

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH



LOOSED IN HEAVEN.

— MATTHEW 18:18 —

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 6, 2026

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 the courageous love of God.

CLERGY

Pastor

Rev. Eugene J. Lee

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Thomas Tran

Deacons

Dcn. Leonard Sun

Dcn. Tim O'Donoghue

Dcn. Tin Nguyen

Weekend Assistants

Rev. Joseph Horn, O Praem

Rev. Joseph Justice

Chinese Chaplain

Rev. Francis Li

Founding Pastor

†Fr. John Janze

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass

8:00 AM Monday to Saturday

6:00 PM Monday to Friday

Saturday

4:00 PM Vietnamese/English

Vigil Mass

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

5:00 PM English

**Livestreamed Masses*

CONFESSION

Saturdays 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM or by appointment

DEVOTIONS

Morning Prayer

M, W, F: 7:30 AM – 7:50 AM

Adoration

Friday's at 6:30 PM

24 Hour Adoration

The 22nd of every month.

****For Baptisms (ages 6 & under) and Marriages, please contact the parish office.*

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Saturday

8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

****For emergencies ONLY, please contact (949) 551-8601, Ext. 7*

FAITH FORMATION

Children's Faith Formation

(949) 551-8029

Confirmation & Youth Ministry

(949) 551-8602

****For sacramental accommodations for individuals with disabilities, please contact Tara Reynaud.*

FUNERAL MASSES

BRIAN JOSEPH DONOGHUE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH AT 10:00 AM

ROBERT NAGLE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16TH AT 12:00 PM

Catholic Trivia

The word "Catholic"
comes from the Greek
"katholikos,"
meaning what?

Answer: Universal

Live The Liturgy

Inspiration of the Week

Christ tells us that "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Our faith compels us to be in community with one another. No one should be a Christian alone. How can you draw closer to others who love Christ?

MASS INTENTIONS

SAT 9/5	4:00 PM	JOONSIK PETER KANG
	6:00 PM	PRO POPULO
SUN 9/6	8:00 AM	THE 105TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGION OF MARY LEO BAEK REGINA BAEK SONNY OBILLOS †NICASIO N. NARANJO JR. †NATIVIDAD BENITEZ †LIBERTINO SARMIENTO †MAI TRAN †LINGSLEY KABALICAN †NATHALIE SUSANA XOY †EDGAR FRANCISCO XOY
	9:30 AM	DINA SORIANO
	11:30 AM	CRISTINA GIANNANTONIO
	1:00 PM	†FABIO ALDANA
	3:00 PM	DEACON LEONARD SUN
	5:00 PM	JULIE WHITESIDE

MON 9/7	9:00 AM	KRISTINE ANGELES
	6:00 PM	NO 6PM MASS
TUES 9/8	8:00 AM	GERALD & MARCELLA MAURER
	6:00 PM	JIM LOZANO
WED 9/9	8:00 AM	†PATRICIA L'HEUREUX
	6:00 PM	GLORIA CHUNG
TH 9/10	8:00 AM	†FABIO ALDANA
	6:00 PM	MATTHEW ESGUERRA
FRI 9/11	8:00 AM	†DEACON TONY PATRONITE
	6:00 PM	PHILIPPE ANDRADE
SAT 9/12	8:00 AM	THAO DINH STEVEN TRAN †BETTY MACMULLIN †KYLE STANTON CASE †PETER AND MARTHA NGUYEN †ISABELITA BALINGIT †ANTONIA GETUBIG

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Flory Aguilar	Joseph Dela Victoria	Kevin Lee	Ben Pataray	Donna Rohrer
Sal Baldomar	Ted Fliller	Patrick Lee	Sharon Pataray	Edna Santiago
Francis Xavier Bernier	Pierre Gagnon	Sue Scholastica Lee	Norma Peckson	Norma Santiago
Daniel Bernabe	Tony Galati	Brielle LeMire	Armando Peña	Mary Anne Stenske
Douglas Boyette	Marco Gama	Debbe Lowden	Jacqueline Claire	Hisashi Taniuchi
Charlene Burian	Anthony Gaona	Joseph Manglona	Poznoski Sandra	Kumiko Taniuchi
Lisa Busch	Lisa Greubel	Deirdre Morley	Quezada Ryan Quinn	Florice S Valenciano
Felicia Carazo	Regina Hager	Marisol Muro	George Quitorian	Jesus Villanueva
Kelly Carter	Doug & Kathie Hibbard	Angelica Myers	Baby Ramona	Raymund Villanueva
Elaine Chiou	Stacey Howmann	Susan Navarrete	Al & Elizabeth Rangitsch	Sandy Wieduwilt
Michael Collins	Drew Hoang	Ernie Natividad	Margie Revilla	Roger Lynn Witherspoon
Thomas Conner	Tiesha Kelley	Lisa Nelson	Matilda Reyna	Kathy Zamora
Cristina Crouth	Jeff Kemper	Charles Oh	Maryhelen Rios	Andy Zelinko
	Vivian Knisely	Jocelyn Pandes	Guadalupe Rivas	Joe & Judy Zwetow

