

*Sharing
the Spirit
of Love*

Catholic Church Community of

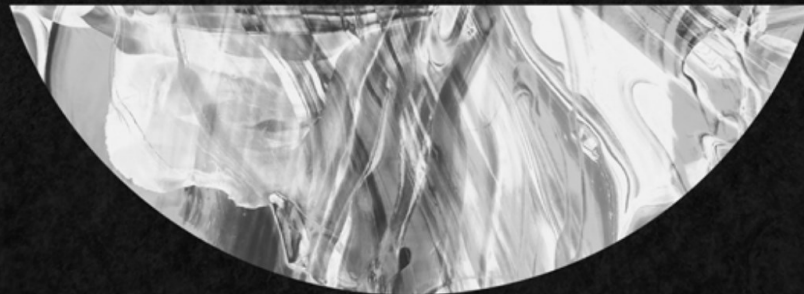
St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge NY 11788

FEBRUARY 4TH, 2024



FOR THIS PURPOSE
I HAVE COME



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.

*Fifth 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 February 3rd- February 11th, 2024

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*

Monday, February 5th: St Agatha

9am- Dottie Lossani *by Marilyn Miller*

Tuesday, February 6th: St Paul Miki & Companions

9am- Ralph M Marcello *by Ralph C Marcello*

Wednesday, February 7th:

9am- Lazarus 'Larry' Sangiovanni *by Len Munzer & John DiMaio*

Thursday, February 8th:

9am- Jim Murphy Sr *by Joan & Family*

Friday, February 9th:

9am- William Hoell *by Evelyn & Bob McMahon*

Saturday, February 10th: St Scholastica

5pm- Frank Zablocki *by His Family*

Sunday, February 11th: Sixth Sunday (Ordinary)

8am- Michael Marcello *by The DiFilippo Family*

9:30am- Sister Agnes Stumpf *by Marilyn Amodio*

11:30am- Jean Kelly *by Evelyn & Bob McMahon*

Mark 1:40-45 (Ordinary 6)

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

Focus Questions for 2/11/24

Mark 1:40-45

1: Describe a time when you were made well or better by touch.

2: Who are the people who are treated like lepers today? In what ways do you shun them too?

3: Relate a time when you prayed for healing. How was your prayer answered?

Family & Children's Question:

February 14th is Ash Wednesday. As a family, talk about what you can do for Lent.

Readings for This 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

Readings for Next Week

February 11th, 2024 (Ordinary 6)

Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46

Psalm 32:1-2,5,11

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Mark 1:40-45

I said,
"I will
confess my
transgressions
to the **LORD.**"
and you forgave
the guilt of
my sin.



Psalm 32:5, NIV

Fr. Antony's Letter

Dear Friends,

Four couples rented a summer house for two months. Each couple took a two-week vacation there and took the combined thirteen children of the four families with them. One couple was bragging on this clever plan to a friend when the friend said, "I don't think two weeks in a house with thirteen children would be much of a vacation." "Oh no," the couple replied. "Those two weeks were absolutely terrible. The vacation was the six weeks at home without the children." Vacation is not about the place; rather it is about the trouble-free and quiet time around the vacationer. It is a place where one can be just one's own self.

Today's first reading shares Job's experience of misery and hopelessness around him. With all that is going on in the world, we too may feel like Job, that life is burdensome and full of drudgery, making us feel like a slave who longs for the shade. We may identify with Job by seeing nothing in and around us promising happiness again.

But in today's Gospel Jesus awakens in each of us the inner strength and peace to live our life fully well amid all challenges. Today's Gospel is the story of Jesus healing Simon's mother-in-law. That evening the whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons. Consequently, the next day people were looking for him to be blessed by Jesus. When the disciples reported to Jesus, "Everyone is looking for you." Jesus told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose, have I come."

The response of Jesus seems to be a very blunt refusal to attend to the need of the people. He continued explaining why he was going to other villages. It was to announce His purpose of why He came. What is His purpose that would justify His leaving behind the people who looked for Him? In Mark 1:14, Jesus revealed His purpose. "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."

His purpose was to proclaim the arrival of God's kingdom among the people. The healing He did the previous day was a proclamation of God's kingdom among them. His every healing was a proclamation of the reality that they are already living in God's kingdom. Jesus's healing ministry is not merely an attempt to get rid of all the sickness. His purpose was not just healing alone but to make people live as God's kingdom people and to make their lives whole and full. Jesus's ministry is to influence the positive presence of God's kingdom. The more the people live this reality of God's kingdom, the more they would heal and live fully well experiencing God's promises.

