

# SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH

1700 8<sup>th</sup> Street South ♦ Brookings, SD 57006 ♦♦ 605-692-4361 ♦♦ [www.stmbrookings.org](http://www.stmbrookings.org)



## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2024

### Weekend Mass Times:

Saturday 5 PM  
Sunday 8:30 AM 10:30 AM  
5:15 PM (Spanish)

### Confessions:

Tues & Wed 4:30 – 5:10 PM  
Saturday 3:30 – 4:30 PM

Fr. Thomas Fitzpatrick, Pastor	692-4361
Fr. David Stevens, Parochial Vicar	692-4361
Meghan Kelly, Principal	692-6796
Lisa Elsinger, Business Manager	692-4361
Marie Bothe, Parish Secretary	692-4361
Phil Carlson, Pastoral Assistant	692-4361
Sara Olson, Music/Liturgy	692-4361
Evan Baumberger, Dir. of Evangelization	692-8309
Natalie Cook, Coord. of Evangelization	692-8309
Teresa McDermott, Admin Assistant	692-8309
Angela Bucholz, School Secretary	692-6796

[info@stmbrookings.org](mailto:info@stmbrookings.org) 692-4361

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God.

**Psalms 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15**

Create a clean heart, a clean heart in me, O God.

**Hebrews 5:7-9**

He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

**John 12:20-33**

Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord.

### From Fr. Tom Fitzpatrick:

It is the Fifth Sunday of Lent already, and before we know it Holy Week will be upon us. Next week is Palm Sunday! We are entering the homestretch of Lent, when we continue to embrace and endure the disciplines we have undertaken or to get going with our prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We are kind of in the same place as students who have tests coming in a few weeks; they really have to delve into the remote preparations for exams by reading, underlining and taking notes, etc. We are almost there, but not yet. There is plenty of Lent left.

The within the context of our first reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah is a yet another demonstration of promise and fulfillment. As our faith teaches us, the fulfillment always and only comes through the Person of Christ. At the same time, this particular instance of promise and fulfillment has another component that is constant in our life in Christ: what we call the *"already, but not yet"*.

The promise the Lord made through Jeremiah to literally write His love and law on their hearts must have sounded rather far-flung to the Israelites at the time. One constant in their struggles to know God and trust in His care and Providence is the fact that everything seemed to take so long as we toil in difficulty. To them, as evidenced by the witness of Scripture, inaction meant sluggishness on the part of God to rush to their aid when difficulties arose and obstacles hindered their freedom and relief from enemies. Even worse, it led to distrust, then a falling back on their old ways.

We labor under the same burden too. The *"already but not yet"* of the Kingdom of God means that the promise God made through Jeremiah looks past even the reconciliation of the People of God through the Passion of Christ: what we are talking about here is the New Heaven and New Earth promised by Christ when He comes again. It is an example of how all the promises of Christ and the actions of God are "hidden" in the Old Testament.

While Christ is already present in His Church, and the Kingdom of God reigns for those who seek its reality, the fact is that *"This reign is still under attack by the evil powers even though they have*

*been defeated definitively by Christ's Passover"* (CCC #751). The New Heaven and New Earth will be formed when Christ comes again, as we know. We also know this is the one prophecy yet to be fulfilled in its entirety. So the *"already"* is the victory of Christ and our recourse to His grace and charity. We are encouraged to share the spoils of His victory over sin and death through faith in Him, confident that the *"not yet"* is just a matter of time.

So between this rock and hard place we seek to live as children of the light, following the age-old ways of God. Faith is the counter-balance to our sometime faulty demands for immediate action from God, as the Israelites mistakenly sought. They forgot, and constantly needed to be reminded that *"inaction"* from God never meant He was not present to them, or in their midst. His patience with their shenanigans and providential care was always an encouragement to willfully trust Him in faith.

