



Catholic Church Community of

St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge, NY 11788-4221

September 20, 2020

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**“THE
LAST
WILL BE
FIRST,
AND THE
FIRST
LAST.”**

MATTHEW 20:16, ESV



Parish Mission Statement:

St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church is a parish community striving to share the Spirit of Love through Prayer, Worship, the Sacraments, the Teachings of the Church, and our concern for others through Christian Stewardship.

Contact Numbers

Rectory

631-234-5551

FAX 631-234-6412

Religious Ed

631-234-0397

FAX 631-234-1199

Outreach

631-234-3149

FAX 631-234-1199

Website: <https://stmli.org>

Social Media

Facebook: StThomasMoreHauppauge

Instagram: stm_church

To receive texts or emails
from us just text

Spiritoflove to 84576 or
sign up @

StThomasMore29.flocknote.com

Masses for this coming week

September 20, 2020
 Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Isaiah 55: 6-9
 Psalm: 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18
 Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
 Matthew 20: 1-16a

Saturday, September 19

(Anticipated Mass for Sunday)

5pm Elaine Hahn by *Vivian & Michael Jacobs*

Sunday, September 20—Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30am Robert Sauchelli by *Dottie Lossani*

12:00pm Marilyn Falusi by *Evelyn & Bob McMahon*;
 Susanna Bernardo by *the Paino & Lewis families*

Monday, September 21—St. Matthew

9am Anthony Rotolico by *Maria Rotolico*

Tuesday, September 22

9am Josephine Booth by *Mr. & Mrs. Michael Keena*

Wednesday, September 23—St. Pius of Pietrelcina

9am Bob Sauchelli by *Marilyn Miller*

Thursday, September 24

9am Mae Devine by *Fintan & Margaret Stapleton*

Friday, September 25

9am Bob Sauchelli by *BettyAnn & Joe Codispoti*

Saturday, September 26—St. Cosmas and St. Damian

9am People of the Parish

(Anticipated Mass for Sunday)

5pm James Bell by *Philip & Antoinette DeGruccio & family*

Sunday, September 27—Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30am Joseph J. Wooley by *Lindsay, his daughter*;
 Jack Slawinski by *JoAnn Eyring and family*

12:00pm James T. Murphy by *Ellie Stout*;
 Virginia Sanders by *Lew Bernard*

Growing through the Sunday Scriptures

September 26, 2020
 Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Ezekiel 18:25-28
 Psalm: 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
 Philippians 2:1-22
 Matthew 21: 28-32

A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew:

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people:

"What is your opinion?

A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.'

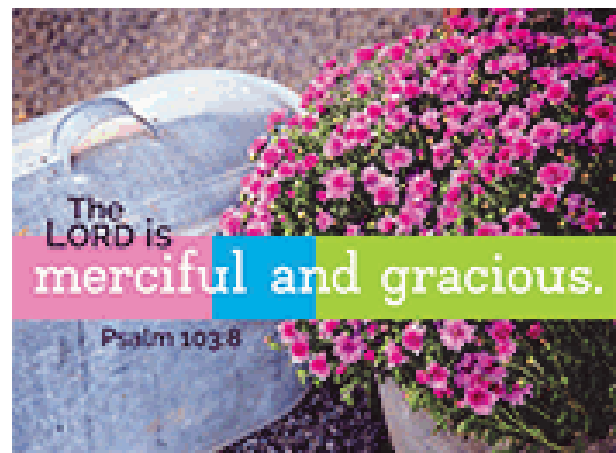
He said in reply, 'I will not, ' but afterwards changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order.

He said in reply, 'Yes, sir, 'but did not go.

Which of the two did his father's will?"

They answered, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him."



FR. ANTONY'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

There was an elderly lady who said to a little girl, “How do you do, my dear?” The girl replied, “Quite well, thank you?” After a long pause the woman asked, “Why don't you ask me how I am?” The child paused and said calmly, “Because I am not interested.”

Now what shall we say about the little girl's reply? Shall we say she is honest or rude in making such a reply to the lady? Honesty can be hurtful at times and politeness may not reflect honesty all the time.

