

September 29, 2019  
*Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**Welcome Child of God!**

*No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church,  
No matter your personal history, age, income, background, gender, race, ethnicity or spirituality, or marital situation,  
No matter your own self-image of holiness or virtue,  
You belong to Jesus Christ and you belong to us!  
You are invited, accepted and respected here at the Parish of Saint Thomas More.*

*Take our hands, Lord Jesus, leading us in courage to confront with courage the forces which oppress and divide.  
Take our hearts, Lord Jesus, and open them to the truth which will set others free.  
Accompany us on our way, Lord Jesus, as we seek to share our Roman Catholic faith and life in your Spirit.*

While our Jewish friends and neighbors prepare to celebrate the high holy days that begin their liturgical year, our Sunday liturgy reminds us of the foundation of our hope as Christians and as a parish community. Jewish hope and identity are rooted in the encounter with Almighty God on Mount Sinai and in the covenant established there. Our Christian hope and discipleship are rooted in our encounter with God in Jesus and in the covenant Jesus' death and resurrection established.



The readings for today juxtapose the richness of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures even as they remind us that Judaism is the religion *of Jesus* and Christianity the religion *about Jesus*.

*Father Andrew*

**CARING & SHARING**



For this week the Pantry needs are:  
Green beans, peas, soups (no tomato or chicken noodle),  
pasta (no elbows), tomato paste, pudding & jello cups

Thank you!!

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:**

**Average Weekly Regular Offertory Amount Needed  
to Meet Our Annual Budget = \$5,234**

**Offertory for September 15: \$ 4191.00**  
**Offertory for September 22: \$ 3756.50**  
**Priest Retirement Collection: \$ 1279.00**

*"Give and it shall be given to you." - Luke 6:38*  
**Thank you for your generous contributions.**

**CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS MORE**

*A Community of Parish & University Ministry  
PO Box 620, Durham, NH 03824; 868-2666*

**REGULAR HOURS: Mon, Tues & Thurs 9am - 3pm;  
Weds 9am - 1pm; closed Fri**

**Weekday Masses:**  
12:10pm Mass: Mon, Tues & Wed  
Food Pantry: Thursday 4pm - 6pm

**October 6: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Reading I: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4  
Reading II: 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14  
Gospel: Luke 17:5-10



**For September 28th – September 29th**

Saturday, 5pm – † Norman Langlois  
Sunday, 9am – † Stena MacBride  
Sunday, 11:15am – † Josephine Plotkin

**For October 5th – October 6th**

Saturday, 5pm – † Joseph Kovacs  
Sunday, 9am – † Dennis Leo Hallisey  
Sunday, 11:15am – Fr. Donald Gauthier

**STM PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**



Prayer Shawl Ministry is a profoundly meaningful opportunity for you to share your love of knitting or crocheting with those who are sick or lonely, seeking healing and hope.

We hope you will join us on **Tues, Nov 5.**

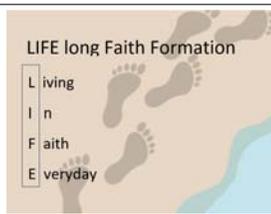
For more info, call the office at 868-2666, or Mary Ann at 868-2019.

**Second Collection last weekend...**

was for the NH Diocesan Priest Retirement Collection.  
Thank you for your kind donations!

## COME and SEE!

**Whole Parish** LIFE long Faith Formation has begun!



### This weekend (9/29):

- + **Children & Adults** will be in the child's classroom for **PCC** (Parent/Child Classroom).

### Next weekend (10/6):

- + **Children & Adults** will be in the gym for **FFF** (Family Faith Formation). ALL adults are welcome.

### The week after (10/13):

- + **No Classes:** Columbus Day / Indigenous People's Day weekend.



### Middle School Faith Formation

Next sessions are Monday, Oct 7 and October 21 from 6-7:30pm.

## Adoration

Everyone is invited to join our Campus Minister Ryan Cornelissen and the CSO students for Adoration from 7:15 - 8:15pm on Wednesday, Oct 2 and Wednesday, Nov 6.



## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults ~ RCIA Journey to the Easter Sacraments



# "COME AND SEE!!!"

## It's not too late!

Have you thought about joining the Catholic church by receiving the Initiation Sacraments of:

**Baptism ~ Confirmation ~ Eucharist?**

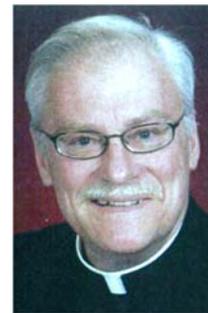
BEGIN THE CONVERSATION with Roberta MacBride  
stmpastoralmin@comcast.net ~ 603-868-2666 x115

## *Priesthood Sunday ~ Sept 29*

Come celebrate

**Fr. Andy**

with us after the 9am Mass  
With coffee & donuts  
this weekend!



