Catholic Church Community of

Sharing the Spirit

St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge NY 11788



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.

First Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 3RD, 2023

Parish Resources

Website:

https://www.stmli.org

Instagram:

@stm_church

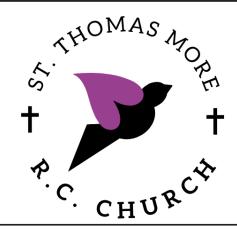
@stm_yg

Facebook:

StThomasMoreChurchHauppauge

Flocknote:

Text SPIRITOFLOVE to 84576



Office Contacts

Rectory:

(631) 234-5551

rectory@stmli.org

Religious Education:

(631) 234-0397

reled@stmli.org

Outreach:

(631) 234-3149

outreach@stmli.org

Masses December 2nd- December 10th, 2023

Saturday, December 2nd:

5pm- Marie Drago by Noelle & Alex White

Sunday, December 3rd: First Sunday of Advent

8am-Robert Boston by Lou & Emilia Savarese

9:30am- MaryAnn Maggio by Kathryn Schook

Robert Pondt by Lou & Emilia Savarese

11:30am- Betty Kovacs by The Stanish Family

Charles A Stepanek by Peggy Stepanek & Family

Monday, December 4th:

9am-Robert Pondt by Marti & John White

Tuesday, December 5th:

9am- Roberto Strollo by Deacon Ed & Laura Vigneaux

Wednesday, December 6th:

9am- Eleanor Shader by The Joel Miller Family

Thursday, December 7th: St Ambrose

9am-Suzanne Calhoun by Arlene & John

7pm- John J Thompson by Mary & Robert Utter

Friday, December 8th: Solemnity: Immaculate Conception

9am- The Deceased of the Vrondis Family by Betty Vrondis

7pm- Charles Struzinski by Eunice Struzinski

Saturday, December 9th:

5pm- Marie Drago by Lorraine Toomey

Sunday, December 10th: Second Sunday of Advent

8am- Patty Gaudio by Kathleen Kaler

9:30am- Lauretta Ragone by Arlene Block

11:30am- Richard Stout by Ellie Stout

Ann B Chiuchiolo by The Beck Family

Mark 1:1-8 (Advent 2)

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."

Focus Questions for 12/10/23

Mark 1:1-8

- 1: Reflect on what actions you decided to take this Advent to prepare for the Lord's coming. How are you doing?
- 2: How does the way you live your life point to the good news of Jesus?
- 3: John the Baptist challenged people to change. Who has filled that role in your life, challenging you to be a better person?

Family & Children's Question:
This week help an older neighbor or family member get ready for Christmas



Readings for This Week

December 3rd, 2023 (Advent 1) Isaiah 63:16b-17,19b, 64:2-7 Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37

Readings for Next Week

December 10th, 2023 (Advent 2) Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11 Psalm 85:9-10,11-12,13-14 2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8

Fr. Antony's Letter

Dear Friends,

A man in a restaurant gently touched the arm of a man putting on an overcoat. "Excuse me," he said, "but do you happen to be Mr. Smith of Newport?"

"No. I'm not!" the man answered impatiently.

"Oh-er-well, you see, I am Mr. Smith of Newport, and that's his overcoat you are putting on."
Unless we stay awake, we may lose our identity either by taking the identity of the other or by losing our own.

This weekend we begin the Season of Advent, the time of preparation to welcome the birth of Jesus in our hearts and home. The readings of the First Sunday of Advent invite us to "Stay Awake! Be watchful! Be alert!"

As Christmas is fast approaching the great temptation is to run after sales and finish wrapping the gifts before December 24th. In this yearly rush we may forget to give quality time to refresh in us why we do what we do at this time of the year. Christmas is not about giving gifts but to realize what makes you give the gift. Advent is the time to experience what makes us choose the specific gifts we give to our family or friends. It is not the purse but something deep in our heart that makes us decide whatever we do and for whomever we do it for. Advent is the season to devote quality time to realizing and experiencing that something deep in our heart.

