



Catholic Church Community of

# St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge, NY 11788-4221

October 11, 2020

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



"The Kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son."

Matthew 22:2, NRSV

#### Parish Mission Statement:

*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.*

#### Contact Numbers

##### Rectory

631-234-5551

FAX 631-234-6412

##### Religious Ed

631-234-0397

FAX 631-234-1199

##### Outreach

631-234-3149

FAX 631-234-1199

**Website:** <https://stmli.org>

##### Social Media

Facebook: StThomasMoreHauppauge

Instagram: stm\_church

To receive texts or emails from us just text

**Spiritoflove** to 84576 or sign up @

[StThomasMore29.flocknote.com](https://StThomasMore29.flocknote.com)

## ***Masses for this coming week***

October 11, 2020

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 25: 6-10

Psalm: 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Matthew 22: 1-14

**Saturday, October 10**

***(Anticipated Mass for Sunday)***

5pm Alfred F. Manzella *by Marianne & Marilyn  
Manzella*

**Sunday, October 11—Twenty-Eighth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time**

9:30am Anthony Jerry Heim *by Ginny Heim*

12:00pm Jason Fisher *by John Finocchio;*  
James John *by Joan Oscar & family*

**Monday, October 12**

9am Bob Sauchelli *by Veronica & Roger  
Corvasce*

**Tuesday, October 13**

9am Augie Vrondis *by Betty Vrondis & the  
Holdorf family*

**Wednesday, October 14—St. Callistus**

9am Ken Rathjen *by Marie & Jim Marsala*

**Thursday, October 15—St. Teresa of Jesus**

9am Teresa Shannon *by Marie Utter &  
Dottie Gillan*

**Friday, October 16—St. Hedwig; St. Margaret  
Mary Alacoque**

9am Leo Ramos *by the Ramos family*

**Saturday, October 17—St. Ignatius of Antioch**

9am Peter Romano *by Dottie Lossani*

***(Anticipated Mass for Sunday)***

5pm Robert Algar *by Jo Hauk;*  
Mae Devine *by Jo Hauk;*  
Robert W. Gennari *by the Faber family;*  
Elaine Hahn *by Marsha Augustyn;*  
Stanley Rich Hludzinski *by Lew Bernard;*  
Peter Romano *by Vivian & Michael Jacobs*

**Sunday, October 18—Twenty-Ninth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time**

9:30am Bob Sauchelli *by Ross & Marie Bracco*

12:00pm August A. Vrondis *by Agnes Schomber;*  
Patricia O'Connell *by the Kane family*

## ***Growing through the Sunday Scriptures***

October 18, 2020

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6

Psalm: 96: 1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

Matthew 22: 15-21

A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew:

The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech. They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status. Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?"

Knowing their malice, Jesus said,

"Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that pays the census tax."

Then they handed him the Roman coin.

He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?"

They replied, "Caesar's."

At that he said to them,

"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

"GOD IS  
WITH YOU IN  
*everything*  
YOU DO."

GENESIS 21:22

## **FR. ANTONY'S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

**A little girl stayed for dinner at her friend's house.** The vegetable was buttered broccoli, and the mother asked if she liked it. The girl replied politely, "Oh yes, I love it." But when the bowl of broccoli was passed, she declined to take any. The hostess said, "I thought you said you loved broccoli." The girl replied sweetly, "Oh, yes ma'am, I do, but not enough to eat it."

**Today's Gospel story asks the question** whether we have enough love to eat the dinner God sets before us. For those who believe and live in the Kingdom of God, their life is like a wedding dinner prepared and presented by God to participate in it for free. But one can disqualify oneself from this Kingdom-dinner in two ways; firstly by excusing oneself from attending, secondly by trying to participate in it without proper attire.

**In the Gospel story each of the invited made excuses** which became more important to them than attending the dinner itself. They chose to live their excuses rather than to attend and enjoy the dinner. Excuses are easy because they are our wish and are in our control. Excuses express our self-centered need and are done for our own self-satisfaction, whereas the invitation to join the celebration is to let oneself join the host's event. In celebration one loses one's own control and self-satisfaction. Celebration lets one join the joy of the host and the other participants. Life is not our own self-satisfaction or egoistic control. Life is a celebration. It is letting oneself join the bigger event of the life-feast set by God freely to be shared and enjoyed by all.

