

Sharing
the Spirit
of Love

Catholic Church Community of

St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge NY 11788

December 1st, 2024

hope



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.

First Sunday of Advent

Parish Resources

Website:

<https://www.stmli.org>

Instagram:

@stm_church

@stm_yg

Facebook:

StThomasMoreChurchHauppauge

Flocknote:

Text SPIRITOFLOVE to 84576



Office Contacts

Rectory:

(631) 234-5551

rectory@stmli.org

Religious Education:

(631) 234-0397

reled@stmli.org

Outreach:

(631) 234-3149

outreach@stmli.org

Masses November 30th - December 8th 2024

Saturday, November 30th:

5pm- Kenny Granville *by Betty Kane*

Michael Marcello *by Their Loving Family*

Sunday, December 1st: First Sunday of Advent

8am- Dorothy MacFarlane *by Jim & Marie Marsala*

9:30am- Bernard Nagel *by Marily Amodio*

Marian Flaherty *by The West Family*

11:30am- George & Geraldine Heller *by Pat Lewis*

Richard Joseph Kane *by Emilia & Lou Savarese*

Monday, December 2nd:

9am- Mary Young *by Joe & Patty Citro*

Tuesday, December 3rd: St Francis Xavier

9am- John Reddy *by Eleanor Trimble*

Wednesday, December 4th:

9am- James Kreider *by Ellie Stout*

Thursday, December 5th:

9am- Dorothy Gallagher *by The Hayes Family*

Friday, December 6th:

9am- Lou & Ann Anatrella, 66th Wedding Anniversary

Saturday, December 7th: St Ambrose

5pm- Agnes Dolan *by Lorraine Toomey*

John Thompson *by Mary & Robert Utter*

Sunday, December 8th: Second Sunday of Advent

8am- John J Thompson *by Mary & Robert Utter*

9:30am- Christopher Loring *by Elisa Kerenyi*

Patricia Yezek *by Mary Ann & John Egan*

11:30am- Chris & Gert Hirsch & Family (living) *by The Scimecas*

Luke 3:1-6 (Advent 2)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

*"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.*

*Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be
made low.*

*The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

Focus Questions for Advent 2

Luke 3:1-6

- 1: What are the obstacles that get in the way of you seeing God's action in your life?
- 2: John proclaimed a gospel of repentance and forgiveness. How do you live that out?
- 3: How are your preparations going this Advent?

Family & Children's Question:

What are some things you are doing this Advent to help those in need?

Readings for Next Week

December 1st, 2024 (Advent 1)

Jeremiah 33

Psalms 25:4-5,8-9,10,14

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Readings for Next Week

December 8th, 2024 (Advent 2)

Baruch 5:1-9

Psalms 126:1-6

Philippians 1:4-6,8-11

Luke 3:1-6

"She will give birth to a son,
and you are to give him
the name Jesus, because
he will save his people
from their sins."

Matthew 1:21, NIV



Fr. Antony's Letter

Dear Friends,

"The Lord created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. On the eight-day God started to answer complaints." These words picturesquely describe how even God's creation would not be free from criticism if we choose to see only faults and defects. We begin the Season of Advent this weekend. It encourages us to look at everything and every person in God's light...not to complain about the darkness but to kindle God's light in us.

On this first Sunday of Advent, we will bless the Advent Wreath and light the first candle. The lit advent Candle symbolizes our preparation to receive the light, Jesus Christ in our hearts and home. Not that we are worthy to receive him, but Jesus is voluntarily coming to us, to enlighten our darkness.

The four candles of the Advent Wreath represent the four weeks of preparation. Each candle represents a different gift which God is ready to fill our hearts with —love, hope, joy, and peace. By lighting a candle each week, we increase the brightness of the light to fill our heart with these virtues. As we get closer to Christmas, the birth of Christ, the increase of light with the number of candles symbolically makes us aware that the divine light comes close to us, and we grow more ardent to be illuminated by Christ the light. The Advent Wreath encourages us all to get rid of the darkness by coming closer to Christ, the Light. Let us rise and shine. Rising and shining are the only remedies and antidotes to complaining and doing nothing about darkness.

God did not treat us unworthily of receiving Jesus, His Son, but He sent Him to make us worthy. He sent Jesus as Light rather than complaining about the darkness we were in. Let us take this time of Advent to trim the wick so our lamps burn brightly. God has not abandoned us for our unworthiness, but found ourselves as his worthy place to be born. Let us welcome Christ our Light. Let us awaken to our worth to shine brightly.

