

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

Liz Schneider
Business Manager

Lisa Carson
Office Manager

John Mastandrea
Development

Frank Kozuch
Music Director

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 13 – VIGIL

*4:30 PM - Frank Patalini

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 AM - People of the Parish

*11:00 AM - Regina Dayton

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15 – ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:15 AM - Memorial Garden

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16 – ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:45 PM - Jan Woytek

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17 – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:15 AM -

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:15 AM - John Skubie

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20 – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:15 AM - Lillian Mooney

*4:30 PM - Danny Fedak

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*9:00 AM - Donald Stopa

11:00 AM - People of the Parish

*Mass of Remembrance



Financial Blessings

Collection for December 7th \$5,593.45
Maintenance \$4,352.00
Student's Weekly Offering (24 Envelopes) ... \$145.00

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

PARISHSOFT - FAITH DIRECT

Faith Direct is now ParishSoft. You can log in at giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/FD-684.

Have questions? Please call ParishSoft Customer Service at 866-930-4774 option 6.

THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

Monday, December 15

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

6:30 PM Christmas Concert - Church

Tuesday, December 16

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Friends Supporting Friends -
Utopia Hall

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

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

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

Wednesday, December 17

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

Thursday, December 18

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

Friday, December 19

1:00 PM School Dismissal

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

HOLY LAND CARVINGS

This has been postponed until the weekend of January 17th & 18th.

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 16th at 4pm in Utopia Hall. If you have any questions, please call Carmela at 216-952-2237.

2026 MASS INTENTIONS

The Mass book for 2026 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.**



SUNDAY'S HYMNS 12/14

Processional Hymn: #68

Maranatha

Offertory Hymn: #378

Bread of Angels

Communion: #46

A Voice Cries Out

Closing: #39

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

The Lord be with you! Just as we went over Luther's theology last week, today we take a more in depth look at John Calvin's thought. Double predestination is perhaps the worst heresy of all time. Let's find out why.

Although Martin Luther and John Calvin disputed the Church's understanding of grace, they came at the issue from very different viewpoints. Whereas Luther reduced salvation to the mere remission of sins, Calvin introduced a whole new element: salvation of the elect. Calvin taught that not everyone is saved by Christ but only a few. For Calvin those who are not saved are actually damned by God from all eternity.

Christians have long referred to those saved as "the elect" and those condemned as "reprobates." The Church has always affirmed, however, that God wills every single human being to be saved. At the same time the Church acknowledges that some will not be saved *by their own choice*. This doctrine is known as single predestination because God has desired from eternity to save everyone through Jesus Christ. It is God's active Will that everyone seeks and receives His Forgiveness. It is God's permissive will to allow those who reject this offer to burn in hell. In other words, God wants everyone to be in the elect but allows some to end up through their personal sins to be reprobates.

John Calvin saw things very differently. He argued that God being omnipotent must will the individual salvation or condemnation of each soul. God has picked some souls to be saved and some to burn. Accordingly, the Church has called his thinking "Double Predestination" and condemned it as heresy.

For Calvin, however, God picking some to be saved implied that their behavior and status would show them to be saved. In other words, if someone acts like a saint and is rewarded like a saint would be on earth, he is an elect. Calvin could then discern if someone is damned by how he acts on earth and by how God has arranged that person's life. He reasoned that business and worldly success are signs of being saved because God would not mistreat His friends. This naive view of sainthood enabled the followers of Calvin to create strict codes of conduct for their membership.

The worse part of this heresy is that it makes God vindictive and cruel. Instead of a loving Father seeking to save us all, God acts capriciously in electing and condemning for no discernible reason. Moreover, since salvation has external signs, people who believe Calvin can quickly become obsessed with those signs. Calvin did not mean for wealth and success to be goals, but he created a religion that makes them into virtues to be sought. We know that God loves all of us - even sinners. May we never forget that His Mercy is for all.

In His Sacred Heart,
Fr. John

TRAVELING MADONNA

This week the statue is at the home of:
Paul & Mary Lou LoBue.

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 2026.**

SAINT QUOTE

"He who loves Our Lord Jesus Christ must desire to be with Him...the more we conform ourselves to His example the more perfect will be our lives."

Blessed Anthony Grassi (1592-1671),
Priest,
Feast Day: December 18

(Bulletin Quote provided by AZ Quotes; www.azquotes.com)

SEMINARIAN OF THE MONTH

Andrew Bendahan
St. Luke,
Lakewood
Discipleship II, Borromeo



Please keep Andrew 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.

