

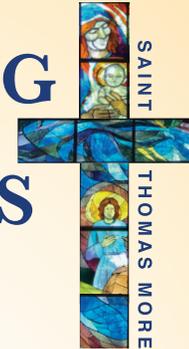


### CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Loving God, with gratitude, knowing all things come from you, we ask for your guidance and wisdom as we faithfully grow, united as a congregation, into our future. We pray for courage and discernment of your will in this campaign and beyond, so we can joyfully live out our mission in the heart of the city, by glorifying God, proclaiming Christ, and serving others now and for generations to come.

In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of life. Amen.

# SECURING *our* TIMELESS MISSION



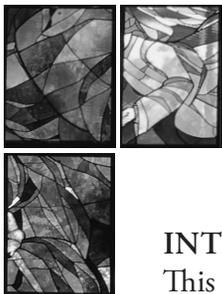
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## DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

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### St. Thomas More Church

11822 Holmes Road  
Kansas City, MO 64131  
816-942-2492  
[www.stmkc.com](http://www.stmkc.com)



## INTRODUCTION

This is a collection of reflections written by St. Thomas More parishioners to help and inspire us as we discern our commitments to the Securing Our Timeless Mission capital campaign. We asked them to answer three questions:

1. What does your faith mean to you?
2. What is something about St. Thomas More that is a blessing to you?
3. Why is it important to support the Capital Campaign?

We want to thank those who were willing to share their thoughts with us. As you will see, we have reflections from adults and as well as some students from our school. Hopefully they will inspire those of you who read these reflections to reflect on the questions above for yourselves.

There are sixteen reflections. We encourage you to spend time in prayer for the next sixteen days, reading the scripture passages and reflections. Discussion questions are included each day for you to share your thoughts, experiences, hopes and dreams with your family, friends, or fellow parishioners. May these reflections and prayers lead you to a more loving relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ, and a deeper commitment to our parish.

With gratitude, The Prayer Team

## **SUSCIPE** (St. Ignatius of Loyola)

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, All I have and call my own.

You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me.

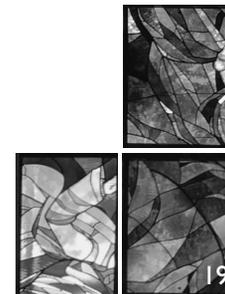
## PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

Be at Peace.

Do not look forward in fear to the changes of life; rather look to them with full hope as they arise. God, whose very own you are, will deliver you from out of them. He has kept you hitherto, and He will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will bury you in his arms.

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from suffering, or will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imagination.

Amen.





## Day 16

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

*Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.*

**REFLECTION** My faith is my strength. It's the cord that connects me to God, and is centered around worship and praise, prayers, selfless support of others and reverence to God. My faith guides my deeds and action; this means a lot to me for without my belief and faith in God I will be lost. This is important because I am a believer of Christ and in this belief, is the meaning to my life. At St. Thomas More, I experience a faith family committed to Christ and the community.

As a parishioner for the past 3 years, my life and my family's lives have been enriched beyond our initial expectations. My two boys are Cyclones and this is the greatest value I get from St. Thomas More. They are more prayerful and their commitment to social justice is priceless!

It is important for all parishioners to support the capital campaign because we are sowing seeds for a better parish. As people of faith, we are blessed with many talents; when each of us bring our talents to the table in pursuit of a selfless act like raising money for a better and bigger St. Thomas More, we would have done our part in leaving a more enduring legacy for the next generation. Just like those before us left us a magnificent church building, school and parish house; we ought to make it better for our children and others. This is why supporting the capital campaign is important for all parishioners. – Martin Okpareke

**DISCUSSION QUESTION** *What will my part be in the successful future of the St. Thomas More community?*

**CLOSING PRAYER** *Thank you, God, for all that you have given to us: our lives, our families, our community; all that we have and all that we are. We acknowledge that the St. Thomas More family is one of these gifts to us, and that we have been entrusted with its care.*

## Day 1

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

*As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, we were all given to drink of the one Spirit.*

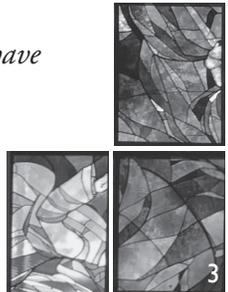
### REFLECTION

My faith in God as a follower of Jesus is the foundation of my true self. This gift, given to me by my parents, provides a home for me where I am never alone. It is through my relationship with God that I find purpose and direction, comfort and hope, but most importantly, peace. For 40 years, St. Thomas More parish has been my faith community. This Body of Christ has loved me and my family, challenged and supported me through my life journey and provided opportunities for me to experience the presence of God.

