



Catholic Church Community of

# St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge, NY 11788-4221

November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent



#### Parish Mission

*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.*

#### Statement:

Contact Numbers		
Rectory	Religious Ed	Outreach
631-234-5551	631-234-0397	631-234-3149
FAX 631-234-6412	FAX 631-234-1199	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](https://StThomasMore29.flocknote.com)

## ***Masses for this coming week***

November 29, 2020  
 First Sunday of Advent  
 Isaiah 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7  
 Psalm: 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-10  
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
 Mark 13: 33-37

**Saturday, November 28**

*(Anticipated Mass for Sunday)*

5pm Elaine Hahn by *Chris & Andrew Paino*

**Sunday, November 29—First Sunday of Advent**

9:30am Elaine Vita by *Amy, Richard & Brendan Hughes*

12:00pm Donald Leun by *Genevieve Leun;*  
 Peter Romano by *Yolanda Schweers*

**Monday, November 30—St. Andrew**

Judy Granville by *the Granville family*

**Tuesday, December 1**

9am Peter Romano by *Lottie & Chet Kalenty*

**Wednesday, December 2**

9am Peter Romano by *Gerard & Joan Smith*

**Thursday, December 3—St. Francis Xavier**

9am Linda Nicholls by *Christopher Klos*

**Friday, December 4—St. John Damascene**

**First Friday**

9am Peter Romano by *Nana Dowse & Maria Rotolico*

**Saturday, December 5—First Saturday**

9am Peter Romano by *Barbara Mickelson*

*(Anticipated Mass for Sunday)*

5pm Rose Marie Amoruso by *the Recce family;*

John Booth by *the Lovell family;*

Peter Romano by *Marsha Augustyn*

**Sunday, December 6—Second Sunday of Advent**

9:30am Nereida Roskos by *the Sandbichler family*

12:00pm Lisa Codispoti by *Betty Ann & Joe*

*Codispoti;*

Rita Trapani by *the Itzla family*

## ***Growing through the Sunday Scriptures***

December 6, 2020  
 Second Sunday of Advent  
 Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11  
 Psalm: 85: 9-10, 11-12, 13-14  
 2 Peter 3:8-14  
 Mark 1: 1-8

A reading from the Gospel of Mark:

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:  
*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;  
 he will prepare your way.*

*A voice of one crying out in the desert:  
 "Prepare the way of the Lord,  
 make straight his paths."*

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him

and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey.

And this is what he proclaimed:

"One mightier than I is coming after me.

I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.

I have baptized you with water;

he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

*He will baptize  
 you with the  
 Holy Spirit  
 and with  
 fire.*



Luke 3:16

## **FR. ANTONY'S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

**This Sunday we begin the Liturgical New Year.** We get rid of the old lector workbooks of 2020 and begin the new lector workbooks of 2021. Today, when I threw out the old book in the garbage, a thought flashed through my mind like lightning-- “Dear God may all that we are going through 2020 go to the garbage and please turn for us a new leaf of freshness, health, peace, and prosperity in the new book of 2021.”

**As we begin the New Liturgical Year with the first week of Advent,** a happy mood can spring in our mind at the thought of Christmas being just four weeks away. But as everything becomes so strange and uncertain these days, we may be skeptical and cynical of what this Christmas is going to be.

**Today's Gospel begins with “Be watchful! Be alert!** You do not know when the time will come.” If we hear these words from the experience of anger and depression of this pandemic time, they will sound dreary, gloomy and cheerless in our ears making us wait for the worse yet to happen. But Jesus provides us a background which will interpret these words of “Be watchful! Be alert” in an encouraging mood of being hopeful for a prosperous and healthy tomorrow.

**The Gospel portrays how the master has left his house** in charge of his servants, each with his/her own task. The master gave his servants the power to keep the household safe and sound. Thus the words “Be watchful! Be alert!” are a call to invigorate our responsibility and our invested inner-power to accomplish it. More than any time in the past, NOW we are expected to employ more responsibly all our power to keep the household together so that nothing can harm or rob us.