Please email bulletin@stmirvine.org to include a name for one month

You're invited to the first-ever

PATRICIAN Meeting

hosted by
OUR LADY OF FATIMA
YOUNG ADULT LEGION OF MARY

FAITH. FELLOWSHIP. FORMATION.

THURSDAY WITH FR. EUGENE LEE
SEPTEMBER 17, 2026
ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH

7 PM - 9 PM | ROOM 1

Topic:
THE BEAUTY,
THE BAGGAGE,
THE SCANDAL,
WHY STAY CATHOLIC?

Open to all YOUNG ADULTS
AGES 18 TO 35

COME. LISTEN. SHARE. GROW.
LIVE YOUR FAITH *Together.*

Refreshments will be served.



PRAY FOR MORE
VOCATIONS

Correction:

Mary's religious name is Sr. Maria Chiara and she is currently in her 6th year of formation. She just marked her 5th year anniversary on July 16, 2026.



THE PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED



Labor Day

Monday, Sept 7

In case of emergency, call
949-551-8601 ext. 7

Mass at 9:00am
NO 6:00pm Mass



CLASSES BEGIN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 AT 7:00 AM

Welcome

Christ Renews His Parish 2.0

Men's Weekend
Sat & Sun Sept. 12th - 13th
St. Thomas More Church, Irvine

Women's Weekend
Sat & Sun Sept. 19th - 20th
St. Thomas More Church, Irvine

Register today at www.chistrenewsoc.com

Welcome. CRHP 2.0 *There is More to Life*



COLLECTION REPORT

8/10/2026 – 8/16/2026

Sunday Collection	\$36,857.00
Believe & Build (Believe & Grow Together, Believe & Grow Together 2)	\$33,929.00
Maintenance Fund	\$909.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$12,662.00

30 YEARS OF Building God's Kingdom

Celebrating Children



"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Matthew 19:14



CAMPAIGN AND CONSTRUCTION MONTHLY UPDATE

BUILDING WITH PRAYER



MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

After a four-month delay since our glorious groundbreaking ceremony, we finally began major mobilization and ground prep on August 4th. I never thought I'd enjoy the sound of construction so much. Let us pray for all workers' safety.

As we begin construction, I would like to introduce a **FOUR-PHASED PRAYER CAMPAIGN**. As you read the prayer in this update, please take a moment to offer it.

We especially invite all those who have not yet participated in our capital campaign to please make a two-year pledge.

Those who have already done your part, thank you so much. The progress has been truly impressive, and I am so proud of all here at STM. We still have a gap to close, and we truly need all to continue the united spirit.

My dear people, we must never lose sight of the ultimate purpose behind all of this work. The Catholic Church exists to glorify Jesus Christ, to perpetuate his presence in the **Holy Eucharist**, and to proclaim His Gospel of salvation to all nations.

We build because we believe in our Lord and Savior. The church building will stand for generations, serving these ultimate goals.

With deep gratitude in Christ,

Fr. Eugene Lee
Pastor



NEXT MILESTONES IN CONSTRUCTION

- ✂ AUGUST 2026- Ground compaction / foundation prep
- ✂ OCTOBER 2026 - Foundation (concrete)
- ✂ MARCH 2027 - Structural beams
- ✂ SEPTEMBER 2027- Enclosure (walls and ceiling)
- ✂ JANUARY 2028 - Final Prep
- ✂ MARCH 2028- Adornment



ESTIMATED COMPLETION - April 2028



CAMPAIGN SNAPSHOT

CAMPAIGN GOAL : \$30 MILLION

RAISED TO DATE: \$25.4 MILLION

ADDITIONAL NEEDED: \$4.6 MILLION



WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

**PLEASE SCAN HERE
TO MAKE A PLEDGE**



OR GO TO BUILDSTM.COM



WATCH US BUILD- LIVESTREAM

Visit our website www.stmirvine.org or our YOUTUBE page (@stmirvine) to view our construction LIVESTREAM!

