

*Sharing
the Spirit
of Love*

Catholic Church Community of

St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge NY 11788

• ADVENT •

JOY



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.

*Third Sunday
of Advent*

DECEMBER 17TH, 2023

Parish Resources

Website:

<https://www.stmli.org>

Instagram:

@stm_church

@stm_yg

Facebook:

StThomasMoreChurchHauppauge

Flocknote:

Text SPIRITOFLOVE to 84576



Office Contacts

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Outreach:

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Masses December 16th- December 24th, 2023

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*

Monday, December 18th:

9am- Alfred Lapadula Jr *by Joe Carabott*

Tuesday, December 19th:

9am- Joseph, Harry, Josephine Luca; Felicia, Josephine

Farragone; Remo Valeri *by Nella*

Wednesday, December 20th:

9am- Eric Joseph Reistetter *by The Family*

Thursday, December 21st:

9am- Stephen Dutton Sr *by Loretta & Angelo Catalano*

Friday, December 22nd

9am- Cookie Kugler *by Larry & Jane Lambrecht*

Saturday, December 23rd:

5pm- Robert Mohlenbrok *by The Mohlenbrok Family*

Sunday, December 24th: Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am- Ada Villarini *by Sharon Campo & Family*

9:30am- Cathy Schwan *by Deacon Harry Schwan & Family*

Luke 1:26-38 (Advent 4)

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Focus Questions for 12/24/23

Luke 1:26-38

- 1: Recall a time when you were troubled about how you should respond to sudden news.
- 2: Mary responded readily to the angel, saying that she was the handmaiden of the Lord. How difficult or easy has it been for you to respond to God?
- 3: Reread the Gospel as if you are hearing it for the first time. Enter into the wonder and extraordinariness of what is being communicated. What is your reaction to reading it this way?

Family & Children's Question:

Talk about the first Christmas with your family around your nativity scene.

Readings for This 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

Readings for Next Week

December 24th, 2023 (Advent 4)

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16

Psalms 89:2-3,4-5,27,29

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38



Fr. Antony's Letter

Dear Friends,

A promising young executive quit his job, and before leaving, stopped to say goodbye to the boss. The boss lamented, "I am sorry to see you go. Actually, you have been like a son to me – sassy, impatient, demanding, and loud." When the executive joined the job, the resume described who he was. When he quit the job, the remark of the boss pictured what the resume failed to report. The identity of a person involves both who he/she is and who he/she is not.

Today's Gospel helps us know and realize who we are. It is the story of priests and Levites asking John (John the Baptist) "Who are you?" John answered them first negatively who he is not. He is not the Messiah, not Elijah, nor any prophet. Then he says to them positively who he is. "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" He continued to explain why he did what he did. He baptized with water calling the people to repent from sinful way of life, so that they are prepared to be baptized with Holy Spirit by the one who comes behind Him.

John explained his identity negatively, what he is not, and positively, who he is. This identity empowered him and caused him to do what he did. John helps us all to realize our self-identity. First, we should admit who we are not, secondly try to find out who we really are. Thirdly, all that we do or say must be empowered and caused by the realized identity. When we don't realize who we are not or pretend to be someone else than who we are, we will be wasting time and energy establishing our untrue identity. When we are true to ourselves to realize who we are, we will focus all our time and energy to live as who we are. All that we do or say will totally and enthusiastically blossom from our true self, the realized identity.

Paul in the second reading encourages not to "quench the Spirit." The more we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit the more entirely will we be preserved in our 'spirit, soul and body.' Our identity is to see that our faculties of spirit, soul and body are not divided and set one against another. When we don't accept who we are not we will fully set our mind and soul against our body. When our faculties are divided, we become weak and can be easily conquered. For example, if our body does not live the truth of the heart (soul), that is the moment when the mind begins to justify or condemn why we behaved the way we did. Justification or condemnation is the sign that the faculties are set one against another in a person.

The third week of Advent brings Christmas very close. Just a week more to the great feast when God comes to us in our own nature to awaken us to how rich we are just by ourselves without any pretension and false pride. God comes to us in Jesus stripping all His power and glory to live with us to inspire how good a human being can live. Let us treat this Advent as the time to strip who we are not and realize who we are; let us claim for ourselves our true identity, the God given identity.

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 the Crèche/manger or on Christmas eve when you place the Baby Jesus, please pray the following prayer as a family around the crèche.

*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 II

Today we conclude our look at the hymn known as the *Tantum Ergo*, composed by St. Thomas Aquinas for the Feast of Corpus Christi in the mid 13th century. This hymn is frequently chanted at the conclusion of Adoration, and is a wonderful meditation on the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. This is the concluding verse.

Genetori Genitoque, laus et jubilatio: "Praise and rejoicing to the one who begets (God the Father) and the begotten (God the Son)". Aquinas now takes a step back and recognizes that our worship of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is not complete until we recognize Jesus' place in the Holy Trinity.

Salus, honor, virtus quoque sit et benedictio: "Let us give acclamation, honor, might and blessing to the one who gives us salvation." Here again, we do not simply look upon Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament without realizing the larger picture of salvation.

