

*Sharing
the Spirit
of Love*

Catholic Church Community of

St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge NY 11788



*A Light to
the Nations*

EPIPHANY



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.

*The Epiphany
of the Lord*

JANUARY 7TH, 2024

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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(631) 234-5551

rectory@stmli.org

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reled@stmli.org

Outreach:

(631) 234-3149

outreach@stmli.org

Masses January 6th- January 14th, 2023

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*

Monday, January 8th: The Baptism of the Lord

9am- Jean Kelly *by Judy Coyle*

Tuesday, January 9th:

9am- Maximo Rodriguez *by Sylvia Graf*

Wednesday, January 10th:

9am- Veronica Brennan *by James Cussen*

Thursday, January 11th:

9am- Nicola Giannantonio *by Lee Nordin*

Friday, January 12th:

9am- Patricia Harry *by Steve & Kim Miller*

Saturday, January 13th:

5pm- Mary McGill Braun *by Mary Lou Braun*

Sunday, January 14th: Second Sunday (Ordinary)

8am- Angelina Crociata *by The Crociata Family*

9:30am- Matthew H & Patricia Surico *by Dcn Matt & Patti Surico*

11:30am- Rose Nelly Gemain *by Michele Germain*

John 1:35-42 (Ordinary 2)

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" -which translated means Teacher-, "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" -which is translated Christ-. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" -which is translated Peter.

Focus Questions for 1/14/24

John 1:35-42

- 1: Describe a time when you made a decision that changed your life.
- 2: Who has helped you deepen your relationship with Jesus?
- 3: What are you looking for in your spiritual life?

Family & Children's Question:

The Gospel tells of one brother (Andrew), bringing his brother (Peter), to Jesus. Who in your family has brought you to Jesus?

Readings for This Week

January 7th, 2024 (Epiphany)

Isaiah 60:1-6

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

Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6

Matthew 2:1-12



Readings for Next Week

January 14th, 2024 (Ordinary 2)

1 Samuel 3:3b-10,19

Psalms 40:2,4,7-8,8-9,10

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a,17-20

John 1:35-42



MATTHEW 2:2

Fr. Antony's Letter

Dear Friends,

The University was closed for Holidays. College kids were hitching rides. They had signs saying, "New York", "Boston" or names of other destinations, waiting for the passing motorists to see and respond. But a car driver was particularly impressed when he saw a young man with a sign saying, "Mom is waiting." How could he resist giving him a ride? The journey was made easily possible for the student when he displayed purpose. Journeys are travelled not merely to reach the destinations, but to fulfill a purpose.

Today is the Solemn Feast of Epiphany. It is the feast that celebrates the God who revealed Himself in Jesus, being born as a human child, through the natural sign of a Star, to all the people beyond the borders of religion and land. The magi from the east saw the star and journeyed to give homage to the Godchild, the King of the Jews. The traditional story about the magi (translated as the wise men) is that there were three of them (named Melchior, Balthasar, and Gaspar), from three different nations (Babylonia, Persia, and India), and brought three gifts (Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh).

The magi, as star watchers, read in the appearance of "His Star", a message and an invitation; the message was about "the newborn King of the Jews"; and the invitation was to follow the star to find Him and "to do Him homage." The star, the sign from nature, led them but could not bring them all the way to the exact place of His birth. They needed to be helped by the scripture (the word of God) interpreted by chief priests and scribes of their time. Yes, they began their journey at the invitation of the star, but they reached the right place and did homage to the right person by the light of the word of God.

Even in our times, Nature reveals God's presence and invites us to experience Him. As Psalm 19 proclaims, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament proclaims the works of his hands.... There is no speech, no words; their voice is not heard; A report goes forth through all the earth, their messages, to the ends of the world." For those who tune their senses to the nature, like the Magi, they will hear the message of God's presence and the invitation to experience Him.

All that Nature can give us is a message and an invitation. But in order turn them in "doing homage" to the person who speaks the message and sends the invitation, we need the illumination from the Word of God. Nature's invitation will initiate a journey towards God and the Scripture (Word of God) that will bring us to the direct experience of God per se and God among us. Let us respond to revealing God. Let us acknowledge His presence in nature and among us. Let all that we do and say be like a journey of reaching God and doing homage (worship) through the revelation coming to us in Scripture (Word of God).

"20+G+M+B+24": Epiphany is the time to celebrate our home as the home which recognizes God and invites God's grace to fill the house. You may have noticed that over the inside entrance of the Church is written in chalk: "20+C+M+B+18" which are the first letters of the names of three magi Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar enclosed within the year 2024. You can bless your home in the same way writing this inscription on the inside of your home entrance - the year and the names of the kings as you find in the church. This signifies that God is revealing to us who are the present day three magi. God is not a God of Old times, but of our time, now, today, of 2024.

