

Sharing
the Spirit
of Love

Catholic Church Community of

St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge NY 11788

www.stmli.org | (631) 234-5551

September 14th 2025



This Week's Readings

Numbers 21:4b-9

Psalm 78:1bc-2,34-38

Philippians 2:6-11

John 3:13-17

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Religious Ed

631-234-0397 (call)
reled@stmli.org (email)

Rectory

631-234-5551 (call)
631-213-6882 (text)
rectory@stmli.org (email)

Outreach

631-234-3149 (call)
outreach@stmli.org (email)

This Week's Masses

Saturday, September 13th

5:00pm John Reddy
Mary Magnifico

Sunday, September 14th

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:00am Ralph Molinaro
Michael Dumenko Jr.

9:30am Arputha Mary Asir
Patricia Kulesa

11:30am Linda Dowling
Brian Ahearns

Monday, September 15th

9:00am Maria Manzi

Tuesday, September 16th

9:00am Jo Ellen Sadowski

Wednesday, September 17th

9:00am Ana Marisol Colon

Thursday, September 18th

9:00am Peter Romano

Friday, September 19th

9:00am Ellen Cleary

Saturday, September 20th

5:00pm Jimmy Doran
Barbara Gilcrest

Sunday, September 21st

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am Stella Pienkowski
Anna & Joe Beltrani (66yrs)

9:30am Thomas Prunty
Joan & Jim Harnett

11:30am Richard Stout
Arputha Mary Asir



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.

Saints of the Week

Our Lady of Sorrows (9/15)
Sts. Cornelius & Cyprian (9/16)
St. Robert Bellarmine (9/17)
St. Januarius (9/19)
Sts. Andrew Kim Taegon & Paul Chong
Hasang & Companions (9/20)
St. Matthew the Evangelist (9/21)

Saints in heaven, *pray for us*

Prepare for Next Weekend

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 21st 2025

Readings

Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113:1-2,4-8
1 Timothy 2:1-8
Luke 16:1-13

Focus Questions

1: How do you use your wealth and talents to help God's work?
2: Describe the most valuable thing in your life that money can't buy?
3: Relate a time when you were torn between serving the two masters- God or money.
Families: Talk about the important things in life that do not cost anything. Take a walk in nature and reflect on the beauty God has created.

Gospel of John (3:13-17)

Jesus said to his disciples, "A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property. He summoned him and said, 'What is this I hear about you? Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward.' The steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me? I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg.

I know what I shall do so that, when I am removed from the stewardship, they may welcome me into their homes.' He called in his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, 'How much do you owe my master?' He replied, 'One hundred measures of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Here is your promissory note. Sit down and quickly write one for fifty.' Then to another the steward said, 'And you, how much do you owe?' He replied, 'One hundred kors of wheat.' The steward said to him, 'Here is your promissory note; write one for eighty.' And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently.

"For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. I tell you, make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours? No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon."

our
daily bread

Mon-Fri

9am

Sat

5pm

Sun

8am

9:30am

11:30am



From the Pastor

This Sunday is the **Solemn Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross**. The cross is an instrument of a death-sentence in Jesus's time; so what is there to be exalted in the cross. To die on the cross is to die a criminal's death in shame and pain. There is nothing to be proud of in the cross.

We wear the **cross in precious metals around our neck, in rings or bracelets, but surely the cross is not a proud ornament**. It is a platform to execute a most shameful and painful death. It was an instrument of a death-sentence in Ceasar's Roman empire. As we read in all four Gospels. Jesus suffered pain, shame, and death on the cross. We do not proudly wear it as an instrument of death but a gracious symbol of Jesus who hung from it and offered redemptive love and forgiveness to us.

As we read in the Gospel of John 3:16, "**For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son**, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." Jesus the Son of God took it as an instrument to show His sacrificial and committed love for those who believe in Him and in His teachings. Jesus took the cross not as an end in itself but turned it to a symbol and step – a means to the glorified life of Resurrection. The instrument of death was turned into a symbol of love and the means of grace and life for the believers

For ages **the glory of the cross has been sung**. On Good Friday, during the evening service of 'the Lord's Passion and the Adoration of the Cross' we sing the following lines; "God in pity saw man fallen, shamed and sunk in misery, when he fell on death by tasting the fruit of the forbidden tree: then another tree was chosen which the world from death should free, which brings forgiveness and life eternal." The hymn compares the fruit of the tree in the Garden of Eden to the fruit (Jesus) of the tree (cross) on Calvary. The first fruit was a forbidden one which brought death and damnation. The New Fruit Jesus is an inviting one from the tree, the cross, inviting all of us to salvation and eternal life.