I believe it is important to support the capital campaign for many reasons. The people of STM provided the resources for my 3 adult children to attend our parish school from kindergarten through 8th grade. It is time for me to pay it forward. Providing a safe and secure environment for our current students is so necessary in our troubled times. But most importantly, we have an opportunity to support our parents as the first teachers of their children. By creating an environment that will give structure to our children's faith development, encourage the development of critical thinking skills that are critical for the maturation of their faith and provide opportunities to see and love God in every person, we may experience the kingdom of God here in south Kansas City. – Melinda Smith

**DISCUSSION QUESTION** *Why is it so important to help the families of our parish with the faith formation of their children?*

**CLOSING PRAYER** *Thank you, God, for all that you have given to us: our lives, our families, our community; all that we have and all that we are. We acknowledge that the St. Thomas More family is one of these gifts to us, and that we have been entrusted with its care.*





## Day 2

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE Psalm 85:11

*Kindness and Truth shall meet; Justice and Peace shall kiss.*

#### REFLECTION

Faith is important to us because it is our cornerstone. While each of us journeys on an individual faith pathway, “we’re all in this together”, which is why I value St. Thomas More. Our STM faith community joins us in common purpose — the faith we share with others strengthens our individual faith journey. I support the Capital campaign because we should nurture and grow our spiritual home for our entire faith community. — Gerard Grimaldi

#### DISCUSSION QUESTION

*What is most valuable about being an active member of our St. Thomas More faith community?*

#### CLOSING PRAYER

*Thank you, God, for all that you have given to us: our lives, our families, our community; all that we have and all that we are. We acknowledge that the St. Thomas More family is one of these gifts to us, and that we have been entrusted with its care.*

## Day 15

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE 1 Timothy 1:18-19

*I entrust this charge to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophetic words once spoken about you. Through them may you fight a good fight, by having faith and a good conscience.*

#### REFLECTION

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines Faith as a gift of God, a supernatural virtue infused by Him. Therefore, I reflect Faith in my life as a gift of Hope in God and belief in God; that even in times when my Faith is being challenged, I remember the words of St Paul in his first letter to Timothy chapter 1:18-20 “Wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience”.

I value St Thomas More Parish because it gives parishioners the opportunity to be part of the church’s pastoral duty.

I believe that it is important to allow young people to be part of an environment or institution that prepares a solid foundation for the future, and through the capital campaign our school will expand and create more opportunity for academic advancement. — Charles Obasi

#### DISCUSSION QUESTION

*How can I ensure the gift of faith God has given me is entrusted to future generations?*

#### CLOSING PRAYER

*Thank you, God, for all that you have given to us: our lives, our families, our community; all that we have and all that we are. We acknowledge that the St. Thomas More family is one of these gifts to us, and that we have been entrusted with its care.*





## Day 14

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE Sirach 44:12-14

*Through God's covenant with them their family endures, their posterity for their sake. And for all time their progeny will endure, their glory will never be blotted out. Their bodies are peacefully laid away, but their name lives on and on.*

### REFLECTION

Occasionally, I take a shot at honest introspection. I ask myself what's truly important, and what is enduring. Is it generosity? Love? Community? And then the grandkids visit, and I recognize that I always place "family" in a prominent spot on the list. I want the kids to be secure, to have a bright future, to be good citizens, to follow Christ. And I know that I'm too flawed to give that guidance consistently and continuously throughout the day. Two of my grandkids are students at the St. Thomas More parish school, a bright spot of consistency, generosity, love, community, and Catholic instruction. Our parish is striving to meet Pope Francis' goal that "our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen." We all want a strong community and stalwart leaders. They are built on solid foundations. The capital campaign is the basis for what is truly important, a solid foundation, and it will produce an enduring legacy with our generous support.