Let us try to find some quiet time during this busy season every day to recapitulate ourselves. While we plan what to give to others, allotting some quiet time every day for ourselves is to give our own selves back to us. If we don't allow this to happen within us, nothing and no one can make it happen for us. May all that we do be inspired from within us i.e., from our heart. Let's not be overwhelmed by the business and find ourselves tired and tensed or drained out and burnt out. Let not this Advent time be a repetition but a time to refresh our heart, an occasion to renew our relationships.

Advent Candles: As we are going to light an Advent candle each week, may it deepen in us the significance of this time and rightly prepare us to receive the blessings of Christmas, both in our hearts and homes. There are four candles on the Advent wreath. We will light a candle each week and thus increase the light from each candle every week. May the increasing light signify our growing more every day in realizing who we are and how we are getting ready to receive the biggest blessing of Christmas, Jesus among us. Let us 'stay awake' and not lose ourselves in the routine business.

December 8th is the Solemn Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Vigil Mass on 12/7 at 7pm. On 12/8, Masses are at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm.

December 9th is the Christmas Tree Lighting after the 5:00pm Mass. Santa will join us at the Mass and make a special visit in Walden Hall for pictures with us. Food will be available for a nominal price.

With love and prayers, Fr. Antony



His Presence Is Real - Reflections on the Eucharist by Deacon Matt

Non-Catholic Christians & The Eucharist

A question often arises about the Eucharist of our brothers and sisters of the Christian faith who are not Catholic. There is a similar question about our fellow Christians and their participation in the Catholic Mass. This can be a delicate matter.

As Catholics we are committed to the one Church, established by Christ. All of us who were baptized validly (with water and the invocation of the names of the persons of the

Trinity, exactly as in Matthew 28:19) are members of the Church. However, as you will recall from last week's column, there is sadly a division over certain aspects of our faith and Church hierarchy, and this spills over into an understanding of the Eucharist and the Real Presence of Jesus.

As most of us realize, we request our Christian brethren to refrain from partaking in the Eucharist at a Catholic Mass. This is done out of respect for our belief in the Real Presence and our acknowledgment of the differences that exist in our doctrines. We are happy,

Staff

however, to have persons of all faiths, especially fellow Christians, to worship with us at Mass.

There is no restriction on our attendance at services in Christian houses of worship (please note, of course, that this is not a substitute for the obligation to attend Mass each Sunday). However, the Catholic Church forbids us to partake in the Eucharist at these services for exactly the same reason as the prior paragraph. It is disrespectful for us to do so. There is no problem participating in prayers, psalms and hymns that are not contradictory to the Catholic faith.

> Despite these differences in our understanding of the Eucharist, let us continue to commit ourselves to and pray for unity among all Christians, united in the one Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

"Catholic ministers may lawfully administer the sacraments only to catholic members of Christ's faithful, who equally may lawfully receive them only from catholic ministers." -Code of Canon Law, No. 844, Section 1

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Contact me at eucharist@stmli.org.



Parish Information

Contact

Stall	Contact
Pastor Father Antony Asir	pastor@stmli.org
Deacons Deacon Matthew T.J. Surico Deacon Edward Vigneaux Deacon Robert D. Weisz	deacon.matt@stmli.org
Rectory Theresa Recce (sacraments) Dottie Castaldo (finance) Alex White (operations)	theresa@stmli.org finance@stmli.org rectory@stml.org
Religious Education Mary Ellen Carroll, DRE Linda Ronning Joanne Anelli	mecarroll@optonline.net reled@stmli.org
Youth Ministry Noelle LaFontaine	youthgroup@stmli.org
Music Ministry Emilia Savarese, Director	631-724-8820

Ministry	Contact
Parish Outreach Marti White	outreach@stmli.org
Pastoral Council Barbara & Joe Fratamico	bjfrat@optonline.net
Altar Servers Ministry Deacon Matt Surico	altarservers@stmli.org
Eucharistic Ministers Patty Citro	pcitro78@yahoo.com
Lector Ministry Mike Petagna	mpetagna22@gmail.com
Hospitality Ministry Ellie Stout	gram11@optonline.net
Consolation Ministry Eileen Weidig	631-724-2462
OCIA Ann Russo	redaa@aol.com
Young at Heart Anna Beltrani	631-234-0714