Continuing with the **same comparison of images of the Garden of Eden and Mount Calvary**, St. Paul in his letter to the Romans says the first Adam of the Garden of Eden brought slavery and death by disobeying God's command - eating the forbidden fruit. But the New Adam (Jesus Christ) who obeyed God even unto death and gave Himself to be eaten, brought freedom and life. (Letter to Romans 5:12-21)

On the feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross, **Jesus on the Cross illumines us with His Grace**: If we want we can, like Him, change the meaning of the cross we bear. We can choose to either curse the cross that is imposed upon us or we can change the meaning and pain of the cross through the empowering grace of Jesus. Nothing can be imposed upon us unless we yield to it; likewise, we can change the meaning of any negative thing or situation like the cross, into the positive like the resurrection through the power that Jesus shares with us in our Baptism.

"If we have died with Christ (Cross) we believe that we shall also live with him." (Romans 6:5-11).

With love and prayers,
Father Antony



Our Staff

Rectory

Theresa Recce (sacraments)
theresa@stmli.org

Dottie Castaldo (finance)
finance@stmli.org

Alex White (operations)
rectory@stmli.org

Clergy

Father Antony Asir, Pastor
pastor@stmli.org

Matthew T.J. Surico, Deacon
deacon.matt@stmli.org

Edward Vigneaux, Deacon (Ret)
Robert D. Weisz, Deacon (Ret)

Religious Ed

Mary Ellen Carrol, DRE
maryellen@stmli.org

Linda Ronning
reled@stmli.org

Youth Ministry

Noelle White
youthgroup@stmli.org

Music Ministry

Emilia Savarese, Director
(631) 724-8820

Prayers & Petitions

Pray for the Deceased

Theresa Fischetti
Barbara Cappisillo
Richard M Bounaparte
Albin Haas

We continuously pray for our deceased loved ones and all souls in purgatory.

St Gertrude, pray for us.

Pray for the Sick

Ana Beltrani
Andrew Valentine
Angela Mingione
Angelina Tolentino
Ann Russo
Barbara Foberg
Carmen Z Fontes
Christopher Conley
Christy Torkelsen
Codie Codispoti
Diane McCann
Ellen Murphy
Fortunata Feliciano

Grace Harold
Jo Garvey
John Ianno
John Zuzzolo
Joseph Barrett
Joseph Tuffarelli
Kayla & Nora
Larry Wilson
Linda Heller
Lori Rooney
Lorraine White
Louise Soldo
Marge McGowan

Maria U Aldaba
Maria Andria
Mary Leister
MaryAnn Landi
Maryann Maccone
Michael Leocadi
Michael Minutillo
Noah Simonetti
Nunzio Puleo
Peter Cappisillo
Raymond Larsen
Richard Landi
Rosalie Malerba

*This listing will reset on September 30th, 2025

To add a name to the sick list, please fill out a card from the literature rack place it in the collection basket, or contact the Rectory by phone or email.

Altar Bread & Wine Memorial

September 15th - September 21st



Contact the Rectory to arrange a memorial for the Altar Bread & Wine. Requested donation for the week is \$50

Pray for our Clergy.

