

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.

*Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

JANUARY 14TH, 2024

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 January 13th- January 21st, 2023

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*

Monday, January 15th:

9am- James G Holodak Sr *by Karen & Mark Anderson*

Tuesday, January 16th:

9am- Jaime Rodriguez *by His Family*

Wednesday, January 17th:

9am- Patricia O'Connell *by Matt & Nancy O'Connell*

Thursday, January 18th:

9am- Marie Madden *by Patty & Joe Citro*

Friday, January 19th:

9am- John Cussen *by James Cussen*

Saturday, January 20th:

5pm- Robert Pondt *by Patty & Joe Citro*

Sunday, January 21st: Third Sunday (Ordinary)

8am- Eileen Tahany *by John & Mary Ann Egan*

9:30am- Rocco Loccisano *by The STM Golf Committee*

11:30am- Richard Stout *by Taylor & Tommy*

Mark 1:14-20 (Ordinary 3)

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

Focus Questions for 1/21/24

Mark 1:14-20

- 1: Describe a time when you felt called to take a different path in your life.
- 2: Describe a time when you joined others in a new adventure.
- 3: Where do you feel God is calling you today?

Family & Children's Question:

Talk about a time when you had a change of heart.

Readings for This 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

Readings for Next Week

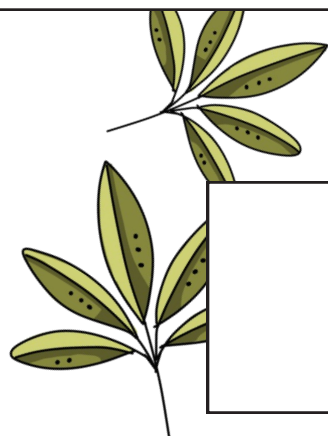
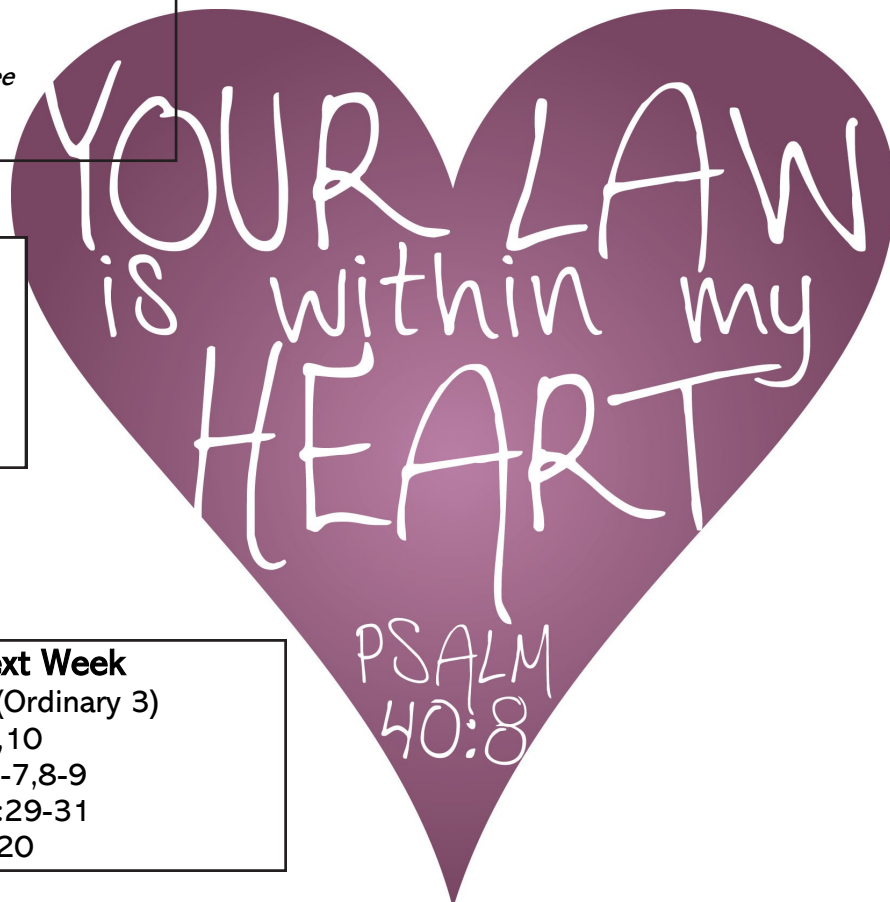
January 21st, 2024 (Ordinary 3)