Prayers for Our Community

Pray for the Sick

Gregory Bennett
Joey Cullum
Kathryn Douglas
Thomas Dwyer
Barbara Cassetta
Joseph Cassetta
Barbara Foberg
Pat Golembiewski
Linda Heller
William Hoell
Jim Ilardi
Richard Landi
Frank Loporto

Jim Marquette
Ellen Murphy
Matt O'Connell
Al Pankus
Joanne Pelletier
George Pflugel
Nunzio (Steve) Puleio
Rosalie Rocchio
Richard Ronning
Noah Simonetti (2 yrs)
John Spadaro
Lorraine White
John Zuzzolo

*this listing will expire on March 31st, 2024

Pray for Our Military

Please continue to pray for the brave members of our parish family who serve our country:

Troy A. Maida
Connor Hendrickson
Evan Hendrickson
Christopher Sidor
Ryan Smith
Joseph Kirsch
Allen Kirsch

Altar Bread & Wine Memorial



To arrange the memorial for the Altar Bread & Wine, contact the Rectory. Donation for the week is \$50.

Pray for the Deceased

Robert Profige

Kenny Granville

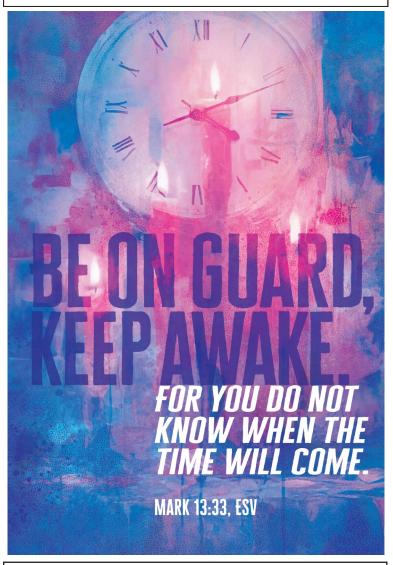
John Gallagher

Dorothea Starr

Blanche Gelo

Marie Madden

We continuously pray for our deceased loved ones.



To submit a prayer request, fill out the card in the Literature Rack. Return it to the rectory, or place it in the collection basket during mass.

We bring all prayers to Him,

We bring all prayers to Him, even those said in silence.

Parish Operations

SUPPORT COLLECTION

Collection from: November 25th & 26th

\$5641

Weekly Goal: \$6700

St. Thomas More Parish needs your support now more than ever!

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.

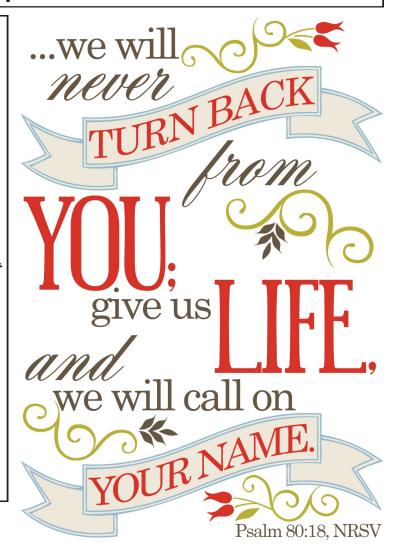
(If you want to receive envelopes, please fill out the form on the literature rack.)

Faith Direct: Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/NY227, or text 'Enroll' to 631-250-8141. More information is available in the literature rack

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.



Calendar Club 2024

Sign ups are now open for 2024! Get your payment in by December 17th to receive 6 numbers for the price of 5!

See the flyer located at the end of the bulletin. Registration is open until the end of January.

