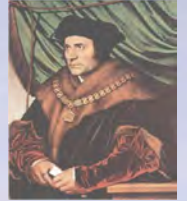




# SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

51 Marketplace Irvine, CA 92602 · 949-551-8601 · www.stmirvine.org



## Mass schedule

**Daily**– Monday to Saturday: 8 am\*

### Saturday Vigil Mass:

4:00 pm Vietnamese/English

6:00 pm English

### Sunday Mass

8:00 am English

9:30 am English\*

11:30 am English

1:00 pm Spanish

3:00 pm Chinese

5:00pm English

\* Livestreamed Masses

**Morning Prayer:** Mon, Wed & Fri 7:30am to 7:50am

**Adoration:** Every Friday at 6:00pm

**24 Hour Adoration:** on the 22nd of every month

If the 22nd falls on a Saturday, then Adoration will be on Friday.

If the 22nd falls on a Sunday, then Adoration will be on Monday.

**Confession:** Saturday from 1:00pm to 3:00pm or by appointment

**Baptisms and Marriages:** contact the office for details

**TEXT TO GIVE: 949-344-2801**



@stmirvine

**Welcoming all**, we, the Spirit-filled parish of St. Thomas More, value our Roman Catholic faith by celebrating the sacraments, breaking open the Scriptures, and joyfully offering ourselves in service to others. Under the inspiration of our patron saint, we seek to build a caring community that embraces the values he modeled of friendship, integrity and courageous love of God.

### Pastor

Parochial Vicar

Parochial Vicar Emeritus

Weekend Assistants

Deacons

Founding Pastor

### Rev. Eugene J. Lee

Rev. Kiet Ta

Rev. William Krekelberg

Rev. Joseph Horn, O Praem

Rev. Joseph Justice

Deacon Tony & Mrs. Mary Patronite

Deacon Tin & Mrs. UyenLan Nguyen

Deacon Leonard & Mrs. Nancy Sun

Deacon Bernie & Mrs. Pam Ocampo

†Rev. John E. Janze

### Office Information:

Office:

949-551-8601

After-hours emergency:

949-551-8601 ext. 7

Fax:

949-551-5879

Religious Education:

949-551-8029

Youth Ministry:

949-551-8602

### Office Hours:

**Monday-Friday: 8:30am-5:00pm**

**Saturday: 9:00am-2:00pm**



*The shepherds went in haste  
to Bethlehem and found*

**MARY AND  
JOSEPH,  
AND THE INFANT  
LYING IN  
THE MANGER.**

*Luke 2:16*

January 1, 2023 • Mary, the Holy Mother of God



### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Numbers 6:22-27).

**Psalm** — May God be merciful and bless us (Psalm 67).

**Second Reading** — God sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” So you are no longer a slave but an heir, through God (Galatians 4:4-7).

**Gospel** — The shepherds glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen (Luke 2:16-21).

### Collections and Expenses 12-12-22 to 12-18-22

	Collection	E-Giving	Total
Sunday Collection	\$26,710	\$14,942	\$41,652
Maintenance Fund	\$1,325	\$100	\$1,425
Other income	\$9,574	\$1,922	\$11,496
Total income	\$37,610	\$16,963	\$54,573

Regular Expenses	\$87,153
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Believe & Grow Capital Campaign	\$8,723	\$6,758	\$15,481
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We appreciate your continued financial support of the parish during these challenging times. If you would like to give, please click on the e-giving link in the top corner of the STM website to set up or update your e-giving. If you have questions, please call the office. All donations to the *Believe & Grow Together Campaign* will be used exclusively to pay for the construction costs to build the new Parish church. Moreover, Maintenance Fund donations can be used to pay for the construction costs to build the new Parish church and for the maintenance and repairs of the existing Parish buildings and property.