QUESTIONS

Campaign: Glenda Mortenson-glenda@stmirvine.org
Construction & Building Chair: Tom VanDorpe
tom.vandorpe@vcaconsultants.com



Rooted in Christ

"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock." - Matthew 7:24



Almighty and Eternal God,

We place our church's foundation in Your loving hands, for You are our foundation, and Jesus Christ is our cornerstone. Root our parish firmly in faith and unite us as one people. Bless all who have prayed, sacrificed, and given so that this vision may take shape. May this foundation sustain our faith for generations to come.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Growing Together

"Through him the whole structure is held together and grows into a temple sacred in the Lord." - Ephesians 2:21



Almighty and Eternal God,

As this structure rises, unite us as one body in Christ. As the beams are joined together to support one another, help us to stand together in faith, charity, and service. May we strengthen one another and grow together as a parish family. May this church stand for generations as a witness to Your faithfulness and the faith of Your people.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Building with Prayer

ESTIMATED COMPLETION APRIL 2028

Shelter in the Lord

"You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty." - Psalm 91:1



Almighty and Eternal God,

As these walls enclose, make this sacred space a home where Your Word is proclaimed, Your presence is encountered, and all who enter find healing, mercy, and welcome. May these walls remind us that You alone are our refuge and dwelling place. Embrace us not merely within these walls, but within Your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Glory to God

"I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride and adorned for her husband... Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them." - Revelations 21:2-3



Almighty and Eternal God,

As our church nears completion, prepare this sacred house for the celebration of the Eucharist. May its beauty draw our hearts to Your Son, Jesus Christ, and remind us that You dwell amongst us. Bless all who have given their time, talents, and prayers. May generations gather at the Lord's Table, grow in faith, and serve others in love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

(949) 551-8029 | CFF@stmirvine.org



Did you miss picking up your child's First Communion photo in recent years? During a recent office cleanup, we found unclaimed photos from **2020-2026**.

Please stop by the Fireside Room after Mass to see if we have your child's picture. The pictures will be grouped by YEAR.

Thank you for your grace and for letting us celebrate this sacred milestone with your beautiful family.

*Pictures will be available after Sept. 8th in the CFF Office for a limited time.

CONFIRMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

(949) 551-8602 | confirmation@stmirvine.org
ym@stmirvine.org

stm|yth

 @stm.yth

Happy Labor Day!

-Recycle Saturday-

Sept 12 | 7:30-9:30am

Northwest Corner of Church Parking Lot

-YM Adult Volunteer Formation-

Sept 13 | 1:00 - 4:30pm | MPR

Ignite



-Potluck + Prayer Night-

Sept 13 | 6:00-8:30pm | Youth Room

-C1 + C2 Registration-

Last day to register Sept 28!

Visit our website for more information!

<https://www.stmirvincym.org>



"Let us not grow tired of doing good... So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all."

Galatians 6:9-10



For Jesus. For STM.

*Speak with love, seek reconciliation,
and remember Jesus is with you.*

Matthew 18:15-20



WHEN WOMEN PRAY 2026

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Instrument of His Peace



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ValLimar Jansen

Inspirational speaker, storyteller, and recording artist with over 30 years in Catholic ministry.

Date: Saturday, October 3, 2026

Time: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: St. Thomas More Catholic Church

51 Marketplace, Irvine, CA 92602

Registration: <https://www.whenwomenpraystm.org/wwp2026> or scan QR code

Free Event • All Women Welcome • RSVP Requested

We were not meant to journey alone. Join us for a Spirit-filled morning of prayer, music, and fellowship with women of faith across Southern California.

[f](#) [i](#) @WHENWOMENPRAY



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Limited quantities this year!*



Perfect to wear to our event or anytime!
Get one for yourself, a family member or a friend!
\$25 suggested donation
Order by 5pm -September 7th
Pick up after Masses September 19/20 & 26/27



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2nd & 4th
Wednesdays
every month



Unlocking Women's Superpower Through Her Cycles

Achieve Pregnancy - Avoid Pregnancy
Reproductive Health - Stronger Marriage

Saturday, September 19th

10:00am-12:00pm

St. Thomas More, Room 1



Scan to Register

www.ThaoLaiNFP.com

FALL BIBLE STUDIES



Come Join a Bible Study!
2026 – 2027 Studies now OPEN for Registration!

