



More News



The Seasonal Newsletter of
St. Thomas More Catholic Parish
Scranton, Pennsylvania
Transfiguration 2018



From the Pastor



Dear Members & Friends,

When Bishop Steven Lopes arrives on August 18, it will have been six years since St. Joseph Church was dedicated and two years since his last visitation. Much has happened in the intervening two years, and as we prepare for his time with us I want to take this opportunity to explain how recent developments point to the future for our parish.

First, we have repurposed the convent this summer so that it can be used for the expansion of Maria Kaupas Academy, now to include an Upper School for high school-aged students. Our desire to offer an affordable, classical Catholic education to our children is part of a broader movement throughout the Church and, indeed, throughout our nationwide diocese. So many parishes and communities of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter are considering or have begun ventures like ours that our Chancery in Houston is offering a seminar in Houston about how to advance our common goal. Katy Kadonoff, our parish bookkeeper and the coordinator for Maria Kaupas Academy Upper School, will travel on our behalf next month to

Texas to learn how better to keep this endeavor growing – and connected to the other schools of our diocese. Please pray for the parents, teachers, and students of both our Lower and Upper Schools as we begin our third year offering this unique and enriching curriculum.

The renovations to the convent have been funded through the donations of two generous benefactors and include updating the electricity and installing emergency lighting and exit signs. But the most common question I am asked about the renovation is, “What’s going to happen to Ron?” As you know, four years ago Ron Morgese moved into the convent and has served as an invaluable presence on campus, helping to maintain our grounds while generally keeping an eye on the place. Having expressed a desire to continue fulfilling this role, he will still rent a room on our campus, but now in an efficiency apartment with its own entrance to the building, completely separate from the school facilities. We’re pleased to have Ron, because we’re certain that the benefit of having his eyes and ears on the Ferdinand Street side of our property is well worth the expense of creating a new space for him. Nevertheless, we need donations of time and treasure to finish Ron’s new accommodations, so if you can make a contribution in this regard, please let me know.

The expansion in the coming years of our educational mission, and the growth of our parish this is helping to fuel, means we must discern how to facilitate our work and provide facilities for it. That is, even as we will soon increase Paul Campbell to full-time status, we will require before long another paid employee in the office. Moreover, while we can expect that the renovated convent will hold us over for the next two years, adding grades

and students to Maria Kaupas Academy will necessitate classroom space we simply do not possess. We have the school building, but it really is not useable space, so what exactly we do with that structure must be determined, as well. In short, we must formulate a strategic plan for the growth we anticipate, and this will likely issue in a capital campaign implemented next year or the year after. We are grateful for how the Lord has blessed our work. Responsible stewardship means we must begin an intentional discussion about how best to receive future blessings.

We hope by the fall, after Bishop Lopes’ visit, that we will have a clearer picture of what precisely needs to be accomplished, and we will have a discussion about how to do it and how to pay for it. For the purpose of formulating an annual budget for operating expenses, our conclusions will be part of our annual stewardship campaign this October. Any inauguration of a capital campaign will occur in conjunction with – and with the blessing of – Bishop Lopes, the objective of such accountability being that we do not bite off more than we can chew or do less than that to which Jesus calls us. Please pray with me that we will be wise in our deliberations, that Bishop Lopes, our father in Christ, will offer good counsel, and finally, that the Lord will provide for the mission He’s called us to fulfill.

Looking forward to the beginning of the school year, grateful for the support you’ve given to make this moment possible, and with prayers for the eight young people to be confirmed on the Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Joseph Church, I am,

Your servant in Christ,

The Rev. Eric L. Bergman

Worship

Masses for the Assumption of Mary

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – **August 15** – is a Holy Day of Obligation; all Catholics in good standing are obliged to assist a Mass on that day,



whether here at the Parish or at a more convenient time or location elsewhere. To that end, **Said Masses** will be offered on that day at **7:00 a.m.** and **12 noon**. **Solemn Mass** will be offered at our usual Wednesday Mass time, **5:30 p.m.** Please join us in celebration of this Holy Day!