**Thank you for your generosity!**



Sat 12/31	6:00pm	Joonsik Peter Kang
	10:30pm	Marie Obillos
Sun 1/1	8:00am	Fr Angelus Echeverry
	9:30am	Pro Populo
	11:30am	Mary Patronite
	5:00pm	†Clark Pilcher STM Staff Ryan Zapalac
Mon 1/2	8:00am	†Vina Villanueva
Tues 1/3	8:00am	†Cassandra Dang
Wed 1/4	8:00am	Jorge & Silvia Uriarte
Thurs 1/5	8:00am	Craig Regener
Fri 1/6	8:00am	†Edward Andrade
Sat 1/7	8:00am	†Dominic & Maria Vu Huu Chuong †Quirino Villanueva Chloe Hills Lucy Hills



*Rest in the Love of Christ*

Clark Pilcher



**PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING**



Flory Aguilar  
Carole Caplett  
Marietta Charbonneau  
Beata Durdovic  
Kathy Ellis  
Merrie French  
Bill Flood  
Marco Gama  
Cristina Giannantonio  
Susie Giannantonio  
Alina Gram  
Tina Halberg  
CJ Hassett  
Julissa Huerta  
Brooke Huisman  
Sharon Jones  
Natalia Julian  
Ty Vivian Knisely  
Richard & Elizabeth Kulas  
Kevin Lee  
Patrick Lee  
Kathy Meals  
Shella Arciaga Mercado

Jim Miller  
Elena Monico  
Linda Moore  
Ernie Natividad  
James Natividad  
Susan Nakagama  
Karen Norton  
Cathal O'Regan  
Gerald Pilkington  
George Quitoriano  
Paula Jane Ramirez  
Donna Rohrer  
Eileen Rossi  
Ann Rupp  
Norma Santiago  
Jack Scharff  
Susan Shadley  
Cheryl Skudlarski  
Fred Spitzkeit  
Jesus Villanueva  
Raymund Villanueva  
Michele Wills

Please email [bulletin@stmirvine.org](mailto:bulletin@stmirvine.org) to add a name. Names will be included for one month, if requested.

# Christmas Message 2022

*"Glory to God in the highest  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."  
-(Luke 2:14)-*



Christmas Is All About the Splendor of the Eucharist

My dear brothers and sisters,

For this year's Christmas message, my heart is longing to exalt the splendor of the Eucharist. Jesus is our God and King and in his infinite wisdom, he has desired to fulfill his promise to be with us until the end of the ages by gifting us with his Church and the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, the Eucharist. Jesus condescended himself to come from the highest heights of heaven, to take on flesh in the womb of Mary. The same flesh that was born in a stinky stable, the same human body that shared in all of the physical sufferings of humanity, the same body that stretched out its hands to heal, that walked from town to town, that preached the Gospel, the same body that experienced the excruciating pain of the Cross, is the very same flesh that we now receive in the Holy Eucharist!

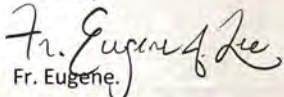
As all the angels of heaven, the shepherds and the wisemen, with Mary and Joseph, all bowed in homage to the King of kings, let us join with them! Let us be reverent, prayerful, humble, and faithful as we gather often before the Eucharist. Take to heart this Bible verse: "We who are receiving the unshakable kingdom should have gratitude (Eucharist), with which we should offer worship pleasing to God in reverence and awe" (Hebrews 12:28).

When we come to Mass, we come dressed to meet the King (no shorts or t-shirts); we come early (not late), and with expectant hearts. When Eucharistic Adoration is offered, let us come to take a moment to allow our hearts to refocus on the true meaning of our lives, and to refresh our hearts in the tranquil presence of our Savior. Let us allow ourselves to struggle to grow in prayer, to explore the ways of prayer, to discipline our hearts in the way of silence, and growing in trust and surrender.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem which means, "House of Bread" for indeed Jesus is the Bread of Life. Jesus was laid in a manger, which is a feeding trough for animals, to remind us that he came to be food for the sheep. The angels first heralded the birth of our savior to the shepherds to signify that he is both our shepherd and he is also our Lamb, the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The Book of Revelations describes with splendid language how the ultimate culmination of history will be when all the righteous gather together before the Throne of the Lamb who was slain. The Mass is a foretaste of this heavenly banquet.

This Christmas, my deepest and most urgent desire is that all work to enkindle a deeper devotion to the Eucharist, the greatest gift one could ever receive, and the true meaning of Christmas.