**Being a servant to each other, being co-operative with each other** and being fraternal to each other are the needs of the hour. It is not the time to be gloomy and dreary, and consequently, mourn and loathe our “misfortune”. It is the time to rise up to realize our stewardship for each other and for “LIFE” in general. It is the hour to be alert, awake and be aware that the master of the house has invested enough power and enthusiasm in us to run our family, community, nation and the world with mutual confidence in each other for a healthy and peaceful tomorrow.

**During Advent as we light the Advent Candle,** let us illuminate our hearts with the light of God's hope and grace. We will add a candle to the wreath every week for the next four weeks. Let the increase of light fill our heart and homes with more hope and faith. May God strengthen us every day. We encourage you to light the Advent Candles with your family at your homes at dinner time. Please pray when you light the First Candle during this first week.



**“We believe in you O Lord. We know that you can help us to love and respect each other more.**

**You are our Light, the light that overcomes darkness.**

**Come Lord Jesus. Amen”**

With love and prayers,

Fr. Antony

## ADVENT – Time of Hope

A moment to become God's active power

A Tool to make your day prayerful...



This year's Advent is 25 days. I prepared this reflection on every day's Mass Readings as a Prayer Tool. It may take a minute to read it but it will prepare you to expect something big in God's measure to happen in your heart at the end of the 25 days of Advent, on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> the eve of Christmas. We are God's image and we await God's visit, something wonderful in our hearts and homes at the Birth of His Son Jesus Christ.

**Nov. 29 Sunday:** “Be watchful! Be Alert!” (Mark 13:33) During Advent these words carry a different connotation. They are not a warning to expect something negative, but a very positive reminder to not miss the happy event. Advent is the time leading us to CHRISTMAS, the birth of the Lord among us, as one of us, sharing with us in order to transform all that we suffer into Divine blessings. Let us pay attention to events and persons around us. Everything is God's channel of coming to us. Every person and event is worthy of bringing God's blessing to each of us.



**Nov. 30 Monday:** Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:19) Andrew was a fisher man. Jesus saw in him a talent to fish people for Jesus. What we do as our work, Jesus elevates into a mission. Likewise, Jesus can turn our words into His powerful message, our labor into service, our wishes into His blessings, our strivings into moments of rising to new life, grace, mercy and forgiveness. All that we need is to follow Jesus as Andrew did.



**Dec. 1 Tuesday:** “Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them.” (Isaiah 11:6). This image from Prophet Isaiah depicts the kind of world under God's reign. Jesus invites us in today's Gospel to experience and live this kind of world if we only have the heart and mind of a child. “(God has) hidden these things from the wise and the learned (but has revealed) them to the childlike.” Luke 10:21).

Lord make me a child to experience and express your world.





**Dec. 2 Wednesday:** “They all ate and were satisfied.” Matthew 15:37. Today’s Gospel is the story of Jesus multiplying the food of His disciples (seven loaves and a few fish) to feed over 4000 hungry people. Satisfaction or contentment is not in how much we have but in how much we can share. The more we share the more satisfied we become. We have to sweat and suffer more to multiply. But those who share in the name of God will always have enough and more with which to be content. As today’s story ends “They all ate and were satisfied. They picked up the fragments left over—seven baskets full.”

**Dec. 3 Thursday:** “The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled” (Plutarch). Prayer is not expressing oneself to God in mere words, for then it would be like a castle built on sand which would not withstand wind or rain. Praying is allowing God to be the active power to become like a castle built on a rock to withstand any catastrophe. Let us pray to become God’s power.



**Dec. 4 Friday:** In Today’s Gospel Jesus asks the blind person, “Do you believe that I can do this?” (Matthew 9:28). His question reveals that God needs our consent and cooperation (our faith in Him) to heal our blindness. When we wish to be blind, no one, not even God can open our eyes. Seeing is our wish and will, our choice and option. When we say like the blind men ‘Yes, Lord,’ Jesus would not only open our eyes but also give His power to see in the way Jesus would see.

