



OUR **MISSION** IS TO PROVIDE A WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE, AND LOVING COMMUNITY BY PROCLAIMING AND LIVING GOD'S WORD THROUGH WORSHIP, EDUCATION, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

SAINT THOMAS MORE PARISH

11822 Holmes Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64131 • stmkc.com

Christmas 2024



BULLETIN ONLINE

this and last week's at stmkc.com

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MASSES

CHRISTMAS 12/24: 4PM, 6PM

12/25: Midnight, 9am

WEEKDAY: Mon & Fri 8:15am,

Tues, Wed, Thu 6:15am & 8:15am

First Sat 8:15am

WEEKEND: Sat 4pm, Sun, 7:30am, 9am & 11am

MASS ONLINE CONTINUES

RECONCILIATION

Individual Confessions: by appointment and Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-6pm

Saturdays, 3-3:45pm

First Saturdays, 7:15-8am

OUR CLERGY

Father Justin Hoye, Pastor

Father Pius Wesonga, AJ, Associate Pastor

In Residence: Father Paul Sappington

AT THE PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours:

Mon. & Wed. 8:45am-1pm, 2-3:30pm*

Tues. & Thurs. 8:45am-1pm, 2-5pm*

Friday 8:45am-1pm

* lunch hour 1-2pm

Parish Office 816-942-2492

Office directory at stmkc.com and p.9

AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Linda Crosthwait Principal

Tracy Stewart Assistant Principal

Office hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8am-3:45pm;

Fri., 8:30am-3:30pm

School Office 816-942-5581

School fax 816-941-2450

School email directory at stmkschool.org

SCHOOL TOURS: contact Principal Linda Crosthwait at 816-942-5581 or crosthwait_linda@stmcydones.org

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

All employees and volunteers working with minors are required to:

- Create an account at virtus.org
- Attend a Protecting God's Children workshop
- Complete a mandated reporter training
- Submit to a background check
- Read the online Policy on Ethics and Integrity in Ministry

For more Safe Environment information, including reporting and victim resources, see page 10.

From your pastor



Faithful People of Saint Thomas More,

Merry Christmas! This season reminds us of the goodness God visions in our humanity, and that the gift of his Son, Jesus - God in the flesh - assures us of the Lord's efforts to heal and redeem that vision.

As Church, we celebrate those efforts year round, specifically through gathering as an assembly in the Mass and the gift of the Eucharist. I hope you and your family return often to this offering through which we honor the father by celebrating the gift He gave us: His Son!

Father Justin

P.S. In addition, I hope you can join us for any of these activities in 2025!

Friday Fresh Fire Nights

Jan 10; Feb 7; Mar 28; Apr 25

STM has held over two dozen of these evenings, providing Eucharistic Adoration, Praise and Worship Music, Personal Testimony, and Healing Prayer. If you've never been, they are dynamic encounters with our Eucharistic Lord.(See details on page 3.)

STM Annual Auction

Denim & Diamonds

Saturday, February 1.

This year's gathering in Flanagan Hall includes food catered by... This year's Fund-a-Need seeks to raise funds to replace the current playgrounds. (See details at stmauction.org.)

Lent Offerings:

Ash Wednesday Masses

6:15AM, 8:15AM, 2PM (School) and 6PM

Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 5PM in the Church

Fish Frys

Fridays, 5-7PM in More Hall

STM Vacation Bible School

Week of June 23rd, 9AM-Noon

For children currently in grades K-4. Watch for additional information in the parish bulletin after the first of the year!

Mass times
& office hours
Dec. 25-Jan.1

Weekday Masses

During the Christmas Octave (Dec. 25th-Jan. 1st), we will have a 9am daily weekday Mass, including Saturday.

The Parish Office

will open at 9:30am on those weekdays.

Staying Connected

Here are some resources for staying connected to parish life at Saint Thomas More:

Parish website: stmkc.com

School website: stmkcschool.org

Event calendar: stmkc.com/calendar/

Email subscription: stmkc.com and click on the "EmailListSignUp" link to receive...

Bulletin

Father Justin's *News at STM* weekly email

Prayer Chain requests

Funeral notices

For help signing up, contact Joan Sandford.

Get involved! (Time & Talent)

Opportunities for service to others are scattered throughout this bulletin, with the heading "**Get involved!**" Though not a comprehensive list of volunteer opportunities, these are ministries in which parishioners can easily assist once or many times. Take a look! Make contact! All contact names listed without contact info are staff members, with contact info on page 13.

Prayer, Worship & Sacraments

All ministries listed in this section are held at STM.

Mass Times at STM

Daily Masses - Christmas Octave (Dec. 26-Jan. 1)

9am (including Saturday)

The church will be open 7am-9pm for prayer.

Daily Masses beginning January 2

Monday, 8:15am

Tuesday, 6:15 & 8:15am

Wednesday, 6:15 & 8:15am

Thursday, 6:15 & 8:15am

Friday, 8:15am

First Saturday, 8:15am

Sunday Masses

• Saturday - 4pm Vigil Mass

• Sunday - 7:30am, 9am and 11am

Masses have been recorded daily since late March 2020 and posted on our website, stmkc.com, and at youtube.stmkc.com.