Jonah 3:1-5,10

Psalms 25:4-5,6-7,8-9

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20



Fr. Antony's Letter

Dear Friends,

A hundred-year-old tombstone bears the following epitaph: "Pause Stranger, when you pass me by. As you are now, so once was I. As I am now, so you will be. So, prepare for death and follow me." An unknown passerby read those words and underneath scratched this reply: "To follow you I am not content, until I know which way you went." Life is not merely a walk on a path that someone paved, but a personal journey that everyone has to travel for themselves at their personal choice.

Today's readings invite us to follow God's voice that each of us can personally hear within ourselves. In the first reading, we read that the boy Samuel was living in the right place (Temple) and with the right person (High Priest) to direct him in the right way. Yet when the Lord called him by his name, he could not identify who was calling him until Eli helped him recognize that it was the Lord calling him. When it comes to God, we may have all the disposition to experience and serve God; but we can easily be misled to take human word for God's voice, or be misdirected to naively take any noise as God's call. We need some direction from a person of God.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist (like Eli) helped his disciples follow Jesus, the Lamb of God. When they followed Him, Jesus asked His new followers a personal question, "What are you looking for?" They did not answer Jesus's question directly but with their own question, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" By their response in the form of a question they wanted Jesus to assume that they were ready to follow Him, and all they wanted to know from Jesus is where He lives so that they can stay and be with Him. But Jesus did not want their following to be assumed or to be taken for granted. Rather their following should come from their voluntary and personal decisions. Thus, Jesus invites them to "Come and See."

Following Jesus should spring from one's own personal willful decision. Others like Eli or John the Baptist can help a person indicate the direction for the person to follow. Information from others can assist but should not force the person. If following Jesus does not happen from one's own personal choice and decision, it would be a blind and forced one, and would make the follower impersonally involved like a small cog in a large wheel. Then the follower would not find themselves following a person but would feel they are someone or something functionally necessary, but insignificant or unimportant within a larger operation or organization.

Today's Gospel continues the story telling how the personal decision of the disciples to stay with Jesus changed their realization of who Jesus was for them. They were introduced to Jesus as the "Lamb of God" by their former teacher John the Baptist. After staying with Jesus their realization of who Jesus was became a different one, a personally realized one. The Gospel says that Andrew shared his experience of Jesus with his brother Simon, "We have found the Messiah." Following Jesus is not merely decision to go behind a master or adopting a different style of living. Rather it is a new awakening, new realization, new relationship, new power of living that happens in the follower. May all our worship, prayers, and meditations help us realize Jesus and develop a personal relationship with Jesus. Let us follow Jesus from our heart.

With love and prayers,
Fr. Antony

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

The Mass: Liturgy of the Eucharist - Part II

Last week we began a look at the second section of Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist. You'll recall the opening of this section involves the collection and the Offertory. One other thing that takes place while the collection is being taken up and the Offertory Procession is being readied, and that is the Preparation of the Table (altar) for Communion.

In this preparation, the deacon, assisted by altar servers, moves to a special table called the *credence table*. This table usually sits in proximity to the altar in the sanctuary. In our parish, those who sit on the choir side of the church might be able to spot it.

On this table there will be one or more *chalices*, which will hold the Precious Blood. There will also be *purificators*. These are rectangular strips of white cloth with a red cross embroidered on them. They are used to catch any droplets of the precious blood, as well as to cleanse the sacred vessels during the purification (which will be covered in a separate article).



