

*Sharing  
the Spirit  
of Love*

Catholic Church Community of

# St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge NY 11788

JANUARY 21ST, 2024

# FISHERS OF MEN



## 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  
in Ordinary Time*

## 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 20th- January 28th, 2023

## 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*

## Monday, January 22nd:

9am- Kenny Granville *by Arlene & John Aspromgos*

## Tuesday, January 23rd:

9am- Pat Galvin *by Sue Simms*

## Wednesday, January 24th: St Francis de Sales

9am- Francis J Braun Sr *by Mary Lou Braun*

## Thursday, January 25th: The Conversion of St Paul

9am- Terry Russell *by Audrey Vasti*

## Friday, January 26th: Sts Timothy & Titus

9am- Ellen Sisti *by Linda & Gary Masten*

## Saturday, January 27th:

5pm- Albert Merget *by Patty & Joe Citro*

## Sunday, January 28th: Fourth Sunday (Ordinary)

8am- Suzanne Fedele *by Toni & Steve Mattessich*

9:30am- Yolanda Araujo & Doris Rocabado *by Their Family*

11:30am- Marie Weinberger *by Dottie & Phil Castaldo*

## Mark 1:21-28 (Ordinary 4)

Then they came to Capernaum, and on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught.

The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

## Focus Questions for 1/28/24

Mark 1:21-28

- 1: Describe a time when you were considered an authority. How did others react to you?
- 2: Relate a time when you recognized God's voice in your life.
- 3: Who do you know personally whose authority you respect?

## Family & Children's Question:

Choose a night this week where everyone puts down electronic devices and talks about where you felt God was present.

## Readings for This Week

January 21st, 2024 (Ordinary 3)

Jonah 3:1-5,10

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

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

## Readings for Next Week

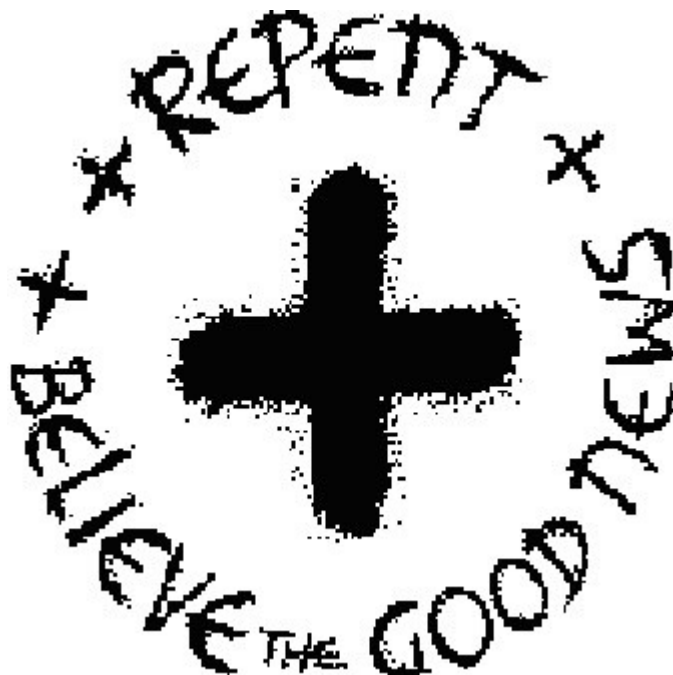
January 28th, 2024 (Ordinary 4)

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 95:1-2,6-7,7-9

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Mark 1:21-28



# Fr. Antony's Letter

Dear Friends,

**An old Jewish mother complains to her friend,** "My son Joey converted to Christianity." Her friend says, "My God, my Eddie also converted! What can we do about it?" The first woman responds, "The only thing we can do is pray." So, the two of them head to the synagogue, where they sit down with prayer books and pour out their hearts to the Almighty. After a few minutes, they hear a booming voice coming out of nowhere. "How am I supposed to help?" God says, irritated. "My son converted to Christianity too!"

