

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

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent



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 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 11:18-24

Growing through the Sunday Scriptures

December 25, 2022
The Nativity of the Lord
Isaiah 9:1-6
Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
Timothy 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14

Saturday, December 17

(Anticipated Mass for Sunday)

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

Sunday, December 18—Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am—Brian Higgins *by Howard & Lee Nordin;*

Frank DiChristina by The Torquato Family

9:30am—Kiem T. Le *by Joe & Betty Ann*

Codispoti;

Marie Utter by Willy & Jerry Ferrara

11:30am—Kenny Rantz *by Vivian & Michael Jacobs;*

Richard Heller by Pat & Frank Lewis

Monday, December 19

9am—Joseph Luca Sr. *by Nella Luca*

Tuesday, December 20

9am—Eric Joseph Reisteter *by The Family*

Wednesday, December 21—St. Peter Canisius

9am—Robert Dacey *by his family*

Thursday, December 22

9am—Charles Stepanek *by Peggy Stepanek & Family*

Friday, December 23—St. John of Kanty

9am—Mary & Guerin Bernard *by Lew Bernard*

Saturday, December 24

(Anticipated Mass for Sunday)

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

Sunday, December 25—The Nativity of the Lord

8am—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

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke:

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Focus Questions:

- 1) Where have you experienced the light of Christ in your life?
- 2) “And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us,” what do you feel today when you reflect on those words?
- 3) What Christmas tradition do you cherish most?

Family and children’s question:

This week listen to some Christmas carols, like O Holy Night, and Hark the Herald Angels Sing. Talk about the miracle of God sending his Son to us so we would know how much he loves us.

FR. ANTONY'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

There are two prisoners shackled to the wall of a deep, dark dungeon, side by side a few feet above the floor of the dungeon. There is only one small window high above their heads, may be thirty or forty feet up. They are immobile and alone, pinned inexorably to the wall. One prisoner turns to the other and whispers, "Here is my plan to escape." Life provides lots of signs. They are like the windows throwing light on its dark side inviting us and promising us of our liberation from our dark imprisonment.

The fourth week of Advent invites us to focus on the signs which will lead us towards the fulness and the bright side of life. In the first reading King Ahaz does not know if his kingdom will be saved from the brewing attacks of Kings of Israel and Syria. So, God voluntarily comes forward to give a sign to King Ahaz through the prophet Isaiah. His own young wife would become the sign, to confirm his faith in the Lord who would save his kingdom. The given sign was, "the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."

God's signs are not merely a proof of what God would or can do but how God would work with us and through us towards building God's kingdom. Signs are not proofs of a single act to solve a problem of life but an invitation to grow towards fulness of life while God, working with us and we, cooperating with God.

The Gospel describes how Joseph was trying to solve the problem of his engaged spouse Mary carrying a child. But God made him live a big role of being a father of that Child. God explained to Joseph in his dream, in order to make him understand that the pregnancy of his engaged spouse was not a problem but a symbolical invitation to involve Joseph to live his part in God's plan of salvation for God's people.

Mary's pregnancy is the fulfilment of what once happened in the past. During the time of Ahaz (first reading) virgin's pregnancy was a sign for God saving people. Now the same sign of a virgin's pregnancy stands as a sign of God's saving work through the child to be born whom Joseph would name Emmanuel, (the name means God is among us)

The signs of God are many and can be found around us. They are both indicators of where God is and invitations for us to join God's work of bringing God's ruling and saving among us. Signs are not merely a convenient guarantee of God's ready help for us when we need it. They are new openings in which God is ready to walk with us towards a new future of God's peace, prosperity, justice, and love. Every time we celebrate the event of Christmas, the birth of Jesus among us we are called to remember that God is inviting us today in our own life situation to take part in God's plan of saving us. Let us be part of the Christmas event today. Let us find out and live our role in the story of Jesus' birth among us.

