

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 – VIGIL

+*4:30PM - Emily Holscott

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 –

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*9:00AM - Betty Wallstrom

+11:00AM - People of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3 –

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

7:00AM - Linda Capp

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4 – ST. JOHN

DAMASCENE

7:00AM - Eugene M. Wiencek

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5 – ADVENT

WEEKDAY

7:00AM - Agnes Kaptein

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6 – ST. NICHOLAS

7:00AM - Ruth Zindroski

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7 – ST. AMBROSE

7:00AM - Anna Wohlgemuth

8:15AM - Joyce Finohr - Student Liturgy

6:00PM - The Unborn

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 – THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

8:15AM - Mother's Day Enrollment

11:15AM - Robert Loy

4:30PM - People of the Parish

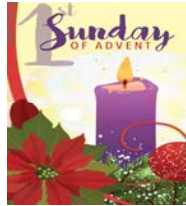
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 – SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

+*9:00AM - Carmen Lorenzi

*11:00AM - Keith Panek

+Cup Mass

*Mass of Remembrance



Weekly Schedule

Monday, December 3

4:00 PM - 9:00 PM Basketball Practice - Gym

6:45 PM - 8:00 PM PSR - School

7:00 PM RCIA - School

Tuesday, December 4

4:00 PM - 9:00 PM Basketball Practice - Gym

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Children's Choir - Church

7:00 PM Adult Choir - Church

7:00 PM Rosary for World Peace - Chapel

Wednesday, December 5

5:00 PM Bingo - Gym & Utopia Hall

Thursday, December 6 **Marco's Night**

4:00 PM - 9:00 PM Basketball Practice - Gym

7:00 PM Cub Scouts - Utopia Hall

7:00 PM Lectio Divina - Rectory

Friday, December 7

2:00 PM - 5:30 PM Eucharistic Devotions - Church

2:00 PM - 5:30 PM Confessions - Church

4:00 PM - 9:00 PM Basketball Practice - Gym

5:30 PM Benediction - Church

Saturday, December 8

The Immaculate Conception

Sunday, December 9

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Men's Basketball - Gym

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Confirmation Meeting - Utopia

2:00 PM Communal Penance Service

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Youth Ministry - Utopia

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

The Communal Penance Service will be on Sunday, December 9th at 2pm here at St. Thomas More.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Angela LoBue

SECRETARY: Dawn Thomas

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.

Financial Blessings

Collection for November 18th.....\$6,290.00

Faith Direct for 11/15.....\$2,674.74

Maintenance\$1,949.00

Votives.....\$123.00

Collection for November 25th.....\$6,215.15

Maintenance\$765.00

Votives.....\$92.00

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

This Sunday begins the new calendar year for the Church. It is also the first week of Advent. As we celebrate this first week of Advent, we are surrounded with all types of rich symbols that, after a while, we can just start to take for granted and eventually forget what all the symbols of Advent mean. Advent is a season of joyful preparation that helps us to make ready our own spirituality for the incarnation of the Word made flesh. It is a time to contemplate that Jesus came and took on our flesh in order to redeem us and bring salvation to the whole world.

I would like to take the next four weeks of Advent and share with you the meaning of all these different symbols. Advent is a time of Light and Darkness. Remember that Jesus is referred to as the "Light of the world" while darkness reminds us of the darkness of sin. The light scatters the dark so in Jesus, His light scatters the darkness of sin.

This week many of you will be pulling out Christmas decorations and in many boxes and crates you may find a simple wreath with four spaces for candles. Yes, you found your Advent wreath. If it has not been used in a while, why not bring back that old tradition even if the children are all grown up.

The round wreath reminds us that a circle has no beginning or end. The Advent wreath is a circle to represent that God has no beginning or end. God is eternal. As God is eternal and has not end, we are reminded that His love for each one of us has no end.

Do you know why there are four candles and four weeks of Advent? Each candle, each week represents one thousand years. Adding all four weeks together you get four thousand years that is the time in which the world had waited for the Jesus our savior to come.

The purple or violet color for the Church represents a time of prayer, penance and sacrifice. Some people refer to Advent as a "little Lent." The time of Advent is different from Lent in the fact that we are in a period of joyful hope.

