

Sharing
the Spirit
of Love

Catholic Church Community of

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.

*Feast of the
Holy Family*

DECEMBER 31ST, 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 30th- January 7th, 2023

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*

Monday, January 1st: Solemnity of Mary

9am- Joel Miller *by The Miller Family*

Tuesday, January 2nd: St Basil & St Gregory Nazianzen

9am- Rose Lipari *by Karen Yorysh*

Wednesday, January 3rd:

9am- Teresa Shannon *by Mary Lou Braun*

Thursday, January 4th: St Elizabeth Ann Seton

9am- Anom Gedhe *by The McNeill Family*

Friday, January 5th: St John Neumann

9am- Vincent M LaFata *by JoAnn Eyring*

Saturday, January 6th:

5pm- Tadeusz Pietrzak *by Alex & Noelle White*

Sunday, January 7th: The Epiphany of The Lord

8am- John Cussen *by Patty & Joe Citro*

9:30am- Rocco Loccisano *by Patty & Joe Citro*

11:30am- Carmela Castaldo *by Phil & Dottie Castaldo*

I AM FILLED
WITH
Compassion.

Colossians 3:12

Readings for This Week

December 31st, 2023 (Holy Family)

Sirach 3:2-6,12-14

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

Colossians 3:12-21

Luke 2:22-40

Matthew 2:1-12 (Epiphany)

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

Focus Questions for 1/7/24

Matthew 2:1-12

- 1: Describe a time when you had a sudden awareness of something that surprised you and called to go a different way.
- 2: What can you do as a member of the Catholic community to become a better light, guiding others to Jesus.
- 3: What is the star that guides you?

Family & Children's Question:

Talk about a gift you can bring to the Christmas child.

Readings for Next Week

January 7th, 2024 (Epiphany)

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13

Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

Fr. Antony's Letter

Dear Friends,

A young boy, away at boarding school, wrote after his first visit to the school's chapel: "It has lovely stained-glass windows with pictures of people who were famous in God's time." God's time is ever present. Every minute is God's time. We all live in God's time. New year 2024 is a New Cycle beginning in God's time. Happy NEW YEAR.

We end one set of time consisting of 12 months, called 2023 and step into same set of time repeating 12 months, called 2024. It takes approximately 365.25 days for Earth to orbit the Sun which we call a solar year. We usually round the days in a calendar year to 365. To make up for the missing partial day, we add one day to our calendar approximately every four years. That is a leap year. We add the partial day of 2021, 2022 and 2023 to that of 2024 and make 2024 consisting of 366 days. 2024 is a leap year. Thus, once in 4 years we make the month of February have 29 days. Wish you a Happy NEW LEAP YEAR.

Whenever we count anything with numbers, we name the counted years or days as old (past) and the month or days yet to be counted as future. Between the past and future lies the present. Present is the time which remains lively and vibrant living between the past, (the lived time) and the future, (yet to be lived time). This lively, vibrant present time is God's time.

PRESENT is God's time; how? God does not have past or future, because everything is alive and available for God always. Nothing is away from His presence that God has that God has lost them forever. Also, Nothing is yet to happen that God is waiting for them to appear. Everything and all things are alive, vibrant and present without their past or future. If we desire to understand or experience PRESENT of God we have to free ourselves from the humanly created concept of time. The moment we liberate from the burdens of the past memories and strip ourselves from the future dreams, we will have nothing of the past or the future to compare or evaluate the PRESENT we currently live. In this current living moment, we become alive and vibrant. At this present moment, we will be totally and entirely available to ourselves. This is moment we experience wholly the NEW, which has nothing to compare with our past self or to emerge to a future self.

When we wish each other NEW year, let us be born to God's time - God's PRESENT time. Let us not compare ourselves or any person or any situation with the past. Let us not reserve or postpone ourselves or any person or any situation for the future benefit. Let us live God's time. Let us live the PRESENT and allow the PRESENT of any person to be alive and vibrant. PRESENT is the NEW. The NOW time is the PRESENT time. When we live the NOW we will be ever NEW. The newness that begins at that passing minute, at the countdown 11:59 of 2023 to 00.00 of 2024, continue NEW in living the PRESENT , THE NOW of God's time.

Today we celebrate our families while celebrating God's Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. By letting God into their relationship, their poor and regular family became Holy Family of Mary, Joseph and Jesus. Today's celebration reminds that we can let God be born in our family and make it a holy family as happened to the Holy Family did. When God comes into our time and situation then all human times and situations become those of God. NEW, ALIVE and VIBRANT.

With love and prayers,
Fr. Antony

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

The New Covenant

We are about to enter into the year 2024. Last week in this column, we looked at the connection between Christmas and the Eucharist. This week, let's look at the concept of "new" and apply it to something secular, the new year, and compare and contrast with the New Covenant.

First, what is a "covenant"? It is a term we might be familiar with from law. This is a formal, solemn and binding agreement. Legally, it is a type of promise that often forms the core of a contract. But in spiritual matters, a covenant is much greater. A covenant involves mutual commitments between parties. Rather than going beyond a mere service, which is typically what a contract arranges, a covenant binds two parties in a trust that, at least in the spiritual world, is meant never to be broken. Each side has an interest in working for the good of the other.

