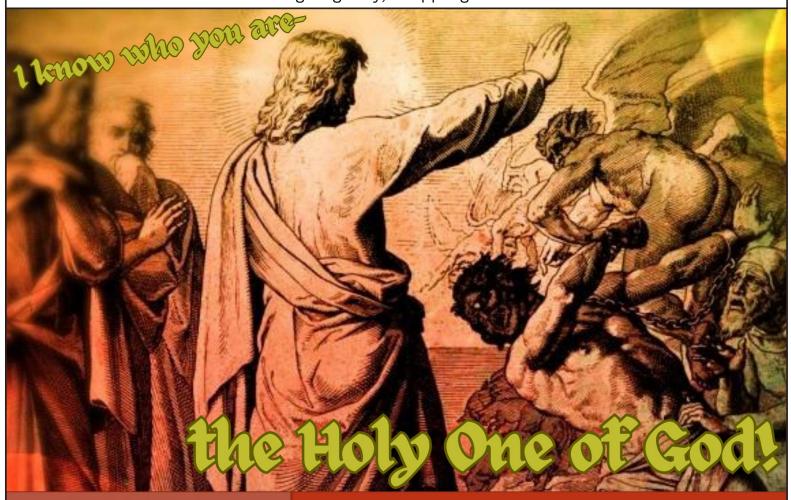
Catholic Church Community of

Sharing the Spirit

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.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time JANUARY 28TH, 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 27th-February 4th, 2024

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

Monday, January 29th:

9am- Dottie Lossani by Arlene & John Aspromgos

Tuesday, January 30th:

9am- Kenny Granville by Marie & Russ Bracco

Wednesday, January 31st: St John Bosco

9am-Bianca Russomanto by Claudia & Daniel Capra

Thursday, February 1st:

9am- Jordan Wheeler by Tom & Mary Ellen Carroll

Friday, February 2nd: The Presentation of the Lord

9am- James Cussen Sr. by James Cussen

Saturday, February 3rd: St Blaise

5pm- Thomas Busiello by The Busiello Family

Sunday, February 4th: Fifth Sunday (Ordinary)

8am- Michael J Hughes by The McNeill Family

9:30am- Joseph Amodio by Marilyn Amodio

11:30am- Maria Pollenz by Angela Mingione

Readings for This 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

Readings for Next Week

February 4th, 2024 (Ordinary 5)
Job 7:1-4,6-7
Psalm 147:1-2,3-4,5-6
1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23
Mark 1:29-39

Mark 1:29-39 (Ordinary 5)

On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They mmediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

Focus Questions for 2/4/24 Mark 1:29-39

- 1: Jesus restored himself with prayer. Describe a time when you needed prayer or time alone to feel restored.
- 2: Relate a time when you or someone you knew was healed through prayer.
- 3: When have you cried out to God that you had enough?

Family & Children's Question:
Over the next week, at the end of the day, look back on your day and write down how much time you spent with God that day.



Fr. Antony's Letter

Dear Friends,

The husband boasted, "In my house, I make all the major decisions and my wife makes all minor ones. For example, I decide such things as East-West trade, crime in the streets, welfare cheating, and tax increases. My wife decides the minor things such as which house to buy, what kind of car we drive, how much money to spend, how to raise the children, etc." Each one of us has some kind of authority, some more and some less. But all of us have inner spiritual authority in which we are unique and never superior or inferior to anyone.

In today's Gospel people feel that Jesus' teaching unlike that of the Scribe's is with authority. Jesus is neither a scribe specialized in Law, nor a Pharisee known for their meticulous observance of Law, nor a Sadducee politically and economically influential. He is an unknown carpenter from Nazareth. But people in the synagogue astonished at his teaching and experienced an authority in his words.

The teachings of the scribe's, the Pharisees or Sadducees carried some authority because of their position and influence they had in the society. But the teachings of Jesus come from his original self. His words do not carry any weight from the power or influence invested on Him from outside. His authority is from within himself, from who he is, the image of the invisible God, the Son of God.

Every one of us is created after God's image. We become God's children in our baptism. As God's Children and bearing God's image in us, we all have inalienable and inbuilt God-given authority in us. Unless we decide to give up that authority, no one else can rob it from us. In the world of pluralistic opinions and multiple styles of living, let us not be misled or reduce ourselves by anything outside of us. Let us be aware of who we are. May our prayers and spiritual worships make us realize what kind of God-given authority we possess. May our lives be the expression of God-given authority.