**Secondly the Gospel narrates the story of the person** who attended the dinner without proper attire and was thrown out of the celebration. Sometimes we are ready to join the celebration but just on our own terms, not in harmony with God and others. The story of the Prodigal Son explains this very well. When the father threw a party for the safe return of the younger son, the attitude of the older son disqualified him from joining the party in spite of his father's invitation.

**Life becomes a wedding dinner of God** for those who are ready to attend it with proper attitude and without any excuses. Let us pray that we may experience life as God presents to us not as we define it. Let God inspire in us to come out of all our excuses and embrace life with proper attitude.

**10.11.12 These numbers in perfect sequence are the date** – representing my first day at St. Thomas More as Pastor. October (10<sup>th</sup> month) 11<sup>th</sup> day of the year 2012. Today, 10. 11. 2020, I complete eight years of serving you and with you the God who lives with us, and realizes His Kingdom among us here for many more years to come, as long as God and His Church (the Diocese) allow me to serve you as your priest. As I thank God every day for His benevolence towards me, I thank you my parish family of St. Thomas More for all that you are to me.

**Imitating the words of St. Augustine I would like to say** "For you I am a Pastor. With you I am a disciple of Jesus." Let us pray and strive, live and work for the Kingdom of God to be a living reality among us in all that we do, say and are. Whoever we are and whatever the state of life we may be, we are united by the Love of Christ (Our Parish motto) and are bound by our commitment as witness to the Christ-Truth through the protective intercession of our Parish Patron St. Thomas More.

With love and prayers,

Fr. Antony

## PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Ethan Bernstein	Dylan Kowalski
Jessie Bernstein	Thomas LaFemina
Joseph Blaugrund	Alex Lombardi
Anthony Broncatello	Andrew Lombardi
John Burk	Lt. Clint Lorange
Collin Busto	Scott Lovelock
David Chester	Andrew Lynch
John Chester	Troy A. Maida,
Nicholas Chester	William Maley
Theresa Chester	Thomas Migliara
Collin J. Crean	Tim Morris
Eddie Cullum	Ryan Murphy
Eric Cullum	John Nachtman
Adam Cussen	Kaitlyn Nachtman
David Cussen	Thomas Nichols
Capt. Sean Michael Dolan	Adam Papaizai
P. J. Erskin	Michael Poist
Timothy Fallon	Michael Polanski
Major Michael Fantauzzi	Kyle Rathje
J.T. Foltz	Antonia Marie Rivera
Mike Foltz	Ann Karen Sanchez
Michael Gioia	Justin Schneider
Carl F. Greiner	Christopher Sidor
Philip Gudone	Christopher Singer
John Michael Haffner	Ryan Smith
Sean Hendrikson	Michael White
Tylor J. Hickey	
Kevin Ilyichenko	
John Karies	
Michael Knipper	



### Why we pray the Rosary:

We pray the Rosary throughout October because October 7<sup>th</sup> is the feast of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, and The **Miracle of the Sun**, also known as the **Miracle of Fatima**, is reported to have occurred on October 13, 1917. On

that day a large crowd had gathered in [Fatima, Portugal](#), in response to a prophecy made by three shepherd children, [Lúcia Santos](#) and [Francisco and Jacinta Marto](#). In all her monthly apparitions from May 13 to October 13, Our Lady asked the children and all of us to pray the Rosary for Peace.

We suggest and request you to pray the Rosary every day;. If not the full Rosary, at least a decade of it, which is one Our Father, 10 Hail Marys and a Glory be.

## How to Pray the Rosary

**Begin the Rosary by making the sign of the Cross:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Then say the Apostle's Creed:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

**Then say one Our Father, three Hail Marys (for the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity) and one Glory Be:**

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

GLORY BE to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Lord.



## ***SUPPORT COLLECTION***

Envelope users: Please enter the amount of your donation in the space provided on the envelope. This will greatly help us when counting the collection and for recording your contribution.

