

Second Sunday of Advent

God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low.

— Baruch 5:7

9 December 2018

Saint Thomas More Parish

Rev. Father Nicholas Schumm, *pastor*
Rev. Father Eugene Casserly, *priest in residence*
Rev. Monsignor John Cassidy, *pastor emeritus*
Lois Hicks, *office manager & parish assistant*
Robin Whipple, *office receptionist*
Sarah Manning, *youth group*
Susan Henderson, *parish organist*
Claudia Hill, *part-time office assistant*
Betty Jo Tanner, *part-time data assistant*
Kevin McCall, *missionary*

Finance Council

Mort O'Sullivan, *chairperson*
Ann Bode
Joe Buehler
Jim Mathis

Parish Pastoral Council

Michael Juhas, *chairperson*
Michael Barrett
Barbara Bibb
Ann Bode, *finance council representative*
Karen Buelow
Casey Etheridge
Brenna Gintyrapp
Molly Henley, *secretary*
Tony Howard
Patrick Kinnell
Penny Locke
Kevin McCall
Nelson Ortiz
Delia Stierwalt
Alan Tschirgi

Other Parish Groups and Ministries

Sacred Liturgy — Father Nicholas Schumm
Organist & Sacred Music — Susan Henderson
Ushers — Charlie Dickin
Religious Education — Paige Sanchez
Youth Group—Sarah Manning
RCIA – Father Nicholas Schumm
Ladies Altar Society — Heidi Nees
Knights of Columbus — Alan Tschirgi
Bereavement — Charlene Grant
Outreach — Lynn VanNatter
HOPE Ministry — Nelson Ortiz
Burse Club — Joyce Edgar
Book Club — Mary Williams
Prayer Chain—Walter Marsh



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY – December 8th– 4:00 PM
Karl & Rita Cook †
Req. by: Hanna Family

SUNDAY – December 9th– 8:00 AM
Norman & Regina Booth †
Req. by: Their Children

SUNDAY – December 9th - 10:00 AM
Pro Populo (For the Parish)

MONDAY– December 10th– 6:40 AM
Donald Stierwalt †
Req. by: Delia Stierwalt

TUESDAY—December 11th– 6:40 AM
Dr. John D. Bowen †
Req. by: Jim Bowen

WEDNESDAY– December 12th– 6:40 AM
Roman Collantes †
Req. by: Delia Stierwalt

THURSDAY – December 13th– 6:40 AM
Phyllis Bowen †
Req. by: Jim Bowen

FRIDAY— December 14th– 6:40 PM
Angela Fishburn †
Req. by: Catherine Voisinet

SATURDAY—December 15th—4:00 PM
Angela Fishburn †
Req. by: Joel & Becky Edmondson

WE WELCOME YOU!

New to the parish? There are Parish Registration forms in the vestibule, please fill a form out and give it to an usher/greeter, place it in the offertory collection, or stop by the parish office to register.

Parish Events:

STM Ladies Altar Society

Next Meeting will be Sunday, **December 9th** after 8 am. Mass in the Parish Hall. They usually meet on the second Sunday. All women of the parish are welcome. For more info call Heidi Nees at (850) 384-6742.

Knights of Columbus

Father Keating Council #15836

Next business meeting will be on Tuesday, **December 11th** at 6 pm in Parish Hall. For more info contact Grand Knight Alan Tschirgi . (850)458-2361

Book Club Meeting – The next meeting is Tuesday, **January 8th** at 9:30 am in the Parish Office and Activities Center. The book for November is **Ordinary Grace** by William Kent Kruger. All are welcome to attend the book club.

Weekly Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal will be said here at Saint Thomas More Parish every **Wednesday morning** at 7 am following the 6:40 am Daily Mass.

Parish Breakfasts -

First Sunday: Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast
Second Sunday: Ladies Altar Society
Third Sunday: Molly Hensley
Fourth Sunday: Salamida Family
Fifth Sunday (Occasional): Parish Council Breakfast

Traditional Latin Masses—

Third Sunday, December 16th at 12:30 pm

First Tuesday, January 1st—NO MASS

Traditional Latin Masses are held every third Sunday and every first Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted.

Every Friday, Eucharistic Adoration 7 am -8 am.

Every Wednesday, Bible Study—Faith Formation 6 pm—7:30 pm unless otherwise noted.

First Friday, Mass at 6:40 am with Eucharistic Holy Hour 7-8:00 am. Unless otherwise noted.

First Love Adoration on January 4th, with praise and prayer from 6-8:00 pm with reception following in Parish Hall . This is held the first Friday of every month unless otherwise noted.

First Saturday, The Holy Rosary will be recited at 3:30 pm in the church in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and her request at Fatima in 1917.

Diocesan Second Collections

*Retirement Fund for Religious—
December 8th & 9th*

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, December 12th—Adult Faith Formation in the Parish Hall from 6 to 7:30pm.

Sunday, December 16th—Traditional Latin Mass 12:30 pm.

Wednesday, December 19th— Parish Office will open at 8:30 am.

Tuesday & Wednesday, December 25th & 26th— Parish Office will be closed and will reopen December 27th.

Monday, December 24th—Christmas Mass Vigil 4 pm, No 6:40 Mass—this fulfills the Holy Day of Obligation

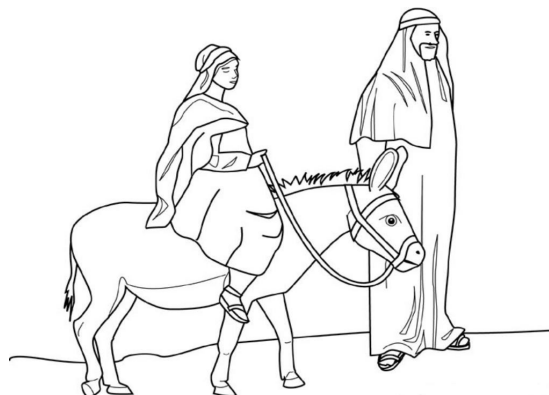
Tuesday, December 25th—**Holy Day of Obligation** Christmas Midnight Mass 12 am and Christmas Day Mass 8 am

Wednesday, December 26th through Friday, December 28th—Daily Mass will begin at 8 am. (There will be no other Masses during these days.)

Saturday, December 29th—**Anticipated Feast of the Holy Family** 3 pm Confessions—4 pm Mass.

Sunday, December 30th—**Feast of the Holy Family** 8 am Mass—10 am Mass

The month of December
is dedicated to the
Immaculate Conception and
the Holy Christ Child



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;
Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4;
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11;
Lk 3:1-6

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent
Monday: International Human Rights Day
Tuesday: St. Damasus I
Wednesday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Thursday: St. Lucy
Friday: St. John of the Cross

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

If you are a practical Catholic man age 18 or above interested in actively serving Saint Thomas More Parish and the community please consider membership in Father Keating Council # 15836 of the Knights of Columbus. For further information, please call Alan Tschirgi at (850)458-2361 or (770)298-9524.



BLUE CHRISTMAS MASS

Saint Paul's Catholic Church Bereavement Support Ministry invites you to join us in remembering your loved ones. Mass and Candle Lighting Service Wednesday, December 19th at 7 pm, 3131 Hyde Park Road, Pensacola. This Mass is intended to comfort those who have lost a loved one or otherwise find this time of year and the expectations that go with it difficult.



Please, pray for our sick parishioners:

Bill Alexander	John McKeon
Betty Appelberg	Dan Owczarczak
Richard Beecher	Sherry Peacock
Needa Brazwell	Jane Pearson
Jack Brazwell	Babe Rohan
Rusty Budde	Bob Russo
Anna Christco	Mary Teschel
Susan Henderson	Terry Teschel
Alicia Kelson	Jinann Wey
Helen Manley	Dorothy Wilkerson
Genny Manwaring	



If someone needs the *Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick*—please call the parish office. If there is no answer, please leave a message with name and phone number and the priest will call you back.

