

Sharing  
the Spirit  
of Love

Catholic Church Community of

# St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge NY 11788

For unto us a child is born,  
unto us a son is given.,



and his name shall be  
called...

WONDERFUL...

COUNSELLOR...

THE MIGHTY  
GOD...

THE EVERLASTING  
FATHER...

## THE PRINCE OF PEACE



### 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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**Religious Education:**

(631) 234-0397

reled@stmli.org

**Outreach:**

(631) 234-3149

outreach@stmli.org

# Masses December 23rd- December 31st, 2023

## 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*

## Sunday, December 24th: Christmas Eve

3:30pm- Christmas Flower Remembrance

5:30pm- Christmas Flower Remembrance

10:30pm- Christmas Flower Remembrance

## Monday, December 25th: Christmas Day

9am- Christmas Flower Remembrance

## Tuesday, December 26th: St Stephen, The First Martyr

9am- Christmas Flower Remembrance

## Wednesday, December 27th: St John the Evangelist

9am- Christmas Flower Remembrance

## Thursday, December 28th: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

9am- Christmas Flower Remembrance

## Friday, December 29th:

9am- Ed McAllister *by The McAllister Family*

## Saturday, December 30th:

5pm- Judith Lentino *by Her Parents*

## Sunday, December 31st: Feast of the Holy Family

8am- Nicholas Conzo *by Mary Ann & Thomas Lisa*

9:30am- Antoinette Dove *by Amy, Richie, & Brendan Hughes*

11:30am- Mary Scimaca *by The Beltrani Family*

Mass of Thanksgiving *by The Beltrani Family*

## Luke 2:22-40 (Holy Family)

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

## Focus Questions for 12/31/23

Luke 2:22-40

- 1: Who in your family passed on the faith to you?
- 2: Describe a time when it was easy to love your family, and another time when it was hard to show love.
- 3: Tell of an experience when you, like Simeon, could see the value of another person and told others of his/her goodness.

Family & Children's Question:

Talk about what the Christmas season has meant for you as a family.

## Readings for This 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

## Readings for Next Week

December 31st, 2023 (Holy Family)

Sirach 3:2-6,12-14

Psalms 128:1-2,3,4-5

Colossians 3:12-21

Luke 2:22-40



# Fr. Antony's Letter

Dear Friends,

A young mother had been too busy to visit her elderly next-door neighbor, who was ill. She said to her five-year-old son, "Johnny, run over and see how "old Mrs. Smith is." Within a few minutes, the boy was back. "Mom, she says it's none of your business how old she is." Mother's accent was on 'how'. When the son communicated it to Mrs. Smith, she understood the accent to be on 'old'. When the accent was misplaced, the meaning was mistakenly understood from mother's concern for Mrs. Smith's wellbeing to inquisitiveness of knowing of her age.

**Christmas is the celebration of where God wants His Accent to fall.** The readings of the fourth Sunday of Advent make the accent fall on the right way of celebrating Christmas so that the celebration makes our lives meaningful in its fullness. In the first reading David spoke to the Prophet Nathan his desire to build a palace (temple) for God in his capital city. But through Nathan God replied to him "I (God) will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

**God preferred to live with David more in a personal relationship** of a father to his son, than to live in a temple. God's desire was to live in a reciprocal loving relationship and not in a material building, however well it could be built.

**In the Gospel we see God is volunteering to come** and dwell among us as human, as the son of Mary. God the Father requests Mary to conceive God to be her Son through the power of the Holy Spirit. Trinitarian God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit request a human Mary to cooperate with Him to come and dwell among us as a human being, Jesus of Nazareth. Mary gave her consent and Jesus was born as a human child. Thus, the event of the birth of God among us, as one of us, is the celebration of Christmas. God has self-invited Himself to be born among us to relate with us in human terms. God's only interest and purpose is an interpersonal relationship with us, humans.

**God does not want us to build the most expensive palace as David desired,** that God can live among us. God wants us to open our hearts to live in God-human relationship. God wants to live with us in a parent-child relationship as revealed to David, "I (God) will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me." God does not expect us to achieve or accomplish great works. God wants our consent as Mary was asked, so that we may bear HIM in our hearts and make HIM available to others through us. Christmas is a great celebration of what great things we can do for God; and what great things God can do through us for others. It is Christmas whenever we can make ourselves available for God to come to us and live among us.

