

ST. THOMAS MORE MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

The St. Thomas More Boosters foster the physical development of the parish student athlete in an environment governed by Catholic teaching and emphasizing sportsmanship, fair play, respect, discipline and fellowship.

Elections are held annually for the following positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Athletic Director, and Marketing Director. The Athletic Director appoints a Coordinator for a one year term for the following positions: Boys and Girls Golf, Boys and Girls Volleyball, Boys and Girls Basketball, Cheer and Track. Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. Any parishioner can become a member of the Boosters.

All boys and girls in grades 3-8 who are enrolled in our School or who are a parishioner enrolled in the Parish School of Religion are eligible to participate in St. Thomas More athletic programs. Cheer and Track take children in grades K-8.

To be considered for a coaching position, the candidate must be an active member of the parish community, file a written coach's application and meet all the standards of the Archdiocese Decree on Child Protection.

The fundraising committee is responsible for the generation of revenue required to provide optimal programs and facilities for our parish student athletes. Please call the president if you are interested in serving on this committee.

Contacts: If you have any questions, please call one of the following:

President: Daniel Burt.....513-417-1409

Treasurer: Emily Nickles419-410-3022

ART & ENVIRONMENT

The mission of the Art & Environment committee is to visually create a worship space that reflects the themes of the liturgical seasons through the use of color, fabric, flowers/plants, banners, lighting, statuary, sacred images and many original elements and to enhance the holiness of the ministry celebrated there. The character and beauty of the worship space should reflect a feeling of mystery and hospitality, enhancing the celebration and inspiring the assembly in prayer. We need those gifted in design, carpentry, sewing, floral arranging, electrical, and mostly those who just want to participate in the beautification of our worship space.

Contact: Deacon Michael Thomas.....513-753-2549

BEREAVMENT

The Ministry of Bereavement committee answers the need to serve the grieving people of our parish family in a special way. There is need for words of faith, comfort and encouragement as well as various acts of kindness for those who mourn. A very important aspect of this ministry is assisting the family of the deceased in preparing the funeral liturgy. Another area in which we can use assistance is preparing food for the family after the funeral has taken place.

In all that it does, the Ministry of Bereavement committee is a positive sign of Christian love and support within the community.

Contact: Deacon Michael Thomas.....513-753-2549

BIBLE STUDY

Catholics today are seeking Jesus in the Scriptures as never before. Many grew up in an era when the Church, busy doing other things, was not putting much energy into teaching the Bible. Some Catholics even picked up a kind of

fear of Bible reading — as if danger of false interpretation was so great it was better to have nothing to do with the Bible at all. Today, there is a new emphasis on Scripture among Catholics. Bible Study Groups, an expanded selection of Scripture in the liturgy and encouragement from Church leaders has led many Catholics to dust off the family Bible, looking for nourishment for the spiritual life. The bible study group meets every Wednesday morning at 9:30 am in the Faith Formation Room to study and discuss the upcoming Sunday Mass scripture readings.

Contact: Tom Kiefer..... 513-752-0134

CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Catholic Men's Group draws from the Answer the Call - Annual Catholic Men's Conference. The group meets on the first and third Saturday of every month at 7:00 am for fellowship, prayer and discussion about spiritual topics.

Contact: Tom Kiefer..... 513-752-0134

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH

Christ Renews His Parish is designed to give the individual, both women and men in the parish, an opportunity for renewal and growth in the spiritual family of the church. It is also an opportunity for prayer and faith sharing in the awareness of God's love and how we can respond to His call to help us grow together as a Christian parish family.

What happens on the weekend? Most who have taken part in the weekend say, "You can't explain what happens: you have to experience it for yourself." The 30-hour Christ Renews His Parish process includes: group activities and discussions; prayer together; reflection talks by the giving team on topics such as The Father's Loving Care for Us, Scripture, Eucharist, and the Christian Life, as well as private reflection. A Reconciliation service with individual Confession and a Eucharistic celebration are integral parts of each weekend. The weekend will begin at 8:00 am on Saturday and will end by 2:00 pm on Sunday. The entire period, including a night's sleep, will last between 30-32 hours.

