



# *St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish*

**421 Monroe Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49006**

(269) 381-8917 • Fax (269) 381-0195

e-mail: [sttoms@sttomskazoo.org](mailto:sttoms@sttomskazoo.org) website: <http://www.sttomskazoo.org>

Office Located at 1333 W. Lovell Street

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Closed Noon - 1:00 p.m. daily)

## **PARISH STAFF**

Sharon Froom, MA, LLP, Pastoral Counselor  
Deacon Pat Hall, Pastoral Team  
Sr. Sue McCreary, CSJ, Pastoral Team  
Marian Nelson, Pastoral Team  
Fr. James Richardson, Pastoral Team  
Fr. Ken Schmidt, Pastoral Team  
Deacon Joe Schmitt, Pastoral Team  
Jerry & Molly Mechtenberg-Berrigan, Youth Faith Formation  
Michele Cretsinger, Parish Secretary  
Patty Donovan Haley, Religious Education Coordinator, 343-6256  
Marianne Lippi, Development Secretary  
Martha Reid, Bookkeeper  
Lyle Smith, Maintenance

## **MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday	6:00 p.m.
Sunday	9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
Daily Mass	5:15 p.m.

## **SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS**

Baptism, Reconciliation, Marriage — Call the parish office to set an appointment. Please note that the period of marriage preparation is at least six months. If you know of anyone who is sick or homebound, please call the parish office.

## **PASTORAL ASSISTANCE**

Staff members are available for appointments. Please call the parish office at 381-8917 or call Catholic Family Services at 381-9800

**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**—*We, the people of St. Thomas More Parish, gifted and led by the Holy Spirit, are called to build up the kingdom of God among the college communities of Kalamazoo. Diverse, yet one, we are called to be the Body of Christ, to praise and worship our Heavenly Father, to proclaim God's Word, to love and serve others, especially the poor and neglected. We welcome all into our parish family who wish to share in this mission.*

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

April 25, 2010

Acts 13:14, 43-52 Revelation 7:9, 14b-17

John 10:27-30

**BAPTISM**—Parents and godparents are expected to participate in a class before the celebration of this sacrament. The next scheduled baptism class is Monday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m. To register for the class or to schedule a baptism call the parish office at 381-8917.

*Congratulations to*

**Travis Joesph Winchester** son of Michael and Carla who was baptized here at St. Tom's last weekend.

Our next **PRE-MARRIAGE MEETING** will be held on Sunday, May 23, 2010 following the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Couples planning to marry within the next year should plan on attending one of these meetings. You must register before attending. Please call 381-8917.

*Congratulations to*

**Kirk Andrew Wagenvelt and Emma Frances Whelan** who were recently married here at St. Tom's.

## MASS SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 17**

6:00 p.m. † Deceased members of the  
Coyne, Jako, and Kilcourse families

**SUNDAY, APRIL 18** – *Third Sunday of Easter*

9:30 a.m. † Irene Marazas mother of Joanne Barretta  
11:30 a.m. People of the parish  
5:30 pm. † Bill Liston requested by Beth Schubert  
7:30 pm. † Jesús Gonzalez Blazquez  
father of Rocio Gonzalez Romero

**MONDAY, APRIL 19**

5:15 p.m. For granddaughter Emma Lyon (living) on her  
baptism requested by The Morozowich family

**TUESDAY, APRIL 20**

5:15 p.m. Men and women serving in the military

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21** – *St. Anselm*

5:15 p.m. For daughter Renee Marie (living) on her birthday  
requested by the Morozowich family

**THURSDAY, APRIL 22**

5:15 p.m. Communion Service

**FRIDAY, APRIL 23** – *St. George, St. Adalbert*

2:00 p.m. Residents of Heartland at Heartland  
5:15 p.m. Vocations

**SATURDAY, APRIL 24** – *St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen*

6:00 p.m. Peace in the world

**SUNDAY, APRIL 25** – *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

9:30 a.m. † Karen Kupavris sister of Bob Holzwarth  
11:30 a.m. † Renee Bradshaw mother of John Bradshaw  
5:30 pm. Students preparing for exams  
7:30 pm. Bishop Paul J. Bradley (living)

## SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

## MONDAY, APRIL 19 - SATURDAY, APRIL 24

Monday	Acts 6:8-15	John 6:22-29
Tuesday:	Acts 7:51—8:1	John 6:30-35
Wednesday:	Acts 8:1-8	John 6:35-40
Thursday:	Acts 8:26-40	John 6:44-51
Friday:	Acts 9:1-20	John 6:52-59
Saturday	Acts 9:31-42	John 6:60-69

## FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The beach breakfast in today's gospel teaches us meals are more than just eating. Meals with others are intersections of affection where, like Jesus, we "reveal" our true selves through conversation. When we skip a meal together, we skip the opportunity to grow closer.

