

Sharing  
the Spirit  
of Love

Catholic Church Community of  
**St. Thomas More**

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge NY 11788

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



**Gloria**  
**in**  
**excelsis**  
**Deo**

**Christmas 2024**

**Religious Ed**

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# From the Pastor

**Long ago in Persia, there ruled a wise and good king.** He loved his people. He wanted to know how they lived. Often, he dressed in the clothes of a working man or a beggar and went to the homes of the poor. No one whom he visited thought that he was their ruler. One time he visited a very poor man who lived in a cellar. He ate the coarse food the poor man ate. He spoke cheerful, kind words to him. Then he left. Later he visited the poor man again and disclosed his identity by saying, "I am your king!" The king thought the man would surely ask for some gift or favor, but he didn't. Instead, he said, "You left your palace and your glory to visit me in this dark, dreary place. You ate the coarse food I ate. You brought gladness to my heart! To others you have given your rich gifts. To me you have given yourself!" In Christmas we feel like the poor man, "To me, Jesus you have given yourself!"

**Today is Christmas.** We celebrate the birth of Jesus among us. When we celebrate anything concerning God it is not merely a sweet remembrance of some event God did to people in the remote past. God is eternal. His presence pervades our history, as alive and real today as he was in the past and will be in the future. He is ever present. The birth of Jesus is a present-day reality. In the faith and love of God, we can realize and allow God's birth in Jesus into our hearts and homes. How could the past event be a present reality in my life?

**As an event, Jesus' birth took place about 2025 years back.** He was born as a human child and grew up as a human person, embracing all human conditions even death. As much as He was a human person, He was also the divine person at the same time. Jesus was called Emmanuel, which means "God with us". The event took place in the past but His presence as God and Man continues forever. We can recall the event from the past while we can realize and feel His presence in the present, in our days and times. Jesus has given HIMSELF to us, to be with us forever.

**Christmas as an event** has lots of external symbols of decoration and celebration, such as Christmas tree lights, displays of Jesus' birth (creche and manger), families coming together, wearing red and green, wishing Merry Christmas, singing Christmas carols, etc. These external celebrations are the expressions of the internal realization of God's presence among us. Then, He came as a human child to be with us forever. Today, He comes to us in the Holy Mass and in the poor. Then, He was seen by the shepherds and wisemen. Today, He is available to whoever seeks Him with an open heart. Then, He was born a son of Mary and Joseph. Today, He wants to be a child in your heart and Home. May our celebrations be that of welcoming Him among us. MERRY CHRISTMAS.

With love and prayers,

Father Antony



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## Our Staff

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# A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Loving Father,

Help us to remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,

the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and

Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,

forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

Amen

attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson

PRAYING THAT THIS

# CHRISTMAS

FINDS YOU WITH PLENTY OF  
PEACE, HOPE, LOVE AND JOY.



our  
*daily bread*

Mon-Fri

9am

Sat

5pm

Sun

8am

9:30am

11:30am



# Rejoice!

For unto us a child is born, Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder. And  
His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Might  
God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

ON BEHALF OF THE VOLUNTEERS AT  
OUTREACH AND THE WONDERFUL FAMILIES  
WE ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR, WE WISH  
YOU A BLESSED CHRISTMAS DAY!



 **ST. THOMAS MORE**  
† PARISH OUTREACH †

## YOU ARE BORN A MAN YOU BECOME A KNIGHT!

The St. Thomas More Knights of Columbus Msgr Francis S. Midura Council #6062 is currently accepting new members. You may already know some of the knights from our council, or from some of the 15,000 councils worldwide. The over 2 million members of the Knights of Columbus form the largest Catholic fraternal group in existence. As Knights, we serve our parish and community while working each day to create a better world through charity. You see us at Mass, and assisting with Church events (Beach Mass, Pancake Breakfast, Santa Claus, etc).

For more information or to join us, contact Brother Phil Castaldo at (516) 680-6711.