Register NOW!



Fall 2026 Bible Study List

COURSE	DESCRIPTION	SCHEDULE	FACILITATOR	REGISTRATION LINK
Bible Basics 1 Session	Come learn the basics of the Catholic Bible! A great way to start your scriptural journey!	Monday Starting Sept-14 7:00pm St. Nicholas Room	John Thai	
Gospel of Luke 8 Sessions	Luke's Gospel uncovers how Jesus fulfills the promises of the Old Testament.	Wednesdays Starting Sept-16 9:30am Multi-Purpose Room	Janice LaVelle	
Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible 8 Sessions	A beginner course covering the 12 Periods and 14 narrative books of the Catholic Bible.	Saturdays Starting Sept-19 9:30am Fireside Room	Mary Cope	
Exodus 9 Sessions	Explore God's power, His faithfulness, and His plan to redeem and guide His people.	Mondays Starting Sept-21 7:00pm St. Nicholas Room	John Thai	
El Evangelio de San Lucas 10 Sessions	¡Únase a nuestra maravillosa comunidad mientras exploramos el Evangelio de San Lucas!	Lunes Comienza Sept-14 7:00pm Multi -Purpose Room Miercoles Comienza Sept-16 10:00am St. Nicholas Room	Victor Cota Teresa LeMire	

9-11 reflection by Major Ken Smith, STM Veterans Ministry

I overslept that morning. I sprinted to the bus for my commute to the Pentagon, only to realize upon arrival that I'd forgotten my security badge. Back home I went, irritated and unsettled. I even considered staying there. I'd woken from a dream of a plane hitting the Pentagon — my first dream in two years - but calling out sick because of a dream felt ridiculous.

When I finally reached my office, my coworkers asked why I was so very late. I almost joked, "Today is a day that will live in infamy." It captured my strange morning and that unsettling dream. But it felt too dramatic, so I kept it to myself and sat down at my desk.

Minutes later, the news broke: planes had struck both towers of the World Trade Center. Then a jet roared overhead. We worked right next to the airport, so the steady hum of jets was part of our everyday background - something we barely noticed. But this roar was different — sudden, overwhelming, loud enough to rattle the windows and stop us cold. A few minutes later, the building shook. We looked at each other, and we knew what had happened.

The impact occurred right around the time I usually took a midmorning lap around the Pentagon. Those morning mishaps — oversleeping, forgetting my badge — may have saved my life.

Most of the building quickly emptied into the parking lots, but my officemates and I stayed put for twenty or thirty minutes. When we did leave, walking was faster than driving - the freeway and all surface streets were gridlocked. I walked an hour before traffic started passing me. I accepted a ride the rest of the way home.

Many of us at the Pentagon were blessed that day. The building normally held about 25,000 people — roughly 5,000 per side — but one side was under renovation and nearly empty. The terrorists had intended to hit my side. They came in too high, roared overhead, looped the plane around, and struck the renovated side instead. I will always believe that was a miracle!



WORLD YOUTH DAY (WYD) 2027 PILGRIMAGE
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STM SFC
Small Faith Communities

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING THE
LADY OF SORROWS
Chaplet

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
AFTER THE 8AM MASS

Honoring the seven sorrows our Blessed Mother suffered with love and compassion at the foot of the Cross.

A devotion of reparation, consolation, and trust in God through Mary.

Let us come together as a parish family to honor her sorrows and seek her maternal intercession.

O Sorrowful Mother, pray for us.

Mary was a martyr, not by the sword of the executioner, but by bitter sorrow of heart.
— SAINT BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX —

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Sweet 15/16 • Celebrations of Life

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Emma Jaeger and Wendy Medina - Parishioners



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ST. THOMAS MORE



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Altar Server Training
Saturday, September 12 at 10am

Contact:
Mary Jane Rin
maryjanerim@gmail.com

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- ST. THOMAS MORE



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Kids activities & education for the whole family
Novena begins at the lecture & resumes via Zoom

Celebrate
His Feast Day
Join us for an evening of faith and fellowship, honoring the patron saint of the Philippines
**Saturday, September 26
6pm Vigil Mass
7pm Fellowship
STM Multipurpose Room**
Light refreshments, music & dancing
Filipinana/Barang Attire Encouraged
Questions:
stmfilipinoministry@gmail.com

"I am a Catholic and wholeheartedly do accept death for God!"