**Dec. 5 Saturday:** “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.” (Matthew 9:37-38). These words of Jesus express how He looks at us, others and everything in the world. According to Him, humans and their world are the abundant harvest, ripened and ready. If only we train ourselves to have the mind of Jesus, we would see the harvest of love, mercy, kindness etc. that can be harvested in us and around us. The world need not be the harvest of division, hatred, war and killing. What kind of harvest-workers are we? Jesus asks us to pray for the master of the harvest to send out laborers for HIS HARVEST. We are God’s Harvest and its laborers.



**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY**

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

**Calendar Club Winners**

**Congratulations!**

Here are the winners from November 22-28, 2020

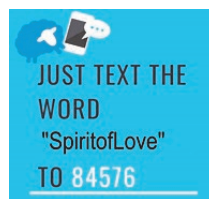
11/22/2020	961 \$50	Marti & John White
11/23/2020	261 \$25	Cathy Manzella
11/24/2020	475 \$25	Brian & Judy O'Connor
11/25/2020	359 \$25	Donna Fortmeyer
11/26/2020	190 \$50	John Egan <b>(Thanksgiving Day)</b>
11/27/2020	631 \$25	Ralph Giambruno
11/28/2020	792 \$25	Ellen & Don Cleary



Would you like to receive a daily spiritual reflection or updates of what's happening in our Parish?

See below or go to

**StThomasMore29.flocknote.com**



**Courtesy Announcements:**

*First Notice:*

*Second Notice:*

**CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL  
2020**

as of November 17, 2020

Our Parish Goal	\$70,400.00
Pledges to date	\$37,282.00
Percentage of Goal	52.96%



## SUPPORT COLLECTION

Collection of **November 29**

*(Figure not available when bulletin went to print—  
Early deadline on account of Thanksgiving)*

Envelope users: Please enter the amount of your donation in the space provided on the envelope. This

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](http://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

will greatly help us when counting the collection and for recording your contribution.

## SOCIAL MEDIA & EMAIL

### Websites

[www.stmli.org](http://www.stmli.org)

<https://stmlyouth.wixsite.com/stmlyouthhauppauge>

### Facebook

[https://](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasMoreHauppauge/)

[www.facebook.comStThomasMoreHauppauge/](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasMoreHauppauge/)

### Instagram

- stm\_church
- stmreligious
- stm\_yg

### Email

Rectory: [rectory@stmli.org](mailto:rectory@stmli.org)

Mary Ellen Carroll: [mecarroll@optonline.net](mailto:mecarroll@optonline.net)

Outreach: [outreach@stmli.org](mailto:outreach@stmli.org)

Youth Ministry [youthminister@stmli.org](mailto:youthminister@stmli.org)

Altar Servers Ministry: [altarservers@stmli.org](mailto:altarservers@stmli.org)

Personal Prayer [SpiritualOrientations.com](http://SpiritualOrientations.com)

To contact a member of the Pastoral Council use the following

Barbara & Joe Fratamico at [BJFRAT@optonline.net](mailto: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 December 14, 2020 at 2:30 pm in Walden Hall.

The book for discussion will be **The Jew Store** by Stella Suberman—Facilitator Marie Bracco.

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.

## Rite of Christian 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.



### Focus on Religious Freedom

[www.cffor.org](http://www.cffor.org)

#### From the Pilgrims to the Founders: Building a Nation for Religious Freedom, Life and Liberty

"Of the many influences that shaped the American concept of liberty, the first and most formative was faith," wrote author Matthew Spalding<sup>(1)</sup>

"Indeed, America was the first country in all of history that was deliberately formed to protect and promote religious freedom. Our founders rightly noted that people don't give people freedom - God does," wrote columnist Rebecca Hagelin<sup>(2)</sup>

The freedoms we enjoy in America today originated in Judeo-Christian ideals that date back to the Pilgrims in 1620, the Puritans who followed them in 1630, and were the foundation for the Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776 and signed by the Founding Fathers.