This week's Gospel encourages us to treat the troubling and discouraging moments as a time of opportunity to work for relief and restoration. "When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." In these words of Jesus, we are invited to handle all our moments (both good and bad) as signs of God coming closer to us. He warns us not to be carried away by the stress and burden of the moments. He instructs us to "be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." Let us enter the season of Advent to live in hope and with confidence that God is coming closer to us, to walk us through all kinds of situations.

The first Sunday of the Advent there will be new missalettes in the pews, with all the readings, hymns, and prayers for the whole year. Since they are to be used for the whole year, until end of November 2025, I request that you please handle them gently. After use, please place the missalettes carefully in the racks. Please do not jam books into the racks in the open position. Before leaving the church, please check your pew to see that the missalettes are in order. Thanks for your cooperation.

With love and prayers,
Fr. Antony



Parish Operations

SUPPORT COLLECTION

Thank you for your continued support of our Parish during this Holiday Season.

God Bless!

St. Thomas More Parish needs your support now more than ever!

Calendar Club Winners

11/25 (\$25): Jean Chambart (242)

11/26 (\$25): Ann Russo (1479)

11/27 (\$25): Joan & David Marro (205)

11/28 (\$50): Lorraine Toomey (1473)

11/29 (\$25): Peggy & Ed Goutink (697)

11/30 (\$25): Frank & Eileen Stuart (276)

12/1 (\$50): Robert Nachtman (1027)

Rectory Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

If in need of the immediate attention of a priest during non-office hours please call (631) 234-5551 and choose option 4

All other calls received after office hours will be returned the next business day.

We Saved a
seat for you

Staff

Pastor

Father Antony Asir

pastor@stmli.org

Deacons

Deacon Matthew T.J. Surico

deacon.matt@stmli.org

Deacon Edward Vigneaux

Deacon Robert D. Weisz

Rectory

Theresa Recce (sacraments)

theresa@stmli.org

Dottie Castaldo (finance)

finance@stmli.org

Alex White (operations)

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Religious Education

Mary Ellen Carroll, DRE

mecarroll@optonline.net

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Joanne Anelli

Youth Ministry

Noelle White

youthgroup@stmli.org

Music Ministry

Emilia Savarese, Director

631-724-8820

Contact

Ministry

Parish Outreach

Marti White

outreach@stmli.org

Pastoral Council

Barbara & Joe Fratamico

bjfrat1@gmail.com

Altar Servers Ministry

Deacon Matt Surico

altarservers@stmli.org

Eucharistic Ministers

Patty Citro

pcitro78@yahoo.com

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

Contact

Prayers for Our Community

Pray for the Sick

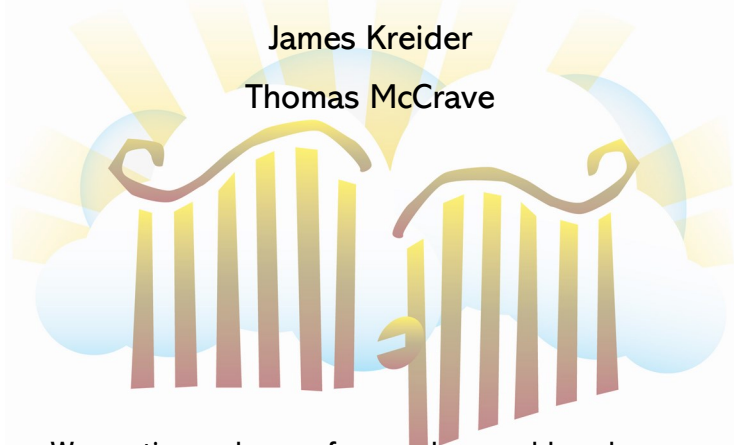
Joseph Barrett	Eileen Macholz-Barr
Marie Bracco	Marge McGowan
Peter Cappisillo	Meagan
Lillian Catalano	Ellen Murphy
Patricia Culbert	Nunzio (Steve) Puleo
Grayson Danielski	Angelo Santangelo
Brian Fagioli	Rita Schug
Barbara Foberg	Noah Simonetti
Rick Goodhart	Christy Torkelsen
Stephanie Goodhart	Andrew M Valentine
Linda Heller	Janet Ward
Maryann Landi	Lorraine White
Richard Landi	

To add names to the Pray for the Sick list, contact the Rectory or fill out a card found in the literature rack and place it in a collection basket.

*this listing will expire on March 31st, 2024

Pray for the Deceased

John Puglisi
James Kreider
Thomas McCrave



We continuously pray for our deceased loved ones.

