



# St. Thomas More Parish

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

## Stay Connected



[stmparish.net](http://stmparish.net)



[stthomasmoreparish](https://www.facebook.com/stthomasmoreparish)

## 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 - 6:45pm

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

### Confessions

Saturday - 3pm until 4pm

### Rectory Hours

Monday-Friday

9am - 4pm



## St. Thomas More School

Enrolling PreSchool thru 8th Grade

Nicole Dykstra - Principal

216-749-1660 | [stmschool.com](http://stmschool.com)

## Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Feldtz

Administrator

Deacon Don Brandt

Permanent Deacon

Deacon Charles Zawadzki

Retired Permanent Deacon

Rev. James Vesely

Pastor Emeritus

Sr. Jane Reisinger, SND

Pastoral Associate

Lisa Carson

Office Manager

Melissa Wensing

Business Manager

Alex Ulle

Music Director

Terri Sozio

Religious Education

Jeff Stutzman

Youth Minister

Join our email list at [stmparish.net/email](http://stmparish.net/email) | Flocknote texting list by sending STMORE to 84576



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 –  
VIGIL**

\*4:30PM - Richard McClelland & Darlene Waters

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 –  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9:00AM - People of the Parish

11:00AM - Beneficiaries & Past Parishioners  
of St. Thomas More

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 13 –  
ST. LUCY**

8:15AM - All Souls' Intentions

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 –  
ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS**

6:45PM - Holy Name Society

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15 –  
ADVENT WEEKDAY**

8:15AM - Chris & Dorothy Lewis (Living)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16 –  
ADVENT WEEKDAY**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17 –  
LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY**

8:15AM - Dorothy Masek - Student Liturgy

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 –  
LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY**

8:15AM - December Birthdays

1:00 PM - Gorczyca/Fallon Wedding

\*4:30PM - Jan Loya

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 –  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

\*9:00AM - Joseph Marganski

11:00AM - People of the Parish

\*Mass of Remembrance

## Financial Blessings

Collection for December 5th.....	\$5,819.00
Maintenance.....	\$2,474.00
75th Anniversary.....	\$140.00

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.



III- Allison Gorczyca (St. Thomas More) &  
Ryan Fallon (St. Thomas More)

### 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 4:6)

**Gospel:**

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

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## VIRUS PREVENTION

Please follow the latest directives from the Diocese: it is **highly** recommended that masks be worn. If you are not feeling well, please stay home. Please distance yourself as you process up to receive Communion as well as in the pews. Thank you for doing your part to keep everyone safe and healthy.

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Stephanie Liebert

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 or by calling the rectory. 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 8 months prior to the wedding date. Individual conferences, plus attendance at a pre-marriage program, are required for proper preparation.

## FROM THE CORNER OFFICE...

“**REJOICE!**” Again, I say “**REJOICE!**” The whole idea of the *Third Week of Advent* is to **Re-joyce**... Now, having said that, let’s go back to last week’s question, “*Are we ready?*” or even the deeper question, “*Are you Loving it?*” Be honest now.... Is that Catholic guilt kicking in (?) and you find yourself saying, “**NO! I’m NOT loving it!**” and “**NO, I can’t Rejoice!**” We are good at beating ourselves up, especially during the holiday season. But God is calling us to **REJOICE** this week and *sloooooow down*.

The readings for the week from *Zephaniah* and **St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians** both talk about rejoicing. I know that I have to smirk when someone reminds me to REJOICE! I just smirk and say, “*Yes, inside it’s like Mardi Gras and I’m really doing cartwheels...*” But, let’s look at **John the Baptist** in **Luke’s Gospel** reading. He tells us to share and serve others, and that is what gets me excited. BE sure to slow down these next few weeks, take time to “**Rejoice**” even deep inside of yourself and share with others. This will be another crazy year with everything happening, but as a family of faith, we’ll get through it all together, **REJOICING**...

