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.

Second Sunday
of Advent

DECEMBER 10TH, 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 9th- December 17th, 2023

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

Monday, December 11th:

9am- Michael Donohoe by Michael & Edythe Welch

Tuesday, December 12th: Our Lady of Guadalupe

9am- Nicholas Conzo by Angela Conzo

Wednesday, December 13th: St Lucy

9am-Silverio, Jennie, Anthony Scotti by Rosalie & Dennis Micieli

Thursday, December 14th: St John of the Cross

9am- Priscilla McAllister by The McAllister Family

Friday, December 15th:

9am-Scott E Smith by Donna & Sid Smith

Saturday, December 16th:

5pm- Michael F Gavigan by His Family

Sunday, December 17th: Third Sunday of Advent

8am- Daniel Pereira by Dr Dolores Perez

9:30am- Judith Patchell by Kathleen O'Brien

Marin Lamia by Ann Lamia & Family

11:30am- Enrique J Aldaba by Leonor Umali

Edward Albrecht by The DeFelice & Nocella Families

#### John 1:6-8,19-28 (Advent 3)

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John:

When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord," as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

#### Focus Questions for 12/17/23 John 1:6-8,19-28

- 1: Where do people see the work of Jesus in you?
- 2: Describe a time when you were asked to state who you were and what you believed.
- 3: This is the third Sunday of Advent. How is your Advent going? What has gotten in the way of realizing your plans for Advent?

Family & Children's Question:

Talk about how you can be like John the Baptist and point the way to Jesus.

#### Readings for This 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

#### Readings for Next Week

December 17th, 2023 (Advent 3) Isaiah 61:1-2a,10,11 Luke 1:46-48,49-50,53-54 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28



# Fr. Antony's Letter

Dear Friends.

In the psychiatry section of a hospital, a man shouted, "I am Napoleon." Another asked, "How do you know?" The first man replied, "God told me." Just then a voice from the next room shouted, "I did not."

The Gospel reading of this Second Sunday of Advent is the voice of God in the words John the Baptist, who asks the people to prepare themselves to receive the heavenly gift, the Holy Spirit from God. We see Christmas decorations in all the places wherever we go. Christmas lights, the colors of green and red everywhere, Advent Candles, Christmas Trees, live Santas and Santa figurines, wrapped Christmas gifts, etc., can all be seen everywhere we turn. These are external symbolic representations expressing one single message of the Great Feast of Christmas, God's coming to us in Jesus. Let us try to understand what they stand for, and what message they want to communicate.

Advent Candles: Each week we light a candle, four candles for the four weeks of Advent, indicating that our eagerness to welcome Christ increases by adding a candle until December 25<sup>th</sup>. Increasing the number of candles means a steady increase of light. It symbolically indicates how the light of Christ could increase in our hearts, knowing the coming of Jesus's birth among us is nearing; thus, the Christmas day celebration means the brightness of Jesus's light will shine brightly upon us and our homes.

Christmas tree with lights and ornaments: During the winter the only tree with the sign of life, with green leaves, is the Christmas tree. The decoration and the light on the tree indicate our appreciation for the everlasting life that Christ brings to us amidst the winter days of our life.

Santa Claus: St. Nicholas, the bishop who lived in the 4th century, is known for his generosity in giving gifts. He is lovingly called Santa Claus. He represents the divine generosity that God shares with His Son Jesus Christ at his birth among us, as one of us. Santa Claus inspires us to be generous to others while we experience God's generosity in our hearts.

The Giving Tree in the Narthex of our Church is one of the ways we can be generous with others, hung with lots of suggestions to help those in need; because whatever we do to the least of God's people, we do to Christ.

Christmas Lights in the front yard of our homes. The three wise people spotted a strange star in the sky and followed it to find Jesus the Son of God being born in Bethlehem. The lights in front of our homes are a symbolic representation of the shining star that announced the birth of Jesus. Thus, by our lights we symbolically announce to the viewers that our home proclaims the birth of Jesus. We are glad to announce this Good News of Jesus the Emmanuel, God with us. We become the living stars announcing the birth of Jesus among us.

**Next week is the third week of Advent.** In 7 days, we will celebrate Christmas. Closer to Christmas it is customary to put up a Crèche with all the figurines except the Baby Jesus, whose figurine we will place on the eve of Christmas. When you finish decorating Creche/manger or on Christmas eve when you place the Baby Jesus, please pray the following prayer as a family around the creche.

God our Father, you loved us so much. You sent us your only son, Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, to save us and lead us back to you.

We pray that, with your blessing, these images might be a sign of your presence and love in our homes.

Good Father, give your blessing to all who gather with us this Christmas, family and friends.

Open our hearts, that we might receive Jesus in joy, do always what he asks of us and see him in those who need our love.

We ask this in the name of Jesus your beloved Son, who came to give peace to the world. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

With love and prayers, Fr. Antony

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

#### Tantum Ergo, Part I

During Eucharistic Adoration, a hymn is frequently sung just prior to receiving Benediction. This hymn is known as the Tantum Ergo (from the first two words of the first verse). It actually is the last portion of a longer hymn, the Pange Lingue Gloriosi, that was composed by St. Thomas Aquinas for the Feast of Corpus Christi in the mid 13th century. The longer hymn is chanted as we process with the Blessed Sacrament from the tabernacle to the altar of repose during the Mass on Holy Thursday.

