

Sharing
the Spirit
of Love

Catholic Church Community of

St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge NY 11788

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

February 22nd 2026

ONE DOES
NOT LIVE
ON BREAD
ALONE,
BUT ON
EVERY
WORD
THAT
COMES
FORTH
FROM THE
MOUTH OF
GOD.



This Week's Readings

Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7

Psalms 51:3-6,12-13,17

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

First Sunday of Lent

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, February 21st

5:00pm William Carney
Nunzio Puleo

Sunday, February 22nd

First Sunday of Lent

8:00am Olivia Hotar

9:30am Eileen Macholz-Barr
Carmelina Brennan

11:30am Al Weidig
Chet Kalenty

Monday, February 23rd

9:00am Al Weidig

Tuesday, February 24th

9:00am Joseph Gavril

Wednesday, February 25th

9:00am Sandalo Simonetti

Thursday, February 26th

9:00am Stacey Skrzypek

Friday, February 27th

9:00am Angelo Cardinale

Saturday, February 28th

5:00pm Berta Jacome
Ante Bacic

Sunday, March 1st

Second Sunday of Lent

8:00am Larry Rosenberg
Antonio Visto

9:30am Linda Carey
George Lang

11:30am Al Weidig
Michael Leocadi



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

Chair of St. Peter (2/22)
St. Polycarp (2/23)
St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows (2/27)

Saints in heaven, pray for us

Prepare for Next Weekend

Second Sunday of Lent

March 1st 2025

Readings

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 33:4-5,18-20,22
2 Timothy 1:8b-10
Matthew 17:1-9

Focus Questions

1: "Listen to him", says the voice on the mountain. What do you need to hear this Lent?

2: In our faith journey we are encouraged by the witness of one another. Who in your life is an encouragement for you these days?

3: At this time in your life, where does the journey of faith seem to be leading you?

Families: Share an uplifting experience that you did not want to end.

Gospel of Matthew (17:1-9)

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

our
daily bread

Mon-Fri

9am

Sat

5pm

Sun

8am

9:30am

11:30am



From the Pastor

Judge: Guilty or not guilty?

Prisoner: Well, I thought I was guilty, but I've been talking to my lawyer and he's convinced me I'm not guilty. Sin teaches us to escape the consequences of our actions, but grace empowers us to engage in blessings of our actions.

The readings of the **First Week of Lent explain that sin is nothing but our own wishful choice** to shrink our identity to the least good we can be, whereas grace is to bloom fully in our identity of God's blessings to the best we can be. The first reading describes how the first parents lost the blessings of owning the whole Garden of Eden because of their desire to eat fruit from one tree. Their temptation consisted in exaggerating the particular benefit of a specific moment at the cost of losing the original blessing which endures for the whole life.

In the Gospel the **devil tries the same technique with Jesus**. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger at the end of the 40 day fast. The temptation is to gratify his hunger instantly by using his power to change the stones into bread – instant gratification. Jesus, unlike the first parents, replies to the tempter 'One does not live by bread alone but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God'.

These words of Jesus mean that **his identity is bigger than the instant gratification**. His hunger is not the moment of reducing himself to do whatever he wants just to appease himself. But hunger is precisely the moment to show his dependence on the word of God. In short, Jesus instructs the tempter that bodily hunger reminds him of his hunger for God's word. He is fed by the word of God as much as his body is fed by bread. Tempter/temptation reduces us to a particular need of a specific moment. The grace generously expands us and empowers us to live fully our whole identity.

Lent is the time when we **vigorously engage ourselves to live more from the spirit** and not merely from our bodily need. When we fast, we learn to say 'no' to the bodily cravings. When we give alms to the poor, we cultivate within ourselves the power of the spirit to let go of our selfish nature and to grow in the spirit of love, sharing, and generosity. When we pray, we begin to see life and its value from the heart as God reveals it to us, not from our convenient, habitual, and selfish thinking.

The whole exercise of Lent is built upon these **exercises of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving**. Prayer: please find all our Lenten events in this bulletin, or try 'Hallow' an app and spiritual guide to help develop a habit of praying. Fast: Every Friday try to abstain from taking meat. Choose a day in the week to fast at least one meal or take a smaller meal than the regular one. Fast on Good Friday. Alms Giving: Please join in giving to the parish Lenten project, supporting Parish Outreach and St. Vincent de Paul, bringing charity directly to our community.