Thus we find ourselves in the last weeks of Lent, sacrificing and seeking, and maybe wondering what good it all does. This is where our faith assures us what we really know. We must press on, because we want to be ready for the coming of Christ in the *"not yet"* of His Second Coming, and the *"already"* by His victory at Easter.

Runners drag themselves out in all types of bleak and inclement weather far in advance of race day because they know intuitively the tough days are the ones that pay off when race time comes. We are in the same boat...we continue to slog on, knowing that Lenten preparation helps us to enter more deeply into the mystery of our Salvation come the next few weeks. Lenten rigor leads joy, and the grace of God we desire and need to thrive in already, but not yet of the Kingdom of God.

Remember! Grace is the light that helps us see our way home from the darkened world in which we live. This same light led the Israelite through the desert. We are called to be children of the light for precisely this reason. The forces of evil took Jesus in the dark of the night even though He preached openly in the daylight before them. As God's creatures called to be children of light, we continue on this Lenten march to Calvary with Christ, the light of the world. This is so we may live always in the light of His Resurrection, judged by the one and only Just Judge.

## RE and Discipleship Programs:

**Steubenville July 2024:** STM is taking a bus of High School students to Steubenville Rochester. The dates are July 12-14. Contact [coordinator@stmbrookings.org](mailto:coordinator@stmbrookings.org) for more info. & register on our website.

**D-Camp Registration is Open:** Calling to all Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers! D-Camp registration is open! For registration and more info go to <https://www.sfcatholic.org/youth/d-camp/>

**Confirmation class:** STM Confirmation, classes will be in the Social Hall at 7:00pm on Wednesdays, March 20th. April 3rd, 10th.

**Living Stations Practice:** High schoolers looking to be a part of the living stations, practice will be on Monday. Please contact [coordinator@stmbrookings.org](mailto:coordinator@stmbrookings.org) for more info.

## Food & Fellowship Meal - 5-6 PM

March 20: Tater tot hot dish  
All are welcome, free will donation.

**Men's Rosary:** Monday March 25th there is a rosary held in the chapel at 7:00pm praying for vocations and for the men in our parish. All men are welcome. Fellowship to follow.

Our Nation Needs Fatima Rosary group will meet at STM on Saturday, Saturday March 23rd at 10am. Meet in Chapel. If you have any questions please call Colleen Bergjord at 605-651-9122.

**Group Study Opportunity:** All are invited to join us for a book study: Saint Paul by Pope Benedict XVI on Thursdays from 10:30 am-11:30 am in Office Conference Room. Cost is \$14.00 for book. Study begins April 4 and will end on May 16.

**Family Lenten Mission:** Last remaining session is on Thursday, March 21 from 5:30pm- 6:30pm. Simple meal and child care will be available. To register please go to the parish website.

## ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

17	Sun	9:30AM	Coffee & Rolls- St. Monica
17	Sun	9:30-10:30am	Steubenville Parent Meeting-Room C
19	Tues	9-11AM	Mom's Group- Couch Room
19	Tues	4PM	Study Group- Room C
19	Tues	6:15PM	Adult RE (RCIA)- Social Hall
19	Tues	5-8PM	CDA Meeting- Room C
20	Wed	All Evening	RE Classes
20	Wed	2:30PM	Youth Choir- Sanctuary
20	Wed	5-6PM	Food and Fellowship- Social Hall
20	Wed	6:00PM	Adult Choir- Sanctuary
20	Wed	7:00PM	Confirmation Class- Room C
21	Thurs	10:30AM	Study Group- Office Conf. Room
21	Thurs	5:30-6:30PM	Family Mission- Social Hall
21/22	Thurs/Fri	7:30-7:00AM	Eucharistic Adoration-Sign up for an hour at <a href="http://tinyurl.com/STMAdoration">tinyurl.com/STMAdoration</a>
22	Fri	5-6PM	Adoration
22	Fri	6PM	Stations of the Cross
22	Fri	6:30PM	Fish Fry- Social Hall
23	Sat	9:00AM	Fr. Rod's Bible Study- Room C
24	Sun	1:30PM	Communal Penance