Procedenti ab utroque compar sit laudatio: "Let us give equal praise and thanksgiving to the one who pro-

ceeds (the Holy Spirit) from them both (Father and Son)." Aquinas also recognizes the Holy Spirit as the Third Person of the Trinity. In doing so, we see that this entire closing verse is what is called a *doxology*, a liturgical prayer or hymn of praise to God. In the Eucharist, since Christ is truly present, then also are the Father and the Holy Spirit present.

The season of Advent is a perfect time for us to rededicate ourselves to Christ and his Real Presence. Perhaps this means more frequent attendance at Mass, to receive him in Holy Communion. Perhaps this means coming to a Holy Hour, either in our parish (every first Tuesday at 7 pm) or elsewhere. Perhaps it even might mean stopping into the church when it is open, sitting or kneeling in a pew, and reflecting on the tabernacle, where Christ is present.

"The presence of Christ's true body and blood in this sacrament cannot be detected by sense, nor understanding, but by faith alone, which rests upon Divine authority" - *St. Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologiae, III, 75, 1.*

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



Parish Information

Staff

Pastor

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Deacon Edward Vigneaux

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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	Ellen Murphy
Barbara Cassetta	Matt O'Connell
Joseph Cassetta	Al Pankus
Kathryn Douglas	Patricia Parker
Thomas Dwyer	Joanne Pelletier
Barbara Foberg	George Pflugel
Pat Golembiewski	Nunzio (Steve) Puleio
Linda Heller	Rosalie Rocchio
Jean Herlihy	Richard Ronning
William Hoell	Noah Simonetti (2 yrs)
Jim Ilardi	John Spadaro
Richard Landi	Lorraine White
Frank Loporto	John Zuzzolo
Jim Marquette	



*this listing will expire on March 31st, 2024

Pray for the Deceased

Joey Cullum
 Fiorella Iaboni
 Dorothy Lossani
 Dorothy Gallagher
 Robert Profige
 Kenny Granville
 John Gallagher

WELCOMED HOME

We continuously pray for our deceased loved ones.

Pray for Our Military

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

Troy A. Maida	Joseph Kirsch
Connor Hendrickson	Allen Kirsch
Evan Hendrickson	Nicholas Gajda
Christopher Sidor	Alexandria Feys Gajda
Ryan Smith	

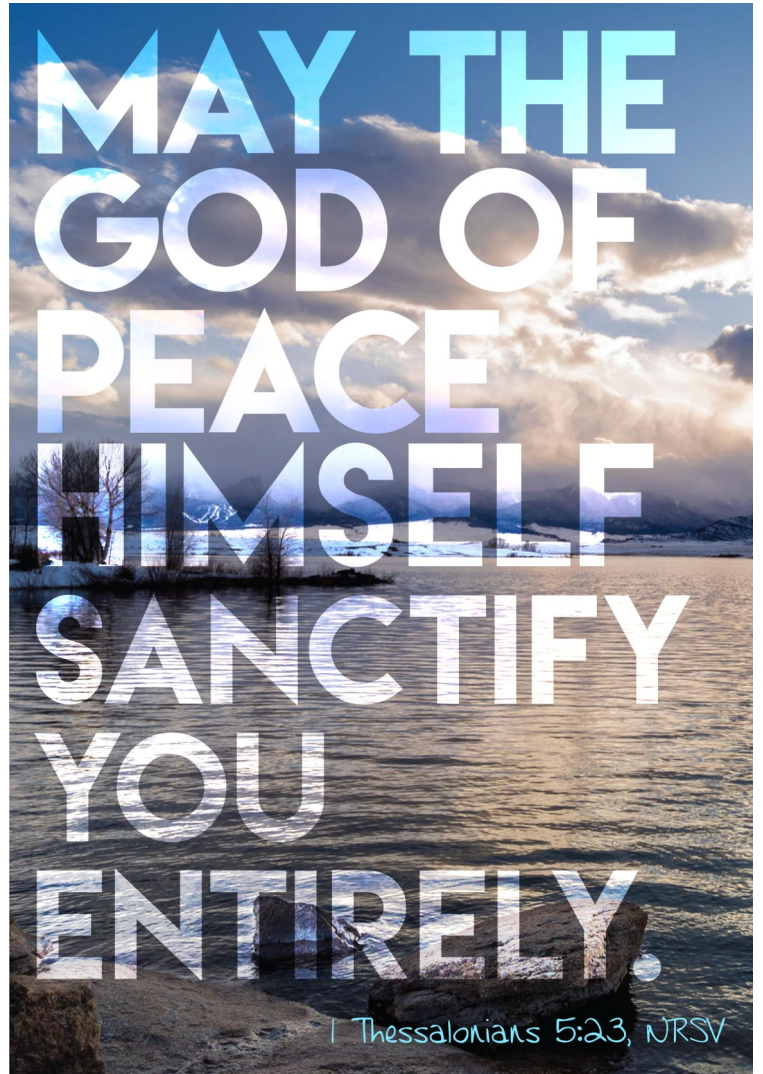


We also pray for our veterans, that they receive the support they need here at home.