The first candle represents hope. This candle may sometimes be referred to as the "Prophet's Candle." It is a reminder that Jesus is coming. Many people waited in hope for the coming of the Savior. The prophets foretold all that would take place and how the Messiah would bring salvation to the whole world. It is this hope that we still today place in God. No matter how bad things may become in our lives we know that in God there is always hope. This is one reason that Jesus came into our world to bring us hope in a God who loves and saves us. Please know that one of the greatest sins is to have no hope in God.

In this first week of Advent let us remember to place our hope in God. Let us work on never giving up hope and sharing that hope with those around us.

Peace and Goodness,
Fr. Bill

The facts of this column are taken from *Catholic Living's* article *The Advent Wreath Tradition & Meaning* by Gretchen Fliz.

SAINT THOMAS MORE



One of the greatest problems of our time is that many are schooled but few are educated.

"To convert somebody go and take them by the hand and guide them."

St. Thomas Aquinas

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Father: O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come, that by Thy protection we may be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ Thy Son, our Lord.
All: Amen.



FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC DEVOTIONS

Every First Friday of the month, we have exposition of the Eucharist from 2-5:30pm ending with Benediction. Call the rectory if you are able to commit to a half hour on December 7th.



Congratulations and welcome
Carina Mary Canevese and
Ajaneé Candalaria Rain Cooley
who were baptized last weekend at St. Thomas More.
God bless you!

MUSIC MINISTRY

In the arms of Your Mercy, we find rest. Please join us on Thursday, December 13th at 7pm in the church for our next Divine Mercy Chaplet.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

We recently registered the following at St. Thomas More during the month of **November** – Jasmine Lichtenberg. Welcome to you!

TRAVELING MADONNA

This week the statue is at the home of **Terrie Bogdas**. Please continue to pray for our host families as they share their home with our Traveling Madonna. Remember to send in any pictures that you take to the rectory. Please call the rectory to sign-up to host the Traveling Madonna in 2019.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 8th, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Vigil Mass on December 7th will be at 6pm. The Masses on December 8th will be at 8:15am and 11:15am.

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Please remember Elizabeth Vanyo, Julia Malik and Mark Schumacher in your prayers. God grant them eternal rest.

PRE-PLAN FUNERAL INFORMATION

If you are interested in planning your own funeral Mass, please contact the rectory. One of the members of the Ministry of Consolation will contact you to set up a convenient time to meet. Pre-Planning has many advantages. You are able to select your favorite readings and songs for your Mass. It also takes a lot of stress away from your loved ones. Please consider this option and call the rectory.



REMEMBER
in your prayers

Antonio Musto, Florence Zunt, Ethel Whipkey, Nickola Badza, Carol Loy, Vinny Mercurio, George & Martha Kysil, Raymond Kuhar, Jessica Kuhar, Stephen Kuhar III, Alexis Simecek, Gregory Simecek, Heather Hudak, Mary Misch, John Misch, Grayson Wilmot, John Szill, Melissa Korhely, Sean Szill, Joel Gorski, Nancy Butler, Gail Michal, Ashley Meadows, Gay Hengoed, Alice Gruden, Dave Meredith, James Malames and Greg Jakupcik. 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

Men's Advent Retreat - Join us on Saturday, December 8th from 8:30am-2:30pm for our Men's Advent Retreat: "All Generations Will Call Me Blessed." Call the parish office to sign up or for more details.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO: 440-884-3030

Post Cana - Post Cana presents Laura & Peter Range from the Diocese of Toledo on Friday, December 14th from 6:30-8:30pm in the lower parish hall. Please register at www.stcharlesonline.org/post-cana or call the office.

ST. LEO THE GREAT: 216-661-1006

Great Sweepstakes - We are pleased to announce our New Great Sweepstakes weekly drawing starting on January 1, 2019. The drawing will go from January 1st thru November 10th. There will be (44) \$100 weekly drawings, (5) \$200 special drawings and (1) \$1,000 super drawing on the Feast of St. Leo on November 10, 2019.

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

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

Readings of the Week ©LPI

Readings for the Week of December 2, 2018:

- Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14
[1b]/1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
- Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
[cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
[6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-
27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt
9:27-31
- Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
[1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6



Support the Retirement Fund for Religious. A donor writes, "Your flyer touched my heart - seeing the retired religious, such memories surfaced." Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Please give to next week's second collection.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

On Sunday, December 2nd, any and all high school-aged parishioners are welcome to the Youth Ministry Center from 6-8pm. We'll be planning our Time Out Retreat Game Night for the following week. FREE FOOD will be provided.

