

Sharing
the Spirit
of Love

Catholic Church Community of

St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge NY 11788

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

December 14th 2025

BEHOLD

I AM SENDING
MY MESSENGER
AHEAD OF YOU;
HE WILL
PREPARE YOUR
WAY BEFORE
YOU



This Week's Readings

Isaiah 35:1-6a,10

Psalms 146:6-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Third Sunday of Advent

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, December 13th

5:00pm Peggy Terranova
Robert Conti

Sunday, December 14th

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00am Barbara Cappisillo

9:30am Scott E Smith
Rosalind Warmuth

11:30am Marin Lamia
Robert & David Mohlenbrok

Monday, December 15th

9:00am Angelo Nichola Manzi

Tuesday, December 16th

9:00am John Puglisi

Wednesday, December 17th

9:00am Marie Cartascia

Thursday, December 18th

9:00am Al Weidig

Friday, December 19th

9:00am Patty Citro (healing)

Saturday, December 20th

5:00pm Richard Stout

Sunday, December 21st

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00am Joe & Phyllis Trezza
Charles & Veronica Marsala

9:30am Angelo Cardinale
The Deceased Lauretta Family

11:30am Stacey Oscar
Marie & Lawrence Papola



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

St. John of the Cross (12/14)
St. Peter Canisius (12/21)

Saints in heaven, pray for us

Prepare for Next Weekend

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st 2025

Readings

Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 24:1-6
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

Focus Questions

- 1: Describe a time when you experienced a miracle.
 - 2: How has saying yes to God shaped and changed you?
 - 3: Describe a time when you felt you were saying yes to God but you weren't sure.
- Families: How has this Advent prepared you to welcome Jesus on Christmas?

Gospel of Matthew (1:18-24)

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the

Lord had said through the prophet:

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us."*

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

our
daily bread

Mon-Fri

9am

Sat

5pm

Sun

8am

9:30am

11:30am



From the Pastor

After witnessing the **first presentation of his play that had been a complete failure**, the English playwright Oscar Wilde was asked by someone asked, “How did your play go tonight, Oscar?”

“Oh,” said Wilde, “the play was a great success. The audience was a failure.”

Failure or success depends on which end of the event one looks at it. Every problem can be handled as a crushing painful moment or a challenging opportunity to arrive at a better solution.

In the Gospel today **John the Baptizer, who is in prison, on hearing what Jesus does, sends his disciples** in order to make sure Jesus is the right person to believe. Jesus invites them to see and understand what he does as the sign of their belief in the right person. Jesus may do wonderful things, but the faith in him depends upon how one looks at them or takes them to their heart. The signs may inspire faith in Jesus, or they can be misunderstood and misused like the scribes did, to discredit Jesus, saying that Jesus is possessed by Beelzebul and by the prince of demons he drives out demons. (Mark 3:22).

Advent is the time that can inspire us to experience Jesus. One can spend Advent in silence, prayer, and sharing so that Christmas may be the celebration of Jesus’ birth in our hearts and home. Or, one can also spend Advent in busy shopping, meaningless decorating with lights and trees, valueless fun with eating and drinking, and thus miss the godly experience of the season. Advent invites us to use all the festive signs of colors, music, shopping, decorations, and dinners as an occasion and opportunity to realize that God is an everyday living reality in all things we do and speak. Thus, all our celebrative moments would be the moments of realizing that God is in our midst, in each of us.

“Two ‘Hail Mary’ Novena” through Christmas day. **When it is just nine days to Christmas Eve** (Monday 12/15), please start a simple Novena of praying the Hail Mary twice - once for your family and the other for parish family. We pray “Hail Mary,” imitating the Blessed Virgin Mary. As she did, let us allow Jesus to be born through her in our hearts and homes. Join with me and the congregation at 9am Daily Mass, in praying for every family of our Parish, especially for those who would join with us at the masses on Christmas Eve and Day. May this Christmas touch all our families with Christ’s Joy and Peace.