In today's Gospel story, what shall we say about God's reply to the workers? Honest or rude? How does God treat the workers? Justly or generously? The Gospel story is not an intellectual argument to understand and accept God's justice and generosity from the dry plain of reason and logic. Rather, it is a parable inviting us to experience God's justice and generosity from the faculty of the heart.

God is a just God in never denying us what we deserve. Also God is the generous God in blessing us with more than we deserve. As long as each of us begins to live from our blessings we will experience and appreciate that our life is a generous gift justly given to us. But once each of us begins to live from comparing what we don't with what others have, we will see God as unjustly generous.

None of us is a replica or copy of anybody else in the globe. Each of us is unique with our own individual strengths and needs. We are abundantly supplied with more than what we need in order to grow the Kingdom of God. As long as we don't begin to live our uniqueness we will always measure our success or failures with those of others. This way of measuring oneself with others will always end up in valuing our lives as unfair. This would make us unable to live our own unique blessings. Let us pray that we may be enlightened to know who we are. May God empower to live our gifts justly and generously given to us by God.

As Schools and colleges have started, we wish and pray for our children to be healthy and industrious. Our Parish Patron, St. Thomas More is the Patron Saint of families. So we celebrate a Novena Mass of St. Thomas More every Tuesday to pray for our children and families. You can leave your written petitions in the Petition-box by the St. Thomas More niche. All your intentions will be prayed for every Tuesday at the Novena Mass of St. Thomas More at 9:00 am.

We begin Youth Ministry with mini-golf on September 27 at 1:00 pm. We are also sending invitations through social media and snail mail. We have planned to conduct the meetings every Sunday afternoon from 1:00 to 2:30 pm, both virtually and in person in alternative weeks – one week in person and the following week virtually. Please spread the news and encourage the young people to attend the meetings.

With love and prayers,

Fr. Antony



Focus on Religious Freedom

www.cffor.org

The Constitution of the United States This “Miracle in Philadelphia” Was Grounded in America’s Judeo-Christian Values

"The happy union of these states is a wonder; their Constitution is a miracle; their example the hope of liberty throughout the world. Woe to the ambition that would meditate the destruction of either!"

- James Madison, 1787

Judeo-Christian values are foundational to America, beginning with the Declaration of Independence "endowed by their Creator" to the principles found in the U.S. Constitution honoring God-given Life and Liberty.”

"Our Founding Fathers separated church from state, but they wisely did not separate God from state. They acknowledged God as the source of our rights and were careful to place Biblical morality directly into our founding documents and laws, and into our values and culture, precisely to help prevent a future totalitarian or tyrannical rule in America," wrote author Dr. Ronald R. Cherry ⁽¹⁾

It is alarming that many today have turned a blind eye to the required connection between God and Liberty and forgotten the warning from John Adams and Thomas Jefferson that Liberty cannot survive among men without its Divine connection.

"Remember that a Constitution which gives to the people so much freedom and entrusts them with so much power, rests for its permanency, on their knowledge and virtue," wrote Arthur Stansbury, in 1828. "An ignorant people are easily betrayed, and a wicked people can never be ruled by the mild influence of their own laws. If you would be free ... cultivate knowledge - flee from vice. The virtuous citizen is the true noble." ⁽²⁾

(Elementary Catechism on the Constitution of the U.S. (2); americanthinker.com, 9/15/07(1); renew-america.com, 5/5/11; thoughts.com, 7/3/19; The 5,000 Year Leap)

Happening Now: Freedom of Religion & Freedom of Speech Denied

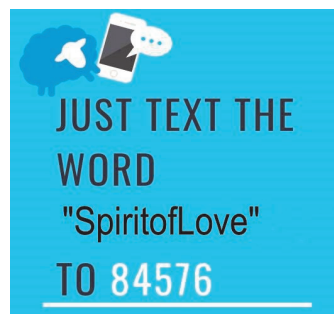
freedom was violated when he was removed from his position following comments he made in a private chat forum for Catholic students. He had commented that policy positions of some protesting groups that embrace disrupting the nuclear family and are hostile to the Gospel, contradict the teachings of the Catholic Church.

