

# St. Thomas More Church

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent



## Sunday Reflection

by Jojappa Adagatla

**What Is Stopping You from  
Being Your Best?**

On a large tree on a mountaintop was a nest, holding the eggs of an eagle. One day as an earthquake rocked the mountain, one egg rolled out of the nest and fell down to a chicken farm located below. One of the hens on the farm gave her love to this new guest by nurturing the large egg. After a couple of weeks, the egg hatched, and a beautiful eagle was born, but since the baby eagle was in the middle of chickens, it was raised as a chicken. Soon the eagle believed itself to be a chicken. It did what the other chickens did.

The eagle loved its home and family but its spirit was crying for more. After all, it was an eagle, not a chicken! The farmer decided to help it and tried to lift the eagle up into the air, thinking it would fly off, but the eagle just fell to the ground with a thumping sound. After a few days, the farmer climbed a tree, taking the eagle along, and pushed it from up there, thinking that this would help it fly high. Once again, the eagle just fell to the ground.

A wise man had been watching this and decided to intervene. He came close to the eagle, held its neck, and started turning its face towards the sky. The eagle had always seen things right in front of it, or had looked down searching for seeds. It had never looked up – towards the sky. Looking up proved painful for the eagle. The light hurt its eyes, but the wise man kept turning the eagle's head upward. As the eyes of the eagle finally saw the vast blue sky, something amazing happened! A surge of energy flowed through the body of the eagle. It spread its wings and started flapping them. It felt a power that it had never felt before, and right there in front of the wise man and the farmer and all the chickens, the eagle took off soaring into the sky – its home – the place where it always belonged. The crying soul of the eagle was finally released and was now smiling.

There are so many of us who have the potential of an eagle within us. What's holding us back from flying high? What's holding us back from soaring to the heights of success – our surroundings, maybe? – or those with whom we are hanging out? Please note that the chickens have an amazing sense of dignity, too! The eagle could not blame the chickens, and we cannot blame others. Each must make the most out of the potential given to us, just like the eagle. It may just be that some eagles are surrounded by non-eagles all the time. That may make us forget who we are and what we can do. When we meet a wise mentor, though, who can see our current condition and full potential, that mentor may be able to point out the way to fly high and live for the purpose for which each of us was created. When others try to turn our heads toward the sky, it means they are trying to help us reach our potential. Trust me! – the process of self-discovery can be painful after we have lived in our comfort zone. Once we do look at the sky, our wings will spread wide and flap hard, and there we go – taking off to the heights of excellence.

Yours in the heart of Christ,  
Fr. Joji

# PRAY LENT FAST GIVE

## The Fifth Sunday of Lent

### Mass Schedule

#### Weekend Masses:

##### Saturday:

8:00 am

5:00 pm (vigil of Sunday)

##### Sunday:

7:30 am

9:00 am

10:30 am

12 Noon

#### Daily Masses:

##### Monday - Friday:

7:00 am

8:45 am

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

**Wednesday:** 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Saturday:** 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

*Priests will also be available for confessions 30 minutes before the 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & Noon Masses on Sundays.*

**Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC,**  
*Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator*  
Direct Tel. 1-800-791-9209

**Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS**  
*Secretary for Youth Protection*  
610-871-5200, Ext. 2204

## Masses For The Coming Week:

### Monday, March 18

*Daniel 13: 1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 / John 8: 1-11*

7:00 AM Maria Hoan Ngoc Pham

8:45 AM Viergeside Baptistan Ismaider,  
Edouard, and Daniel Henry Gregoire

### Tuesday, March 19

*Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary*

*2 Samuel 7: 4-5a, 12-14a, 16 / Romans 4: 13, 16-1,  
22 / Matthew 1: 16, 18-21, 24a*

7:00 AM Charles Kelley, M.D.

