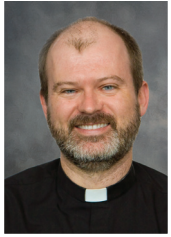


SAINT THOMAS MORE PARISH Annual Stewardship

A GUIDE *for your prayerful consideration*



Faithful People of St. Thomas More,

This past spring, our parish experienced something rarely known in the life of a community: the doubling of our parish boundaries.

The closure of Saint Catherine of

Siena led - overnight - to our pastoral oversight extending as far east as 71 Highway, and as far north as Bannister Road.

It is a blessing to manifest a larger footprint in our city, and with that blessing come expectations of an equally robust response of ministry.

May, June and July saw 49 new families join STM. 8 new musicians stepped forward this summer to add their talents to our rotation of ministers, as well as 8 new readers and 7 new ministers of holy communion. While most of these were from the Saint Catherine's community, the rest moved into our area or were seeking a Church home that would nourish their souls. In addition, in June we allocated the largest amount of emergency assistance - \$7100 for rent and utilities - that we ever distributed in a given month.

These developments are harbingers of this new season: noted expansion, coupled with increased demands on our ministries.

In the past year our newly-minted Vocations Committee has worked to increase prayerful attentiveness toward the need for religious vocations. We have increased our social service outreach to include a monthly ministry serving breakfast to the hungry in downtown KC, and reorganized our funeral lunch teams to meet growing demand. Our Pre-K classes continue to be full, and two other grades have waiting lists in this new academic year. As we continue to provide and host occasions that put people into

contact with Jesus - The Rescue Project, Fresh Fire Nights, and 24 Hours for the Lord, - we have added a Pastoral Associate and expanded our Evangelization and Discipleship Coordinator position into a full time offering.

Our community continues to be a draw for those looking to make us their home, as well as for those who know we will provide them with the spiritual and material sustenance sought in a time of hunger and hurting.

STM provides encounters with Jesus Christ! This is our boast, and our goal.

As you pray over your 2024 pledge, please consider the ways in which our community has been tasked in this season to take on more than it has before, and to minister to the needs that come from the larger footprint we now have in south Kansas City.

While the needs grow, we trust too that parishioners like you will step forward to share their gifts and talents in such a way that the sacrificial offering of our lives meets the moment. This new season is an opportunity for our community. Thank you for helping me and the Church, rise to the occasion and embrace our responsibility to foster encounters with Jesus.

With Gratitude in Jesus Christ,

Father Justin

Why pledge?

YOUR SUPPORT

provides opportunities for our parishioners and parish to grow.

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

in 2023 we received

Matching gifts Check with your employer.

You may be able to double your giving!

—————→ **\$6,787 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. . —————→

\$213,680 in IRA QCD

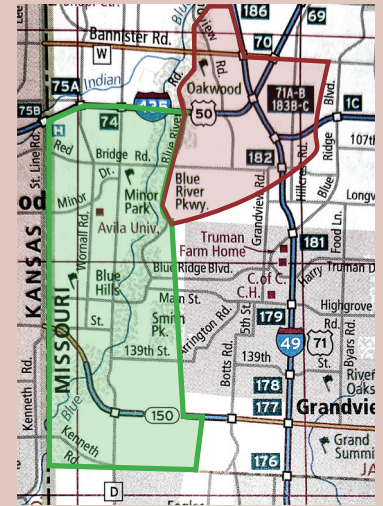
Make Saint Thomas More your "4th child" After your family and loved ones have been provided for, please consider including a gift to Saint Thomas More in your will.

—————→ **27 households have named STM in their wills.**

Questions? Contact Tim Waris 942-2492 x218 or tim@stmkc.com

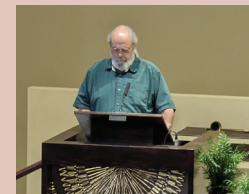
A year of growth

Our expanded parish boundaries



New liturgical ministers

8 musicians
8 readers
7 ministers of holy communion



A growing Celebration Choir celebrates new members and the start of a new choir season.

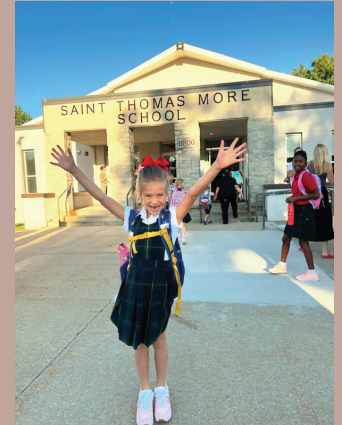
Our stewardship of faith



***Fresh Fire** provides a different experience of Eucharistic Adoration, drawing people deeper into prayer through music and testimonials, along with offering healing prayer.*

***Eucharistic Adoration**
Opportunities to be in Jesus' presence.*

***Sundays** (Noon-9PM); **Tuesdays** (2-3pm), STM School students take time for Adoration.*



STM School

PreK classes are often full and two other grades are also full this year. MO Scholars qualified 36 students for scholarships this year, up from 8 last



*Before the closing of Saint Catherine of Siena, **The Rescue Project** brought members of our two parishes together to share their faith.*

Outreach ministries: feeding the hungry

STM parishioners continue their generosity in providing food for those in need by contributing to two food pantries, providing casseroles for Uplift, and serving at One City Cafe and Hospice House. Last summer also took volunteers to Morning Glory Ministries.



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

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

LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

STMKC.COM/EUCCHARISTICREVIVAL

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

**DIOCESAN EVENT:
BEHOLD**

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024
IN THE EVENING
LIBERTY MEMORIAL NORTH
LAWN

- Mass
- Adoration
- Reconciliation
- Praise & Worship music led
by nationally known Catholic
recording artist and composer,
Steve Angrisano! -Local parish
choirs

Families welcome. Don't miss this
once in a lifetime event!

Watch BeholdKC.org for details.

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**NATIONAL
CONGRESS**

JULY 17-21, 2024
INDIANAPOLIS

**EUCCHARISTIC
PILGRIMAGES**

MAY 17-JULY 16

Groups of pilgrims will walk from
the north, south, east and west to
meet in Indianapolis. The (Junipero)
Serra Route will begin on the Pacific
Coast and will include a stop at
Benedictine College on their way
to Saint Louis. Watch for more
information at
eucharisticpilgrimage.org.