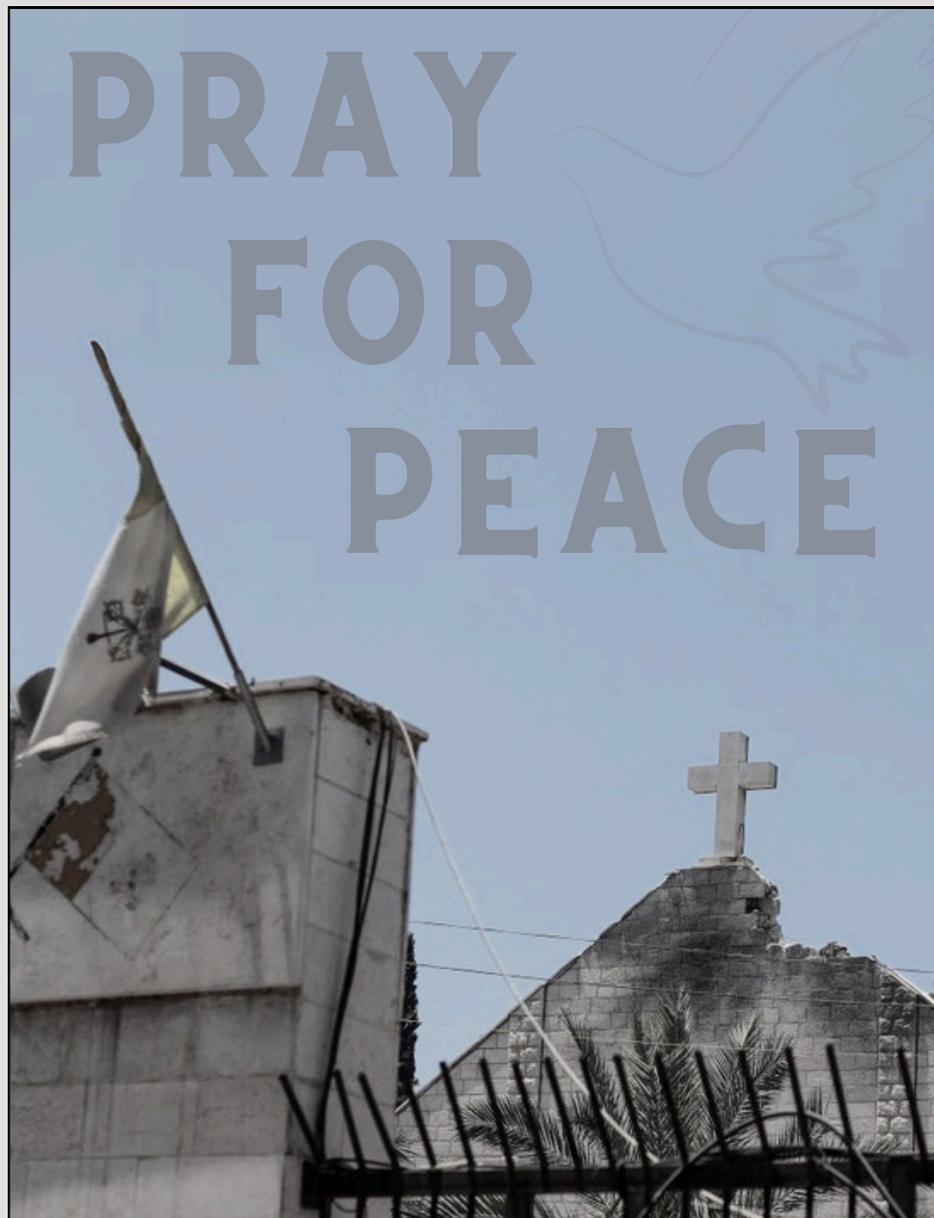
Father Antony Asir
Deacon Robert Weisz
Deacon Edward Vigneaux
Deacon Matthew Surico
The Capuchin Friars
Bishop John Barres
Pope Leo XIV

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
Ryan Smith
Will Maley
Chris Capasso
Joseph Kirsch
Allen Kirsch
Nicholas Gajda
Alexandria Feys Gajda
Andrew Lynch

We also pray for our deceased service members, and for our veterans, in gratitude for their service, and in hope that they will find the support they need here at home.



Support our Parish

Financial Support

Collection from:
September 6th & 7th

\$6617

Please consider supporting St. Thomas More. We encourage all parishioners to try electronic giving through Faith Direct. It is both convenient and secure. For more information on Faith Direct, check the literature rack in the Narthex, or visit us online at stmli.org

Physical Support

There are many different ways to support the St. Thomas More Parish Community! Whether you are 4 or 40, 8 or 80, there are ways for everyone to be involved.