8:45 AM Michael Derewicz

5:30 PM Frances Detamore

### Wednesday, March 20

*Daniel 3: 14-20, 91-92, 95 / John 8: 31-42*

7:00 AM Maria Hoan Ngoc Pham

8:45 AM Sarah Portland

### Thursday, March 21

*Genesis 7: 3-9 / John 8: 51-59*

7:00 AM Gerry Scott

8:45 AM Scott Tarzwell

5:30 PM Frances Maini

### Friday, March 22

*Jeremiah 20: 10-13 / John 10: 31-42*

7:00 AM STM Parishioners

8:45 AM Kitty Linzy

### Saturday, March 23

*Ezekiel 37L 21-28 / John 11: 45-56*

8:00 AM Jay Napolitano

*Vigil, Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord*

*Isaiah 50: 4-7 / Philippians 2: 6-11 / Mark 14:1 – 15:47*

5:00 PM Charles Fazio

### Sunday, March 24

*Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord*

*Isaiah 50: 4-7 / Philippians 2: 6-11 / Mark 14:1 – 15:47*

7:30 AM William Straccia

9:00 AM Kathleen Minutella

10:30 AM Enrollees of the Saint Thomas More  
Memorial Fund

12:00 Noon Jordan DiPietro

### IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Any organization wishing to place information in the parish bulletin must submit information to ***communications4stmchurch@gmail.com***. Submissions should be received *no later* than 12:00 noon on the Friday falling nine days prior to the date on which we will read the bulletin. Thank you!

## Parish Directory

**Rev. John S. Pendzick**, *Pastor*

610-433-7413, Ext. 12

**Rev. Jojappa Adagatla**, *Assistant Pastor*

610-433-7413, Ext. 15

**Rev. Philip J. Maas**, *Assistant Pastor*

610-433-7413, Ext. 49

**Msgr. Pat Schoenauer**, *In Residence*

610-433-7413, Ext. 22

**Deacon James Toolan**, *Respect Life Ministry*

484-894-7959

**Deacon James R. Duncan**, *St. Vincent de Paul  
Ministry*

610-433-7413v

**Deacon Thomas F. Shubella**, *Divine Mercy Ministry*

610-433-7413

**Sr. Cynthia Skiendziel, O.S.F.**, *Parish Ministry*

610-437-9520

**Mr. Jared Rabold**, *Parish Ministry*

610-439-8973

**Mr. Kevin Damitz**, *Religious Education*

610-437-3491

**Mrs. Natalie Pionegro**, *Director of Music & Liturgy*

610-433-7413, Ext. 40

**Mr. Frank Flandorffer**, *Director Contemporary Choir*

610-434-5856

**Ms. Allison Yudt**, *Youth Ministry*

610-762-7145

**Mrs. Julie Testen**, *Parish Nurse*

610-433-7413, Ext. 16

**Mrs. Amanda Salovay**, *School Principal*

610-432-0396

**Mrs. Maggi Fink**, *Development*

610-217-3434

**Mrs. Gwyn Baker**, *Family Center*

610-217-0840

**Mr. Tom Garrity**, *Parish Council*

610-533-4652

### Rectory Hours:

*Monday through-Friday - 9:00 am - 4:30 pm*

*Saturday and Sunday - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm*

### CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or by calling 800-276-1562.

### Newly Baptized

Please welcome our newest young parishioners into our parish community: **Emmanuel Ebisanjuwa Murhesa Eruwayo** and **Aiden Michael Eddinger**. We congratulate their parents!

### Spring Lecture Series Old Testament Timeline Study II

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Disciples Room. Join us for this eight week study of the key people and events preceding the birth of Christ. For more information, contact Jared Rabold at [jared@stmchurchallentown.org](mailto:jared@stmchurchallentown.org).

### Take Your Parish Survey This Lent

St. Thomas More has been given the opportunity to be a part of a diocesan initiative that will aid us in fostering a vibrant community of faith. In order to do this, we ask that every adult parishioner take a brief survey to help us assess where we stand currently. A survey link can be found on the church's website or paper copies are at the Parish Center.

