

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 21st 2025

BEHOLD, THE
VIRGIN SHALL
CONCEIVE
AND BEAR A
SON, AND
THEY SHALL
NAME HIM

Emmanuel

WHICH MEANS
GOD IS WITH US



This Week's Readings

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalms 24:1-6

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

Fourth 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 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 Loretta Family

11:30am Stacey Oscar

Marie & Lawrence Papola

Monday, December 22nd

9:00am Ana Cecilia & Cirilo DeJesus Castro

Tuesday, December 23rd

9:00am Nicholas Conzo

Wednesday, December 24th

ALL Christmas Flowers

Thursday, December 25th

ALL Christmas Flowers

Friday, December 26th

9:00am Christmas Flowers

Saturday, December 27th

5:00pm Christmas Flowers

Sunday, December 28th

Feast of the Holy Family

8:00am Christmas Flowers

9:30am Frank Gagliano

11:30am Ramond Marro

In Thanksgiving: Joseph & Anna Beltrani



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. Peter Canisius (12/21)

St. John of Kanty (12/23)

NATIVITY OF THE LORD (12/25)

St. Stephen (12/26)

St. John the Evangelist (12/27)

Holy Innocents (12/28)

St. Thomas Becket (12/29)

Saints in heaven, *pray for us*

Prepare for Next Weekend

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
December 28th 2025

Readings

Sirach 3:2-6,12-14

Psalm 128:1-5

Colossians 3:12-21

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

Focus Questions

1: How hard would it be to leave your home?

2: Where is God guiding your family to go?

Families: What can you do to spend more time with God as a family?

Gospel of Matthew (2:13-15,19-23)

When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you.

Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him."

Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, Out of Egypt I called my son.

When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, He shall be called a Nazorean.

our
daily bread

Mon-Fri

9am

Sat

5pm

Sun

8am

9:30am

11:30am



From the Pastor

Judge: "Have you a lawyer?"

Prisoner: "No, I have good friends on the jury."

When it comes to the question of being judged, the system will judge the person by the power of law, but the people will judge the person by the virtue of relationship.

The readings of the fourth week of Advent proclaim that **God comes not as a judge to accuse or acquit** us by the mandates of the law, but to uphold and lift us up as our savior and shepherd. In the Gospel, Joseph engaged to Mary tries to resolve the problem by divorcing Mary who was found pregnant before their marriage. Being a righteous person, Joseph wanted to do the right thing according to the law, and at the same time being a considerate man decided to do it secretly without putting Mary into shame. Law tries to solve problems by rewarding the right and punishing the wrong. But human life is not composed of blunt situations of right and wrong, with the clear demarcations of black and white. There are many grey areas in life where the law itself would be of no help. We need God's light to explain our life beyond the grips of law.

In Today's Gospel, **Joseph is told in a dream how he has to free himself from the grips of right and wrong.** That which happened to his engaged spouse is a direct work of God. God in Jesus, whom Mary has conceived by Holy Spirit, is directly involved in the human life as a human person, embracing all that is of human. Joseph is invited to participate in this God's direct involvement with humans by accepting Mary and her conceived child. Joseph who went to sleep to solve the problem according to law, wakes up with the clear direction to participate in God's plan as the father of the child and husband of Mary.

All laws have a singular goal of how **God's direct involvement in human life can be realized and lived.** Each aspect of the Law is just an indication and direction where a human problem can start its solution leading the humans to recognize God's plan. When the law at times has not enough light or clear direction to lead us, we are not supposed to break or abandon the law. As Joseph was asked, we are required to do more than what the law demands in order to participate in God's direction. Because every law is a ray of God's great light. All the laws are merely a path and direction to live God's way, God's truth and God's life.

Christmas tells us how **God in Jesus is born among us, as one of us, to be with us, to relate with us,** and to share the divine life with us. But as Psalm 130:3 says, "If you, Lord, keep account of sins, Lord, who can stand?" none of us can be with God. So, God decided to look at us beyond the law of rewarding the good and punishing the evil/sin. As Psalm 130:4 declares, "But with you is forgiveness, and so you are revered," God decided to fulfill the goal of the laws He had given to the humans. God decided to look at us in His mercy, and to forgive all our sins. Not because we deserve it, but because God loves us in spite of all our unworthiness. All we need to do is to open our hearts and homes to welcome this God-with-us "Emmanuel" to be born and live with us.