Eucharistic Ministers

Patty Citro
pcitro78@yahoo.com

Parish Outreach

Marti White
outreach@stmli.org

Pastoral Council

Joe Fratamico
bjfrat1@gmail.com

Altar Servers

Deacon Matt
altarservers@stmli.org

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

Whether giving money, time, or labor, all your support is appreciated. St. Thomas More would not exist as it does without the generosity of our Parish Family.

A Gentle Reminder:

Please do not place clothing or household items in the food bins or leave them at Outreach. We do not have a lot of extra storage space. Please call the Outreach office and one of our volunteers can determine if we have a family that could use your donation, or direct you to another place where you can donate.

Parish Social Ministry

“His path to holiness was simply about being faithful to the present moment, living the Gospel in every day life. He wasn’t just a philanthropist – he didn’t wait for the poor to come to him. He went to them”.

ON ST. PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

Contact Parish Outreach

631-234-3149

outreach@stmli.org

Mon-Thur 10AM to 2PM

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.

Gift Card Donations

Please place any gift card donations in the collection basket, or drop them off at Outreach or the Rectory. Please do not put them in the bins in the Narthex. The church is open for visitors who sometimes “look through” the bags of food.

OUR NEEDS THIS WEEK...

Pancake Mix

Syrup

Boxed Milk

Cookies

Jelly

Soup

Tea

Tuna

Shampoo

Toothpaste

Hand Soap

Paper Towels

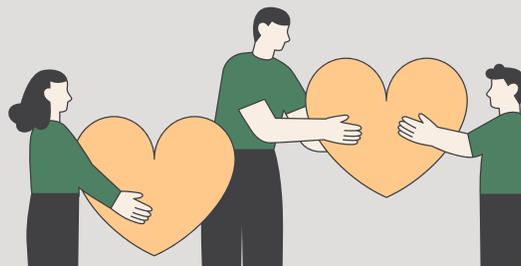
Detergent

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.

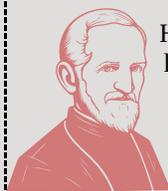


ST. THOMAS MORE
† PARISH OUTREACH †



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

In today’s Gospel, Jesus lays out the demands of following him, the great cost of discipleship. The Mission Statement of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul states: “Vincentians witness God’s love by embracing all works of charity and justice...the Society makes no distinction in those served because, in them, Vincentians see the face of Christ.”



Have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

Contact us: call 631-648-2760 or email svdp.stm@aol.com



Baptisms in our church

Congratulations! We were excited to welcome the following children into the Catholic Church during their recent baptisms:

Gabriella June Takach
child of Shannon & Kevin

New child? Expecting?
Contact the Rectory to learn more
about the sacrament of Baptism!



E-Giving News

Our current e-giving platform is changing its name!
Faith Direct is becoming unified under the Ministry Brands umbrella and will be known as ParishSoft Giving



Some minor (but helpful!) changes:

Weekly Donations...will now be paid weekly, not per month
Donations can be scheduled for any day, not just the 4th or 15th
Donations can be made with Google Pay, Apple Pay, Venmo, or PayPal

We encourage all parishioners to consider signing up for e-giving. Donating online is safe and secure, and allows you on demand access to your tax information and giving history.

More information and instructions to sign up can be found on the literature rack in the Narthex.

BANNS OF Marriage

THIRD ANNOUNCEMENT

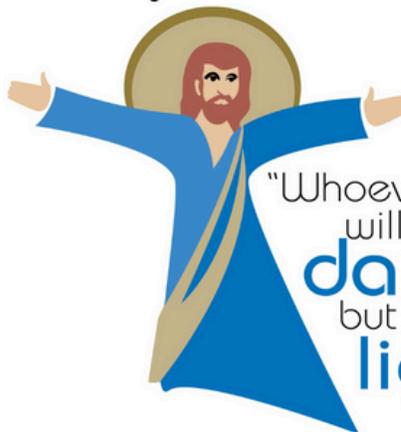
CRISTINA BRUNO
St. Thomas More
Hauppauge



MATTHEW PUZO
St. Thomas More
Hauppauge



Have you been called by Name?



"Whoever follows me
will **never** walk in
darkness,
but will have the
light of life."

JOHN 8:12

Come and follow Jesus and his teachings! If you are missing any or all of your Sacraments, or are converting from another religion, come on an incredible journey of faith, love, and community, that is the Catholic Church.

