

# SAINT THOMAS MORE PARISH Annual Stewardship

A GUIDE *for your prayerful consideration*



***The Eucharist:  
The source and summit  
of the life and mission  
of the church***

*Personal testimony*

BY DANA EPPERLY,  
EVANGELIZATION AND  
DISCIPLESHIP COORDINATOR

## WHEN I GAZE AT JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST,

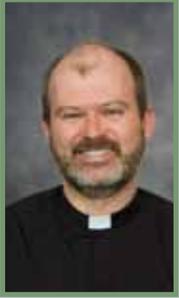
...my heart is moved by His heart, His love for me. My heart burst with uncontainable JOY! The world and concerns in my life start to fade away and all that is left is my precious Lord, and all that matters is His unfathomable love for me. This love, this heart of my Jesus cannot be contained.



Although the host looks so small it holds everything. He holds all things together by the power of His love in this little host. All is found in Jesus...in His sacred heart. All the answers to my existence are found in this living bread from heaven. It contains the essence of my very existence. It's why I exist and what holds me together. I get lost in the chambers of his Heart.

When I receive the host in holy communion I can literally taste and see how good the Lord Jesus is. I taste of His love and mercy for me and for others. It's the sweetest love I've ever known. Receiving Jesus in holy communion is the entry, the doorway to my soul...to mystical union with Jesus Christ, my bridegroom Lord.

# From Father Justin



Faithful People of St. Thomas More,

Mother Teresa remarked “Jesus has made Himself the Bread of Life to give us life. Night and day, He is there. If you really want to grow in love, come back to the Eucharist, come back to that Adoration.” Last year we celebrated coming home to Mass, to attend in person and physically receive Christ. This year, we focus on rekindling our living relationship with our

Heavenly Father through prayer, the Holy Eucharist and Sunday Adoration.

As we forge ahead into a new normal, we welcome and celebrate Saint Thomas More parishioners returning in person for the nourishment of the Eucharist and yearn to be able to worship at Mass once again with the entire STM community, as before.

Each year, Saint Thomas More Church prepares our young parishioners to receive the Eucharist. In our school and our School of Religion, we teach them the importance of Holy Communion and the sacrifice Jesus made for all of us. We realize that WE become tabernacles, with Jesus present in us, called to be that Presence with those around us, showing love and sacrificing for others. When a parishioner receives (First) Holy Communion, it is an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made for us and those we make for others. Do I bring the presence of Jesus to those I see each day? How do I treat others? What sacrifices have I made?

As you pray over your 2023 pledge, please consider what it takes for Saint Thomas More to nourish our relationships with God and with those in our community. Reflect upon the many ministries and opportunities to serve and participate, and reflect upon your financial support.

We welcome and encourage you to 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.

With Gratitude in Jesus Christ,

Father Justin

STEWARDSHIP OF FAITH

*Renew your faith, revitalize the church*



TO RENEW THE CHURCH  
BY ENKINDLING A LIVING RELATIONSHIP  
WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST  
IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST.

[EUCCHARISTICREVIVAL.ORG](http://EUCCHARISTICREVIVAL.ORG)

*Return to the source  
and summit of our faith:  
his Real Presence in the Eucharist*

**LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES**

to open your heart to experience Jesus'  
real presence in the Eucharist

[STMKC.COM/EUCCHARISTICREVIVAL](http://STMKC.COM/EUCCHARISTICREVIVAL)

# 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**
- » It helps us know the best way to get important information to you

## Matching gifts, IRA's & Estate plans

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

in 2021 we received

\$16,103 in matching gifts

**Tax-Free IRA Gifts** Charitable taxpayers who are 70½ or older can direct "qualified charitable distributions" from their fund administrator directly to STM and other charities of their choice.

\$212,168 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.

\$389,206 in estate gifts.

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

# Our stewardship of faith

*Preparing our hearts to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist*



*Fresh Fire, born of a desire to make a way for people to know Jesus' love in the Eucharist, combines Adoration, testimonials, praise and worship music, Eucharistic procession, and opportunities for one-on-one intercessory prayer and a priestly blessing with the Blessed Sacrament.*

## *Eucharistic Adoration*

*Opportunities to be in Jesus' presence.*

**Sundays** (Noon- 9PM); **Wednesdays:** join students in Adoration following the 8:15AM STM School Mass until 9:15AM.



## STEWARDSHIP OF OUR FACILITIES

# Capital projects update

In 2021-22, we were able to complete the following Capital projects.

- » Upgraded emergency lighting in More Hall
- » Upgraded front door security entry to STM School
- » Renovated four school classrooms
- » Installed school lobby informational TVs
- » Replaced 1 HVAC unit in the church, 3 in the school, 3 in the parish office
- » Updated plumbing in women's restroom in More Hall
- » Upgraded picnic table seating outside Flanagan Hall
- » Upgraded the STM School playground border and ground cover
- » Repaired two roof leaks
- » Pushed back rectory foundation
- » Remodeled the rectory basement bath/bedroom
- » Power washed the church, parish office and rectory
- » Scrubbed the Flanagan Hall ceiling
- » Updated all school toilets
- » Installed LED lighting in the gym and parish office
- » Repaired concrete around the school

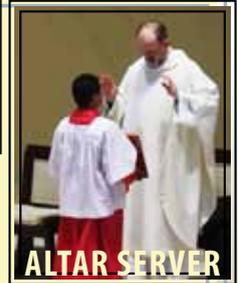
*Thank You*

# STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENT

## *Immediate volunteer needs*

**TO VOLUNTEER** see your pledge form or contact the parish office

- » Cantor
- » Celebration Choir
- » Eucharistic Minister
- » Reader
- » Faith in Action Team
- » Usher
- » Funeral lunches
- » reStart Sack Lunch Outreach
- » Prayer Chain
- » One City Café
- » Mass Recorder
- » Vocations Committee



**AND MANY MORE OPPORTUNITIES!**

## *Stewardship Prayer*

### LOVING GOD,

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

I am your disciple.

Help me to reach out to others as you have reached out to me.

**AMEN.**