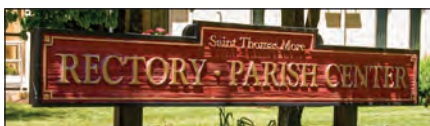


### Divine Mercy Sunday Feast Day Sunday, April 7, 2024 3:00 pm



#### What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

The Feast of Divine Mercy falls on the Second Sunday of Easter, the eighth day and climax of the Easter celebration. Jesus told St. Faustina, "On that day (Divine Mercy Sunday), the very depths of My tender mercy are opened. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy... On that day, all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened...The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment."



### Parish Office Holy Week Hours

The St. Thomas More Parish Office will be closed for Holy Week and Easter from **Thursday, March 28th through Monday April 1st**. The office will reopen Tuesday, April 2nd at 9:00am. In the event of an emergency, our priests are always available. Please call our emergency phone line (484) 408-1749 and your call will be returned promptly.

**Please plan ahead for your More Bread purchases!**

### Designer Bag Bingo

Thursday, March 21, 2024, STM Family Center. Doors open at 5:30 PM, Bingo begins at 7:00 PM. No tickets will be sold at the door so please register by visiting <https://stmchurchallentown.org/designer-bag-bingo/>. Please be sure to confirm your registration by following the link to the Women's Guild payment page. Contact: [Jane.stewartsmith@gmail.com](mailto:Jane.stewartsmith@gmail.com) with any questions.



### Confessions at STM and other Parishes

Confessions are available at the following special times with multiple priests:

**St. Ann's Parish, Emmaus:** Sunday, Mar. 17, 4 - 5 PM  
**Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Orefield:** Monday, March 18, 7 - 8 PM

**St. Thomas More Parish:** Tuesday, March 19, 7 - 8 PM

### STM Book Fair



Our STM School Book Fair is coming up in time for Easter. The SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR will be held in the School Library the weekend of March 22nd.

**Friday, March 22nd 3:15-8:00**

**Saturday, March 23rd 3:00-7:00**

**Sunday, March 24th 9:00-1:30**

**Monday, March 25th 3:15-6:00**

Please come and support our library program and pick up some great gifts for Easter.

### Have A Heart

Widow (er)s are invited to attend our luncheon on Thursday, March 21, 1:00 PM at the Starlight Diner, Rt 100, Fogelsville. Please respond by March 19 to Sandra Stohl, 610-551-5944.

### 40 days for Life

STM Respect Life Ministry prays the Rosary each Monday during Lent. Join us! Next date March 18. For more information contact: Deacon Jim Toolan, [jtoolan@ptd.net](mailto:jtoolan@ptd.net), 484-894-7959.

## This Week at STM

### March

- 17 - MOST Parish Breakfast, 8 am, Family Center
- 17 - Confessions, St. Ann's, Emmaus, 4 - 5 pm
- 18 - Flame of Love Grp, after the 8:45 am Mass, Chapel
- 18 - Confessions, St. Joe's, Orefield, 7 - 8 pm
- 19 - Divine Mercy Cenacle I, 9:15 am, Disciples' Rm
- 19 - Divine Mercy Cenacle II, 4 pm, Church Libr
- 19 - St. Vincent DePaul Mtg, 6:30 pm, Church Libr
- 19 - Confessions, STM, 7 - 8 pm
- 20 - Chaplet of Divine Mercy after 8:45 am Mass, Church
- 20 - Consoling Heart of Jesus Grp, 9 am, Hope Bldg
- 20 - YM Meet before Adoration, 5:15 pm, Disciples' Rm
- 20 - Adoration & Confessions, 6 pm, Church
- 20 - Spring Lecture Series, 7 pm, Disciples' Room
- 21 - Bible Study with Father Joji, 9:30 am, Disciples' Rm
- 21 - WG Designer Bag Bingo, 5:30 pm, Fam Cntr
- 21 - Finding God In All Things, 7 pm, Church Library
- 22 - Fri Morning Men's Bible Study, 6:45 am, Disciples' Rm
- 22 - Soup 'N Stations, 6 pm, Disciples' Room
- 22 - Stations of the Cross, 7 pm, Church
- 23 - Drop 'N Go Food Drive, 10 am, Hope Building
- 23 - Lenten Movie Matinee, 12:30 pm, Family Cntr



