Worship

“First Friday” December 4

Our next “First Friday” evening is on Friday, December 4. Due to Christmas Bazaar setup in the Parish Hall, this month will not include potluck supper and movie night; but please note, Holy Hour (4:30 p.m.) and Evening Prayer & Benediction (5:30 p.m.) will be held as always.

Sunday Adoration

On Sunday, December 6 we continue our pattern of offering Eucharistic Adoration immediately following 10 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month, beginning with devotions to Our Lady of Victory. Please avail yourself of this monthly opportunity to adore our Lord and pray for persecuted Christians in the Middle East.

Immaculate Conception

High Vigil Mass for the Immaculate Conception – a Holy Day of Obligation – will be offered on Monday evening, December 7 at 5:30 p.m. (Low Mass will also be offered at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday the 8th.) Please join us for this very holy feast on the church’s calendar, and note our complete list of all holiday worship services below.

New Missal & Pew Booklets

Sunday, November 29 (the First Sunday of Advent) saw the first use of Divine Worship: the Missal in our Parish, along with all other Ordinariate communities around the world. Pew booklets including the full text of the Mass are now fully stocked in the church. Nevertheless, so much of our Mass is sung that the congregation is still issued a substantial liturgy guide with all music, and all texts that change from week to week (Collect, Scriptures, Minor Propsers, etc.) such that worshipers only need refer to the pew booklet from time to time for longer spoken prayers, such as the Creed, Penitential Rite, Eucharistic Prayer, etc.

The Promulgation of this definitive edition of our liturgy is an immensely important moment in the Catholic Church. Note in our “Discipleship” section that Fr. Bergman will teach an Advent Adult Education series on the Missal, and please note these superb online resources available to digital readers:

Audio of Archbishop Augustine Di Noia, O.P., speaking in England in September in anticipation of the Missal

A frequently Asked Questions” document about the Missal produced by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

Calendars Discounted to $3!

Please note that the Parish Calendars which have heretofore sold for $5 are now available for $3 (at cost) as we head toward the Christmas season! A large supply is still on hand, so be sure to pick up several for family and friends.

As is to be expected upon the first publication of a liturgical calendar of such complexity (and in advance of the publication of the new Missal), there are a few small errors which the publisher has enumerated here. These have already been amended for all future editions of the calendar, which should approach perfection in future years.

Holiday Worship Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>High Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>December 20</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Christmas Pageant during 10:00 a.m. Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>December 24</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>High Mass for Christmas Eve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>December 25</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Low Mass for Christmas Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>December 31</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>High Vigil Mass for Mary, Mother of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Low Mass for Mary, Mother of God (note 10 a.m. time, not 7 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>January 6</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>High Mass for Epiphany (followed by Three Kings supper)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Due to an out-of-state commitment by many participants, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will not be offered, but will return next year!
Discipleship

Advent Adult Education

Our next Adult Education series of the season is underway, and includes the first three Wednesday evenings in Advent: December 2, 9, & 16. As usual, the full evening schedule includes Evening Prayer & Rosary (5 p.m.), Mass (5:30), Potluck Supper (6:15), and class (7 - 8 p.m.).

Our topic for this Advent term is the Divine Worship Mass, definitively published in the Altar Missal that began use on the first Sunday of Advent. Our new pew booklets will serve us well as a hands-on visual aid. Those planning to attend may find it useful to consider the online materials available on the previous page.

School Committee Considers Action Plan, Plans Visits

The School Committee — now meeting twice per month — is steadily taking steps toward the foundation of our Parish School. Current efforts are focused upon establishing a time line, producing a brochure to communicate our vision for the school, surveying interest among families in the Parish and the region, and hiring a professional tasked with raising funds (his/her own salary included) and organizing the school, in keeping with the vision and on pace with the time line.