St. Thomas More Parish needs your support now more than ever! Join the parishioners who are using Faith Direct for automated giving to St. Thomas More Parish. Faith Direct offers a safe and secure way to donate to our parish in this time of uncertainty. There is no cost to you, and the program provides a great benefit to our parish. Sign up today by visiting [faith.direct/NY227](http://faith.direct/NY227), or text 'Enroll' to 631-250-8141. You can also make a one-time gift by texting a dollar amount to the same number.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You,  
Fr. Antony

## ***SOCIAL MEDIA & EMAIL***

### **Websites**

[www.stmli.org](http://www.stmli.org)

<https://stmyouth.wixsite.com/stmyouthhauppauge>

### **Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.comStThomasMoreHauppauge/>

### **Instagram**

stm\_church

- stmreligioused
- stm\_yg

### **Email**

Rectory: [rectory@stmli.org](mailto:rectory@stmli.org)

Mary Ellen Carroll: [mecarroll@optonline.net](mailto:mecarroll@optonline.net)

Outreach: [outreach@stmli.org](mailto:outreach@stmli.org)

Dan Haggerty: [youthminister@stmli.org](mailto:youthminister@stmli.org)

Altar Servers Ministry: [altarservers@stmli.org](mailto:altarservers@stmli.org)

Personal Prayer [SpiritualOrientations.com](http://SpiritualOrientations.com)

To contact a member of the Pastoral Council use the following

Barbara & Joe Fratamico at [BJFRAT@optonline.net](mailto:BJFRAT@optonline.net)



## ***CIRCLE OF WOMEN***

It is the mission of the Circle of Women Book Group to focus on the spiritual influence of contemporary writing that facilitates our own reflections of God's action in our daily lives.

Our next meeting will be on October 12, 2020 at 2:30 pm in Walden Hall.

The book for discussion will be **Educated** by Tara Westover—Facilitator Aurelie Miller-Hendry.. The book to be discussed at the next meeting on Nov. 9 will be **I'll Push You** by Patrick Gray and Justin Skeesuck.

We meet on the second Monday of the month. For further info. and/or to register, call Marilyn at 631-234-5805 or Joan at 631-234-1739.

## ***Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults***



The RCIA is a faith journey which leads those seekers to meet Jesus in the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

The seekers will be accompanied on the journey by the community of Saint Thomas More in the spirit of love.

Do you know of a family member or friend who needs to complete one or more of the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation?

Do you know a family member or friend who has been a member of another faith tradition who wants to become a catholic?

To find out more about the faith journey or to join us on the journey please call the rectory at 631-234-5551.



### Focus on Religious Freedom [www.cffor.org](http://www.cffor.org)

### Hope for a Third Great Awakening in America

Tens of thousands of Christians gathered on the National Mall and at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. on September 26, 2020 for a National Day of Prayer and Return, calling all Americans to return to God and to heal the nation. With freedom of religion, freedom of worship, freedom of conscience, and freedom of speech in jeopardy today, these two worship services focused on a theme of repentance and prayer, rejecting sin and returning to God in turbulent times.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn and Rev. Franklin Graham, organizers of the events, explained that America is a nation that started in covenant with God 400 years ago to glorify Him and spread His gospel to the whole world (see Mayflower Compact, 1620). But the country has spiraled down to legislate immorality. Jonathan Cahn said, "We drove God out of our hearts, out of our government, out of our ways, out of our laws, out of the education of our children, out of the public squares."(1)

The enthusiasm of the thousands attending is reminiscent of the First Great Awakening, a spiritual revival led by inspirational preachers prior to the American Revolution. A Second Great Awakening before the Civil War, also led by preachers, exhorted repentance and a return to God and his Ten Commandments.

President Trump took part in the event sending a message from the White House:

"On this inaugural National Day of Prayer and Return, the First Lady and I join millions of Christians here in the United States and around the world in prayer, as we turn our hearts to our Lord and Savior."

"Our great Nation was founded by men and women of deep and abiding faith - a faith that has stood the test of time. Four Hundred years ago, early American settlers trusted their lives to His providence and braved a voyage to a New world..."