This year Lent begins on February 14th, Valentine's Day. We invite you to download the Catholic spiritual app called "Hallow". It features many spiritual talks and prayers for Lent. It will make Lent meaningful and spiritually fruitful for you and your family. In addition, there are many other Catholic resources (liturgy of the hours, daily readings, homilies, music, meditations, etc.) to help empower your lives through this Lent. All parishioners will have free access to Hallow Premium from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday (Feb 14-March 31). More information will follow in the weeks ahead.

With love and prayers, Fr. Antony



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

St. Thomas Aquinas

We are going to take a pause in our look at the Liturgy of the Eucharist to honor a very important saint who is strongly associated with the Eucharist: St. Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225-1274). We celebrate his feast day today, January 28.

Previous columns in this space have touched on the feast of Corpus Christi (June 11), transubstantiation (June 18), and the *Tantum Ergo* (Dec 10 and Dec 17). All of these have a direct connection to St. Thomas.

Thomas Aquinas grew up in the Kingdom of Sicily (now Italy) and eventually joined the Dominican Order. About 200 years before his birth, Berengarius of Tours began teaching that Christ could not possibly be in heaven and in the Blessed

Sacrament at the same time, a heresy. This spurred the Church to condemn this teaching, but unfortunately, Eucharistic errors persisted.

To assist in combating such errors, Aquinas wrote a tremendous amount of material on the Catholic faith. His most voluminous work was his last (and one that he actually never completed), the *Summa Theologiae*. This is a document with a masterful combination of

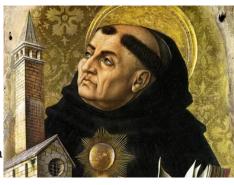
faith and reason that tackles many aspects of Catholicism, especially the Eucharist.

Aquinas stresses that it is faith that causes us to know that bread and wine is changed into Christ's Body and Blood. He was adamant in helping all understand that the Eucharist is not a mere sign or symbol of Jesus, but actually *is* Jesus. We receive Jesus completely in the Eucharist, which Aquinas called "the sacrament of love." The Eucharist is given to us as a great sign of God's love, and which produces love. Aquinas also called the Eucharist "the bread of angels," as it brings us closer to God.

St. Thomas Aquinas, pray for us, that we may enter more deeply into the mystery of our Savior's Real Presence in the Eucharist, so that we may grow in grace and wisdom.

"Under the old law it was the flesh of calves and goats that was offered, but here Christ himself, the true God, is set before us as our food. What could be more wonderful than this?" – St. Thomas Aquinas, *Opusculum 57*.

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



Parish Information

Young at Heart

Anna Beltrani

631-724-8820

Staff	Contact
Pastor Father Antony Asir	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)	theresa@stmli.org finance@stmli.org rectory@stml.org
Religious Education Mary Ellen Carroll, DRE Linda Ronning Joanne Anelli	mecarroll@optonline.net reled@stmli.org
Youth Ministry Noelle LaFontaine	youthgroup@stmli.org

Music Ministry

Emilia Savarese, Director

Ministry	Contact
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 Patty Citro	pcitro78@yahoo.com
Lector Ministry Mike Petagna	mpetagna22@gmail.com
Hospitality Ministry Ellie Stout	gram11@optonline.net
Consolation Ministry Eileen Weidig	631-724-2462
OCIA Ann Russo	redaa@aol.com

631-234-0714

Prayers for Our Community

Pray for the Sick

Gregory Bennett
Barbara Cassetta
Joseph Cassetta
Joseph Christiana
Kathryn Douglas
Bill Dowd
Linda Dowling
Thomas Dwyer
Barbara Foberg
Pat Golembiewski
Linda Heller
Jean Herlihy
Jim Ilardi
Richard Landi
Frank Loporto

Jim Marquette
Ellen Murphy
Matt O'Connell
Al Pankus
Patricia Parker
Joanne Pelletier
George Pflugel
Nunzio (Steve) Puleio
Rosalie Rocchio
Richard Ronning
Noah Simonetti (2 yrs)
John Spadaro
Lorraine White
John Zuzzolo

*this listing will expire on March 31st, 2024

Pray for Our Military

Please continue to pray for the brave members of our parish family who serve our country:

Troy A. Maida
Connor Hendrickson
Evan Hendrickson
Christopher Sidor
Ryan Smith
Will Maley
Joseph Kirsch
Allen Kirsch
Nicholas Gajda
Alexandria Feys Gajda
Andrew Lynch

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.

