

Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23 - VIGIL

+4:30PM - Arline Mickey (30 Day)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00AM - Lillian Kastelic (30 Day)

11:00AM - People of the Parish

+4:00PM - People of the Parish

+12:00AM - Priest's Intention



MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9:00AM - Priest's Intention

11:00AM - Priest's Intention

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26 - ST. STEPHEN

7:00AM - Mason Smerdel (Living)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27 - ST. JOHN

7:00AM - Arthur Hanula

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28 - THE HOLY INNOCENTS

7:00AM - Maureen Cepek

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29 - ST. THOMAS BECKET

7:00AM - Cecilia Davila

8:15AM - All Souls' Day Intentions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30 - SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8:15AM - December Birthdays

4:30PM - Father's Day Enrollment

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 - THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

9:00AM - People of the Parish

11:00AM - Rosalma Hobe (30 Day)

+4:30PM - Donald Guggenbiller (30 Day)

+Cup Mass

Financial Blessings

Collection for December 17th.....\$7,017.00

Maintenance Collection.....\$1,167.00

Votive Candles.....\$89.00

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

MASS ON DECEMBER 31ST

The 4:30 Mass on Sunday, December 31st is **NOT** a vigil for the Solemnity of Mary. The readings for the Feast of the Holy Family override the Solemnity of Mary readings, so the 4:30 Mass fulfills your Sunday obligation.

Weekly Schedule

Monday, December 25th RECTORY CLOSED

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Tuesday, December 26th

RECTORY CLOSED

Wednesday, December 27th

5:00 PM Bingo - Gym & Utopia Hall

Thursday, December 28th

4:00 PM-6:00 PM Basketball Practice - Gym

7:00 PM Cub Scouts - Utopia Hall

7:00 PM Pro-Life Rosary - Church

Friday, December 29th

4:00-7:00 PM Basketball - Gym

Saturday, December 30th

Utopia Rental

Sunday, December 31st



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Steve Cottos

SECRETARY: Susan Sidley

REGISTRATION

Persons who live within parish boundaries should be properly registered. This includes all students in high school and college. Register with the priest after Mass. If you move out of the parish, please notify the rectory.

BAPTISMS

Sunday: 12:30 PM or during any weekend liturgy. Prior to baptism of their first child, parents are required to attend a Pre-Baptism class. Please call the rectory at 216-749-0414 to schedule an interview.

MARRIAGES

Should be arranged with a priest by calling the rectory 6 months prior to the wedding date. Individual conferences, plus attendance at a pre-marriage program, are required for proper preparation.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

I would like to extend my deepest wishes for a very Merry Christmas and the most blessed and healthy New Year to all our parishioners, friends and visitors to St. Thomas More Parish. As the time seems to slip away from us, this time of the year always makes a person a little more nostalgic. I am not sure why that is but we tend to think about and miss our loved ones who have passed away. It may be because of the different ornaments that they gave us while we put them on the tree. We think about all the laughs we have shared. We may be reminded of them by all the baking we do and how they would always be a part of the mayhem in the kitchen. The dinners that will be celebrated with one less chair may even bring a tear to your eye as you look to the place where your loved one always sat. Midnight Mass may not be the same without having that special someone at your side.

Life is constantly changing. We learn to adapt, but things are never really the same. At this time of the celebration of the birth of Jesus our Savior, we are given a gift. This gift is not something that you will find wrapped in nice paper and sitting under the tree. This gift that is given to us does not have a fancy bow tied all around it. The gift we receive is not expensive, in fact it is free. This gift is useless if it not shared and actually even returned. This gift from God is what the souls longs for and the heart desires. What is this gift you ask? It is simple, love.

The infant child left His royal throne for a dirty old manger out of a deep love for you and me. Without this love we are left searching for something to fill the emptiness deep within us. This love that Jesus shares with us brings about an understanding of who we are and who we are supposed to be in this world. Once we allow the Lord Jesus into our lives, then and only then are we able to love others as He has loved us.

Love never dies and the love we share with the Lord is life giving. We enter into a personal relationship with God through the love of Jesus Christ. If we do not allow God to love us how can we expect to know how to love ourselves or even be loved. Jesus came into this world to show us the power of love. Love will always keep us united with those around us and those who have gone before us to the eternal kingdom of peace.

This is the true gift we celebrate today. Jesus is love. He teaches us how to love and how to be loved. Love conquers all things even death. Death has no more power over those who have won the crown of eternal life with Jesus in Heaven. So although we may not be able to hear their voices, hold their hands or even sit at table with those whom we lost that does not mean that

they are not with us still. This year let us thank God for the greatest gift there could ever possibility be and that is love. It is love that keeps us together and it is love that helps us to appreciate those who await our own arrival into heaven.