JANUARY			Calendar Club Winners		-	MARCH		
Т	W	T	F		s m	т	W	T
3	Ly	5	6	November 27 (\$25): Phyllis Ann Ehrhardt (185)			1	
10	11	12	13	November 28 (\$25): Michele Byrne (1208)	6	F		9
17		19	20	November 29 (\$25): Fran Donato (916)	2 13	74		
24			27		9 20	21		
31				November 30 (\$50): Rita Malavet (816)	6 27		29	30
,	a D D I I			December 1 (\$25): Helen & Charles Beisel (1212	2)		ZUNE	
- "	HPKIL	-	_	December 2 (#25), leasuraline Audine (8)	•		JUNE	-
1	W	- 1	F	December 2 (\$25): Jacqueline Audiino (8)	: M		W	- 1
				December 3 (\$50): Loretta Catalano (676)				7
Le			7	8 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	, 5			

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Parish Social Ministry

"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good"
~Psalm 118

Our <u>cupboards are low</u> and we have had to purchase many items that are typically donated. Even 1 or 2 items are a help.

Our immediate needs...

Beans

Cereal

Canned Vegetables/Fruit

Soup

Ketchup

Oatmeal

Juice/Drink Mixes

Coffee/Tea

We appreciate all of your donations!

Please remember that it is difficult for us to use large cans, bottles, bags of rice, etc. as many of our neighbors do not have the ability to store extra food. Packages for 2-



Please do not leave 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.

Thank you!





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.

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

AN ADVENT OPPORTUNITY

Please see our Advent Calendar flyer for a suggestion on how to celebrate Advent while helping our Outreach program. Each day of Advent there is a suggestion for a food item. After Christmas you can drop your donations off at church or at Outreach!

The volunteers at Outreach give thanks everyday for YOU, our STM family, and the gifts you provide to our neighbors in need. The joy we see on the faces of our neighbors when they receive their Thanksgiving food cannot be described! Thank you, thank you, thank you for your kindness and generosity!

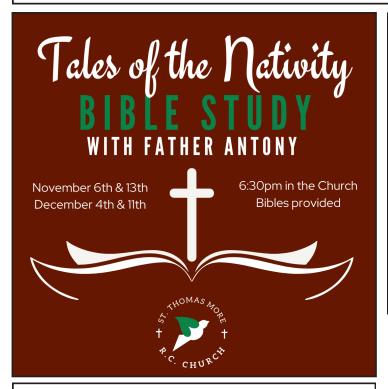


St Vincent de Paul

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

Your gifts to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas.

In Our Parish



Catholic High School Honor Roll

Congratulations to our young parishioners who have achieved the Honor Roll at their schools during this first portion of the year!



Guilianna Corbino Christian Doblan Kayleigh Gavigan Niola Maddalena James Reinhold

Chris Benitez
Sophia Cotgreave
Vincent Dentrone
Lucase DiClemente
Gianna Falcone
Aidan Gunsel
Patrick Keena
Analisa LaMonica
John Lynch
Noelle Meenan



Young at Heart

New Members Always Welcome! Next Meeting: Fri December 8th @ 12:30

December 12th: Christmas Luncheon at Butterfield's (12pm) RSVP to Anna @ 631-234-0714

Children's Christmas Choir Bonus Rehearsals!

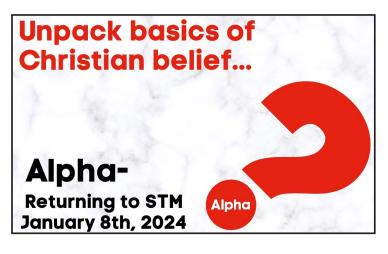
Our children are invited to join the Christmas Choir, singing at 3:30pm on Christmas Eve. See the flyer for more information.

Emilia will be running additional rehearsals after the 9:30 masses on Sundays (only 20 minutes)

Kids (and their parents) who want to sing at Christmas are encouraged to join us. We will learn music for the season.

This is a great opportunity to get involved in the mass and help praise God!





In Our Community

Annual Interfaith Prayer Service

This year's Annual Interfaith Prayer Service in the Hauppauge Community was celebrated on 11/22 at Calvary Lutheran. We thank Pastor Zach Dean from Calvary for hosting this wonderful event, and pray for peace in our community and world.



