Matthew gives special attention to Peter's attempt to walk on water. Peter often acted impulsively. He came to realize his weakness and his need to rely on the Lord for help. Matthew hopes his listeners will come to the same recognition.

Questions for Reflection and Sharing:

1. What is God saying to me in this Gospel passage?
2. What word or phrase in this Gospel speaks to me?
3. What word or phrase in the Commentary resonates with me?



Pro-Life Corner:

"...The mother who is thinking of abortion, should be helped to love, that is, to give until it hurts, her plans or her free time, to respect the life of her child. The father of that child, whoever he is, must also give until it hurts."

St. Teresa of Calcutta

CELEBRATE GRANDPARENTS' DAY!

Sunday, September 10, 2023

11:00 AM Mass

Reception follows in the Church Hall



Grandparents play a special role in the life of the family. They model for their grandchildren a life of Faith, Love and Service. All grandparents are invited to the

11:00 AM Mass, Sunday, September 10, 2023 to receive a special blessing. Grandchildren are invited if they can attend.

Call or email the Parish Office if you plan to attend: 856-424-3212 or sthomasmore@comcast.net.



Simple Living

On April 10, 2023 the Faith and Justice Team sponsored "Simple Living" which was the theme for Earth Day 2023.

Those who attended presentation discussed various ways we can simplify our lives and protect the environment. One suggestion was to use LED light bulbs and turn off lights when not needed. Another idea was to reduce pesticides/herbicides on your lawn. **The Faith & Justice Team would love to hear from you about your efforts for "Simple Living."** Send what you are doing to stmfaihandjusticeteam@gmail.com

St. Mary Church Filipino Apostolate

Tagalog Mass

Sunday, August 27, 2023

3:00 PM Rosary 3:30 PM Mass in Church

The 2024 Mass Book is now open to schedule your Mass intentions for the coming year.

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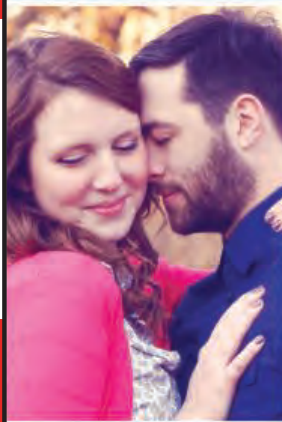
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