Fr. Mike

### **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary thoughts:**

This week, as we move forward into the final weeks of Advent and the calendar year, I want to be sure to (again & **AGAIN**) thank all of you for your generous donations and support to the parish. There are many who support the parish financially which helps to pay the bills and salaries, and there are those who support the parish & school with their time, working & volunteering. *We would not have the parish family or faith that we have now, if it was not for all of you.* The school would not be where it is now without your strong support and assurances to keep things running as a ministry for our young people and their families. **Thank you!**

**On another note**, please be mindful of the “calling together” of the Church and Diocese, and then even to the parish level. The Holy Father and the Bishops are calling everyone together for the “**Synod on Synodality**” As the Diocese states: *The entire People of God, in all its diversity, is invited to participate in the upcoming Synod which will focus on the three pillars of a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission.* Please stay tuned, as we will be planning to have our own parish synod (meeting) to talk and then present our findings to the Bishop from the family of St. Thomas More.

## TRAVELING MADONNA

This week the statue is at the home of:

**Marty & Jean Rini.**

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 2022. We still have weeks available in January, 2022.**

## 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)*

## VOCATION CORNER

**Lay vocations - young people discerning married or single life**

Please keep all those discerning a vocation, whether it be a lay or religious vocation, in your prayers as we continue to pray for vocations.

## 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.

## RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

Thank you for your donations to the St. Mary Recycle Mission Group. Those items have been picked up and we are no longer collecting these items. Tilma in Berea accepts used religious articles. You can check out their website at <https://tilma.weebly.com> or give them a call at 440-243-1060.



**Thank You!**

We would like to thank Friar Johnpaul Cafiero and Sister Mary Ann Spangler for helping us prepare our hearts this Advent season with their presentations. We would also like to thank the Women’s Guild for their help with the lunches for these events. God bless you all!



Hania Alkhatib, Theodore Antrum, Jack Baker, Albert Becerra, Frank Bielski, Michael Bogucki, Avianna Burgos, Nancy Butler, Jonathan Cehelnik, Minh Chau & Tai Nguyen, Jeremy Cheetham, Carol Cushler, Elizabeth DeLeon, Diana Downes, Sharon Erich, Maureen Finneran, Yolanda G., Norma Gademer, Ruth & Joseph Giaco, Alice Gruden, Andy Guelker, Mila Haun, Bobby Hengoed, Ed Hengoed, Sr., Alex Hogan, Ida Jean Hopkins, Sr. Ignatius Jones, SIW, Mick Jones, Doris Kaczmarek, Ava Kaspar-Hernandez, Joe Kastelic, Jesse Kazimer, Melissa Korhely, Joan Kremser, Joyce Krist, Jessica Kuhar, Raymond Kuhar, Helen Kuhel, Martha & George Kysil, Maggie Leonardo, Robert Loria, Paul & Bobbi Matysiak, Sandy Meade, Vinny Mercurio, John Misch, Mills & Lillian Mooney, Rafaela Morales, Dave Muran, Jack Murphy, Josalyn Murray, Bill Newton, Keshia Newton, Jean Palumbo, Jim Palumbo, Joanne Palumbo, Jodi Palumbo, Pam Palumbo, Victor Piskor, Mary Ellen Popovich, Dennis Powers, Sr., Ed Readence, Paula Ritter, Diane Rodes, Bob & Audrey Roginsky, Mary Ryba, Mike Sekerak, Baby Sienna, Alexis Simecek, Memphis Charles & Myles David Sparks, Special Intention, Jennifer Stancato, Karen Syroka, Debbie Tomusko, Joy Turner, William Udics, Joseph Valencik, Jim Viets, Leroy Werley, Patricia Werley, Erica Wilmot, Robert Wittine, Betty Wozniak and Marian Zawadzki.

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.



Please remember  
James Crowley, Aurora Pelleschi, Michael Beres,  
Dorothy Castrigano, Jesse Boggs  
and Rose Marie Sutton  
in your prayers. God grant them eternal rest.

