

November 3, 2019
Thirty-First 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.*

A November Poem

Ronald Stuart Thomas was the leading Welsh poet of the 20th century. He died in September, 2000. In 1996, he was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature. He lost out to Seamus Heaney who delivered the eulogy at the Westminster Abbey memorial tribute.

My favorite R.S. Thomas poem is *The Belfry*, and November is the month to ponder its message.

The Belfry

*I have seen it standing up grey,
Gaunt, as though no sunlight
Could ever thaw out the music
Of its great bell; terrible
In its own way, for religion
Is like that. There are times
When a black frost is upon
One's whole being, and the heart
In its bone belfry hangs and is dumb.*

*But who is to know? Always
Even in winter in the cold*

*Of a stone church, on his knees
Someone is praying, whose prayers fall
Steadily through the hard spell
Of weather that is between God
And himself. Perhaps they are warm rain
That brings the sun and afterwards flowers
On the raw graves and the throbbing of bells.*

- R.S. Thomas

May we always be open to the grace of God which is bigger than our imagination or expectation.

*Blessings,
Fr. Andrew*

NOTE: Christmas Fair is December 7. An incorrect date was printed in the parish calendar inserted in last weekend's bulletin.

CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS MORE

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

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK:

Mon, Tues & Thurs 9am - 3pm; Weds 9am - 1pm

Weekday Masses at 12:10pm:

Mon, Tues, & Wed

Food Pantry: Thursday 4pm - 6pm

**Office closed and no services on Mon, Nov 11
for Veterans Day**

November 10: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading I: 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14
Reading II: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5
Gospel: Luke 20:27-38



For November 2nd – 3rd

Saturday, 5pm – † Deceased parishioners of St. Thomas More
Sunday, 9am – † Fr. Richard Tetu
Sunday, 11:15am – † Joseph Shean

For November 9th – 10th

Saturday, 5pm – † Kay & Larry Michael
Sunday, 9am – † Lorie Cryans Fields
Sunday, 11:15am – † David Biggwither

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

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

Offertory for October 27: \$ 4493

"Give and it shall be given to you." - Luke 6:38

Thank you for your generous contributions.

Second Collection next weekend...

...is for the Archdiocese for the Military Service

LIFE LONG FAITH FORMATION

This weekend (11/3):

- + **Children** will be in their classrooms for **CFF** ; and
- + **Adults** will be in the gym for **AFF** . **ALL** are welcome!

The following week (11/10):

Happy Veterans Day
- no classes!

The week after (11/17):

- + **Parents and children** will be in classrooms for **PCC** (**Parent/Child Classroom**).



Middle School Faith Formation

Next sessions are **Nov 4 & Nov 18** from **6-7:30pm**.

High School Youth Ministry



Life Teen: Sunday, Nov 3; 6-8pm (snacks)
Diocesan Youth Conference: Sat, Nov 16; 8:30am - 5pm
Service: Fri, Nov 22; TBD (Thanksgiving Baskets)

WWP Session 2: Who is Jesus Christ?

Please join us for Walking with Purpose as we get to know Jesus Christ on a deeper level. No experience necessary, come as you are and join in anytime.

Nov 7, 2019; 10:30am; STM Student Center Library

"For I know the plan I have for you, says the Lord. Plans for welfare, not evil, to give you a hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Walking with Purpose is held weekly Oct - May. For more info: Michelle Dunbar at TMDurhamWWP@gmail.com or 603-498-

Thank you to everyone who helped make our **All Souls' Day Mass of Remembrance** a meaningful experience for everyone.

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



"COME AND SEE!!!"
It's not too late!

Are you interested in joining the Catholic church?

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

"I am the Resurrection and the Life"

We extend our deepest sympathy and continued prayers for the family, friends and loved ones of:

✠ **David Biggwither**
father of James Biggwither

eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

NO Yarn Crew meeting in November.



Adoration



Everyone is invited to join our Campus Minister Ryan Cornelissen & the **CSO students** for Adoration from 7:15 - 8:15pm on **Wed, Nov 6**.

International Student Mass Sunday November 3rd at 5 PM



Please join us to celebrate our international community of students and parishioners here at STM!

We are looking for parishioners to help pair with students to cook cuisine from their home country for our student supper that night! Please contact Ryan Cornelissen @ 868-2666 x113 or unhstm@gmail.com or if you are interested in helping out.

UPDATE ON THE

2019 MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN:

The St. Thomas More Matching Gift Campaign is off and running. Already we have two generous pledges to match totaling \$8,000 (one for \$5,000 and another for \$3,000). This means that if we raise \$8,000 more from other donators, we will get that money AND the pledges for a total of \$16,000. We have a GREAT start from the two generous pledgers to create such a huge incentive for others to donate so we can earn those matching funds. In light of our offertory shortfalls last year, the income from the 2019 Matching Gift Campaign is critical to supporting the costs of our day-to-day Parish operations.

Now is the time to donate to the Matching Gift Campaign. IT'S EASY! Simply write a check or initiate an electronic transfer to "St. Thomas More". You can drop the check in the collection basket, drop it at the office or mail it to PO Box 620, Durham, NH 03824. In the memo field indicate "Matching Gift Campaign". If you would like to remain anonymous, you can indicate that as well.