You can be a sign this Christmas inviting your family members to attend the worship on Christmas Day. Since it is the feast of God coming to us in human conditions, as parents and Grandparents you can make an open and kind invitation to your family members to attend any of the masses either on the eve or day of Christmas before you all would join for the family celebrations of Christmas. Be a sign; be an invitation. You are the God-sent sign and God-sent invitation to your beloved ones.

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

Dorothy Castaldo *ext. 11*
 Theresa Recce *ext. 18*
 Alex White *ext. 10*

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://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

CALENDAR CLUB WINNERS

Here are the winners from December 18h to December 24th, 2022.

Congratulations!

12/18/2022	466	Fred & Jen Hegner
12/19/2022	62	Loretta Catalano
12/20/2022	553	Karen Porretto
12/21/2022	338	Scott Burgos
12/22/2022	965	Pamela & Christopher Collins
12/23/2022	742	Anthony & Agnes Gandolfo
12/27/2022	98	Al Pankus

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL 2022

as of **December 5, 2022**

Our Parish Goal	\$69,300.00
Pledges to date	\$33,518.00
Percentage of Goal	48.37%



1st Announcement

Bridget McBrien & Nicholas Circharo

Starting November 1st
Rectory Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

If in need of the immediate attention of a priest during non-office hours please call **(631) 234-5551** and choose **option 4**

All other calls received after office hours will be returned the next business day.



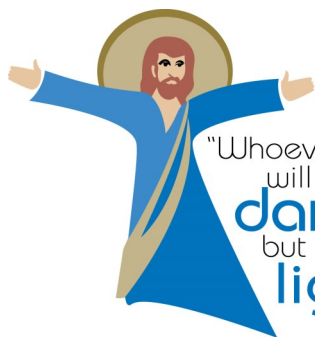
Young At Heart
Next Meeting
Friday, January 13th
New Members Welcome
Questions contact Anna @ 631-234-0714



Altar Bread and Wine Memorial

To arrange the memorial for the Altar Bread and Wine, please call the Rectory at 631-234-5551. Donation for the week is \$50. A card will be sent to the family.

Have you been called by Name?



"Whoever follows me
will **never** walk in
darkness,
but will have the
light of life."

JOHN 8 : 12

Come and Follow Jesus and his teachings!! If you are missing any or all of your Sacraments or are converting from another religion, come on an incredible journey of faith, love and community which is the Catholic Church. **Contact RCIA** by calling the rectory at 631-234-5551.

Courtesy Announcements

Maria Regina Residence at 1725 Brentwood Road, Brentwood, is a 188-bed skilled Nursing Facility currently under the care of the Sisters of St. Joseph. **Currently seeking compassionate, dedicated men and women who are willing to volunteer** their time and talent in various service areas (usually for one or two mornings or afternoons/week.) Current priority needs: transporting residents in their wheelchairs within the building, serving as visitors or Eucharistic Ministers, helping in the gift shop and more. **Is the Holy Spirit calling YOU?** For information please leave your **contact information** for **Sister Mary Sheppard, CSJ** at 631-299-3288. She will respond the next office day.



ST. PATRICK SCHOOL
Tours and Registration
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29TH
Tours: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Please sign up ahead of time on our website: www.spssmith.org
"Visit St. Patrick School" - "Join us for a Personal Tour"

a dozen reasons
to choose Catholic Schools



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

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



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 9, 2023** at **2:30 p.m.** Our book for discussion will be: **Mercy Street** by *Jennifer Haigh*.
Facilitator: Joan Shea

For further info. and/or to register, call Marilyn at 631-234-5805 or Joan at 631-234-1739

SUPPORT COLLECTION

Collection of December 11, 2022 \$6,275.00

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

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
3:30PM
5:30PM
10:30PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
8AM
9:30AM
11:30AM



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Marsha Augustyn, Caiola Family, John Caliendo, Linda Cook, Nick Conzo, Joey Cullum, Catherine DeSola, Marianne Deszcz, Michael Fiorentino, Richard Fiorentino, Barbara Foberg, Patty Golembiewski, Geri Grincavitch, Richard Gutmann, M.L. Harvey, Linda Heller, Jean Herlihy, Monica Kanischak, Joseph Lagomarsine, Frank Macchio, Ellen Murphy, Al Pankus, Donald Parisi, Aodan Reddy, Helen Reichert, Lorraine Rouse, Greg Sandbichler, Margi Schwarting, John Spadaro, Lorraine White, Mark Zlatniski.