"While FSU students claim they're creating a 'safe space', they've tried to cancel Jack's freedoms and discriminate against him because they don't like his beliefs in direct violation of the First Amendment," said Alliance Defending Freedom.(3) "Florida State should be fostering real diversity of thought and not punishing individuals based on religious convictions or political beliefs."(4)

(ncregister.com, 8/3/20(4); cna.org, 9/2/20 (3); christianpost.com, 8/3/20)

-----Be Silent No More!

Elected officials and their staff listen to, read and tabulate citizens' concerns and opinions when making decisions for their state and for the country. Do not be silent. Please contact one or more Senator or Congressman each week to encourage them to share your values. **Call** Switchboard at 202-224-3121 to be connected to any Representative or Senator's office. **Email:** Find Representative's email at www.house.gov Find Senator's email at www.senate.gov



Would you like to receive a daily spiritual reflection during Lent or updates of what's happening in our Parish? See below or go to StThomasMore29.flocknote.com

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Ethan Bernstein | Dylan Kowalski |
| Jessie Bernstein | Thomas LaFemina |
| Joseph Blaugrund | Alex Lombardi |
| Anthony Broncatello | Andrew Lombardi |
| John Burk | Lt. Clint Lorange |
| Collin Busto | Scott Lovelock |
| David Chester | Andrew Lynch |
| John Chester | Troy A. Maida, |
| Nicholas Chester | William Maley |
| Theresa Chester | Thomas Migliara |
| Collin J. Crean | Tim Morris |
| Eddie Cullum | Ryan Murphy |
| Eric Cullum | John Nachtman |
| Adam Cussen | Kaitlyn Nachtman |
| David Cussen | Thomas Nichols |
| Capt. Sean Michael Dolan | Adam Papaizai |
| P. J. Erskin | Michael Poist |
| Timothy Fallon | Michael Polanski |
| Major Michael Fantauzzi | Kyle Rathje |
| J.T. Foltz | Antonia Marie Rivera |
| Mike Foltz | Ann Karen Sanchez |
| Michael Gioia | Justin Schneider |
| Carl F. Greiner | Christopher Sidor |
| Philip Gudone | Christopher Singer |
| John Michael Haffner | Ryan Smith |
| Sean Hendrikson | Michael White |
| Tylor J. Hickey | |
| Kevin Ilyichenko | |
| John Karies | |
| Michael Knipper | |

Courtesy Announcements:

First Notice:

St. Dominic High School—2020 TACHS—Exam Prep Course—September 26 and October 3, 17, 24 & 31—9am—11:30am. Course Fee \$250. Contact Mrs. Stutzmann at 516-922-4888 ext. 5241.

Hauppauge Public Library—Census Awareness Day—Tuesday, September 22, 10am-2pm.

US Census Response Representatives will be in the library parking lot on Suffolk County Library System’s mobile bus to help you complete the 2020 Census and answer your questions. You can register to vote too!

Second Notice:

RITE OF CHRISTIAL INITIATION OF ADULTS



The RCIA is a faith journey which leads those seekers to meet Jesus in the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

The seekers will be accompanied on the journey by the community of Saint Thomas More in the spirit of love.

Do you know of a family member or friend who needs to complete one or more of the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation?

Do you know a family member or friend who has been a member of another faith tradition who wants to become a catholic?

To find out more about the faith journey or to join us on the journey please call the rectory at 631-234-5551.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL 2020

as of September 8, 2020

Our Parish Goal	\$70,400.00
Pledges to date	\$33,547.00
Percentage of Goal	47.65%

SUPPORT COLLECTION

Envelope users: Please enter the amount of your donation in the space provided on the envelope. This will greatly help us when counting the collection and for recording your contribution.