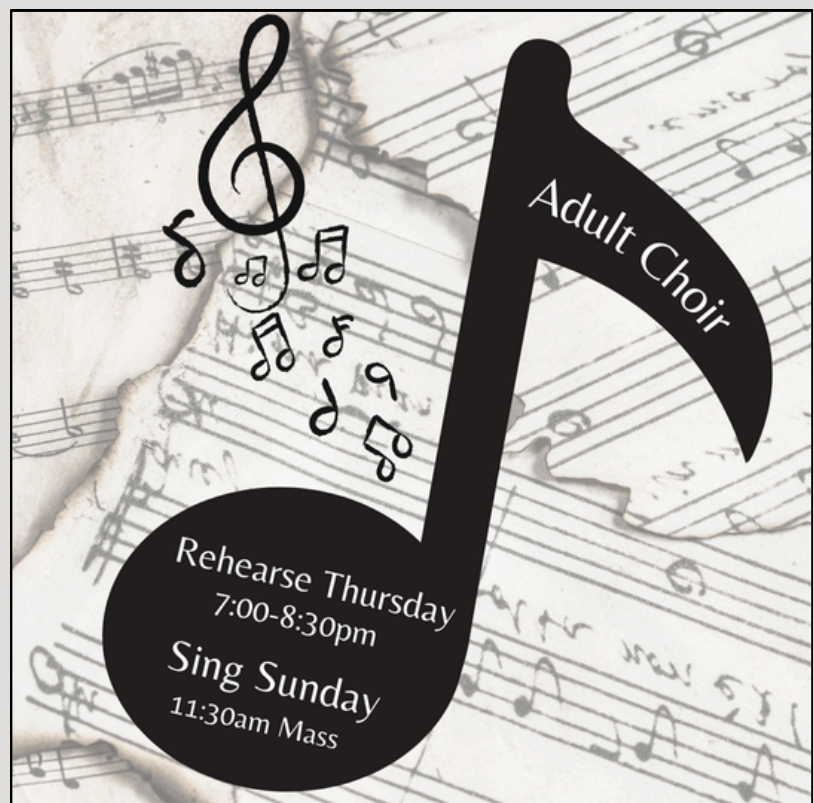


## Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God



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  
Tuesday December 31st at 5pm  
Wednesday January 1st at 9am



**Adult Choir**

Rehearse Thursday  
7:00-8:30pm  
Sing Sunday  
11:30am Mass

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



Join us Sundays 12:30pm!

# WINTER *Schedule* 2024



**Sundays, 12:30-2:30**

**December 8th**

**December 15th**

**December 22nd**

**January 5th**

**January 12th**

**January 26th**

**February 2nd**

**February 9th**

**February 23rd**

Young People's Choir  
3rd Grade- High School

Rehearse Thursday  
5:30-6:30pm

Sing Sunday  
9:30am Mass

All this took place



TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.

Matthew 1:22, ESU

Children's Liturgy  
Crew

*Sundays @ 9:30*



Children ages 4-8 are invited to join our team to learn all about our faith during the 9:30 Mass on Sundays

Join us weekly!

# CHRISTMAS

## A CATHOLIC TIMELINE



ANNUNCIATION

MAR 25

DEC 1

ADVENT 1  
"HOPE"

ADVENT 2  
"LOVE"

MARY & JOSEPH  
SET OUT FOR  
BETHLEHEM

ADVENT 3  
"JOY"

ARRIVAL IN  
BETHLEHEM

ADVENT 4  
"PEACE"

BIRTH OF JESUS!

OCTAVE  
OF  
CHRISTMAS



SOLEMNITY  
OF MARY

JAN 1

FEAST OF  
THE  
EPIPHANY

12 DAYS  
OF  
CHRISTMAS

JAN 6



PRESENTATION  
OF JESUS IN  
THE TEMPLE

FEB 2



# JOIN US ALL YEAR!

All are welcome to join us throughout the year at all our events and celebrations! Keep your eyes on the website or Instagram for more info!

## March

### St. Patricks Dinner

The 6062 Knights of Columbus hosts the annual dinner, featuring the classic Corned Beef and Cabbage! Join us to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style!

## April

### Holy Week

We offer a wide range of services, starting on Palm Sunday (4/13) through Holy Week to Easter Sunday. Join us for these fundamental and beautiful celebrations of our faith.

## May

### Spring Sacraments

Pray for the children of our Parish as they receive the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation! Contact Religious Education if your child needs these!

## June

### Feast Weekend

Celebrate our Patron St. Thomas More and our Parish Family! Participate in the raffle, and join us for the annual Pancake Breakfast! On Pentecost, attend our still popular Parking Lot Mass, a callback to our resilience in 2020.

## Sept

### Beach Mass & Golf

Like golf? Play in our annual Golf Outing! Lots of fun, and a great fundraiser for our Parish. Like the beach? Join us for our annual Beach Mass in Nissequogue. A beautiful celebration of the Eucharist under the sun, by the waves!

## Nov

### Spaghetti Dinner

Join the 6062 Knights of Columbus for a veritable feast of all things pasta! Spectacular spaghetti, delicious desserts, and raffles to rave about!

## Dec

### Tree Lighting

We welcome Santa and the Peace Light each year for Mass and the lighting of the tree! Pictures with Santa and winter treats follow!