

Sharing
the Spirit
of Love

Catholic Church Community of

St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge NY 11788

December 22nd, 2024

peace



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.

Fourth 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 December 21st - December 29th 2024

Saturday, December 21st:

5pm- Stacey Oscar-Olds (living) *by Joan Oscar*

Sunday, December 22nd: Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am- Dolly Smith *by Maureen Fallona*

John (Jack) Holder *by The Hoffman Family*

9:30am- Nicholas Conzo *by Angela Conzo*

Marie & Lawrence Papola *by The West & Papola Families*

11:30am- Richard Heller *by Pat Lewis*

Robert & David Mohlenbrock *by The Mohlenbrock Family*

Monday, December 23rd:

9am- Cirilo Castro *by Their Family*

Tuesday, December 24th:

3:30pm- Christmas Flowers & Mass Remembrance

5:30pm- Christmas Flowers & Mass Remembrance

10:30pm- Christmas Flowers & Mass Remembrance

Wednesday, December 25th:

8am- Christmas Flowers & Mass Remembrance

9:30am- Christmas Flowers & Mass Remembrance

11:30am- Christmas Flowers & Mass Remembrance

Thursday, December 26th:

9am- Christmas Flowers & Mass Remembrance

Friday, December 27th:

9am- Christmas Flowers & Mass Remembrance

Saturday, December 28th: The Holy Innocents

5pm- John Puglisi *by Paul & Mary Ann Gruner*

Dominick Mancuso *by Lisa & Joseph Pisano*

Sunday, December 29th: The Holy Family

8am- Judith Ellen Lentino *by William & Ellen Lentino*

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

Thomas Romano *by The Calcagni Family*

11:30am- Billy O'Connor *by The Beltrani Family*

In Thanksgiving *by The Beltrani Family*

Luke 2:41-52 (Holy Family)

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

Focus Questions for Holy Family

Luke 2:41-52

- 1: Relate a time when one of your children got separated. What feelings did you experience?
- 2: Every family is a "holy family". What can you do to better recognize the holiness in each member?
- 3: Describe a time when someone you thought you knew surprised you.

Family & Children's Question:

What can you do to help families in need?

Readings for This Week

December 22nd, 2024 (Advent 4)

Micah 5:1-4a

Psalms 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

Readings for Next Week

December 29th, 2024 (Holy Fam)

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Psalms 128:1-5

Colossians 3:12-21

Luke 2:41-52



Fr. Antony's Letter

Dear Friends,

Two ministers resolved their doctrinal conflict when one told the other, "Look, what are we fighting over? You do it your way and I will do it in God's way."

The other acknowledged and said, "Yes you do it your way and I will do it in God's way." Each one claimed his way to be God's way and the others is not God's way. The readings of the Fourth Sunday of Advent explains that it is not that we do God's way, but God's way is done in us.

In the first reading the Prophet Micah foretold how God would come from an unknown small village of Bethlehem in an unexpected way to save His people and to be their peace. God would come as their Shepherd and if they accepted Him, there would be peace among them. Micah said that God is the doer, and the people must open themselves for God's peace to happen in them. The message of Micah is not about what we can do for God, rather how we open ourselves to God to work in us.

Today's Gospel explains how the two women, Elizabeth and Mary share that the experience of their lives is nothing but realizing how God has worked wonderfully in them. Mary met Elizabeth who was given as a sign to confirm that her pregnancy with Jesus was an act of God through the Holy Spirit. Meeting Elizabeth while she was pregnant with John in her old age, Mary was assured that her pregnancy with Jesus was God's deed. In the same way, when Elizabeth saw Mary, she was filled with the Holy Spirit and cried out in a loud voice and said, "how does this happen that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy." Without doubt Elizabeth was now assured of God's wonderful deed in her. Both the ladies were experiencing in themselves personally and together what God does for them.

Christmas is not about what we can do to celebrate the birthday of God. It is the celebration of how we are open to how God wants to be born in us. It is not about what we do for Christmas, but what Christmas does for us. God breaks all the barriers of being a majestic God and comes down to our level to meet us in our human conditions in order to save us and give us the divine peace. All that He expects to do is just open our hearts and homes to welcome Him to be born. God wants to grow with us so that we can grow with him in God's image.

The second reading proposes the attitude that will welcome God and allow God's will to be done among us. "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in... **Behold, I come to do your will.**" God does not expect us to do great things. He needs our willing spirit to cooperate with Him. As we pray in the Lord's prayer, Jesus wants us to welcome His will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven. In two days is the Eve of Christmas. Let us open our hearts willingly to welcome God in Jesus. As Mother Teresa used to say, "It is our emptiness and lowliness that God needs and not our plenitude." Let us empty and clean the manger of our hearts and welcome God into our lowly and humble hearts and homes.

With love and prayers,
Fr. Antony



Parish Operations

SUPPORT COLLECTION

Collection from:
Dec 14th & 15th

\$7362

Thank You!