The deacon places a *corporal* (a white square piece of cloth) on the altar, then arranges the chalices and purificators. The corporal will catch any fragments of the Blessed Sacrament. The *Roman Missal*, the book from which the prayers of the Mass are read, is also placed on the altar.

When the Offertory Procession reaches the priest, the priest and deacons will take the *ciboria* (the vessels holding the unconsecrated hosts), the *paten* (the circular golden plate on which the priest's host resides) and the *cruet* of wine from the procession and place these on the altar as well. The table is now prepared for the blessing of the bread and wine, which will ultimately become the Real Presence of our Lord.

“Among the requisites for the celebration of the Mass, the sacred vessels are held in special honor, and among these especially the chalice and the paten, in which the bread and wine are offered and consecrated and from which they are consumed.” – *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 327.

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

Parish Information

Staff

Pastor

Father Antony Asir

Contact

pastor@stmli.org

Deacons

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)

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Religious Education

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youthgroup@stmli.org

Music Ministry

Emilia Savarese, Director

631-724-8820

Ministry

Parish Outreach

Marti White

outreach@stmli.org

Pastoral Council

Barbara & Joe Fratamico

bjfrat1@gmail.com

Altar Servers Ministry

Deacon Matt Surico

altarservers@stmli.org

Eucharistic Ministers

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Lector Ministry

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Hospitality 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	Jim Marquette
Barbara Cassetta	Ellen Murphy
Joseph Cassetta	Matt O'Connell
Joseph Christiana	Al Pankus
Kathryn Douglas	Patricia Parker
Linda Dowling	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



*this listing will expire on March 31st, 2024

Pray for the Deceased

James Ilardi
Luigi Volpe
Dominick Mancuso



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.



Parish Operations

SUPPORT COLLECTION

Collection from:
January 6th & 7th

\$6284

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.

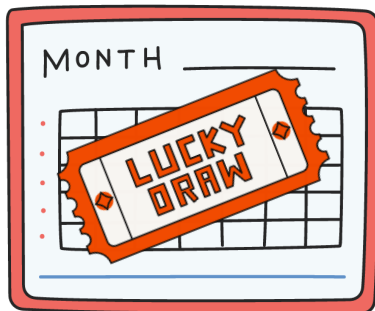
Tax Season Comes Soon

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. We will start mailing statements towards the end of January.

If you donate with Faith Direct, you can print your paperwork directly from their website.

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.

Please note, "lotto numbers" are simply for internal use. Just keep an eye on the bulletin to find your name in the list of winners. Checks are mailed out the week the winners are published.



Parish Social Ministry

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



Our immediate needs for this week...

Toothpaste

Coffee

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.

Monday – Thursday 10AM to 2 PM

631-234-3149

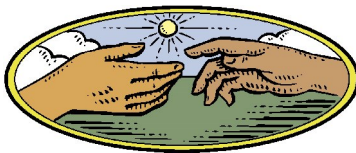
Outreach@stmlil.org

Special thank you...

...to John Savastano's 6th grade class (Landon, JP, Gregory, & Thomas) for their donation to Outreach. The boys made a hot chocolate stand as a Christmas service project and raised \$128.50!



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.



In the Gospel today, Jesus asks "What are you looking for?" Often, we are looking for happiness in very selfish ways, but we find that when we look for ways to make others happy, it is then that we truly become happy.

Perhaps the following quote from a recent neighbor whom we helped by paying an overdue auto insurance bill, will explain this further: "I got the message and picked up the check. I truly appreciate the help for it was a miracle, getting this made my New Year's Day very happy in Jesus name. It was a big surprise and I'm overwhelmed with sincere gratitude. Hope all have a blessed healthy & happiness for 2024 may the Lord bring peace and joy for everyone. God bless you always."