Please see the cutout in the bulletin and kindly submit your requests.

*The previous listing expired on September 30, 2022
The new listing will expire on March 31, 2023*



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



PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

Donald Marsh, George J. Reuter, Timothy Druckenmiller, Thomas Holt, Mary Lou Wilk, Frank Petrocelli, Salvatore Maggio, Eleanor Thompson, 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>.

IMPORTANT DRVC INFORMATION

Information regarding a new deadline to file proofs of claims for victims of sexual abuse who were over 18 or older when the alleged conduct occurred and the forms to use can be found at the Diocese’s bankruptcy website and scrolling down the page. The website can be found at: <https://dm.epiq11.com/drvc>

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

“It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.”

~Mother Teresa



Monday – Thursday 10AM to 2 PM
631-234-3149
Outreach@stmilil.org

We are currently collecting food for our Christmas dinner distribution. Donations of yams, vegetables, stuffing, gravy, fruit and desserts are greatly appreciated!

As always we are grateful for any donations! Most helpful are bottles/cans/packages for families of 2-4. Larger bottles/cans are difficult to distribute.

Please reach out to Parish Outreach if you are, or know of someone in need of support. Keep our elderly neighbors in mind and let us know if there is anyone you would like us to reach out to.

Please do not leave any other items such as clothing or household items in the donation bins. Clothing can be placed in the St. Vincent de Paul box at the back right corner of the parking lot.

Please contact Outreach regarding other donations.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today’s Gospel, we hear that Jesus will be named Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” The mystery of the birth of Jesus is supremely a mystery of love. May each Christmas find us more and more like him; more humble, more holy, more happy and more full of God.

Your gifts to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul helped those who are poor and suffering to find Emmanuel and they also come to know that “God is with us.”

To contact us, call 631-648-2760 or e-mail svdp.stm@aol.com



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 2023

I/we would like to join St. Thomas More's Calendar Club for 2023

NAME(s)

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

- ONE number for \$25 **OR**
 FIVE numbers for \$100

(If you return your form and payment by Sunday, December, 18, 2022, 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 marking envelope CALENDAR CLUB 2023).

St. Thomas More Employment Services

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

NEW – Target: Holiday employment. Multiple locations.

Go to: www.target.com/careers

Eastern Suffolk Boces: School Psychologists, Registered Nurses, Speech and Language Teachers.

Send resume to <https://esboces.recruitfront.com/>

Shoreham-Wading River CSD: F/T & P/T positions: Cooks, Monitors, Substitute Guards

Send resume to: bheyward@swr.k12.ny.us

Dollar Tree: Text DOLLAR to 58046 or go to: DollarTree.com/careers

Stony Brook Medical Center: Clinical and support staff positions available.

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

Northwell Health: Many positions still available at multiple locations.

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

FedEx Office: Local positions available.

Go to: <https://careers.fedex.com/office/jobs>

Newsday: Newspaper Delivery Opportunities. See ad in Sunday's paper for locations and contact information.

Newsday: Multiple positions available.

Go to: <https://newsday.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/Newsday>

or send an email to: NewsdayHR@Newsday.com

Pet Smart: F/T, P/T, Seasonal.

Go to: <https://careers.petsmart.com/>

Educational Bus Transportation: Drivers Needed. Call: 631-789-2300

Dunkin': Positions available at many locations.

Go to: <https://www.dunkindonuts.com/en/careers>

McDonald's: Many **LOCAL** positions available.

Go to: mchire.com or inquire within.

CVS Health: Many local positions available.

Go to: <https://jobs.cvshealth.com/>

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

Go to: www.upsjobs.com

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

Go to: www.catholiccharities.cc/careers

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

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

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

Walmart: Positions available.