"The trials and tribulations the American people have faced over the past several months have been great. Yet, as we have seen time and again, the resolve of our citizenry - fortified by faith in God - has guided us through these hardships and helped to unite us as one Nation under God."(2)

Such public gatherings, based on faith and morals, are meant to be protected under first amendment freedoms. In recent decades these freedoms have been diminished

and denied by cultural norms and government edict. A Third Great Awakening would return God to his rightful place in this nation founded on inalienable rights from our Creator.

(1.cbn.com, 9/26/20(1); whitehouse.gov (2); pjmedia.com, 9/26/20

#### Be Silent No More!

Elected officials and their staff listen to, read and tabulate citizens' concerns and opinions when making decisions for their state and for the country. Do not be silent. Please contact one or more Senator or Congressman each week to encourage them to share your values. Call Switchboard at 202-224-3121 to be connected to any Representative or Senator's office. Email: Find Representative's email at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov). Find Senator's email at [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

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### ***Congratulations!***

#### ***Calendar Club Winners***

*Here are the winners from Oct. 4-10, 2020*

10/ 4/2020	438	\$50	Dolores & Ken Fensterer
10/ 5/2020	579	\$25	Ann Russo
10/ 6/2020	804	\$25	Donna Fortmeyer
10/ 7/2020	82	\$25	Karen Flynn
10/ 8/2020	716	\$25	Len Munzer
10/ 9/2020	91	\$25	Laura McCaffery
10/10/2020	728	\$25	Keith & Luis Christianson

### ***CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL 2020***

as of September 29, 2020

Our Parish Goal \$70,400.00

Pledges to date \$36,657.00

*Percentage of Goal* 52.07%

Would you like to receive a daily spiritual reflection or updates of what's happening in our Parish?

See below or go to

**StThomasMore29.flocknote.com**



**- Mass Times -**

**Saturdays**

5 pm in the church  
(live streamed as well)

**Sundays**

\*9:30 am parking lot\*

12 pm in the church

**NL**  
DESIGNS

1967 • CELEBRATING 50 YEARS • 2017  
**ST. THOMAS  
MORE**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
United in the love of Christ

\*  
Weather permitting.



## PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pamela Brosnan, Kathy Capuano, Paul Connors, Veronica Corvasce, Michael Fiorentino, Richard Fiorentino, Thomas Giglio, John Gilligan, Kevin Kenney, Michael Manoussos, Jean Marsala Kieffner, Christine Miller, Patricia Miller, Sharon Mills, Al Pankus, Robert McGurrin, Melissa Mock, Maura Reddy, Rosalie Rocchio, Mel Smith, Jerry Smith, John Spadaro, Howard Spegman, Peggy Stepanek, Chase Turano, Andrew J. Valentine, Andrew M. Valentine, Rosalind Warmuth, Diane Weisz, Janet Weil,

*This listing will expire on March 31, 2021.*



During these difficult times, as a family of faith, we turn to our Heavenly Father in prayer. You are invited to submit your prayer intentions and those of your family. All prayer intentions will be placed in a basket near the altar in St Thomas More before each Mass. We are streaming Sunday Mass on Saturday at 5pm at [www.stmli.org](http://www.stmli.org). Daily mass is posted Monday through Friday on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

The basket will serve as a silent reminder that we are united in faith, hope and love as we lift one another up in prayer and support, while placing our trust in the Lord.

*“For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.”*

*St. Therese of Lisieux*

## PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

Dorothy Ida Frank, for all those who have succumbed to COVID-19, our deceased loved ones and our deceased service men and women.

**USING FAITH DIRECT?** - It's quick and easy! Consider having automatic deductions from either your checking or savings or use a credit card to support St. Thomas More each week. With Faith Direct, there is no fee to you! Please visit the Faith Direct website at [www.FaithDirect.net](http://www.FaithDirect.net) to sign up: our church code is NY227. You may also use the form located where you obtain the bulletin or text the word ENROLL to 631-250-8141. We thank you for your support.

**UPDATING CREDIT CARD INFORMATION**—If you get a new card or a renewal card, make sure that this information is communicated to Faith Direct.

**CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES**—If you do not receive weekly envelopes and would like them mailed to you, please use the cut out that is in the bulletin and indicate that you wish to receive them on a regular basis. Usually it takes about two weeks for your request to be completed.

### MAINTENANCE COLLECTION

We thank you for your support of our parish project to maintain our parish facilities. If you would like to help, please use a maintenance envelope where you obtain the bulletin.

**CEREAL BOX TOP COUPONS**—Drop them off in the Church lobby drop-off box and we will use them to buy things for the students in our regional school.

**USED CELL PHONES**—We thank everyone for giving us their old cell phones. We forward them to a convent that recycles them and uses the proceeds for the poor.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**—You can check online for any updates at <http://calendar.yahoo.com/stmreled>.

**St. Thomas More Parish Social Ministry  
OUTREACH**



**“Give us this day our daily bread”**

Our current needs include:

**Pancake Mix\*\***

**Syrup\*\***

**Boxed Milk\*\***

**Jelly\*\***

**Canned Tomatoes (28 oz)\*\***

**Paper Towels\*\***

Bread

Pasta

Spaghetti

Tomato Sauce

Tuna

Macaroni & Cheese

**Canned Fruit\*\***

**Peanut Butter (smaller jars)\*\***

**Rice\*\***

**Canned Vegetables\*\***

**Apple Juice\*\***

Coffee (1 pound cans/bags)

**Tea Bags\*\***

Mustard/Ketchup

**Soup (18-22 oz)\*\***

Shampoo

Toothpaste

**\*\*We are especially in need of these items**

***Our neighbors continue to need food. Please help if you can!***

Non-perishable foods may be left in the bins at the entrance to the Narthex. **Please check the expiration date before donating.**

We are always grateful for your generosity!

**Outreach is now open Monday and Thursday 10 AM to 2 PM  
Phone: 631-234-3149**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus say, "Many are invited, but few are chosen."

To give thanks for all that God has given to you, have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

**PRAYING FOR THE SICK****— Adding a name Request —**

**PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING TO  
THE PARISH LISTING OF THOSE WHO  
ARE ILL:**

**Name of person (s) who is (are) ill:**

Relationship to the person who is ill:

Person making the Request:

TODAY'S DATE:

*(Please place in collection basket or drop off  
at Church Office)*

**CHURCH MINISTRIES**

**THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A  
LITURGICAL MINISTER OR WANT TO  
SHARE YOUR TALENTS?**

Please complete the following form:

I would like to volunteer in the following parish ministry:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Server            | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Usher                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCIA                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Liturgy with Children    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lector                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Eucharistic Minister     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consolation Minister    | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping/<br>Planting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rosary Altar Society    | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Cana                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caring for Altar Plants | <input type="checkbox"/> FOCCUS                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Lending Library   | <input type="checkbox"/> Banner Committee         |

Name::

Address:

Phone:

*Please return to the Rectory for processing.*

**REGISTRATION and/or  
ENVELOPE REQUEST**

NAME(s):

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

E-MAIL:

I/we would like to register in the parish.

Please send contribution envelopes.

I am already registered in the parish but do not receive contribution envelopes. I would like to receive them.

Other \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please return in collection or return to Church Office)*

*Please return to the Rectory for further processing.*



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

October 1, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Today, I have some important but difficult news to share with you. Earlier this morning, the Diocese of Rockville Centre has filed a voluntary petition for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. This decision was not made lightly. However, in the year since the passage of the Child Victims Act, more than 200 lawsuits alleging sexual abuse have been filed against the Diocese of Rockville Centre. What became clear is that the Diocese could not continue to carry out its spiritual, charitable and educational missions while also having to shoulder the increasingly heavy burden of litigation expenses associated with these cases.

Filing for Chapter 11, we believe, is the only way for the Diocese to ensure a fair and equitable outcome for everyone involved. That is because the bankruptcy court will centralize all litigation and oversee a settlement that ensures that no survivor is left out or gets unfair compensation at the expense of another survivor.