It is instructive for us to go through the Tantum Ergo to help us better appreciate what it is we chant at Adoration and see the connection to the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. This week we'll look at the first verse, and next week, the concluding verse.

Tantum ergo Sacramentum, veneremur cernui: "Therefore, let us worship by bowing down to so great a Sacrament (the sacred Host)". We worship only God, and we recognize that in this host that we see in the monstrance, it is indeed Jesus: Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

Et antiquum documentum novo cedat ritui: "And let the old practice (the Old Covenant, with its rites and rituals) give way to the new." Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Old Testament. We partake in this Eucharist because Christ offered himself for us, shedding his blood for the New Covenant. It is in this New Covenant that we are fully reconciled with God and have the hope of eternal life with him.

Praestet fides supplementum sensuum defectui: "Faith provides for us a help when our senses fail." We cannot literally see, touch or smell Jesus in the Eucharist. Yet we believe he is present. This is only possible by our faith, granted to us by the Holy Spirit. This is a part of our larger belief in God and his presence among us. It is sometimes very difficult to have faith, and so it is fitting to meditate on the goodness of God especially during Adoration, who gave his only Son to us, for our sake, and on the Real Presence of Jesus, right

there in front of us in the monstrance.

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



Anna Beltrani

# **Parish Information**

Staff	Contact	
<b>Pastor</b> Father Antony Asir	pastor@stmli.org	
<b>Deacons</b> 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	
<b>Youth Ministry</b> 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
<b>Lector Ministry</b> 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	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
Jean Herlihy
William Hoell
Jim Ilardi
Richard Landi
Frank Loporto

Dottie Lossani
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

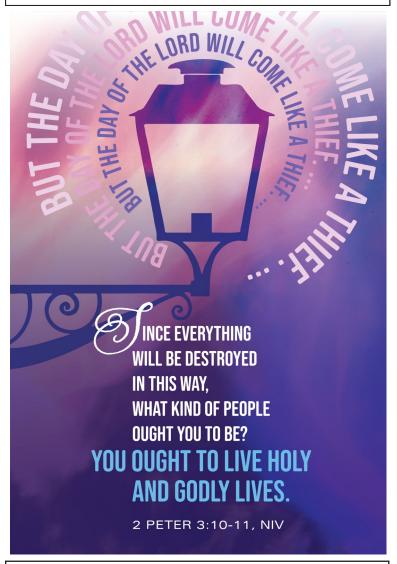
John Gallagher

**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 COLLE CTION

Collection from: December 2nd & 3rd

\$7561

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.

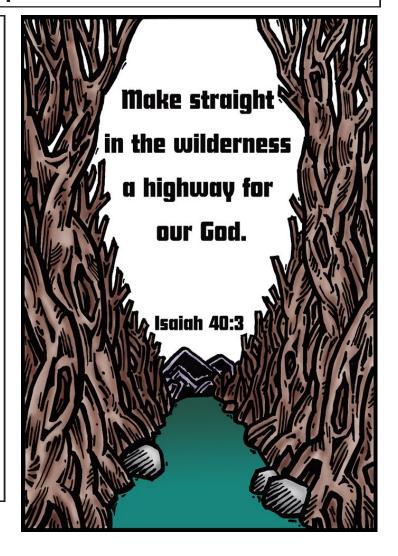
(If you want to receive envelopes, please fill out the form on the literature rack.)

**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.

71	ANUAR	Y		Calendar Club Winners		-	MARCH	
т	W	T	F		m	T	W	-
3	Lj	5	6	December 4 (\$25): Rich & Joanne Anelli (771)			1	2
10	11	12	13	December 5 (\$25): Loretta Catalano (963)	6	7		9
17		19	20	December 6 (\$25): The Mildon Family (171)	13	74		16
24			27		20	21		23
31				December 7 (\$25): Arthur & Kathryn Ultsh (70)	27		29	30
	a D D I I			December 8 (\$50): Diane & Steve Phelan (501)			JUNE	
т	W	т	F	December 9 (\$25): Abigail Gunsel (394)	m	т	W	т
28				December 10 (\$50): Emiddio J Ippolito (221)				7
Ly	5	6	7	8 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 4	5	6	7	8

xaaaaaaaaaaa

# **Parish Social Ministry**

"Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God"

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...

Pasta Sauce
Soup
Spaghetti
Canned Fruit
Oatmeal
Juice/Drink Mixes
Coffee/Tea
Toilet Paper/Paper Towels

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 2-4 people are ideal.



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!

Through your generosity and kindness we were able to provide Thanksgiving meals to 57 local families! In addition, we provided monthly food for 60 of our neighbors in need!