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

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

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

Barbara Foberg

Carol Ann Raucci

Christopher Conley

Christy Torkelsen

Dolores Rudden

Ellen Murphy

Baby Emerson Brae Mark

Helen Kovarik

Jim Moran

Jimmy Cannon

John Heller

Joseph Tuffarelli

Larry Wilson

Linda Heller

Lorraine White

Lou Savarese

Louise Soldo

Marge McGowan

Maria U Aldaba

Maria Pipia

Michael Minutillo

Nina Busse

Noah Simonetti

Nunzio Puleo

Patricia Stronczer

Richard Landi

*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 22nd - December 28th

In memory of

Brother John Lawrence Dawson OSF

by Pat & Joan Shea

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

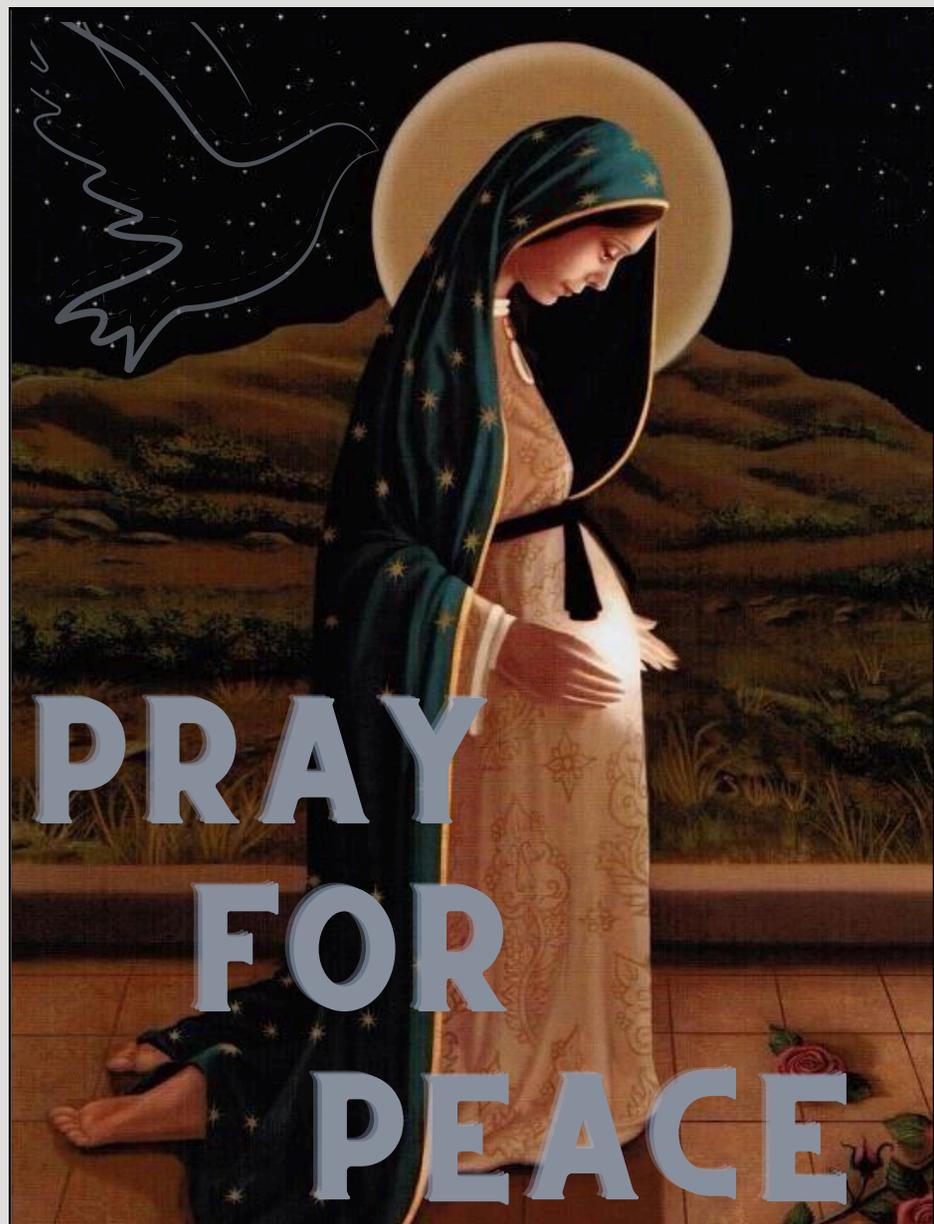
Pope Leo XIV

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 13th & 14th

\$3588

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

Altar Servers

Deacon Matt
altarservers@stmli.org

Consolation Ministry

Eileen Weidig
631-724-2462

Parish Outreach

Marti White
outreach@stmli.org

Lector Ministry

Mike Petagna
mpetagna22@gmail.com

OCIA

Ann Russo
redaa@aol.com

Pastoral Council

Joe Fratamico
bjfrat1@gmail.com

Hospitality Ministry

Ellie Stout
gram11@optonline.net

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

"A Church that sets no limits to love, that knows no enemies to fight but only men and women to love, is the Church that the World needs today."

POPE LEO XIV (DILEXI TE)

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.

The volunteers from Outreach wish you a Holy
and Blessed Christmas!



OUR NEEDS THIS WEEK...

Instant Coffee

Tea

Cereal

Drink Mixes

Canned Fruit

Peanut Butter/Jelly

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.



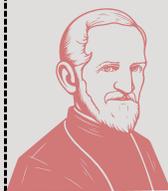
ST. THOMAS MORE
† PARISH OUTREACH †



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus will be named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." The mystery of the birth of Jesus is supremely a mystery of love. May each Christmas find us more and more like him: more humble, more holy, more happy, and more full of God.

On behalf of all the people our parish has helped this year, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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

Vivian Hope Borges
child of Kerrienne & Justin

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



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

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God



This day is a special celebration of Mary as the Mother of God, the Theotokos, she who is “more spacious than the heavens”.