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



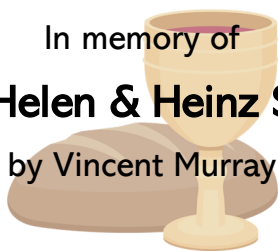
We also pray for our veterans, that they receive the support they need here at home.



Altar Bread & Wine Memorial

12/2-12/8

In memory of
Helen & Heinz S
by Vincent Murray



To arrange the memorial for the Altar Bread & Wine, contact the Rectory. Donation for the week is \$50.

Pray for our Clergy

Fr Antony Asir	Deacon Bob Weisz
The Capuchin Friars	Deacon Matt Surico
Fr Lenny Carlino	Bishop John Barres
Deacon Ed Vigneaux	Pope Francis



...and for all those men and women considering a life of devotion to God.

Parish Social Ministry

“There is no faster way to happen upon the purpose of your life than to embrace life’s daily opportunities to serve those around you.”

~Matthew Kelly



ST. THOMAS MORE

† PARISH OUTREACH †

Monday – Thursday 10AM to 2 PM

631-234-3149

Outreach@stmli.org

Our needs for the month...

Instant Dry Milk
Rice

Canned Fruit
Shampoo

Small Laundry Detergent/Pods

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.

Thank You!

The volunteers at Outreach would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all who helped us serve our community during Thanksgiving.

We are overwhelmed by your generosity and are so blessed to be able to share it with our neighbors in need!

Our **Christmas Giving Tree** will be in the Narthex this weekend.

Please watch out for our Outreach Advent Calendar in next week’s bulletin! It’s a great family activity and will help support our families!

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.



As we begin Advent we are called to “wait” in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Wherever you live in our parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they call on us. They are, in effect, calling on you for help.

Please consider donating to our conference of SVdP
We can be reached at 631-248-6760 or svdp.stm@aol.com

CHRISTMAS

Masses

CHRISTMAS EVE

TUES 12/24 @ 3:30PM

WITH CAROLING STARTING AT 3PM

TUES 12/24 @ 5:30PM

TUES 12/24 @ 10:30PM

WITH CAROLING STARTING AT 10PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

WED 12/25 @ 8AM

WED 12/25 @ 9:30AM

WED 12/25 @ 11:30AM



Young at Heart

New Members Always Welcome!

Next Meeting: December 11th
Christmas Luncheon!!

RSVP to Anna, or call for more info
631-234-0714

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What does the word Advent mean?

- a: The end of the year
- b: The arrival
- c: Thanksgiving
- d: The start of the year



Answer: B (The arrival. Advent is Latin for "to come".)

OUR LADY

QUEEN OF PEACE

ادعونا

молися за нас

bete

ruega por nosotros

Προσευχηθείτε

ora

für

για εμάς

pro

uns

молитесь за нас

pray for us

התפלל למענו

nobis

PRAY25

Advent Launch Event

Sunday December 1st

after all Masses
in the White/Red Room

JOIN US AND...

Learn about Hallow's updated Community Page

Pray the first day of the Advent Pray25 Challenge

Sign up for your 1x120 offer!
(120 days of Hallow for only \$1)

Coffee and Cake!

Hallow



Children's Christmas Choir

Sung to the tune of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"...

God bless you all His children, for Christmas time is near

The little child of Bethlehem will very soon appear.

What can we give him for a gift, this tiny little King?

We can join in the Christmas Choir this year

Lets give a cheer!

You can join the Christmas Choir for time is near!

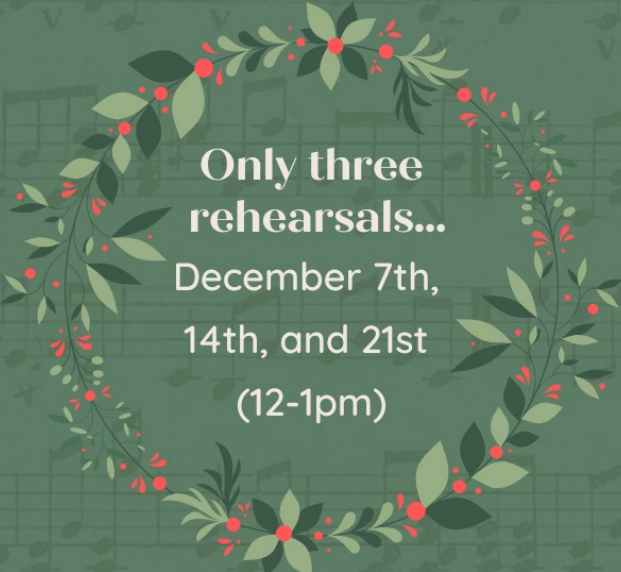


Calling all children to be a part of the celebration of Christmas!

