ROOTED IN THE GOSPELS AND FORMED BY IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY, THE MISSION OF THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF SAINT THOMAS MORE IS TO GLORIFY GOD BY OUR LIVES.
Community & Opportunities

Catholic Services Appeal Foundation
This weekend, you will find envelopes in the pews for the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation. Please refer to the bulletin insert to find the 20 vital ministries CSAF supports. You may also donate online at www.GiveCSAF.org. The deadline to donate is March 8. Thank you for your generosity!

Bake Sale Raised $520 dollars for Dorothy Day Ministry!
A BIG thank you to all bakers who donated some yummy goodies for the bake sale. The donations included some tasty breads, cookies, cakes, muffins. Some of the favorite items were a delicious Kahlua cake and bread! Thank you to all volunteers who helped sell! And of course thank you to all buyers. Also, we appreciate the cash donation from a STM Boy Scout!

Thank you,
STM Women’s Group

Parish-Wide Discipleship Survey
Make sure to take our Parish-Wide Discipleship Survey by March 1! www.morecommunity.org/survey

Sponsor A Student
NOW THROUGH MAY 2
We do not want to turn away a single child because of financial need. Over the past few years, our students’ needs for tuition assistance have increased. In response, we gave a total of $181,000 in tuition discounts, to our families who qualified, for the 2019-2020 school year. However, we are in need of a more sustainable solution. Rather than continuing to give unfunded tuition discounts, we are creating a dedicated fund for tuition assistance which will ensure the viability of Saint Thomas More for generations to come! Our goal is to make sure students of ALL backgrounds know they are welcome here.

We ask you to prayerfully discern sponsoring a student’s tuition so we can continue to educate students in the Jesuit tradition and provide a loving home to all who arrive at our door. If we don’t invest in our young people today, what will our church look like tomorrow? Together, let’s stand in solidarity with the children of our parish school!

How to Sponsor A Student
We have started a GoFundMe fundraiser for this campaign with a goal of $81,000! We will also accept donations by check or through our online giving platform (OSV)—just select the Sponsor A Student fund. We need your help to get the word out about this fundraiser. Please share our GoFundMe with your friends, family, and supporters of Catholic education!

More info and link to donate:
www.morecommunity.org/sponsorastudent

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<th>GIVING CIRCLES (2020-2021 TUITION RATES)</th>
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How to Sponsor A Student
Ash Wednesday
FEBRUARY 26
Join us for Mass as we begin the liturgical season of Lent on Ash Wednesday!

Stations of the Cross
FEBRUARY 28, 5 PM
Join us for Stations of the Cross from 5-5:30 every Friday during Lent. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at 4:30 pm prior to Stations.

Lenten Fish Frys
FEBRUARY 28, MARCH 13, & MARCH 27 (5:30-8 PM)
SCHOOL CAFETERIA
Join us for one or all of our 3 Lenten Fish Frys this Lent! Meals include all-you-can-eat fried cod, mashed potatoes, french fries, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, dinner rolls, cookies, and lemonade. Beer, wine and soda will be available for purchase. The cost is $12 for adults, $6 for ages 5-12, and free for ages 4 and under. Attend Stations of the Cross before from 5-5:30 pm. All are welcome!

If you are interested in volunteering, please find the link to sign up at www.morecommunity.org/fishfrys.

CRS Rice Bowls
During Lent our community will participate in CRS Rice Bowl, a faith-in-action program that invites us to reflect on the challenges of global hunger—and our responsibility to respond to the needs of our global human family. It offers opportunities for your family to engage daily with the spiritual pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. And it’s an opportunity for our parish to come together as a community and reflect on what it means to live our Gospel call to seek those in distress and help those in need. Rice bowls are located in the community corner of our church and we invite you to take one home. We will collect your CRS Rice Bowls at the end of Lent.

Ashes to Easter Booklets
Booklets for your Lenten journey will be available for parishioners titled From Ashes to Easter, Our Lenten Journey with Pope Francis. During this season of Lent prayer, fasting and almsgiving you are invited to use one of these booklets and journey with Pope Francis during the season of Lent. Books may be located at the doors of church.
Give Up Waste for Lent: Week 1

**Theme: Our “throwaway” culture**

Around half of all the waste going into our landfills today is single-use plastics. And more than half of the “trash” that ends up floating in our oceans is made up of these types of items. Some of this is involuntary (packaging you can’t avoid), but a lot is voluntary. These “voluntary” plastic items come in many forms, including the plastic bags from stores, straws, coffee cups, and take-out food containers. All of these items make our lives more convenient, and they are generally inexpensive to produce. “Inexpensive” is misleading because neither the producer or the consumer has to account for the cost they impose on the environment. Our attitudes toward them are a result of what Pope Francis calls “our throwaway culture” and our failure to recognize that we do not “own” the earth, to do with as we choose. He goes on to say “Scriptures make clear that the earth belongs to God; it is his creation;” and “All humans have a responsibility to ‘till’ the earth, to ensure its health for all time.” For this week we ask you to think about your responsibility to our planet and to consider ways you can reduce your use of these items (some specific suggestions are listed below).