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

**SUNDAY, APRIL 18**

9:30 & 11:30 Children & Worship  
9:30 a.m. Baptism during Mass  
12:45 p.m. Marriage Prep Meeting  
1:00 p.m. Baptism  
2:00 p.m. Wedding Ceremony Planning

**MONDAY, APRIL 19**

6:00 p.m. Rosary for Vocations  
6:00 p.m. Meditation and Centering Prayer  
7:00 p.m. Baptism Class  
7:00 p.m. Men's Group  
7-10:00 p.m. A Cappella

**TUESDAY, APRIL 20**

12:00 p.m. AA/AI Anon  
7:00 p.m. Artists Meeting  
7:00 p.m. RCIA - Mystagogy  
8:00 p.m. Student AA

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21**

10:00 a.m. Sr. Marlene  
6:30 p.m. Women's Group  
6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting  
7:00-10:00 p.m. More at Midweek

**THURSDAY, APRIL 22**

10:30 a.m. Yoga  
5:30 p.m. Beacon Group  
6:00 p.m. Rosary for Peace  
6:00-8:00 pm Love and Logic Parent Workshop  
7-10:00 p.m. A Cappella  
8:00 p.m. Student AA

**FRIDAY, APRIL 23**

12:00 p.m. AA/AI Anon

**SATURDAY, APRIL 24 - WMU Care Pkg. Weekend**

8:00 a.m. Women's AA  
8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. TRP  
12:00 p.m. AA  
7:30 p.m. Brass Quintet

**SUNDAY, APRIL 25**

9:30 a.m. Baptism during Mass  
12:30 p.m. First Eucharist Practice  
12:30 p.m. RCIA Mystagogy  
6:30 p.m. Sunday Supper

## RCIA JOURNEY OF FAITH



My name is Denisse Mayers and I was born in the Dominican Republic. Currently, I have a scholarship at WMU majoring in Business Management. I come from a traditional and protective family where I never lacked anything, but what God has done to my life is just as amazing as the fact that now you're reading my journey of faith.

Isn't it amazing the way that God interacts with us in our daily lives? When I was younger, about 12 years old, I used to have a very close connection with God. He was a part of my daily life but as I was growing my faith was not. It seemed like all the "teenage" problems in my life were taking me farther and farther away from God and, of course, He wasn't going to just sit and watch, so He sent me here to Michigan where my journey started. If I had not earned my scholarship and come here, I am very sure I wouldn't be celebrating my First Communion and Confirmation and my life would just still be normal and empty.

God called me to join the RCIA which was an amazing experience. I was walking back to my dorm when all of sudden I remembered that Marian Nelson had told me about the RCIA, so I decided to go to church at that same moment and tell Marian I wanted to join. If you ask me why I went or what was I thinking, I honestly don't know. I just remembered Marian's invitation and came to church.

At first, I wasn't sure what I was doing there, one day you're walking to your room and the next moment you're at church in RCIA!

As the time passed, I realized that all was a process. First, God noticed I was forgetting Him; I was getting away from Him. Second, God thought of a way to get me back to Him but He knows He can't do it in Dominican Republic because my family is too busy with work and responsibilities and He knows my parents are too protective to let me go out by myself. So he blessed me with my scholarship at WMU where he sent me an angel (Alan, my boyfriend) that gave light to my life again. Third, His angel brought me to church and a year later I received a mysterious call (which is not that mysterious, I know it was me and God) and without even thinking about it I came and joined RCIA where my faith is just growing and growing.

I think what drove me to God was God himself. He just loves each of us so much that He doesn't care if He has to take us to another continent if that will save our soul. Also, it doesn't matter if it's by the Catholic Church or other churches, as long as it is His will. You just have to open your heart and don't ask why, don't hesitate, don't think too much if you hear the voice or feel the impulse, just do it, for the Bible says in John (10:27-28) "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand".