### 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.



# Cluster Corner

**MARY QUEEN OF PEACE: 216-749-2323**

**Mobile Food Pantry** - The next Mobile Food Pantry is on Saturday, December 18th from 9 - 11am in the church parking lot. All you need is some sort of identification.

**ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO: 440-884-3030**

**Chaplet of Divine Mercy** - The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be chanted in the Merici Chapel after the 7pm Mass on Thursday, December 16th.

**ST. LEO THE GREAT: 216-661-1006**

**Holy Land Pilgrimage** - Trinity Tour Travels: The Holy Land Pilgrimage - May 16 - May 25, 2022. Cost is \$3,400 and includes: airfare, 5 star hotels, Catholic tour guide, 2 meals a day, entry fees to all sites, and air conditioned motor coaches. For more information please visit [trinitytourtravels.com](http://trinitytourtravels.com) or call the rectory.

### PARISH CENSUS

Last call for the Parish Census. Please fill one out if you have not done so yet.

### ALL FAITHS PANTRY

Old Brooklyn/Brooklyn area Seniors (60+ years old with limited incomes). You may qualify to have ALL FAITHS PANTRY volunteers deliver groceries at no charge. Call 216-496-4329 to see if you qualify. To learn more about AFP, donate, or find out how to volunteer, check us out at [allfaithspantry.org](http://allfaithspantry.org) or find us on Facebook.



### Readings for the week of December 12, 2021

- Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 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 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
- Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
- Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30
- Friday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
- Saturday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
- 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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## ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL MEET THE TEACHERS

### Emily Viskocil

Meet Miss V! She's the new 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher this year. This is her third year teaching. In addition to teaching, she spends her summers nannying.



In her free time she enjoys relaxing and being around friends and family. She has two cats at home, Mallow and Shadow. She's excited to begin traveling again, to continuing checking things off her bucket list. Miss V loves being here at STM with the staff and students creating a family like atmosphere.

## SISTERS OF THE INCARNATE WORD

**ANNUAL RAFFLE** - The Sisters of the Incarnate Word Annual Raffle is underway. Tickets are \$5 each and the GRAND PRIZE is \$10,000! The drawing will be held on Friday, February 4, 2022. Tickets may be purchased from any Incarnate Word student or by going online at [www.incarnatewordorder.org](http://www.incarnatewordorder.org) and selecting "Raffle Tickets." If you would like additional information, please call Sharron in the Sisters' Development Office at 440-886-6440, ext. 415.

**HOUSEKEEPING POSITION** - Sisters of the Incarnate Word in Parma Heights has a part-time housekeeping position open, Monday - Friday, 5 hours a day. Inquiries please contact Sr. Carol Tobler, SIW at [sctobler.incarnatewordorder@yahoo.com](mailto:sctobler.incarnatewordorder@yahoo.com) or 440-886-6440, ext. 403.



**Retirement Fund  
for Religious**

**Please give to those who have given a lifetime.**

**Please donate at your local parish or by mail at:**

National Religious Retirement Office

3211 Fourth Street NE

Washington DC 20017-1194

Make check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.

[retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org)

Visit [retiredreligious.org/2021photos](http://retiredreligious.org/2021photos) to meet the religious pictured.  
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## WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild will hold its annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 14th at 11am in Utopia Hall. Chicken will be provided. Please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert. Our guest will be from Largely Literary Theatre Company. Please bring a \$5-\$10 (unwrapped or bagged) gift for our gift exchange.

## THE CHOSEN

Join us this Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 3pm for a presentation of the movie:

CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHOSEN  
"THE MESSENGER"

"A Christmas story of the birth of Jesus through the eyes of Mary and Joseph"

You'll also see an extraordinary lineup of musicians perform both new and classic Christmas songs Phil Wickham, For King & Country, Brandon Lake, Cain, Matt Maher, Jordan Feliz.