**We often understand Conversion to mean a change of faith** from one religion to another, or from being an atheist to a theist. Today's readings call the listeners to a radical conversion that has to happen inwardly in their heart, not so much outwardly from a certain system of belief to a different set of belief. The first reading narrates how the people of Nineveh turned from their evil ways, and thus God changed his plan of destroying the city. Conversion means that turning from their evil ways to God's ways saved them from the evil which they would have inflicted on themselves because of their non-conversion.

**In today's Gospel Jesus encourages us not only to convert but also to believe.** "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." Through conversion (repent) Jesus invites us to turn away from our former life. By believing, Jesus introduces us to embrace/live new life which He lays out before us. Conversion means a spiritual 'moving' from present stage to a more promising stage. While conversion invites a person to move from the present style of life it does not specify "where" to move or what style of life to embrace.

**That is why Jesus adds "believe in the gospel" as the goal of conversion.** Conversion is the first step from our side. It is what we have to do. It is our move towards God. "Believing in the Gospel" is God's move towards us. Believing is the point where we meet God. Believing is the moment when God embraces us with the Good News (Gospel). We near God in conversion. God nears us with Gospel. We meet each other in believing. In believing, the believers offer themselves to move from their own style of life to embrace Gospel-style of life that God presents to them. Every act or deed that expresses belief is the occasion when God empowers and fulfills His Good News in the believers.

**Jesus reminds us that 'conversion' and 'believing in Gospel' have to happen NOW, RIGHT** at this moment; No time to waste; No moment to wait. His words are, "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and Believe." We have no time to delay and waste. Nothing should hinder. The Good News is at our door. The Kingdom of God (which is the Gospel in reality) is at our hand. No excuse can be made. Jesus expects us to rise and act as the first disciples reacted immediately to His call. "He called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him." It is our time to respond to the Good News. It is our time to convert and believe in the Gospel.

With love and prayers,  
Fr. Antony



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

## The Mass: Liturgy of the Eucharist - Part III

In our look at the Liturgy of the Eucharist last week, recall the gifts of bread and wine were presented to the priest. The next action that takes place is a prayer of blessing over the gifts.

This is one of the places in the Mass where we have commonality with the seder meal of our Jewish brothers and sisters. The Last Supper, of course, was a seder meal. At a seder, the leader recites the following over the unleavened bread: "*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, hamotzi lechem min ha-aretz.*" This means "We praise God, Spirit of everything who brings bread from the land." This is very similar in word and structure to what the priest says, in the prayer over the bread: "Blessed are you, God of all creation, for through your goodness we have this bread to offer...". A similar prayer of blessing over the wine, recalling the seder prayer, is then prayed.

In this part of the Mass, we recognize that the bread and wine come from human labor, but originate as God's gifts of



wheat and grapes to us. In preparing this simple bread and wine, we offer it back to God, so that they may be changed into Jesus' Body and Blood, his Real Presence.

You will notice before the wine is offered that the deacon takes the cruet of water and places a drop of it into the wine. In doing so, the deacon prays the following softly: "By the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity." This action recalls the days when wine was very thick, and needed thinning. Now, however, we remember that both the wine and the bread, once they have truly become Jesus, will allow us to share in his very self as God.

"For as the bread, which is produced from the earth, (...) is no longer common bread, but the Eucharist, consisting of two realities, earthly and heavenly; so also our bodies, when they receive the Eucharist, are no longer corruptible, having the hope of the resurrection to eternity." – Irenaeus, *Against Heresies, IV:8, 5.*

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

Deacon Matthew T.J. Surico

Deacon Edward Vigneaux

Deacon Robert D. Weisz

[deacon.matt@stmli.org](mailto:deacon.matt@stmli.org)

#### Rectory

Theresa Recce (sacraments)

Dottie Castaldo (finance)

Alex White (operations)