Go to: www.careers.walmart.com

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

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

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

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

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

Are You Being Called to Serve as a Deacon?

By virtue of Baptism, we are called to holiness—the lay faithful as well as bishops, priests, and deacons.

But have you felt called to serve in a much deeper and committed way?

If you are a man between the ages of 30 and 59, who feels that you are being called to ordained ministry as a deacon in the Church, you are invited to come for an **Evening of Prayer and Discernment** with other men of faith to discuss and explore that very question.

There is no cost to the evening—just your time and openness.

COME TO ANY ONE OF THESE MEETINGS -

**PREPARED - to LISTEN, to PRAY, to REFLECT,
to DISCERN where God is calling you!**

EVENINGS are being offered conveniently at **THREE LOCATIONS.**

7:00PM, Tuesday, January 10—*St. Joseph Ronkonkoma, 45 Church Street*

7:00PM, Wednesday, January 11—*Maria Regina Seaford, 3945 Jerusalem Avenue*

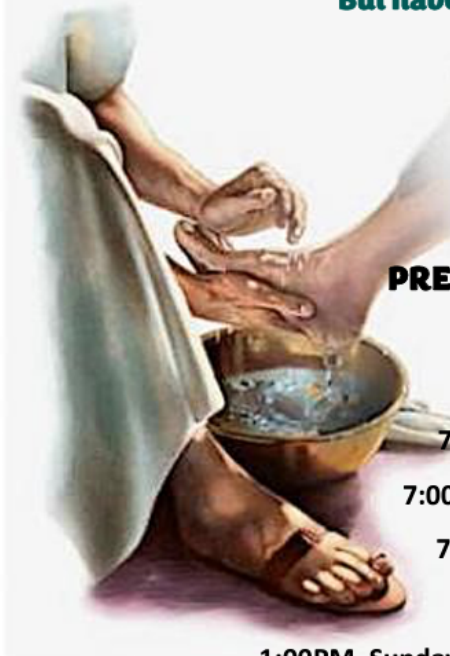
7:00PM, Thursday, January 19—*St. Aidan Williston Park, 505 Willis Avenue*

with an **EARLY WEEKEND OPTION** to be held at

1:00PM, Sunday, January 15 —*St. John the Evangelist Center Moriches, 25 Ocean Avenue*

RSVP by Friday, January 6th, to 631-423-0483 Ext. 179 or by email to diaconateformation@drvc.org

We thank you and look forward to being with you.



After Mass last weekend we asked the 6th and 7th graders to take a picture with signs of the Advent (Christmas) season.



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2022

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

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

In union with our Holy Father Pope Francis, and in a non-judgmental spirit of mercy, humility and charity, I invite everyone who will be present at our Christmas Masses, or watching our Christmas Masses via the Catholic Faith Network or CBS, or not present at all: If your life has been far from the Catholic Mass and the Eucharist, I invite you with Pope Francis to return.

I invite you to experience the power and liberation of Christ's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and to cross the bridge into the full practice of your Catholic Faith through a radical fidelity to the Sunday Mass and an ever-deepening love for the Holy Eucharist.

Perhaps you are not a Catholic and yet have some mysterious attraction to the Catholic Mass and the Eucharist.

You are not alone! Many saints – I think of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the pioneering American Catholic educator and convert – had the same experience and were drawn to enter the Church through their intuitive experience of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist in our parish churches! Be open to the Eucharistic movement of the Holy Spirit in your life!

Our celebration of Christmas 2022 occurs this year as every Catholic diocese, every Catholic parish, every Catholic hospital, university, and institution in the United States is engaged in an evangelizing ***Eucharistic Revival***.

What do we mean by the phrase "Eucharistic Revival" and why is it so important for our celebration of Christmas?

What does a love for the Eucharist and an openness to being a 21st Century Eucharistic missionary have to do with our celebration of Christmas 2022?

Pope Francis points out the relationship between the Birth of Christ and the Holy Eucharist and the Mass. The very word Bethlehem means "house of Bread."