Contact OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation in Adults) by calling the rectory at 631-234-5551.

OUR LADY

QUEEN OF PEACE

ادعو لنا

молися за нас

Coming Soon: Mass Book 2026



Masses for 2026 will be available starting Tuesday September 16th in the rectory.

Suggested offering is \$20



OVER 90,000 CHILDREN ON LONG ISLAND ARE LIVING IN POVERTY.



THATS MORE KIDS THAN CAN FIT
IN METLIFE STADIUM



NEXT MEETING:

SEPTEMBER 26TH
NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS
WELCOME!
CALL ANNA
631-234-0714

Children's Liturgy Returns!



Kids 4-8 are invited to join us on September 21st at the 9:30 Mass! We are thrilled to restart this program! For more info, contact the Rectory.



Deacon Ministry

Are You Being Called ?
LISTEN!-PRAY!-REFLECT!-DISCERN!

Attend ONE of the following dates:

7:00PM, Tuesday September 30th

St. Elizabeth Melville, 175 Wolf Hill Rd (Hospitality Rm)

7:00PM, Thursday, October 2nd

St. Brigid Westbury, 85 Post Ave (St. Anthony Center)

1:00PM, Saturday, October 18th

Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington

RSVP by Friday, September 26th,

TO 631-423-0483 Ext. 178

OR by email to

diaconateformation@drvc.org





DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?
YOU'RE INVITED TO TRY ALPHA AT STM
EXPLORE LIFE...FAITH...MEANING

ALPHA is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open, and informal setting. You will be able to explore life's biggest questions. You will take yourself on a journey which many times leads to a personal encounter with Jesus. You are able to ask questions, share ideas, build friendships, and experience the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We gather once a week and have our meeting at St. Thomas More in the white room. We set up in small groups of about 8 to 10 people per table and start with a nice dinner and dessert with your group. Then we watch a video that features inspiring stories and interviews from all around the world followed by discussions with your group. Each week our talks will look at a different question about faith.

If you are not comfortable talking in a group, don't worry. Just listen and you will be surprised what you take home and think about. You may even find yourself inspired to share your experiences and knowledge the following week.

So come try ALPHA! It's free, you'll have good food, thought provoking conversation with people and our guarantee to be finished in 2 hours each week.

If you have questions or would like to sign up, please call 631-234-0397 or email us at jmtwhite@optonline.net

**We hope to see you all there at our first meeting on
September 15th, 2025!**

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

BLOOD DRIVE

St. Thomas More R.C. Church

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025

Time: 1:30pm - 7:30pm

**Place: 115 Kings Highway
Hauppauge, Walden Hall**



**For medical eligibility questions, please call
1-800-688-0900 Monday – Friday (9am – 5pm).**

*Appointments are preferred however walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits.
To make an appointment please scan the QR code above.
Please remember to eat, drink and bring your donor ID card or ID with name and photo.*

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT STM



In August, Chelsea Falco and Keith Albert celebrated their convalidation, a type of Catholic wedding for those who are already civilly married. If you want to know more about convalidation, contact the Rectory!

Last weekend, Shannon and Kevin Takach also had a convalidation, affirming their civil marriage in the eyes of the Church. It was a double sacrament day, as they also baptized their child! Need info on Baptism, or Convalidation, or both? Contact the Rectory!



This Summer, Bill and Lori Rudden celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, with their children and grandchildren! What a number to celebrate!

BACK by Popular Demand...

Military Bridge!

Sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul - St. Thomas More Conference,

October 18, 2025

Doors Open: 6:00pm

Instructions: 6:45pm

Game Begins: 7:00pm



ATTENTION!

This is a simple card game that everyone can learn.
A great way to mix & mingle with parish friends

Your admission includes:

- Game Prizes
- Raffles and 50/50
- Finger Foods
- Coffee, Tea, & Desserts

\$25 per person
*Adults Only



At St. Thomas More Church
(Following the 5pm Mass)
Get your tickets NOW!