Get involved!

Record Online Masses for the people

Since late March 2020, Masses have been recorded daily and continue to be recorded and posted at stmkc.com and youtube.stmkc.com, especially for the homebound. Contact Joan Sandford to join the team!

Eucharistic Exposition

Sundays, 12-9pm

Music is provided 12-1pm on first Sundays.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5-6pm (Not Dec. 24 or 26)

Saturdays, 3-3:45pm

First Saturdays, 7:15-8am

To make an appointment outside of regularly scheduled times, contact Father Justin Hoye: 816-942-2492 x204 or frjhoye@stmkc.com.

Get involved!

Take Jesus to others

- 18 parishioners (regulars and subs) are available to make approximately 12 Communion visits to the homebound each week.
 - 12 parishioners provide an STM presence to 9 facilities in our neighborhood.
- Contact Peggy Lucas to join this ministry.

Church Hours for Private Prayer

Monday through Friday, 6am-9pm

Saturday & Sunday, 7am-9pm

Pray the Rosary

All are welcome to pray the Rosary or the Fatima devotions after the **8:15am daily Masses** or to join the Knights of Columbus to pray **after the 9am Sunday Mass**.

Spiritual Direction

Direction is distinct from confession or counseling, giving individuals an opportunity to meet and speak with another about one's spiritual life. In the process of disclosure and conversation, the promptings of the Holy Spirit are discerned for one's growth. Both the Diocesan Young Adult Min-

istry (City on a Hill) and our STM parish offer spiritual direction opportunities, with clergy or laity.

For more information, contact Father Justin. He is happy to answer questions and help connect you with a spiritual director who could help you develop a more intentional spiritual life.

Get involved!

Help with Masses

Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, servers and musicians are needed at all Masses. It takes a minimum of 16 people for each Sunday Mass, for a total of 64 liturgical ministers assisting every weekend. Contact Sharon Arnett to get started, or Bob Sandford for musicians.

Fresh Fire Fridays

Jan. 10, Feb. 7, Mar. 28, Apr. 25, 7-9pm

"I have come to set the earth on fire, and wish it were already blazing!" Luke 12:49.



Looking for a wonderful experience of prayer with others? These evenings are beautiful nights of candlelit Eucharistic

Adoration with praise and worship music and personal testimonies. Prayer teams are also available to pray with those in need. Come to experience the power of Jesus' healing presence.

Healing and Recovery Ministries

Counseling

There are many burdens that can keep us from truly embracing the fullness of life that the Lord envisions for each of us. The parish offers both contacts and financial assistance to those who desire professional outreach to help find clarity, direction and healing in their lives. For more information, contact Father Justin Hoye.

Grief Peer Support Group

1st & 3rd Wed. (Jan. 15), 4-5pm, Bauman Room

Grief is difficult and can be experienced as a result

of any kind of loss. In addition to supporting each other, we use various resources to better understand our grief. Peggy Lucas, Pastoral Associate, facilitates these groups. Attend as you are able. For more info, contact Peggy Lucas.

Get involved!

Pray for others

Parishioners and friends who are sick are welcome to contact Peggy Lucas for prayers. She emails prayer requests to nearly 200 prayer warriors! Contact Peggy Lucas to join the warriors in prayer, too.

Journey to Bethany

Website: journeytobethany.org/

Director: Jennifer Prusa - jprusa@journeytobethany.org or 816-683-8999

Journey to Bethany is a ministry in the diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph that connects the gifts, resources, prayers and concern of caring persons in the diocese.

Purpose: Serving those harmed by clergy sexual abuse through actions of healing and justice.

For more information on ways to volunteer and get involved, check out the website and join their mailing list.

For more information on how our diocese strives to protect our children, visit kcsj/ocyp.org. There is a wealth of information and resources located there!

Annulment Advocacy Available at STM

Annulment Advocacy is available for those seeking to pursue - or consider pursuing - the annulment process, and seek resolution to a former marital relationship. STM provides both men and women, clergy and laity, trained to accompany divorced individuals through the process and answer questions along the way. There is no cost to this ministry which provides healing and clarification to those who participate. Call Father Justin for details.

EnCourage and Courage Diocesan Ministry

Website: couragerc.org/encourage/

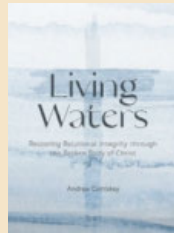
EnCourage is a spiritual support group for family members and friends of loved ones with same-sex attraction. **Courage** is a spiritual support group helping Catholic men and women live in accordance with the Catholic Church's teaching on same-sex attraction and/or behavior. Members strive to de-

velop lives of interior chastity in union with Christ, through participation in the Sacraments, prayer, fellowship, and moral support. Both groups meet in Kansas City and St. Joseph.

