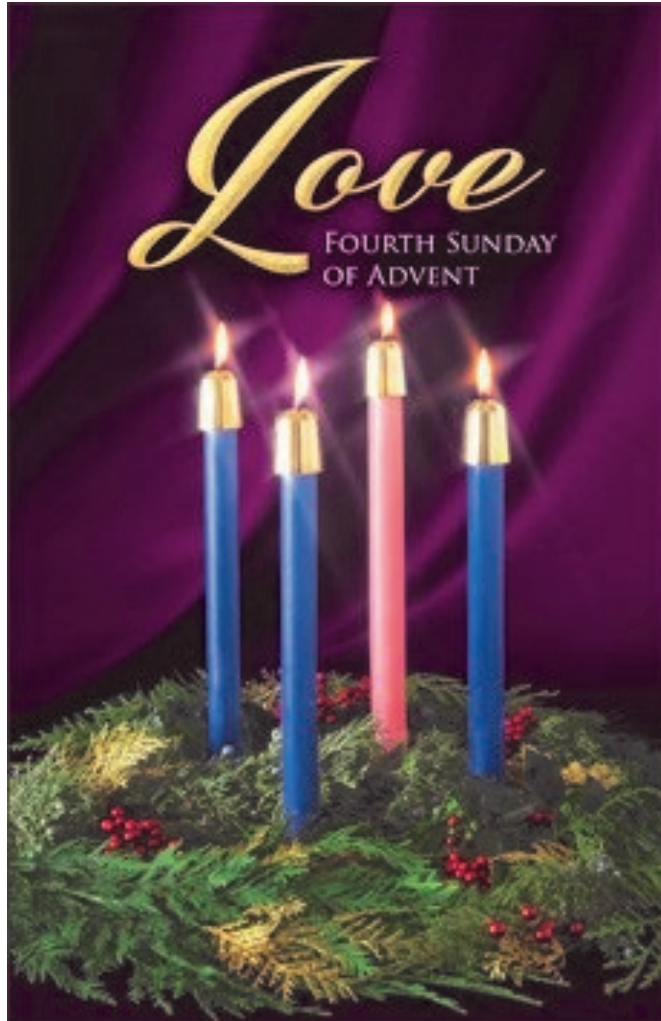




Catholic Church Community of
St. Thomas More
 115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge, NY 11788-4221

December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent



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	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

Masses for this coming week

December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Micah 5: 1-4a
Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

Saturday, December 18

(Anticipated Mass for Sunday)

5pm—Rob Mohlenbrok *by Lois Mohlenbrok &
family*

Sunday, December 19—Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00am—Conrad Vogel *by Amy, Richie & Brendan
Hughes*
9:30am George & Geraldine Heller *by Pat & Frank
Lewis*
11:30am—Eric Reistetter *by the family*

Monday, December 20

9am—Anthony Mirro *by Chris & Andrew Paino*

Tuesday, December 21—St. Peter Canisius

9am—Robert Dacey *by his family*

Wednesday, December 22

9am—Patricia A. Surico *by Maureen & Stephen
Dickson*

Thursday, December 23—St. John of Kanty

9 am—Elaine Moccia *by Willy and Jerry Ferrara*

Friday, December 24—Christmas Eve

9am—No Mass

3:30pm—Christmas Flower Donors and
Christmas Mass Remembrance

5:30pm—Christmas Flower Donors and
Christmas Mass Remembrance

10:30pm—Christmas Flower Donors and
Christmas Mass Remembrance

Saturday, December 25—The Nativity of the Lord

8:00am—Christmas Flower Donors and
Christmas Mass Remembrance

9:30am—Christmas Flower Donors and
Christmas Mass Remembrance

11:30am— Christmas Flower Donors and
Christmas Mass Remembrance

Growing through the Sunday Scriptures

December 26, 2021
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
1 Samuel 1:20-212, 24-28
Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10\
1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
Luke 2:41-52

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke:

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom.

After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him,

“Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.”

And he said to them,

“Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”

But they did not understand what he said to them.

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

Focus Questions:

1. What role does your family play in your faith?
2. When was a time when you had to let go?
3. Did you have a “holy” family that you admired? How did they inspire you?