Contact: Deacon Michael Thomas.....513-753-2549

CLEANING MINISTRY

Volunteers clean the church on a weekly basis to insure that our parishioners worship in an atmosphere that will be comfortable, pleasant and spiritually uplifting. Cleaning services are performed on Saturday morning each week 8:30 to 10:30 am. Volunteer groups of 4-6 clean once a month and spend one to two hours dusting and cleaning the sacristy, Sanctuary, choir loft, confessional and other areas. New volunteers are always welcome and needed. We do not clean the main seating area.

Contact: Chris Conrady..... 513-943-1433

DAD'S GROUP

One of the greatest challenges facing families today is how to pass along Christian values to generations to come. The Dad's Group centers on efforts to provide resources to fathers and grandfathers to help them fulfill God's mandate to be a good parent. Most fathers have received little or no training in parenthood. This is a great way to meet other men of the parish and to help support each other in our goal of being the best dads we can be. The group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm.

Contact: Deacon Michael Thomas.....513-753-2549
Jerry Harpring.....513-378-8001

ELIZABETH MINISTRY

The Elizabeth Ministry responds to the joys and sorrows of a woman and her family's life during the childbearing years. This outreach includes: pregnancy and complications, adoptions and births, infant or child crisis, special needs children, fertility and infertility concerns, miscarriage, stillbirth, infant or child death, family outreach and

grand parenting issues. The Elizabeth Ministry responds to these needs by offering personal visits, meals, assisting with household tasks, and errands, small remembrance gifts and most importantly, prayers. Some events and activities hosted by the Elizabeth Ministry: Elizabeth Ministry Library, Epiphany Celebration, Expectant Parent Blessing, Memorial Service for Children Born & Unborn, and Rosebuds of Prayer for You Program.

Contact: Michelle Minardi513-943-4935

FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION

The Faith Formation Commission works with the director of religious education and pastoral staff to research current trends in faith formation for all ages, develop plans for lifelong learning opportunities and implement intergenerational opportunities for growing in faith understanding and practice. It's task is to create annual faith formation opportunities in five areas: large group learning, small group learning, family based sharing and learning, online and independent learning, and liturgy/whole community learning.

- **Dedicated Disciples Study Groups on Formed.org** ~ Study Groups where our large and diverse community becomes a smaller connected community. Individuals can sign up to participate in online discussion groups. To find our Dedicated Disciple's online studies, go to www.formed.org. If you are new to Formed.org, access [www.https://sttmformation.org](https://sttmformation.org). Click on Faith Enrichment in top menu of web page, scroll down to "NOT ON FROMED YET? It is easy and Free for Parishioners to Register!/formation-podcast-videos" and follow the directions to be registered for Formed through St. Thomas More parish.

Contact: Becky Ready513-753-2548

FOOTBALL

The St. Veronica/St. Thomas More (SVTM) Football Program fosters the physical development of the parish student athlete in an environment governed by Catholic teaching and emphasizing sportsmanship, fair play, respect, discipline, and fellowship.

The SVTM Board of Trustees are appointed bi-annually and consists of 5 individuals, two each from St. Veronica and St. Thomas More, and one from St. Bernadette. They oversee the appointment of volunteer Coordinators on an annual basis at the first meeting held in January. Meetings are held on a quarterly basis, on the second Tuesday of the month.

All boys and girls in grades K-8, who are enrolled in our parish school or who are parishioners enrolled in the Parish School of Religion, are eligible to participate in the SVTM Football and Cheer programs.

Any parishioner may be appointed as a member of the SVTM Board of Trustees or be appointed as a Coordinator, Head Football or Cheer Squad Coach. To be considered for a coaching position, candidates must be an active member of the parish community, file a written coach's application and meet all the standards of the Archdiocesan Decree on Child Protection.

Contact: Chris Yoshida (St. Thomas More) 336-918-3333
Jarett Foster (St. Veronica) 513-939-8353
Troy Svensson (St. Bernadette) 513-673-3460

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

The Homebound Ministry serves to visit and comfort those who cannot take part in the Eucharistic celebration by bringing Holy Communion to the sick and homebound on Sundays and throughout the week. There is special training required for those who take Holy Communion to the sick and homebound.