Mass will be held
Wednesday December 31st at 5pm
Thursday January 1st at 9am
*Holy Day of Obligation



Parish Weddings

Please pray for these beautiful couples who received the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony here at St. Thomas More!



Diana Falcone & Deni Yang, married on 12/13

Presentation of Babies

Please keep these parents and children in your prayers as they take the first step on the path of Catholicism!



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!*



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

Deadline is January 15th and the first winners will be announced in February. Thank you for your support of our Parish!

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

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

E-Giving News



ParishSOFT®

Faith Direct has officially changed to ParishSoft Giving. Please see the information below from ParishSoft with FAQs and Support Contact. Unfortunately, the STM Parish Office cannot help with any issues you experience with your account.

If you haven't yet, please consider signing up for electronic giving! It reduces our overhead, allowing your money to go farther in helping our parish!

Convenient. Secure. Consistent.

ParishSOFT
by Ministry Brands®

Download the ParishSOFT app now in the Apple Store or Google Play.

For more information about ParishSOFT, please contact:
(866) 930-4774 | donorsupport@parishsoft.com
parishsoft.com

Donor Experience

1. Do donors need to do anything before the upgrade?

- No. However, we recommend informing the donors that their giving page will look different after the upgrade.

2. How will donors be notified about the change?

- To maintain donor trust and ensure a smooth upgrade to ParishSOFT, we recommend your administrative staff proactively communicate the change to your donors. Faith Direct will provide ready-to-use materials to support your outreach and can be found here: <https://www.parishsoft.com/faith-direct-to-parishsoft>
- Additionally, most donors will be informed of the upgrade to ParishSOFT through updated messaging in their Payment Reminder emails.

3. Will printed Offertory Cards still be offered?

- A printable template can be provided from your Client Relations Manager, that you can share with donors if they still want to put Offertory Cards in the basket, but they will no longer be mailed from Faith Direct. Please email your Client Relations Manager, or managed.giving@ministrybrands.com for the template that you or your donors can print.

4. Will the donor support phone number change?

- This is still being confirmed. If changes occur, we'll notify you with the updated contact information.

5. Can donors still call for help?

- Yes. While support agents can no longer log in as the donor due to updated security policies, they will continue assisting donors over the phone and can walk them through any necessary changes step-by-step.



To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

Merry Christmas!

Throughout this year, we have marked many significant milestones in the life of the Church leading us to the Lord's Nativity and this holy season of Christmas, most especially the passing of Pope Francis at Easter and the election of Pope Leo XIV in May.

What a gift it has been to walk these months with our new Holy Father, to learn from his teaching, and witness his example.

On October 4th, the Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Leo released his first Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilexit Te - I Have Loved You*. It is a profound meditation on love for the poor and speaks powerfully to the mystery of the Lord's Birth and the grace of this season.

The Holy Father reminds us: "The Gospel shows us that poverty marked every aspect of Jesus' life. From the moment he entered the world, Jesus knew the bitter experience of rejection. The Evangelist Luke tells how Joseph and Mary, who was about to give birth, arrived in Bethlehem, and then adds, poignantly, that 'there was no place for them in the inn' (*Lk 2:7*). Jesus was born in humble surroundings and laid in a manger; then, to save him from being killed, they fled to Egypt (cf. *Mt 2:13-15*). At the dawn of his public ministry, after announcing in the synagogue of Nazareth that the year of grace which would bring joy to the poor was fulfilled in him, he was driven out of town (cf. *Lk 4:14-30*). He died as an outcast, led out of Jerusalem to be crucified (cf. *Mk 15:22*). Indeed, that is how Jesus' poverty is best described: he experienced the same exclusion that is the lot of the poor, the outcast of society. Jesus is a manifestation of this *privilegium pauperum*. He presented himself to the world not only as a poor Messiah, but also as the Messiah of and for the poor." (n. 19)

Before these words of Pope Leo, we recall the wonderful truth: Christ became poor so that we who are poor might become rich (cf. *2 Cor. 8:9*). This is the good news of Christmas. We are not alone. We are not left to ourselves. A Savior has come - Christ the Lord.

As we celebrate the Christmas season, we remember with Pope Leo that "Christian holiness often flourishes in the most forgotten and wounded places of humanity." (n. 76)

How beautifully the followers of Christ have responded to the cry of the poor and looked with love upon the most vulnerable among us. As we rejoice in Christ's Birth, we renew our commitment to love others as he has loved us.

On Sunday, December 28th at the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, on the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we will conclude our Jubilee Year of Hope.

We thank both Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV for igniting hope within our families, the global mission of the Church, and the human family, and we contemplate the light and grace that radiates from the refugee Holy Family (73) and that radiates to every family.

Our Catholic biblical and sacramental worship, especially at the Catholic Mass, focuses and ignites both our global mission to the poor (n. 42) and our humble openness to being evangelized by the poor (n. 102), the treasures of our Church (n. 38).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

May the Light and love of the Christ Child animate and guide our global Catholic missionary spirit this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John O. Barres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre