

Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

3525 SW Patton Road, Portland, OR

stmparish@stmpdx.org

503-222-2055

www.stmpdx.org

WEEKLY MASS

SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:00 am

10:00 am

Tuesday-Friday 8:20 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 pm

or by appointment

MARIAN PRAYER GROUP

2nd-5th Tuesdays 7:00 pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday

8:00 am — 4:00 pm

STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Martin L. King

Business Manager:

Annette Berent

Development Director:

Amy Dice

Religious Education:

Margaret Schuster

Bookkeeper:

Virginia Calcagno

Admin. Asst.:

Sister Alexa Weight, SSMO



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.” - Mt 11:10

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

HLF

December 15, 2019

Religious Education

Confirmation

December 15th at 11:30 am
located in the Conference Room

Family Religious Education

December 15th at 9 am located in
the 4th grade classroom

Contact Margaret Schuster

at 503-222-2055 or
mschuster@stmpdx.org



Religious Give Thanks

“Thank you’ hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us,” says a Catholic sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to last week’s second collection.

Third Sunday of Advent

Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.* Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Thank You for the Support!

Our annual Christmas Bazaar was a big success and we are grateful to everyone who supported it! Thank you to Christmas Bazaar co-chairs Amy Alexander and Kim Flanagan for hosting a wonderful event!

Toiletry Collection for the Homeless

Fr. Jim Galluzzo and his team collect travel size toiletries to share with the homeless. Please drop your donations in the wicker basket in the church vestibule.

For more information, contact Maureen at neeruam_1@yahoo.com

Neighborhood House operates the largest food pantry on Portland's west side and they need our help! They provide emergency food boxes to approximately 500 families. There is a wicker container in the church vestibule where you can share your donations of canned or boxed food. Some suggestions include peanut butter, tuna fish, jam, and honey. Help us feed those in need!

ST. THOMAS MORE MEN'S GROUP

The STMMG invites you to get involved with **Jesuit Alumni Food Drive**

Jesuit High School is having its annual Alumni Food Drive on Saturday, December 21st. Over 1,200 boxes of food are delivered to those in need - this is a huge operation and they could use our help!

The St. Thomas More Men's Group has been asked to once again assist with Food Drive clean-up. We will be removing all the cardboard that is discarded from the food boxes. Our scheduled shift is from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. We will meet and work near the Jesuit High School flagpole, located near the baseball field. Please park in the lot next to the tennis courts and look for Jeff Smith (who will be wearing cowboy hat) to find out where you can best help. For this activity, we invite all STM men, women, and kids to help. Breakfast is served for all involved. We hope to see a ton of STM representation!

Worldwide MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:

"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." Rejoice in your marriage! Attend the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.

To find your WWM Weekend, go to rediscoverthespark.org. For information about WWME, contact Ron & Hilarie Tesch at 503-704-0836 or by email reservations@rediscoverthespark.org

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE	FELLOWSHIP HOSTING	Prayer Intention												
<p>Saturday, December 14th 4:00 pm Reconciliation 5:00 pm Vigil Mass</p> <p>Sunday, December 15th 8:00 am Mass 10:00 am Mass</p> <p>Monday, December 16th</p> <p>Tuesday, December 17th 8:20 am Daily Mass</p> <p>Wednesday, December 18th 8:20 am Daily Mass</p> <p>Thursday, December 19th 8:20 am Daily Mass</p> <p>Friday, December 20th 8:20 am Daily Mass</p> <p>Saturday, December 21st 4:00 pm Reconciliation 5:00 pm Vigil Mass</p> <p>Sunday, December 22nd 8:00 am Mass 10:00 am Mass</p>	<p>12/14 6:00 Wine and Cheese 12/15 9:00 Patton Guild 12/15 11:00 Carolyn Harakal 12/21 6:00 Wine and Cheese 12/22 9:00 Bridlemile Guild 12/22 11:00 Jennifer Humberston</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Feastdays December 15th St. Virginia Centurione Bracelli St. Maria Crocifissa di Rosa St. Paul of Latros St. Adalbero</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Watch for Icy Patches on Campus!</p> <p>We are doing our best to take care of icy patches on campus, but please be careful — especially when you arrive in the early mornings! Winter weather can bring unexpected maintenance challenges. Please let us know if you notice anything that needs attention.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Intention</p> <p>Please pray for parishioner Mary Lou Brady who passed away Dec. 4th and keep her family in our thoughts and prayers.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Holiday/Holy Days Mass Schedule</p> <p>Tuesday, December 24th Christmas Eve 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm</p> <p>Wednesday, December 25th Christmas Day 9:00 am & 1:00 pm</p> <p>Wednesday, January 1st Mary, Mother of God 10:00 am</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">End of Year Giving</p> <p>Want to make a donation in honor of someone as a Christmas gift?</p> <p>Have you used your company's generous matching dollars?</p> <p>Still have a few dollars you need to take from your IRA to hit your minimum required distribution?</p> <p>Consider a donation to STM Church, School, Capital Campaign, Tuition Assistance Fund...you decide!</p> <p>Visit our school or parish websites to make your donation, or call the STM Development Office. We would love to help you design a gift that is best for you and your family.</p>												
<p style="text-align: center;">Monthly Parish Offertory Report December 2019—Week 2</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Average Monthly Offertory Needed</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$32,500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Basket Collection Month to Date</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 11,298.82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>eGiving Collection Month to Date</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 9,835.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Offertory Month to Date</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$21,233.83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Offertory Budget FYTD</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$170,766.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Offertory FYTD</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$150,987.18</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">STM fiscal year is July 1-June 30. Thank you for your support!</p>		Average Monthly Offertory Needed	\$32,500.00	Basket Collection Month to Date	\$ 11,298.82	eGiving Collection Month to Date	\$ 9,835.01	Total Offertory Month to Date	\$21,233.83	Offertory Budget FYTD	\$170,766.10	Offertory FYTD	\$150,987.18	
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SINGERS & INSTRUMENTALIST WANTED!
CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY MASSES

HELP US BRING JOY TO OUR CELEBRATIONS THIS CHRISTMAS!

REHEARSALS
DEC 1, 15, 22
11:15 AM

CONTACT MIKA THOMAS
MTHOMAS@STMPDX.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Spiritual Reflection

Advent is a time of longing. It is a time to recognize that in all our hopes and dreams we are reaching out for the “one who is to come.” To use the words of St. Augustine, Advent is a time to “exercise our desire” for God.

In this Sunday’s Gospel, John the Baptist and his disciples express their longing for a Messiah when they ask Jesus if he is the “one who is to come.” How does Jesus respond? He simply recounts to them what they have seen. The sick are healed, the blind are given their sight, and the poor have the Good News preached to them. Jesus was the one Isaiah had foretold would come and the one John had prepared the way for. He was the one who would bring an eternal kingdom.

Over 2,000 years after the birth of Jesus, many in our world still await a Messiah. They are imprisoned in ignorance, abusive situations, poverty, or their own sinful choices. They are looking to us to answer this question for them: “Is Jesus the one we are waiting for? Is Jesus the one who can save us?”

How are we to answer them? What can we point to in our lives to show that God is at work in the world, freeing us from sin, changing lives, and bringing peace?

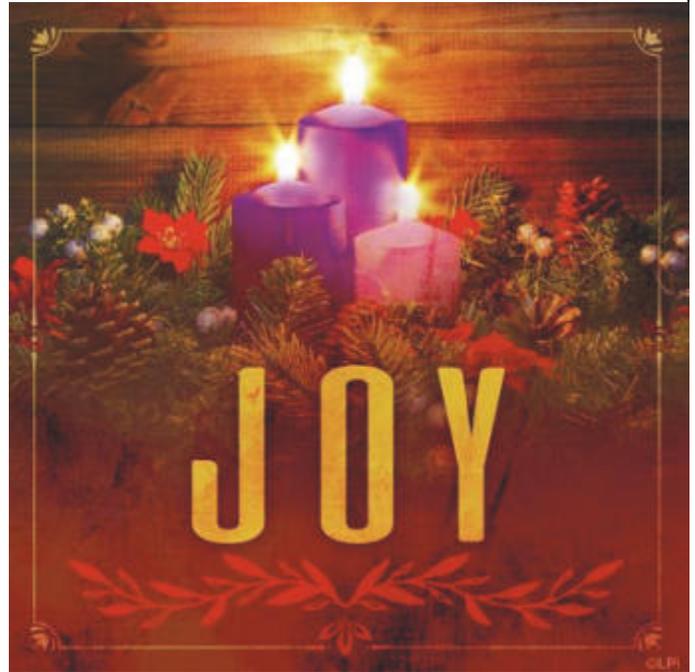
They know that the world cannot offer them what they truly desire, but they are also not yet convinced that Jesus is the answer. They want to see what difference a life lived in relationship with God makes. Will they be able to see that by looking at us?

Each of us, through Baptism and Confirmation, has received the Holy Spirit. This same Spirit empowered Jesus to preach the Good News to the poor and to perform miracles. This same Spirit raised Jesus from the dead. Because the Holy Spirit dwells within us, Jesus can say in today’s Gospel that the least in his kingdom is greater than John the Baptist. John the Baptist probably never understood that Jesus would die for his sins. He never read the New Testament. He never received the Eucharist as we do. And so, we have a power at work in our lives that even he could not understand.

Like the priests, prophets, and kings of the Old Testament, we have received an anointing. It is now time for us to put that power of God to work serving others so that the world can see for itself what difference a life lived for Jesus makes. Only by seeing our lives transformed by the peace which only God can give will the world come to know that Jesus alone provides the answers that the people of today are seeking.

Where do we begin? We begin right here and right now with the people around us. It is by showing kindness every day to the people we bump into that the transformation can start. If I can hold a door open for someone or say a kind word to a teenager, then I will have an open heart for the beggar who asks me for change or the hitchhiker who needs a lift to the gas station. Our acts of mercy will leave people wondering what motivates us to be so kind. Through our goodness, they will come to know Jesus who is the source of all goodness. And knowing him, they will have grasped the answer to the longing of their hearts.

Douglas Sousa, S.T.L.



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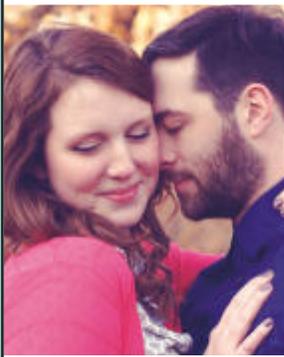
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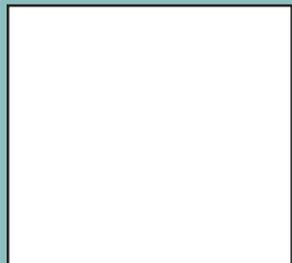
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