Thanks to God and the RCIA my life has improved in many ways. I feel more connected to God, my family is more understanding to allow me to grow and I feel useful for God. Also, my self-esteem has improved because I used to feel I was a bad person most of the time. As you can see it is better.

I can proudly say that I answered the called that day and my life has been blessed one more time for I am a beloved daughter of God and He just couldn't let me go from His side. You're also a beloved one, so why are you waiting to allow God to do His will?

## KEN'S KALEIDOSCOPE

The Bishop's Annual Appeal is the newly structured annual contribution from Catholics to support the work of the Catholic Church in the bishop's ministries, and Church outreach. The formula to calculate the target has been re-done for all parishes, and is now based on 16.5% of our Sunday contributions (minus an amount for parishes like ours that are support Catholic schools). As before, each parish is responsible for its target amount, and if we go over the target, the parish receives the surplus.

Please ignore the KDSA envelope in your packet of contribution envelopes – they were ordered months ago, before we knew about the change. The new envelopes will have number-codes so we prefer you use the new envelopes.

## HERE AT ST. TOM'S

**Men's Group** — St. Tom's Men's Group will meet Monday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bronco meeting room. All the men of the parish are invited to join us for thoughtful discussion of the weekend readings and other spiritual works.

**Mondays** — 6:00 - 6:40 pm **Silent Prayer and Meditation** in the Bronco Room. Need some quiet prayer time? Join us for a brief devotional reading followed by 25 minutes of prayer & meditation in shared silence.

**Yoga** — Experience the benefits of Yoga. Increased strength, balance, and flexibility. Stronger core, reduced stress, relaxed and clear mind. Join us on Thursday mornings at 10:30 am in the Cougar Room. All levels welcome – no experience necessary. Bring a yoga mat if you have one. Donations accepted (suggested amount of \$5 - \$10).

**Shawl and Prayer Ministry** provides shawls made with prayer. Our time together centers on silent prayer as well as blessing shawls that are completed. The next scheduled Shawl Ministry meeting is Saturday, May 1 at 4:45 in the Chapel Mary Mother of the Poor. Basic knitting or crochet skills are needed.

**Fellowship after Sunday morning Mass** — join us in the social hall after 9:30 and 11:30 Mass for coffee, donuts and conversation.

**Mass Intention** — If you wish to have a Mass offered for someone who has died or in celebration of someone's special day call Michele at the parish office, 381-8917. The intention appears under the Mass schedule in our bulletin. They can be set for weekday or weekend Masses. The usual donation is \$10.00.

**Please, Accompany Your Children** — An increase in the number of unaccompanied children has been noticed during Mass and other events at St. Tom's. It has always been the policy going back to the Dove Window days that children be accompanied while at St. Tom's. "Does that mean to the restroom?" Yes. "Does that mean at coffee and donuts?" Yes. "Does that mean at ...?" Yes. "But, isn't St. Tom's a safe place to be?" Based on my training and experience in crime prevention, I tell you that there is no such thing as a safe place. Your safety and the safety of your children are more dependent on your safe practices than "where" you are. Practice safety at home, when away and at St. Tom's. *Deacon Pat Hall, Diocesan Office of Safe Environment and former Crime Prevention Officer for the City of Kalamazoo.*

## SISTER PARISH NEWS

Simon said, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." You have the opportunity to feed Christ's lambs when you sponsor a high school or college student in El Salvador. There are many types of nourishment: knowledge, prayer, support, letters, monetary support. All of these go into a student sponsorship and as with all nourishment there is growth, the growth of a relationship between you and that student; a growth from which both parties benefit. There is more information about the scholarship program for María Madre de los Pobres in the narthex.

St. Toms is also looking for delegates to visit our sister parish in November. It can be a truly life changing experience. Please contact Jerry Pahl at 372-7937 for more information. Celebrate for He has risen!

## 24/7 ACCESS TO ST. TOM'S BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL

Our architects were advised to situate our Blessed Sacrament Chapel in such a way that pray-ers could some day access it independently while the rest of the church was closed. Well that day has arrived! The chapel can now be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by a personal access card that can be issued to interested parishioners. The coded card merely needs to be flashed within inches of the proximity reader and the chapel door will be electronically unlocked. Interested parishioners need to apply for their personal access card. The application will be reviewed by the Pastoral Team for approval. Please note: that if it is past open hours for the church, one would not have access to restrooms or public telephone. All pray-ers are encouraged to bring their own cell phones for emergency calling. As a security measure, there is

a video camera in the chapel. The camera is not actively monitored by anyone, but a recording can be accessed the next day if anything is noticed amiss. Our Blessed Sacrament Chapel is a wonderful environment to share one's concerns, hopes and fears in the presence of our living Lord. A \$5.00 refundable deposit is required. **Those interested should obtain and submit their application at the parish office.**



## ELECTRONIC GIVING

**We have an established process for electronic giving here at St. Tom's.**

This is available for all types of donations - Capital Campaign, Salvadoran Scholarship, Mission Endowment Fund, and regular Sunday donations.