Next month the seminarians will be running a ministry here at St. Thomas More called the Alpha ministry. It is a time for non-active Catholics and people who have no clue of who God is in their lives to renew or begin the journey into faith. I would like to invite everyone who would like to come please make the effort to come and start inviting anybody and everybody. This ministry is for everyone not just Catholics, so please feel free to bring a friend or two. There will be more details about the Alpha ministry in a few weeks. Please keep your eyes on the bulletin to get more details.

Peace and Goodness,
Fr. Bill

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Adele was a daughter of King Dagobert II of Germany. She became a nun upon the death of her husband, making provisions for her son, the future father of St. Gregory of Utrecht.

Adele founded a convent at Palatiolum near Trier and became its first Abbess. She ruled with holiness, prudence and compassion.

St. Adele seems to have been among the disciples of St. Boniface, the apostle of Germany, and a letter in his correspondence is address to her. After a devout life filled with good works and communion with God, she passed on to her heavenly reward in 730. St. Adele's feast day is December 24th. (www.catholic.org)

SEMINARIAN OF THE MONTH

Michael Crookston
St. Sebastian,
Akron
I Theology, St. Mary



Please keep Michael and all seminarians in your prayers as we continue to pray for vocations. To let him know that he is in your thoughts and prayers, send a card to him at 28700 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe, OH 44092.

FROM DEACON CHUCK

What a comfort it has been to our family that when we were faced with the adversity of our great-grandson Vinny's brain surgery, so many beautiful people here at St. Thomas More came forward offering prayer and support. Words are not adequate to express our appreciation.

We thank Fr. Bill for his prayerful leadership in enlisting everyone to pray for Vinny. A special Thank You to all in our parish community who have sent letters, cards and phone calls supporting Vinny's parents, grandparents and us. To the students at St. Thomas More School who pray daily for Vinny. To those who offered Masses and to the parishioner who obtained from the Capuchin Fathers in Michigan, a framed picture and Relic of Blessed Solanus Casey. It has a prominent spot in Vinny's room.

The feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is traditionally celebrated on a Sunday after Christmas. We honor them not only because they were holy but because they lived a human life like ours. I believe if we as a people of faith continue to follow the example of the Holy Family, we too will all be part of a family which is Holy.

We wish you all a Blessed and Merry Christmas and Holy, Happy and Healthy New Year,
Deacon Chuck and Family



REMEMBER
in your prayers

Carol Loy, Doris & John Polander, Nickola Badza, Ethel Whipkey, Vinny Mercurio, Greg Jakupcik, Raymond Kuhar, Jessica Kuhar, Stephen Kuhar III, Gregory Simecek, Alexis Simecek, Heather Hudak, James Malames, Deanna Pisano, Annette Pirozek, Joseph Palumbo, Jeremy & Sierra Cheetham, David Snyder, Meg Zalder, Ida Jean Hopkins, Judy Sever, Marianne Rotatori, Mary Misch, John Misch, Raymond Misch, Joseph Carnivale, Jean Sunyak, Betty Sullivan, Madeline Bukovsky, Martha & George Kysil and Dominic Belko. Please call the rectory by noon on Monday to add a name to the list. Names will remain on the list for the month.

Cluster Corner

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE: 216-749-2323

Bingo - Join us on Fridays at 6pm for Bingo in the Parish Center.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO: 440-884-3030

Save the Date - Mark your calendars for the St. Charles Sports Boosters Night at the Races on Saturday, January 20th at 6pm in Corrigan Gym. Ticket information will be available soon.

ST. LEO THE GREAT: 216-661-1006

Pick 40 - St. Leo School Annual Pick 40 is Back! \$5.00 enters you in 40 Daily Drawings! (36) \$100 drawings & (4) \$500 drawings. Tickets may be purchased in the school or rectory office. First drawing is January 8, 2018.

Bus Trip - Our next trip will be on Thursday, February 16th to Hollywood Casino for \$30/person

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Please remember Carol Ann Grombol, Francis J. Karas, Barbara Bowen, Margarete Margevicius and Sophie Schmuck in your prayers. God grant them eternal rest.

PARISH PRAYER

O God, the Creator and giver of all things, bless this parish. Strengthen our faith; grant us the spirit of sacrifice and service so that, with Your grace, we may provide for the needs of our members, glorify You and sanctify ourselves. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

PRAYER OF THE MONTH - DECEMBER

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Are you having a hard time finding gifts for Christmas this year? If so, the St. Thomas More Christmas Album is available for purchase at the rectory during the Advent and Christmas seasons. The album is entitled *Our Christmas Gift*, and it features the Music Ministry and the St. Thomas More Adult Choir.