Pray for the Deceased

Robert Demonte

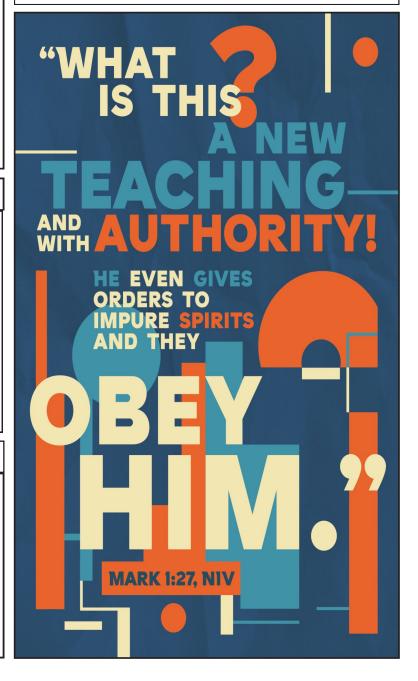
Richard Bennett

Joan Damante

James Ilardi

WELCOMED HOME

We continuously pray for our deceased loved ones.



Parish Operations

SUPPORT COLLECTION

Collection from: January 20th & 21st

\$6204

Weekly Goal: \$6700

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

Calendar Club Sign Up

It's not too late to sign up for the Calendar Club!
Entries are accepted until January 31st!



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.

Rectory Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

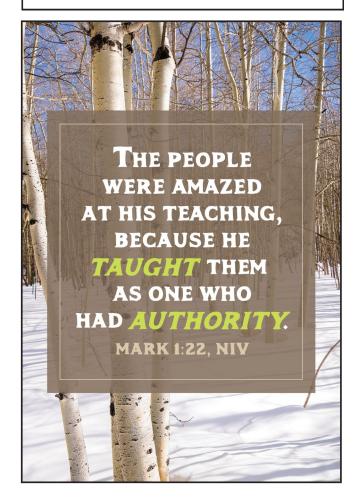
If in need of the immediate attention of a priest during non-office hours please call (631) 234-5551 and choose option 4

All other calls received after office hours will be returned the next business day.

Tax Season Comes Soon

It's never to 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.



Parish Social Ministry

"The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway." -St Mother Teresa

Our immediate needs for this week...

Toilet Paper

Detergent

Fruit

Syrup

Tuna

Cookies

Ketchup

Shampoo

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@stmli.org

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

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.



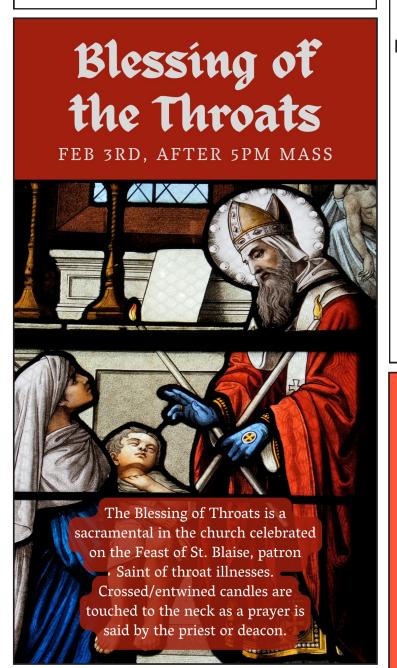
In the Gospel today we read that because Jesus spoke with authority his reputation spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. As his disciples, we can also speak with authority when we put our faith into actions by helping the poor and suffering.

Have you considered answering the call to serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul? We can be reached by phone or email, 631-648-2760 or svdp.stm@aol.com

In Our Parish

Young at Heart

New Members Always Welcome!
Next Meeting: Fri February 9th, 2024
Celebrating Valentine's Day!
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 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



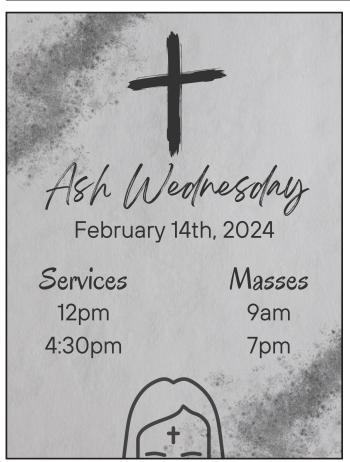
FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY NEED HELP STAYING WARM THIS WINTER!

DO YOU HAVE SPACE HEATERS YOU DON'T USE? 631-234-3149

DONATE THEM TO PARISH OUTREACH!



In Our Parish



Children's Liturgy!

Children 4-8 are welcome to join us each Sunday at the 9:30 Mass.













Recommissioning of Lectors

At all the Masses last weekend, our Lectors were invited to be recommissioned in their service, bringing the Word of God to the people of our parish. If you would like to join this wonderful ministry, contact the rectory.





