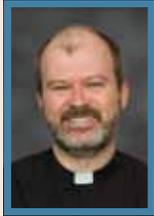


NOVENA IN HONOR OF SAINT THOMAS MORE

FEAST DAY JUNE 22



MANY OF US KNOW that Saint Thomas More is patron of lawyers and those who work in the legal profession. Many of us are unaware that he is also a patron for family life; specifically, of difficult marriages, and of adopted children.

As we've done in previous years, we invite the members of our parish to take advantage of a novena - nine days of prayer - that **begins Saturday, June 18, and concludes on Sunday June 26, the day we will be celebrating the Feast of Saint Thomas More.** It is my hope that each day you might call to mind a particular family in our parish or in your own circle of influence, and ask for our patron's intercession.

Sir Thomas More knew what it was to be widowed; to be a single parent to four young children under the age of five; to marry again someone with a child, and thus experience life as a blended family; to lose employment and have his reputation attacked as he fell out of favor with the powerful; to know imprisonment and the reality of being visited by family in his cell; to watch some in his growing family struggle with the Catholic faith.

Saint Thomas More remains a ready-advocate for our families who seek strength in their faith as they experience daily the trials and stresses as the domestic church. With thanks to David Butel, our Pastoral Associate, who crafted these daily dynamics that affect so many of our families, may we lift these prayers to God - Father, Son & Holy Spirit - who has graciously welcomed us into His family.

As members of the Church, let us emerge from the isolating forces of the pandemic with renewed willingness to experience communion through the communion of saints. May we remember that, in Christ, we are never alone.

Father Justin Hoyer
Pastor
Saint Thomas More Church
Kansas City, Missouri



DAY 1 JUNE 18

Saint Thomas More, your love of and fidelity to God was so strong that you remained faithful even in the face of personal tragedy and persecution. You experienced the death of your wife, becoming a widower at a young age, and knew what it was to grieve the loss of one so close. **Intercede for us now as we pray for families, especially those affected by the death of one of their own members.** We ask that you intercede in a particular way for the _____ family. Through your prayers, we commend them to God's ability to bring forth communion from our wounded humanity.

Scripture: John 11:1-3, 17, 20-27

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So the sisters sent word to him, saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. [But] even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

God of abounding love, as we honor the life and feast of Saint Thomas More, may he intercede for our families, especially those who feel their faith waver, their spirits crushed, or their joy robbed because of the stresses that befall them. May You who are a rich relationship of love - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - draw our families into your divine life, that we may live as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, experiencing a communion won in the wounded humanity you have taken to Yourself.

DAY 2 JUNE 19

Saint Thomas More, your love of and fidelity to God was so strong that you remained faithful even in the face of personal tragedy and persecution. For a time, you experienced life as a single parent, and knew the weight of responsibility for very young children. **Intercede for us now as we pray for families, especially those led by single parents.** We ask that you intercede in a particular way for the _____ family. Through your prayers, we commend them to God's ability to bring forth communion from our wounded humanity.

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32

Then Jesus said, "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any.

Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."' So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began.

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Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"

God of abounding love, as we honor the life and feast of Saint Thomas More, may he intercede for our families, especially those who feel their faith waver, their spirits crushed, or their joy robbed because of the stresses that befall them. May You who are a rich relationship of love - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - draw our families into your divine life, that we may live as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, experiencing a communion won in the wounded humanity you have taken to Yourself.

DAY 3 JUNE 20

Saint Thomas More, your love of and fidelity to God was so strong that you remained faithful even in the face of personal tragedy and persecution. You experienced the pull of religious life as a young man, and while you became a husband and father, you knew what it was to patiently discern the calling God gave you. **Intercede for us now as we pray for families, especially those with members discerning their individual vocation.** We ask that you intercede in a particular way for the _____ family. Through your prayers, we commend them to God's ability to bring forth communion from our wounded humanity.

Scripture: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of the great God and of our savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

God of abounding love, as we honor the life and feast of Saint Thomas More, may he intercede for our families, especially those who feel their faith waver, their spirits crushed, or their joy robbed because of the stresses that befall them. May You who are a rich relationship of love - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - draw our families into your divine life, that we may live as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, experiencing a communion won in the wounded humanity you have taken to Yourself.

DAY 4 JUNE 21

Saint Thomas More, your love of and fidelity to God was so strong that you remained faithful even in the face of personal tragedy and persecution. After the death of your first wife you experienced a second marriage and the raising of your wife's child, as well as becoming the guardian of two other children. You knew what it was to be a blended family. **Intercede for us now as we pray for families, especially those who have grown through a second marriage, adoption, and foster care.** We ask that you intercede in a particular way for the _____ family. Through your prayers, we commend them to God's ability to bring forth communion from our wounded humanity.

