

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 done in previous years, the members of our parish are invited to take advantage of a novena - nine days of prayer - that begins June 14 and concludes on June 22, the Feast of Saint Thomas More. The hope is 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. 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 reach out to support each other with renewed willingness to experience communion through the communion of saints. May we remember that, in Christ, we are never alone.



DAY 1 JUNE 14

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 15

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: 1 Kings 17:7-16, Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath

After some time, however, the wadi ran dry, because no rain had fallen in the land. So the word of the LORD came to him: Arise, go to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow there to feed you. He arose and went to Zarephath. When he arrived at the entrance of the city, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called out to her, "Please bring me a small cupful of water to drink." She left to get it, and he called out after her, "Please bring along a crust of bread."

She said, "As the LORD, your God, lives, I have nothing baked; there is only a handful of flour in my jar and a little oil in my jug. Just now I was collecting a few sticks, to go in and prepare something for myself and my son; when we have eaten it, we shall die."

Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid. Go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake and bring it to me. Afterwards you can prepare something for yourself and your son. For the LORD, the God of Israel, says: The jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, until the day when the LORD sends rain upon the earth."

She left and did as Elijah had said. She had enough to eat for a long time—he and she and her household. The jar of flour did not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD spoken through Elijah.

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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 16

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: Mark 1:16-20

As Jesus passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.

He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

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DAY 4 JUNE 17

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."

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DAY 5 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 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.

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DAY 6 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. 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.

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DAY 7 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. 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.

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.

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DAY 8 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. 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.

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DAY 9 JUNE 22 FEAST DAY



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.

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