Family and children’s question

Talk about the significant events in your family’s life this past year.

FR. ANTONY'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

One night a lady came home from her weekly prayer meeting and found she was being robbed. She shouted out a quote from New Testament, "Acts 2:38: 'Repent & be baptized and your sins will be forgiven.'" The robber quickly gave up and the lady rang the police. While handcuffing the criminal, a policeman asked, "Gee mate, you gave up pretty easily. How come you gave up so quickly?" The robber said, "She screamed she had an axe and two 38's! (Acts 2:38)" It is all about how one grasps what one hears that makes one take a decision to act or react. The robber heard the scripture quote as names of the guns. That made him abandon his robbery and to freeze.

The Gospel on the fourth Sunday of Advent narrates the meeting of the two ladies—Mary and Elizabeth). Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, the precursor of Jesus, both believed God's message which they heard and thus conceived their children. Today's Gospel explains how they became to each other the sign of God working in them. Mary went to visit Elizabeth with the awareness that the Angel Gabriel had given Elizabeth's pregnancy as a sign to her to believe that her pregnancy with Jesus, the Son of God is from God, by the Holy Spirit of God. (Luke 1:34-37)



When the two pregnant women met the children from their womb recognized each other and both women feel their children's recognition in their hearts and wombs. The Gospel reports, "Mary entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. (Luke 1: 40-42)

Mary got God's message through the Angel Gabriel and got confirmation of it through Elizabeth. Likewise, an angel of God revealed to Elizabeth's husband Zachariah, that his wife would conceive in her late age and she got confirmation of it by the leap of the child in her womb at the arrival of Mary. They became signs of confirmation to each other of what God did individually to them

How does God work with humans? God works with us in the same way even today as He did with Mary and Elizabeth. God begins to reveal to us individually in our privacy and always confirms His message through human persons and events. Once we allow God to work with us, He will put us to work together with others who also allowed God to work with them. God starts with individuals and continues with all of us that we may all together become the work of God. What we become would be what God intends for the good of all. Let us pray and find what God reveals to us and cooperate with each other to achieve God's will with God's power.



With love and prayers,
Fr. Antony



Rectory Phone: 631-234-5551

Pastor

Rev. Antony Asir *ext. 14*

Deacons

Deacon Matthew T.J. Surico
Deacon Edward R. Vigneaux
Deacon Robert D. Weisz

Rectory Staff

Linda Carlino *ext. 11*
Celine D'Souza *ext. 10*
Theresa Recce *ext. 18*

Religious Education—631-234-0397

Coordinator

Mary Ellen Carroll *ext. 26*

Religious Education Staff

Joanne Anelli *ext. 21*
Linda Ronning *ext. 25*

SOCIAL MEDIA & EMAIL

Websites

www.stmli.org

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

Facebook

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

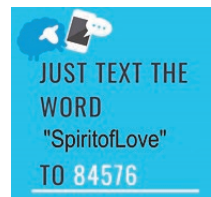
[www.facebook.comStThomasMoreHauppauge/](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasMoreHauppauge/)

Instagram

stm_church
stmreligioused
stm_yg

Email

Rectory: rectory@stmli.org
Mary Ellen Carroll: mecarroll@optonline.net
Outreach: outreach@stmli.org
Youth Ministry: youthgroup@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



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

**See above or go to
StThomasMore29.flocknote.com**

The Young At Heart enjoying their annual Christmas luncheon on December 8th, 2021



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Ethan Bernstein	Alex Lombardi
Jessie Bernstein	Andrew Lombardi
Joseph Blaugrund	Lt. Clint Lorance
Anthony Broncatello	Scott Lovelock
John Burk	Andrew Lynch
Collin Busto	Troy A. Maida,
David Chester	William Maley
John Chester	Joseph Marziotto Jr.
Nicholas Chester	Thomas Migliara
Theresa Chester	Tim Morris
Collin J. Crean	Ryan Murphy
Eddie Cullum	John Nachtman
Eric Cullum	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	
John Karies	
Michael Knipper	
Dylan Kowalski	
Thomas LaFemina	