2023 Contribution Statements: Soon after the New Year we will complete data entries of 2023 into our system. If you want a record of your 2023 contributions for tax purposes, please complete and return the cut-out in the bulletin and return it to the Church Office. We will begin mailing them out towards the end of January.

With love and prayers,
Fr. Antony

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

The Mass: Liturgy of the Eucharist - Part I

Let's now begin a very important set of columns as we take a look at the pinnacle of the Mass: The Liturgy of the Eucharist. This part of the Mass is so important we are planning to present this in seventeen (yes, that's not a typo!) parts.

After the Prayer of the Faithful is prayed (which concludes the Liturgy of the Word), we all sit down, and we enter into the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The collection is taken up (generally only on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation) and the Offertory Procession occurs. The collection, an offering and a sacrifice itself, much like what will take place in a few moments on the altar, is vital to the running of a parish, and any funds sacrificed by those present are greatly appreciated.

The Offertory consists of the bread and the wine. Bread and wine don't just appear in nature on their own. They are "the work of human hands." These two food items were offered up at the Last Supper, the first Mass, where Jesus instituted the Eucharist.



So they are placed onto the *Offertory table*, and some members of the assembly, who represent all of us, carry these two items (appropriately called "the gifts") up and hand them to the priest. Note that the Church teaches it is improper to offer anything else at the Offertory (like the water, or empty chalices) because the focus is on the bread and wine, which will become Jesus' Body and Blood, his Real Presence. The only exception to this is the collection. Those who walk up in the Offertory Procession do not need items in their hands in order to be part of the representation of the assembled community.

"... The presentation of the gifts (...) is not to be viewed simply as a kind of 'interval' between the liturgy of the word and the liturgy of the Eucharist. (...) This humble and simple gesture is actually very significant: in the bread and wine that we bring to the altar, all creation is taken up by Christ the Redeemer to be transformed and presented to the Father."
– *Sacramentum Caritatis*, 47, Pope Benedict XVI, 2005.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Contact me at 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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Alex White (operations)

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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