Two years after the first Thanksgiving, Gov. William Bradford made an official proclamation for a second day of Thanksgiving in 1623, to thank God for their abundant harvest and for "freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience."<sup>(3)</sup>

Aboard the *Arabella* in 1630, in route to Massachusetts Bay, Puritan leader and lawyer John Winthrop wrote the lengthy document, *A Model of Christian Charity*, that became a model for future constitutional documents in the colonies and beyond. It read: "We are a Company, professing ourselves members of Christ, ... we shall find that the God of Israel is among us, when ten of us shall be able to resist a thousand of our enemies, when He shall make us a praise and glory ..." <sup>(4)</sup>

*(We Still Hold These Truths: Rediscovering Our Principles* by M. Spalding(1); [focusonthefamily.com](http://focusonthefamily.com), 6/30/15(2); [americanthinker.com](http://americanthinker.com), 11/28/19(3); [winthropsociety.com](http://winthropsociety.com)(4)

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#### Happening Now: The Attack on God in Modern America

The two essential pillars that serve as stabilizing

factors in any society, faith and family, are under attack during these tumultuous times.

Amid the Covid-19 crisis, in Nevada, casinos are open but churches must remain closed. In California, the governor told churches their congregants can no longer sing worship songs, even while wearing protective masks. In Portland, Oregon, flags as well as Bibles are burned in the streets. In many cities and states, vandals are targeting churches and religious statues.

"Do not be under the illusion that these protests and riots are anything but an attempt to dismantle all of Western Civilization and upend centuries of tradition and freedom of religion," wrote Journalist Miles Cheong. <sup>(1)</sup>

([dailysignal.com](http://dailysignal.com), 8/6/20; [townhall.com](http://townhall.com), 8/6/20(1); [newsweek.com](http://newsweek.com), 8/5/20; [freedomwire.com](http://freedomwire.com), 4/15/20)

**“Whenever the pillars of Christianity shall be overthrown, our present republican forms of government - and all blessings which flow from them - must fall with them.”**

**Jedediah Morse 1799**

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### Employment Services Section— St. Thomas More Bulletin

We are restarting the Employment Services section in the weekly bulletin. If your business or your employer would like to be included in the available job postings that we will be listing please send an email to

**John White at: [jmtwhite@optonline.net](mailto:jmtwhite@optonline.net)**

Please include the position title, the location of the job, and contact information (either yours or the employer's).

Thank-you in advance

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# - Mass Times -

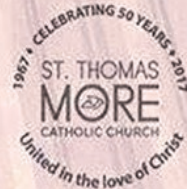
## Saturdays

5 pm in the church  
(live streamed as well)

## Sundays

\*9:30 am parking lot\*

12 pm in the church



\* Weather permitting.



## PRAY FOR THE SICK

Jackie Aloï, Pamela Brosnan, Kathy Capuano, Rosie Casillas, Paul Connors, Veronica Corvasce, Michael Fiorentino, Richard Fiorentino, Thomas Giglio, John Gilligan, Grace Harold, Catherine Healy, Matthew Inga, Kevin Kenney, Phyllis Markowitz, Jean Marsala Kieffner, Christine Miller, Patricia Miller, Sharon Mills, Rich Nixon, Mary Ann O’Gara, Al Pankus, Robert McGurrin, Melissa Mock, Ellen Murphy, Maura Reddy, Rosalie Rocchio, Janet Rodriguez, Mel Smith, Jerry Smith, John Spadaro, Peggy Stepanek, Jose Talavera, Marie Tripoli, Chase Turano, Andrew J. Valentine, Andrew M. Valentine, Rosalind Warmuth, Diane Weisz, Janet Weil, Julia Westbrook.