Jesus came as a gift to us. What can we give Him in return? We
can give Him our love and voices in joyful song!

Kids from 2nd grade through
High School are welcome
to share their voices at the
3:30pm Christmas Eve Mass!

Let's get together and celebrate
the best "birthday" ever!



Only three
rehearsals...

December 7th,

14th, and 21st

(12-1pm)

Please call Emilia at 631-724-8820 or stop by the organ to register!



ST. THOMAS MORE
+PARISH OUTREACH+

Giving Tree

Due to the damage to the back rooms of the Parish, our Giving Tree is going to look a little different this year. Because we don't know if/when we will have storage in the back we have made some adjustments to our gift giving. The tree in the Narthex will still be filled with tags but only some will be for gifts and the majority will be for Walmart and Target gift cards. Instead of toys, our families will receive gift cards so they can shop for their children. We will be collecting hats and gloves as well as diapers and wipes. 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. 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 15th)

OUTREACH ADVENT CALENDAR

Each day add an item to a box, and donate it to
Parish Outreach after Christmas!

- DAY 1 - PANCAKE MIX
- DAY 2 - SPAGHETTI SAUCE
- DAY 3 - COFFEE OR TEA
- DAY 4 - SYRUP
- DAY 5 - CANNED TUNA
- DAY 6 - PACKAGE OF SPAGHETTI
- DAY 7 - CANNED YAMS/SWEET POTATOES
- DAY 8 - OATMEAL
- DAY 9 - JELLY
- DAY 10 - PEANUT BUTTER
- DAY 11 - CHEF-BOYARDEE MEAL
- DAY 12 - RICE
- DAY 13 - CANNED SOUP
- DAY 14 - APPLESAUCE
- DAY 15 - RICE
- DAY 16 - CANNED BEANS
- DAY 17 - JUICE/DRINK MIX
- DAY 18 - BOXED MILK
- DAY 19 - BOX OF CEREAL
- DAY 20 - INSTANT POTATOES
- DAY 21 - MACARONI & CHEESE
- DAY 22 - BOX OF CRACKERS
- DAY 23 - CANNED FRUIT
- DAY 24 - COOKIES



Would you like to be an Angel or Shepherd?

This is an exciting opportunity for
your child to become an active
part of the Nativity story!

Requirements:

At least 5 years old

Rehearsal at 1:30 on 12/21

Mass at 3:30 on 12/24



Email theresa@stmli.org by 12/16
to participate. Please include...

Child's name

Child's age

Guardian's contact info

*Spots are limited. Names
will be accepted in the order
they were received

Saints of December



St Ambrose
Feast Day: December 7th
Bishop of Milan
Patron: Beekeepers

Governor and theologian, strong promoter of Roman Christianity against Arianism & paganism. Swarm of bees landed on his face as an infant, leaving him unharmed. Helped convert St Augustine to Christianity. Authored four hymns known as the Ambrosian hymns.



Our Lady of Guadalupe
Feast Day: December 12th
Empress of the Americas, Patroness of Latin America, Queen of Mexico

Title for the Blessed Mother Mary, associated with five apparitions to Juan Diego and Juan Bernardino, Mexican peasants in 1531. The Basilica of OLG is the most visited Catholic shrine in the world.

*¿No estoy yo aquí que soy tu madre?
Am I not here, I who am your mother?*



St Lucy
Feast Day: December 13th
Virgin & Martyr
Patron: The Blind

From a wealthy Roman family, received a vision of St Agatha promising her mother would be healed of illness. Used opportunity to distribute riches to the poor. Her betrothed disagreed and had her sentenced to a brothel. She was martyred in their attempt to take her to her punishment.



St John of the Cross
Feast Day: December 14th
Priest, Mystic, Doctor of the Church
Patron: Spanish Poets

Carmelite friar, very involved in the Counter-Reformation in Spain. Studied under and was mentored by Teresa of Avila (St Teresa of Jesus). Prolific writer known for his poetry and writings on the development of the soul. Considered one of the greatest authors of Spanish literature.



St Stephen
Feast Day: 12/26
The First Martyr
"The Promartyr"
Patron: Altar Servers

Mentioned in Acts of the Apostles (Acts 6), he was a deacon in the early Church in Jerusalem. Angered members of various synagogues with his teachings. Accused of blasphemy and was stoned to death.