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

Marianna Sblendorio
Angela Mingione
Vincent J Norton
Anna S Ferrante
Salvatore J Russello
Sal Amodeo

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	Helen Kovarik	Marge McGowan
Angela Mingione	Jim Engle	Maria U Aldaba
Anna Mancuso	Jim Moran	Maria Pipia
Barbara Foberg	Jimmy Cannon	Michael Jacobs Sr.
Blair Rocchio	John Heller	Michael Minutillo
Carol Ann Rucci	John McGann	Michelle Chiarulli
Christopher Conley	Joseph Beltrani Sr.	Nina Busse
Christy Torkelsen	Joseph Tuffarelli	Noah Simonetti
Diane McCann	Larry Wilson	Pat Camera
Dolores Rudden	Linda Heller	Patricia Stronczer
Ellen Murphy	Lorraine White	Phil Camera
Baby Emerson Brae Mark	Lou Savarese	Richard Landi
Emily Bolkas	Louise Soldo	Baby Sienna Dwyer

*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

February 23rd - March 1st

In memory of

Antonio Visto

by Phyllis & Alfonso Buglione & Visto Family

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

Pray for our Clergy

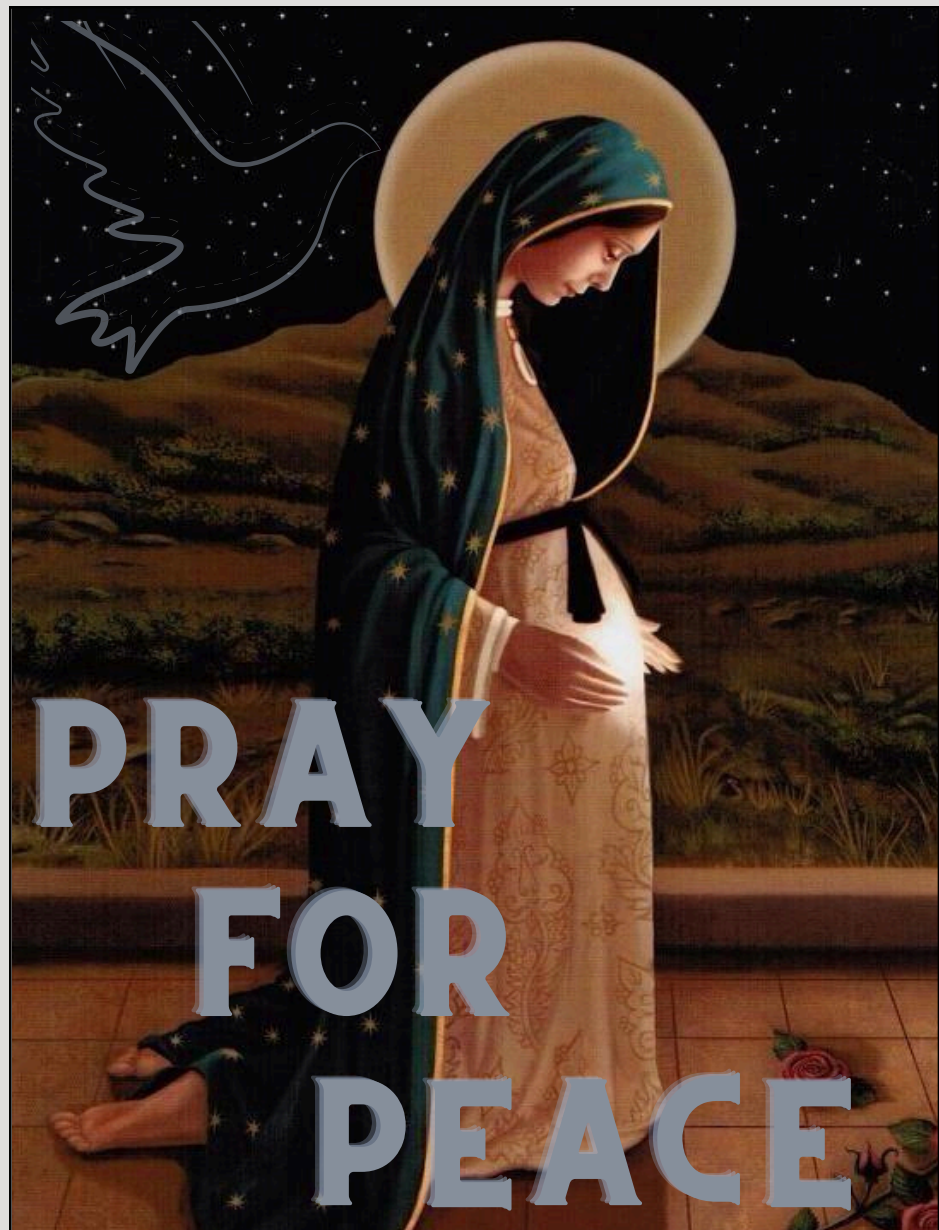
Father Antony Asir
Deacon Robert Weisz
Deacon Edward Vigneaux
Deacon Matthew Surico
The Capuchin Friars
Bishop John Barres
Pope Leo XIV

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:
February 14th & 15th

\$6898

Please consider supporting St. Thomas More. We encourage all parishioners to try electronic giving through ParishSoft Giving. It is both convenient and secure. For more information, 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 Fratomico
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. There is a clothing bin in the back of the parking lot where clothing can be donated to St. Vincent de Paul. If you have household items, please call the Outreach office!