The **Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as GAUDETE (rejoicing) Sunday**, telling us that there is joy in waiting for the Lord to be born in our hearts and homes. In the Bible ‘to wait’ means ‘to be in hope’. When we wait in hope, we can experience the joy of Christ’s arrival, which is very near. Waiting without hope becomes impatience and disappointment. Waiting without hope disintegrates us into pieces; the body becomes weak, the mind gets tense, and the spirit loses its enthusiasm. Waiting with hope unites our mind, body, and spirit into one single person. We are not waiting hopelessly and doubtfully to see if our hope will come true or not. We hopefully wait for the birth of the Lord that happened 2025 years back and would surely happen in the hearts and homes.

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

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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

Barbara Pein

Youth Ministry

Noelle White
youthgroup@stmli.org

Music Ministry

Emilia Savarese, Director
(631) 724-8820

Prayers & Petitions

Pray for the Deceased

A. Mariadass
Carmela Molinaro

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

St Gertrude, pray for us.

Pray for the Sick

Andrew M Valentine	Lou Savarese
Carol Ann Raucci	Louise Soldo
Christopher Conley	Marge McGowan
Christy Torkelsen	Maria U Aldaba
Dolores Rudden	Maria Pipia
Ellen Murphy	Michael Minutillo
Baby Emerson Brae Mark	Nina Busse
Helen Kovarik	Noah Simonetti
Jim Moran	Nunzio Puleo
Jimmy Cannon	Patricia Stronczer
Joseph Tuffarelli	Richard Landi
Larry Wilson	

*This listing will reset on March 31st 2026

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

December 15th - December 21st

In memory of

Marie & Lawrence Papola

by The West-Papola Family

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

Pray for our Clergy

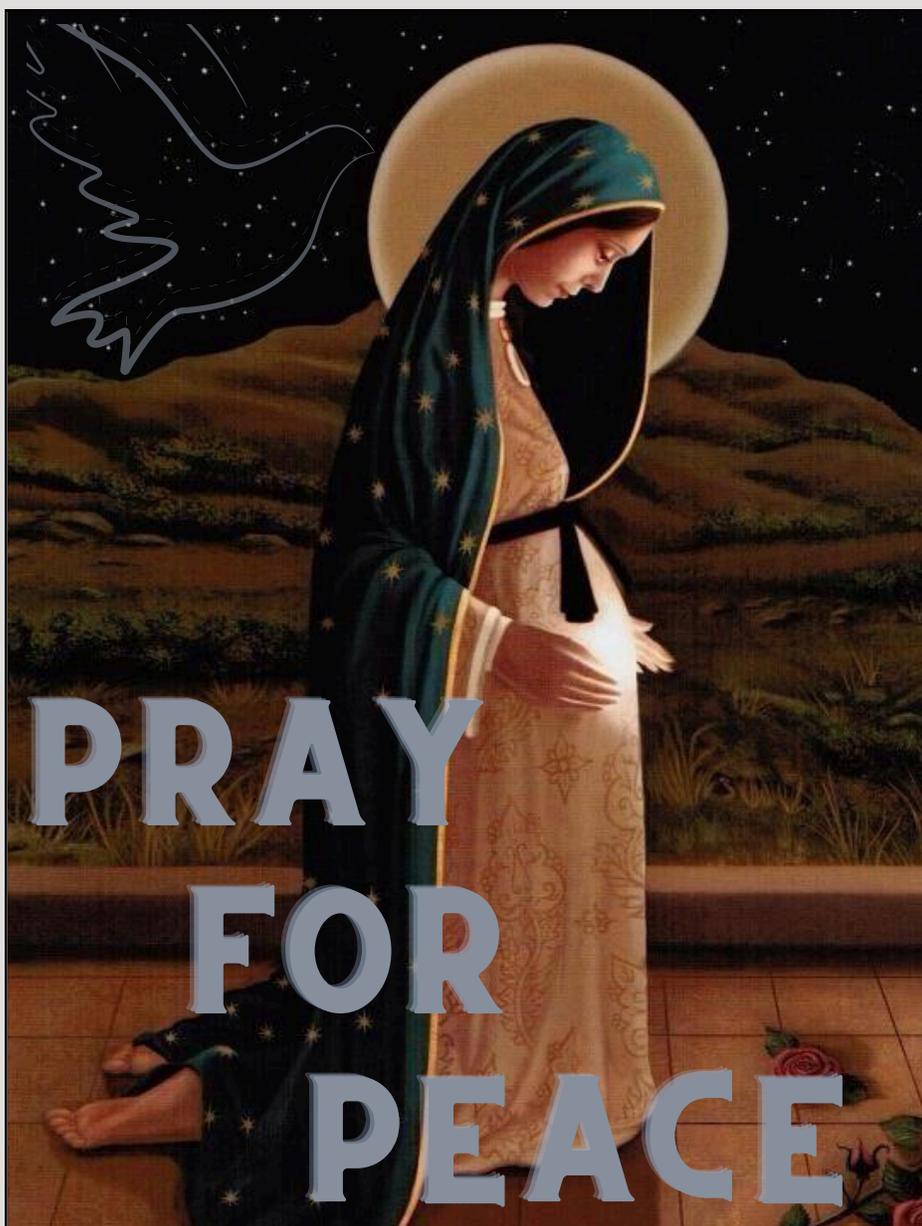
Father Antony Asir
Deacon Robert Weisz
Deacon Edward Vigneaux
Deacon Matthew Surico
The Capuchin Friars
Bishop John Barres
Pope Leo XIV