Most importantly, 100% of the proceeds will go to the Pipe Organ Restoration Fund. Thank you for your support and generosity!

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

Christmas...
Full of surprises and magical things...
Wide-eyed wonder and reindeer wings.
White fluffy popcorn to thread on a string,
Gifts to open and carols to sing.
Tradition and cheer and good tidings we bring...
To celebrate the birth of Jesus our King!

Merry Christmas
from the Faculty, Students and Staff of
St. Thomas More School

FAITH FORMATION

RCIA - Thank you so much for your prayers for the candidates and catechumens participating in the RCIA program this year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

CATECHUMENS (those being baptized)

Nelson Santos
Tina Hammock
Alisha Figueroa
Jose Figueroa
Alex Zheng
Aidan Kernell
William Moore

CANDIDATES (those seeking Eucharist & Confirmation)

Ted Antrum
Miriam Andrade
Jasmine Lichtenberg
Jessica Rodriguez
Monica Rodriguez
Angelina Martinez

CONFIRMATION - Please remember that sponsors are required to attend the January 7th meeting and Mass. We will gather at the 9am Mass and go to Utopia Hall for the meeting.

TRAVELING MADONNA

The statue is at the home of **Anita Dloniak** this week. Please call the rectory to sign-up to host the Traveling Madonna in 2018. Please continue to pray for our host families as they share their home with our Traveling Madonna. Please send any pictures to the rectory.

PSR

The PSR students and catechists have been preparing their minds and hearts for the birth of Jesus. They have learned how to "Ready the Way" by coming together to join in prayer around the Advent wreath each week. The classes are also learning the importance of serving others and know that they, too, can bring joy to others through their words and actions just like Jesus did. Each class created beautiful cards for the parish homebound with the hopes of spreading Christmas cheer. Last week, we had our Christmas celebration and made a Joyous craft to share with our families. On behalf of the students and staff of the PSR program, we wish the St. Thomas More community a wonderful Christmas season as we celebrate together the birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Thank you to those who supported the Advent Giving Tree. Last week, members of the Youth Ministry sorted and distributed over 370 gifts for 20 local families and another 30 children from Metro Catholic. Many thanks, as once again, you have helped make the season a little more bright for area families. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

ATHLETICS

Merry Christmas from St. Thomas More athletics! Thank you for all of your support during our fundraisers and donut sales. At this time of year, we give thanks and ask God's blessings about all of our parish families.

2017 CHRISTMASTIDE SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Afternoon Vigil
11:30 PM Christmas Carols
12:00 Midnight Vigil

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Monday, January 1, 2018 – New Year's Day

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

CHRISTMAS RECTORY HOURS

Please note the rectory hours during the holidays:

12/25/17- Closed 1/1/18- Closed
12/26/17- Closed 1/2/18- Closed



GIVING BACK AUTO LOAN

Tell us which Catholic School or Parish you would like to help, and we will

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*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. See credit union for details. This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

2018 MASS INTENTIONS

The remaining Mass intentions are available. You may schedule two more Masses at this time. Please call or stop in the rectory Monday-Friday from 9am-4:30pm.

#WEGIVECATHOLIC

We would like to thank all those who donated to the #wegiveCatholic campaign. We appreciate your generosity to St. Thomas More Parish.

CARDS AND WELL WISHES

Anyone wishing to send good wishes and any correspondence to Deacon Chuck and his family can drop cards and letters at the rectory and we will make sure that they receive them.



ANNUAL MEMORIAL CANDLES

In the month of November, we remembered our beloved dead. Why not remember them the whole year round? Memorial Candles for 2018 are now available. The cost is \$200 for the year, \$190 if you return your November candle or \$100 for six months. Forms are available at the rectory.

FOLLOW BISHOP PEREZ ON TWITTER

Taking advantage of one of the most popular modes of communication in the world, the Most Rev. Nelson J. Perez, bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland, launched his new Twitter account. Follow Bishop Perez on Twitter: @BishopNPerez.

Bishop Perez's Twitter account is the latest way to stay engaged with the bishop and the Diocese of Cleveland. The diocese posts to its established social media platforms on Twitter (@dioceseofCLE), Facebook (facebook.com/dioceseofcleveland) and Instagram (@dioceseofCLE). In addition, the diocese publishes a free weekly newsletter filled with Catholic news and events. Sign up at diocese of cleveland.org/enewsletter.

Readings for the Week of December 24, 2017:

- Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
- Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
- Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
- Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
- Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
- Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
- Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
- Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
- Next Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

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