Happening at St. Thomas More

Coming Up @ STM

Sun Jan 28th, 12:30pm Youth Group

Thur Feb 1st, 5:30pm Children's Choir Rehearsal

Thur Feb 1st, 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Sun Feb 4th, 9:30am Scout Sunday



Monday-Friday 9:0 O AM

> Saturday 5:0 0 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM

9:30 AM

11:30 AM

Confessions
Every Saturday
4:0 0 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.

\$25

\$100

- Envelope has raffle tickets inside.
- Larger the donation = More chances to win!

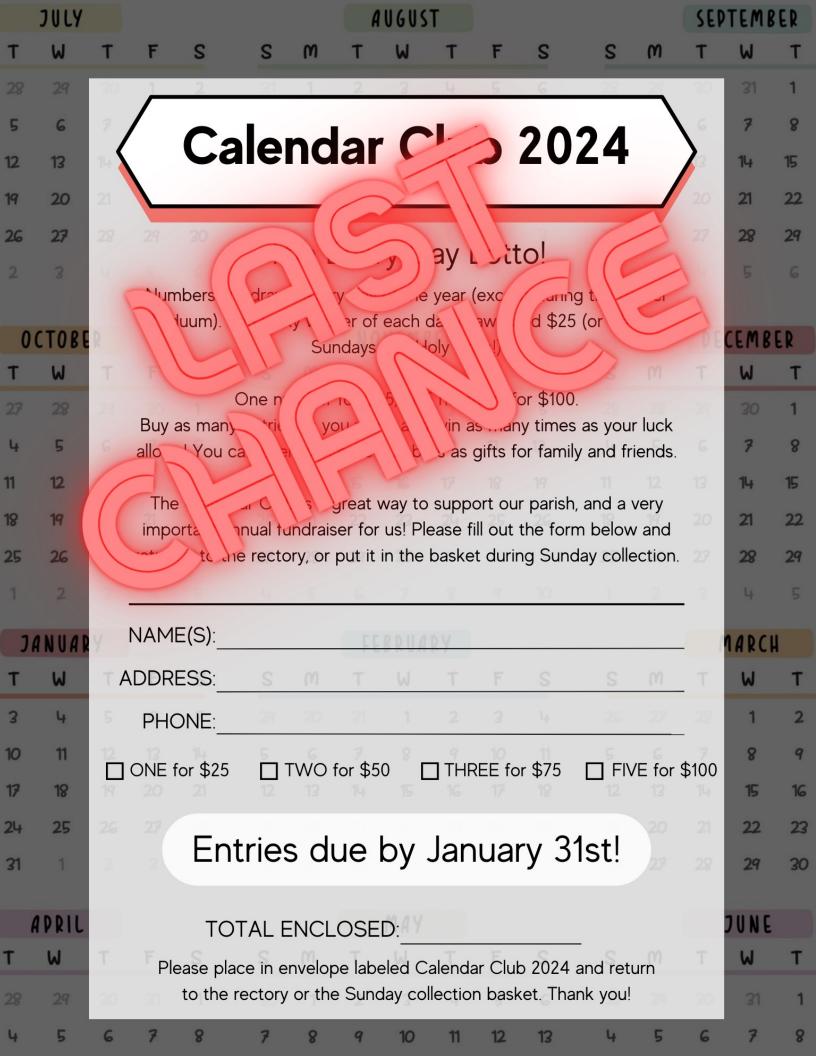
Example:

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

PRIZES

1ST PRIZE \$500

2ND PRIZE \$300 3RD PRIZE \$200





Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary

Guest Speaker: Fr. Jonathan Kalisch, O.P.

Feast of Candlemas, February 2nd at 7:30pm

St. Patrick Church 280 East Main St. Smithtown, N.Y.

***Don't miss the opportunity to hear this amazing Dominican Priest speak about the Rosary & the power of Our Lady's Confraternity!!

Fr. Kalish is also a Preacher for the National Eucharistic Revival

Solemn Blessing of Candles & Rosaries, recitation of the Rosary with Procession

Solemn Enrollment into the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary

Spiritual Benefits of Membership

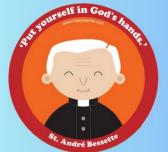
- Special Protection of the Mother of God.
- A share in the prayer of countless thousands of members worldwide.
- A share in the prayers, Masses & Apostolic works of the Dominican Order.
- The intercession of the entire heavenly court.
- Various plenary and partial indulgences.