**Readings: Laudato Si, paragraphs 12-15, 17-22, 46-47, 66-69, 76-80**

**Questions for reflection/discussion:**

1. Which type of single-use plastic most reflects our “throwaway” culture for you?
2. In another document, Pope Francis distinguishes between “personal sin” (“wrongful” actions of us individually) and “social sin” (“wrongful” actions of the society of which we are a part). Do you see wasteful use of plastics as more of a personal issue or a social issue?
3. In chapter 2, Pope Francis makes a distinction between “creation” and “nature.” How is that relevant here?
4. To what extent do you feel a personal responsibility for the well-being of our planet?

**Specific Suggestions:**

1. Bring your own (non-plastic) bag to the grocery store this week. And find at least one additional use for any plastic bags that you do have.
2. Avoid the use of plastic straws for a week.
3. Bring your own cup to at least one meeting or gathering or to your favorite coffee house.
4. If you go out to eat and expect there to be leftovers, bring your own to go containers.

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**Ex Factors: Introduction to Ignatian Spirituality**

**February 29, 9 am - 12 pm, St. Peter Claver Church**

Two of our parishioners, Mariah Snyder and Terry Griep, will be giving a presentation about Ignatian Spirituality at our neighbor church next weekend! All of our parishioners are welcome to attend! This is a great opportunity to learn about Ignatian prayer, simple ways to encounter Jesus daily, and have an opportunity to try your hand at some of the practices Jesuits use daily. The presentation is free, but please register by calling Lynette at St. Peter Claver at 651-646-1797.

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**Junie B Jones The Musical Jr.**

- **Friday, March 6 (7pm)**
- **Saturday, March 7 (7pm)**
- **Sunday, March 8 (2pm)**

Get your tickets today for MORE+Theater’s energizing and heartwarming production of Junie B. Jones The Musical JR! The charismatic and spirited Junie B. and her classmates will take you on a musical journey from the school bus, through the lunchroom, and onto the playground—reminding us all of the challenges and exhilarations of being a kid!

Tickets are $10 Adults; $5 Ages 2-10; Under 2 Free; $30 per family*

**Online:** [www.moretheater.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.moretheater.brownpapertickets.com)

**In-person:** School office or after masses next week, Feb 22-23, and Feb 29-Mar 1

*Family rate only available when purchased in-person*
Synod Listening Sessions - Last Call!
Two years from now, Archbishop Hebda will issue a new pastoral letter. For the first time in any Catholic archdiocese ever, he is asking the people of his archdiocese what the letter should be about. This letter will reflect what he hears from his flock and will set the priorities of our archdiocese for the next 5-10 years.

Our opportunity to share our feedback with Archbishop Hebda for the future our archdiocese will soon come to a close. The final listening session in the east metro is:

March 7, 9 am - 12 pm at Transfiguration (Oakdale, MN)

If you have not yet had a chance to participate, please make attendance a priority! Our archdiocese will be enriched by hearing from as many of us as possible.

More info: www.archspm.org/synod
Questions? synodambassadors@morecommunity.org

Feed My Starving Children
MARCH 7, 11 AM - 12:30 PM,
990 LONE OAK ROAD, EAGAN, MN
This Lent, help pack meals for God’s children at Feed My Starving and help FEED THE WORLD! All parishioners, families, and adults are welcome to participate in the parish wide Lent activity. There are age restrictions so please check the fmsc.org website if you have questions. Space is limited so register early! Families and adults are responsible for their own transportation.

Register: https://bit.ly/2GXfLno
Questions? Email Brian bhefer@morecommunity.org or call the parish office.

Midwest Province’s Annual Lenten Morning of Prayer
MARCH 8, 10:30 AM
All parishioners are welcome to the Midwest Province’s Annual Lenten Morning of Prayer here at Saint Thomas More. Father Chris Krall, SJ will celebrate Mass followed by a reflection after in the school cafeteria. Food and drink will be provided!