After the Fall of Adam and Eve, God established a covenant first with his chosen people, the Israelites. God would protect and bless his people, and the people would obey God



and stay faithful to him. God kept up his end of the covenant, but the people found it difficult to do the same. The human race needed a savior to redeem them from sin and death. And so God sent his only Son, and the blood that Jesus shed on the Cross is the blood of "the new and everlasting covenant," as we hear at Mass.

Just like the new year about to dawn upon us, this covenant was new to God's people. Unlike the new year, this New Covenant will not pass away. 2024 will run its course, and in a little over 12 months, it will simply be a memory. But the New Covenant is eternal. Jesus Christ is the mediator of that covenant, in which we are graced by God's love and forgiveness. And we are drawn ever closer to him each time we experience him in the Eucharist.

"The renewal in the Eucharist of the covenant between the Lord and man draws the faithful into the compelling love of Christ and sets them on fire." – *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 10.

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

Parish Information

Staff

Pastor

Father Antony Asir

Contact

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Deacons

Deacon Matthew T.J. Surico

Deacon Edward Vigneaux

Deacon Robert D. Weisz

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Rectory

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Dottie Castaldo (finance)

Alex White (operations)

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Ministry

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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
Joseph Christiana	Patricia Parker
Kathryn Douglas	Joanne Pelletier
Thomas Dwyer	George Pflugel
Barbara Foberg	Nunzio (Steve) Puleio
Pat Golembiewski	Rosalie Rocchio
Linda Heller	Richard Ronning
Jean Herlihy	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	



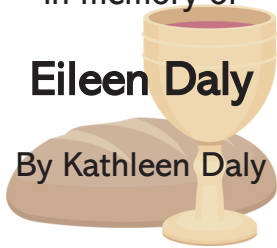
We also pray for our veterans, that they receive the support they need here at home.

Altar Bread & Wine Memorial

In memory of 1/1-1/7

Eileen Daly

By Kathleen Daly



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



GOD
 OBEYED
 A HUMAN
 CREATURE;
 THIS IS
 HUMILITY
 WITHOUT
 PRECEDENT.
 A HUMAN
 CREATURE
 COMMANDS
 GOD
 IT IS
 SUBLIME
 BEYOND
 MEASURE.

St Bernard of Clairvaux
 (1090-1153)

Doctor of the Church

Anasthpaul17

Parish Operations

SUPPORT COLLECTION

Collection from:
December 23rd & 24th

*Advent 4, Christmas to follow

\$6090

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 25 (\$100): Rick Mallen (736)

December 26 (\$25): Teresa Kane (243)

December 27 (\$25): Tom & Clara Datre (47)

December 28 (\$25): Richard Soldano (18)

December 29 (\$25): Dottie Lossani (32)

December 30 (\$25): Tom & Clara Datre (485)

December 31 (\$200): Alan Scaduto (675)

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

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. During our New Year, may our families "grow in wisdom and have the favor of God upon them."

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring Christmas to the hearts of the poor, by providing gifts, furniture, rental assistance, car payments, etc. Wishing all who read this a Blessed and Happy New Year!

In Our Parish

Everyone is welcome to...
Connect
Belong
Discover

Alpha-

Returning to STM
January 8th, 2024

Alpha

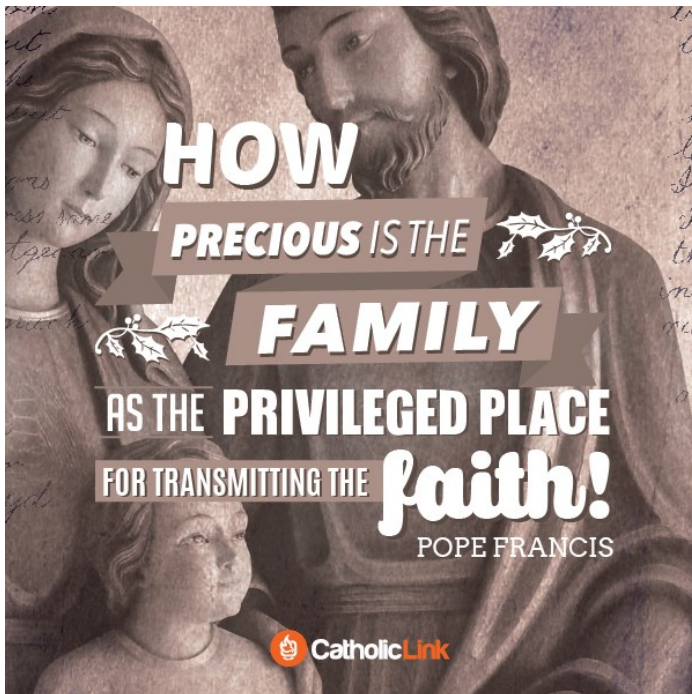


Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God



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



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

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



Holy Hour

"New Life in Christ"

Adoration & Benediction
led by Deacon Matt!



Contemporary music
by Alex and Noelle!

Tuesday, January 2nd at 7:00pm

Christmas Masses