Next Sunday, December 9th, all parishioners in grades 7 through 12 are invited to Our Time Out Retreat Game Night, an evening of prayer, games and food in Utopia Hall from 6-8pm. RSVP is needed to plan for food and supplies. Visit stmparish.net for online RSPV form.

Service hours are available on Sunday, December 16th as members of the High School Youth Ministry will be sorting the gifts for the Advent Giving Tree. Please gather in the church at 6pm. The evening usually takes about 2 hours to complete. Many hands will make little work.

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Thank you to those who took tags for the Advent Giving Tree. There are still a few tags available on the tree if you haven't had a chance to tag or were looking for additional tags. Gifts are due back in the church library by Sunday, December 9th, wrapped with the tag affixed. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY

The winners for the November 50/50 Drawing were George Zindroski (\$100) and Vernon Recker (\$50). Tickets for the November 50/50 Drawing are being sold by Holy Name Members. Thanks to all the faithful who buy tickets every month.

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

It is not too late to order your Texas Roadhouse Gift Cards from the school. Gift Cards will be on sale through 12/31/18. Gift Cards are sold in increments of \$25 and make great gifts during the holiday season. Forms are available in the school office or the rectory.

First Sunday of Advent Children's Prayer:

Jesus, you are peace even when there is hatred. Help us to forgive like you when we are hurt or wounded. Bring peace into our hearts we pray. Amen.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

The Diocese of Cleveland's "Protecting God's Children" program is a continuing effort to instruct and inform everyone about the protection of children from sexual abuse. To report any past or present suspected inappropriate behavior toward children by priests, deacons, religious, lay ecclesial ministers or personnel associated with the Church, please contact the Diocesan Response Service Office at 216-334-2999 or via email at response_services@dioceseofcleveland.org. You are also asked to immediately inform local authorities about inappropriate behavior.



A Christmas Concert with the Daughters of St. Paul Choir will take place on Wednesday, December 12th at 7pm at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. **The concert is free and open to all. No tickets or reservations required.** Free parking in the surface lot on Rockwell Avenue or in the Cathedral Plaza Garage. For more information call: 216-696-6525 x5510 or email: gheisman@dioceseofcleveland.org.



In the month of November we remembered our beloved dead.
WHY NOT REMEMBER THEM THE WHOLE YEAR ROUND?

This makes a great Christmas gift that lasts throughout 2019.

This Memorial Candle will have their name inscribed on it and will be lit for the whole year.

Your loved one will also be remembered in a Mass once a month.

When the year is over you may take the candle and place it in a special place in your home.

The cost for a Memorial Candle is \$200.00 (displayed 1/1/19-12/31/19). If you have a candle from November, return that candle (name cannot be changed) and your cost is only \$190.00.

You also have the option to have a candle displayed for six months (either 1/1/19-6/30/19 or 7/1/19-12/31/19) for \$100.00.

(One name or one family name per candle please-
Examples- James Mannion or The Campbell Family)

Please return the slip below to the rectory or in the collection basket with your payment.

Checks made payable to St. Thomas More.

2019 Memorial Candle Form

Please include your money with this form.

YOUR NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

NAME OF THE DECEASED or FAMILY NAME:

(One name or one family name only)

ARE YOU RETURNING YOUR CANDLE? Yes No


ALPINE EUROPE PILGRIMAGE
Featuring the Passion Play of Oberammergau
11 DAYS: SEPTEMBER 21 - OCTOBER 1, 2020
 HEIDELBERG • RHINE VALLEY • LUCERNE • EINSIEDELN
 NNSBRUCK • SALZBURG • MUNICH • ROTHENBURG • FRANKFURT

co-hosted by
FR. BILL BOUHALL
 AND
FR. JOHN MICELI

\$4399 FROM CLEVELAND*
*Air/land tour price is \$3929 plus \$470 gov't taxes/airline surcharges

FOR A MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
 Fr. Bouhall: Tel: (216) 749-0414 // Email: stmore@sbcglobal.net
 Fr. Miceli: Tel: (216) 226-7577 // Email: jmiceli@stmarkcleveland.com

DON'T WAIT FOR 2030!! SIGN UP TODAY!!!



Great Gift Idea!

\$15 each

Mini Sweets Centerpiece Assortment



Sold after Masses Dec 8 and 9