### Allentown Food Bank Thank You

Allentown Food Bank would like to thank parishioners for their donation of 160 pounds of much needed items given on **February 22, 2024**. Your donation allows us to keep our shelves stocked with items that we know our clients appreciate. It also allows our budget for purchasing food to be stretched a little further.

### Mother Daughter Tea

The *Mother Daughter Tea* is returning to our diocese for all mothers and their daughters (ages 9-13) on Sunday, April 28 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall, Allentown. Dynamic presenters will share the beauty of God's gift of fertility and explain the physical and emotional changes girls experience, along with empowering tips on modesty, virtue, and personal style. The afternoon will feature lunch, games, and prizes.

### RCIA

As our Lenten journey continues, we remember that Holy Week begins next Sunday. As in the early Church, those preparing for welcome into the Church intensify their prayer during these final days before receiving sacraments at the Easter Vigil Mass next Saturday. May we be models of prayer and sacrifice for them as we support their response to God's call.

### Life-Giving Wounds Retreat

Registration is now open for the **Life-Giving Wounds Retreat** on April 12-14, 2024. Life-Giving Wounds is a ministry for those who seek to understand how their parents' divorce impacted their own spiritual, mental, and emotional wholeness. The retreat is hosted at the Diocesan Center, 4800 Union Deposit Rd., Harrisburg, PA. To register, go to <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/event/life-giving-wounds-retreat/>. For more information, please feel free to contact Melissa Maleski at [MMaleski@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:MMaleski@hbgdiocese.org), 717-657-4804 ext. 331.

### Parish Retreat

We are thinking about reinstating the "Parish Retreat" – a wonderful weekend of spiritual enrichment, self-reflection and fellowship. The first step is to identify leadership of the committee that would plan and run the retreat. If you have experience with past retreats here at St. Thomas More and you are interested in this exciting opportunity to "Pass it On," please contact Father Pendzick at the rectory.

### New Safe Environment Requirements For Volunteers

For those who will be volunteering around minors this coming year, make sure you're up-to-date on the latest Safe Environment requirements by requesting a Volunteer Safe Environment Report from the Volunteering page at <https://stmchurchallentown.org/volunteer-safe-environment-report/>.

For questions on volunteering, please contact Jared Rabold at [jared@stmchurchallentown.org](mailto:jared@stmchurchallentown.org).

### Recently Departed Parishioners

The names of our recently departed parishioners can be found on the parish website under the "Parish" menu or <https://stmchurchallentown.org/recently-departed-parishioners/>.

### Prime Time News

The Prime Time Seniors next meeting will be held **Thursday, April 11**. For this meeting members please arrive at 12:45, the Parkland Violinists will be entertaining us. Our meetings are for members only, no guests. Any questions, contact Marianne Sundbye 610-841-8628.

### Trips for 2024

**April 16, 2024** - Hunterdon Hills Beehive: The 60's Musical, Cost \$125.

**May 22, 2024** - Sight & Sound, Daniel Dinner, Bird in the Hand \$160.

**May 30, 2024** - Tropicana, NJ Show, Jersey Boys and Girls \$125, \$20 Food, \$25 Slot Play.

Call Dennis Eddinger with any questions 610-791-1758. Please make checks payable to **STM PrimeTime** and mail to Dennis at: 3502 Bittersweet Road, Center Valley, PA 18034. Deposit of \$20 is requested within 30 days of reservation. Balance is due 30 days prior to trip.

### STM Bus Trips Trips for 2024

#### Women's Pilgrimage & Luncheon

National Centre for Padre Pio, Barto, PA. Saturday, April 6 – Cost \$74. For this trip only, make checks to: STM Women's Guild and mail to: Jane DeMelfy, 3305 The Strand, Allentown, PA 18103.