Living Waters

Relational Integrity through the Broken Body of Christ

**Website: livingwaters.com/
Mondays (January 6-May 5),
7-9:30pm at STM**



How does Jesus transform our brokenness into a gift to His Church? We can begin by applying his mercy to the ways we fail to love well: sins against us, sexual sins, giving too much, or withholding ourselves altogether. We seek wholeness through honest admission of our brokenness. This confidential, in-depth prayer/healing group is for men and women, marrieds and singles.

For more information or to join the next series of Living Waters, please call 816-683-1839 or email morelivingwaters@gmail.com. Registration is required.

Mental Health Outreach by Catholic Charities

Website: catholiccharities-kcsj.org/mental-healthministry/

Mental Health is very important. Through our Parish Mental Health Ministry Coordinator, Marie Justin, there are ten "faith sharing groups" throughout the diocese to discuss their walk with God and whatever mental health burdens they are experiencing. For more info, please contact Marie Justin at 816-203-2939 or mjustin@ccharities.com.

My House Workshop for Men - Diocesan Ministry

**Websites: centerforhealingkc.com
my-house/my-house-workshop**

My House is a 3-day confidential, intensive for men striving to overcome and heal from unwanted sexual behaviors. It is geared to maximize your investment of time and money, as well as enhance any work you might have started or jump start your journey towards healing.

2025 Dates: February 20-22, May 8-10, July 31-August 2, November 6-8

Local Ministries for Married Couples

Retrouvaille (Retro-vi): Is your marriage in crisis?

Website: helpourmarriage.org

Retrouvaille has a proven track record of 80% suc-

cess rate among couples who attend the weekend program and all twelve post sessions. All couples welcome! The next Kansas City weekend will be **January 31-February 2** (Friday-Sunday). For more information, visit helpourmarriage.com or call 800-470-2230. Other weekends begin May 16 and September 26.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME)

Website: wwme4youandme.org

Spend time strengthening your marriage by attending this weekend with your spouse! The next Kansas City weekend will be held at Savior Pastoral Center, Kansas City, KS on **March 28-30**. Other weekends begin June 13 and August 8.

Get involved!

Help save lives

The parish holds a quarterly blood drive in partnership with Community Blood Center. **Our next drive is Tuesday, April 8, 2-6pm in More Hall.** Contact Joan Sandford or sign up at esavealifenow.org.

Project Rachel/Project Joseph National Ministry

Many women and men suffer greatly in the aftermath of abortion. Many feel that they can't or don't deserve to be forgiven. Project Rachel/Joseph offers compassionate counseling where women and men can find forgiveness, understanding, healing, and wholeness. There is hope! For more info, email projectrachel@diocesekcsj.org, call Project Rachel at 816-591-3804, or visit projectrachel.com.

STM Prayer Blanket Ministry

Volunteers make blankets that are given to parishioners who are going through a difficult experience as a way to assure them of God's unconditional love and the parish's care and support. To help make blankets, contact Peggy Lucas.

Gabriel Project KC - Interdiocesan Ministry

People are waiting to walk with women who are pregnant and in need of any kind of assistance. They provide a friend to give you the emotional, material, and spiritual support you need, so that you are not making this journey alone. They stay with you even after the birth of your baby, as long as you desire. For free, confidential, and non-judgemental assistance, call 913-602-0306

24/7. For more information or to email them, visit gabrielprojectkc.com.

Ministries of Service/Outreach

STM drives or is in partnership with the ministries in this section.

Respect Life Ministry

The Respect Life Committee works to defend the sanctity of every human life and promote the dignity of every person. They host events throughout the year in support of pregnant moms and to raise awareness on abortion. For more information, contact Peggy Lucas.

2025 March for Life in Washington KC

A bus for the diocese will depart from Old St. Patrick's Oratory the evening of January 22 and return the morning of January 25 (3 days/2 nights). Visit form.jotform.com/243408001400134 by Sunday, January 12, to register.

Community LINC

Website: communitylinc.org/

Community LINC works with motivated homeless families to reintegrate them into productive lives. Opportunities to help include one-on-one mentoring, children's tutoring, preparing an apartment for a new family or one-time opportunities as they arise. For more information, contact Peggy Lucas.

STM Green Team



GREEN TEAM
Tending our call to stewardship of the Earth

The Green Team is working to mitigate waste, reduce energy usage, save money, and help protect the planet on a parish and family level. If you are passionate about sustainability, green solutions,

and protecting our God-given environment, join the team or send in your thoughts and ideas. Email Tarah Arndt at tarahkruger@sbcglobal.net or Lisa Holiman at holiman2000@gmail.com.

Tip: KCMO Recycling Center at the intersection of Red Bridge & Hwy 71/I-49 accepts holiday lights all year.

Faith in Action Team

This team works to raise awareness of Catholic Social Teaching and provide service opportunities to help people in need. For more information, contact Peggy Lucas.