**News from the STMCS Saints!** I simply cannot believe how quickly this year has flown by and that we are already in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of school! God has faithfully poured out His abundant blessings upon STMCS this year as He has since our founding; it has been absolutely beautiful to behold and simply a JOY to be a part of! Praise be Jesus Christ now and forever! The Saints are getting excited for our annual St. Patrick's Day Dance on March 17th--a great way to celebrate this amazing Saint and being Catholic!  
As you are aware, **STMCS is expanding for the 24/25 school year to include 5<sup>th</sup> Grade!** Enrollment is now **OPEN**, and we would love to **FILL OUR SCHOOL!!** We will have an open house for ANY interested families on **MARCH 18, 2024 from 5:00-6:30!** **All are invited to attend and bring a friend!**

Don't forget to bring your **Hy-Vee receipts** to STM to help the school earn cash. Drop them in the donation container on the table under the bulletin board. Also detailed Aisles online printed receipts work to.  
**Brookings Hy-Vee Receipts Only**

Our Parish will have a **Food Pantry drive in March** and every other month after that. There will be a grocery cart in the Gathering area with suggestions for most needed items to bring. Thank you for all the donations!



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Gebhart Moore, Sister of Annette Stein and Rita Harming. May Mary and all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Welcome! New to Brookings or have you been coming to St. Thomas More for a while but not a member? You can join our St. Thomas More Church family by contacting the parish office and filling out a short form. Contact us today at 605-692-4361

**Volunteers Needed:** To clean palms for Palm Sunday and prep candles for Easter vigil. Friday, March 22, 9:00 am, Social Hall. Questions? Call 605-690-0756.

## MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

17	Sat	5:00PM	Fr. Roger Geditz †
17	Sun	8:30AM	Louis & Darleen Duffy †
17	Sun	10:30AM	Barbara Stevens †
17	Sun	5:15PM	For the people (Spanish)
18	Mon	7:00 AM	<b>NO MASS</b>
19	Tues	5:15PM	Int of Catholic Daughters
20	Wed	12:10PM	Juliann Moeckly †
20	Wed	5:15PM	Loraine Larsen †
21	Thurs	7:00AM	Steve Swath †
22	Fri	7:00AM	Steve Swath †
23	Sat	5:00PM	Holly Almhjeld †
24	Sun	8:30AM	Int of Harry & Ruth Zins
24	Sun	10:30AM	John Fink †
24	Sun	5:15 PM	For the people (Spanish)

	Memorial, Feast, or Solemnity	Readings
<b>Mon.</b>	Lenten Weekday	Dn 13:1-9,15-17,19-30, 33-62 Jn 8:1-11
<b>Tues.</b>	Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	2 Sm 7:4-5a,12-14a,16; Rom 4:13,16-18,22; Mt 1:16,18-21,24a; Lk 2:41-51a
<b>Wed.</b>	Lenten Weekday	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92,95; Jn 8:31-42
<b>Thur.</b>	Lenten Weekday	Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59
<b>Fri.</b>	Lenten Weekday	Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42
<b>Sat.</b>	Lenten Weekday	Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas Ct. St. Agnes #618 Scholarship:**

1-\$1000 scholarship for a graduating senior or incoming freshman at a university, college or vocational school.

1-\$1000 scholarship for an upperclassman attending a university, college or vocational school.

Applicants must have a parent or family member that is a member of St. Thomas More Parish in Brookings. Applications may be picked up at St. Thomas More Parish Office. Due Date is April 26, 2024. Two letters of recommendation from a teacher, principal and/or parish member are required. Transcripts of grades for upperclassmen must be furnished along with the application form.

