

Sharing
the Spirit
of Love

Catholic Church Community of

St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge NY 11788

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

August 17th 2025

I HAVE COME TO SET THE
EARTH ON FIRE

AND HOW I WISH IT WERE
ALREADY BLAZING!

This Week's Readings

Jeremiah 38:4-6,8-10

Psalm 40:2-4,18

Hebrews 12:1-4

Luke 12:49-53

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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, August 16th

5:00pm Margaret Mirabell
Steven Diot

Sunday, August 17th

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am Carlos Marinod

9:30am Arputha Mary Asir
Lawrence Papola

11:30am Jennie A Giordanella
Ignatius Seminara

Monday, August 18th

9:00am Jerry Pisapia

Tuesday, August 19th

9:00am Adele Cassese

Wednesday, August 20th

9:00am Peter R. Sorbera

Thursday, August 21st

9:00am Theresa DeVito

Friday, August 22nd

9:00am Claudia Sheppard

Saturday, August 23rd

5:00pm Jaime Rodriguez Jr.
Edward & Lillian Terriault

Sunday, August 24th

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am Daniel O'Connor

9:30am Patricia Kulesa
Ana Cecilia & Cirilo DeJesus
Castro

11:30am Carl Nigro
Bill & Lori Rudden (60yrs)



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. John Eudes (8/19)
St. Bernard of Clairvaux (8/20)
St. Pius X (8/21)
Queenship of Blessed Virgin Mary (8/22)
St. Rose of Lima (8/23)
St. Bartholomew the Apostle (8/24)

Saints in heaven, pray for us

Prepare for Next Weekend

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 24th 2025

Readings

Isaiah 66:18-21

Psalm 117:1,2

Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13

Luke 13:22-30

Focus Questions

- 1: Describe a time you turned away from someone in need.
- 2: How can you open your heart and home to the stranger?
- 3: Who do you think are the first that will be last, and who are the last that will be first?

Gospel of Luke (13:22-30)

Jesus passed through towns and villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem.

Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?"

He answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.

After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying,

'Lord, open the door for us.' He will say to you in reply,

'I do not know where you are from. And you will say,

'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.'

Then he will say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.

Depart from me, all you evildoers!' And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out. And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God.

For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

our
daily bread

Mon-Fri

9am

Sat

5pm

Sun

8am

9:30am

11:30am



From the Pastor

Young man: **Could you please lend me one dollar?**

Senior: I'm a little deaf in that ear; go around to the other one.

Young man: could you lend me five dollars?

Senior: Lend you what?

Young man: Five dollars.

Senior: Oh, you had better go back to the one-dollar ear.

Though excuses may seem to help you escape the problem for a moment, they would end up only bringing more harm as time goes by. Excuses may seem to make life less burdensome for a moment, but they cannot offer life.

In today's Gospel **Jesus instructs his disciples to live life beyond all excuses**; nothing should hinder them from living it. When we choose to live the life offered by Jesus we cannot allow any person, not even our own parents or family, to stop embracing it. Pure and original life gifted by Jesus is worth living at the cost of even going against one's own family or friends.

In this sense, **Jesus' gift of life may seem to cause more trouble in the family**. It may feel like walking on fire. It may seem like Jesus is causing destructive fire or disturbing divisions when He says "Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

The life offered by Jesus is worth this trouble and division. As the second reading suggests, for the sake of the joy that lays before us we must take this most difficult path, because excuses make many holes through which life begins to leak every day. Excuses can ease the trouble and division temporarily but will not heal and fix the relationship. Jesus' words may disturb the relationships at its face, but they will never disappoint us; they will lead us towards healing and fixing the "so-called division" that initially happened when we try to find the right way of living at the guidance of Jesus's life-giving word. By these words Jesus invites us to make a radical commitment to life without allowing any excuses.

Another disturbing phrase of today's Gospel is "**Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth?**" The same Jesus who said these words has promised his disciples at the Last Supper, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." (John: 14:27) Jesus did not contradict Himself here. He only instructs us to the nature of the gift of peace. It has to be given as a gift from one to the other. Unless one gives it willingly to the other, peace can never happen. One can only leave peace and give peace. Unless we accept the gift of peace from each other, peace can never happen.