During this period of restructuring, most Diocesan operations and ministries will continue without interruption. We anticipate that current and future financial liquidity will be sufficient to fund normal operations and services during this restructuring process. Our employees will be paid their normal wages. Benefit programs will continue, uninterrupted. Our vendors will be paid for all goods and services after filing, and ordinary operations will continue as before.

We know that most people experience the life of the Church through their parish, so it is important to note that the good work of our parishes and Catholic schools is expected to continue as normal. **Since the parishes and schools of the Diocese of Rockville Centre are separate legal entities, they are not included in this Chapter 11 filing.** But it is also the case that after Chapter 11, the Diocese will have fewer financial resources to help struggling schools and parishes.

I also would like to stress that the practice of our Catholic Faith and administration of the sacraments continues just as it has and will not be affected by this legal filing. It is my hope and prayer that operations will be unaffected during the restructuring process as we work to maintain the stability of our many ministries. We will certainly need to prioritize the charitable missions that are essential to Long Island, but the work of the Church must continue. Catholic evangelization must and will continue.

We know that this is hard for people across the Diocese to digest and especially difficult for the many people of Long Island, both Catholic and non-Catholic, who depend on the Church in so many ways. Parishioners will certainly have many questions, so it is important for everyone to understand what this decision means, to avoid any misconceptions.

A settlement will be determined based on the assets of the Diocese and will not include any parish offertory donations collected during Mass or any contributions to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. Our financial and legal advisors are maximizing the availability of insurance coverage and investment proceeds. It is important to note that in bankruptcy, all assets of the Diocese are part of the court record and therefore publicly available and that the process is completely transparent. All public information relating to the filing can be found on a dedicated Chapter 11 website, which can be found by clicking on the Chapter 11 icon found on the diocesan website at [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org).

For the Diocese, fair and equitable treatment for survivors of sexual abuse has always been a top priority. That is why we created the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program in 2017. Since then, the program has assisted approximately 350 survivors of sexual abuse. But that program also has greatly depleted our financial resources, leaving us with fewer resources to be able to litigate the CVA cases.

Over the last year, our advisors have studied our financial and legal situation extensively and concluded that a Chapter 11 filing was the only way to ensure an equitable settlement for abuse survivors, help us manage litigation expenses and carry out our essential mission and ministries.

We will work diligently with all survivors, creditors and ministries to maintain open communication while we work toward our goal of completing a settlement and a restructuring plan that includes a comprehensive resolution for those suffering survivors. Our Diocese underwent extensive reforms in 2003 with the creation of our Office for the Protection of Children and Young People. We will continue to be vigilant in our commitment to child protection.

I ask each and every Catholic on Long Island during these painful times to embrace the power of the Cross of Jesus Christ and His Divine Mercy, and to help others carry their crosses, especially survivors of clergy sexual abuse. Together, we ask for the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, Mother of the Church, that she continue to intercede for a spirit of holiness and mission in this Diocese and the raising up of a new generation of saints on Long Island to serve the Church and the world. All of us, as members of the faithful, are called to find strength in the Word of God and the Sacraments and to live Christ's spirit of humility, charity, compassion, sensitivity and courage. We ask for the intercession of our patroness, the courageous martyr Saint Agnes, for the fortitude to joyfully and charitably proclaim the Gospel and the Splendor of Truth in every public square.

Please know that I am praying for each and every one of you and your families and in a special way for the survivors of clergy sexual abuse. I also pray that through this restructuring process, the Diocese can emerge stronger, having resolved these issues with dignity and fairness and put everyone in a better position to move forward and heal.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *John O. Barres*

Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

# Blessing of Animals at St. Thomas More on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi— Sunday, October 4, 2020 after the 9:00 am Mass



# **Parish Questions and Answers Regarding the Diocese Filing**

## **General Q&A**

### **1. What is Chapter 11?**

Chapter 11 is a legal mechanism for court-supervised reorganization or restructuring of a corporation's obligations. Chapter 11 provides a way for a corporation to address its financial condition in order to remain a viable entity, while continuing day-to-day operations.