The process helps to eliminate the need for envelopes and reminder notices.

Your donations can be automatically transferred semi-monthly, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. This can be limited to a specific timeframe - or continue until you wish to change.

**If you would like to have your donations or pledges filed automatically call Martha Reid at the parish office, 381-8917, ext. 266 or email her at [martha.reid@sttomskazoo.org](mailto:martha.reid@sttomskazoo.org).**

## STUDENT NEWS

**Join us for Supper this weekend after 5:30 pm Mass. FREE** for college students & young adults! This weeks menus is ham and scalloped potatoes. Don't miss the great conversation and fellowship shared during dinner.

**Wednesday, April 21 More at Midweek** – 7:00 pm Quiet prayer; 7:30 Praise and Worship; 8:15 gather for pizza and a celebration with our graduating seniors.

**EXAM WEEK SUPPORT** – College students, with exam week fast approaching, we invite you to pick up a care package after any of the Masses next weekend (April 24/25). St. Tom's will be open around the clock from 8:30 am Sunday morning through 10:00 pm Tuesday night - providing you a quiet place to study, to sleep, or to take a study break. We have WiFi throughout our building. Coffee and snacks will be available. If your res halls and roommates are too tense or noisy, come to St. Tom's for some peace and quiet.



## TO HONOR OUR GRADUATING COLLEGE SENIORS

we invite you to join us for Baccalaureate on Friday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m.

If you are a graduating senior, please call the parish office, 381-8917 or email [michele@sttomskazoo.org](mailto:michele@sttomskazoo.org) with the number of guest planning to attend.

## Thank you to everyone who supported The St. Tom's Relay For Life Team We exceeded our \$5,000 goal!

As always we are grateful for your continued support and generosity.

## Recycling Here at St. Tom's

**NEWSPAPER TO INSULATION** We at St. Tom's are participating in an innovative recycling venture: turning old newspapers into household insulation. The Waste & Recycling Transfer Station at 2606 Miller Rd. is accepting newsprint (none of the glossy advertisement inserts) and shipping it on to be converted into low cost household insulation. Bring your newspapers on the weekends when you come to Mass and place them in the back of the church's unlocked **white full size van** in the lower parking lot or in front on Sr. Sue's house on the corner of Stone & Lovell Sts. We will drop off the papers at the transfer station for you.

## RECYCLE BATTERIES AND COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS

It's very inconvenient when batteries go dead to take them to a recycling center, yet they are toxic if dumped into the garbage; the same is true for the new compact fluorescent light bulbs. So we will collect them here at St. Tom's in a small box in the narthex. **Please wrap** your compact fluorescent light bulbs in old newspaper -- we don't want the mercury to escape or the glass to cut someone if they break.

**ALSO BRING YOUR** Empty ink cartridges and deceased cell phones for recycling.

## EARTH STEWARD WEEKLY WORD 2010

**Teach Thrift:** Teach children the value of being thrifty (the wise economy in the management of money and our limited resources; frugality).

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**CLASSES MEET ON SUNDAYS**

10:10-11:10 (English) or 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (bilingual)  
at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Lake Street

**Patty Donovan Haley**  
**Religious Ed. Coordinator - 343-6256**

**Religious Ed is heading into it's final weeks.** Classes preparing for the sacraments of First Reception of Eucharist (1<sup>st</sup> Communion) and Confirmation are into their final lessons. Please remember that receiving a sacrament does NOT mean that your child's religious education is complete. ALL Catholics should continue to study and learn about their faith no matter what their age.

Vacation Bible School planning is underway. This year we are attempting something new. Our VBS program will run ONCE A WEEK for five (5) weeks beginning on Wednesday June 23, 2010. If you have the time to help with one night or on all five nights, please call Patty Haley at 343-6256. Registration information will be available in May. This is a perfect opportunity for students to earn community service credits for the following school year.