In Our Parish

Young at Heart

New Members Always Welcome!
Next Meeting: Fri January 26th @ 12:30

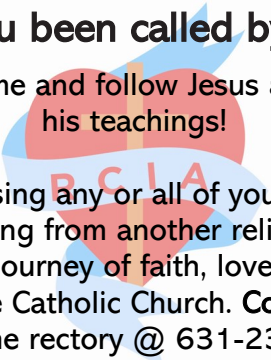


Call Anna @ 631-234-0714

Have you been called by name?

Come and follow Jesus and his teachings!

If you are missing any or all of your Sacraments, or are converting from another religion, come on an incredible journey of faith, love, and community that is the Catholic Church. Contact OCIA by calling the rectory @ 631-234-5551



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



Ash Wednesday

February 14th, 2024

Services

12pm

4:30pm

Masses

9am

7pm



The Music Corner

As we enter a new year and begin a new season as we step out of Christmas, I find myself thinking about what I'd like to see most in 2024. The answer is peace. Peace with our friends, peace with our enemies, peace through Christ.

World Needs Jesus

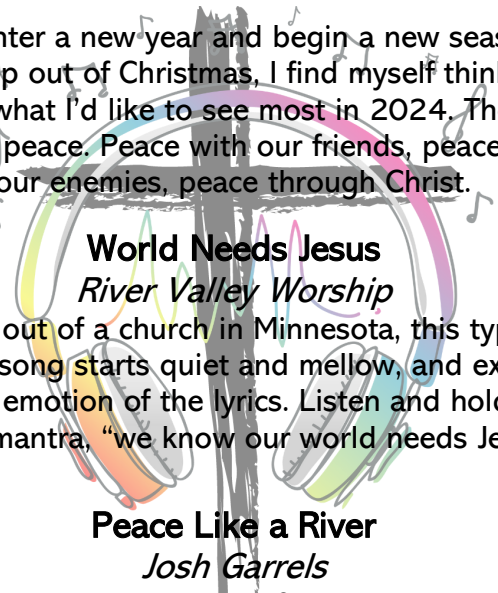
River Valley Worship

Based out of a church in Minnesota, this typical worship song starts quiet and mellow, and expands with the emotion of the lyrics. Listen and hold tight to the mantra, "we know our world needs Jesus".

Peace Like a River

Josh Garrels

A very traditional spiritual, familiar to many, this cover by Garrels of South Bend is quick and uplifting, with bright folky guitar work and a small choir of children to help lead the song along. Let peace, love, and joy flow from us with all the strength of a raging river.



THEN SAMUEL SAID,

"SPEAK"

FOR YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING."



Happening at St. Thomas More

Coming Up @ STM

Sun Jan 14th, 12:30pm
Youth Group

Mon Jan 15th, 6:30pm
Alpha

Wed Jan 17th, 7:00pm
Knight's of Columbus
Social Meeting

Thur Jan 18th, 5:30pm
Children's Choir Rehearsal

Thur Jan 18th, 7:00pm
Choir Rehearsal

Sun Jan 21st, after masses
Hospitality Sunday

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: _____

*If you use Faith Direct, you can obtain your tax information via their website.

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!

Bake Sale & Basket Raffle

Hosted by the Columbiettes!

St. Thomas More Church, Hauppauge

**Choose from a
variety of
desserts &
baskets!**

**Feb. 3rd & 4th
after all masses!**

**Winners of Basket Raffles will be
selected & notified by phone after
the 11:30am Mass on Feb. 4th!**

Proceeds go to support the Columbiettes and their charitable works.