Additionally, some members are planning to visit several Catholic schools that separately exhibit various traits we would like to combine in our own school, including an integrated classical curriculum, and training treble choristers for the singing of the Liturgy. These include the St. Jerome Academy, Hyattsville, MD; and two schools in the Boston area, St. Benedict Elementary, Natick, Massachusetts; and St. Paul’s Choir School, Harvard Square in Cambridge. A visit is also planned to The Madeleine Choir School at the Cathedral in Salt Lake City in February, piggy-backing on the trip Fr. Bergman and Mr. Campbell will be making to Houston at that time. Online readers can view video about the choir schools here and here.

2015 Christmas Appeal

This month’s newsletter is accompanied by materials for our annual Christmas Appeal, normally our only appeal for funds other than the annual stewardship drive.

This is an important effort whose timing is coincidental not only to the season of giving, but to carry us through the colder months and the costs of snow removal and heating our buildings. Please prayerfully consider a generous contribution as an expression of gratitude to our Lord for his many blessings this holy season.

Fellowship

Parish Photograph

On All Saints’ Day a group photograph was taken of all parishioners on the front steps of the church after 10 a.m. Mass., along with Fr. Bergman and Msgr. William Feldcamp. You can preview and purchase prints of the photo from photographer Steve Lewis using these steps:

- Go to http://SteveLewisPhotos.shootproof.com/stm
- Click “Open Gallery”
- Enter email address, & password 10years
- Click on the photo to preview
- At upper right, click BUY PHOTO
- Select and add to your cart the size(s) of your print(s)
- Proceed with checkout & payment

Three Kings Supper

For the past several years, the Parish’s annual potluck Epiphany supper has followed the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on the first Sunday of January. This year, with Lessons and Carols on hold until next season, and with Epiphany itself falling on a Wednesday when we have a routine Mass time already (5:30 p.m.), we will have our Three Kings Supper on Epiphany itself: Wednesday evening, January 6. On that evening, 5:30 p.m. Mass will be followed by supper. Please bring a dish to share, though beverages and dessert will be supplied... including pound cake, under which three lucky attendees will discover a dime, be crowned one of the Three Kings for the evening, serenade us with a verse of “We Three Kings,” and receive a gift from the Parish.

December & New Years Movies On Hold

Due to two different scheduling conflicts, the movies originally scheduled to be shown on Friday evening, December 4 (for First Friday) and Thursday evening, December 31 (after Vigil Mass for Mary, Mother of God) will not be shown this month. We’ll keep them on the list for next year, and First Friday Movie Nights will resume on February 5 with a movie appropriate to the weather...

Frozen! Please note, Holy Hour and Evening Song will be held as scheduled on Friday, December 4.
Evangelization

Msgr. Steenson Retires, New Bishop Appointed for U.S. Ordinariate

In a surprise announcement, a November 24 press release stated: "Pope Francis has named the Rev. Msgr. Steven J. Lopes to be the first bishop of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter: a structure equivalent to a diocese for Roman Catholics who were nurtured in the Anglican tradition. By naming Bishop-elect Lopes, the Pope has confirmed that the Ordinariate is a permanent, enduring part of the Catholic Church, like any other diocese — one that is now given a bishop so that it may deepen its contribution to the life of the Church and the world. Bishop-elect Lopes was directly involved in developing [the Divine Worship Missal]; since 2011, he has served as the executive coordinator of the Vatican commission, Anglicanae Traditiones, which produced the new texts.

"Steven Joseph Lopes, 40, is a Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. As the bishop-elect of the Ordinariate, he will reside in Houston, Texas. He attended Catholic schools in the Golden State, including the St. Ignatius Institute at the University of San Francisco. He earned licentiate and doctoral degrees in sacred theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He was ordained a priest in June 2001 and spent the first several years of his priesthood as an associate pastor at two parishes. Since 2005, he has served as an official of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican office responsible for promoting and preserving Catholic teaching. He was named a monsignor in 2010.

"Bishop-elect Lopes follows in the footsteps of Msgr. Jeffrey N. Steenson, who was named the first Ordinary (or head) of the Ordinariate when it was established in 2012. Msgr. Steenson’s retirement from his position as Ordinary is effective today, upon Pope Francis’ appointment of Bishop-elect Lopes. However, Msgr. Steenson has been appointed Administrator of the Ordinariate and will continue to oversee its day-to-day activities until Feb. 2, 2016. The ordination of Bishop-elect Lopes is planned for Feb. 2, 2016 in Houston.”