Pray for our Military

Please continue to pray for the brave members of our Parish Family who serve our country:

Troy A Maida	Joseph Kirsch
Connor Hendrickson	Allen Kirsch
Evan Hendrickson	Nicholas Gajda
Ryan Smith	Alexandria Feys Gajda
Will Maley	Andrew Lynch
Chris Capasso	

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:
December 6th & 7th

\$7027

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

"True Christian charity respects the person being assisted and sets no conditions for receiving help."

POPE LEO XIV

If you have household items, please call the Outreach office. We have a family in need of cooking pots!

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.

Who you fed in November!

74 Families
28 Seniors
102 Adults
105 Children

Outreach was able to provide Thanksgiving meals for 55 families!

Thank you for your generosity!

OUR NEEDS THIS WEEK...

Instant Coffee	Instant Potatoes
Tea	Cranberry Sauce
Pancake Mix	Boxed Milk
Small Syrup	Peanut Butter/Jelly
Canned Yams	

WE APPRECIATE ALL OF YOUR DONATIONS!

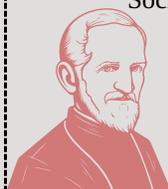
Please remember that it is difficult for us to use large cans, bottles, bags of rice, etc. as many of our neighbors do not have the ability to store extra food. Packages for 2-4 people are ideal.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that the good news can be seen, touched, felt, and heard through the lives of God's people. We are now charged to take up the ministry of Jesus, but we can't just ask people to take our word for it: our actions must speak for us.

Since Christmas is a time of love and gift giving, please share in Jesus' ministry by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who are poor can know the good news of Jesus!



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:

Avelye Mendoza
child of Carolina & Carlos

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



NEXT MEETING:

DECEMBER 17TH - 12PM
CHRISTMAS LUNCH @
VILLA OLIVETTI \$42/PP

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS
WELCOME!

CALL ANNA
631-234-0714

ST. ANDREW CHRISTMAS NOVENA

**HAIL AND BLESSED BE THE HOUR AND
MOMENT IN WHICH THE SON OF GOD
WAS BORN OF THE MOST PURE
VIRGIN MARY, AT MIDNIGHT,
IN BETHLEHEM, IN PIERCING COLD.
IN THAT HOUR, [BE GRACIOUS],
O MY GOD! TO HEAR MY PRAYER
AND GRANT MY DESIRES,
THROUGH THE MERITS OF
OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, AND OF
HIS BLESSED MOTHER. AMEN.**

OUR LADY
QUEEN OF PEACE

ادعو لنا

молися за нас

bete

ruega por nosotros

Προσευχηθείτε

ora

für

για εμάς

pro

uns

молитесь за нас

pray for us

התפלל למענו

nobis

Calendar Club 2026

The Every Day Lotto!

Names are drawn every day of the year (except during the Easter Triduum). The lucky winner of each day is awarded \$25 (or \$50 on Sundays and Holy Days!)

One entry for \$25, or 5 entries for \$100.

Buy as many entries as you want, and win as many times as your luck allows! You can even purchase numbers as gifts for family and friends.

The Calendar Club is a great way to support our parish, and a very important annual fundraiser for us! Please fill out the form below and return it to the rectory, or put it in the basket during Sunday collection.

