



## ***How YOU can participate at St Thomas More***

### **Religious Education\*** Pre-K through High School

Sharing the Gospel message with others is a request Jesus makes to each and every baptized Christian. Weekly classes begin in September and finish during the Easter Season. Volunteers are needed to facilitate classes. Training and materials are provided for each volunteer.

### **Youth Ministry \*** grade 9 - 12

Beyond religious instruction for grade 6, 7, 8 and Confirmation preparation. **Youth Ministry** is a means for both junior high and high school students to grow as individuals while exploring ideas, values, and faith within the context of a supportive community of peers and adults. It is helping young people to lead the cause of Christ, and apply Christianity to every area of their life. **Youth ministry** is more than programs and events. **Youth Ministry** seeks to help youth share their gifts, grow in life skills, develop a positive self-image, overcome prejudices, develop respect for differences, serve those in need, and foster social change, participate in the sacraments, develop a personal spirituality and prayer life, apply Catholic faith to daily life, integrate Catholic values, participate in the Church, and develop a personal relationship with Jesus. At St. Thomas More, **Youth Ministry** is fun, faith, and friends, usually with a little food added to keep us going!

### **Eucharistic Minister\***

Parishioners are commissioned to serve as Eucharistic Ministers. They assist the priest in the distribution of Holy Eucharist at Mass as well as take Communion to the homebound. Generally a once monthly commitment.

### **Lector/reader for Sunday Liturgy\***

Parishioners are commissioned to serve as readers at Mass after brief training. Generally a once monthly commitment.

### **Greeters/Ushers**

Ushers welcome and seat parishioners when they arrive at Mass, organize parishioners for carrying the gifts to the altar at the Offertory, take up collections, guide the Communion line, etc.

**Pastoral Council** – committee work, typing, mailings, assisting with events, etc to support the work of the Pastoral Council.

**Parish Hospitality Committee** – receptions for visiting clergy, celebrations of service, etc. We would like to have a kick-off in the fall and continue our Thank You Socials in the spring.

**Bible Study** - Come try the STM Bible Study Group. This fall we are reading and discussing St. Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians and his letter to the Romans. All are welcome! Come with a Bible and questions. Info: Maryann Knag 203.213.4809 mmknag@aol.com  
Meets on Tuesdays in the Annex, 9:30 - 11:00 AM.

## Outreach programs

**Thanksgiving food baskets** – Food baskets for the less fortunate – food donations

**Christmas Angel Project** – 21<sup>st</sup> annual connect program for families in need. Pick an individual from the tree in the foyer and be their Angel – shop for that person from his/her “wish list”

**Be More Informed committee** – formed in 2008. It is a parish committee whose goal is to offer opportunities for adults in our parish and the community to enrich their spiritual lives. The committee strives to meet this goal by inviting guest speakers to present lectures and seminars at Saint Thomas More Church.

Be More Informed book group meets Wednesday twice monthly in the AM or PM, depending on your availability.

**Project Appalachia** – Pasta Supper, etc to raise funds for the Appalachia Project

**Golf Outing** – In Memory of James Robert Gallagher, the golf outing is the major fundraiser for building homes in Appalachia for a needy family. A group of students a chaperones travel to Kentucky each year to participate in building these homes.

## Women's' Circle -

Christmas Pageant

Children's Tag Sale

Pancake Breakfast

Easter Egg Hunt

**Senior Luncheons** - Help maintain the tradition of providing and serving lunch monthly to our seniors

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** –Ladies who love to knit or crochet (or would love to learn) create shawls, blankets and scarves. The shawls are created with prayer, then blessed and given to individuals who have suffered a loss, are undergoing surgery, to a new Mom or a new baby. We also create wonderful knitted teddy bears which bring comfort to little ones, or as a gift for a new brother or sister.

There are countless reasons to give these shawls, scarves and teddy bears. We meet on the second Wednesday of each Month at 12 Noon and 7:00 PM in the Parish Center

### **Material Girls Ages 8- 11**

Girls learn how to measure, use a pattern, cut and sew to create a gift for a child in need of comfort and healing. The girls also make beautiful creations for themselves. Projects included blankets, teddy bears, tote bags, Pjs, pillowcases and handbags. We plan new and exciting projects for this year. We meet the second Saturday of each month. 10 AM – 12 Noon in the Parish Center

**Choir** - The Music Ministry of St. Thomas More Church is a vital and active part of our parish community. The Adult Choir, is open to men and women of all ages...high school on up! The choir rehearses monthly for an overview of the music for the next four Sundays, and then rehearses on Sunday mornings at 10:15AM in the Choir Room, located on the second floor of the Parish Center. The Adult Choir is in session from September through June and leads the congregational singing at the Sunday 11:30AM Mass and also presents concerts in our More Music Concert series. We also have a Youth Mass ensemble which provides music for the monthly Youth Masses, usually on Sundays at 5:15PM."

"Our wonderfully dedicated professional and amateur singers strive always to live what we sing. It is an honor to inspire others through our sacred music week after week, and we always invite anyone interested to consider joining us in this awesome responsibility.

**Lay pastoral visits**– Bring the Eucharist and compassion to individuals in hospitals, assisted care sites, homebound.

**Beautification Committee**–maintain fresh flowers/plants in the Church and plan landscaping to enhance the grounds.

**RCIA** -The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the Church's way of welcoming new adult members into our Catholic community. Interested adults meet weekly with a group of parishioners (RCIA team members and sponsors) who share information about the Catholic faith as well as their own faith experiences. Through participation in the Liturgy and the rites of the

RCIA process, adults are led to full sacramental initiation through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil celebration. The RCIA welcomes the unbaptized adult as well as one baptized in another Christian tradition; it is also appropriate for one who, although baptized Catholic, has not yet received Eucharist or Confirmation. The RCIA relies upon those who agree to serve as sponsors; through sharing their faith, sponsors experience firsthand another adult's conversion to following Christ.

**New Covenant House (soup kitchen)** - New Covenant House of Hospitality is an ecumenical inner-city soup kitchen in Stamford, it provides nutritious meals to the poor, the homeless, and the disadvantaged of lower Fairfield County. Help with food preparation and/or serving bi-monthly or quarterly.

*New Covenant House is an inner-city soup kitchen located on the West Side of Stamford. New Covenant House was established in 1978 with the mission to provide nutritious meals to the poor, the homeless, and the disadvantaged in the Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, and New Canaan area. New Covenant House was founded on the premise that all are welcome and that each person who passes through our door is to be treated with the same respect and dignity that one would provide to a guest in our own home. Additionally, our mission is to provide help, where possible, so that each person who comes to us will have an opportunity to become self-sufficient and reintegrate themselves into the mainstream of society.*

**“Thank you Volunteers” Social/BBQ-** Every year in May or June, St. Thomas More Parish has a Mass and Thank You Social for volunteers for all of our volunteers. It is an occasion to enjoy some good food and drink in a relaxed atmosphere and meet other members of the Parish!

***God Bless you all!***

### ***STEWARDSHIP PRAYER***

*Lord God, out of the goodness and mercy you have blessed each of us with many gifts. May your spirit give us grace to recognize our gifts and the faith to use them in service to you and your Church.*

*May our practice of stewardship be a sign of our trust in you- trusting that you will continue to provide for all our needs.*

*We ask that our time, talent and treasure be used to further your mission here on earth and when our time on earth is through, may we be welcomed into your heavenly kingdom and hear you say, “Well done my good and faithful servant, come, share your master’s joy!” Amen.*