

# SAINT THOMAS MORE PARISH Annual Stewardship



***A community of faith, a community of service***

## **SEEING A NEED AND FILLING IT**

**NOAH'S STORY** At the beginning of the pandemic, Noah Titus, who is now a freshman at Rockhurst High School, realized he was in a position to give back. He needed new ways to earn service hours and reached out to Father Justin to see how he could help. Noah started helping with recording Masses. The ability to watch Mass from home was such a blessing during quarantine and it makes Noah feel good he has been able to help when we were not able to attend Mass in person. He also enjoys the peacefulness of observing Mass by himself.

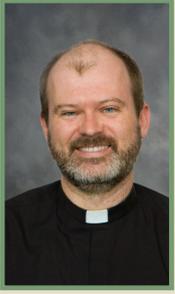
Noah said that it makes him happy to know his mom is proud of him for helping. Noah was able to fill a need for STM and helped hundreds of people access Mass.

**MICHAEL'S STORY** Michael has been volunteering for STM for a number of years and in a number of roles. She currently cleans the altar linens, which she considers a privilege and it gives her time for reflection and meditation.

Michael was in the 10 Commandments garden placing a painted stone, when she noticed the weeds. She asked herself, "What can I do?" Michael called the parish office and asked if she could start taking care of the garden and keep our campus beautiful. Michael has gardened all her life. As she says, "God has to water the grass, but I can deal with the weeds." She knows that there is so much to do and likes to keep busy. Michael has been a parishioner and volunteer at STM for over 30 years.

***Thank You*** to Noah, Michael, and the countless other volunteers in our Saint Thomas More community who help keep Mass online, help beautify our campus, and provide service for others. We are fortunate to have a vibrant parish and this is because of all of you.

# From Father Justin



Faithful People of Saint Thomas More,

In these times, coming home can have many different trajectories: coming home to family, to friends and loved ones, to social engagements, and coming home to church.

COVID-19 has forced many of us to be away from the physical church and feel disconnected from one another. As we steadily move toward a greater state of safety and resiliency, there is also a tug at one's heart to reconnect with those relationships that sustain and nourish: family, friends, and your home at Saint Thomas More.

We are wise to pay attention to those tugs of the heart! It is our Heavenly Father reaching His arms out to you and me, guiding us back to worship together at Mass and the offering of the one sacrifice that sustains and restores all relationships.

These past (almost) two years have shown the faith and fortitude of Saint Thomas More. Through volunteers like Noah, who help to stream Masses into the homes of those still away; and Michael, who tends to the spaces of beauty on our grounds. Our parishioners have shown a level of love and compassion that seeks out ways to connect in a season of dispersion.

As you pray over your 2022 pledge, please consider what it takes for Saint Thomas More to be an impactful parish. Reflect upon those ministries in need of volunteers and reflect upon your financial support.

Remember: regardless of the missed time coming to Mass or celebrating our other parish offerings, we welcome you home. Join your community of faith in the celebration of the Eucharist and the fulfillment of our relationship with Jesus Christ and His body, the Church.

The pandemic has forced us away for too long and now, faithful people of Saint Thomas More, it's time to come home to communion.

With Gratitude in Jesus Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. Justin E. Woyt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Father Justin



**"AND LET US  
CONSIDER**

HOW WE MAY  
**spur one another on**  
TOWARD LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS,

**not giving up meeting together,**  
AS SOME ARE IN THE HABIT OF DOING,

**BUT encouraging one another**

AND ALL THE MORE  
AS YOU SEE  
THE DAY APPROACHING.

# Why pledge?

## YOUR SUPPORT

provides for the activities of the church.

## YOUR SUPPORT

helps Saint Thomas More be the church that helps others.

## YOUR SUPPORT

is a reminder that none of us are asked to venture through this life alone.

## YOUR SUPPORT

is a way for you to give back.



## YOUR PLEDGE HELPS MORE THAN YOU KNOW

It not only helps parish leadership to budget,

- » It helps us to **verify you are an active parishioner** - even if you only pledge \$1.
- » It helps us **keep your information current**, at this crucial time of transitioning to a **new database**.

# Matching gifts, IRA's & Estate plans

**Matching gifts** Check with your employer. You may be able to double your giving!

in 2020 we received

\$10,500 in matching gifts

**Tax-Free IRA Gifts** Charitable taxpayers who are 72 or older can direct "qualified charitable distributions" from their fund administrator directly to STM and other charities of their choice.

\$198,431 in IRA QCD

**Make Saint Thomas More your "4th child"** After your family and loved ones have been provided for, please consider including a gift to Saint Thomas More in your will.

Over \$214,000 in estate gifts.

**Questions?** Contact Tim Waris 942-2492 x218 or [tim@stmkc.com](mailto:tim@stmkc.com)

# STM Education Fund

## SAINT THOMAS MORE SCHOOL



**ONE OF THE GREATEST STRENGTHS** of our Saint Thomas More community is the vitality of our school. At over 500 students, Saint Thomas More School is the fourth largest primary school in the diocese and continues to be a major feeder for over a half-dozen Catholic High Schools throughout the region. Our parish is reinvesting in our commitment to Catholic education.

An education fund has been established to assist families in financial difficulty to provide a Catholic education. The fund is professionally-managed by the Catholic Community Foundation, a separate 501 c3 organization that files its own tax returns separate from the diocese.

### THE FUND AT WORK

In 2020/2021 over \$23,000 was given to our STM school families in need.

## Capital projects update

*Being good stewards of our facilities*

In 2020, we were able to complete the following Capital projects. While most of these you are not able to see, they are so vital to the health of our church!

- » New heating and cooling in the parish office and rectory
- » New choir risers
- » Sewer pipe replacement under the school playground
- » New technology for the chiller at the school
- » Ovens, fryers, and convection oven completely rebuilt and cleaned in the More Hall kitchen.
- » Two HVAC replacements at the school
- » Repairs in the school for electric, plumbing, and painting.
- » Sump pump repairs in the school
- » New LED lighting in the parish office
- » New LED lighting in the school gym
- » Updated parish office technologies including software tools, a new database system and cloud-based storage.

*Thank You*

## STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENT

# *Immediate volunteer needs*

### TO VOLUNTEER

### SEE YOUR PLEDGE FORM OR CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE

- » Cantor
- » Celebration Choir
- » Cleaning the church
- » Coffee & Donut/after-Mass Reception Hosts
- » Faith in Action Team
- » Fall Festival, aka Parish Picnic, Team
- » Funeral Sacristan
- » Funeral lunches
- » Green Team
- » Neighbors in Need screeners
- » reStart Sack Lunch Outreach
- » Usher



**..AND MANY MORE OPPORTUNITIES!**

## *Stewardship Prayer*

### LOVING GOD,

I come to you in thanksgiving, know that all I am and all that I have is a gift from you.

In faith and love, help me to do your will. I am listening, Lord God.

Give me the wisdom and insight to discern what I have to offer and how you would have me offer it.

Nurture me in a generous heart that I may offer my gifts of faith, time, talent, and possessions to you as a true act of faith, to express my love for you and my neighbor.

Help me, your disciple, to reach out to others as you have reached out to me.

**AMEN.**