– Moira and Mike Seyle

### DISCUSSION QUESTION

*How can I facilitate the growth of our St. Thomas More community?*

### CLOSING PRAYER

*Thank you, God, for all that you have given to us: our lives, our families, our community; all that we have and all that we are. We acknowledge that the St. Thomas More family is one of these gifts to us, and that we have been entrusted with its care.*

## Day 3

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE Isaiah 61:1-2

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted, to bring liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

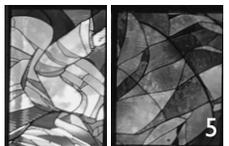
### REFLECTION

Our Catholic faith has always been front and center in our lives. It is the cornerstone for our marriage. We have raised our three daughters in the Catholic faith; they now teach us how to critically think about our faith. God's amazing, unconditional, everlasting love brings us joy. And we have always felt called to put our faith into action and serve others. We have been involved in many ministries at St. Thomas More throughout the past 25 years. Those experiences have allowed us to meet many Christ-centered people who keep our faith strong and who inspire us to do more and give more. St. Thomas More is our support system — teaching us about our faith and keeping our faith strong. Supporting the capital campaign is important to us because it keeps St. Thomas More strong, safe and competitive. We are also glad to know the education fund will give financial aid to many families so that they can attend St. Thomas More school. – Marla and Rich Byrne

**DISCUSSION QUESTION** *How is God calling me to put my faith into action?*

### CLOSING PRAYER

*Thank you, God, for all that you have given to us: our lives, our families, our community; all that we have and all that we are. We acknowledge that the St. Thomas More family is one of these gifts to us, and that we have been entrusted with its care.*





## Day 4

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE Mark 12:28-31

*One of the scribes, when he came forward and heard them disputing and saw how well he had answered them, asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

### REFLECTION

My faith means everything to me! I cannot remember a time that I didn't have faith and I can't imagine how those without faith make it through the day. However, when it has wavered, I have had my parish to lift me back up and restore my faith. St Thomas More offers so many ways to help me strengthen my faith and that is very valuable to me. I am thankful that I have opportunities to give back to others in the parish by helping provide desserts for funeral lunches, taking blood pressures after Mass; or to our surrounding community by supporting Seton Center or serving a meal at St James kitchen. It is important to continue to grow our parish and to keep reaching out to help others. The capital campaign will help us update our facilities and better our school, so we can continue to grow our parish and our children's faith and minds.

– Patti Manning

### DISCUSSION QUESTION

*Why is my faith vitally important to me?*

### CLOSING PRAYER

*Thank you, God, for all that you have given to us: our lives, our families, our community; all that we have and all that we are. We acknowledge that the St. Thomas More family is one of these gifts to us, and that we have been entrusted with its care.*

## Day 13

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE John 13:13-15

*"Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me teacher and master, and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."*

**REFLECTION** To me, to be a follower of Jesus is to be filled with His spirit and to emulate his life – that is, to love God with all our heart and to care for one another, especially the poor, the sick, and those who live on the margins of society. He calls us to humble service of others, "to wash one another's feet" (John 13:14). We are also part of a community, called to be the Body of Christ. It is important to come together to pray, to read the scriptures, receive the Eucharist and go forth to be his presence to the world. In this capital campaign, we offer our time and resources to continue to support and build up St. Thomas More Parish so that we can continue the mission of Jesus here in Kansas City, in Guatemala, and wherever the Lord leads us. – David Butel

**DISCUSSION QUESTION** *Who is someone I know that I can reach out to and share a word of hope and God's love?*

**CLOSING PRAYER** *Thank you, God, for all that you have given to us: our lives, our families, our community; all that we have and all that we are. We acknowledge that the St. Thomas More family is one of these gifts to us, and that we have been entrusted with its care.*