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#### Youth Ministry

Noelle LaFontaine

[youthgroup@stmli.org](mailto:youthgroup@stmli.org)

#### Music Ministry

Emilia Savarese, Director

631-724-8820

### Ministry

#### Parish Outreach

Marti White

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#### Pastoral Council

Barbara & Joe Fratamico

[bjfrat1@gmail.com](mailto:bjfrat1@gmail.com)

#### Altar Servers Ministry

Deacon Matt Surico

[altarservers@stmli.org](mailto:altarservers@stmli.org)

#### Eucharistic Ministers

Patty Citro

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#### Lector Ministry

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[mpetagna22@gmail.com](mailto:mpetagna22@gmail.com)

#### Hospitality Ministry

Ellie Stout

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#### Consolation Ministry

Eileen Weidig

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	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

Richard Bennett  
 Joan Damante  
 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	Andrew Lynch
Will Maley	



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 13th & 14th

**\$5501**

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.*

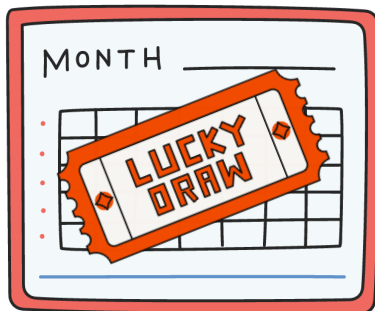
## Tax Season Comes Soon

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.

For the  
present form  
of this

**world**

is passing away

1 Corinthians 7:31, NRSV



# Parish Social Ministry

"You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbor as yourself."



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

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

## 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.

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.

## January is Poverty Awareness Month

The child poverty rate in the US more than doubled from 2021-2022, the largest year-to-year spike on record. As a result, an additional 5.2 million children are living in poverty according to the latest Census update. In 2021, Congress temporarily expanded the Child Tax Credit, allowing its full value to reach the poorest children. The expansion expired the following year and millions of children were thrust back into poverty.

-Justice, Peace, & Human Development/USSCB

## Space Heaters!

Do you have space heaters that you don't need? If you do, please consider donating them to Outreach!

There are many families that will need help staying warm this winter. Call Parish Outreach @ 631-234-3149



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says: "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." As disciples, we are called to continue God's work on earth. Taking care of God's poor is indeed living Gospel values.

Your support of our conference of SVdP brings life to God's command to "Love thy neighbor." May God bless you!

To contact us, call 631-648-2760 or email [svdp.stm@aol.com](mailto:svdp.stm@aol.com)

# In Our Parish

## Young at Heart

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

Call Anna @ 631-234-0714



At the last meeting, we celebrated Bernie Nagel's 98th birthday! Happy Birthday Bernie!

## 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 5pm Mass on February 3rd 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



**"REPENT  
and BELIEVE  
in the  
GOSPEL"**

MARK 1:15, ESV



## Presentation of Babies

These beautiful children are soon to be baptized here at St. Thomas More! Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they receive their first sacrament.



*Ash Wednesday*

February 14th, 2024

Services

12pm

4:30pm

Masses

9am

7pm





## In Our Parish

### Children's Liturgy!

Thank you to all the volunteers who help make our weekly children's liturgy a success week after week. Remember, children 4-8 are welcome to join us each Sunday at the 9:30 Mass.



— THE TIME IS FULFILLED, AND —  
**THE KINGDOM  
OF GOD IS AT HAND;**  
REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL.