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-15

"When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

God of abounding love, as we honor the life and feast of Saint Thomas More, may he intercede for our families, especially those who feel their faith waver, their spirits crushed, or their joy robbed because of the stresses that befall them. May You who are a rich relationship of love - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - draw our families into your divine life, that we may live as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, experiencing a communion won in the wounded humanity you have taken to Yourself.

DAY 5 JUNE 22

Saint Thomas More, your love of and fidelity to God was so strong that you remained faithful even in the face of personal tragedy and persecution. You experienced growing pressure as the Catholic faith was undermined by powerful forces, and knew what it was to have your own family share in the burdens you experienced first-hand. **Intercede for us now as we pray for families, especially those with marriages strained because of social media, demonic forces, or other outside influences.** We ask that you intercede in a particular way for the _____ family. Through your prayers, we commend them to God's ability to bring forth communion from our wounded humanity.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:31-33

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church. In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband.

God of abounding love, as we honor the life and feast of Saint Thomas More, may he intercede for our families, especially those who feel their faith waver, their spirits crushed, or their joy robbed because of the stresses that befall them. May You who are a rich relationship of love - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - draw our families into your divine life, that we may live as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, experiencing a communion won in the wounded humanity you have taken to Yourself.

DAY 6 JUNE 23

Saint Thomas More, your love of and fidelity to God was so strong that you remained faithful even in the face of personal tragedy and persecution. You experienced concerns from within your own family as to the truths of the Catholic faith, and knew what it was to have your convictions probed and doubted. **Intercede for us now as we pray for families, especially those who have a loved one who – because of scandal, misinformation, neglect or abuse – struggle to remain or become Catholic.** We ask that you intercede in a particular way for the _____ family. Through your prayers, we commend them to God's ability to bring forth communion from our wounded humanity.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

God of abounding love, as we honor the life and feast of Saint Thomas More, may he intercede for our families, especially those who feel their faith waver, their spirits crushed, or their joy robbed because of the stresses that befall them. May You who are a rich relationship of love - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - draw our families into your divine life, that we may live as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, experiencing a communion won in the wounded humanity you have taken to Yourself.

DAY 7 JUNE 24

Saint Thomas More, your love of and fidelity to God was so strong that you remained faithful even in the face of personal tragedy and persecution. When you lost favor with those in power, you experienced the loss of titles and positions, and knew what it was to relinquish employment. **Intercede for us now as we pray for families, especially those who struggle financially.** We ask that you intercede in a particular way for the _____ family. Through your prayers, we commend them to God's ability to bring forth communion from our wounded humanity.

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Scripture: Philippians 4:12-14

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

God of abounding love, as we honor the life and feast of Saint Thomas More, may he intercede for our families, especially those who feel their faith waver, their spirits crushed, or their joy robbed because of the stresses that befall them. May You who are a rich relationship of love - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - draw our families into your divine life, that we may live as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, experiencing a communion won in the wounded humanity you have taken to Yourself.

DAY 8 JUNE 25

Saint Thomas More, your love of and fidelity to God was so strong that you remained faithful even in the face of personal tragedy and persecution. You experienced incarceration, and knew what it was to be visited in your cell by family, and feel the separation with loved ones. **Intercede for us now as we pray for families, especially those affected by a family member imprisoned by addictions, mental illness, or through the justice system.** We ask that you intercede in a particular way for the _____ family. Through your prayers, we commend them to God's ability to bring forth communion from our wounded humanity.

Scripture: Hebrews 13:1-3

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels. Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, for you also are in the body.

God of abounding love, as we honor the life and feast of Saint Thomas More, may he intercede for our families, especially those who feel their faith waver, their spirits crushed, or their joy robbed because of the stresses that befall them. May You who are a rich relationship of love - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - draw our families into your divine life, that we may live as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and

wives, experiencing a communion won in the wounded humanity you have taken to Yourself.

DAY 9 JUNE 26

Saint Thomas More, your love of and fidelity to God was so strong that you remained faithful even in the face of personal tragedy and persecution. You experienced the pronouncement of a death sentence, and knew what it was to face your death while your family remained behind. **Intercede for us now as we pray for families, especially those who have a family member who is facing a terminal disease, or whose life is at risk.** We ask that you intercede in a particular way for the _____ family. Through your prayers, we commend them to God's ability to bring forth communion from our wounded humanity.

**Scripture: Mark 1:29-31**

On leaving the synagogue he entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

God of abounding love, as we honor the life and feast of Saint Thomas More, may he intercede for our families, especially those who feel their faith waver, their spirits crushed, or their joy robbed because of the stresses that befall them. May You who are a rich relationship of love - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - draw our families into your divine life, that we may live as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, experiencing a communion won in the wounded humanity you have taken to Yourself.