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

ONE for \$25 TWO for \$50 THREE for \$75 FIVE for \$100

Early Bird Special: Deadline Sun Dec 14th

Buy FIVE entries and get a SIXTH on us!

Note: You must return your form and payment by Sunday
December 14th.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Please place in envelope labeled Calendar Club 2026 and return to the rectory or the Sunday collection basket. Thank you!



ST. THOMAS MORE
+PARISH OUTREACH+

Giving Tree

Our Giving Tree is now up in the narthex and filled with tags! This year we will be collecting slipper socks, as well as diapers, wipes, and toddler clothing. We invite you to help us make Christmas special for those less fortunate in our neighborhood.

There is a table set up in the Narthex for your donations as well as a basket for gift cards. Please attach the tag to your donation. You can also put gift cards in the weekly collection basket or drop them off at the Outreach office.

There is no need to put gift cards in special envelopes or to wrap any gifts. Your generosity is always appreciated and is a clear reflection of who we are as a St. Thomas More parish family! Thank you and God Bless you and your families this Christmas season!

(Please submit all donations by December 14th)

CHRISTMAS

Masses

CHRISTMAS EVE

WED 12/24 @ 3:30PM
WITH CAROLING STARTING AT 3PM

WED 12/24 @ 5:30PM

WED 12/24 @ 10:30PM
WITH CAROLING STARTING AT 10PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

THUR 12/25 @ 8AM

THUR 12/25 @ 9:30AM

THUR 12/25 @ 11:30AM

*Please join us in celebrating the birth
of our Savior!*



HAPPENING THIS ADVENT AT STM



Our parish Knights of Columbus at UCP in Commack for their annual morning of carols for the residents.



Our beautiful tree!



STM hosted Hauppauge's Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Celebration, with a beautiful sermon from Pastor Wayne Redman from United Methodist. Thank you to the clergy and congregations of Calvary Lutheran, Temple Beth Chai, and United Methodist for joining us!



HAPPENING THIS ADVENT AT STM



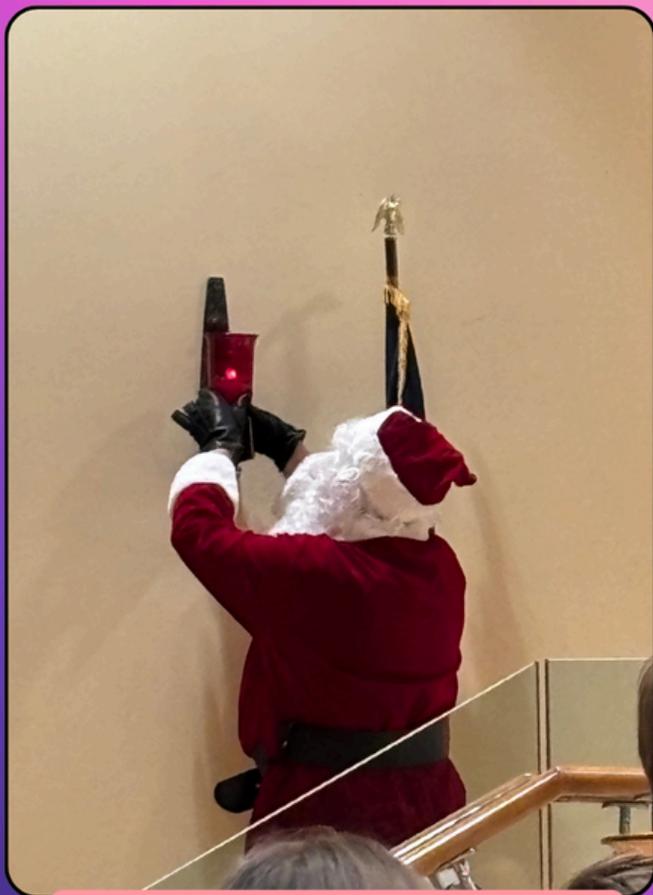
At Children's Liturgy, the kids made Advent calendars to count the days until Jesus' birth!



St. Nick with Father Antony, and some of the Columbiettes!



St. Nick taught the parish about his origins, and how he became the Santa of today!



The Sanctuary Light, spread to the Advent wreath, bringing the peace of the Eucharist to this season.