**MARK 1:15**



# Happening at St. Thomas More

## Coming Up @ STM

Sun Jan 21st, after masses  
Hospitality Sunday

Sun Jan 21st, 12:30pm  
Youth Group

Mon Jan 22nd, 6:30pm  
Alpha

Thurs Jan 25th, 5:30pm  
Children's Choir Rehearsal

Thurs Jan 25th, 7:00pm  
Choir Rehearsal

Fri Jan 26th, 12:30pm  
Young At Heart

## 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.

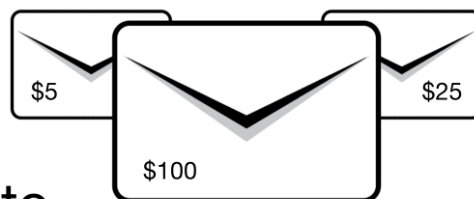
# THE WALL OF ENVELOPES

Make a donation to: St. Vincent de Paul / St. Thomas More Conference

## A Simple Way to Help Struggling Families

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Select the amount you would like to donate by choosing the corresponding envelope.
- Envelope has raffle tickets inside.
- Larger the donation = More chances to win!



### Example:

- Envelope #1 would be a \$1 Donation
- Envelope #2 would be a \$2 Donation
- And so on...

## PRIZES

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**1ST PRIZE**

**\$500**

**2ND PRIZE**

**\$300**

**3RD PRIZE**

**\$200**

# 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.**

# HEC

Handicapped Encounter Christ

## Volunteer Opportunity Available (for adults 18+)

### Handicapped Encounter Christ Ministry

Handicapped Encounter Christ is a ministry for adults with physical, mental, cognitive and/or sensory disabilities. It is based on the Cursillo movement of the Catholic Church. HEC brings together the communities of disabled and enabled adults so they can all get to know our Lord, Jesus Christ. During the year, we have many different events and annually there is a three-day HEC Retreat held each spring. We are always looking for participants to join this ministry — those that are disabled and those who are not — so that together we are one community learning from each other, enjoying each other's company, and establishing many beautiful friendships together as we all get to know our Lord.

The 2024 HEC Retreat takes place Thursday evening April 18<sup>th</sup> and ends Sunday afternoon April 21<sup>st</sup>.

**PLEASE join our HEC #40 planning meetings for enabled adults who wish to volunteer and be of service on the Retreat weekend.**

- **Monday, Feb. 5th @ 7 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 29 Clay Pitts Road, Greenlawn**
- **Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm at St Kilian Parish 485 Conklin St. Farmingdale (Green Room)**
- **Monday, April 1st<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM St. Francis of Assisi Church 29 Clay Pitts Rd, Greenlawn**

**All are welcome. Please join us!**

**Any questions, call Bernice 516-582-0302 or Bob @ 516-241-4122.**

# Youth Group - The Octave of Xmas

January 14th, 2023



Delivering donations from Church to Outreach



Learning about The Octave of Christmas, the Feast Days within the season, and the meaning of The 12 Days of Christmas.



Transporting garbage cans for Religious Ed



We returned costumes used for Feast of The Epiphany to the attic



Moving garbage from Church to the pick up area

## Upcoming Meetings

**Sundays 12:30-2:30**

**January 21st-**

The Church Calendar

**January 28th-**

How We Glorify God

Follow us on  
Instagram!

@stm\_yg

@stm\_church



## EM Meeting and Retreat

"When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now." *St Teresa of Calcutta*

We are so very happy to share with you that our ***EM Meeting and Retreat*** has been rescheduled for **Saturday, March 2nd at 9:00 am.**

We will have a special Mass at 9:00 am followed directly by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

After which we will have our breakfast meeting. Our mini- retreat will follow.

We anticipate concluding around 10:45 am.

Please let us know if you will be attending with an email response to [pcitro78@yahoo.com](mailto:pcitro78@yahoo.com) or by calling/ texting *Patty (631) 877-6926* or *Laura (631) 848-0291*.