**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 is on January 10, 2022 at 2:30 pm. The book for discussion will be:

A Patron Saint of Liars by Ann Patchett

Facilitator: Maria Rotolico

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

SUPPORT COLLECTION

Collection of **December 12, 2021** **\$5,170.00**

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

**CATHOLIC MINISTRIES
APPEAL 2021**

as of December 13, 2021

Our Parish Goal	\$68,000.00
Pledges to date	\$37,437.00
Percentage of Goal	55.05%

RCIA

Shutel Paquiyauri-Gonzales has committed himself to becoming a follower of Jesus Christ during the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Rite of Welcome. In the Spirit of Love, which is Saint Thomas More, please continue to welcome Shutel as he continues his journey to the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.





Catholics for Freedom of Religion

www.cffor.org

Focus on Religious Freedom

1st amendment to the Constitution: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;

Asserting our right to welcome the Christ Child openly and joyfully to hearts and homes.

Inspiring Christmas Quotes from Inspiring Christians

“Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.” - Isaiah 7:14

“Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.” - C.S. Lewis

“He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands He formed. He cried in a manger in wordless infancy, He the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.” - St. Augustine

“I truly believe that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas spirit, we can bring joy and happiness and peace to this world.”
- Norman Vincent Peale

“The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God.” - C.S. Lewis

“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God’s own love and concern.” - Mother Teresa

“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.”
- St. Augustine

“We consider Christmas as the encounter, the great encounter, the historical encounter, the decisive Encounter, between God and mankind. He who has faith knows this truly; let him rejoice.” – Pope Paul VI

“Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace.” - Pope Francis

“The simple shepherds heard the voice of an Angel and found their Lamb; the wise men saw the light of a star and found their wisdom.” - Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory of the one and only Son, who came

from the Father, full of grace and truth.” - John 1:14

Praying for peace and joy in your heart and home as you celebrate the coming of the Christ Child.

From the volunteers at Catholics for Freedom of Religion who work to help preserve religious freedom for you , your children and grandchildren.

Calendar Club Winners

Congratulations!

Here are the winners for Dec. 5—11, 2021

12/5/2021	\$50	190	Tracy & Chris Rossi
12/6/2021	\$25	568	Lorraine Toomey
12/7/2021	\$25	1091	Christine Falcone
12/8/2021	\$50	834	Genovese Boys—Feast of the Immaculate Conception
12/9/2021	\$25	673	Rosemarie & Bob Nick
12/10/2021	\$25	403	Marie & Ross Bracco
12/11/2021	\$25	980	Maureen Fallona

Courtesy Announcement

1st Announcement

John Spadaro is in need of a kidney; will you be the one to help him? John has overcome many hurdles while awaiting a donor. He goes to dialysis three times a week and gets up everyday believing a donation will happen for him. John is a loving husband, father and grandfather. For further information call 631-444-1656, mention John's name. Our family will be forever grateful.

2nd Announcement

Catholics Returning Home—St. Lawrence the Martyr R.C. Church, corner of Main Street and Handsome Ave., Sayville, NY will conduct a Series called *Catholics Returning Home* on five consecutive Monday evenings at 7:30pm in the Church beginning January 10th. These sessions are for Catholics who have left the active practice of their faith and who are seeking answers to questions about returning to the Church. There will be informal sharing and an update of the Catholic faith.

For more details, call Maria Davidson at (631) 580-3160.



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Marsha Augustyn, Ronnie Borgese, Pamela Brosnan, Paul Connors, Nick Conzo, Joey Cullum, Veronica Corvasce, Marianne Deszcz, Michael Fiorentino, Chet Kalenty, Kevin Kenney, Joe Madonia, Jean Marsala Kieffner, Eleanor Kingsley, Manuel (Mal) Malavet, Robert McGurrin, Barbara Mickelson, Patricia Miller, Ellen Murphy, Philip Pandolfi, Al Pankus, Richard Rantz, Helen Reichert, Blair Rocchio, Joyce Rose, Barbra Mary Sexton, John Spadaro, Andrew J. Valentine, Andrew M. Valentine, Rosalind Warmuth, Janet Weil, Edward Zebrowski,

This listing will expire on March 31, 2022.