Refugee Resettlement

In partnership with Della Lamb, STM helped resettle three families in the past year, with **16 individuals**: one family from Myanmar (Burma), one from Afghanistan and one from the Congo. Each family was supplied everything from silverware to beds, along with start-up funds! Teams from STM set up their living spaces and stocked food for the kitchen. To help resettle future refugees, contact Peggy Lucas.

Get involved!

Feed the homeless

Website: uplift.org/

Uplift is a not-for-profit charity whose mission is to bring care and compassion to the homeless in KCMO & KCKS. STM parishioners provide a hot meal on the **3rd Wednesday of each month**. For more information, please contact Peggy Lucas.

First Sunday Food Drives

Website: setonkc.org/

Food is collected the first Sunday of each month to be distributed to Seton Center, a comprehensive assistance center in NE Kansas City, and our Red Bridge Food Pantry in South KCMO. For more info, contact Peggy Lucas.

Meals for Moms

Meals can be a huge support as families welcome new babies! We're putting together an email list to support families in this way at STM. If you'd like to be on the list to know when meals are needed, email Hayley Shaver.

Guatemala Ministry

The Guatemala Action Group fosters awareness of the needs and values of our brothers and sisters in San Andrés, Itzapa in Guatemala. Our goal is for both communities to grow and benefit from our shared journeys of faith and sponsors mission trips to Guatemala each summer. For more information contact Peggy Lucas. The two summer trips for 2025 are now closed: 25 will travel on the first trip and 20 on the 2nd trip.

Helping Hands of STM

Need help with minor home repair, snow removal, moving furniture, painting, or other small project? Volunteers are ready to help as they can! For more information, contact Peggy Lucas.

Catholic Charities of Kansas City

Website: catholiccharities-kcsj.org/

Catholic Charities has been busy this year! They have helped with 1100 homes for veterans, seniors, and people with disabilities, distributed 13,5000 pounds of food for families each week, provided \$1,000,000 in rent and utilities to keep families stable, and supported and mentored 350 moms.

This outreach was done with the help of volunteers working hundreds of hours and done while gutting and preparing their new headquarters in South Kansas City, the former Saint Matthew's Church on Longview Road.

Catholic Charities also provides support for pregnant women, through the first year of their baby's life. Search "Pregnancy" from the main site.

Get involved!

Feed the hungry

Website: bishopsullivan.org/one-city-cafe/

STM parishioners (10-12 each time) serve hot meals at One City Café on the first Monday of every month. Volunteers meet at 3936 Troost, 4-6:30pm on these days. Volunteers serve as the wait staff, giving patrons the dignity of eating in a nice restaurant.

On December 2, our group served nearly 200 people. Contact Father Justin Hoye.



Professional & Vocational Support

Catholic Medical Association (CMA) - First Saturdays

Website: catholicmedkc.org/

The local group of the CMA meets (in MO and KS) for formation on First Saturdays. Their slate of topics can be found on their website. CMA is open to

Get involved!

Feed the homeless

Website: restartinc.org/

reStart works with individuals and families to prevent, navigate or end homelessness. Parishioners provide sack lunches **each week** which are delivered to reStart to help feed the people they serve. A sign-up is sent out to 26 volunteers who choose the dates they can provide lunches and/or deliver them. For more info or to volunteer, contact Peggy Lucas.

all Catholics engaged in the medical field (including medical students, residents, doctors and their families) who seek to serve their patients with the care that Jesus Christ extends.

A list of Catholic doctors in the KC area can be found on their website and CMA also hosts an annual White Mass that will be held Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 10:30am at Our Lady of Good Counsel. Email secretary@catholicmedkc.org for more information.

STM Knights of Columbus Council #14270

Website: stmkc.com/, Community Life

The Knights are an international organization chartered on the founding principles of charity, unity, and fraternity. At Saint Thomas More, they are known for reaching out to help parishioners and others within the community and contributed \$2,000 in gift cards to help others for Christmas.

They contributed another \$4,000 to charities at STM and in Kansas City, Members meet on the **2nd Thursday of each month**. For more information, contact Grand Knight Craig Laird at laird.craigs@gmail.com or 816-898-2478.



Young Catholic Professionals (YCP)

Website: ycpkansascity.org

YCP brings together young adults and seasoned business professionals in a variety of events to foster Catholic identity, encourage community and inspire action. The Kansas City chapter is now in its fourth year. Join with them as they strive to integrate Faith in daily work and personal relationships and propel your professional journey forward.

Catholic Bar Association (CBA)

Nat'l. Website: catholicbar.org/; **Local:** clgkc.com

The CBA, initiated by Catholic laity, strives to build community among the Catholic members of the legal profession. The CBA exists to support Catholic attorneys in living their faith within their professions. They host lunch lectures through the year and an annual Red Mass in the fall. Please visit the websites above for more information.

Get involved!

A team of 11 people provides a breakfast and a dinner each month for people who have loved ones at Kansas City Hospice House, 120th & Wornall. Breakfast is served on 4th Saturdays, 9-10am. Dinner is served 2nd Wednesdays, 6-7pm. Contact Peggy Lucas to help provide food or to serve.