By His decision to move to other villages Jesus wanted to let the people be aware that His mission is a wholistic one. By His healing Jesus proclaimed that in the Kingdom of God the people are not only healed from what they are suffering, but also are blessed to live their life in its fullness. Jesus is not merely a wonder worker removing that which hinders life but the proclaimer of God's kingdom among us making us live fully well. Jesus is not only a healer but the fulfilment of God's promise for His people. As God's Kingdom-people we are invited not only to be healed but also to live our lives in fulness. Jesus's proclamation assures us that to us, God's Kingdom-people God has given all what we need to live fully well healed and blessed.

With love and prayers,
Fr. Antony



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

The Mass: Liturgy of the Eucharist - Part IV

It's time to return to our look at the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Two weeks ago, we reviewed the blessing prayers that the priest says over the bread and wine.

The next step is for the priest to bow before the bread and wine. He prays quietly a special prayer that asks God to not only accept this sacrifice as pleasing, but in our collective "humble spirit and contrite heart" that we too be accepted by God. This is part of the fulfillment of the ordained priesthood; a priest is ordained to offer sacrifices.

In certain Masses, incense is used over the gifts, altar and Cross. After that, a deacon will take the thurible and first incense the priest and any other priests or deacons present in the sanctuary. He will then go out to the assembly, and, bowing to them, incense all present as well. Incense always signifies prayers offered to God. This action also signifies the sacrifice of ourselves as humble Christians, as we offer up our life to God.

You'll then notice the altar servers



will approach the priest with a *lavabo* (a glass bowl), a white cloth, and a cruet of water. The priest prays "Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin," as the water is poured over his fingers. This reminds us of how the high priest in the Jewish temple needed to be pure in order to offer sacrifices to God. Finally, we are invited to stand as the priest leads us all in a prayer that the sacrifice may be acceptable to God. We respond, asking that God sees this offering of bread and wine, at the hands of the priest, as the means by which God will be glorified, and for our benefit as well. For this offering will soon become the Real Presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

"The bread and wine ... will be offered by the priest ... in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, in which they will become [Christ's] body and blood. The Church offers this pure oblation to the Creator, when she offers what comes forth from his creation with thanksgiving." – *Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1350.*

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)

theresa@stmli.org

finance@stmli.org

rectory@stmli.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

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

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

Young at Heart

Anna Beltrani

631-234-0714

Prayers for Our Community

Pray for the Sick

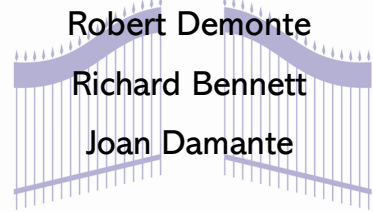
Gregory Bennett	Jim Marquette
Barbara Cassetta	Ellen Murphy
Joseph Cassetta	Matt O'Connell
Joseph Christiana	Deacon Al Pankus
Kathryn Douglas	Patricia Parker
Bill Dowd	Joanne Pelletier
Linda Dowling	George Pflugel
Thomas Dwyer	Nunzio (Steve) Puleio
Barbara Foberg	Rosalie Rocchio
Pat Golembiewski	Richard Ronning
Linda Heller	Noah Simonetti (2 yrs)
Jean Herlihy	John Spadaro
Richard Landi	Lorraine White
Frank Loporto	John Zuzzolo



*this listing will expire on March 31st, 2024

Pray for the Deceased

Bruce Link
Robert Demonte
Richard Bennett
Joan Damante



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.



Psalm 32:1, NRSV

Parish Operations

SUPPORT COLLECTION

Collection from:
January 27th & 28th

\$4635

Weekly Goal: \$6700

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

Calendar Club

Thank you to everyone who enrolled in the Calendar Club 2024. The support our parish receives from this program is fundamental to our operation.

January winners will be posted towards the end of February in the bulletin. Good luck!!

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.

**Pray Every Day
with Hallow.**

This Lent, you are invited to try out Hallow, the #1 Catholic Prayer App (globally). From Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday, all our parishioners will have free access to Hallow Premium and all it contains, ranging from rosaries to meditations, scriptures to music, homilies to stories of Christ. It is a great way to expand your prayer life this Lent, whether that means listening to the daily readings on your commute to work, or winding down in the evening with night prayer (maybe even read to you by Jonathan Roumie, Jesus on The Chosen). Members of our Parish Staff have been using Hallow for over a year and cannot recommend it enough. Keep an eye out for more information in the Narthex, and an announcement the weekend before Lent!



Parish Social Ministry

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



ST. THOMAS MORE
† PARISH OUTREACH †

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

Our immediate needs for this week...