Luigi Volpe
 Dominick Mancuso
 William Hoell
 Carol Ann Bartolotta

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

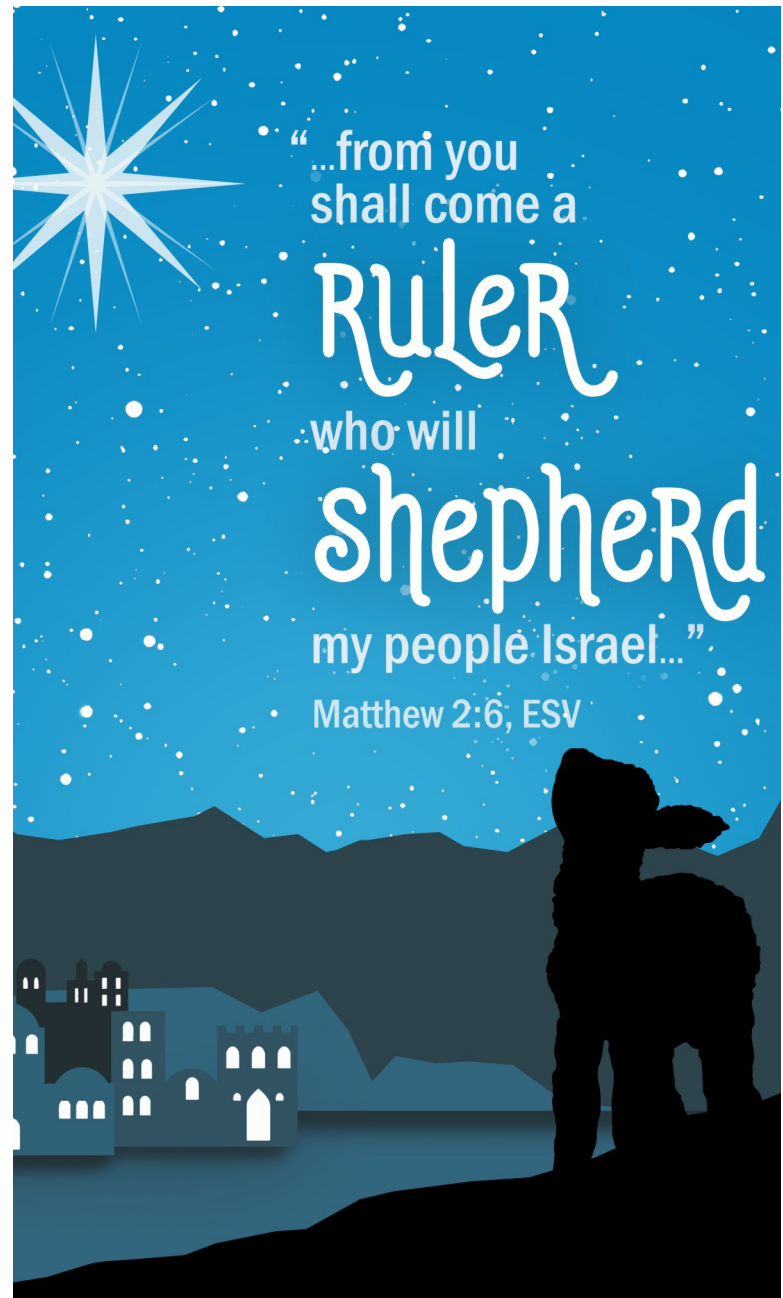
In memory of 1/8-1/14

Sean Patrick Massey

By Mary Ellen Skrzypek



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



Parish Operations

SUPPORT COLLECTION

Collection from:
December 30th & 31st

\$5550

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 Sign Up

It's not too late to sign up for the Calendar Club!

Entries are accepted until January 22nd!

January winners will be drawn and published in February, after that we will resume publishing winners weekly in the bulletin.

Tax Season Comes Soon

It's never too early to get started with the paperwork! If you would like a copy of your 2023 parish contributions for tax purposes, please fill out the form at the back of the bulletin.

Thank you! We couldn't exist without your support!



“THEY KNELT
DOWN AND
PAID
HIM
HOMAGE.”

MATTHEW 2:11, NRSV

Parish Social Ministry

"We shall never be worthy members of the Mystical Body of Christ, if we do not see the image of Jesus Christ in the poor."

~Cardinal Bacci



ST. THOMAS MORE
† PARISH OUTREACH †

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

You have overwhelmed us with your generosity!

Thank you...to all the families and religious education classes who participated in our Outreach Advent Calendar. Your donations helped to re-stock our shelves.

Thank you...to all who participated in our Giving Tree. You provided toys to the needy in our community including St. John of God, Miraculous Medal, and the Eastern Farm Workers.

Thank you... from the Life Center of Long Island for gift cards, children's clothing, diapers and wipes. Your donations helped to empower pregnant and parenting women by providing them with the resources required to take care of themselves and their children.

Thank you...for helping us provide a Christmas meal to 56 families, 95 gift cards so parents could buy their children Christmas gifts, and 85 pair of new pajamas.

In addition we were able to provide food to 58 families during the month of December. This includes 108 adults and 117 children.

Special thanks to the Hauppauge Fire Department, Engine 4 Truck 1, the HFD Ladies Auxiliary, Dr. Vincent Sellaro Lodge #2319 Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, Unico Islip/Smithtown Chapter, and New Beginnings of Smithtown.

On behalf of all the volunteers at Outreach we wish you a happy, healthy New Year!



Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please donate to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.

To contact us, call 631-648-2760 or email svdp.stm@aol.com

Wishing all of you a Happy and Blessed New Year!

In Our Parish

Young at Heart

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

Call Anna @ 631-234-0714



Pray for PreCana

As we begin the 2024 session of PreCana, we ask that you keep these couples in your prayers. Come and join us and these wonderful couples at Mass in February to celebrate their completion of the PreCana program, the next step on the road to Holy Matrimony!

Julia McNeil & Tom Hughes

Elizabeth DeMonte & Dustin Mariboe

Katelyn Hanratty & Michael Nigro

Samantha Novak & John Goode



The Gentiles are ...
sharers together in the promise
in Christ Jesus.



Ephesians 3:6, NIV

Everyone is welcome to...
Connect
Belong
Discover

Alpha-
Returning to STM
January 8th, 2024

Alpha



Happening at St. Thomas More

Coming Up @ STM

Mon Jan 8th, 2:30pm
Circle of Women Book Club

Mon Jan 8th, 6:00pm
Alpha (Session 1)

Wed Jan 10th, 7:00pm
Columbiettes Business Meeting

Thurs Jan 11th, 5:30pm
Children's Choir Rehearsal

Thurs Jan 11th, 7:00pm
Choir Rehearsal

Fri Jan 12th, 12:30pm
Young at Heart

Sun Jan 14th, after masses
Hospitality Sunday

Sun Jan 14th, 12:30pm
Youth Group

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



2023 Parish Contribution

To request a copy of your 2023 contributions for tax purposes, please write down your name and submit this form in the collection basket, or to the Rectory.

Name: _____

Your statement will be mailed to your address on file with the Parish.

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

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!