Parish Social Ministry

"Use your voice for kindness, your ears for compassion, your hands for charity, your mind for truth, and your heart for love."

ANONYMOUS

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.



OUR NEEDS THIS WEEK...

Pancake Mix	Drinks (Juices/Powdered)
Cookies	Syrup
Toothpaste	Paper Towels
Jelly	Peanut Butter
Boxed/Powdered Milk	

*We are overflowing with BEANS. We would appreciate it if you could pick up different items instead of beans! Thanks!

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

Lent is a call to "give alms for the poor". Wherever you live in the parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they call us but they are, in effect, calling on you.

Our Parish Lenten Project is the perfect way to answer that call. Please donate whatever you can to help us answer the next call we receive for help.



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



Pre-Cana 2026

Please join us at 5pm Mass on
February 28th to celebrate these
couples completing Pre-Cana!

Jennifer Falcone
&
Nicholas Tush

Deanna Knopf
&
John Cullen

Julie Mazzie
&
Andrew Opacke

Leanne Walsh
&
Erick Idtensohn

Rose Recce
&
Tyler Schiavone



ParishSoft[®] Giving

As FaithDirect was acquired and rolled into ParishSoft Giving, many parishioners are still having issues with their accounts. If you need help, please contact ParishSoft Support directly. We apologize for any inconvenience this process has caused, and we are looking into other options.

Thank you for your patience.

ParishSoft Contact Options
866-507-8757
donorsupport@parishsoft.com
866-930-4774 x5

baby bottles



Our local Knights of Columbus Chapter 6062 is
facilitating the Baby Bottle Fundraiser to benefit
the Life Center of Long Island!

The Life Center helps to provide:
Free pregnancy tests and sonograms
Maternity housing and medical care referrals
Aid ranging from car seats to diapers to cribs

Please take home a bottle and fill it with your
donation (or checks payable to 'Life Center of LI'
and return to church on March 14th & 15th



NEXT MEETING:
FEBRUARY 27TH

JOIN US!

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS
WELCOME!

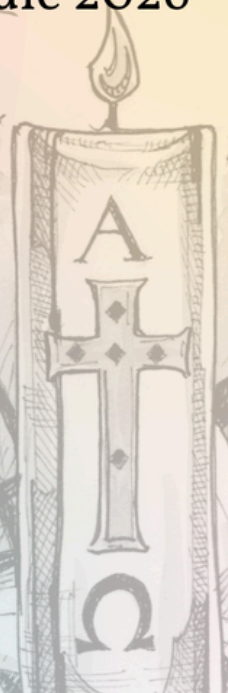
CALL ANNA
631-234-0714

Paschal Candle 2026

As Lent begins, the Parish is
looking for sponsors for our
2026 Paschal Candle.

Sponsorships can be *in
memoriam* or on behalf of your
family. Contact the Rectory for
more information!

Fun Fact: The Paschal
Candle is lit for all of Easter,
as well as at all Baptisms and
Funeral.



LENTEN *Parish* PROJECT

SUPPORTING ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



Parish Social Ministry is an organized effort within our parish that translates faith into action by serving the needy, marginalized, and vulnerable in the community. It focuses on both immediate, charitable relief (such as food pantries) and community outreach. Parish social ministry is essential in how the church responds to the real, everyday needs of people in the community. Rooted in faith, it's more than charity but a Christian love. It connects Catholic teachings with outreach, advocacy, and compassionate service.

Here at St. Thomas More Parish Social Ministry is comprised of 2 main groups – Parish Outreach, our food pantry servicing 50 to 60 families per month, and our St. Vincent de Paul conference which provides financial support to families who are experiencing life events that create financial hardships and impact their ability to maintain housing, utilities, and other essential activities.

Donations obtained from our Lenten Project will be split between these 2 groups. We appreciate your support to continue providing these much needed services to our vulnerable neighbors.



Thank you for your generosity!

Checks can be made payable to **St. Thomas More** and placed in the little house by the bulletin board, the collection basket, or dropped off at the Rectory. Please note “**Lenten Project**” in the memo line.

COME AND BE FED

a lenten mission in three parts

Join us in exploring the Lenten theme of being fed by physical and spiritual food, with a focus on Faith and Art. Each session will feature...