Pancake Mix
Syrup
Ketchup

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 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

In Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis invites all people of good will to live our a discipleship built on love that fosters universal fraternity and social friendship. Challenging us to work together to create a society based on solidarity, *Fratelli Tutti* provides a starting point for renewing our commitment to caring for our neighbor and a global society built on justice and the common good: "We have the space we need for co-responsibility in creating and putting into place new processes and changes. Let us take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies."

-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!



In the Gospel today, we find that Jesus would rise very early before dawn and go to a deserted place to pray and then he went out to preach and to heal.

Please pray for the poor and suffering, knowing that you are bringing the love and peace of Jesus to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.

Contact us at 631-648-2760 or svdp.stm@aol.com

In Our Parish

Young atHeart

New Members Always Welcome!
Next Meeting: Fri February 9th, 2024
Celebrating Valentine's Day!
Call Anna @ 631-234-0714

Wall of Envelopes

The winners of this raffle will be selected after the 11:30 Mass on Sunday February 18th during Hospitality Sunday.

There are still a few envelopes available!!
If you are interested in buying an envelope, call Jo Garvey @ 631-579-1128, or purchase after all Masses on Hospitality Sunday (Feb 18th)

Support St. Vincent de Paul!

Girl Scout Cookies

Get your Girl Scout Cookies!

On the weekend of February 10th & 11th, our local Girl Scouts will be selling their cookies in the Narthex!

Take a minute and get yourself a box of Thin Mints, or perhaps some Tagalongs.

Maybe you like the more exciting Samoas, or how about the classic Trefoils?



Support our Girl Scouts!

Support Drive

Life Center of Long Island

On the weekend of Feb 17/18, our 6062 Council of the Knights of Columbus will be launching a support drive for the Life Center of Long Island. The Knights will be handing out baby bottles that they ask you take home, and fill with spare change and loose dollars. The bottles can be returned March 16/17.

These funds will go to help the Life Center support new moms and dads with the much needed basic essentials for their newborn babies.

Keep an eye out, Feb 17th & 18th!



Ash Wednesday

February 14th, 2024

Services

12pm

4:30pm

Masses

9am

7pm



Children's Liturgy!

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



Happening at St. Thomas More

Coming Up @ STM

Tues Feb 6th, 7:00pm
Holy Hour of Adoration
'Savior of Sinners'

Wed Feb 7th, 7:00pm
Knights of Columbus
Business Meeting

Thur Feb 8th, 5:30pm
Children's Choir Rehearsal

Thur Feb 8th, 7:00pm
Choir Rehearsal

Fri Feb 9th, 12:30pm
Young at Heart

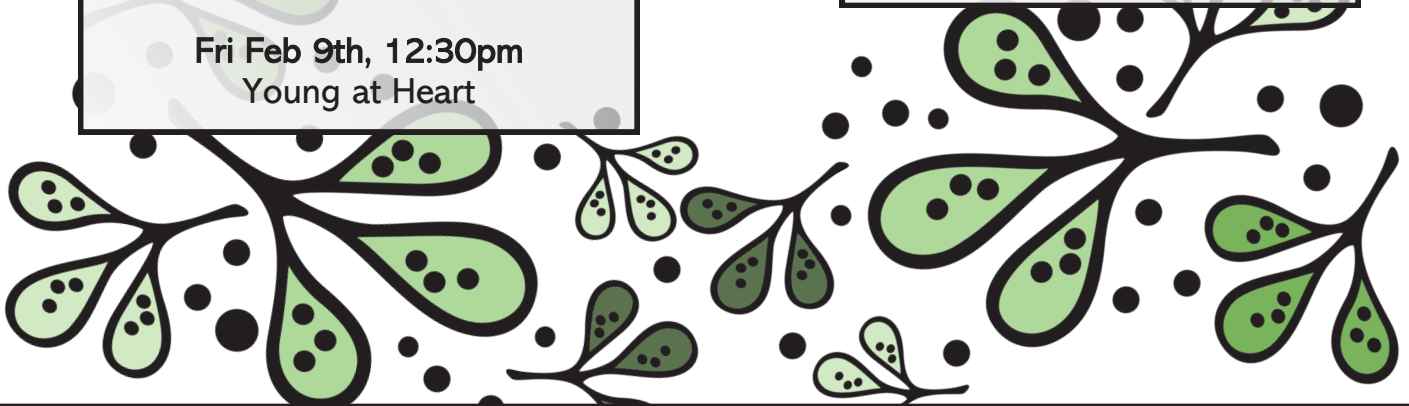
Weekly Mass Schedule

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.

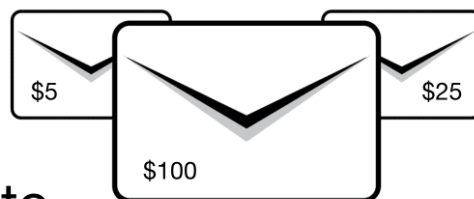
THE WALL OF ENVELOPES

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

1ST PRIZE

\$500

2ND PRIZE

\$300

3RD PRIZE

\$200

Tickets still available!