**Special thanks to all those volunteers** who helped decorate in and outside the church to make the Church look celebrative. They took a special interest in decorating with lights and wreaths, setting up the Christmas trees, the manger in front of the altar, and at the niche in the Narthex. Choir members, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, altar linen cleaners, Children's Liturgy crew, Ushers, Knights, Columbiettes and other volunteers actively put their spirit into make our Christmas liturgically celebrative and meaningful. Volunteers of the Pantry and Outreach helped the needy with food and gifts from the generosity of our parish. I wish and pray: May this Christmas make your home His manger. May your heart welcome Jesus the Emmanuel. May you be touched by the Newborn King and be illuminated. May you glow with joy and peace.

I wish each one of you and your families a **MERRY CHRISTMAS**. May the God who shares God's wonderful self with us in **JESUS, the EMMANUEL**, open your hearts to give and receive each other in love and joy.

With love and prayers,  
Fr. Antony

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

## Christmas & The Eucharist

Is there some kind of a connection between Christmas and the Eucharist? As we continue to look at many aspects of the Eucharist during this parish year of the three-year National Eucharistic Revival, let's examine the connection between the season we are about to enter, and the Real Presence of the Lord.

Right off the bat, we can sense there is a connection because of the word "Christmas" itself. It means "Christ's Mass." Perhaps there is something about the celebration of the Mass, and specifically the Eucharist, that is tied to Christmas.

Note that both Christmas and the Eucharist are facts. Jesus was born in human history, an actual person documented to be born in an actual place. The Word did indeed become Flesh (cf. *John 1:14*). Eucharist is a fact as well. The Eucharist is Christmas repeated over and over again at every Mass. Wherever there is a Catholic Church and a Mass and a tabernacle, Christ is present. It's our Bethlehem. And in a connection to the bread of the Eucharist, the word "Bethlehem" means "house of bread."



Yet both Christmas and the Eucharist reveal a mystery. God became man at Christmas. He did this out of love to redeem us from sin and death. So he sent his only Son. It is a mystery to be pondered in that in Jesus, he is truly God and also truly man (what theologians call the *hypostatic union*). The Eucharist is another sign of how much God loves us. Jesus' presence continues among us. How Jesus could be completely contained in the Eucharist is a mystery to be pondered. Though we cannot fully explain it in mere human terms, we can enter into the mystery knowing that the Eucharist, like Christmas, is given to us as a gift and a sign of God's love for us.

It should come as no surprise, then, that the Church sees every Communion as a Christmas — the advent of the Savior — and every Christmas as a Eucharistic feast. Merry Christmas!

*"Venite adoremus Dominum (O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord)" – Adeste Fideles. Latin text from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.*

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Contact me at [eucharist@stmli.org](mailto:eucharist@stmli.org).

## Parish Information

### Staff

#### Pastor

Father Antony Asir

### Contact

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#### Deacons

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Deacon Edward Vigneaux

Deacon Robert D. Weisz

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#### Rectory

Theresa Recce (sacraments)

Dottie Castaldo (finance)

Alex White (operations)

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#### Music Ministry

Emilia Savarese, Director

631-724-8820

### Ministry

#### Parish Outreach

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#### Pastoral Council

Barbara & Joe Fratamico

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#### Altar Servers Ministry

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#### Consolation Ministry

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631-724-2462

#### OCIA

Ann Russo

[redaa@aol.com](mailto: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

William Hoell  
 Carol Ann Bartolotta  
 Joey Cullum  
 Fiorella Iaboni  
 Dorothy Lossani  
 Dorothy 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

In memory of 12/25-12/31

Anthony & Patricia Repetti

By Trish Goodwin



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



And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

LUKE 2:10-11, ESV



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 16th & 17th

**\$6710**

Weekly Goal: \$6700

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

**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 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)



# glory to God in the highest!



The volunteers at Parish Outreach would like to wish everyone a Blessed and Merry Christmas! We cannot begin to express our gratitude for your generosity with our food donations and Giving Tree!

Parish Outreach will be closed for the Christmas holidays and will re-open on Tuesday, January 2nd 2024



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



## St Vincent de Paul

Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought light into the darkness surrounding the heart of those living in poverty bringing them the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas. Merry Christmas!

# In Our Parish

**Bring your own questions or just listen to others...**

**Alpha-**

**Returning to STM  
January 8th, 2024**

Alpha



## Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God



This day is a special celebration of Mary as the Mother of God, the Theotokos, she who is “more spacious than the heavens”.

Mass will be held  
Monday January 1st at 9am

### Young at Heart

New Members Always Welcome!

Next Meeting: Fri January 12th @ 12:30



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

## This Week @ Children's Lit

On Sunday our children continued their Advent journey, learning all about the Joy of the season, making a candy cane project, and saying a prayer together at the Advent wreath.