Pictured: Clergy from St. Thomas More RCC, Calvary Lutheran, Temple Beth Chai, and United Methodist







Happening at St. Thomas More

Coming Up @ STM

Sun Dec 3rd, 12:30pm Youth Group

Mon Dec 4th, 6:30pm Bible Study w/ Fr Antony Session 3

Wed Dec 6th, 7:00pm Knights of Columbus Business Meeting

Thur Dec 7th, 5:30pm Children's Choir Rehearsal

Thur Dec 7th, 7:00pm Vigil Mass: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

> Thur Dec 7th, 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Fri Dec 8th, 12:30pm Young at Heart

Fri Dec 8th, 7:00pm Mass: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Fri Dec 8th, 8:00pm Holy Hour for National Night of Prayer

Sat Dec 9th, 12pm Children's Christmas Choir Rehearsal

Sat Dec 9th, 6pm Tree Lighting

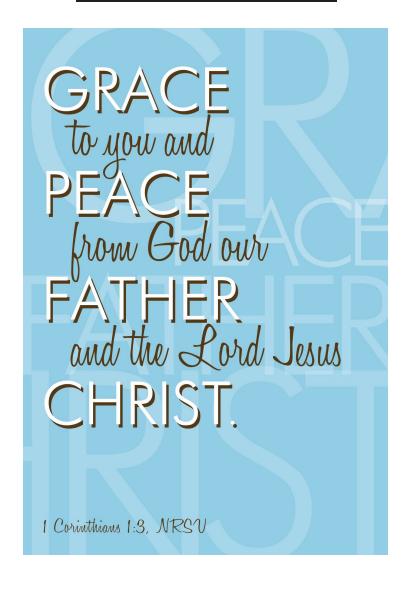
Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday-Friday 9:00 AM

> Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:30 AM

Confessions
Every Saturday
4:00 PM-4:45 PM



St.Thomas More

Giving Tree

Our Giving Tree can be found in the Narthex and is filled with tags for gifts and gift cards.

We invite you to help us make Christmas special for those less fortunate by donating gift cards,pajamas, toys, baby clothes, or diapers for our families and those who are in need in our community. Gift cards to Walmart or Target allow our families to shop for their children.

There is a table set up in the Narthex for your donations as well as a basket for gift cards. Please attach the tag to your donation. You can also put gift cards in the weekly collection basket or drop them off at the Outreach office.

There is no need to wrap toys, gifts or put gift cards in special envelopes. Your generosity is always appreciated and is a clear reflection of who we are as a St. Thomas More parish family!

Thank you and God Bless you and your families this Christmas season!

(Please submit all donations by December 10th)

Would you like to be an Angel or Shepherd?

This is an exciting opportunity for your child to become an active part of the Nativity story!

Requirements:

At least 5 years old Available for rehearsal on 12/23 Available for mass at 3:30 on 12/24



Email theresa@stmli.org to participate. Please include... Child's name
Child's age
Guardian's contact info

*Spots are limited. Names will be accepted in the order they were received

ST. THOMAS MORE † R.C. CHURCH †

HEAR YE!

CHRISTMAS IS COMING SOON!

COME PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!

"O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL" O COME ALL YE CHILDREN COME TO SING FOR JESUS O COME JOIN OUR CHRISTMAS CHOIR TO WELCOME HIS BIRTH COME TO REHEARSALS SATURDAYS FROM NOON TO ONE O COME AND LIFT YOUR VOICES O COME AND LIFT YOUR VOICES O COME LET US ADORE HIM CHRIST THE LORD

Only 2 rehearsals: Dec 9th & 16th, 12-1. Ages 8-18. We will sing 3:30 Christmas Eve Mass and then through the Christmas season at 9:30 mass!

For info or to join, call Emilia by December 2nd 631-724-8820

ST. THOMAS MORE ANNUAL

Christmas Tree Lighting

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9TH AFTER THE 5PM MASS

Santal

Hot Cocoa!

Hot Dogs!

Hamburgers!

Snacks! Drinks! Join us as we light our tree, then come to Walden Hall for pictures with Santa!
Refreshments at a nominal

cost.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS? You're invited to try alpha at stm

EXPLORE LIFE...FAITH...MEANING



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

ALPHA will take you on a personal journey which can lead to a personal encounter with Jesus. You will beable to ask questions, share ideas, build friendships, and experience the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We gather once a week at St. Thomas More and start off each meeting with a nice dinner and dessert. We watch a short video that features inspiring stories and interviews from around the world followed by discussion within your group. Each week our talks will look at a different question about faith.