Altar Bread & Wine Memorial



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



1 Thessalonians 5:23, NRSV

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, even those said in silence.

Parish Operations

SUPPORT COLLECTION

Collection from:
December 9th & 10th

\$6817

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.

Calendar Club Winners

December 18 (\$25): Mark & Karen Anderson (564)

December 19 (\$25): Eileen & Mike Barr (969)

December 20 (\$25): Steven J Lott (948)

December 21 (\$25): Paul & MaryAnn Gruner (506)

December 22 (\$25): Dottie Lossani (1172)

December 23 (\$25): Christina Falcone (41)

December 24 (\$50): Fran & Larry Miron (529)



Parish Social Ministry

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

Our cupboards are low 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!

 **ST. THOMAS MORE**
† PARISH OUTREACH †



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


HIS MERCY
is for those who
fear him from
**GENERATION TO
GENERATION.**
LUKE 1:50, ESV

St Vincent de Paul



In today's Gospel, John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord.

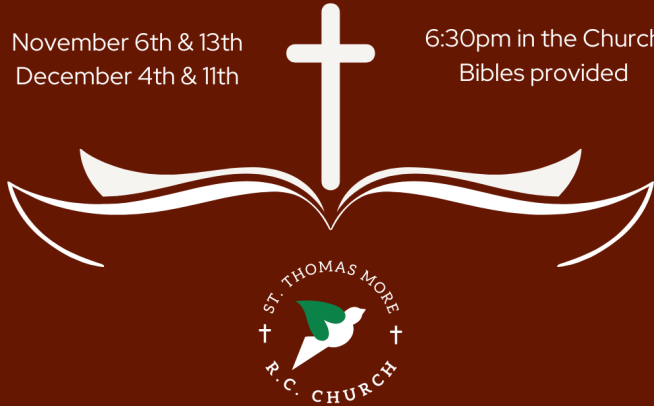
Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothing and gifts can share in the blessings of Christmas and feel the warmth of the love of the Lord through you. To contact us, call 631-648-2760 or email svdp.stm@aol.com

In Our Parish

Tales of the Nativity BIBLE STUDY WITH FATHER ANTONY

November 6th & 13th
December 4th & 11th

6:30pm in the Church
Bibles provided



This Week @ Children's Lit

On Sunday our children continued their Advent journey, learning about the nativity and making ornaments for their Christmas Trees!



Children's Liturgy will take a break for Christmas and return on 1/14 after the Epiphany!

Explore the Christian faith in a friendly, informal environment...

Alpha-
Returning to STM
January 8th, 2024

Alpha



Soon to be Baptized!

Please keep the Diaz family in your prayers as they prepare their children for baptism.



Young at Heart

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



For more info, call Anna @ 631-234-0714

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

Happening at St. Thomas More

Coming Up @ STM

Sun Dec 17th, after masses
Hospitality Sunday

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

Thur Dec 21st, 5:30pm
Children's Choir Rehearsal

Thur Dec 21st, 7:00pm
Choir Rehearsal

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



**IN ALL
CIRCUMSTANCES**

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 †

Calendar Club 2024

The Every Day Lotto!

Numbers are drawn every day of the year (except during the Easter Triduum). The lucky winner of each day is awarded \$25 (or \$50 on Sundays and Holy Days!)

One number for \$25, or 5 numbers for \$100.

Buy as many entries as you want, and win as many times as your luck allows! You can even purchase numbers as gifts for family and friends.

The Calendar Club is a great way to support our parish, and a very important annual fundraiser for us! Please fill out the form below and return it to the rectory, or put it in the basket during Sunday collection.

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

ONE for \$25 TWO for \$50 THREE for \$75 FIVE for \$100

Early Bird Special: Deadline Sun Dec 17th

Order FIVE numbers and get a SIXTH on us!

Note: You must return your form and payment by Sunday
December 17th.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Please place in envelope labeled Calendar Club 2024 and return to the rectory or the Sunday collection basket. Thank you!

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 be able 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



JESUS & THE CHILDREN

AFTER A LONG SEAFARING JOURNEY AND A NICE DELAY AT CUSTOMS, OUR NEW STATUE ARRIVED! THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CONTRACTORS WHO HELPED GET IT INSTALLED, AND TO EVERYONE IN THE OFFICE AND COMMUNITY WHO HELPED MAKE THIS STAUTE A REALITY.



CHRISTMAS

Masses

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SAT 12/23 @ 5PM

SUN 12/24 @ 8AM

SUN 12/24 @ 9:30AM

NO 11:30AM MASS

CHRISTMAS EVE

SUN 12/24 @ 3:30PM

WITH CAROLING STARTING AT 3PM

SUN 12/24 @ 5:30PM

SUN 12/24 @ 10:30PM

WITH CAROLING STARTING AT 10PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

MON 12/25 @ 8AM

MON 12/25 @ 9:30AM

MON 12/25 @ 11:30AM



Santa brought the peace light of Bethlehem to mass on December 9th and then celebrated our tree lighting with photos, food, and dessert!