### **2. Why did the Diocese of Rockville Centre (The Diocese) file for Chapter 11?**

The Diocese took this action to ensure the viability of its ongoing mission and charitable services, while it works toward a fair and equitable way to compensate survivors of sexual abuse who brought lawsuits under the Child Victims Act. Ensuring fair and equitable settlements with all survivors requires the Diocese to manage the increasing costs of this litigation. Filing will allow the Diocese to work toward a settlement with survivors AND, at the same time, maintain its mission; serving the common good of all.

### **3. What entities are included in the Chapter 11 filing?**

Only the Diocese itself is included in the filing. Parishes, Catholic schools and religious orders within the Diocese are not included in the filing. The Diocese of Rockville Centre is a distinct religious corporation from the Parishes, some of which include Catholic Schools as part of their missions.

Some of the Parishes are named in Child Victims Act lawsuits along with the Diocese. The Diocese will ask the Bankruptcy Court to "stay," or halt, any civil actions against the Parishes and bring these cases under the umbrella of the process to resolve abuse lawsuits that they expect to set up in the Chapter 11 case.

### **4. How does the Chapter 11 filing impact DRVC Schools?**

Parishes, elementary schools and high schools are separate legal entities from the Diocese and are not filing Chapter 11. The Chapter 11 filing is not expected to have a direct impact on the day-to-day operations of our schools or parishes. The continued employment, salaries, and benefits of DRVC school employees also will not be impacted by this filing.

### **5. Why choose bankruptcy?**

We hope this choice will establish a single process to compensate all survivors. We believe this offers the best opportunity for equitable settlements for all survivors.

### **6. Why now?**

The Diocese has been named in more than 200 lawsuits since the Child Victims Act went into effect August 14, 2019. It has become clear to the Diocese that, to ensure that available

financial resources are distributed fairly, it must mitigate the increasing litigation expenses and implement a comprehensive and equitable settlement with all survivors.

**7. Is the bankruptcy a way to minimize your financial responsibilities to the victims?**

No. The bankruptcy process will provide a transparent look at the Diocese's financial status. All documents filed in a Chapter 11 are available publicly, including information about financial resources, borrowing, insurance coverage, investments, pension obligations and expenses. It will be plain to see what the Diocese can afford to pay survivors. Our goal is to compensate the survivors of abuse as equitably as possible while continuing with our charitable missions.

**8. What happens to the lawsuits that have been filed against the Diocese?**

The Chapter 11 filing triggers a "stay" that essentially freezes all litigation against the Diocese. The Diocese will work with all survivors, within the Chapter 11 process, to finalize a settlement of the litigation claims. The claims and settlement will be part of the Diocese's Plan of Reorganization and must be approved by the Court before the Diocese can emerge from bankruptcy.

**9. Does the Diocese have enough money to continue operating?**

The Diocese believes its current and future liquidity will be sufficient to fund normal operations and services during the restructuring process and beyond. Vendors will be paid for all goods and services after the filing, and transactions that occur in the ordinary course of business will continue as before. Employees will be paid their normal wages, and health and benefits programs will continue uninterrupted.

**10. How long will the Diocese be in Chapter 11?**

The Diocese of Rockville Centre will work to emerge from Chapter 11 as soon as possible. Given the seriousness of this situation, and the importance of dealing fairly with the survivors of abuse, we cannot give a definitive end date at this time.

**11. Have other Dioceses filed and come out of Chapter 11?**

Yes. Since the Child Victims Act was enacted and the window opened on August 14, 2019, four of the eight dioceses in New York have filed Chapter 11. While the New York Dioceses are still in the reorganization process, many other dioceses across the country have, through the Chapter 11 process, reached settlements with survivors of abuse.

**12. Will my gift/donation to the CMA or other specific funds to be used to pay legal settlements?**

No. Gifts and donations that are made to the CMA or to support specific ministries and programs will only be used for those purposes. Designated gifts can only be used for the purposes for which they were and are given.

**13. Where did the Diocese file? Who is the judge? What is the case number?**

The petitions were filed in U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. The judge is the Hon. [name]. The main case number is [to be provided].