The St. Thomas Catholic School in Madison, SD is having a Pork Loin Dinner & Auction on Sunday, March 24. The 11AM dinner is pork loin sandwiches, au gratin potatoes, green beans & cookie. Adults are \$15, Children 5-12 are \$5, under 5 free. The live auction with Chuck Sutton starts at noon.



**Easter Memorial Flowers:**

If you would like to give a donation for Easter flowers or a memorial, please do so by enclosing your gift with a note indicating for whom and from whom. You may drop it off in office or place it in the collection marked Easter flowers memorial. If you prefer to give online, go to [stmbrookings.weshareonline.org](http://stmbrookings.weshareonline.org).

**Extra Confessions Times:**

Tuesday March 19	Noon & 4:30pm
Wednesday March 20	Noon & 4:30pm
Thursday March 21	Noon
Friday March 22	Noon & 4:30-5:45pm
Saturday March 23	Noon (2 Priests) & 3:00pm-4:30pm
Sunday March 24	1:30pm Communal Penance
Tuesday March 26	Noon & 4:30pm
Wednesday March 27	4:30-5:45pm
Thursday March 28	Noon & 4:30pm

**Counter Schedule March 24<sup>th</sup>**

Connie & Harry Mansheim and Vicki Whitehead

**Last Week's Donations**

From March 7-13, 2024

Weekly Budget	\$ 14,942.31	Year to Date	\$ 552,865.47
Weekly Giving	\$ 18,414.97	Year to Date	\$ 626,041.22
Last Year's Giving July-March			\$ 631,170.27

**St. Thomas More Set Ablaze Townhall meeting for today, Sunday March 17th has been postponed.**

Due to family emergencies, our pastor Fr. Fitzpatrick has had to make a trip to Philadelphia for a funeral. He wishes that he could be with us this weekend but due to the current situation has to be home with his family. Please pray for him and the Fitzpatrick family in their time of sorrow. An alternative time for the town hall meeting has not yet been scheduled. Please continue to check the bulletin for an updated time.

\*\*\*Don't forget that we have "**hearing devices**" located on the table between the doors of the Church. You can use the provided headphones, or bring your own set. Also, there are two "neckloop telecoil couplers" that will transmit the sound directly into one's hearing aid.\*\*\*

**Please be sure to notify St. Thomas More staff if you or a family member wish to receive sacraments or visits when hospitalized or homebound.** Please allow us to serve your spiritual needs by keeping us informed. Thank you.

**Weekend of March 23th thru 24th**

	Lector	Server	EM	U/G
<b>5:00 PM</b>	Kathy Gilpin(1) Mark Meyer(2)	James Fitzpatrick Helaina Wakeman <b>NOT FILLED</b>	Doug Austreim Pascal Bedard Dave Helgeland Maureen Higgins	Leanne Banken Kevin Banken Melissa Hafenbreidel Dave Hafenbreidel
<b>8:30 AM</b>	Gary Duffy (1) Judy Duffy (2)	Clark Mullaney Kale Nelsen Brenna Nelson	Keri Bachar Laura Davis Reece Kurtenbach Kami Kurtenbach	<b>NOT FILLED</b> <b>NOT FILLED</b> <b>NOT FILLED</b> <b>NOT FILLED</b>
<b>10:30 AM</b>	Brand Wiemann (1) Ronda Kantack (2)	Jacob Novotny Nolan Gross Emerson Gross	Ronda Kantack Deb Leiferman Shelly Wiemann Brad Wiemann	Dave Schneider <b>NOT FILLED</b> <b>NOT FILLED</b> <b>NOT FILLED</b>

**Needed: There is consistent need for volunteers who can visit and(or) take the Eucharist to shut-ins.** Please pray to discern if this ministry is for you. Those you visit are blessed by your presence, and you receive great blessings in return. Could you donate a ½ an hour 2x a month for this important ministry? Training and Safe and Sacred Environment Certification is required. For more information, call Phil 692-4361.



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