Serra International

Website: serrainternational.org/

Serra is an international ministry that raises awareness and support of religious vocations in the Church. The organization holds monthly meetings, and sponsors events that support priests, seminarians and religious. A large number of STM parishioners are Serrans and active throughout the city all year. STM parish proudly hosts regular meetings, a chili dinner in November, and a Seminarian Mass and dinner in December. Contact STM parishioner Jerry Cooke at 816-942-5311 to get involved.

STM Vocations Committee

In 2022, STM became 1 of 9 parishes to be included in the first round of the development of Parish Vocation Committees. They meet to enhance parishioner and student awareness of programs, events and activities that support the priestly & religious vocations we have and to help foster the development of new vocations, working closely with Principal Linda Crosthwait and Father Justin Hoye. For more information, contact Father Justin.

Adult Faith Formation

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Discerning Entrance into the Catholic Church Meet Tuesdays, 6:15-7:30pm in More Hall

OCIA is for those from another Christian tradition,

another religious tradition, or no religious background, and for those who are Catholic and would like to know more about the Catholic faith. Fellow sojourners, volunteers, and catechists meet weekly and help provide the information and experiences for individuals to better discern the invitation to become Catholic. In January and February, the sessions will cover the seven sacraments. For more information, contact Father Justin Hoye.

Special Religious Education for Adults

SPRED (Special Religious Education for the Developmentally Delayed) is a small faith-sharing community for adults. Discussions and a hands-on approach with materials enrich their faith lives and knowledge of the Bible and Catholic Teaching. The group meets about every other Monday, 6:15-8:15pm at Saint Thomas More. For more information, contact Hayley Shaver.



Growing in Faith Together (G.I.F.T.)

Tuesdays, 9-10:30am in the Bauman Library

G.I.F.T. is a group of ladies that meets after 8:15am Mass most every Tuesday. We read the gospel and talk about its meaning in our lives. If you are interested, contact Hayley Shaver.

The Catholic Key

December/January issue now available

Curl up with the latest issue of Catholic Key magazine, found at catholickey.org. Hear from our bishop, learn about churches throughout the diocese, read faith stories of parishioners, and more!

Children/Youth Formation

Preparation for Sacrament of Confirmation

- **For those in STM School**, preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place during the school day in religion classes. Hayley oversees Confirmation preparation, and additional Information will be sent home to families

through the school.

- **For those in a public school, private school or are homeschooled**, reach out to Hayley. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at STM on **Mondays: June 2 (8th grade) and June 9 (6th grade) at 7pm.**

Contact Hayley Shaver for details.

Faith Formation/First Communion Preparation **Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30pm in More Hall**

This group is especially suited for children in grades 1-8 not attending a Catholic school. Children are taught in a cozy, community atmosphere. Contact Hayley Shaver for more information

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

The week of June 23, STM School

Plans for VBS are in the works! Volunteers are welcome and may contact Hayley Shave. Children currently in grades K-5 are welcome to participate, with older youth and adult volunteers.

Children's Choir

2nd Sundays, 9am Mass

Children in grades 2-4 rehearse on Mondays and sing on 2nd Sundays. For more information, contact Bob Sandford.



Cub & Boy Scouts

Saint Thomas More boys have been active in the parish for decades. They usually host Fish Fry Friday meals in Lent, serve pancake breakfasts a

Saint Thomas More School stmkcschool.org



STM School Open House

*Sunday, January 26, 10am-1pm
Meet faculty and staff, take a tour, learn
about registration for the 2024-25 school
year!*

Our school

Quality Education in a Catholic Atmosphere:

Our institution provides a quality education in a Catholic environment for parishioners, non-parishioners, and non-Catholics from preschool through 8th grade. Currently, we serve 479 students, maintaining a maximum of 20 students per class to ensure personalized attention.

Over 69% of our teachers hold a master's degree, bringing an average of 21 years of teaching experience to our classrooms. This expertise enhances the learning experience for our students.

Extracurricular Activities: Students have the opportunity to engage in a variety of extracurricular activities, including choir, band, robotics, chess club, Lego club, craft club, art club, pop culture club, spelling bee, geography bee, basketball, football, track, cross country, volleyball, Student Council, and a talent show.

60th Anniversary Initiatives: In celebration of our 60th year as a parish, we are undertaking special initiatives, including writing 60 letters to Kimberly, our foster child from Guatemala, praying 60 rosaries, and staff members committing to perform 60 hours of service this year.

few times each year, pursue religious badges, and accomplish Eagle Scout projects. For more information contact Joan Sandford.

Girl Scouts

The girls at Saint Thomas More have active groups that meet monthly, according to their ages. They sell the famous Girl Scout cookies and learn about our community and how to be good citizens as they earn their badges. This year, they also hosted Donuts & Crafts with Santa. For more information contact Joan Sandford.

Get involved!

**Teach the children
Sundays, 9am Mass**

Children through 2nd grade are dismissed before the readings are proclaimed in Children's Liturgy of the Word, to hear the readings at their own level. They rejoin their parents after the homily. For more information, contact Joan Sandford.