Contact: Deacon Michael Thomas 513-753-2549
Deacon Bob Brazier 513-752-2080 ext. 144

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

The Hospitality Ministry plans and provides for the social and fellowship needs of the parish. The members offer their time and support for many ongoing events and activities in the parish including maintaining supplies, setup/cleanup of facilities for each function, call members to advise them of event/activities and begin the planning process. Some of the events this ministry serves include the World Marriage Celebration, coffee and donuts after Mass on specified Sundays and other gatherings.

Contact: Mary Kay Thomas513-490-1805

JULYFEST/WINTERFEST

The St. Thomas More Festival, one of the largest festivals on the eastside of Cincinnati, is held on the second weekend in July each summer. The Festival is the major fundraiser for the parish. The Festival has entertainment for the entire family, including Games for Children, Rides, Bid-N-Buy, Grand Raffle and Games for Adults. Several live bands play during scheduled festival times. Refreshments and a wide variety of food are also available. The Festival is planned for and carried out by the JulyFest Steering Committee. Planning for the Festival is a year round project and volunteers are always needed and welcome.

The St. Thomas More WinterFest is new to St. Thomas More parish. It is an evening event held in the winter which consists of Dinner, Raffles, Casino Games and Live Entertainment. This is a "21 and Over" event. On-site babysitting is available. Volunteers are always needed and welcome.

Contact: julyfest@sttm.org or 513-753-2563 for both

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

- **Altar Servers** ~ the role of the server is to assist the priest and deacon during the celebration of the Mass and at other liturgical celebrations. Servers may be adult or youth, male or female. Servers prepare the sanctuary for the Liturgy, assist in preparation of the gifts during Mass, and insure the sanctuary is in order after the liturgical celebration. If you are in the 4th grade or above, you are invited to participate in this very helpful and rewarding ministry.
- **Eucharistic Ministers** ~ the Communion rite is the heart and center-the ritual climax-of the entire Eucharistic liturgy. Everything at Mass is directed towards the moment of Communion in which we, fed with his own Body and Blood, are made one with the Lord. Eucharistic Ministers are called to this most beautiful ministry. They have the honor of ministering Our Lord's Body and Blood to their brothers and sisters during Mass and distribute along with the priest and deacon.
- **Greeters and Ushers** ~ recent understanding and study about the nature of the worship assembly has given a new significance and status to the role of the usher/greeter. As a minister of hospitality, people should be made to feel welcome when they come to worship with us, whether it is their first time here or if they have been with us for years.
- **Lectors** ~ as ministers of the Word, lectors are called to do what John the Baptist did: proclaim over and over again, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" The role of the lector is to bring God's Word in Scripture more easily into the lives of all who have ears to hear, namely the assembly. Therefore, they should strive to proclaim the Word of God in a way that touches the hearts of all who come to the liturgy in the hope of challenging them to live that Word.

Contact: Deacon Michael Thomas (Coordinator for Minister Training, Weekday & Holy Day Masses) 513-753-2549

Contact: Donna Buchheit (Coordinator for Weekend Masses) 513-753-2541

MARRIAGE MINISTRY

Parishioners can become involved in our marriage ministry in three ways:

- **Wedding Coordinator** ~ the coordinator helps to setup and facilitate wedding rehearsals and wedding ceremonies.

- **FOCCUS Couple** ~ parish married couples volunteer to assist the engaged couple in preparing for marriage by enabling them to focus on their communication skills with each other. The married couple minister as a team to coordinate the FOCCUS instrument and then discuss and interpret it with the engaged couple. All couples being married in our parish participate in the FOCCUS.
- **Marriage Dinner** ~ volunteers help with the setup and cleanup of the annual celebration of marriage dinner usually held every year in February.

Contact: Deacon Michael Thomas 513-753-2549

M.O.M.S

The Ministry of Mother’s Sharing is a group of mothers of all ages that learn to share the stress, concerns, and positive experiences that have influenced personal growth. This ministry is for women who devote their time of the spiritual and physical upbringing of their children, who live stressful lives, who live with many demands on their time and energy, and who need a place to receive personal and spiritual nurturing. The ministry maintains an online book club at www.shelfari.com under the group title: STM Catholic Women’s Book Club.