The audible **words and visible deeds from others may sometimes mislead** us or we may misunderstand them as being divisive and harmful as it happened to Jesus. But Jesus himself is peace and lived peace and reconciliation at the cost of sacrificing His life on the Cross. He leaves peace and gives peace. We His disciples are called to focus on our way of life, of "leaving and giving peace". Let there be peace on earth and let it begin from 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

Youth Ministry

Noelle White
youthgroup@stmli.org

Music Ministry

Emilia Savarese, Director
(631) 724-8820

Prayers & Petitions

Pray for the Deceased

Stephen Zicaro

We continuously pray for our deceased loved ones and all souls in purgatory.

St Gertrude, pray for us.

Pray for the Sick

Ana Beltrani
Andrew Valentine
Angela Mingione
Angelina Tolentino
Ann Russo
Barbara Cappisillo
Barbara Foberg
Carmen Z Fontes
Christopher Conley
Christy Torkelsen
Codie Codispoti
Diane McCann
Ellen Murphy

Fortunata Feliciano
Grace Harold
Jo Garvey
John Ianno
John Zuzzolo
Joseph Barrett
Joseph Tuffarelli
Kayla & Noah
Larry Wilson
Linda Heller
Lori Rooney
Lorraine White

Marge McGowan
Maria U Aldaba
Maria Andria
Mary Leister
MaryAnn Landi
Maryann Maccone
Michael Leocadi
Noah Simonetti
Nunzio Puleo
Peter Cappisillo
Raymond Larsen
Richard Landi
Rosalie Malerba