**YOUTH FAITH FORMATION**

High School students who plan on attending the Summer Service Trip in July must attend a meeting this evening, Sunday, April 18, in the Youth Room at St. Joe's from 6:00-8:00. One parent or guardian must attend as well. We will develop a fundraising strategy, get to know one another through mixers and games, and eat pizza. There will be time for questions and answers about the trip. Please bring your completed registration paperwork with you.

**Questions call Jerry or Molly at 381-8917, ext. 262**

APRIL 2010	Sunday Collection	Growing in the Spirit Mortgage Fund
Weekly Target	\$ 12,550.00	\$ 3,350.00
4/4 - Easter Sunday	14,721.75	950.00
4/11	9,114.94	975.10
4/18		
4/25		
Electronic gifts	5,892.00	2,433.80
Total gifts to date for April 2010	29,728.69	4,358.90
Operating budget to date for April 2010	25,100.00	6,700.00
Difference in April 2010	4,628.69	(2,341.10)
Fiscal year to date (+/-)	3,083.05	(71,721.66)

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BULLETIN ADVERTISERS  
These businesses make it possible for our bulletin to be  
printed without cost to our parish.  
Thank You

**AREA HAPPENINGS**

**New Infant Car Seats Needed for Caring Network.** Caring Network of Kalamazoo offers childbirth preparation and parenting classes for teens throughout the year. We provide a new car seat as an incentive for teen parents who successfully complete the classes. Our funding for this important program has run out due to the increase in demand and we still need about 15 more carriers. We are asking for new (state law require they be new) infant carriers (not convertible) for easier use on the city buses. Donations or gift cards may be dropped off at the Caring Network Van Domelen Center, located at 1441 S. Westnedge Ave., Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5:00 pm. Questions? Call 269-381-1234.

Mark your calendars! St. Augustines Cathedral School's **"Once in a Blue Moon Garage Sale"** will be held on Saturday, April 24 from 7:00a.m.-3:00p.m. at St. Augustine's Crowley Center, 600 West Michigan Avenue, downtown Kalamazoo. Lots of great stuff to be had! All proceeds benefit St. Augustine Cathedral School and our community. For more information, go to [stakzoo.org](http://stakzoo.org) and click on the "Once in a Blue Moon" button.

**Couples Night Out** - Looking for a way to enrich your marriage? On Friday, May 7 the Office of Marriage & Family Ministry is offering a unique opportunity for you to have a date night with your spouse and to spend some time nurturing your marriage. The evening will include dinner and a reflection on marriage. Space is limited so get your reservation in early. Reservation deadline is April 23rd. This event will be held at Transformations, 3427 Gull Road from 6:00-8:00 pm. Cost is \$25 per couple. Any questions can be directed to Jane Bodway 269.349.8714 x 113 or emailed to [jbodway@dioceseofkalamazoo.org](mailto:jbodway@dioceseofkalamazoo.org)

**World Youth Day 2011 Pilgrimage to Madrid, Spain.** Join young adults from the Dioceses of Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Marquette and Gaylord. Get the details at the information meetings at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> in rooms 1 and 3 at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Portage. Brochure is available on the diocesan web site or contact Lisa Irwin in the Office of Evangelization, Catechesis and Initiation at 269-903-0177. Participants must be 18 by 8/9/2011.

**"We must obey God rather than men . . ."** (First Reading) Would the way you live your marriage convict you of being Christian? Receive strength and the tools to live a more Christ-centered Sacrament. The remaining 2010 Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are July 23-25 in Kalamazoo and October 15-17 in Grand Rapids. Make plans now to reserve your spot on a weekend. For more information, contact Bob & JeanAnn McCann, 616-847-0582.

**Making a Report of Sexual Misconduct**—report of sexual misconduct may be initiated at the Diocese of Kalamazoo's Sexual Misconduct Question and Reporting Line: (877) 802-0115. A caller will be requested to provide his or her name and telephone number. All calls regarding sexual misconduct will be returned, usually within one hour. This toll-free telephone number has been established as a part of the Diocese's effort to protect children, young people and other vulnerable people in our schools, parishes and ministries. This line is for reporting suspected sexual misconduct or child abuse within Diocesan institutions and ministries only. If you have some other concern about Diocesan schools, parishes, or ministries, please contact the appropriate Diocesan school, parish, or office directly.