**Christ Has No Body Now But Yours** (St. Teresa of Avila)  
*Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*



## Day 12

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.*

### REFLECTION

My faith is the most important part of my life. What I am still learning is the gifts that God sends to us are enormous and continue every day. What a tremendous blessing. Our parish is so essential to also help, assist and guide us daily, as it is easy to fall away from belief. Our four children all attended STM and the key lesson is that Christ's way is not the way of our current American secular activities. To learn the difference is critical. The new 2017 capital campaign is needed now to bring all our children of STM into the 21st century of knowledge so they will be able, with faith and education, to maintain a worthy and faithful lifestyle for themselves, family and friends. – Jerry Cooke

### DISCUSSION QUESTION

*How can I help to positively influence those around me, including those outside of the St. Thomas More community?*

### CLOSING PRAYER

*Thank you, God, for all that you have given to us: our lives, our families, our community; all that we have and all that we are. We acknowledge that the St. Thomas More family is one of these gifts to us, and that we have been entrusted with its care.*

## Day 5

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE Matthew 16:13-16 Matthew 16:13-16

*When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi\* he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."*

### REFLECTION

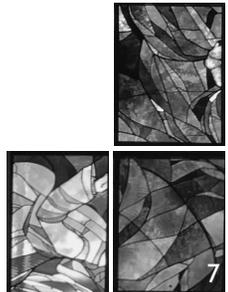
Jesus is faith and Jesus is very important to me. The Mass is important because you get to know Jesus. I can serve Mass at St. Thomas More and I value the other parishioners because they help each other out even if they don't really know you. The capital campaign will make the parish better and will make the school better. – Tristan Manning

### DISCUSSION QUESTION

*How do I help others as part of the St. Thomas More faith community?*

### CLOSING PRAYER T

*hank you, God, for all that you have given to us: our lives, our families, our community; all that we have and all that we are. We acknowledge that the St. Thomas More family is one of these gifts to us, and that we have been entrusted with its care.*





## Day 6

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE Ephesians 4:7

*But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

### REFLECTION

The St. Thomas More community gives us the way to make Christ a part of lives. We are called to be a witness to Christ, Acts 1:6-8. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit our community fulfills Christ's directive that we be his "witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth." All of us with our own gifts and talents have an avenue to use those gifts as God intended Ephesians 4:7-11. The Community of St. Thomas More is the vehicle which gives us the opportunity that otherwise would be missed. – Craig Laird

### DISCUSSION QUESTION

*What talent has God given me to spread his word and how is the St. Thomas More community a vehicle that makes this happen?*

### CLOSING PRAYER

*Thank you, God, for all that you have given to us: our lives, our families, our community; all that we have and all that we are. We acknowledge that the St. Thomas More family is one of these gifts to us, and that we have been entrusted with its care.*

### PRAYER OF CARDINAL NEWMAN

*God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.*

## Day 11

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE Psalm 16:1-2

*Keep me safe, O God; in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, you are my LORD, you are my only good.*

### REFLECTION

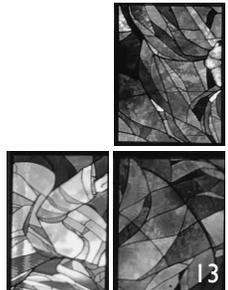
Faith is important to me because I know that God will help me through anything. If you believe you will never be alone. I like St. Thomas More because all of the teachers are so nice and every week we get to go to all school Mass. I also like that there are so many opportunities and ways for everyone to succeed. The capital campaign is important to me because the security system will help me feel safer. Last year during volleyball practice, someone who was on drugs, came into school and it was scary. I also think the capital campaign is good because the new technology will help me be better prepared for learning in high school. – Jessica Rogge, 7th grader St. Thomas More School

### DISCUSSION QUESTION

*Why is safety vital to our St. Thomas More community?*

### CLOSING PRAYER

*Thank you, God, for all that you have given to us: our lives, our families, our community; all that we have and all that we are. We acknowledge that the St. Thomas More family is one of these gifts to us, and that we have been entrusted with its care.*





## Day 10

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE Psalm 16:7-9

*I bless the LORD who counsels me; even at night my heart exhorts me. I keep the LORD always before me; with the LORD at my right, I shall never be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, my soul rejoices; my body also dwells secure.*