*This listing will expire on March 31, 2021.*



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](http://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

Howard Spegman, Khalil Al-Hihi, 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](http://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**

***THANKSGIVING IS QUICKLY APPROACHING AND OUTREACH IS COLLECTING FOOD FOR OUR THANKSGIVING BASKETS.***

***DUE TO THE CAUTIONS WE NEED TO TAKE WITH THE PANDEMIC WE ARE ASKING FOR DONATIONS OF \$25 GIFT CARDS FROM LOCAL SUPERMARKETS/WALMART/TARGET IN PLACE OF TURKEYS.***

***CASH DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AND GREATLY APPRECIATED!***

***Please reach out to Parish Outreach if you are, or know of someone in need of support.***

**Outreach is now open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday**

**10 AM to 2 PM**

**Phone: 631-234-3149**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

As we begin Advent we are called to "Be watchful and Be alert" as we stand in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives.

Your gift to SVdP will help our neighbors in need celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas.

Thank You

## CALENDAR CLUB 2021

I/We would like to join St. Thomas More's Calendar Club for 2021.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:

PHONE:( )

EMAIL:

( ) One Number for \$25  
OR

( ) FIVE Numbers for \$100

**(If your return your form & payment by Sunday, December 20, 2020, you will receive a total of SIX numbers for \$100).**

( ) I would like to give Calendar Club numbers as Gifts. I am attaching a separate page indicating the names and addresses of individuals who will receive gifts.

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$**

*(Please return form to Rectory Office or place in Collection Basket).*

## ***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 the Rectory)*

## **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)*

## **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/<br>Planting |
| ( ) Rosary Altar Society    | ( ) Pre-Cana                 |
| ( ) Caring for Altar Plants | ( ) FOCCUS                   |

( ) Adult Lending Library      ( ) Banner Committee

Name::

Address:

Phone:

# St. Thomas More R.C. Church

Fiscal Report - September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020

Fiscal Report - September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2019

## Where It Came From

	<u>This Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Regular Collection	\$ 595,219	\$ 607,908
Fund Raising	\$ 4,677	\$ 37,169
Parish Programs	\$ 142,222	\$ 182,469
Auxiliary Revenue	\$ 81,127	\$ 92,788
Collection For Others	\$ 22,109	\$ 31,569
Non-Operating Income	\$ 103,207	\$ 6,384
Extraordinary Income	\$ 105,896	\$ 389,592
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,054,457</b>	<b>\$ 1,347,879</b>

## Where It Went

Salaries	\$ 300,624	\$ 323,403
Fringe Benefits	\$ 103,798	\$ 99,353
Parish Programs	\$ 46,466	\$ 75,101
Regional School (Holy Family)	\$ 38,566	\$ -0-
Printing & Office	\$ 45,049	\$ 66,430
Auxiliary Expenditures	\$ 88,291	\$ 102,278
Rectory/Household	\$ 2,836	\$ 2,824
Collection For Others	\$ 22,109	\$ 31,569
Bldgs. Util & Maintenance	\$ 176,214	\$ 140,484
Non-Operating Capital Expenses	\$ 235,681	\$ 99,110
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,059,634</b>	<b>\$ 940,552</b>
<b>Net Difference</b>	<b>\$ (5,177)</b>	<b>\$ 407,327</b>

## Summation:

As we all know 2020 has presented us with unique challenges not the least of which has been the economic impact imposed on us by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The above statement indicates an erosion of economic posture of over \$400,000. This is attributed, in part, to the payoff of our recent Capital Campaign thanks to your collective generosity. However, please note the decrease in collections, parish sponsored fund raising, & other revenue we have earned in past years and the negative impact that COVID-19 caused.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions caused by its impact on people resulted in the elimination of several revenue streams. Specifically, the Parish Feast weekend and our annual Golf Outing which in the past provided upwards of \$30,000 to our Parish. The other major loss was a significant reduction of regular income from collections at Mass. Again, due to the virus we suspended “in Person” attendance for nearly three months. When we resumed Mass, the number of Masses were reduced and attendance was restricted by State imposed mandates.