## STM PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Prayer Shawl Ministry is a profoundly meaningful opportunity for you to share your love of knitting or crocheting with those who are sick or lonely, seeking healing and hope.

Our group meets October (November this year!) through May on the 1st Tuesday in the Student Center Library, 11am-noon, to "show and tell" latest creations, share patterns, ideas, and words of encouragement. We are happy to help you share your craft in this powerful ministry of God's presence through our handiwork. We also have funds available for those who need assistance in buying yarn.

We hope you will join us on Tues, Nov 5.

If you have questions or know anyone who would benefit from God's healing love by receiving a shawl, please contact the STM office at 868-2666, or Mary Ann Marchi at 868-2019.

Happy those  
who keep faith  
**FOREVER**

## ST. FRANCIS BLESSING OF

### PETS & ANIMALS

Sun, Oct 6, Respect Life Sunday

1pm Church back lawn



The Feast of St. Francis reminds us that all creation is a sacred gift and we are responsible to respect and care for all life.

On Oct 6, we will celebrate all creation with special music, prayers, and environment at all Masses, as well as our STM tradition of Blessing of Animals/Pets at 1pm on the back lawn.

**Bring pets on a leash or in a cage**, to the back lawn. Fr. Andy will lead prayer & bless all pets by name. Musical accompaniment (needed) will add to the celebration.

## Care for Creation

Fair Trade bite-size chocolate is available for Trick-or-Treat! Make a purchase through Catholic Relief Services, [www.crsfairtrade.org/chocolate](http://www.crsfairtrade.org/chocolate) from one of their fair trade partners (EQUAL EXCHANGE or SERRV/Divine). Farmers will receive fair wages and the Catholic Relief Services Global Impact Fund will receive a contribution.



## Walking with Purpose ~ Come and See!

### Women of St. Thomas More

- *Do you desire to grow in your Catholic faith?*
- *Do you seek connection with other women in our parish community?*
- *We invite you to consider joining Walking with Purpose this fall at St. Thomas More.*



This contemporary woman's guide to the Bible, personal study and small group discussion, invites us to discover a deeper, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

*No experience necessary. ~ God meets us where we are.*

**Come and See ~ Thursday, October 17th, 10-11am**  
in the Student Center Library

## Community News

**NHRTL BENEFIT BANQUET** on **Oct 3** at the Executive Court Banquet Facility in Manchester. Reception: 5:30pm, Dinner & Speaker (Terry Beatley): 6:45pm. \$65/person. Reservations: [nhrtl.org/banquet2019](http://nhrtl.org/banquet2019)

**#MERCY** A Catholic conference focused on the Infinite Mercy of God. **Oct 5**, 8am – 6pm at Lowell Memorial Auditorium in Lowell, MA. Four extraordinary speakers, music, Mass, confession, adoration. \$40 until Sept 30. Visit [hopeconferences.com](http://hopeconferences.com) for more information.

**ST. ANDREW DINNERS** Men in our diocese who are considering a vocation to the priesthood or would simply like some help hearing the Lord's call for their life, are invited to an evening of prayer, conversation with the Vocations Team, and dinner. Young men (age 13-18) on **Fri, Oct 4**; men (age 19-60) on **Fri, Oct 18**. Both from 6-8pm at the Joseph House (279 Cartier Street) in Manchester. Please RSVP to Becky Vinson at [rvinson@rcbm.org](mailto:rvinson@rcbm.org) or 663-0153.

**CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH MISSION** All are welcome! THE FULLNESS OF PURPOSE **10/16 & 10/17** at 7pm. Dynamic speaker and author Ken Yasinski. At Immaculate Conception Church, Portsmouth; designed to empower people to experience the life God has for them. Includes musical Adoration. For free introductory talk by Ken, text the word FREETALK to 44222. For more info: [www.corpuschristinh.org](http://www.corpuschristinh.org)

**YOUTH CONFERENCE** Experience God's Unconditional Love, featuring Paul J. Kim, Delmore Worship, & more, for grades 7-12. Feel "not good enough"? Feel unworthy? You are not alone. Full day including Mass, speakers, praise & worship, adoration, lunch. **Nov 16**: \$25 Early Bird, \$30 regular. Bishop Guertin High School, Nashua. Visit: [catholicnh.org/summit](http://catholicnh.org/summit)