Saints of January



Sts Gregory & Basil
Feast Day: January 2nd
Bishops & Doctors of the Church
Patron: Cappadocia, Monks

Known as the Cappadocian Fathers, friends known for supporting the Nicene Creed and Trinitarian theology and opposing heresies.



St Andre Bessette Feast Day: January 6th Lay Brother Patron: Montreal

Lay brother of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Credited with thousands of miraculous oil healings. Great devotee of St Joseph.



St Elizabeth Ann Seton Feast Day: January 4th Religious, Foundress Patron: Catholic Schools

First person born in what would be US to be canonized. Established first Catholic girls school in the nation, and founded the Sisters of Charity.



St Marianna Cope Feast Day: January 23rd Virgin, Religious Patron: Lepers, HIV/AIDS

German-born American from Sisters of St Francis. Founding leader of St Joseph's Hospital (Syracuse). Cared for lepers in Hawaii, never got leprosy



St John Neumann
Feast Day: January 5th
Bishop, Redemptorist
Patron: Catholic Education

Founded the first Catholic diocesan school system in US. Only male US citizen to be named a saint. 4th
Bishop of Philadelphia.



St Francis de Sales Feast Day: January 24th Bishop & Doctor of the Church Patron: Deaf people, educators

Known for writings on spiritual direction and formation. Noted for his deep faith, and gentle nature during the Protestant Reformation.



Sts Timothy & Titus
Feast Day: January 26th
Bishops & Companions of Paul
Patron: Stomach disorders (Tim), Crete (Titus)

Disciples of the Apostle Paul in the first century AD. Multiple Epistles are addressed to them. Timothy was the first bishop of Ephesus (i.e. letter to the Ephesians), and Titus was the second bishop of Crete (after Paul)





St John Bosco
Feast Day: January 31st
Priest & Confessor
Patron: Children, Juvenile Delinquents

Devoted life help and education of disadvantaged youth. Follower of Francis de Sales, devotee of Mary Help of Christians. Founded the Salesians of Don Bosco (with whom our own Fr Lenny is serving).

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 18th and ends Sunday afternoon April 21st.

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 6th @ 7pm at St Kilian Parish 485 Conklin St. Farmingdale (Green Room)
- Monday, April 1stth @ 7PM St. Francis of Assisi Church 29 Clay Pitts Rd, Greenlawan

All are welcome. Please join us!

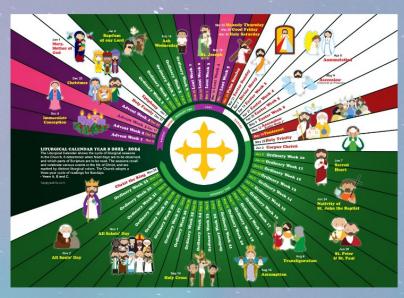
Any questions, call Bernice 516-582-0302 or Bob @ 516-241-4122.

Youth Group - The Liturgical Year January 21st, 2023















Upcoming Meetings Sundays 12:30-2:30

January 28th-How We Glorify God February 4th-TBD

Follow us on Instagram!

@stm_yg

@stm_church

St Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church invites parishioners and friends to an exhibit of

THE EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES OF THE WORLD

developed by The Servant of God, Blessed Carlo Acutis.



SATURDAY, Feb 3, 2024 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM SUNDAY, Feb 4, 2024 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Location: 29 Claypitts Rd Greenlawn NY 11740

Come and learn about the extraordinary life of our newest beatified teen and his devotion to the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, based on the website he developed with his computer talents.



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 or by calling/ texting Patty (631) 877-6926 or Laura (631) 848-0291.

Please RSVP by February 25th!!



Contemporary music by Alex and Noelle!



Adoration and Benediction led by Deacon Matt!

Tuesday, February 6th

"He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us."

(Psalm 103:10-12)

A NOTE FROM OUR

Altar Servers



We have a deep love for altar serving, and believe others should consider taking up this role for several reasons. First, altar serving provides a unique perspective on the Mass, allowing individuals to engage with the rituals and traditions in a more hands on and profound way. Beyond the spiritual aspects, it fosters a strong sense of camaraderie with fellow servers, offering the opportunity to meet new people and develop a greater sense of family within the church community. Getting involved in altar serving is not only personally enriching but also a means of becoming more actively connected to the church's activities. The experience is extremely enjoyable, amplified by the chance to don cool robes and play an imporant role in the Mass, contributing to the beauty and sanctity of the worship experience. Moreover, altar serving presents a valuable opportunity to learn about the Mass in a hands-on manner, giving a deeper understanding and connection with the sacred traditions of the church.

-Altar Servers Timothy Sandbichler and Ryan Tjersland