Pope Francis states: "Bethlehem is the turning point that alters the course of history. There God, in the *house of bread*, is born in a *manger*. It is as if he wanted to say: 'Here I am, as your food.' He does not take, but gives us to eat; he does not give us a mere thing, but his very self. In Bethlehem, we discover that God does not take life, but gives it. To us, who from birth are used to taking and eating, Jesus begins to say: 'Take and eat. This is my body.' (Matthew 26:26) The tiny body of the Child of Bethlehem speaks to us of a new way to live our lives: not by devouring and hoarding, but by sharing and giving. God makes himself small so that he can be our food. By feeding on him, the bread of life,

we can be *reborn in love*, and break the spiral of grasping and greed. From the ‘house of bread,’ Jesus brings us back home, so that we can become God’s family, brothers and sisters to our neighbors. Standing before the manger, we understand that the food of life is not material riches but love, not gluttony but charity, not ostentation but simplicity. The Lord knows that we need to be fed daily. That is why he offered himself to us every day of his life: from the manger in Bethlehem to the Upper Room in Jerusalem. Today too, on the altar, he becomes bread broken for us; he knocks at our door, to enter and eat with us (cf. Revelation 3:20). At Christmas, we on earth receive Jesus, the bread from heaven. It is a bread that never grows stale, but enables us even now to have a foretaste of eternal life.”¹

Eucharistic Revival, in the words of Pope St. John Paul II, is a rediscovery of “Eucharistic Amazement” and Eucharistic Devotion.

Eucharistic Revival means that we understand deeply that every Mass has a cosmic significance, and every Mass is celebrated on the Altar of the world – the Altar of Ukraine and every war torn and injustice-ridden area of our world.

Eucharistic Revival is an effective catechesis of the theology and spirituality of the Catholic Mass that moves the hearts, minds, souls and imaginations of the People of God.

Eucharistic Revival in our Catholic schools means the cultivation of a radical fidelity to the Sunday Catholic Mass on the part of our teachers, our staff and our families.

Eucharistic Revival is a rekindling of Pope Benedict XVI’s insight that every period of Church reform and effective Catholic evangelization and mission throughout history can be traced to a rediscovery of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist.²

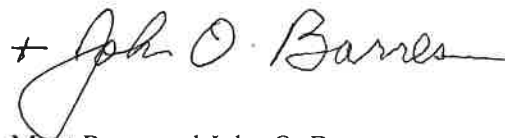
As we celebrate the birth of Christ and his rebirth in our hearts and families at Christmas, we pray for a renewal of our faith in Christ’s Eucharistic presence.

We pray that each of us could be Divine Mercy instruments of bringing many, many people back to a full fidelity to the Eucharist and the Catholic Mass.

As we celebrate Christmas, we are being called to be intentional, compassionate, understanding and listening Eucharistic missionaries.

Merry Christmas to you and your families! May the love of the Christ child and the love of the Holy Family light your remaining steps on earth and light your path to Heaven and Eternal Life.

Sincerely in Christ,

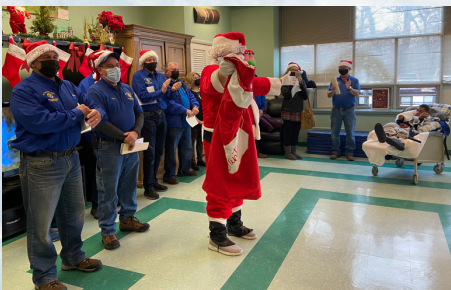
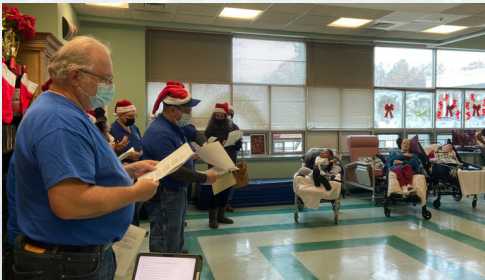
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John O. Barres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning of the first name.