Feast of The Epiphany

9:30am Mass on 1/7/23



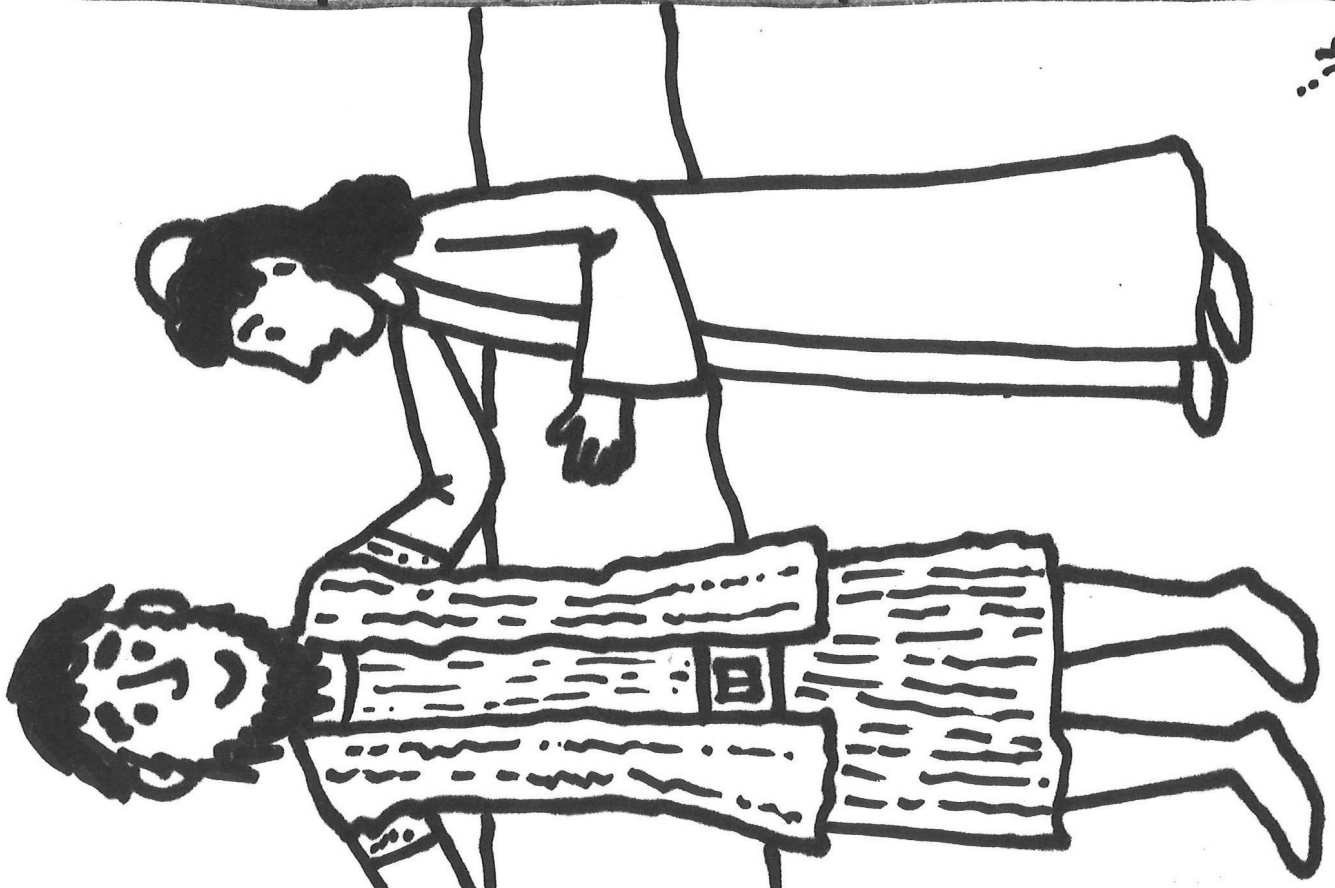
Youth Group - New Year Inventory

January 7th, 2023



Upcoming Meetings
Sundays 12:30-2:30
January 14th-
Three Sundays of Xmas
January 21st-
The Church Calendar

Follow us on Instagram! @stm_yg @stm_church



Behold! The Lamb of God!