Adoration Continues Hiatus Until November

A reminder that Eucharistic Adoration continues its hiatus at the Parish until November, owing both to the summer break and to a fall pilgrimage by Fr. Bergman. This break applies not only to **First Sunday** adoration after Mass and **24-hour** adoration on **First**



Fridays & Saturdays, but to the attendant devotions such as First Friday Evensong, First Saturday Mass & Confessions, etc. Rest assured, these important devotions will all return on **November 2, 3, & 4**.

Bishop Lopes to Visit August 18-19

St. Joseph Church was opened and dedicated for the use of St. Thomas More Parish on August 18, 2012, a date which the Parish continues to commemorate in two ways. Every year, we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Anniversary of the Dedication of a Church** on that date (or the closest Sunday); and every two years, we host the Bishop on that same occasion to confer the **Sacrament of Confirmation** upon our Youth Confirmation Class.



To that end, Bishop Steven Lopes will visit the Parish on **Saturday evening, August 18** for Confirmation (the Parish does not normally offer a Saturday Vigil Mass, but will do so in this case). Then, on **Sunday evening, August 19**, Bishop Lopes will for the first time ever visit the **Blessed John Henry Newman Society** – our mission congregation in the Lehigh Valley – to greet our members there and assess the progress of the mission. Needless to say, this will be an “all hands on deck” weekend for the Parish! Please plan to participate, both to support our youth as they are confirmed, and to receive our Bishop as he visits our two congregations.

Choir Season Resumes September 5 & 9

Choir School rehearsals and instruction (for choristers in grades 2 through 7) will resume on **Wednesday afternoon, September 5**, concurrently with the first school day of Maria Kaupas Academy. In an effort to make



rehearsals more convenient to families, two adjustments will be made to the schedule: Rehearsals will begin at **3:45 p.m.** (15 minutes later than in prior years), allowing non-MKA students adequate time to get to the church after school bussing, etc.; and rehearsal in the loft by all choristers will take place first, followed by the smaller musicianship classes, opposite the previous pattern.

Teen and Adult members of the choir will begin their Sunday morning rehearsals at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 9, coinciding with the resumption of Sunday School and all other Parish programs after the summer break.

Fall Mass Schedule

With Maria Kaupas Academy set to run three days per week beginning this fall – and with daily Mass being a key feature of the Academy schedule – said Masses will be offered at **11:30 a.m. on every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday** that the Academy is in



session. The only change to the remainder of our weekly Mass schedule is that **7:00 a.m. Masses will no longer be offered on Tuesdays**. Therefore, after Labor Day the full Mass schedule will be as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Sunday: | 10 a.m., 7 p.m. |
| Monday: | 7 a.m. |
| Tuesday: | 11:30 a.m. |
| Wednesday: | 11:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m. |
| Thursday: | 7 a.m. |
| Friday: | 7 a.m., 11:30 a.m. |

Discipleship

Sunday School Planning Meeting August 12

The annual Sunday School planning meeting will be held **after 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, August 12**. All parents and teachers, please plan to attend and offer your input as we plan the 2018-2019 Sunday School season.



All Programs Resume After Labor Day

Having taken a hiatus for the summer months, all discipleship programs for children, youth, and adults will resume their regular schedules **after Labor Day, Monday, September 3**. Please join us for a rewarding season!

Holy League Schedule Change

After several successful seasons meeting twice per month on Monday evenings, the Holy League – a parish-based network of men united in devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, combating the forces of evil in today’s culture – will



resume its meetings after the summer break on a new schedule, now meeting on the **first and third Wednesdays of each month**. Our standard **5:30 p.m. Wednesday Mass** will be followed by **6:15 p.m. men’s potluck supper** and **7:00 Holy Hour** with teaching and confessions. All men are welcome!

Maria Kaupas Academy

We look forward to a successful third season of **Maria Kaupas Academy**, our extensive homeschool assistance program providing a comprehensive and rigorous Classical Catholic curriculum. This year we make a new distinction between Lower School and Upper School programs, the latter being launched as a new venture this fall. Course offerings include Art, Drama, Geography, History, Latin, Literature, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Science, Spanish, and Writing.