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

**Peace**  
\* on \*  
**earth**



# Happening at St. Thomas More

## HOLIDAY HOURS

**Parish Rectory**  
Closed 12/22-12/26  
Reopens 12/27  
Closed 1/1

**Religious Education**  
Closed 12/22-1/1  
Reopens 1/2

**Parish Outreach**  
Closed 12/22-1/1  
Reopens 1/2

## 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

## A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Loving Father,

Help us to remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and  
Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

Amen

# 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

# 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

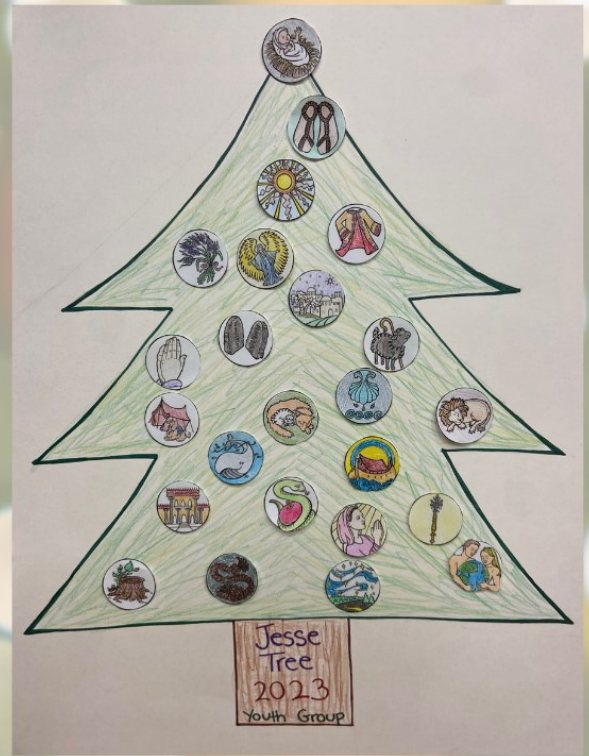
MON 12/25 @ 9:30AM

MON 12/25 @ 11:30AM



# Youth Group - Jesse Tree & Christmas

December 17th, 2023



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

**January 7th-**  
**New Year 2024**

Follow us on Instagram! @stm\_yg @stm\_church

# Saints of December



St Ambrose  
Feast Day: December 7th  
Bishop of Milan  
Patron: Beekeepers

Governor and theologian, strong promoter of Roman Christianity against Arianism & paganism. Swarm of bees landed on his face as an infant, leaving him unharmed. Helped convert St Augustine to Christianity. Authored four hymns known as the Ambrosian hymns.



Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Feast Day: December 12th  
Empress of the Americas, Patroness of Latin America, Queen of Mexico

Title for the Blessed Mother Mary, associated with five apparitions to Juan Diego and Juan Bernardino, Mexican peasants in 1531. The Basilica of OLG is the most visited Catholic shrine in the world.

*¿No estoy yo aquí que soy tu madre?  
Am I not here, I who am your mother?*



St Lucy  
Feast Day: December 13th  
Virgin & Martyr  
Patron: The Blind

From a wealthy Roman family, received a vision of St Agatha promising her mother would be healed of illness. Used opportunity to distribute riches to the poor. Her betrothed disagreed and had her sentenced to a brothel. She was martyred in their attempt to take her to her punishment.



St John of the Cross  
Feast Day: December 14th  
Priest, Mystic, Doctor of the Church  
Patron: Spanish Poets

Carmelite friar, very involved in the Counter-Reformation in Spain. Studied under and was mentored by Teresa of Avila (St Teresa of Jesus). Prolific writer known for his poetry and writings on the development of the soul. Considered one of the greatest authors of Spanish literature.



St Stephen  
Feast Day: 12/26  
The First Martyr  
"The Promartyr"  
Patron: Altar Servers

Mentioned in Acts of the Apostles (Acts 6), he was a deacon in the early Church in Jerusalem. Angered members of various synagogues with his teachings. Accused of blasphemy and was stoned to death.



St John the Apostle  
Feast Day: December 27th  
Apostle  
Patron: Love, loyalty

Generally regarded as the youngest apostle, brother of James, son of Zebedee. Believed to be the only apostle to die of natural causes. Traditionally held to be the author of the Gospel of John, Johannine epistles, and the Book of Revelation. Potentially the "disciple whom Jesus loved".





# Holy Hour

"New Life in Christ"

Adoration & Benediction  
led by Deacon Matt!



Contemporary music  
by Alex and Noelle!

Tuesday, January 2nd at 7:00pm