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. 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



Altar Bread and Wine Memorial

To arrange the memorial for the Altar Bread and Wine, please call the Rectory at 631-234-5551.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

Pauline Takach, Kathy Capuano, 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.

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



Our current needs include:

Boxed Milk**

Bread

Canned Fruit and Vegetables**

Canned Tomatoes (28 oz)**

Cereal**

Macaroni & Cheese

Pancake Mix**

Pasta/Spaghetti

Peanut butter (smaller jars)**

Rice**

Soup (18-22 oz)**

Spaghetti Sauce

Syrup**

Mustard/Ketchup**

Mayonnaise**

Coffee (1 pound cans/bags)**

Tuna

Apple and other juice**

Toothpaste

Shampoo**

Bar soap**

Toilet Paper**

Laundry Detergent (small)

Paper Towels**

****we especially need these items**

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

Outreach is open Monday through Thursday 10 AM to 2 PM

Phone: 631-234-3149

Save the date: The Catholic Health Services Mobile Health Van will be at St. Thomas More on Tuesday, January 4th to administer flu vaccines to anyone in need

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines there.

Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, "Light" has shone, bringing real, lasting and deep joy to the hearts of the needy who live in dark places in our neighborhood.

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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Server | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Usher | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCIA | <input type="checkbox"/> Liturgy with Children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lector | <input type="checkbox"/> Eucharistic Minister |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consolation Ministry | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rosary Altar Society | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Cana |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caring for Altar Plants | <input type="checkbox"/> FOCCUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping/Planting | <input type="checkbox"/> Choir |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banner Committee | |

Name::

Address:

Phone:

Please return to the Rectory for processing.

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)

CALENDAR CLUB 2022

I (We) would like to join St. Thomas More's Calendar Club for 2022.

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

PHONE:

ONE number for \$25 OR

FIVE numbers for \$100

(If you return your form and payment by Sunday, December 12, 2021, 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 MOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

(Please return form to Rectory Office or place in Collection Basket marking envelope Calendar Club 2022).

St. Thomas More Employment Services

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

NEW – H & M: Positions available in Lake Grove, Garden City, and Riverhead.

Go to: <https://career.hm.com>

UPDATE - BJ's: **Local** jobs available. Go to: BJs.com/careers

UPDATE - Suffolk Transportation Services: Drivers, Driver Assistants and Mechanic jobs available.

Go to: <http://applynow.suffolkbus.com/jobs>

Stop & Shop (East Northport): Looking for deli, cashiers, dairy and overnight shifts.

Go to <https://stopandshop.reidsystems.com> or call: 631-462-5555

Whole Foods (Commack): 15% Store discounts! Apply on line.

Go to: joinwholefoods.com

Dick's Sporting Goods: Hiring Now. Go to: www.dicks.com/jobs

White Castle: Multiple Positions. Apply on line at: <https://careers.whitecastle.com>

Walmart: Adding 100+ P/T and F/T positions in new Yaphank Super Store

Go to: www.careers.walmart.com

Orsted (Wind Farm Operator): Project Managers and Technicians needed. Port Jefferson location. Go to:

<https://us.orsted.com/careers/vacancies#>

Chipotle: Apply on line at: Jobs.Chipotle.com (Restaurant Name: Motor Parkway; Restaurant Number: 1634)

Auto Zone: Positions still available. Go to www.autozone.com/careers

Candlelight Diner: All positions available. Call 631-499-3918 or stop in.

Maryhaven: Many positions at many locations.

Go to: <https://maryhavenjobs.chsli.org/search-jobs>

PC Richards: Many positions available. Go to: <https://careers.pcrichard.com/>

Still Looking – Brendel's Bagels: Deli Clerks, Catering, Kitchen Staff Drivers. P/T & F/T.

Call: 631-656-6828

Still Looking - Dunkin' Donuts/Subway: F/T and P/T Flexible positions available.

Call: 718-820-6112.

Still Looking - The Paramount Theater (Huntington): Many positions available. Sign on bonuses.

Send resume to: kevin@paramountny.com

Western Suffolk BOCES: Special Education Aides. Go to: wsboces.org/team

United Parcel Service (UPS): Drivers & warehouse personnel needed. Farmingville.