Contact: Becky Ready513-753-2548

MUSIC MINISTRY

St. Thomas More’s Music Ministry program offers an opportunity to anyone to participate. St. Thomas More has one of the most diverse music programs in the diocese, striving to reach out to the hearts of many different people in different walks of life. It is one of many things that make this parish special and unique. The parish is blessed to have choirs and ensembles covering 3 out of the 4 weekend Masses, as well as very talented soloists (or cantors) to lead the 8:00 am Mass on Sunday.

The ministry of music is an important part of weekend liturgies. The song selections are picked to reflect on the readings, the Eucharist, and the general theme of the Mass. The music at St. Thomas More is a blend of music covering styles such as classic hymnody, classic Catholic songs, contemporary Catholic selections, and gospel. The music is selected to not only be reflective, but to encourage and inspire participation of the congregation. The music ministry serves to lead the parish in its entirety in song, not to put on a performance, or to sing unfamiliar music unattainable for the congregation to participate in.

Contact: Doug Stegeman 513-753-2546

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR)

The Parish School of Religion’s purpose is to support and assist families in the religious forming of their children, in living a Catholic way of life. Through formal presentations of our faith’s truths by witnesses living this faith, there is interwoven message, worship, prayer, service, and community. The goal is to not only inform, but also foster communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ. PSR is for children 3 years of age through 8th grade. Preschool classes are held during the 10:00 am Mass and PSR classes for grades 1-8 are held from 8:30 – 9:45 am.

Contact: Becky Ready513-753-2548
Linda Bader513-753-2548

PRAYER REQUESTS

The Rosary Prayer Circle is an email list for confidential prayer requests. The Prayer Circle includes over 50 people praying for the needs of the parish.

Contact: Kathy Brannen Kathleen.brannen@gmail.com or 513-752-7196
Karen Trautman ktraut@fuse.net
Parish Prayer Line 513-752-2080 ext. 133
Kate Roelker for bulletin requests..... kroelker@sttm.org

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

The Respect Life Ministry, under the guidance of Father Bill Wagner, and the pastoral from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, seeks to inform, engage and evangelize our parishioners on the Church's teachings on matters of life ranging from conception to a natural death. We do this by hosting Respect Life events throughout the year and actively engaging parishioners of all ages. Respect Life seeks out programs in the area which address life issues and advertise these via the church bulletin or the church website. Some events and activities hosted by the Respect Life Ministry are: Cemetery of the Innocent, 40 Days for Life, Cookie Ministry for a Kairos Weekend at the prison, March for Life, and Life Chain.

"Never tire of firmly speaking out in defense of life from its conception and do not be deterred from the commitment to defend the dignity of every human person with courageous determination. Christ is with you: be not afraid." Pope John Paul II

Contact: Co-Director, Rose Mary Bell .. rosemarybell@gmail.com
Co-Director, Muriel Casavant muriel.casavant@gmail.com

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS AND YOUTH

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and Youth (RCIY) is the process by which men, women and children of catechetical (religious teaching) age, are initiated into membership in the Catholic Church. Through Sunday parish liturgy participation and catechetical sessions, potential converts are invited to know the Church and discern the call of Christ in their lives.

Contact: Becky Ready513-753-2548

SCOUTING FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

The mission of the Scouts BSA organization is to prepare young people, both boys and girls, to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. The National BSA Council supports local councils that provide quality youth programs for character development and values-based leadership training to develop American citizens who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit. The programs foster self-reliance, courage, resourcefulness, promotes pride in our American heritage and respect for basic rights of all people, and helps develop personal values based on religious concepts, as well as the desire and skills to help others. At a place of worship, BSA organizations are a form of youth ministry and ecumenical outreach, being composed of both parishioner and non-parishioner members.

Activities include camping, outings to civic, educational, and natural locations to provide fellowship, education, and skills opportunities. Costs for many of these activities are covered through scouts' personal participation in scout fundraising efforts, including the acclaimed STM Fish Fry and annual scout popcorn sale. Additional service hours are completed by Troop and Crew Scouts for the benefit of the community.

Contact: Dick Bader, Scoutmaster
thebadger45@gmail.com..... 513-476-5981

St. Thomas More's Cub Scout program promotes the spiritual, moral, social and physical development of young boys, girls and their families. Boys and girls discover the world around them through hands-on activities, trips to places of interest, camping, and many other opportunities for physical and mental development. Cub Scouts promotes citizenship, and also duty to God, country, others, and self through community service and religious emblems programs. Emphasis is on individual development as well as teamwork, based on the Cub Scout Motto: "Do Your Best."