- Reading of the Sunday Gospel (in parts)
- Simple Lenten meals (AM: coffee, bagels; PM: soup, stew)
- Video presentation on a piece of art related to the theme, and its religious significance
- Group discussion with meditation questions on the art, how it relates to our life & relationship with God
- Short session of guided imaginative prayer
- Take-home assignments for further spiritual feeding and growth!



THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

MON 3/9

HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN

WED 3/18

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS

WED 3/25

Each session will be offered twice, a morning and an evening session. Morning sessions will start at 9:45am (after Daily Mass) and evening sessions at 6:30pm. The program will run for about 75 minutes.

As we are serving food, we request you RSVP using the QR code below or leaving the slip in the collection basket. If you are willing to volunteer to serve as a facilitator or lector, you can also indicate that below.



Name(s): _____

3/9 AM

3/18 AM

3/25 AM

3/9 PM

3/18 PM

3/25 PM





ST. Thomas More
Msgr. Francis S Midura
Council 6062
St. Patrick's Day Dinner
Saturday, March 14, 2026

Following the 5 PM Mass

The cost will be **\$25.00** per person.

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR

Ed Rogan, PGK

Email: eroganjr@verizon.net

516-319-8643



LENTEN *Parish* PROJECT



SUPPORTING ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



Funds collected will be split between Parish Outreach and the Society for St. Vincent de Paul. All the money collected will be going right back into our Hauppauge community.

Checks can be made payable to **St. Thomas More** and placed in the little house by the bulletin board, the collection basket, or dropped off at the Rectory. Please note "**Lenten Project**" in the memo line.

COME AND BE FED

a lenten mission in three parts



THE WOMAN AT THE WELL **MON 3/9**

HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN **WED 3/18**

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS **WED 3/25**

Each session will be offered at 9:45am and 6:30pm.



RSVP

Featuring...
Gospel Readings
Meditations on artworks
Group discussion
Simple Lenten meals



Easter Sunday

Masses at:

8:00am

9:30am

11:30am

TENEBRAE

GOOD FRIDAY, 7:30PM

JOIN US FOR A READING OF
THE LORD'S PASSION WITH
NEOTRADITIONAL CHANTING

LED BY DEACON MATT
COMPOSED BY ALEX WHITE
SUNG BY NOELLE WHITE



LENT 2026

ST. THOMAS MORE
R.C. CHURCH



Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 18TH 2026

MASS	9:00AM
SERVICE	12:00PM
SERVICE	4:30PM
MASS	7:00PM

ST. THOMAS MORE
R.C. CHURCH

LENTEN MASS OF HEALING

Sunday, March 22nd at 11:30am
anointing of the sick to follow



• BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED •

Fasting & Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

See the guidelines below!

- Fasting is obligatory for ages 18-59 inclusive.
- Fasting constitutes no more than one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are less than a full meal.
- Abstinence is obligatory for all Catholics aged 14 or older.
- Abstinence is to avoid eating meat (chicken, pork, beef, etc). Fish is allowed.
- Please remember to drink lots of water!



If possible, the fast on Good Friday can be continued until the Easter Vigil as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus and to prepare more fully for his Resurrection.

SUN 3/29 PALM SUNDAY

Normal weekend Masses will be offered:
5pm Vigil, 8am, 9:30am, and 11:30am.
Please arrive early to be seated before
the Gospel at the start of Mass.

MON 3/30 RECONCILIATION DAY

Confession available from
3:00pm-9:00pm at St Thomas More, as
well as all parishes in the Diocese.

THUR 4/2 MAUNDY THURSDAY

Morning Prayer (no mass) at 9:00am

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30pm
in the Church. This mass is always
followed by the Solemn Procession to
the Altar of Repose. Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament in Repository will
be available until 10:00pm, ending
with Night Prayer from the Liturgy of
Hours.

HOLY WEEK

AT ST THOMAS MORE

*For God so loved the world that he
gave his only Son, so that everyone
who believes in him may not perish but
may have eternal life.*

JOHN 3:16

FRI 4/3 GOOD FRIDAY

Morning Prayer (no mass) at 9:00am

Stations of the Cross at 12:00pm

Stations of the Cross for Young
People at 1:30pm

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and
Death at 3:00pm in the Church

Tenebrae at 7:30pm in the Church. A
presentation of the Lord's Passion
with neotraditional Chant

SAT 4/4 HOLY SATURDAY

Morning Prayer (no mass) at 9:00am

Blessing of the Easter Food at
10:00am in Walden Hall

*NO 5:00pm MASS

Mass of the Easter Vigil at 7:30pm in
the Church