Go to: www.upsjobs.com

Target: Multiple positions at all LI locations. Text "JOBS" to 827438

Community Care Home Health Services: HHAs and PCAs. Call: 516-965-2809

Northwell Health: Many health and non-health care positions available.

Go to: <https://jobs.northwell.edu/job-search-results/>

Safelite Auto Glass: Multiple Long Island jobs open, including the Hauppauge location. Go to:

www.safelite.com/careers

Hauppauge Palace Diner: Wait Staff – Hostesses – Line Cooks.

Go to their Facebook page or stop in person.

Catholic Charities of Long Island: Many F/T, P/T and hourly positions available.

Go to: www.catholiccharities.cc/careers

Starbucks: Positions available. Go to: www.starbucks.com/careers

Catholic Health Services: Many positions available - health care and non-health care positions.

Go to: <https://jobs.chsli.org/>

GEICO Insurance: Service and sales positions available.

Go to: <https://careers.geico.com/us/en>

Nassau County: Many P/T and F/T positions available.

Go to: www.nassaucountyny.gov/3341/Employment

Catholic Health Services: Many positions available - health care and non-health care positions.

Go to:

<https://jobs.chsli.org/>

GEICO Insurance: Service and sales positions available.

Go to: <https://careers.geico.com/us/en>

Nassau County: Many P/T and F/T positions available.

Go to: www.nassaucountyny.gov/3341/Employment

Suffolk County: Many P/T and F/T positions available.

Go to: www.suffolkcountyny.gov/employment or call: 631-853-6540

Panera: Positions available. Go to: <https://careers.panerabread.com/global/en/search-results>

7-Eleven: Local positions available. Go to: <https://careers.7-eleven.com/careers/home>

Shop Rite: Hauppauge and other Long Island positions available.

Go to: <https://shop.shoprite.com/careers>

Stony Brook Medical Center: Multiple health and non-health job opportunities available.

Go to: <https://www.stonybrookmedicine.edu/careers>

Long Island Community Hospital (Patchogue): Multiple positions available.

Go to: <https://licommunityhospital.org/careers/>

CVS Health: Many local positions available. Go to: <https://jobs.cvshealth.com/>

United States Postal Service (USPS): Many career opportunities available.

Go to: www.usps.com/careers

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





DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2021

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

On December 1, 2019, Our Holy Father Pope Francis issued *Admirabile Signum*, an Apostolic Letter *On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene*. It is a beautiful reflection that I draw on every Christmas season and one which I urge you to read and pray.¹

In it, the Holy Father reminds us that the simple act of arranging our Nativity set links us to the past, opens questions for the present, and orients the future. It is an act that has an existential impact.

Pope Francis says: “Setting up the Christmas creche in our homes helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem. Naturally, the Gospels remain our source for understanding and reflecting on the event. At the same time, its portrayal in the creche helps us to imagine the scene. It touches our hearts and makes us enter into salvation history as contemporaries of an event that is living and real in a broad gamut of historical and cultural contexts.”

The beautiful scene of parents and grandparents setting up creches together with children and grandchildren is a powerful multi-dimensional experience of catechesis – the teaching and passing on of our Catholic faith and our belief in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ to the next generation.

Parents and grandparents have that wisdom of teaching children and grandchildren how to assemble and situate the creche, but at the same time, they also have the catechetical and relational sensitivity to let children and grandchildren make choices about where the shepherds, the sheep, the three kings are to be placed.

Children are encouraged to place the Holy Family – Mary, Joseph and the Prince of Peace – with their own hands into the center of the creche. How often children then enjoy, sometimes on their own and sometimes with brothers and sisters and family members, moving and interacting with the figurines. How often their biblical imaginations and souls are set on fire with God’s love as they play with their family Nativity sets.