Tickets available in the Narthex the weekends of 9/28, 10/5, and 10/12

For more information please call:

Jo Garvey 631-579-1128 or Ann Russo 631-543-2740

Liturgical Minister Training– Fall 2025

The Diocese of Rockville Center will offer training for those who wish to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors. No walk-ins permitted, all participants must be registered in advance with a letter from their pastor.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion: Part A - This training is required for **all** those who are beginning as Ministers. This “BASIC” training is required for **all** Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Those who wish to minister in hospitals, nursing homes and to the homebound are required to attend Part B training in addition to BASIC training. One **must** attend Part A training prior to Part B training.

A **Lector Workshop** is available for both new and experienced lectors.

You may not take EMHC Part A and the Lector Workshop on the same day.

Dates and Locations for Liturgical Minister Training

Tuesday, Oct. 21 - St. Elizabeth / Melville - Msgr. Kane Hall; 7 pm - 10 pm

- Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion - Part A
- Lector Workshop

Tuesday, Nov. 18 - St. Elizabeth / Melville - Msgr. Kane Hall; 7 pm - 9 pm

- Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion - Part B

Tuesday, Oct. 28 - St. Agnes Cathedral/RVC - Msgr. Kelly Parish Center; 7 pm - 10 pm

- Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion - Part A
- Lector Workshop

Wednesday, Nov. 5 - St. Agnes Cathedral/RVC - Msgr. Kelly Parish Center; 7 pm - 9 pm

- Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion - Part B

Saturday, Nov. 15 - Immaculate Conception/Westhampton Beach - Parish Hall

- Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion - Part A - 1 pm – 4 pm
- (there will be NO Lector Workshop or EMHC Part B offered on this date)*

A letter from your pastor will be required to reserve your space at any of these trainings and must be received at least five days prior to the session you wish to attend. Walk-ins, on the day of training, without prior registration are NOT permitted. To request registration for any of these sessions, please contact your rectory. Please do not call the host parishes with questions. For questions, please call Suzanne at 516-744-6850. Thank you for your interest.

Saint *Carlo Acutis*

On Sept. 7th, Pope Leo XIV canonized his first two saints, including Carlo Acutis!



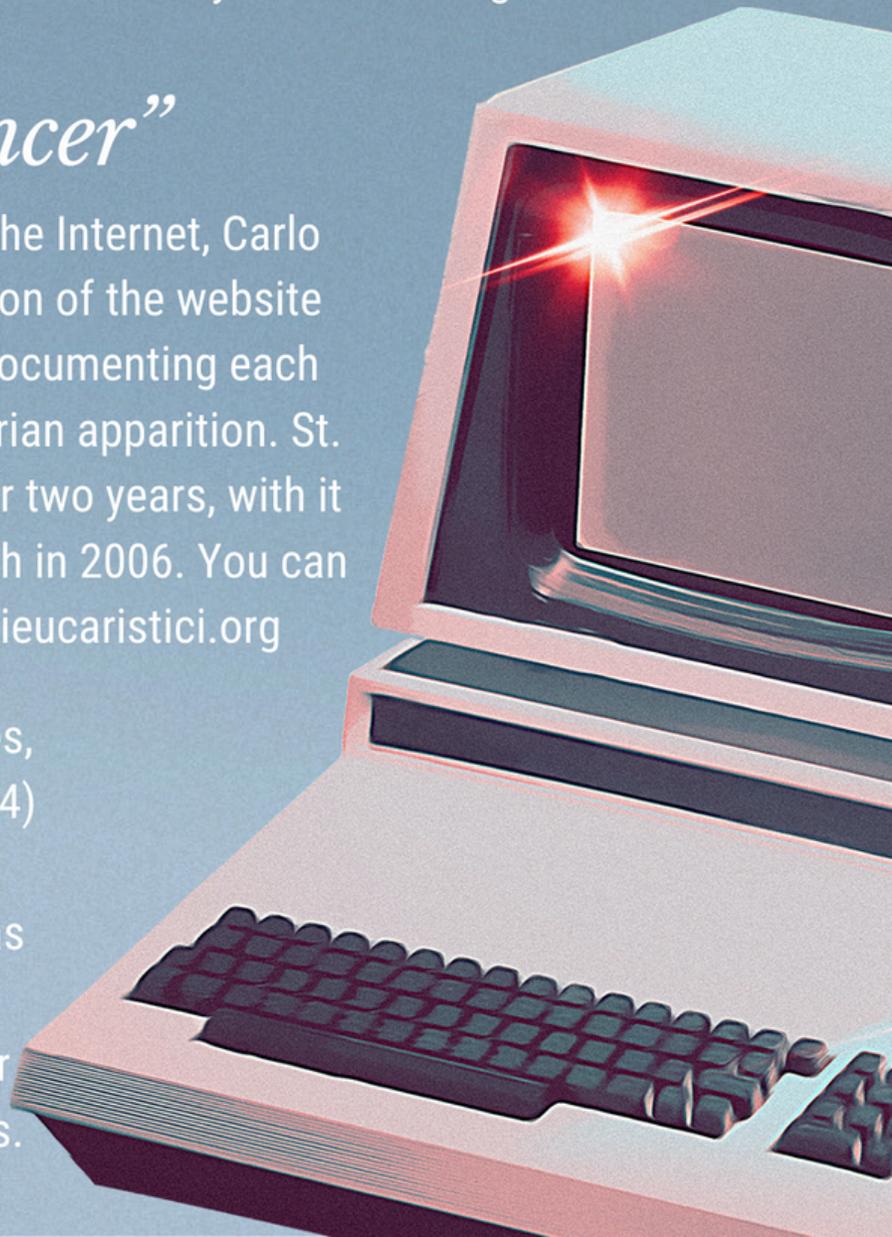
Carlo Acutis was born in 1991 in London to Italian parents, and was raised in Milan in an areligious household. He had a deep interest in the faith, even bringing his parents back to Catholicism. While attending a Jesuit high school in 2006, he developed acute promyelocytic leukemia and died five days after his diagnosis.