Maybe you take care of your body by going to the gym or eating healthy but how do you take care of your spirit? We are inviting you to give yourself the gift of ALPHA. The program and dinner are free. The conversation is thought provoking. Connect with old friends or make some new ones.

ALPHA begins January 8th at 6:30pm For more information or to register please call 631-234-0397



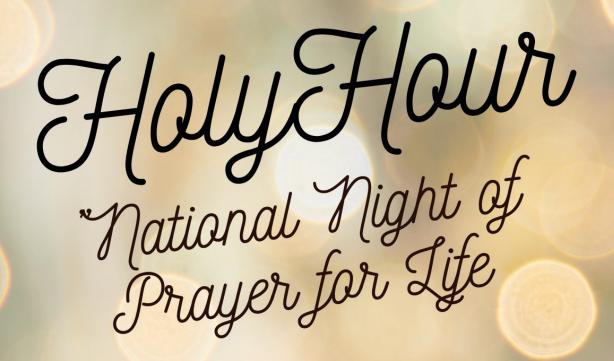


Thank you to all who attended the 18th annual Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner. Thank you to all the Knights and Columbiettes who donated baskets, collected donations, and helped with the overall event. Here is a list of businesses that donated this year:

The Long Island Ducks Crunch Fitness Grafton's Pub The Spirit Locker Starbucks of Smithtown Mama Angelina's Vintage Salon & Barber Moe's Village Coffee Market Carrabbas Ciro's Shoprite Pace's Ace Plus Cleaners **Duck Donuts** Orange Theory Little Gym Pet Supplies

Nino's Deli Royal Kuts Nosh Kitchen Crazy Crepe Fred Astaire Dance Studio **Empire Sate Karate** Roadway Tire **Ursus Instrument Services** Mama's Brick Oven Pizza Smithtown Appliance Stop & Shop New Green Tea Nail & Spa Suffolk Sportsman Argyle Theatre Old Street Restaurant & Pub Smithton Running The Fresh Market

Sincerely, Your Knights of Columbus Council 6062



Contemporary music by Alex and Noelle!



Adoration and Benediction led by Deacon Matt!

Friday, December 8th

Immediatly following the 7pm mass celebrating The Immaculate Conception

We will be united in prayer with churches across the country and the world to pray for the sanctity of all human life.

Outreach Advent Calendar

Each day, add an item to a box. After Christmas, donate the box to the STM Outreach Pantry!

Day 1	Pancake Mix
	0 1 11:0

Day 2 Spaghetti Sauce

Day 3 Coffee or Tea

Day 4 Syrup

Day 5 Canned Tuna

Day 6 Package of Spaghetti

Day 7 Canned Yams/Sweet Potatoes

Day 8 Oatmeal

Day 9 Jelly

Day 10 Peanut Butter

Day 11 Chef Boyardee Mea

Day 12 Rice

Day 13 Canned Soup

Day 14 Applesauce

Day 15 Rice

Day 16 Canned Beans

Day 17 Juice/Drink Mix

Day 18 Boxed Milk

Day 19 Box of Cereal

Day 20 Instant Potatoes

Day 21 Macaroni & Cheese

Day 22 Box of Crackers

Day 23 Canned Fruit

Day 24 Cookies



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Let us come together and celebrate this Solemnity, honoring the conception of our Blessed Mother Mary, free from original sin. Please join us for Mass, and consider praying this prayer below by St. Maximillian Kolbe.

Immaculata, Queen and Mother of the Church, I renew my consecration to you for this day and for always, so that you might use me for the coming of the Kingdom of Jesus in the whole world. To this end I offer you all my prayers, actions and sacrifices of this day.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

THUR DEC 7TH @ 7:00PM (VIGIL)
FRI DEC 8TH @ 9:00AM
FRI DEC 8TH @ 7:00PM