The Holy Father continues: “I would like now to reflect on the various elements of the nativity scene in order to appreciate their deeper meaning. First, there is the background of a starry sky wrapped in the darkness and silence of night. We represent this not only out of fidelity to the Gospel accounts, but also for its symbolic value. We can think of all those times in our lives when we have experienced the darkness of night. Yet even then, God does not abandon us, but is there to answer our crucial questions about the

¹ https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20191201_admirabile-signum.html

meaning of life. Who am I? Where do I come from? Why was I born at this time in history? Why do I love? Why do I suffer? Why will I die? It was to answer these questions that God became man. His closeness brings light where there is darkness and shows the way to those dwelling in the shadow of suffering (cf. Luke 1:79).”

We can drift through life dodging and repressing these critical existential questions of life. We can live blindly and superficially.

Our Catholic belief in the unity of the Nativity and the Crucifixion, the Creche and the Cross, Bethlehem and Golgotha keeps our lives centered and focused on the things that really count in our short time on earth – the Last Things (Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell) and a belief in the Eternal Joy of Heaven, our true home.

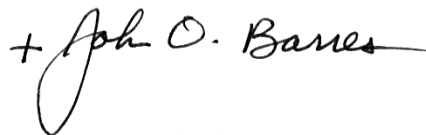
The Holy Father continues to press the existential questions: “The presence of the poor and the lowly in the nativity scene remind us that God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask him to draw near to them. Jesus, ‘gentle and humble in heart’ (Matthew 11:29), was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognize what is essential and to act accordingly. The nativity scene clearly teaches that we cannot let ourselves be fooled by wealth and fleeting promises of happiness. We see Herod’s palace in the background, closed and deaf to the tidings of joy. By being born in a manger, God himself launches the only true revolution that can give hope and dignity to the disinherited and the outcast: the revolution of love, the revolution of tenderness. From the manger, Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalized.”

May our prayer, silent contemplation and creative family catechesis of the Nativity scene help us to be instruments of a Gospel revolution of humility, charity, mercy, tenderness, and solidarity with the sick, the poor and the suffering.

May our commitment to “holiness and mission” bless our contemplative Synodal listening and our Eucharistic Revival and Evangelization.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ John O. Barres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

Mask Requirement



In accordance with the New York State Governor's directive, from Monday, December 13, 2021, until Saturday, January 15, 2022,

parishioners who attend Masses and other parish events / activities are **required to wear masks.**

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve – *Friday, December 24th*

3:30 P.M.

5:30 P.M.

10:30 P.M. (*Carols begin at 10:00 P.M.*)

Christmas Day – *Saturday, December 25th*

8:00 A.M.

9:30 A.M.

11:30 A.M.

There will be NO 5:00 P.M. Mass today

Feast of the Holy Family – *Sunday, December 26th*

8:00 A.M.

9:30 A.M.

11:30 A.M.





Rejoice Sunday —
Lighting of the Third
Advent Candle and the
Christmas Tree plus
Santa's Visit





DIocese OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

OFFICE OF WORSHIP

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Pastors

FROM: Suzanne Lynn for the Office of Worship

DATE: December 9, 2021

RE: RCIA – Important Dates

Please see below for important RCIA – related news.

Preparations are beginning for the Diocesan wide celebrations of the Rite of Election. The **Rite of Election**, for all those who need full initiation into the Catholic faith, will take place as follows:

Group	Location	Celebrant
Nassau County Parishes Sunday, March 6, 2022 2:30 pm	St. Agnes Cathedral Rockville Centre	Bishop John Barres
Suffolk County Parishes Sunday, March 6, 2022 3:00 p.m.	Church of St. Anne Brentwood	To Be Assigned

Information will be mailed to every Pastor in early January with additional instructions and forms that will need to be returned to the Office of Worship, c/o Suzanne Lynn. All details will be included in that mailing.

Also, the **Call to Continuing Conversion**, for all those who need to complete their initiation into the Catholic faith, should take place in the parishes where the candidates reside. The rite should take place on Sunday, March 13, 2022 within the context of a parish Mass that day. For the convenience of pastors and priests who will perform the ritual, copies of the ritual will be distributed to parishes in early March.

Kindly address any inquiries to Suzanne Lynn at 516-744-6850 or slynn@drvc.org.

Last Sunday's Youth Group

8th graders attended and we helped our Parish Outreach organize Christmas Toys!



December 12th, 2021