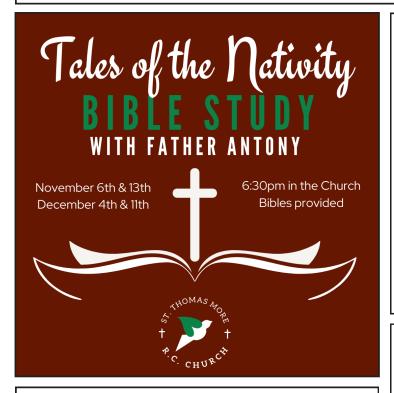


#### St Vincent de Paul

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family, and to reach out to those in need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please contact us at 631-648-2760 or svdp.stm@aol.com so that together we can help those in need celebrate Christmas.

# In Our Parish



# Young at Heart

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

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

#### Advent with Children's Lit

This week our children learned about Advent! They colored an advent wreath to take home, and Miss Noelle taught them a song to sing for the congregation. Children's Liturgy happens each week at the 9:30 mass!



# 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

# Holy Matrimony at STM

Congratulations go out to Kerri Walsh and Austin Munro who were married here at STM on 12/1. Keep them in your prayers as they begin the next step of their journey together with Christ!







# In Our Parish

## Care for God's Creation Art Project

The children in Level II Communion were encouraged to spend some time in nature, talking to their parents about how important it is to care for God's creation. After, the children were asked to create a picture, leaf rubbing, or even a picture with rubbish and a please not to litter. These art project were on display last weekend in the parish.







Please keep these wonderful young ones in your prayers as they learn the importance of being good

## **International Peace Light Arrives at STM**

Originating in the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem, each year this flame is transported by Austrian Airlines from the West Bank, to Europe, and then across the ocean to JFK. Once at JFK, the Diocese of Brooklyn/Queens and Catholic Committee for Scouting coordinate it's distribution across North America. The Peace Light is brought to our parish, and will burn perpetually in the Sanctuary Candle.

If you want to bring the Peace Light into your own home, bring a small candle to church with you, and someone can help you light it at the end of Mass.



Pictured: Pastoral Council Member John White receiving the Peace Light from Wolfgang Kerndler and his co-pilot. Mr. Kerndler has been flying the peace light from Bethlehem to Austria to JFK for over 20 years. Please pray for him and his mission of PEACE.





HE WILL FEED HIS FLOCK LIKE A SHEPHERD.

# In Our Community



#### Because no marriage is beyond hope...

- · Is your marriage tearing you apart?
- · Do you feel hurt and angry?
- · Does talking make it worse?
- · Thought of leaving or divorce?
- · Is your marriage heading in the wrong direction?

#### Retrouvaille can help.

Our Next Weekend is January 19-21, 2024

at The Immaculate Conception Seminary, Huntington

To register or for more information: 1-800-470-2230 HelpOurMarriage.org

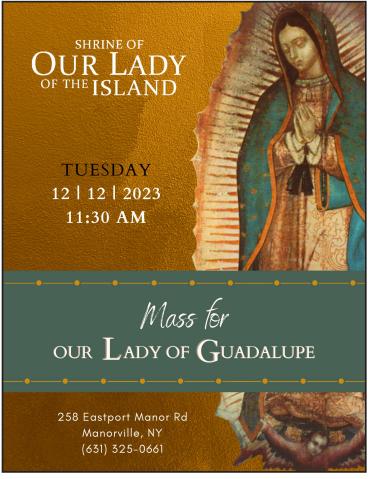
**Retrouvaille** is a practical program for married couples facing difficult challenges

It is not a marriage retreat, or counseling. You will not be asked to share the personal details of your story.

**Retrouvaille** is different; it's a way to improve your communication, help you reconnect, and build a healthy, happier, stronger marriage.

Catholic in origin, couples of all faiths, or no faith background, are welcome to attend. We are a Christian Peer Ministry offering tens of thousands of marriages hope in over 160 communities world-wide.







fellowship, food, and Christmas music!
Thursday, December 14th

7:30 pm



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 199 SMITHTOWN BLVD NESCONSET. NEW YORK

Ages 21-35
Drinks available for purchase
Kindly Reply by December 13th
AmicisCatholicFellowship@gmail.com



# Happening at St. Thomas More

# Coming Up @ STM

Sun Dec 10th, 12:30pm Youth Group: Angelology

Mon Dec 11th, 2:30pm Circle of Women Book Club

Mon Dec 11th, 6:30pm Bible Study w/ Fr Antony Session 4

Wed Dec 13th, 7:00pm Columbiettes Business Meeting

Thur Dec 14th, 5:30pm Children's Choir Rehearsal

Thur Dec 14th, 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Sat Dec 16th, 12:00pm Christmas Children's Choir Rehearsal

Sun Dec 17th, after masses Hospitality Sunday

Wed Dec 20th, 6:00pm Knights of Columbus Social Meeting

# 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







Psalm 85:10



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



# 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

# 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



# **Youth Group - Advent**

December 3rd, 2023















# **Advent Prayer Chains!**

**Upcoming Meetings Sundays 12:30-2:30** 

December 10th-Jesse Tree & Angels December 17th-Christmas Party



MON 12/25 @ 9:30AM

MON 12/25 @ 11:30AM