*This listing will reset on September 30th, 2025

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

August 18th - August 24th

In memory of

Eileen & Roland Hunt

by Barbara & Steve Zembrzycki

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

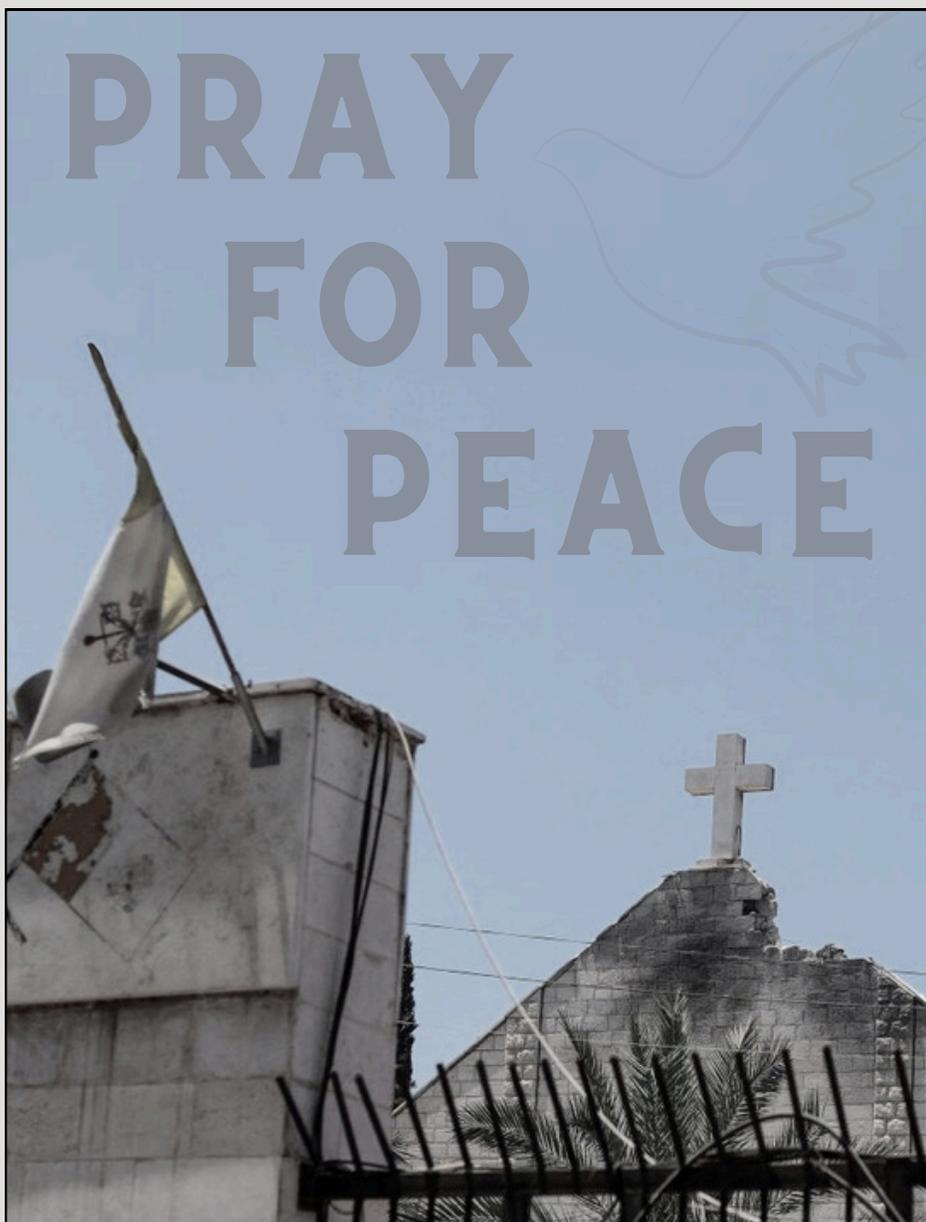
Pray for our Military

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.

PRAY
FOR
PEACE



Support our Parish

Financial Support

Collection from:
August 9th & 10th

\$5433

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

Parish Outreach

Marti White
outreach@stmli.org

Pastoral Council

Joe Fratamico
bjfrat1@gmail.com

Altar Servers

Deacon Matt
altarservers@stmli.org

Lector Ministry

Mike Petagna
mmpetagna22@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. 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

"Be extraordinary with your ordinary acts of kindness."

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.



*A single family living
in a common home.*

OUR NEEDS THIS WEEK...

Boxed Milk	Pasta
Cookies	Tuna
Drinks	Shampoo
Vegetables	Toothpaste
Pasta Sauce	Hand Soap
Jelly	Paper Towels
Soup	Laundry Detergent
Cereal	

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

In today's Gospel, Jesus says to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it be accomplished!"

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: our next fundraising event will be held on October 16th - Military Bridge - back by popular demand!



Please reach out with any questions.
Contact us: call 631-648-2760 or
[email svdp.stm@aol.com](mailto:svdp.stm@aol.com)



This & That

With
Deacon Matt



In July and August, as he has done for the past six summers, Deacon Matt will be making time to visit with small groups of parishioners in the home. Do you have questions about our faith? Do you find it difficult to follow teachings of the Church in this day and age? Are there issues you'd like to discuss, or suggestions you'd like to make? The floor is yours! Deacon Matt will be the facilitator. The format is simple: find around 6-10 people to gather at your home on a specific date, serve dessert, and come with your questions/topics.

Deacon Matt is especially interested in hearing the voices of the young. So teenagers and young adults are most certainly encouraged to get a group together! In general, late afternoons/early evenings during the week, and possibly Saturday mornings and Sunday evenings, are available.

To discuss a specific date, you can send an email to deacon.matt@stmli.org or leave a message at the rectory.



St. Thomas More Annual

BEACH MASS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

 **Mass is at 12:00pm on the beach!** 
Otto Schubert Beach, Nissequogue

**Please bring lunch
to enjoy in the picnic
area after mass!**

**There will be grills available if you
want to barbecue! The Knights will
keep them hot and ready.**



Baptisms

in our church

Congratulations! We were excited to welcome the following children into the Catholic Church during their recent baptisms:

Iris Rose Jablonsky
child of Patrice & Brian

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



NEXT MEETING:
SEPTEMBER 12TH
NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS
WELCOME!
CALL ANNA
631-234-0714

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Today's Gospel is about division. In what year was the infamous East West Schism?