The Lower School (pre-K thru 8th grade) meets on Wednesdays & Fridays, and classes are available *a la carte*, enabling parents to



enroll their students only in those courses needed to supplement home schooling -- though they may certainly enroll in all courses if they wish.

The Upper School (9th grade & up) meets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and presumes enrollment in the entire program, with humanities such as art, drama, and music required alongside the academic disciplines, recognizing their essential role of both in fostering the whole human person.

Further materials and information are linked below to provide parents with a more detailed assessment of the Academy. Interested families should contact the Parish Office to arrange to visit the campus, Pastor, and Academy leadership.

Lower School

[Brochure](#) | [Class Descriptions](#)

Upper School

[Brochure](#) | [Education Plan](#)

Both Schools

[Fall 2018 Weekly Schedule](#)
[2018-2019 School Calendar](#)

Fellowship

Parish Picnic August 11

The annual St. Thomas More Parish Picnic is scheduled for **Saturday, August 11 at Lackawanna State Park**, where we will enjoy



a full day of food, play, fellowship, games, swimming, boating, and fishing. Join us for this memorable event in our annual cycle of parish life, and consider inviting a friend!

Free Parish Pig Roast September 8

We are pleased to announce that thanks to the generosity of **Dorothy Day Catholic Worker Farm** – owned and operated by St.



Thomas More Parishioners Larry & Carrie Chapp – our third annual Parish Pig Roast will be a **free event**, focused not upon fundraising, but upon our parish family and their guests delighting in Christian fellowship with each other over a delicious meal. Please plan to attend on **Saturday evening, September 8**, and please consider inviting a non-Catholic or non-Christian friend.

Neighbor Nights to Resume

After taking the summer off, our parish Neighbor Nights will resume their regular

schedule – the **third Saturday of each month at 6:00 p.m.** – on **Saturday, September 15**. Please keep in mind that these events are intended not to be merely insular, but to serve as a low-threshold opportunity for you to invite your non-Catholic or non-Christian friends and neighbors into our fellowship in an informal setting outside Sunday worship. Join us for free pizza supper, pool, ping-pong, board games, wi-fi, conversation, and a movie on the big screen!



Outreach

McGreevy Memorial Green

Several years ago, a home immediately adjacent to the Parish campus burned to the ground, and severely damaged the home next

to it. One at a time, the Parish purchased these lots, demolished the burned-out buildings on them, and leveled the ground, with a long-term vision of creating much-needed green space

and a children’s playground here in the densely populated neighborhood of Providence. The project was conceived and the funds raised as a memorial to founding Parishioner Jerry

was officially received into the Ordinariate in 2013 and [dedicated its newly renovated worship space last year](#), and has now been elevated to full Parish Status by Bishop Lopes. An interview with the bishop about these events on Spirit Catholic Radio can be heard by online readers [here](#).

New Ordinariate Priests in England and USA

England's *Catholic Herald* reports: "Eight new priests were ordained for the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham at the Birmingham Oratory on Saturday [June 29]. Archbishop of Birmingham Bernard Longley celebrated the Mass according to the Ordinariate Use of the Roman Rite, carrying the crozier of Blessed John Henry Newman, the Ordinariate's patron.



The Oratory is the home of the Shrine and Relics of Cardinal Newman. Two of the new priests were the first to complete their formation entirely within the Ordinariate. The other six were former Anglican clergy. The number of priests ordained for the Ordinariate was two more than for England's largest diocese – the Archdiocese of Westminster – which ordained six priests on the same day. The number of priests in the Ordinariate is now 100 exactly." The full article – including many photographs – is [here](#).