“God’s Influcencer”

Referred to as the Patron Saint of the Internet, Carlo Acutis is most known for his creation of the website ‘Miracoli Eucarstici’ dedicated to documenting each reported Eucharstic miracle and Marian apparition. St. Carlo worked on the website for over two years, with it launching mere days before his death in 2006. You can still visit the site at www.miracolieucaristici.org

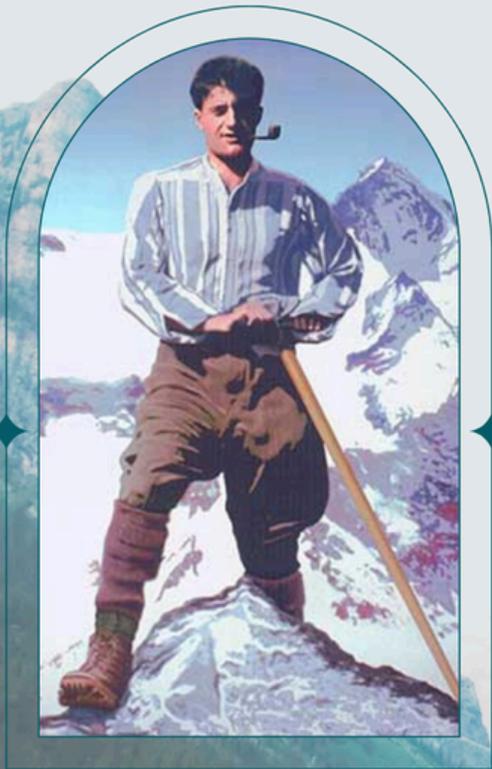
After being credited with two miracles, (Brazil in 2019 and Costa Rica in 2024)

Carlo Acutis’ canonization was approved by Pope Francis and he was canonized by Pope Leo. His family attended the Mass, with his younger brother delivering one of the readings.



SAINT PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

On Sept. 7th, Pope Leo XIV canonized his first two saints, including Pier Giorgio Frassati!



Frassati, an Italian born in 1901 was known as a young person dedicated to social justice and works of charity. He was raised in Turin and educated by Jesuits. An opponent of fascism and Mussolini, he was a member of the Third Order of Saint Dominic and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Frassati was an avid athlete and mountaineer, regularly climbing the Italian Alps.

“Charity is not enough; we need social reform.”

In 1925, Frassati developed poliomyelitis and passed away at the age of 24. He was interred at Pollone Cemetery, but transferred to Turin Cathedral in 1981 where upon his remains were found to be incorrupt. St. Frassati is the patron saint of young Catholics, mountaineers, and World Youth Day.