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

Calendar Club Winners

12/16 (\$25): Ann & Lou Anatrella (394)
12/17 (\$25): Bruce & Joan Cameron (1078)
12/18 (\$25): Arthur & Kathryn Ultsh (655)
12/19 (\$25): Mary Ellen Conway (177)
12/20 (\$25): Jack & Caroline DeSantis (509)
12/21 (\$25): Arturo & Laura Bisono (1188)
12/22 (\$50): John & Marti White (1331)

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

Contact

pastor@stmli.org

Deacons

Deacon Matthew T.J. Surico
Deacon Edward Vigneaux
Deacon Robert D. Weisz

deacon.matt@stmli.org

Rectory

Theresa Recce (sacraments)
Dottie Castaldo (finance)
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Emilia Savarese, Director

631-724-8820

Ministry

Parish Outreach

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Pastoral Council

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Altar Servers Ministry

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Lector Ministry

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Consolation Ministry

Eileen Weidig

631-724-2462

OCIA

Ann Russo

redaa@aol.com

Young at Heart

Anna Beltrani

631-234-0714

Prayers for Our Community

Pray for the Sick

Eddie & Meggie Adams	Richard Landi
Joseph Barrett	Eileen Macholz-Barr
Gregory Bennett	Marge McGowan
Karen Benson	Meagan
Marie Bracco	Len Munzer
Peter Cappisillo	Ellen Murphy
Lillian Catalano	Carol Persan
Fran Cooke	Nunzio (Steve) Puleo
Patricia Culbert	Tim Ryan
Grayson Danielski	Angelo Santangelo
Brian Fagioli	Rita Schug
Shane Farmer	Noah Simonetti
Barbara Foberg	Christy Torkelsen
Rick Goodhart	Andrew M Valentine
Stephanie Goodhart	Janet Ward
Linda Heller	Lorraine White
Maryann Landi	



*this listing will expire on March 31st, 2025

Pray for the Deceased

Betty Barbieri
Richard Ragone



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

12/23-12/29

In memory of

**Deceased Members of the
Molinaro & Zullo Families**

by Their Loving Family



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

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all.”

~Philippians 4:4



ST. THOMAS MORE

† PARISH OUTREACH †

Monday – Thursday 10AM to 2 PM

631-234-3149

Outreach@stmli.org

Our needs for the month...

Peanut Butter/Jelly

Rice

Pancake Mix

Syrup

Drinks

Coffee

Shampoo

Small Laundry Det/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.

Parish Outreach...

...will be closed from December 24th to January 1st.

We wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.



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.



Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines there.

Through your gifts to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, “Light” has shone, bringing real, lasting, and deep joy to the hearts of the needy who live in dark places in our streets and neighborhood.

On behalf of those we help, and all our conference members, we wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas! We can be reached at 631-248-6760.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Which of the four Gospels tell us about Jesus' birth and childhood? (pick 2)

- a: Matthew
- b: Mark
- c: Luke
- d: John



Answer: A & C (Matthew & Luke). Matthew details the genealogy of Jesus, while Luke's version is more commonly used in media such as Jesus recitation in A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965).

BANNS OF Marriage

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

CARLY SHEA
St. Thomas More
Hauppauge



BRIAN CONNORS
Holy Family
Hicksville



Vow Renewal!

Congratulations to Joe & Mirta Gill, who on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary, celebrated by renewing their vows in front of Father Antony, Deacon Matt, their family, and God. We wish them all the best, and 50 more years of love.

Are you looking to receive the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony? Contact the Rectory for more information!



"THE TWO WILL BECOME one flesh."
MARK 10:8, NIV

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!

PRAY25

with Hallow

PARTICIPATE BY...

going to www.hallow.com/parish
search for our parish by zip code

select St. Thomas More Hauppauge

login with phone or email (or
google/apple)

sign up for the \$1 for 120 days offer!

sign into the app (using the same
login as before)

pray!!

bonus: go to the community tab (3
houses) and search for our parish!
pray as a community!

TROUBLES?

try logging out of the app if
you already have it on your
phone

try deleting the app if you
already have it on your
phone

make sure the "promo code"
says STMNYADVENT25

for general issues: contact
Alex in the Rectory

for account/billing issues:
contact
parisheshelp@hallow.com

Hallow

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

WE WISH YOU A BLESSED
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR.





Youth Group, December 15th Gaudete Sunday!



With the Manger in front of the Rectory!



Lighting the Advent Candles at Mass!



With the Jesse Tree we made!



Watching the readings and Father Mike discuss joy!



Making Christmas pipe cleaners & beads!



Tree, Candy Canes, Grinch, Wreath, Snake, Angel

Follow us on
Instagram!

[@stm_yg](https://www.instagram.com/stm_yg)



YOUTH GROUP
+ ST. THOMAS MORE +

Upcoming Meetings
Sundays 12:30-2:30

December 22nd
January 5th