RETIREMENT COLLECTION FOR RELIGIOUS

Our parish will be conducting the Retirement Fund for Religious collection December 8th & 9th. This annual appeal benefits 31,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests—women and men who have consecrated their lives to serving God and the Church. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more. It also helps religious congregations implement long-range retirement strategies, even as they continue to serve the People of God. In thanksgiving for their faithful service, please join in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious and in praying for God's blessing on our nation's elderly religious.



YOUNG ADULT ACTIVITIES

Advent Reflection Day will be Saturday, December 15th at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart from 10am to 5pm. Join the Pensacola Catholic Young Adult community for a day of reflection during this Advent season. The day includes keynote presentations, silent reflection time, lunch, creative art time, Adoration and Reconciliation, small group Bible study, and vigil Mass. If you plan to attend, please register here by December 11th so we can prepare enough food for everyone. Register at <https://goo.gl/forms/okhdhT6MjgA456rE3>. Suggested donation is \$10/per person to cover lunch and other expenses. (not required)

Saint Thomas More Parish News & Noteworthy Items

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Wednesday, December 12th at 6 pm we will be starting the study of the book **“Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist”** by Brant Pitre, with Father Nicholas Schumm facilitating. All adults are invited to join us in the Parish Hall for this in-depth study of the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist and how our faith grew out of Judaism. The cost of the book will be \$10. The studies start at 6 pm and will conclude about 7:35 pm.



HOLIDAY BAKE SALE THANK YOU

Thank you to all who participated in the Holiday Bake Sale. Whether it was baking, working, buying, however you assisted, you are all beyond wonderful! Only the loving hearts of each of you made this possible. One Hundred Fifty Four children at Warrington Elementary School will receive **Happy Birthday Jesus** goody bags from Father Nicholas Schumm and his helper on December 19th. This blessing is due to solely to your efforts. Thank you for making this possible. You are the best of God's children.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Regular weekly Religious Education classes will start on Sunday, September 9th. Classes take place from 8:50 –9:50 am in the parish office behind the church. The schedule is as follows:

Sundays in December: 9, 16— No class 23rd & 30th

Sundays in January: 6, 13, 20, 27

TAX STATEMENTS

If you would like to receive your 2018 Giving Statement, please contact the parish office at (850) 456-2543 so we can put your name on the list.



ANGEL TREE

The annual Angel Tree will be in the church beginning the weekend of Saturday November 24th. Please take a card and show God's love to someone this Christmas. **RECORD YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER in the book.** Return all gifts (with the cards) Saturday, December 15th or Sunday, December 16th. Gifts will be brought from the church to the hall after each Mass on the weekend of December 15th and 16th. Return the card with the gift, and please say a prayer throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons for the healing, joy, reconciliation, and peace of those who you will be blessing this Christmas. If you have any questions please contact, James or Casey Etheridge at 251-294-0505 or 573-465-1406 or by email at jbe333@gmail.com.



KNIGHT'S POSTER CONTEST

Saint Thomas More Catholic Church Knights of Columbus #15836 with NAS Pensacola/Corry Knights of Columbus #16080 have stirred up a little talent competition to enhance our mission "Keep Christ in Christmas". The contest period is from November 3rd to December 16th at 11 am. Judging will be conducted and the first place winner will be awarded their gift card by December 20th. The poster contest is open to all young people between the ages of 5 and 14. Contest entrants compete in one of three age groups—5 through 7, 8 through 10 and 11 through 14. The poster **MUST** reflect the theme of "Keep Christ in Christmas". The rules of the contest are on the bulletin board in the Parish Narthex. Entry forms are in the Parish Narthex as well. A \$25 gift card will be awarded for the first place entry in each age group.

WEAC THANKSGIVING THANK YOU

Thanks to the tremendous outpouring of generosity from the Saint Thomas More folks who contributed food cards, staples, and Thanksgiving sides. WEAC provided more than Thirty Thanksgiving dinners to our community's most needy families this year. Thank you everyone, your generosity is remarkable and appreciated beyond words.

thank you!