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

¹ Pope Francis Homily for Midnight Mass, Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, December 25, 2018.

² See Pope Benedict XVI’s 2017 Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis* 6: “Every great reform has in some way been linked to the rediscovery of belief in the Lord’s eucharistic presence among his people.”

On Dec. 10th, The Knights of Columbus and Santa Claus went caroling and brought gifts to United Cerebral Palsy!





Santa Claus brought the light of Bethlehem to our mass on Saturday, 12/10. He took photos at the tree lighting celebration after mass where everyone enjoyed food prepared by the Knights of Columbus and Hospitality ministry!



Youth Group- Gaudete Sunday!

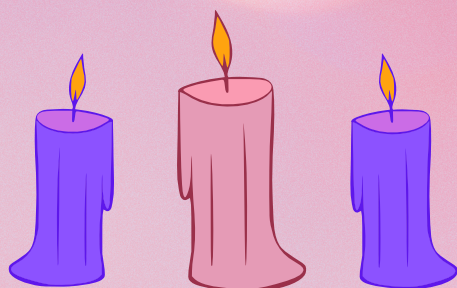
December 11th, 2022



Getting the Outreach donations.



Learning about Gaudete Sunday's readings.



We colored rosaries and prayed a decade!



Bringing the donations to Outreach.



Learning to pray the rosary and Joyful Mysteries.

Upcoming Meetings

Sundays 12:30-2:30

Dec. 18th- Xmas

Jan. 8th- New Year



DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

YOU'RE INVITED TO TRY ALPHA AT STM

EXPLORE LIFE...FAITH...MEANING

ALPHA: an opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a friendly, open, and informal environment.

ALPHA: go on a personal journey which can lead to a personal encounter with Jesus.

ALPHA: ask questions, share ideas, build friendships, and experience the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- gather once a week for a delicious dinner and dessert. And IT'S FREE!
- watch a short video featuring inspiring stories and interviews about faith
- have a conversation with your group members about questions related to our faith
- take time to take care of your spirit with the gift of **ALPHA**
- bring a friend or make some new ones
- come try the introductory session on January 12th

For more information or to sign up, call (631-234-0397) or email us at alpha2023@stmli.org

ALPHA begins January 12th at 6:30pm

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

Calendar Club 2023

Please fill this form out and return to the Rectory, or put in the basket in an envelope in labeled "Calendar Club 2023".

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Each number is \$25, or five for \$100. Purchase as many as you'd like!

Early Bird Special! Return your form by Sunday, December 11th and you will get six numbers for \$100!

Total amount enclosed: _____

If you are gifting numbers, please record the name(s) and address of those people below.

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

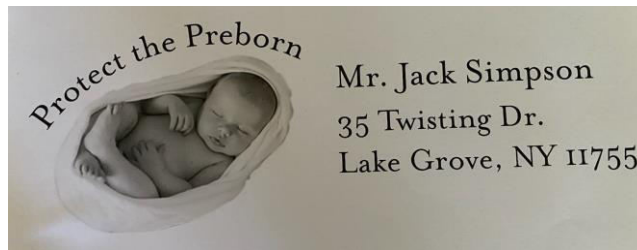
JUNE

~SAVE THE BABIES~

'Protect the Preborn' Personal Address Labels

The Knights of Columbus Father Midura Council of Hauppauge and the Assumption Council of East Islip & Islip Terrace, NY are offering interested pro-life individuals and organizations an opportunity to show concern for human babies by proudly displaying your call to protect the pre-born.

Each sheet contains 30 professionally-printed personalized Self Addresses labels at **\$2** per sheet



Mail completed Order Form to:
Assumption Council K of C, PO Box 9, Islip Terrace, NY 11752
Include a Check payable to: Assumption Council, 5252

-----cut here-----

LABEL ORDER FORM

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY & Write on back if necessary)

First Name(s) _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

State (2-letter) _____ Zip (5) _____

E mail (if you use one) _____

Sheets _____ Cell Phone # _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