The response to the St. Thomas More Matching Gift Campaign in past years has been inspiring and we appreciate it very much. This income is needed to cover routine expenses and much needed maintenance and repairs that often have been postponed for some time. The campaign will continue for a few more weeks, so please do not hesitate to make a donation. We will track our progress relative to the two pledges at the Church. We thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

Thanksgiving Baskets

In keeping with St Thomas More tradition, we are once again endeavoring to provide Thanksgiving baskets to families in our community. This year, we anticipate delivering more than 100 baskets.

As in past years, we are inviting members of the parish to create whole Thanksgiving baskets containing non-perishable items including but not limited to:

- cans of corn, peas, carrots, green beans, and/or yams
- cans or jars of gravy
- pre-made pie crusts and canned pie filling
- boxed stuffing
- chicken or turkey broth
- foil baking pan
- 2-3 reusable shopping bags



All fresh produce, rolls, and the turkey will be provided by St. Thomas More. Cash, checks & gift cards to assist in the purchase of additional food items to enhance the baskets are also appreciated.

Baskets may be dropped off in the front lobby the weekend of November 9-10.

The success of this program is dependent upon the generosity of parishioners like you, for which we are always so grateful. Thank you for your support, especially during this busy time of year.

Should you have any questions about this program, please send an email to ChrisAnn at wiechertclan@gmail.com.

SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

STM office computers are outdated plus the change in Microsoft software support results in the need for upgrades. Would you be interested in **sponsoring** the purchase of a new laptop or desktop? We need TWO new Dell laptops and TWO new Dell desktops. The price including software is roughly \$700. We are fortunate to receive discounted purchasing through a parishioner.



If interested, please contact **Bindy** at the STM office via email STMfinance@comcast.net.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

OCTOBER 200 CLUB WINNERS

Last Sunday's storm blew in 200 Club winnings for:
*Jeff & Ann Kimball, Dan & Chris Murphy,
Chris & Jane Bagnell*

Congratulations to All!

Don't forget to pick up a membership/renewal envelope so you too can have your chance to be a monthly winner at the next drawing on December 1st

It's \$200 for an annual or \$100 for a semi-annual membership. Additional information is available online at stmduham.org or on the Church Facebook page.

Renewing members may contact Tom Dolan at 603-659-7162 or tomdolan84@hotmail.com if you are unsure of your renewal date.



Our parish family rejoices as we welcome newly Baptized

Veena Kesar Dave

to our faith community.

Many blessings upon Veena and the parents Christine & Eshan, and their beautiful family.

CONGRATULATIONS! WE DID IT!

St. Thomas More is the first parish in NH to complete the Forest Reservation Challenge



Our accomplishment will be recognized on **Nov 10** at the 11:15 AM Mass, and a framed patch from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests will be on display at the Student Center.

STM PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Prayer Shawl Ministry is an opportunity for you to share your love of knitting or crocheting with those who need prayers.

We meet through May on the 1st Tues in the Library, 11am-noon.

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

Questions or ideas?

Contact the office at 868-2666, or Mary Ann Marchi at 868-2019.

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!!



Funeral Preparation Workshop

As society ages, we talk of health care directives, health care proxy, financial planning, long term health care insurance, trusts, bequests, providing for descendants etc.; but rarely do we speak of planning funerals. STM parish invites you to participate in a workshop to help you get started in making funeral plans for you or your loved ones.

Many older people worry as they don't think their children attend church and would know what to do. Many young people are concerned that they don't know their parents' wishes. Thus, we encourage all to come and learn what our Catholic Funeral planning involves.

Please sign up for one of sessions, you can call the parish office – 868-2666 and tell them which session you prefer or email your preference to stmbereavement@comcast.net.

Date: Tuesday, Nov. 19th

Times: 10 a.m. OR 6 p.m.

Place: St. Thomas More Church Hall

UNH Campus Ministry

Fall 2019- Vol. 10

Hello students and parishioners!

If you are ever looking to see what we are up to, please feel free to check out the parish website for our latest monthly calendar of events. Look under the Campus Ministry tab for the PDF calendar!

Peace,
Ryan Cornelissen- unhstm@gmail.com
Campus Minister

Prayer of the Month! 11/17

Join us on **Sunday November 17th** at 7PM for our prayer of the month after the student Mass in the prayer room!:

“The examen”

This type of prayer is rooted in gratitude, which is perfect for our month of November! Come to learn more about this Ignatian reflection technique that helps to ground us in a way that is practical and rooted in bringing us into more regular and honest communication with God!

Thanksgiving Pies are BACK!



Submit your orders now! Bring into the office during the week or come by Sunday afternoons to Ryan! Pickups Tuesday November 26th!

Hosting Thanksgiving this year? Or is dessert always your responsibility? Well this year you can supply a tasty pie for your guests while also helping UNH students in the Catholic Student Organization! The pie sales will help sponsor retreats, student suppers and alternative spring break trips!

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- Adoration in the
Sanctuary at St. Thomas More

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)

November Cross Roads House



**CROSS
ROADS
HOUSE**

Cook Sun 11/10- 1 PM
Serve Tues 11/12-4 PM

In this season of gratitude, join us in giving back in a small way to folks in our local community who are in need! Contact Ryan if you are interested in helping out! Cooking Sunday is from 1-3:30 in the Student Center and Serving is from 4:15 to 7:15 in Portsmouth, transportation is provided!