**14. Where can I find Chapter 11 case information?**

To ensure access to all restructuring information, the Diocese of Rockville Centre has created a link to its Reorganization Information page on the diocesan website, [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org), which contains a variety

of information on our Chapter 11 restructuring. The Diocese has also set up a toll-free information line for inquiries at (888) 490-0633. For access to certain court documents and other information about our Chapter 11 case, please visit <https://dm.epiq11.com/drvc>.

**15. Is our Parish included in the DRVC Chapter 11 filing?**

No. Our Parish is a separate legal entity and therefore not included in the Chapter 11 filing of the Diocese.

**16. Will our Parish file bankruptcy too now that the Diocese has filed?**

No. There are no plans for parishes to file for Chapter 11.

**17. What if our Parish has been named in a sexual abuse lawsuit? Will we need to file for bankruptcy to resolve it?**

The Diocese will ask the Bankruptcy Court to “stay” or halt any sexual abuse actions against parishes and bring these cases under the umbrella of the process in order to resolve them.

**18. Will my donation to the Parish during Mass now be used to settle sexual abuse lawsuits?**

No. Monies collected from donors and parishioners will not be redirected toward litigation settlements.

**19. What effect will the filing have on the operations and stability of Elementary and High Schools?**

Each school is a separate legal entity from the Diocese and is also not included in the bankruptcy filing.

Schools continue to pursue a variety of initiatives aimed at stabilizing and revitalizing. Today’s Chapter 11 filing, and the related legal proceedings, will not have direct impact on their day-to-day operations. The continued employment, salaries, and benefits of school employees will not be impacted by this filing.

**20. Is there a chance that money for the DRVC schools could be used to pay abuse settlements?**

Tuition, philanthropic support, and parish support of schools will, as always be fully dedicated to funding the operations of the schools are not impacted by the Diocese's Chapter 11 filing.

**21. If a parishioner has made a designated gift or donation to this parish, will that money remain here, or can it be moved to the Diocese for settlement purposes?**

Designated gifts and donations are protected under New York state law and cannot be used to settle claims.

**22. Will the Diocese lay off any employees as a result of the restructuring?**

The Diocese has already made extensive budget cuts that resulted in the reduction of approximately ten percent of its workforce. At this time, no additional layoffs are expected.

**23. The Diocese administers the lay and clergy pension and 403B funds, along with health and welfare benefits for parishes. Will there be changes in these programs? Will these funds be available to use for settlements?**

The Diocese serves only as the administrator of these funds. The actual funds are held in trusts that are not available to any party for reasons other than the payments to beneficiaries as laid out in the various programs. We expect no changes in these programs as a result of the Diocese's filing.

**24. Is there a chance that the Diocese will sell this Parish or other real estate to help settle claims?**

No. This parish and any real estate surrounding it are property of this parish, which is a separate legal entity from the Diocese. The Diocese does not have a legal right to sell property that belongs to a parish corporation.

**25. If our parish has been the subject of a sexual abuse allegation or lawsuit, what impact does the Diocese's filing have?**

The bankruptcy process should bring closure to the lawsuits facing the Diocese and a release for all parishes from any and all abuse claims. As we move through the settlement process, additional information will be available.

Additional Information is also available by clicking on the restructuring icon on the DRVC website: [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org)

St. Thomas More Youth Ministry —

A fun afternoon of mask decorating on Sunday, October 4, 2020 from 1 to 2:30 pm.

(All High Schoolers are welcome to join the Youth Ministry)



# St Thomas More

## Religious Education News

We are in the process of registering new and returning students in Religious Education. If you have or know of a child in grades 1-8 who would like to be enrolled in the Religious Education Program this year, please contact us at 631 234-0397 or [reled@stmli.org](mailto:reled@stmli.org) and we will be glad to assist you.

Because of the pandemic Religious Education will look different this year. Beginning the second week of September small classes will meet outside. Catechists and children will wear masks and maintain the correct social distance. We will continue outdoor classes as long as it is safe to do so and the weather permits. After that we will switch to online learning.



We anticipate that we will be able to celebrate First Communion and Confirmation later next spring or early summer as we did this past July when we celebrated the sacraments in smaller groups following Diocesan guidelines.

Please pray for the children, their families and catechists as they continue on their journey of faith.