In Christ,

  
Fr. Eugene

PS. As I reflect upon the year 2022, I am filled with gratitude. I thank God for bringing me here to STM. I thank God for the staff here that pours their hearts into helping STM thrive. I am grateful to those who so courageously and humbly partake in the Sacrament of Confession. I am grateful for the thousands of people who come here to share their faith with other during Mass, the many who serve so sacrificially, and the devout parishioners who come for adoration, who gathered on Zoom to pray the Rosary, who teach our children, who serve in the liturgy, who donate so much to the parish. I am grateful for my little dog Mocha who gets more and more adorable each year. I thank God for my family, my mother, father and brother and sister, and nieces and nephews who all stick together in good times and in bad. I am grateful for the new pastoral core team who are dreaming big dreams for the glory of God and who are visioning new heights for STM. I am most especially grateful to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God, the Church of Christ, where we receive the Holy Scriptures, the powerful sacraments, and most especially where Jesus Christ gives himself to us in the Holy Eucharist! May God bless all of you, give you peace in your families, and may all the Christmas and blessings of the New Year be upon you!



CONFIRMATION

WED 7PM

**Sponsor Forms & Saint Reports Are Due**

Attention C2 families! Sponsor forms and Saint reports were due by December 17th. Please turn in sponsor forms in person to the youth ministry office and please email saint reports to Confirmation@stmirvine.org. If you have any questions or need more time, please let us know.



YOUTH MINISTRY

SAT 8AM

**Youth Ministry Office Hours**

The Youth Ministry office will be closed through January 2nd. We will be back in the office Tuesday, January 3rd. We hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



CONFIRMATION

WED 7PM

**Upcoming Confirmation Class Dates.**

**C1:** Wed 12/14, Wed 1/18, Wed 2/1, Wed 2/15, Wed 3/1

**C2:** Wed 12/7, Wed 1/11, Wed 1/25, Wed 2/8, Wed 3/1



YOUTH MINISTRY

SUN 6PM

**Theology Of The Body YTH NITE**

Join us on Sunday (1/08) for YTH NITE! YTH NITES are for High School teens to come together in community, have dinner, and learn how to apply their Catholic faith to their lives. We can't wait to see you! YTH NITE begins after the 5PM Mass and ends at 8:00PM!



# R.E.P. CORNER



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



The REP staff hopes that all of our families will have a prosperous and faith-filled 2023! We look forward to seeing you all in the new year!



Religious Education classes & the REP Office will be on break for the Christmas holidays from **December 19<sup>th</sup> through January 8<sup>th</sup>.**



A huge **THANK YOU** to all of those who donated gifts for the less fortunate during this holiday season! The generosity & warmth of our amazing parish was inspiring for so many!



For any questions, call the REP office at (949) 551-8029 or email [rep@stmirvine.org](mailto:rep@stmirvine.org).



## The Library Corner

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

The St. Thomas More Parish Library staff would like to wish all our parishioners a Happy New Year! The Parish Library will not be open today.

Have you ever considered the eight most significant apparitions of Our Lady in the past two centuries? Our Lady has appeared frequently on earth with messages of warning, hope and consolation for humanity. The STM Parish Library has an excellent book on the apparitions of Mary entitled, '*A Woman Clothed with the Sun*', edited by John J. Delaney. The eight apparitions of Mary are each written about by a different author showing the historical background of each apparition, the vision as described and Mary's messages to the world. Each apparition offers a message of inspiration and hope, urging the world to return to the love of God through prayer, penance and reparation for sins.

Happy New Year!



**Thank you ANGELS!**



*Dear STM Parish Family: Your outpouring of love and support for the many families who were represented on the 2022 Advent Angel Tree has been amazing! You all contributed over \$65,000 in gift cards, checks and cash, and toys and bikes and other items to the military, Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem, and five other local charity organizations! And when Catholic Charities reached out to us with an urgent request to help additional families, your response was awesome! Sincere thanks to all who sponsored families or volunteered to assemble and package the gifts. Our STM family provided extra love and warmth this Christmas to more than 500 families and over 1,000 children; may God bless you all during this special season of giving!*





*Come to me, all you who labor  
and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest.*

# EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

EVERY FRIDAY AT 6PM TO 7PM  
24 HOUR ADORATION IS ON THE 22ND OF EACH MONTH

## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

*New for 2023*

Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we want to help.

Mondays 7-8:30 pm January 9 - April 3, 2023  
OR  
Tuesdays 10-11:30 am January 10 - April 4, 2023  
St. Thomas More Parish  
Register at [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org)




*World Day  
of Prayer  
for Peace*

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## MEN'S RETREAT

**February 17 - 19, 2023**

**Who is Jesus Christ? Who am I?  
Finding the divinity within.**

We often try to discover the complex relationship between ourselves and Jesus Christ. We want to know what it should be, how deep it should be, what does Christ want of us, is Christ within us, and if so, where can we find the divine within us?

The Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center invites the men of STM to join on this epic adventure to the interior of our souls. The retreat center provides a private room and bath, delicious meals, beautifully landscaped grounds and the guidance of the Passionist Retreat Team. The atmosphere of this silent, preached retreat will lay paths for this exploration. Reservations can be made by contacting our Parish Captain:  
Mark Kreyche at 714-914-2689 or at [mgkreyche@gmail.com](mailto:mgkreyche@gmail.com)  
or you may register directly at:  
<https://materdolorosa.org/calendar/>





## Obtain FINANCIAL PEACE at STM!

**Thinking about getting engaged, Engaged, Newly Married? Finances are the number one disagreement of married couples. Start out with the same goals in mind.**

- How to pay for the wedding.
- Can we afford a honeymoon?
- Start your life together debt free.

**Financial Peace starts Saturday, January 7th at 9am in St Nicholas Room.**

For more information go to: [stmirvine.org](http://stmirvine.org)  
or email: [financialpeace@stmirvine.org](mailto:financialpeace@stmirvine.org)  
To register for class: [fpu.com/1156313](http://fpu.com/1156313)



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## WE ARE HIRING!

### Capital Campaign Administrative Assistant/Friday Receptionist

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS as Capital Campaign Administrative Assistant:

Works as a liaison with the Capital Campaign Committee, assists Pastor with projects and deadlines, processes monthly statements for capital campaign, coordinates campaign activities, maintains and updates database, interacts with donors regarding pledges, prepares and mails thank you letters, attends and participates in staff meetings, performs any other job-related duties as necessary in the department and/or as assigned by supervisor.

#### QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE:

Ability to maintain confidentiality, attention to detail, excellent knowledge of Google Suite, Excel, Word, graphic design experience with various publishing and social media platforms, good public relations skills, ability to work flexible hours.

Applicants apply to Lisa Bergler, Office Manager at [Lbergler@stmirvine.org](mailto:Lbergler@stmirvine.org) or contact her at (949) 551-8601 ext. 213.

### Why should I become a registered member of St. Thomas More Catholic Church?

If you are attending Mass on a regular basis at St. Thomas More, we invite you to engage with us. Registered parishioners enjoy these benefits:

- STM offers opportunities and support as you journey in faith, through praying, serving, giving, learning and belonging.
- Registered parishioners receive important updates throughout the year so that you can keep up-to-date on important parish news.
- Registered parishioners receive preference when choosing dates for celebrations such as weddings or funerals.
- Other parishes often request verification of a person's status as a practicing Catholic, attendance at Mass, etc., when that person has been asked to be a Godparent or Sponsor. Without registration, no such verification can be made.
- Your Sunday offerings are confidentially recorded by parish staff for proof of donation for tax purposes.

Registering with St. Thomas More Catholic Church is a statement of faith and confidence in the life and work of your parish.

Register today online at [www.stmirvine.org](http://www.stmirvine.org) or call the parish office at 949-551-8601.



"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."

- Luke 2:19



# St. Thomas More Ministries



## Liturgy Support

Altar Servers	Mary Jane Rin	(9) 627-7125
Art & Environment	Amee Cuevas	(9) 551-8601
Eucharist to the Homebound	Fran Necikowski	(7) 505-4816
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Jerry Donaldson	(9) 552-5485
Lectors	Ed Ferguson	(951) 313-4942
Music Director, Including Wedding Music	Keith Rattay	(9) 551-8601
Sacristans	Pam Ocampo	(9) 468.6704
Ushers	Frank Ornelas (9) 857-9044	Joe Martin (9) 385-3741

## Parish

Believe and Grow Together Campaign	Lisa VanDorpe	(7) 357-3080
Bulletin Editor	Lisa Bergler	(9) 551-8601
Building Committee	Keith Rattay	(9) 551-8601
Deacons	Tony Patronite, Tin Nguyen, Leonard Sun & Bernie Ocampo	(9) 551-8601
Hospitality/Donut Ministry	Deacon Tony Patronite	(9) 307-6215
Parish Business Manager	Stephanie Miller	(9) 551-8601
Parish Office Manager	Lisa Bergler	(9) 551-8601
Welcoming Committee	Vince Salico	(7) 389-7726