- a: 854
- b: 954
- c: 1054
- d: 1154



Answer: C (1054)

The East West Schism, also known as the Great Schism, was the separation of the Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church.

BANNS OF Marriage

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

SHANNON TAKACH
St. Thomas More
Hauppauge



KEVIN TAKACH
St. Thomas More
Hauppauge



OUR LADY
QUEEN OF PEACE

ادعو لنا

молися за нас



PARISH OUTREACH: SCHOOL GIFT CARD DRIVE

In lieu of collecting school supplies this year, Outreach has decided to collect \$25 Walmart cards for our families to purchase a new outfit for school, new sneakers, or whatever else they may need.

There are many community resources available for our families to get school supplies and we feel this will be a better opportunity for them to get what they need.

Many of our clients have specifically asked for Walmart cards, as they feel they can get more for their money.



Thank you in advance for your donation! Please remember you can leave your donation in the collection basket, or drop them off at Outreach or the Rectory.

PLEASE CALL OUTREACH AT 631-234-3149 WITH ANY QUESTIONS

GOLF RAFFLE



1 for \$10
3 for \$20
9 for \$50



TICKETS AVAILABLE AFTER ALL MASSES OR AT THE RECTORY!

NOW
WITH
BIGGER
PAYOUTS!

1st: \$1250
2nd: \$750
3rd: \$500



STM MSGR FRANCIS S. MIDURA MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

St. Thomas More Choir

Have you ever felt the joy of singing from your heart? Imagine raising your voice in harmony with others, filling the church with heavenly music, and being part of something truly special

Whether you're a seasoned vocalist or simply love to sing, we welcome you! No formal training is required—just a love for music and a desire to be part of a beautiful tradition. Every voice matters, and together we create something magical that touches hearts and souls at every Mass.

Why join?

Make a Joyful Noise: Use your gift of music to glorify God

Build Community: Connect with fellow parishioners in a fun, welcoming environment

Lift Spirits: Help lead worship and inspire others through song.

When?

Children

Rehearsal: Thursdays 5:30-6:30

Mass: Sundays 9:30

Adults

Rehearsal: Thursdays 7-8:30

Mass: Sundays 11:30

St. Thomas More / Msgr. Francis S. Midura

Annual Golf Outing

9/15/25 at Smithtown Landing CC 9:00 AM shotgun start



Registration Form (Please Print)

Golfers:	Name	Contact Number	Email
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____

Please fill out a separate form for each Foursome. Singles or Twosomes will be paired with other golfers.

Include a check for

\$200.00 per golfer after August 15th

Checks made out to: St. Thomas More Parish

Outing Day Check-In begins at **7:30 AM** with coffee and donuts.

Dinner Only Patrons: Please include a check for **\$100.00** per person made out to St. Thomas More Parish

	Name	Contact Number	Email
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____

Return Form in envelope provided by mail or drop off at Church.



DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?
YOU'RE INVITED TO TRY ALPHA AT STM
EXPLORE LIFE...FAITH...MEANING

ALPHA is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open, and informal setting. You will be able to explore life's biggest questions. You will take yourself on a journey which many times leads to a personal encounter with Jesus. You are able to ask questions, share ideas, build friendships, and experience the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We gather once a week and have our meeting at St. Thomas more in the white room. We set up in small groups of about 8 to 10 people per table and start with a nice dinner and dessert with your group. Then we watch a video that features inspiring stories and interviews from all around the world followed by discussions with your group. Each week our talks will look at a different question about faith.

If you are not comfortable talking in a group, don't worry. Just listen and you will be surprised what you take home and think about. You may even find yourself inspired to share your experiences and knowledge the following week.

So come try ALPHA! It's free, you'll have good food, thought provoking conversation with people and our guarantee to be finished in 2 hours each week.

If you have questions or would like to sign up, please call 631-234-0397 or email us at jmtwhite@optonline.net

We hope to see you all there!