

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH



4170 North Amber Drive | Brooklyn, Ohio 44144 | Phone: 216-749-0414 | Email: rectory@stmparish.net



stmparish.net



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Join our email list at stmparish.net/email

Mass Times

Weekend

Saturday - 4:30pm

Sunday - 9am & 11am

Weekdays

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday - 8:15am

Tuesday - 6:45pm

No Mass on Thursday

Holy Days

Eve - TBD

Holy Days - 8:15am, 11:15am & 6:45pm

Confessions

Saturday - 3:30pm until 4:15pm

Rectory Hours

Monday - Friday - 9am-3pm

(The rectory is closed for lunch from 1-1:30pm)

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Schneider
Pastor

Rev. Donald E. Snyder
Retired, In Residence

Sr. Jane Reisinger, SND
Pastoral Associate

Lisa Carson
Office Manager

John Mastandrea
Development

Terri Sozio
Religious Education



St. Thomas More School
PreSchool thru 8th Grade

Meg Cosgriff - Principal
216-749-1660 | stmschool.com

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 – VIGIL

*4:30 PM - George Koehler

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*9:00 AM - Daniel Vinkowski

11:00 AM - People of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16 – ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:15 AM - Joan Bartu

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17 – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:45 PM - Ken & Marie Jablonski

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:15 AM - Sam Ketola

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:15 AM - Herbert & Anna Marie Schade -
Student Liturgy

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 – ST. PETER CANISIUS

8:15 AM - Marty McCarthy

4:30 PM - People of the Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*9:00 AM - Dee Fedak

*11:00 AM - John J. Skubie

*Mass of Remembrance

Financial Blessings

Collection for December 8th \$3380.00
Maintenance \$1,130.00
Student's Weekly Offering (11 Envelopes) \$79.50

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.



Enroll online at faith.direct/OH684. Have questions?
Please email info@faithdirect.net or call toll free 1-866-507-8757.

THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

CLP

Monday, December 16

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM 3 G BB Practice - Gym

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM 3 B BB Practice - Gym

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM 4 B BB Practice - Gym

8:00 PM - 9:30 PM 7/8 B BB Practice - Gym

Tuesday, December 17

9:30 AM Praying the Sunday Readings - Rectory

1:00 PM Christmas Program Practice - Church

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Cheer - Gym

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM 5 B BB Practice - Gym

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Friends Supporting Friends - UH

6:00 PM - 6:30 PM Confessions - Church

6:30 PM - 7:45 PM PSR - Utopia Hall

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM 5/6 G BB Practice - Gym

8:00 PM - 9:30 PM HS BB Practice - Gym

Wednesday, December 18

1:00 PM Christmas Program Practice - Church

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM 3 B BB Practice - Gym

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM 3 G BB Practice - Gym

6:30 PM Christmas Program - Church

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM 6 B BB Practice - Gym

8:30 PM - 9:30 PM HS BB Practice - Gym

Thursday, December 19

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Lil Wolverines Practice - Gym

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM 4 B BB Practice - Gym

8:00 PM - 9:30 PM 7/8 B BB Practice - Gym

Friday, December 20 1:00 PM School Dismissal

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM 5 B BB Practice - Gym

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM 5/6 G BB Practice - Gym

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM 6 B BB Practice - Gym

8:30 PM - 9:30 PM HS BB Practice - Gym

Saturday, December 21 Utopia Rental

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM CYO Basketball - Gym

2025 MASS INTENTIONS

The Mass book for 2025 is available. A donation of \$10 is requested for each intention. The Mass intentions will only be for the weekday and Saturday 8:15am Masses. **To ensure that everyone is able to schedule their Masses, at this time you may schedule TWO (2) Masses per family.**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Father: O Lord, we beg
Thee, incline Thy ear to
our prayers and enlighten
the darkness of our minds
by the grace of Thy visitation.
Through Jesus Christ
Thy Son, our Lord.
All: Amen.



FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

The Lord be with you! A joyous Gaudete Sunday! As we draw closer to Christmas, we rejoice in the knowledge that Christ has almost come. This Sunday we remember that rejoicing in God is the source of our strength.

“Gaudete” is Latin for “rejoice,” and this Sunday invites us to rejoice in Christ’s coming. As today’s entrance antiphon reminds us, “Rejoice in the Lord always! For the Lord is near.” Calling to mind that Jesus has already come encourages us because the work of grace has begun in our lives already. Likewise, when we remember that Christ will come again, we realize that ultimately God will bring that work to fulfillment as long as we remain with Him.

What does it mean to rejoice in the Lord? Joy is the heart resting in love and being loved. Joy is not itself a feeling, but it is often accompanied by many strong ones. Joy is essentially our hearts being satisfied by loving and by being loved.

Let’s take a human example of joy: playing a game. All games are meant to foster competition and community. Whether it is a board game or an athletics competition, the players do their best so that the game playing becomes a source of goodness. That goodness is present during the game in achievement and afterwards as self-improvement. Eventually, really good games create great players and great fans as a community develops around the game.

Where we find our joy is also where we will find our hearts. Although learning to rejoice in the things of the Lord is the work of a lifetime, we are called to do a little better each day. Drawing ever closer to God allows us to rejoice more easily and more deeply with Him. Just as athletes challenge themselves, we Christians are called to constant improvement in our lives with God.

Yet, life is not always easy or pleasant. All too often we meet the Cross in unexpected places that challenge us. Advent makes the bold claim that even in the midst of such suffering we can be at peace thanks to the work of God’s grace. Certainly, grace is not a feeling nor does it always give us that experience of calmness; nevertheless, learning to direct ourselves to God in all circumstances is the best way to remain at peace.

This Third Sunday of Advent, dare to rejoice! Not in the passing things of this world, like cars and promotions, but in the eternal reality of God. May the consolations that God offers us in turn spur us to console others with the abiding goodness of God’s Good News.

In His Sacred Heart,
Fr. John

SEMINARIAN OF THE MONTH

Cameron Galla
Our Lady Help of Christians
Litchfield
Propaedeutic I, Borromeo



Please keep Cameron 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.

SAINT QUOTE

“The more humble a man is, the better he knows himself and, therefore, the better he knows God. The more he knows God, the better he loves Him...thus by humility, he obtains more charity and by having more charity, he obtains more humility.”

Blessed Anthony Grassi (1592-1671),
Priest,

Feast Day: December 18th
(Bulletin Quote provided by AZ Quotes; www.azquotes.com)

TRAVELING MADONNA

This week the statue is at the home of:

Madelyn Koranda.

Please continue to pray for our host families as they share their home with our Traveling Madonna. Remember, if you take any pictures, send them into the rectory. **Please call the rectory to sign-up to host the Traveling Madonna in 2025.**

2024 ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturdays from 3:30-4:15 PM

Tuesday 17th from 6-6:30pm.

OPLATKI

Oplatki (Christmas Wafers) is available at the church or at the rectory. A \$5.00 freewill offering is suggested.

FRIENDS SUPPORTING FRIENDS

Friends Supporting Friends is a group of widows that meet on the third Tuesday of each month for camaraderie and fellowship. Join us this Tuesday, December 17th at 4PM in Utopia Hall. If you have any questions, please call Carmela at 216-952-2237.



II - Hannah Verba & Brandon Plaza (STM)