## Sacraments

Baptism Coordinator	Windy Lozano	(9) 551-8601
Confirmation	Abraham Villela	(9) 551-8602
First Communion	Barbara Catiller	(9) 551-8029
First Reconciliation	Barbara Catiller	(9) 551-8029
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)	Deacon Bernie & Pam Ocampo	(9) 468-6604
Marriage Case Support	Contact office	(9) 551-8601
Marriage Encounter	Mike & Lisa Bergler	(9) 551-8601
Wedding Coordinator	Marcella Maurer	(9) 551-8601

## Service

Bereavement	Rosie Muñoz	(9) 551-8601
Children's Homeless Lunch Ministry	Kim Lee	(7) 293-8987
Chinese Community	Deacon Leonard Sun	(7) 932-1689
Filipino Community	Mernie Empalmado	(9) 307-7479
Grief Share Ministry	K.C. Riley	(7) 875-8126
Hispanic Ministry	Victor Cota	(9) 400-7743
Homeless Lunch Ministry	Jessica Silva	(9) 294-2875
Knights of Columbus Council #13111	Mike Smith	(9) 300-1913
Respect Life	Chris Gonzales	(9) 551-8601
STM Veterans	Sgt. Bob Kohler	(9) 552-1895
St. Vincent de Paul	Bill Chacon	(9) 331-1020
Vietnamese Ministry	Huan Le	(7) 261-9893
Young Ladies Institute	Cathy Wachtel	(9) 857-5037

## Spiritual Development

Adult Faith Formation / Bible Study	Tara Reynaud	(9) 551-8601
Christ Renews His Parish	Tony Patronite	(9) 307-6215
Devotional Life Committee	Julie Whiteside	(7) 615-7205
Cursillo	Susan Navarrete	(9) 345-9130
Legion of Mary	Trisha Smith	(7) 473-3714
Library	Sam & Diana Adams	(7) 321-2405
Life Teen – High School & Young Adults	Abraham Villela	(9) 551-8602
More Moms	Krystal Padley	(7) 345-2598
Religious Education	Barbara Catiller	(9) 551-8029
Spanish Bible Study	Teresa LeMire	(7) 832-1770
When Women Pray	Paula Hines	(7) 746-1802

If you are feeling called to serve in one or more of our ministries, please email: [serve@stmirvine.org](mailto:serve@stmirvine.org)

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*Around the Diocese...*

**NEW YEAR**  
 THE OBJECT OF A NEW YEAR  
 IS NOT THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A NEW YEAR,  
 BUT RATHER THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A NEW SOUL.  
 —G. K. Chesterton

Give each other the gift of time and attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend in 2023!



<b>2023 Dates</b>	<b>Location</b>
February 11-12	Heart of Jesus Retreat Center
May 20-21	Santa Ana, CA
July 15-16	
September 16-17	<b>Sign-Up</b>
November 4-5	<a href="http://ocwwme.org">ocwwme.org</a>




*They returned home a new way.*  
 Matthew 2:12

**SACRED HEART  
 LEADERSHIP RETREAT**  
 JAN 8, 2023 10 AM - 9 PM

Young women ages 18-30 are invited to a day of prayer & renewal, spiritual presentations & small group discussions. **Sunday Mass is included in the day.** This retreat is hosted by the Sacred Heart Sisters.





*Heart of Jesus*  
 RETREAT CENTER  
 2927 S GREENVILLE ST, SANTA ANA, CA

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**OUR FASCINATING FAITH**  
**Resolve to Spread God's Mercy and Peace**

Imagine: two New Year's celebrations in little over a month! In late November, Advent began the new liturgical year, and today the secular New Year 2023 begins. In today's Gospel, everyone who heard it was amazed by the story the shepherds told of the angels' message regarding the child. Mary herself continued to reflect on all these things in her heart. With religious persecutions raging, international and domestic conflicts seething, our family and friends suffering various difficulties, and COVID not yet entirely in the rear-view mirror, not to mention our own personal problems, how much our world needs Jesus as another New Year veiled in mystery begins! As we pray for God's mercy to enfold our world and embrace each of us in 2023, let our New Year's resolution be to live for others, as Mary did, a channel of God's mercy and an instrument of Christ's peace.  
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