Adult Volunteers

New volunteers are welcome in all of our ministries. Adult volunteers who work with children and youth (under 18 years of age) are required to:

- submit to a background check
- read and acknowledge the policy on Ethics & Integrity in Ministry.
- attend a Protecting God's Children workshop,
- complete online Mandated Reporter training.

All adult requirements may be fulfilled through the website virtus.org. Click on First Time Registrant and choose the Diocese of Kansas City~St. Joseph (not KS). Create your account and proceed through the steps.

See page 10 for information on reporting abuse.

For additional information on safe environment efforts and procedures within our diocese, please visit kcsjocyp.org or contact Joan Sandford.

Innovative Learning Approaches: This year, we are excited to introduce STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Math) and project-based learning projects at our Open House, further enriching our educational offerings and fostering a holistic learning environment.



Registration for the 2024-25 school year will begin in **February**. Registration fees will be determined and published in advance. A discount is given for early registration. Watch the parish bulletin for information on registration dates and fees. Please also check out your eligibility for MO Scholars at brightfuturesfund.org.

Tours may be scheduled by calling the school at 816-942-5581 or visit stmkcschool.org.

For more information call the school office at 816-942-5581 or visit stmkcschool.org.

Financial aid

STM EDUCATION FUND for financial aid: As of 12/10/24, \$667,910.79. Financial Aid awarded this school year: \$83,225 + \$331,500 from MO Scholars

MOSCHOLARS

The State of Missouri provides MOSCHOLAR for K-12 scholarships, available for qualifying families to use in private schools, including Catholic schools. The program took effect July 1, 2022. 51 students at STM School currently benefit from this program, each student receiving \$6,375 annually toward tuition.

To designate your tax dollars to this fund or to find out if you qualify for a scholarship for the 2025-26, school year, please visit brightfuturesfund.org/.

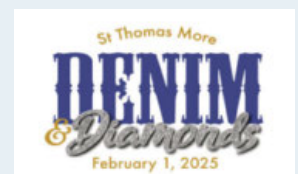
Annual STM Auction

Saturday, February 1, 2025 at STM School

Visit stmauction.org.

Dinner catered by Garozzo's
Tickets on sale now!

Support Fund-a-Need
for new playground equipment. Contribute today at stmauction.org.



Fellowship & Social Opportunities

Women of STM

The Women of STM gather through the year for a variety of events: social, spiritual, and service oriented. All women are invited to take part! For more information, contact Hayley Shaver.

2025 Events (exact dates to be determined)

- January - paint and sip
- February - spiritual event
- March - Michael McGlenn and Divine Mercy
- April - Blingo with Journey House
- May - outdoor rosary and celebration

Young Catholic Adults (20's & 30's) City on a Hill (COAH)

Website: kansascityonahill.org/

The young adults in our diocese are very active throughout the year. Their two major events are:

- **Tuesdays at the Boulevard** begins with Mass at Sacred Heart-Guadalupe Parish, followed by drinks and pizza at Boulevard Brewery. Next event: **January 21**, 5:30-10:30pm at Sacred Heart-Guadalupe Parish, 2544 Madison Ave., KCMO 64108.
- **KC Underground (KCU)** is a powerful opportunity to come before the Lord in Adoration by candlelight, accompanied by prayerful music and the opportunity to receive Reconciliation. Next event: **February 20**, 7-9pm. See the website for location.

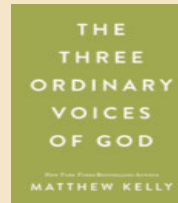
Other Opportunities include

- Undivided Retreat, March 3-7 at Prairie Star Ranch
- Small Groups
- Sports - from dodgeball and bowling to softball and flag football

The Loop is a weekly email of events. Sign up on their website to be included!

For more information about COAH

- visit kansascityonahill.org
- email youngadults@diocesekcsj.org
- follow @CityOnAHillKC on Twitter, or
- join them at facebook.com/kansascityonahill or, at facebook.com/groups/kansascity/groups/kansascityonahill (for group conversation).



Christmas Books

Each year, the Men of STM purchases books to hand out to everyone at the Christmas Masses. We hope this year's book inspires you! Happy reading!

About the book:

God hasn't stopped speaking. We've stopped listening.

We yearn for God's direction. We want to hear his voice. We know his will is the path to the peace, joy, and happiness we hunger for. But how do we discover his will?

God has been speaking to humanity from the very beginning—and he has been speaking to you...

Learning to listen to the voice of God will change your life powerfully and wonderfully. The Three Ordinary Voices of God will help you discover how God is speaking to you today and how that will change all your tomorrows.

In this simple and powerful guide, Matthew Kelly demonstrates that God speaks to everyone—whether we are aware of it or not—through three ordinary voices: OUR NEEDS, OUR TALENTS, and OUR DESIRES.