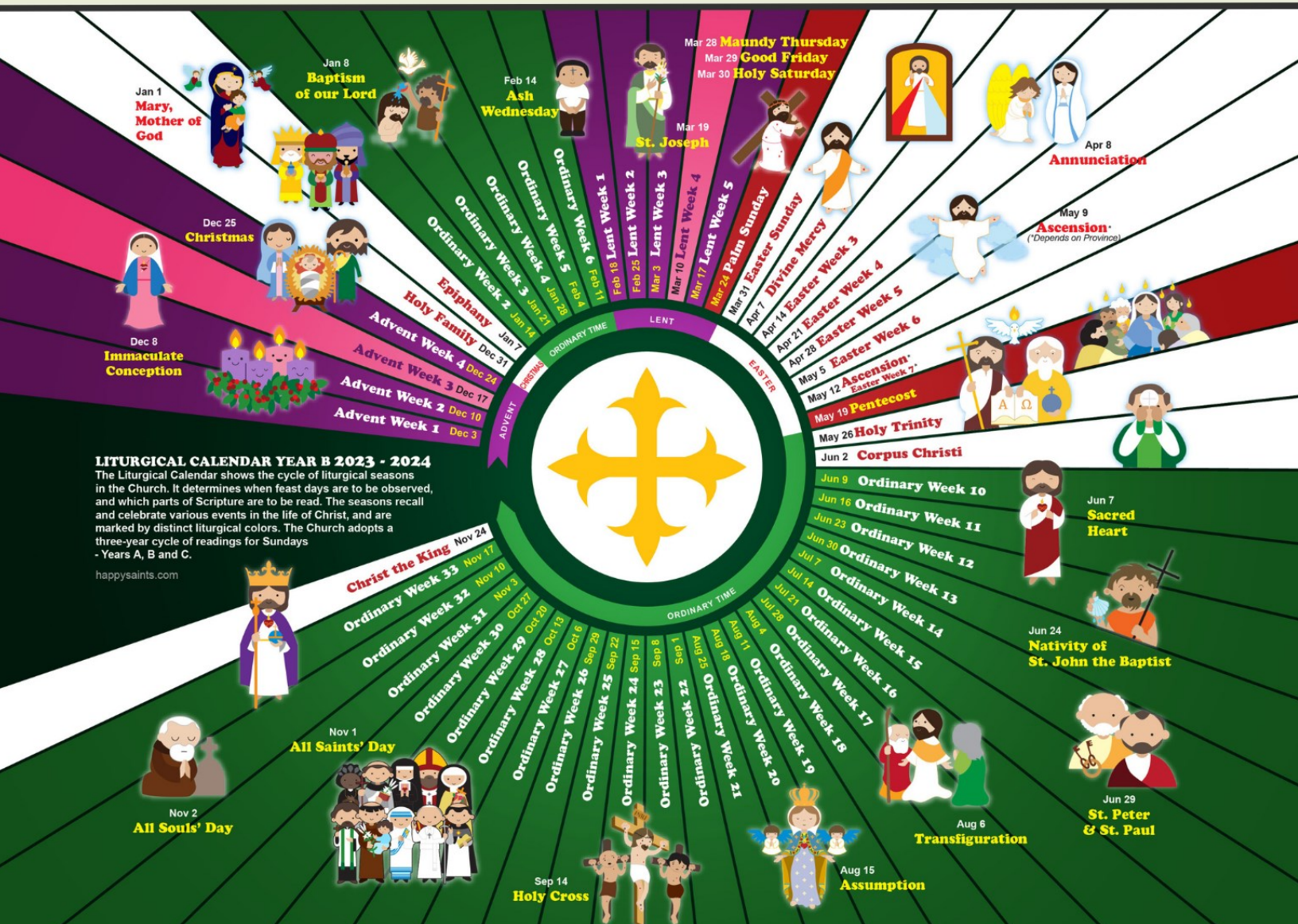


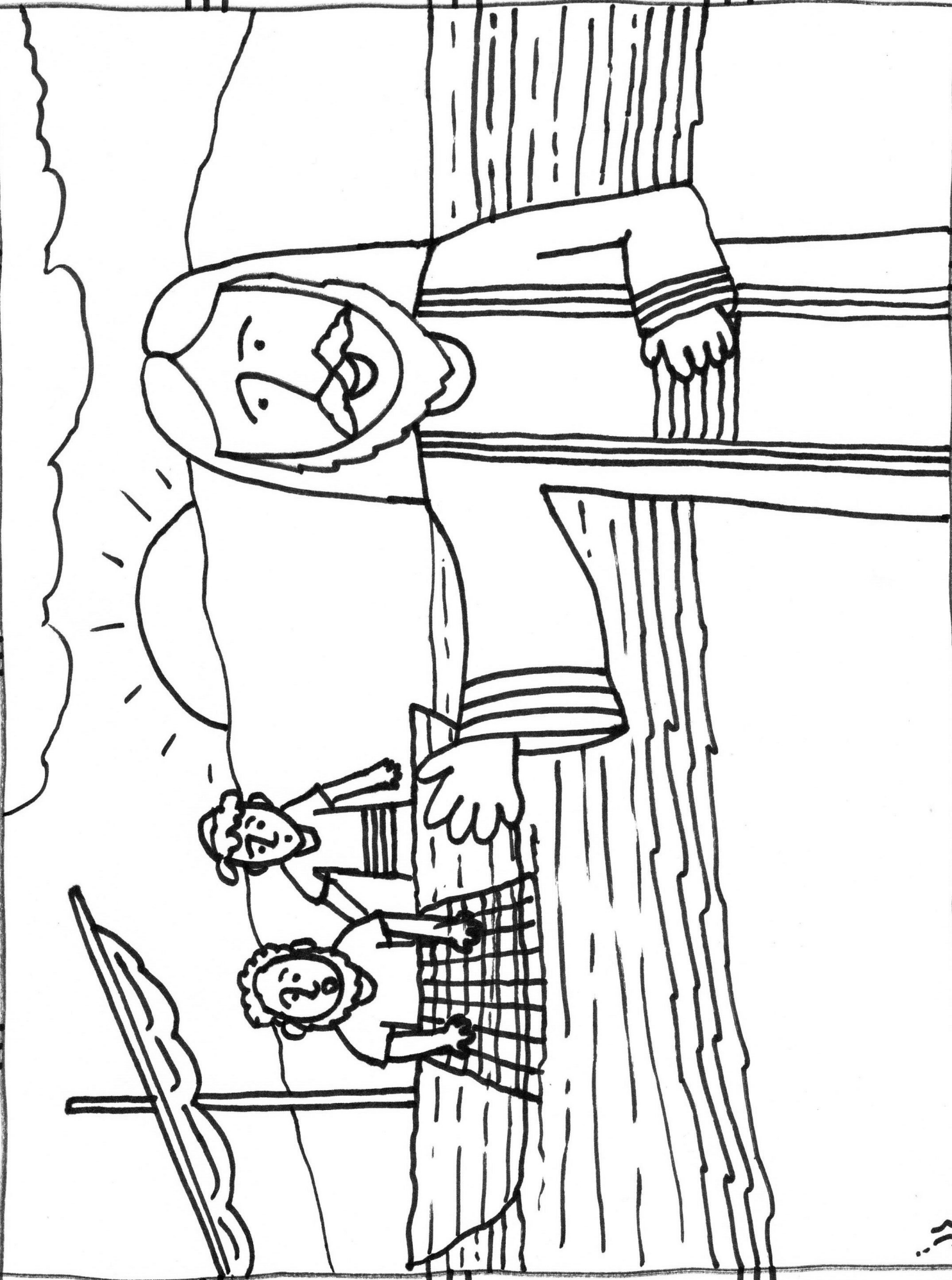
# WHAT IS Ordinary Time

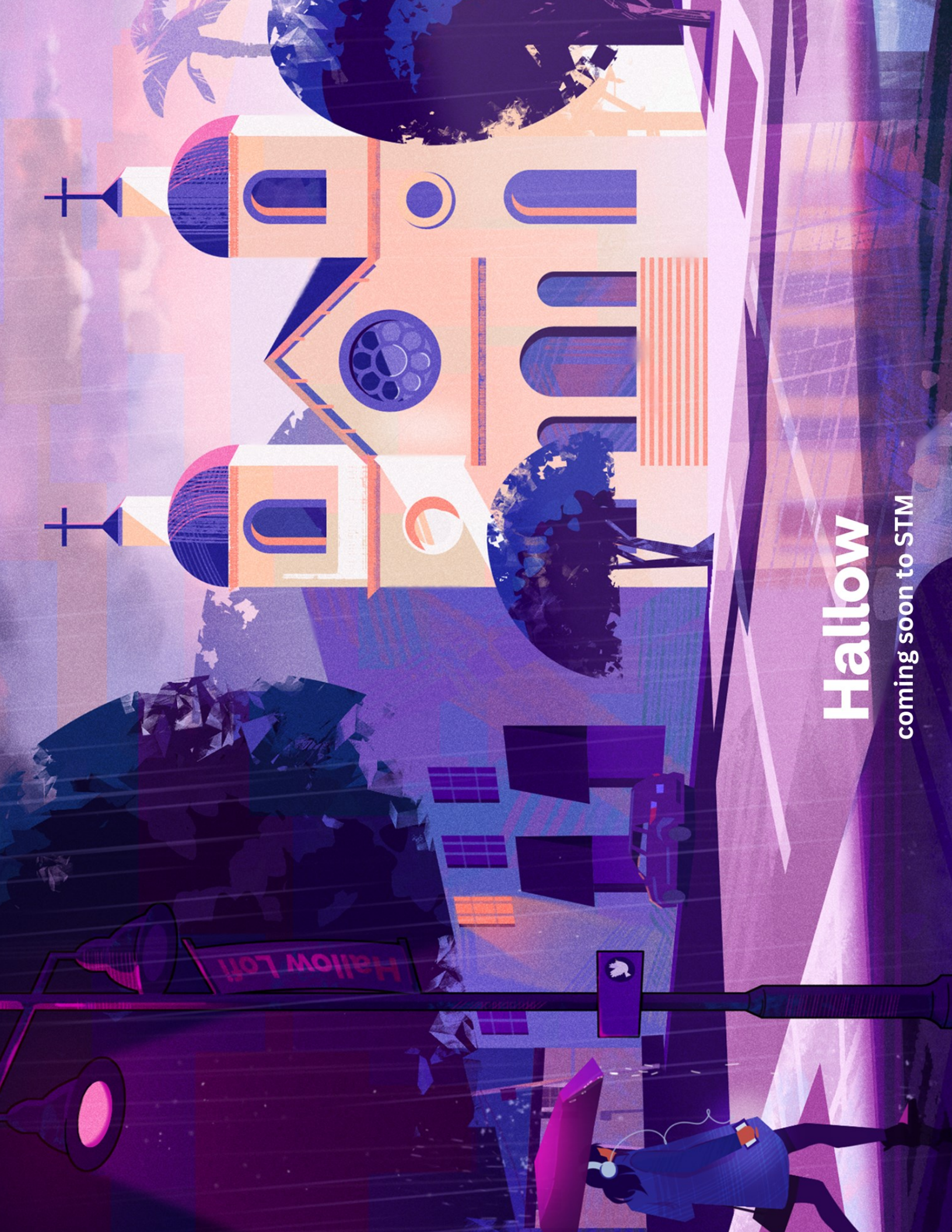
Christmas Time and Easter Time highlight the central mysteries of the Paschal Mystery, namely, the incarnation, death on the cross, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Sundays and weeks of Ordinary Time, on the other hand, take us through the life of Christ. This is the time of conversion. This is living the life of Christ.

Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ. The goal, toward which all of history is directed, is represented by the final Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

-from usccb.org







# Hallow

coming soon to STM