### REFLECTION

My faith is important to me because it centers me and gives me strength, joy and peace in my life. My faith has deepened since becoming a part of St Thomas More parish. Going through the Christ Renews His Parish retreat and the formation after, brought me closer to Jesus and other people of our parish. Six of my seven children have attended or are attending, our parish school. I love that their Catholic faith is in every aspect of their lives; home, church and education. The capital campaign is very important to me because I want our school to continue to improve so my children can get the best education possible in a safe environment. – Cindy Rogge

### DISCUSSION QUESTION

*How can my Catholic faith manifest in every aspect of my life?*

### CLOSING PRAYER

*Thank you, God, for all that you have given to us: our lives, our families, our community; all that we have and all that we are. We acknowledge that the St. Thomas More family is one of these gifts to us, and that we have been entrusted with its care.*

## Day 7

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE Jeremiah 29:11-13

*For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope. When you call me and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me.*

### REFLECTION

Within hours of our daughter Ellie's birth, she stopped breathing and her heart stopped beating. As the nurses worked to revive her, we begged God not to take her. We had just lost Angela's grandma a month earlier and her grandpa 3 months before that; we could not handle another death, especially of our newborn. After three long minutes, Ellie finally took a breath. She was back, but not healthy.

Just three days later, Chris's dad suffered a massive stroke. For the next week, Chris spent his days in the ICU with Ellie and his nights in the ICU with his dad. We stopped believing that "God won't give you more than you can handle." He had. But the STM community stepped in to shoulder the burden we could not handle. Without being asked, the people of this community made us meals, mowed our yard, took care of our children, hoped, visited, and prayed. The community embraced and carried us. We learned that "God won't give you more than you can handle ... with the help and support of a loving community."

In our 17 years in this parish, we have witnessed this community rise up time and again to support those in need in a way we have not seen in any other community. Pastors, bishops and parishioners have come and gone but what has remained constant, and the thing we value most about STM, is the generous, loving, compassionate support of the community. We are eternally grateful to be a part of it, and glad to offer our support to the capital campaign.

– Chris and Angela Sweeny

**DISCUSSION QUESTION** *How does the St. Thomas More community help me in my times of struggle?*

**CLOSING PRAYER** *Thank you, God, for all that you have given to us: our lives, our families, our community; all that we have and all that we are. We acknowledge that the St. Thomas More family is one of these gifts to us, and that we have been entrusted with its care.*





## Day 8

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE Colossians 2:6-7

*So, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in him, rooted in him and built upon him and established in the faith as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*

### REFLECTION

What we value most about St. Thomas More are our teachers. They inspire us to follow our hopes and dreams. Teachers at St. Thomas More are very interactive. They are always willing to get our opinion on things. Our teachers make learning fun. They come up with games to help us learn. Most of all, we know they care about us and will help us whenever we ask. — Lauren Sweeny, 6th Grade; Ellie Sweeny, 4th Grade; Tessa Sweeny, 3rd Grade at St. Thomas More School

### DISCUSSION QUESTION

*Why is it so important to provide a solid, Catholic education for the children of our community?*

### CLOSING PRAYER

*Thank you, God, for all that you have given to us: our lives, our families, our community; all that we have and all that we are. We acknowledge that the St. Thomas More family is one of these gifts to us, and that we have been entrusted with its care.*

## Day 9

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE Isaiah 43:1-3

*But now, thus says the Lord who created you, O Jacob, and formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine. When you pass through the water, I will be with you; in the rivers you shall not drown. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned; the flames shall not consume you.*

### REFLECTION

My faith is the core of my life. It comforts and strengthens me through all the up and downs of life. It has been especially important to me in the last 6-7 years when a couple heartbreaking and scary things occurred in my family. Through this time the people of St. Thomas More have prayed for me and my family and been so supportive in many ways. I want to see this community grow and stay strong and I want to see the best possible education available to the children in our school. For this reason, I fully support our capital campaign. — Butch Wagner

### DISCUSSION QUESTION

*How can I appreciate the prayer family that St. Thomas More is for me?*

### CLOSING PRAYER

*Thank you, God, for all that you have given to us: our lives, our families, our community; all that we have and all that we are. We acknowledge that the St. Thomas More family is one of these gifts to us, and that we have been entrusted with its care.*