This is a good time to re-evaluate the manner in which you provide support to our Parish. The FAITH DIRECT program provides an automatic method for your donation to STM. Unfortunately, only 10% of the Parish give in this manner. The monthly donations managed by FAITH DIRECT insure that your donation gets to our Parish regardless of weather, pandemics, vacations, etc. Please consider giving through FAITH DIRECT.....PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY OFFICE TO ENROLL OR TO HAVE YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED. You can also enroll on their website <https://membership.faithdirect.net/NY227>.

Seniors: please consider donating by utilizing the qualified charitable distribution when exercising your annual Required Minimum Distribution as a way avoiding “out of pocket” weekly or monthly expense.

May our Lord continue to bless us all with His gifts and keep us in faith and love as one Parish family.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

**Submitted by Financial Committee, approved by Father Antony Asir**

### **Detail of Where It Comes From**

<b>Regular Collections</b>	\$ 595,219
- Collections for Sunday, Holy Days, Christmas, and Easter	
<b>Fund Raising</b>	\$ 4,677
- Includes rebates from Catholic Ministries Appeal, Gains and losses from fund-raising events such as Feast Weekend, Calendar Club, Raffle, Golf Outing	
<b>Parish Programs</b>	\$ 142,222
- Funds received from Religious Education fees, Parish Social Ministry, Youth Ministry	
<b>Auxiliary Revenue</b>	\$ 81,127
- Includes Maintenance & Repair Fund; wedding, funeral, and baptism offerings; LI Catholic, donations from societies, bulletin commission	
<b>Collection for Others</b>	\$ 22,109
- All special non-parish collections and special disaster collections that are collected and then forwarded in their entirety	
<b>Non-Operating Revenue</b>	\$ 103,207
- Gains and losses from Investment Fund; unrealized gains and losses from investments	
<b>Extraordinary Revenue</b>	\$ 105,896
- Targeted & restricted donations (including Capital Campaign)	

### **Detail of Where It Went**

<b>Salaries</b>	\$ 300,624
- Clergy, church office staff (1 f/t + 2 p/t days. Religious Ed staff (2 + 1 p/t), music ministry (1 + 1 p/t), youth ministry (1 p/t), plant operations (2 p/t)	
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>	\$ 103,798
- Includes health & dental insurance, FICA taxes, pension, workers' comp insurance	
<b>Parish Programs</b>	\$ 46,466
- Includes religious education non-employee expenses, social ministry non-employee expenses, youth ministry non-employee expenses, adult education (like Bible Study), consolation ministry, RCIA, stewardship, parish retreat	
<b>Regional School</b>	\$ 38,566
- Churches without their own parochial school contribute 15% of regular collections to the Regional School. Our regional school was Holy Family in Commack. Payments were made before the closure.	
<b>Printing &amp; Office</b>	\$ 45,049
- Includes postage, printing supplies, phone, payroll fees, computer fees, equipment	
<b>Auxiliary Expenditures</b>	\$ 88,291
- Includes liturgical expenses, choir expenses, diocesan assessment, staff gifts	
<b>Rectory Household</b>	\$ 2,836
- Includes rectory food, household cleaning supplies, newspapers, items needed to maintain a household	
<b>Collection for Others</b>	\$ 22,109
- All monies collected on behalf of others are forwarded entirely to their respective entities (i.e. Missions, Rice Bowl, Peter's Pence)	
<b>Buildings - Utilities &amp; Maintenance</b>	\$ 176,214
- Includes National Grid, LIPA, heating oil, water, contracted maintenance services, ordinary repairs & maintenance, maintenance supplies, minor rectory renovations, insurance premiums	
<b>Non-Operating Capital Expenses</b>	\$ 235,681
- Includes improvements from the Capital Campaign	

## **Background Screening Update**

### **The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People:**

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (The Charter) promulgated by the Bishops of the United States in 2002 outlines specific practices and guidelines providing standards of safety in parishes and dioceses throughout the United States. As directed in The Charter, the Diocese of Rockville Centre requires all employees, clergy, and volunteers to complete three requirements within thirty days of employment or volunteering:

1. Attend **Protecting God's Children Program (Virtus)**
2. Sign the Codes of Conduct;
3. Complete a background screen application. The Diocese requires all those who remain in active ministry be rescreened at 5 yr. intervals. volunteers/employees.