Father Krall, a Marshfield, WI native, is a 2005 graduate of Boston College and is currently in PhD studies at Marquette University.

Register: www.jesuitsmidwest.org/Lent2020
Registration is required!
Questions? Please contact Dan at dobrien@jesuits.org

Eucharistic Ministers Needed at St. Joseph’s Hospital
Volunteers are needed at St. Joseph’s Hospital to bring the Eucharist to patients. Training will be provided. For more information about this important ministry please contact Gordon Palzer at gordy.p@comcast.net.

Environmental Tip from Care for Creation
Finding it tough to avoid the packaging on certain food items? Start cooking these items from scratch! Many prepackaged items we purchase are very easy to make. Consider making your own pizza crusts, hummus, guacamole, quick breads, etc. Better for your health, better taste, and less waste!

www.morecommunity.org/care-for-creation
Mothers, Grandmothers, Daughters, Sisters Friends Retreat: “The Friendship of Women”  
*Presented by Susan Stabile*

**MARCH 28, 9 AM - 3 PM, CHRIST THE KING RETREAT CENTER (BUFFALO, MN)**

Because we are communal beings who need companions on our journey, authentic friendship is a necessary dimension of the Christian life. Yet we don’t always attend to the sacred dimension to friendship. It is also the case the, historically, less attention has been paid to the friendship of women than to male friendships.

This retreat day offers an opportunity to reflect on the friendships of women and the qualities that sustain it. We will consider what we learn from women of scripture, as well as more modern day women and our own experiences about the way God has created us for relationship. Our day will include time for individual reflection as well as sharing.


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**Library Corner**

Have you seen the Yellow Cart in the Community Corner? A new selection of books is added every month. Find a book to read for Lent. And, if you do not find a title that interests you, visit the large library in the basement of the Parish Center. Just sign the book out. There is no due date for returning the book.

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**Free Store Update**

Did you know that there are two opportunities to volunteer at the Free Store? Flexible time commitment - you choose the dates you are available. Please consider joining us in serving Christ by taking care of our neighbors. Thank you!

- 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month, 10 am - 12 pm to process donations and set up shop. This is perfect for retirees or anyone who has time to help during the week. To sign up, email Dan at dankatecole@gmail.com.
- 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month, 12-3 pm, to open and run the shop. To sign up, visit [www.morecommunity.org/free-store](http://www.morecommunity.org/free-store).

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**Dorothy Day Ministry Needs Volunteers!**

If one of your New Year resolutions is to volunteer more, we have the perfect opportunity for you! On the 3rd Friday of every month, STM volunteers prep and serve dinner for clients of Dorothy Day. Volunteers are needed 2-4 pm for dinner prep, as well as 4-5:45 pm for dinner service. It’s a wonderful opportunity to see the face of God in those most in need in our community. If you are interested, please contact Lisa at lisa.welch@cctwincities.org for more info and to be added to monthly email request for volunteers.

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**More Hats & Horses**

Save the Date: "More Hats & Horses Gala" Annual School Auction  
**MAY 2, 2020**

Break out your fancy hats and place your bets on us at the STM annual auction! Silent and live auction packages will share a focus on family fun, date nights and sports events. Have a blue-ribbon worthy donation to add to the mix? Contact Anna Thibert (annakthibert@gmail.com) or Emerald Gratz (emerald_gratz@hotmail.com) for your donations, questions, and ideas!

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 22 - † Michael Patrick Keenan
Sunday, February 23
8 am - † Kathy O’Connell
10:30 am - STM Community

Tuesday, February 25 - † Catherine L. Schwab
Wednesday, February 26 - † Donald A Parizino
Thursday, February 27 - † Marie A. Cavanaugh
Friday, February 28 - † Ferdinand W. Fabian
Saturday, February 29 - † Ray & Norma Traen

Sunday, March 1
8 am - STM Community
10:30 am - † Patrick Donovan Hurley

Liturgy Schedule

Mass: Saturday, 4:30 pm, Sunday, 8 & 10:30 am.
Tuesday-Friday, 7:15 am; during the school year, an 8:30 am Mass is also celebrated on most Wednesdays.

Reconciliation: Saturday, 3:30-4 pm or by appointment.

Eucharistic Adoration: First Friday of the Month, flowing from 7:15 am Mass, concluding at noon with Midday Prayer and Benediction.

Centering Prayer: Tuesday, 5:30-6:15 pm.

Baptisms: First Sundays of the month during 10:30 am Mass or at 9 am by appointment (no baptisms offered during Lent or Advent).