Jubilee Year 2025
CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLDWIDE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Saturday, December 28, 2024
2:30 p.m. Mass at the
Cathedral of the
Immaculate Conception

*The service will begin at
the statue of Mary on the
corner of 12th and Broadway*

JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Grateful for STM's Generosity

STM collects a load of food the first Sunday of each month. The food is distributed to Seton Center, a comprehensive assistance center in NE Kansas City, and our Red Bridge Food Pantry in South KCMO.

An annual back-to-school drive provides school supplies through Seton Center and served **252 students** this year.

For this year's Outpace Poverty 5K, STM's Peggy's Pacers raised **\$2,350** for Catholic Charities.



Aiding refugees relocating to Kansas City



Visiting the orphanage at our Guatemala mission



Cleaning up Blue River Road nearby.



Sorting Seton Center school drive items

In 2024, up to December 11, the STM Neighbors in Need fund provided **\$44,433.45 in rent/utility assistance and food/gas cards to 33 individuals/families**. This fund is available to help parishioners and others who live within our parish boundaries and find themselves in financial difficulty. If you are in need or would like to contribute to this fund, contact Peggy Lucas.

STM Knights of Columbus supplied **\$2,000** in gift cards to help families for Christmas.

This year, STM parishioners provided gifts for **211 children** through Seton Center and another 20 children through Catholic Charities. Approximately 20 large bags were given to Journey to New Life.

Ready to join STM?



REGISTER TODAY

stmkc.com/register



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ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED?

Contact Father Justin at 942-2492 x204 or frjhoye@stmkc.com for marriage preparation information.

DO YOU HAVE A NEWBORN ?

Contact Hayley Shaver at 942-2492 x223 or hayley@stmkc.com for Baptismal preparation information.

ARE YOU AN ADULT SEEKING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?

Contact Father Justin at 942-2492 x204 or frjhoye@stmkc.com

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Contact Father Justin at 942-2492 x204 or frjhoye@stmkc.com to learn about classes.

ARE YOU EXPERIENCING A LOSS OR STRUGGLING WITH AN ILLNESS?

Contact Peggy Lucas at 942-2492 x210 or peggy@stmkc.com for support.

Sunday Q&A

Your Faith in Focus

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C

THE HAIL MARY: BIBLE BORN

What can we learn about the “Hail Mary” in the larger context of Sacred Scripture?

The “Hail Mary” is one of the most well-known prayers of our Catholic Faith. What is remarkable about it is that it’s taken directly from Scripture. Its heart originates from the angel’s greeting to Mary: “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” (Luke 1:28). The other central part is Elizabeth’s response to Mary in the Visitation: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!” (Luke 1:42). The rest of this prayer is packed

The promises of the Old Testament resonate as we pray the “Hail Mary.”

with biblical meaning. Dr. Andrew Swafford explains how the verses of this prayer reflect important events in the Old Testament. Let’s take a closer look!

“The Lord Is With You”

This phrase signals a momentous stage in salvation history. To put that in context, let’s note that this same phrase is used with Moses, Joshua, and Jeremiah as they receive their missions from God. It also indicates that the “yes” of the individual will have great consequences for the unfolding of God’s great plan of salvation. With this in mind, Gabriel’s words to Mary (“the Lord is with you”) should resonate with the reader, making us aware of the pivotal moment.

“Blessed Are You Among Women”

Words like these also have biblical precedents, including when a heroic woman defeats an enemy of God’s people by striking a mortal blow to the enemy’s head. In Judges 4:21, Jael drives a tent peg into enemy general Sisera’s temple, for which she is praised: “Most blessed of women be Jael” (Judges 5:24). Likewise, Judith beheads the general Holofernes, with Uzziah saying, “O daughter, you are blessed by the Most High God above all women on earth” (Judith 13:18). The phrase also is tied to the *proto-evangelium*, the promise of redemption:

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. (Genesis 3:15)

This verse foretells a time when a woman and her seed would crush the head of Satan, ultimately referring to Mary and Jesus. Mary, the New Eve, will join in the work of the New Adam, Jesus.

Mary’s participation in God’s mission begins with her great “yes” at the Annunciation and continues in her faithfulness at the Cross, where she unites her will with God’s will and offers her son to the Father on behalf of all humanity. In the “Hail Mary,” we recognize Mary’s continual maternal love and prayers for each of us as she earnestly seeks to lead us to her son.