### **A Word on Background Screening of Volunteers:**

The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People (OFPCYP) has streamlined the volunteer application process enabling volunteers to complete the three safe environment requirements in one step. Individuals wishing to volunteer in a parish or school:

1. Register to attend a Protecting God's Children class and create a Virtus account on the Virtus website: [www.Virtus.org](http://www.Virtus.org)
2. Electronically acknowledge the Diocesan Code of Conduct- provided during the Virtus registration process.
3. Follow the instructions to complete the Sterling Volunteers background screening application background offered during the Virtus registration process.

### **Active Volunteers:**

If you are active in a parish ministry, have already attended Virtus and have been background screened you may be at – or beyond- the **5yr. rescreening requirement**. If this is the case, you will receive an email from **Sterling Volunteers** asking you to complete the background screening application on-line. You may access the background screening application by following the prompt in the email or logging into your Virtus account. **Please be aware-this is not a scam nor has your e-mail been hacked.** The OFPCYP has been working with your parish to update the Safe Environment records and noted it is time for you to be rescreened. You may also be prompted to electronically resign the Code of Conduct when you log into your Virtus account.

### **Edit Your Virtus Account:**

To access your Virtus account: [www.Virtus.org](http://www.Virtus.org) You will need your Username and Password. If you need assistance, please contact Virtus: 1-888-847-8870 or [helpdesk@virtus.org](mailto:helpdesk@virtus.org). Once in your account, review your account information-particularly your e-mail address. If your account requires updating, please hit the TOOLBOX tab at the top of the screen. On the left side of your screen in the green column click "Update My Account" You will be able to make the necessary changes-please remember to hit the SAVE button at the bottom of the screen.

Questions or concerns: [mmcmahon@drvc.org](mailto:mmcmahon@drvc.org); [amendoza-cantos@drvc.org](mailto:amendoza-cantos@drvc.org); [jwinter@drvc.org](mailto:jwinter@drvc.org);  
[pditomasso@drvc.org](mailto:pditomasso@drvc.org)

Thank you to all who continue to serve in a ministry during these extremely challenging days.



**Boy Scout Troop 343**  
**Annual Christmas Wreath Sale**

**After all masses**  
**November 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>**



**Wreaths, Roping, Grave Blankets and Crosses**



# ST. THOMAS MORE



Poinsettia 7" pot—\$17.00

Red \_\_\_\_\_

"Jingle Bells" Poinsettia  
(leaves are red, white and green)

"Jingle Bells" Poinsettia 6 ½" pots \$12.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Red Poinsettia 6 ½" pots \$12.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Order: Items** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cost** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please place your orders by November 30, 2020

Plants will be ready for pick-up the weekend of December 5 & 6, 2020.

Charity, Unity, Fraternity, Patriotism



St. Thomas More/Francis S. Midura Council 6062

For Catholic gentlemen ,18 and older, in our wonderful parish of St. Thomas More! Looking for a way to be more active in your parish and your community through service and charitable acts that have a positive impact? Become a member of the [St. Thomas More/ Francis S. Midura Council 6062!](#) Becoming one of the nearly 200 proud members of the council has never been easier! Let us show you how easy it is to sign up and learn about who we are.

We will be speaking at the masses in the coming weeks. Any questions you have we can answer for you. If you would like to register online, please use the link provided below:

<https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-the-knights.html>

We look forward to meeting and speaking with you!

Ernie LaFontaine, Grand Knight