In our desire to renew, encourage, and support parish disciples of **all ages** and **all life long**, we have updated our Faith Formation mission and goals:

### LIFELONG Faith Formation Mission Statement

ST. THOMAS FAITH FORMATION commits to engage our whole parish community by nourishing and growing the foundations of our Catholic faith and continuing the mission of Jesus Christ through

**L**iving  
**I**n  
**F**aith  
**E**veryday

**EXPLORATION-EDUCATION-  
EVANGELATION-FORMATION-WORSHIP  
-PRAYER-SERVICE**

in OUR **LIFELONG** JOURNEY of FAITH.

## SEMINARIAN BRUNCH FUNDRAISER

Come meet our Seminarians at the first Black & White Brunch Fundraiser



Brunch with Bishop Libasci \* Video Presentation  
Music \* Silent Auction \* and lots more!

### How to attend:

Date/Time: Saturday, Oct 19, 10am - 12:30pm

Location: Manchester Country Club  
180 S River Rd, Bedford, NH

Tickets: \$100 per person

Register: [www.liveinblackandwhite.com](http://www.liveinblackandwhite.com)

### Why we need your support:

Each year, the diocese spends over \$500,000 on tuition and room and board for our seminarians—a little more than \$100 a day for each young man studying to be a priest. Please show your support for these fine young men by making an investment in the future of our diocese and parishes.

For more information or to become a sponsor:

# UNH Campus Ministry

Fall 2019– Vol. 5

Hello students and parishioners!

This week's Gospel narrative sounds a bit harsh, doesn't it? For a God of love and forgiveness, how come there is "a great chasm...to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours?" We must remember this is a parable! Parables help us see things from a different vantage point, which is often very helpful! In the story, Lazarus' time is up and he can no longer change his fate, but for the rest of us there is hope! We are challenged and encouraged to bridge the gap that the chasm of an "us and them" mentality creates, and truly love and forgive others instead. How do we do this? Look no further than the first line of our second reading from Saint Paul to Timothy: "pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience and gentleness."

Out of these virtues, the last one lingered with me: *gentleness*. How often do we focus on *how* we do what we do instead of just *what* we are doing? Fr. Greg Boyle, a Jesuit priest and founder of Homeboy Industries, a re-entry program in Los Angeles for former gang members and incarcerated individuals, speaks of this gentleness synonymously– *tenderness*. He often says, "if love is the answer, community is the context, and tenderness is the methodology." Fr. Greg has made a career out of showing people who otherwise are ignored, or despised feel their worth. In his book *Tattoos on the Heart*, he sums it all up in a similar way to our Gospel reading by saying,

Kinship...Inching ourselves closer to creating a community of kinship such that God might recognize it. Soon we imagine, with God, this circle of compassion. Then we imagine no one standing outside of that circle, moving ourselves closer to the margins so that the margins themselves will be erased. We stand there with those whose dignity has been denied. We locate ourselves with the poor and the powerless and the voiceless. At the edges, we join the easily despised and the readily left out. We stand with the demonized so that the demonizing will stop. We situate ourselves right next to the disposable so that the day will come when we stop throwing people away.

(Boyle, *Tattoos on the Heart*, 190)

This week, let's sit with this challenge, asking ourselves how we are called to stand with others and to narrow the "chasm" while we still can.

## Interested in Community Service?

Due to scheduling conflicts, there will **NOT BE A COMMUNITY SERVICE MEETING ON Monday September 30th**. I apologize for any confusion. We discussed service opportunities at our CSO meeting this past Wednesday and **will meet on Sunday October 6th at 7 PM to discuss the Spring Break trip** in more detail!

## Weekly Events!

### SUNDAY-

5 PM- Student Mass  
St Thomas More Church

6 PM- Student **SUPPER**  
St Thomas More Student Center

### TUESDAY-

1 PM- Community Lunch  
Holloway Commons Dining Hall

### WEDNESDAY-

7:15 PM- Catholic Student Org (CSO)  
St. Thomas More Church

### FRIDAY-

6:00 PM- Combined Men's and  
Women's Group Dinner at HoCo

7:00 PM- Women's Group, Men's  
Group (Contact for location info)

# Adoration

at St. Thomas More Church



All are welcome to join the UNH student community for the exposition of the blessed sacrament from  
**7:15 to 8:15 PM**  
**on Wednesday October 2nd and**  
**Wednesday November 6th** in the St. Thomas More Sanctuary.