Parish Calendar of Events

Sat., Jan. 4 - Boy Scout Merit Badge Day, 8am-3pm
 Sat.-Sun., Jan. 4-5 - Monthly Food Drive, Narthex
 Mon., Jan. 6 - STM Serves at One City Cafe
 Living Waters begins, 7-9:30pm, Church
 Tue., Jan. 7 - OCIA, 6:15-7:30pm, More Hall A
 Wed., Jan. 8 - K Daisy Scouts, 3:30pm, More Hall C
 School of Religion, 6:15-7:30pm, More Hall A
 Thu., Jan. 9 - Knights of Columbus mtg., 7pm
 Fri., Jan. 10 - Fresh Fire, 7-9pm, Church
 Mon., Jan. 13 - SPRED Class, 6:30-8:30pm
 Tue., Jan. 14 - School Adoration, 2-3pm
 OCIA, 6:15-7:30pm, More Hall A
 Home & School mtg., 6:30pm, More Hall C
 Wed., Jan. 15 - STM accepts casseroles for Uplift
 Peer Support Grief Group, 4-5pm, More Hall
 Sun., Jan. 26 - Catholic Schools Week begins
 School Open House, 10am-1pm
 Sat., Feb. 1 - School Auction
 Fri., Feb. 7 - Fresh Fire, 7-9pm, Church
 Wed., Mar. 5 - Ash Wednesday
 Masses at 6:15am, 8:15am, 6pm
 Fri., Mar. 7 - Boy Scout Fish Fry, 5-7pm, More Hall
 Sun., Apr. 13 - Palm Sunday begins Holy Week

Notes

Parish Office Hours

The office will open on weekdays at 9:30am between Christmas and New Year's Day. The office will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. It will close at 1pm on New Year's Eve.






The Solemnity of Mary (January 1)

Masses at 9am and 6pm

School Office Hours

Monday-Thursday, 8am-3:45pm
 Friday, 8:30am-3:30pm
 School reopens Tuesday, January 7.

Parish Office Staff

	Sharon Arnett Liturgy Coordinator x208 sharon@stmkc.com		Bob Sandford Publications & Music Director x212 bob@stmkc.com
	Mary Begnaud Receptionist x201 mary@stmkc.com		Joan Sandford Office Manager x202 joan@stmkc.com
	Scott Dulle Building & Grounds Director dulle_scott@stmcyclones.org		Father Paul Sappington In Residence frsappington@smcatholic.org
	Father Justin Hoye Pastor x204 frjhoye@stmkc.com		Hayley Shaver Evangelization & Discipleship x223 hayley@stmkc.com
	Becky Johnson Finance Coordinator x224 becky@stmkc.com		Tim Waris Business Manager x218 tim@stmkc.com
	Peggy Lucas Pastoral Associate/Outreach x210 peggy@stmkc.com		Father Pius Wesonga, AJ Associate Pastor x203 frpwesonga@stmkc.com

Parish Office Hours (until further notice)

Office Hours: M-W 8:45am-3:30pm; T-Th 8:45am-5pm
 F 8:45am-1pm
 Closed M-Th, 1-2pm for lunch

Finance Ministry Team

Justin Hicks, Chair Stefanie Bresette
 Mark Meierhoffer Laura Christopherson
 Bruce Gregg
Parishioner volunteers serve for three-year terms.
 Questions? Email FinanceCouncil@stmkc.com.



Diocesan Ombudsman

Joe Crayon crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org or 816-812-2500

Victim Advocate

816-392-0011 or victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org

To register as a member of Saint Thomas More Parish...

...go to stmkc.com/registration, contact the parish office or pick up a registration form on the Information table in the church narthex.

Safe Environment Information

The Diocese of Kansas City~Saint Joseph is committed to combatting sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you *observe or suspect* sexual abuse:

- Call the **MO Child Abuse Hotline**, 1-800-392-3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), or **KS Protection Report Center**, 1-800-922-5330, and
- Contact your **local law enforcement agency** or call 911, and
- After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org or 816-812-2500 if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact the Victim Advocate at 816-392-0011 or victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, contact:

Joan Sandford, Parish Safe Environment Coordinator, safety@stmkc.com or 816-942-2492 x202, OR
Tracy Stewart, School Safe Environment Coordinator, stewart_tracy@stmcyclones.org or 816-942-5581.

Mass Intentions

- Mon: **6:15AM Gayle Wells & Jay Lofthouse[†]**
 12/23 8:15AM Michael Bua[†]
- Tues: **6:15AM Nurses**
 12/24 8:15AM Our Parishioners
4PM Catherine Giarraputo[†]
 6PM Dec'd members of Arnett/MdKenzie family
- MIDNITE Virginia Gioia[†]**
- Wed: 9:00AM Sam Arello[†]
 12/25
- Thur: **9:00AM Lynn Waller[†]**
 12/26
- Fri: 9:00AM Thomas Fahey[†]
 12/27
- Sat: **9:00AM Kenny Benso[†]**
 12/28 4:00PM Bob Switzer[†]
- Sun: **7:30AM Our Parishioners**
 12/29 9:00AM Carman Mancuso[†]
11:00AM Joseph F Rozell[†]

[†] Deceased

**School Mass

SCRIPTURE READINGS

For the daily readings, visit usccb.org/bible/reading. Have the readings sent to your email each day, hear the readings read to you, or watch a video with a reflection based on the readings.



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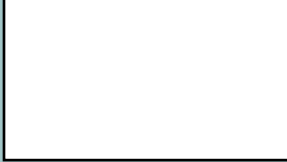
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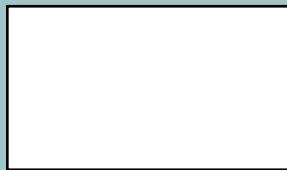
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