Fr. Bergman and Mr. Campbell will be traveling to Houston for a three-day symposium bracketing the Ordination of Bishop-elect Lopes; all parishioners are encouraged to attend as well.

A large array of online resources follows:
- Full Text of the Press Release
- Video of the Press Conference
- Secular & Catholic Media Coverage
- Statement of Bishop-elect Lopes
- Statement of Msgr. Jeffrey Steenson

Fall Ordinariate Magazine

The Ordinariate Observer

The fall 2015 edition of The Ordinariate Observer — the U.S. Ordinariate’s quarterly magazine — has taken a major leap forward in production quality, both in its print and online editions. Stories in this edition include:
- The ordination of three priests and a deacon
- The Knights of Columbus’ partnering with an Ordinariate Parish
- The transfer of a Parish to the Ordinariate
- The Ordinariate’s first seminarian
- The Divine Worship Missal
- An Ordinariate Priest’s high school chaplaincy
- News of Parishes all over the U.S. & Canada

First Mass for New Ordinariate Community

Ordinariate Expats reports: “St. Margaret of Scotland, the new Ordinariate community in Western Houston, which Fr. Steve Sellers has been gathering for some months now, have announced that they are holding their first Mass on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 10:00 am. The Mass will be celebrated at St. John XXIII College Preparatory School, Katy, Texas. St Margaret of Scotland, pray for this community. Saint Peter, pray for them. Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for them. Blessed John Henry Newman, pray for them.”

News from Philadelphia

Last month we reported that two Philadelphia-area Ordinariate communities were planning to merge and purchase a church property; this month we can report that the purchase is immanent. Under Fr. David Ousley, the Fellowship of John Henry Newman and the Church of St. Michael the Archangel are soon to purchase Our Lady of Mount Carmel church and Rectory, with the intent of offering their first Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, just in time for Christmas.
St. Thomas More Catholic Parish
116 Theodore Street
Scranton, PA 18508

www.stmscranton.org
contact@stmscranton.org
570-343-0634

Still receiving our newsletter by US Mail? Send your email address to contact@stmscranton.org, and receive our electronic version sooner each month, with full-color photos, internet links, and in a format free and easy to forward to family and friends!

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St. Thomas More Catholic Parish
A Roman Catholic Parish of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter

Worship & Ministries
St. Joseph Church
1625 N. Main Avenue
Scranton, PA

Parish Office & Mailing Address
116 Theodore Street
Scranton, PA 18508
phone 570-343-0634
web www.stmscranton.org
email contact@stmscranton.org

Masses
Sundays 10:00 a.m., 7 p.m.
M-T-Th-F 7:00 a.m.
Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.
1st & 3rd Sundays in Bath, 5 p.m.

Confession
15 minutes prior to every Mass

Christian Education
Children  Sunday School / 1st Holy Communion, 9 a.m.
      Little Flowers & Blue Knights, 2nd Sundays, 1 p.m.
Youth  Confirmation & Youth Classes, Sundays, 8:30 a.m.
      Youth Group, 2nd & 4th Fridays, 5:30 p.m.
Adults  Wednesdays in 4-6 week sessions as announced.
      6:15 p.m. potluck supper, 7 p.m. class
-Men  Holy League Holy Hour, 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7 p.m.
-Women  Altus for Women, Wednesdays, 7 p.m. (off site)
      Women’s Lunch Group, 2nd Fridays, noon

Music Ministries
Grades 2-7  Wednesday afternoon Choir School, 3:40 p.m.
Adults & Teens  Sunday rehearsals, 9:00 a.m.

Opportunities to Connect & Serve
Coffee Hour  Sunday School  Youth Group  Adult Education  Men’s Fellowship  Women’s Lunch Group  Little Flowers  Blue Knights  Choir School  Adult Choir  Lectors  Ushers  Counters  Altar Boys  Altar Servers  Parish Picnic  Potlucks  much more!