**Saturday, April 13 - Choose from the following shows.** Need 10 reservations to get group rates, prices include bus ticket. Broadway Bus leaves Trident at 8:00, leaves NYC at 5:00 pm.

**Cabaret - \$224 SOLD OUT!**

**The Outsiders - \$214**

**Water for Elephants - \$214**

**Merrily We Roll Along - \$234 SOLD OUT!**

**The Wiz - \$184**

**A Beautiful Noise - \$214**

**Spamalot - \$184**

**Tuesday, May 21 - Shopping trip to Lititz – \$79** Wilber Chocolate and Sturgis Pretzels, then to Mt. Hope Estate for lunch and tour and etiquette lesson. Bus leaves Trident at 8:30 am, returns at 5:30 pm.

*For all bus trips, please contact Lori at 484-951-0440 or email her at [stmtrips@stmchurchallentown.org](mailto:stmtrips@stmchurchallentown.org). Checks should be made payable to **St. Thomas More Church** and mailed to **Lori O'Hara at 928 S. 14th Street, Allentown, PA 18103**. Please include your name, show you wish to see, email for confirmation, and cell phone number.*

# STM DROP 'N GO FOOD DRIVE

**Saturday, March 23**

**10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon**

**Location: Hope Building parking lot**



- Small cans soup, beans, vegetables, fruit
- Snack cups: fruit, pudding, jello
- Applesauce
- Peanut butter, jelly
- Cereal, oatmeal, breakfast bars
- Rice, potatoes and pasta
- Macaroni and cheese
- Pasta sauce and canned tomatoes
- Ensure for adults
- Canned tuna, chicken and meat
- Ready-to-eat canned and packaged meals
- Fresh produce (apples, oranges, vegetables)
- Snacks: bars, cookies and crackers
- Half gallons milk
- Hygiene products (toothpaste, tooth brushes, soap, deodorant, small shampoo and conditioner)

**Catholic Charities Ecumenical Kitchen** is continuing to serve our community with prepared meals for those in need and emergency food boxes for Senior citizens. We will collect your donations from your car and take them directly to the Ecumenical Kitchen for packing and distribution.

The list of requested items changes monthly due to the needs of the population being served. Please note that package sizes should be small to medium rather than large family size at this time.

Thank you for your continued support. **DROP AND GO FOOD DRIVE** is held on the 4th Saturday of each month. Look for revised requested items lists based on the needs of the Ecumenical Kitchen.

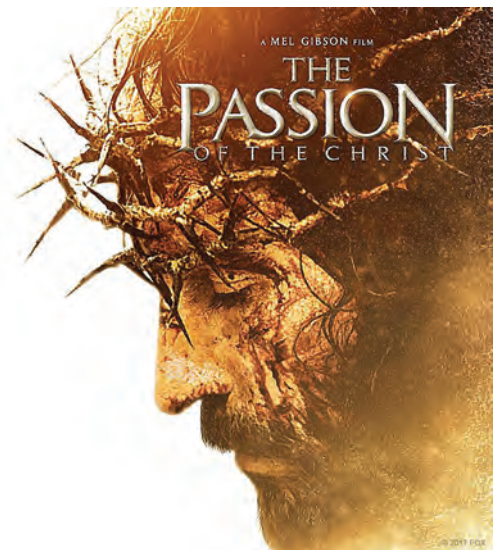
For information contact Bob Fischer at 610-751-0827, or email [fischer50@rcn.com](mailto:fischer50@rcn.com).

## Lenten Movie Matinee

Join us for a viewing of

### THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

**followed by an insightful  
discussion time led by Fr. Maas**



**When: Saturday, March 23rd**

**Time: 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Where: STM Family Center**

\*No cost or RSVP required.

Due to the graphic depictions in this movie, it may not be suitable for young children.



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