St. Thomas More Parish needs your support now more than ever! Join the parishioners who are using Faith Direct for automated giving to St. Thomas More Parish. Faith Direct offers a safe and secure way to donate to our parish in this time of uncertainty. There is no cost to you, and the program provides a great benefit to our parish. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/NY227, or text 'Enroll' to 631-250-8141. You can also make a one-time gift by texting a dollar amount to the same number.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You,
Fr. Antony

SOCIAL MEDIA & EMAIL

Websites

www.stmli.org

<https://stmyouth.wixsite.com/stmyouthhauppauge>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/StThomasMoreHauppauge/>

Instagram

- stm_church
- stmreligioused
- stm_yg

Email

Rectory: rectory@stmli.org
 Mary Ellen Carroll: mecarroll@optonline.net
 Outreach: outreach@stmli.org
 Dan Haggerty: youthminister@stmli.org
 Altar Servers Ministry: altarservers@stmli.org
 Personal Prayer SpiritualOrientations.com
 To contact a member of the Pastoral Council use the following
 Barbara & Joe Fratamico at BJFRAT@optonline.net



CIRCLE OF WOMEN

It is the mission of the Circle of Women Book Group to focus on the spiritual influence of contemporary writing that facilitates our own reflections of God's action in our daily lives.

Our next meeting will be on October 12, 2020 at 2:30 pm in Walden Hall.

The book for discussion will be **Educated** by Tara Westover—Facilitator Aurelie Miller-Hendry..

We meet on the second Monday of the month. For further info. and/or to register, call Marilyn at 631-234-5805 or Joan at 631-234-1739.

Congratulations!

Calendar Club Winners

Here are the winners from Sept. 13-19, 2020

9/ 13/2020	570	\$50	Donna Basile
9/ 14/2020	852	\$25	Mary Grace Marin
9/ 15/2020	659	\$25	John Egan
9/ 16/2020	859	\$25	Elaine Moccia
9/17/2020	387	\$25	Carol Siedlecki
9/18/2020	13	\$25	Don & Judy Persia
9/19/2020	221	\$25	Vincent Cordina

- Mass Times -

Saturdays

5 pm in the church
(live streamed as well)

Sundays

9:30 am parking lot

12 pm in the church

NL
DESIGNS

1967 • CELEBRATING 50 YEARS • 2017
**ST. THOMAS
MORE**
CATHOLIC CHURCH
United in the love of Christ

*
Weather permitting.



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Jaclyn Aloï, ASB, Brian B, Louise Beltrani, Pamela Brosnan, Erin Burke, Kathy Capuano, Paul Connors, Veronica Corvasce, Ginny Desierio, Diane DiChristina, Walt Drechsler Jr., Sr. Alexius Fitzgerald, Michael Fiorentino, Rosemarie Flore, Marilyn Gast, Gail, Laurie Holmes, Richard Kane, Kevin Kenney, Phyllis Markowitz, Jean Marsala Kieffner, Lauren Lossani, Robert McGurrin, Sharon Mills, Melissa Mock, Joan Nachtman, Mary Ann O'Gara, Al Pankus, Rita Platia, Maura Reddy, Rosalie Rocchio, Joyce Rose, Jerry Smith, Howard Spegman, Peggy Stepanek, Richard Tulipan, Chase Turano, Andrew J. Valentine, Andrew M. Valentine, Rosalind Warmuth, Diane Weisz, Janet Weil, Don Wieman, Pat Yezek, Ashley Zabelsky, Denise Zappia

This listing will expire on September 30, 2020.



During these difficult times, as a family of faith, we turn to our Heavenly Father in prayer. You are invited to submit your prayer intentions and those of your family. All prayer intentions will be placed in a basket near the altar in St Thomas More before each Mass. We are streaming Sunday Mass on Saturday at 5pm at www.stmli.org. Daily mass is posted Monday through Friday on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com). The basket will serve as a silent reminder that we are united in faith, hope and love as we lift one another up in prayer and support, while placing our trust in the Lord.

“For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.”

St. Therese of Lisieux

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

Evelyn Izzo, Craig Sudbrink; David Thomas, Robert Sauchelli, John Buzzanca, for all those who have succumbed to COVID-19, our deceased loved ones and our deceased service men and women.