Remaining tickets will be sold after masses on 2/18 at hospitality

Youth Group - How We Worship

January 28th, 2023



Upcoming Meetings

Sundays 12:30-2:30

February 4th-

Loving Your Enemy

February 11th-

Shrovetide

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

Please RSVP by February 25th!!

Holy Hour

"Savior of Sinners"

Contemporary
music by Alex
and Noelle!



Adoration and
Benediction led
by Deacon Matt!

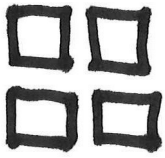
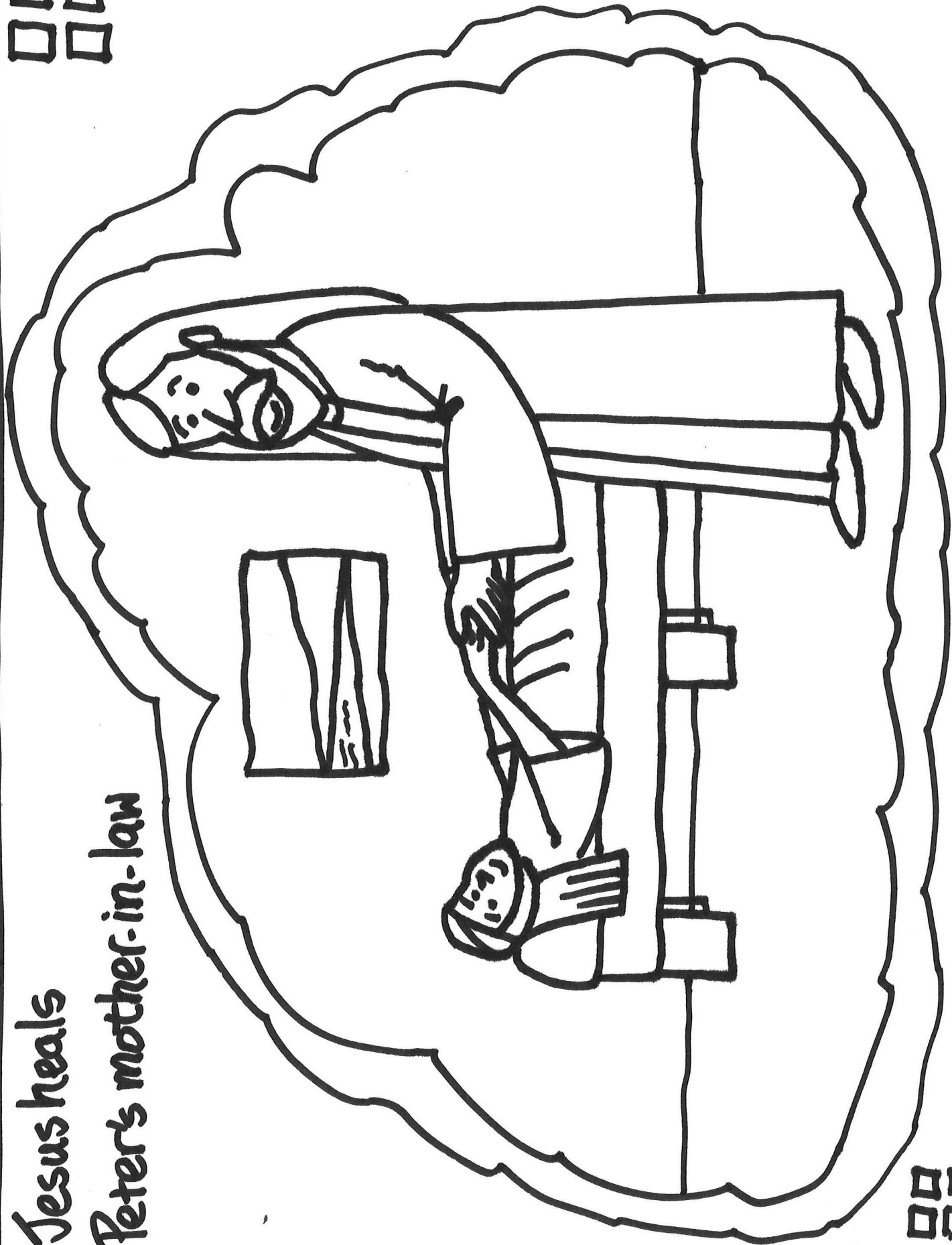
Tuesday, February 6th
@ 7:00pm

"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)

Jesus heals

Peter's mother-in-law





Hallow

coming this Lent to STM