Baby Elijah, Domenica Basich, Albert Becerra, Barbara Behlke, Michael Bogucki, Robert Bonus, Jr., Dennis Bunday, Avianna Burgos, Nancy Butler, Michael C., Tracey Carlisle & Toni, Carole Deighton, Rosie DeJesus, Christine DeMarco, Diana & Greg Downes, Sharon Erich, Tom Erich, Dave Finohr, Patricia Foerster, Edward Frantz, Norma Gademer, Judy Gallagher, Kevin T. Gallagher, Joanne Hallick, Sara Hardy, Ruth Hargis, Mary Beth Hayet, John Hearn, Bobby Hengood, Ed & Dianne Hlavacek, Bryan Jaworski, Dorothy Kashary, Francine Kawentel, Jesse Kazimer, Betty Konopka, Melissa Korhely, Al Lada, Joe Lawrence, Joyce Lewarchick, Richard Lewis, Lucy Magyar, Dale Mathews & family, Michael McClelland, Jane McClure, Rev. Joseph McNulty, Dreama Mecklenburg, Sandra Mellon, Vinny Mercurio, Gail Michal, Dan Misch, Ethelle Mirande, Lillian Mooney, Rafaela Morales, Barb Mundson, Josalynn Murray, Maryann Nicholas, Joan O'Neil, Lyndsey P., Jack Palumbo, Jean Palumbo, Jim Palumbo, Jodi Palumbo, Pat Palumbo, Tino Perez, Betty (Gruntkowski) Popow, Dawn Patel, Ronald Patten, Vinny Rini, Paula Ritter, Mike Sekerak, Susan Sidley, Elaine Smet, Mary Sparks, Margie & Don Spritz & family, Jennifer Stancato, Gerri Strodtbeck, Sean Szill, Joy Turner, Julianna Turner, Sam Urban, Mary Weinstock & family, Leroy & Patricia Werley, Norma Westrick, Jan Woytek, Marian Zawadzki & Phyllis Zindroski. **Please call the rectory by noon on Monday to add a name to the list. Names will remain on the list until you call to have them removed.**

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Women and men religious offer gratitude. "Sincere thanks to the donors of the Retirement Fund for Religious. I hope we meet, if not in this world, then in the next," says Sister Teresa Korycka, 81, of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. Your gift impacts over 24,000 senior women and men religious, providing them a dignified retirement. To learn how your donation helps, visit retiredreligious.org.

THANK GOD IT'S FIRST FRIDAY - WEST

An inter-parish men's group will meet January 3, 2025 for a First Friday luncheon at St. Clarence Church. Registration begins at 11:15AM, followed by the luncheon, then an inspirational talk, and concludes with Mass. Please call George Perz at 440-937-6606 by Tuesday, December 31st to make a reservation. Cost is \$16.00



IN REMEMBRANCE

Please remember in your prayers Karen DiRienzo, Deacon Neal J. Novak, and Teddy Foster. God grant them eternal rest.

ARTS & ENVIRONMENT

Do you like to decorate your house for the holidays? How about joining the Arts & Environment Committee and come help us decorate the Lord's house! If you are interested, please call the rectory.

ANY CROCHETERS OUT THERE?

We are looking for anyone interested in crocheting baby blankets for the parish. We give them to our newly baptized. If you are interested, please call the rectory.

NOVEMBER MEMORIAL CANDLES

If you purchased a Memorial Candle, please know that they are available to take home. They are on a table behind the sanctuary in the church.

ANNUAL MEMORIAL CANDLES

In the month of November, we remembered our beloved dead. Why not remember them the whole year round? Memorial Candles for 2025 are now available. The cost is \$220 for the year, \$210 if you return your November candle or \$110 for six months. Forms are available at the rectory or on our website.

THANK YOU!!!

Thanks to your generosity, our #weGiveCatholic campaign raised \$28,215.30 on Giving Tuesday. As you know these funds will be used to make much-needed repairs to the rectory. In the meantime, please accept a big THANK YOU from our pastor, Fr. John Schneider, our school principal, Meg Cosgriff, and the entire St. Thomas More staff.

Below are the list of winners from the #weGiveCatholic drawings:

\$50.00 Amazon Gift Card: Catherine Kowalski
 \$50.00 Giant Eagle Gift Card: Yael Timock
 \$20.00 GetGo Gift Card: Joseph Wright
 \$20.00 Target Gift Card: Efrain Ramos
 \$20.00 Coldstone Gift Card: Mary Margevicius
 \$20.00 Panera Gift Card: Kevin & Dorothy McCarthy
 \$20.00 Various Restaurants Gift Card: An Nguyen

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 2, 2025 for next year's #weGiveCatholic campaign.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

Fifth grade has been very busy these past few months! The fifth grade class completed a unit on Long Division and they showed great perseverance. When a classmate would say, "I cannot do this", someone would say, "You cannot do this yet!". This class has truly embraced a Growth Mindset and always lift each other up. We also have some classmates who enjoy tutoring others in Math! When a student finishes their work, I am always asked if they can help someone who is struggling. The fifth grade class is building a positive environment with each other where they know it is okay to make mistakes and someone will always be there to help.