USING FAITH DIRECT? - It's quick and easy!

Consider having automatic deductions from either your checking or savings or use a credit card to support St. Thomas More each week. With Faith Direct, there is no fee to you! Please visit the Faith Direct website at www.FaithDirect.net to sign up: our church code is **NY227**. You may also use the form located where you obtain the bulletin or text the word ENROLL to 631-250-8141. We thank you for your support.

UPDATING CREDIT CARD INFORMATION—If you get a new card or a renewal card, make sure that this information is communicated to Faith Direct.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES—If you do not receive weekly envelopes and would like them mailed to you, please use the cut out that is in the bulletin and indicate that you wish to receive them on a regular basis. Usually it takes about two weeks for your request to be completed.

MAINTENANCE COLLECTION

We thank you for your support of our parish project to maintain our parish facilities. If you would like to help, please use a maintenance envelope where you obtain the bulletin.

CEREAL BOX TOP COUPONS—Drop them off in the Church lobby drop-off box and we will use them to buy things for the students in our regional school.

USED CELL PHONES—We thank everyone for giving us their old cell phones. We forward them to a convent that recycles them and uses the proceeds for the poor.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS—You can check online for any updates at <http://calendar.yahoo.com/stmreled>.

**St. Thomas More Parish Social Ministry
OUTREACH**



“Give us this day our daily bread”

Our current needs include:

Pancake Mix**

Syrup**

Boxed Milk**

Jelly**

Canned Tomatoes (28 oz)**

Paper Towels**

Bread

Pasta

Spaghetti

Tomato Sauce

Tuna

Macaroni & Cheese

Canned Fruit**

Peanut Butter (smaller jars)**

Rice**

Canned Vegetables**

Apple Juice**

Coffee (1 pound cans/bags)

Tea Bags

Mustard/Ketchup

Soup (18-22 oz)

Shampoo

Toothpaste

****We are especially in need of these items**

Our neighbors continue to need food. Please help if you can!

Non-perishable foods may be left in the bins at the entrance to the Narthex. **Please check the Expiration date before donating.**

We are always grateful for your generosity!

Outreach is now open Monday and Thursday 10 AM to 1 PM

Phone: 631-234-3149

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our school supply drive. Your generosity made it possible for us to help more than 25 families and almost 70 children with supplies for the new school year!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

On September 27, the Church celebrates the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, who knew that "God had sent him to bring good news to the poor."

Together with your gifts, the members the Society of St. Vincent de Paul continue his work and mission in our parish.

August was a very busy time for your conference with several calls from people facing eviction. Our funds are low, and your generosity is our only resource.

Please consider making a donation to "SVdP, St. Thomas More Conference."

***PRAYING FOR THE SICK
— Adding a name Request —***

**PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING TO
THE PARISH LISTING OF THOSE WHO
ARE ILL:**

Name of person (s) who is (are) ill:
Relationship to the person who is ill:

Person making the Request:
TODAY'S DATE:

*(Please place in collection basket or drop off
at Church Office)*

CHURCH MINISTRIES

**THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A
LITURGICAL MINISTER OR WANT TO
SHARE YOUR TALENTS?**

Please complete the following form:
I would like to volunteer in the following parish ministry:

- () Altar Server () Hospitality
() Usher () Greeter
() RCIA () Liturgy with Children
() Lector () Eucharistic Minister
() Consolation Minister () Landscaping/
Planting
() Rosary Altar Society () Pre-Cana
() Caring for Altar Plants () FOCCUS

() Adult Lending Library () Banner Committee

Name::

Address:

Phone:

Please return to the Rectory for processing.

***REGISTRATION and/or
ENVELOPE REQUEST***

NAME(s):

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

E-MAIL:

() I/we would like to register in the parish.

() Please send contribution envelopes.

() I am already registered in the parish but do not receive contribution envelopes. I would like to receive them.

() Other _____

(Please return in collection or return to Church Office)

Please return to the Rectory for further processing.