Contact: Keith Swarts, Cubmaster swartsfam12@gmail.com

Girls BSA Scouts elect leaders for their troop from all ages of its membership and these scouts lead the troop for 6 months, under adult supervision. Scouts have continual opportunities to develop lifelong skills,

including practical first aid, outdoor skills, leadership in the troop, and experience many trades while sharing fellowship with other girls, older, younger and peers. Fundraising opportunities enable the Scouts to help their families by earning monies to pay for scouting activities. Faith-based, this vital youth ministry enables girls to be girls while learning from adult leaders how to become women of character.

Contact: Marianne Gallivan, Scoutmaster
mmgal1988@gmail.com 513-238-3412

Venture Crews assume further responsibility, researching, selecting, and scheduling events on their own, with adults present for questions and minimal assistance and supervision. While Scouts BSA emphasizes developing specific skills and earning merit badges in the course of fellowship and learning leadership, Venture Crews choose their activities solely based on the members' preferences. Previous activities include camping, shooting, canoeing, and more.

Contact: Mark Duff, Scoutmaster
macduff5@yahoo.com 513-479-4451

Local BSA councils grant organizations a charter to use the Scouting Program and St. Thomas More parish is pleased to be a longstanding, successful charter organization for the three BSA program levels.

Contact: Deacon Michael Thomas, Parish Scout Champlain 513-753-2549
Eric Locher, Chartered Organization Representative ... locord01@gmail.com ... 513-403-3606

SENIOR CITIZEN'S MINISTRY

The Chancellor's Club consist of seniors who meet the second Tuesday of every month at different local restaurants for lunch. In addition, we take day and overnight trips to places of interest. Our purpose is to share fellowship with one another and to grow spiritually as we continue to build up our parish community.

Contact: Deacon Michael Thomas 513-753-2549

SOCIAL ACTION COMMISSION

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit we follow the gospels, we educate ourselves and lead our parish in fulfilling our Baptismal call to discipleship through service and action to provide for the common good of all those in need. We identify and develop resources, volunteer our services, organize events, for those in need and serve as their advocates for justice by changing the structures that deny people their dignity and rights as children of God. We strive to respect life from conception to natural death.

Contact: Diane Meisman 513-752-5330

SOUTHEASTERN ECUMENICAL MINISTRY

St. Thomas More Parish is a member of the Southeastern Ecumenical Ministry (SEM), an organization of 30 churches in eastern Hamilton and western Clermont Counties, which help the area's needy and elderly through mission activities, including housing facilities for the elderly and a food pantry. SEM operates a food pantry where people in need may receive food and funds on an emergency basis. The Food Pantry receives food every other month from donations given to the ongoing St. Thomas More "Feed the Poor" collection and from other member churches. The Food Pantry telephone number is 513-231-1412. Volunteers are always welcome.

Contact: Tom Kiefer, STM's Delegate to SEM Legislative Board...513-752-0134

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is a ministry of volunteers who administer to the poor in our parish area. Contact is made as the result of calls received on our St. Vincent de Paul voice mail line from people in need.

Clients are given assistance with food, rent, utility bills, clothing and other basic needs. Clients are visited and interviewed by members to determine their needs. The work of the St. Vincent de Paul is sustained by the generosity of our parishioners through fifth Sunday collections, food drives and Christmas Giving Tree. Without this assistance the conference would not exist. St. Vincent de Paul manages our St. Thomas More House at 804 Ohio Pike which is used as a food pantry.

Contact: St. Vincent de Paul Helpline 513-753-2561

WELCOME MINISTRY

The Welcome Ministry reaches out to the new members of our growing faith community and makes a personal contact to ensure they feel welcome. The welcome minister's main responsibility is to call the new parishioner and arrange a visit to their home to deliver a packet of parish information. Welcome Ministry members rotate to deliver parish information to new parishioners and this is done on a very flexible schedule. The time commitment of this ministry varies as it depends on the number of new parishioners as well as the number of volunteers. We are always looking for friendly people to join this ministry.

Contact: Donna Buchheit 513-753-2541