Meanwhile on the home front – also on June 29 (the Solemnity of Ss. Peter and Paul, one of the dates Bishop Lopes has established for ordinations), three new Catholic Priests were ordained at the Cathedral of Our Lady of



Walsingham in Houston: Fr. Robert-Charles Bengry, Fr. Sean-Patrick Beahen, and Fr. Jason McCrimmon. These men were in addition to the four priests ordained on May 31, which we reported in our last newsletter. Photos of the ordination are available [here](#), and a video can be viewed [here](#).

Historic Ordinations for Australian Ordinariate

For several years, the Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross has been looking forward to the reconciliation of many Anglicans in the Torres Strait Islands (at least 274 islands between northern Australia and Papua New Guinea) to the Catholic Church. The OLSC website [reports](#) on a historic day for the Catholic Church:

"On June 9th in St Francis Xavier's Catholic Church, West Cairns, Qld, Kopel Gibuma was the very first Torres Strait Islander to be ordained to the transitional Diaconate in the Catholic Church. In observance of Torres Strait Island tradition, Mr Gibuma was brought to the door of the church by fellow Islanders, accompanied by singing, guitars and the sound of traditional drummers. He was handed over by them to Msgr Harry Entwistle, Ordinary of the Ordinariate and Bp James Foley, Bp of Cairns who was to ordain him on behalf of the Ordinariate. The service was an impressive blend of Catholic sacramental worship, devout piety which were enhanced by Torres Strait traditional customs. It was appropriate that the



gospel was read by the Rev Ralph Madigan who is the first permanent deacon of Aboriginal descent to be ordained in the Diocese of Cairns. Following the service, Deacon Gibuma and the worshippers were greeted by traditional singing and dancing offered by Torres Strait islander singers and musicians. Dcn Kopel will assist Fr Gordon Barnier, the parish priest of St Clare, Cairns with Holy Cross Dauan."

Oxford Conference Explores Anglican Patrimony in the Catholic Church

A recent conference in Oxford, England entitled *The Gospel and the Catholic Church* included high-ranking participants from both the Anglican and Catholic Churches, seeking "a greater common understanding of Anglican Patrimony in evangelical and catholic fullness." Among many others, speakers included Anglican Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali; Msgr. Keith Newton, Ordinary of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham; Msgr. Andrew Burnham, also of the Ordinariate; and Archbishop Augustine Di Noia, member of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith and a Dominican Friar. Texts of the presentations are all available [here](#). Ordinariate circles have been particularly



enthusiastic about Archbishop Di Noia's paper, "Anglican Patrimony: A Perspective from the Holy See." Here are two excerpts:

"I had my first experience of the Anglican communion, when, roaming New York City's theater district as a high school student one day, I came upon the Church of St. Mary the Virgin on West 46th Street. Eventually, I would learn that this was not a Roman Catholic church, as I had assumed, but an Episcopal church founded ... in 1868 [and] dedicated to expressing the fullness of Catholic ritual and teaching within the Episcopal Church. ...That day many years ago when I came upon what is known affectionately as "Smoky Mary's," ...that is the day that I fell in love with Anglicanism.

"...With the inclusion of ... a liturgical provision in *Anglicanorum coetibus*, the Holy See acknowledged the legitimate patrimony of Anglican ecclesial communities coming into full communion. ...The publication of *Divine Worship* was of historic significance in that this is the first time the Catholic Church acknowledged the value of liturgical forms in use in communities that emerged in the sixteenth century reformations and, moreover, *undertaken to incorporate them*." The full paper is available [here](#).

12 Anglican Nuns Who Became Catholic

Though reporting events that took place in 2013, the *National Catholic Register* recently published the compelling account of when "12 fully habited nuns left their convent forever. They left with all they possessed. As the coach drew away from their former home, other nuns similarly dressed waved "goodbye" to those leaving. One group of nuns had settled for what they had always known; another had set out on an unknown path. Both groups knew they



would never see each other again. Of course, there was the pain and the poignancy of having to say farewell to those left behind who had shared their former community life. But there was also present a great joy, for just the previous day, 10 of these 12 nuns (two having been received earlier) had been received into the Catholic Church and, for the first time, had received the Body and Blood of Christ." The full story is [here](#).

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