St John the Apostle
Feast Day: December 27th
Apostle
Patron: Love, loyalty

Generally regarded as the youngest apostle, brother of James, son of Zebedee. Believed to be the only apostle to die of natural causes. Traditionally held to be the author of the Gospel of John, Johannine epistles, and the Book of Revelation. Potentially the "disciple whom Jesus loved".



Calendar Club 2025

The Every Day Lotto!

Numbers 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 number for \$25, or 5 numbers 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

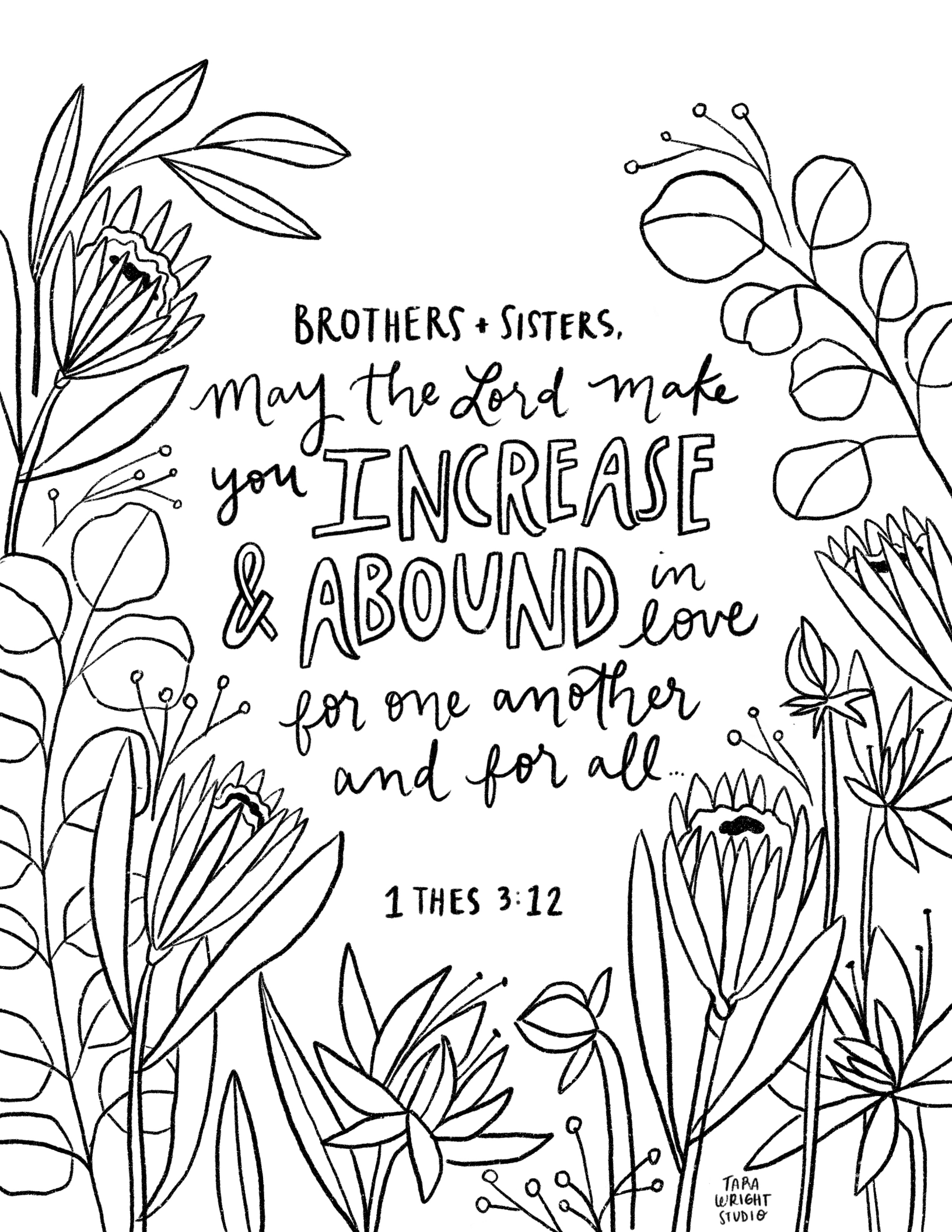
Early Bird Special: Deadline Sun Dec 15th

Order FIVE numbers and get a SIXTH on us!

Note: You must return your form and payment by Sunday
December 15th.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Please place in envelope labeled Calendar Club 2025 and return to the rectory or the Sunday collection basket. Thank you!



BROTHERS + SISTERS,
may the Lord make
you **INCREASE**
& **ABOUND** *in* love
for one another
and for all...

1 THES 3:12