## FAITH FORMATION

Hello Friends,

So much is going on right now in this time of Advent as we prepare the way of the Lord. With our PSR students we are starting our class by lighting the Advent candle and learning about the meaning of this season.

We all can get caught up in the hustle and bustle although we need to listen to our hearts. Jesus has something to say to us and we need to take that quiet time to listen. This is such a time for hope, peace and love as He brings joy into our lives. Let us ask God to help us prepare our hearts for His coming and to aid us in having a good and holy Advent.

God's love and blessings to all!

Terri Sozio

Religious Education

## ANNUAL MEMORIAL CANDLES

In the month of November, we remembered our beloved dead. Why not remember them the whole year round? Memorial Candles for 2022 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 or on our website.

## ADVENT GIVING TREE

St. Thomas More will once again look to provide a merry Christmas to families in need from the community. Gift tags are available in the vestibules of the church for the "Advent Giving Tree." Just like last year, we will be collecting gift cards to distribute during the holiday season.

Please return the gift card with the tag attached in the collection basket during Mass or to the rectory office by Sunday, December 12th. If you know of a family in the parish or community that may need some assistance, please contact the rectory during business hours for consideration.

## “YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH”

The Year of St. Joseph concluded on December 8, 2021.

### PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome (here make your request).

My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen.

(This prayer, from a 19th-century French prayer book, has been recited by Pope Francis every day for more than 40 years (cf. Patris Corde, <sup>†</sup>10).

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage and defend us from every evil. Amen.

(<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph.html>)

### **CHASTE GUARDIAN OF VIRGINS AND PILLAR OF FAMILIES**

Due to his chastity and vocation, Joseph has further been entrusted to continue his mission of guarding the pure ones of God and of the integrity of the family. This power flows through him now as a reward of his perfect fidelity. All religious and families should have recourse to this most powerful intercessor.

(<https://yearofstjoseph.org/resources/virtues-of-st-joseph/>)

### 2021 CHRISTMASTIDE SCHEDULE

**Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve**

4:00 pm Afternoon Vigil

12:00 Midnight Vigil

**Saturday, December 25 - Christmas Day**

9:00 am - 11:00 am

(There will be no 4:30pm vigil Mass for December 26th)

**Friday, December 31- New Year's Eve**

4:30 pm Vigil Mass

**Saturday, January 1, 2022 –**

**New Year's Day**

**Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

9:00 am

## YEAR-END GIVING

In this season of giving, consider making a year-end gift to our parish in gratitude for all the blessings you have received in life. As you plan to make the most of your charitable donations in 2021, know that we gratefully accept gifts of cash and appreciated assets such as stocks or bonds. We wanted to take this time to remind you of some important CARES Act provisions that are scheduled to expire at year's end. These provisions may affect you - and even make it easier for you to make a gift to your parish. They include:

An expanded charitable giving incentive that allows taxpayers who take the standard deduction to make up to \$300 in charitable cash contributions for single filers (\$600 for married couples) to qualified charities like ours this year.

For those who do not itemize their deductions, the law allows for cash contributions to qualified charities such as ours to be deducted up to 100% of your adjusted gross income for the 2021 calendar year.

And if you are 70 1/2 or older, you may be able to make a gift of a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA that will help us in our ministry and reduce your taxable income. Talk to your advisors and IRA administrator for more information and to be sure that your IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution gift is made directly from an IRA to a qualified charity such as our parish. Questions? Contact Fr. Mike in our parish office at 216-749-0414 or via email at [rectory@stmparish.net](mailto:rectory@stmparish.net). You are also welcome to contact Jean Ann Montagna of the Catholic Community Foundation at 216-696-6525 x8070.

Thank you and God bless you for your continued generosity to our parish!



### 2021 ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturdays from 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Tuesday, December 14th and 21st  
from 6:00 - 6:30pm

### CHRISTMAS RECTORY HOURS

Please note the rectory hours during the holidays:  
12/24/21 – Open from 9am-12pm

Closed Monday, December 27th through  
Friday, December 31st