To end our unit on Long Division, the fifth grade had to save Thanksgiving dinner! "The Thanksgiving Thwarter" locked up Thanksgiving dinner in the oven and it was up to them to save dinner! Students were put into teams and had to complete five different Long Division puzzles in order to unlock the oven. Through their perseverance, teamwork, and dedication, they were able to solve each puzzle and save dinner!

It has been a great start to the year and I cannot wait to see how else this class grows.



Ms. Madison Hangauer
4th/5th Grade Math, Science, and Social Studies



Congratulations and welcome
Aaron Eugene Ouadba who was baptized
on December 8th. God bless you!

WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 21/22

MASS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS	SERVERS	CELEBRANT
4:30 PM	Steve Cottos Abbey Eichenmiller Sheryl Finohr Jill Parks	Blake Liebert Mary Lou LoBue		Rev. John Schneider
9:00 AM	Dolores Hules Aidan Cepek Nathan Noga Terri Sozio	Jessica Noga Al Margevicius	Noah Redloske Parker Redloske	Rev. Don Snyder
11:00 AM	Patty Riegling Marty Rini Joyce Stutzman Joanne Uhl	Madelyn Koranda	Danny Coughlin Alexia Torres	Rev. John Schneider

St. Thomas More Church

Brooklyn, OH 44144

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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Emily Blaich

SECRETARY: Dawn Thomas

REGISTRATION

Persons who live within parish boundaries should be properly registered. This includes all students in high school and college. Register by calling the rectory or fill out the new parishioner registration form on our website. If you move out of the parish, please notify the rectory.

BAPTISMS

Fourth Sunday of the Month. Time: TBD. 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

Marriages should be arranged with a priest by calling the rectory 8 months prior to the wedding date. Individual conferences, plus attendance at a pre-marriage program, are required for proper preparation.

ST. LEO THE GREAT

Tickets for the 2025 Great Sweepstakes are available. \$30 gets a chance to win multiple times! The drawings are held from January 1, 2025 - November 10, 2025. Please call the rectory office at 216-661-1006 or visit their website at www.leothegreat.org.

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE

MQP will be hosting a Catholic Movie Night on Sunday, December 15th. The movie, "Joyeux Noel" (2005) is FREE in the Parish Center Upper Hall and it starts promptly at 6PM. Dollar concessions available! Mark your calendar for January 12, 2025 to watch "On the Waterfront" (1954).

ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO

Join us in the Merici Chapel on Thursday, December 19th at 7:45PM for the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. We gather on the third Thursday of each month where The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be chanted. Questions? Please contact Michael Coyle at michael-coyle685@gmail.com.

LORD JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!

WEEKLY CONTENT GUIDE

First Reading:

The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness. (Zep 3:17)

Psalm:

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel. (Is 12:6)

Second Reading:

The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. (Phil 4:5-6)

Gospel:

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" (Lk 3:10)

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 15, 2024

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Friday: Is7:10-14/Ps24:1-2,3-4ab,5-6/Lk1:26-38
Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

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MISSION STATEMENT

We, the faith community of St. Thomas More, a Roman Catholic Church in Brooklyn, Ohio, are centered in the celebration of the Eucharist. By following the actions and teachings of Jesus Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we strive to build God's kingdom.

We seek to:

- ❖ Celebrate God's presence in the Eucharist, his work, and the community.
- ❖ Pass on our faith and tradition.
- ❖ Strengthen, love, and support all of God's people.
- ❖ Nurture our gifts and share them with others.
- ❖ Invite and welcome all who are in need of God.