St Thomas More

Religious Education News

We are in the process of registering new and returning students in Religious Education. If you have or know of a child in grades 1-8 who would like to be enrolled in the Religious Education Program this year, please contact us at 631 234-0397 or reled@stmli.org and we will be glad to assist you.

Because of the pandemic Religious Education will look different this year. Beginning the second week of September small classes will meet outside. Catechists and children will wear masks and maintain the correct social distance. We will continue outdoor classes as long as it is safe to do so and the weather permits. After that we will switch to online learning.



We anticipate that we will be able to celebrate First Communion and Confirmation later next spring or early summer as we did this past July when we celebrated the sacraments in smaller groups following Diocesan guidelines.

Please pray for the children, their families and catechists as they continue on their journey of faith.



Saint Pius X Residence for Senior Priests

“No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people.” – Pope Francis

Dear Friends:

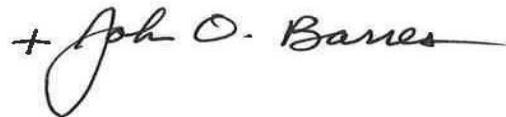
As we continue to work together to deal with the devastating effects of COVID– 19, we want to thank you for your commitment to St. Pius X Enriched Living Facility. Because of your support we were able to keep our priests, with special needs who reside there, safe and protected.

St. Pius X Enriched Living Facility meets challenges like this every day by ensuring that our senior priests are being cared for in a setting that fosters their spiritual lives, nurtures their physical and mental well-being, and guarantees that they can continue to live with dignity while accessing a wide array of social and spiritual opportunities.

Their many years of service helped lay the foundation of our own Catholic faith. These priests helped to build and renovate parishes; they evangelized across our Island and have nurtured many ministries vital to the life of our faith community today.

“Retired priests continue to serve the church, just in a different way,” shared Msgr. Costa, Rector of St. Pius X. Msgr. Ryan, a resident of St. Pius echoed those thoughts, saying, *“I may not live among my former parishioners, but I haven’t forgotten them, and I think most any pastor will say the same.”*

You also have our deepest thanks for considering a gift in support of our retired priests residing at St. Pius X and for the loving care you have provided to these dedicated priests. May I ask that that you remember all our priests in your prayers as you are remembered in ours.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ John O. Barres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Sincerely in Christ,
Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

The Youth Ministry ZONE



**You are invited to our
Mini-Golf Kick Off!
All High Schoolers are
Welcome!**

Come out for a Day of Fun

Sunday, September 27th @ 1:00pm

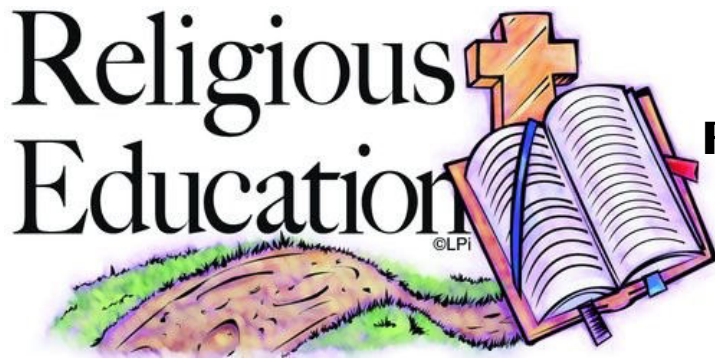
St Thomas More Church Parking Lot

**Our Youth Ministry will meet on
Sundays from 1pm to 2:30pm
throughout the year alternating weeks
one week in person
followed by a
Virtual meeting.**



Event COVID Policies:

- 1. Social distancing will be enforced at all times.*
- 2. Masks will be required at all times*
- 3. Hand sanitizer will be provided.*



St Thomas More
Religious Education Registration
2020/2021 School Year
— Sharing the Spirit of Love —

Registration
information



For families with a child entering First Grade or are new to the parish—
Please call 631-234-0397 so we may mail you the forms for registration.

It is required that we have your child's baptism certificate on file
if they were baptized in another parish.

We will mail the re-registration materials home to families whose children
are already in our program.

Online registration is available to families who are already in the program

Just follow this link

<https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/4843>