OPLATKI

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



PRAYER REQUESTS

Baby Elijah, Baby Juliet, Baby Kevin, Donna Baker, Albert Becerra, Barbara Behlke, Michael J. Bogucki, Robert Bonus, Jr., Daniel Breen, Avianna Burgos, Nancy Butler, Traci Kelber-Byrne, Michael C., Janet Call, John Callahan, Tracey Carlisle & Toni, Harper Lee & Leslee Godwin Crum, Lori Curry, Lisa Cwalinski, Barb Davis, Rosie DeJesus, Diana & Greg Downes, Sharon Erich, Tom Erich, Dave Finohr, Patricia Foerster, Norma Gademer, Tina Galaida, Judy Gallagher, Joel Gorski, Monica Gribb, Joanne Hallick, Sara Hardy, Ruth Hargis, Mary Beth Hayet, John Hearn, Bobby Hengood, Eddie Hengood, Jr., Pat H., Ed & Dianne Hlavacek, Michel Howe, Barbara Hughes, Margaret Ann Jablonski, Joshua, Joan Kalal, Francine Kawentel, Jesse Kazimer, Freddy Kinsey, Betty Konopka, Melissa Korhely, Shirley Kowall, Janice Kuchar, Al Lada, Richard Lewis, Lucy Magyar, Luigi Mangione, Jane McClure, Rev. Joseph McNulty, Vinny Mercurio, Gail Michal, Dan Misch & Christine DeMarco, Rafaela Morales, Shirley Mulmall, Josalynn Murray, Bridget Nnabugwu, Chuck Nohejl, Ellen Omilanowski, Jack Palumbo, Jean Palumbo, Jim Palumbo, Jodi Palumbo, Pat Palumbo, Peggy Palumbo, Kenny Parks, Betty (Gruntkowski) Popow, Jim Popow, Ronald Patten, Vinny Rini, Paula Ritter, Judy Romaniw, Michael S., Janet Sekerak, Mike Sekerak, Susan Sidley, Elaine Smet, Special Intention, Margie & Don Spitz & family, Jennifer Stancato, Sean Szill, Joy Turner, Juliana Turner, Kevin Vest, Tom Wenderoth, Leroy & Patricia Werley, Norma Westrick, Kathy Yomack & family, Evie Zalar, Marian Zawadzki & Phyllis Zindroski.

Please call the rectory by noon on Monday to add a name to the list.



IN REMEMBRANCE

Please remember in your prayers
Regina Dayton, Danny Fedak,
Stanislawa Frankowicz, Donald Stopa,
and Clarence Smith.
God grant them eternal rest.

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank Ripepi & Zabor Funeral Homes for the beautiful 2025 calendars. Calendars are available at all church entrances and at the rectory.



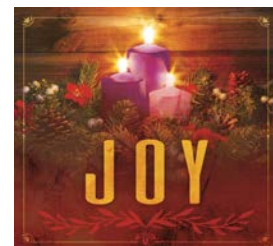
2025 ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturdays from 3:30-4:15 PM

Tuesday, December 16th from 6-6:30pm.

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.



WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 20/21

MASS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS	SERVERS	CELEBRANT
4:30 PM	Steve Cottos Terri Cottos Nina Ferguson Jill Parks	Sheryl Finohr Tim Lozar	Blake Liebert Amy Vu	Fr. John Schneider
9:00 AM	Nathan Noga Chris Koch Dolores Hules Jessica Noga	Jaclene Zauszniewski Mary Lou LoBue	Holly Roberts Chase Gerlach	Fr. Don Snyder
11:00 AM	Marty Rini Bernie Barker Linda Rafferty Patty Riegling	Madelyn Koranda Barbara Kish	Danny Coughlin Amelia Nieves	Fr. John Schneider



Congratulations to
Hannah Wiltsie & Vincent Carson
who were married at St. Thomas More
on December 5th.
May God bless you both!

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION

They gave their lives in service - now they need your help. For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation - it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

ANNUAL MEMORIAL CANDLES

In the month of November, we remembered our beloved dead. Why not remember them the whole year round? Memorial Candles for 2026 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.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations and welcome
Heavenly Rose Barbich,
Alaia Addelyn Peña Caridad,
Franklin Steven Crusset Caridad,
Caleb Cole Myers, and Finnegan Drake Myers
who were baptized on November 30th.
God bless you!

2025 #WEGIVECATHOLIC

Thank You #weGiveCatholic Supporters!

We extend a huge thank you to everyone who participated in our #weGiveCatholic campaign on Giving Tuesday, December 2nd! Your incredible generosity helps us take a significant step toward beautifying our church and upgrading our confessionals!

We are still calculating the final total and compiling the list of all our raffle winners. Look for the official final fundraising amount and the announcement of all raffle winners in next weekend's bulletin! Thank you again for making our campaign a success!

BLOOD DRIVE

**at St. Elias Melkite Catholic Church
8023 Memphis Ave Brooklyn, OH 44144**



**Saturday January 10th, 2026
8 am to 2 pm**

Pick Your Donation Time Slot →

Walk-Ins are Welcome



Donor gifts available first come first serve basis, limited supply.



ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Many thanks to all who donated to the Angel Scholarship Fund for the 2024 tax year. The contributions that St. Thomas More School received will provide tuition assistance for our students.



Donations made by April 15, 2026 are eligible for the 2025 state tax credit. Help us to continue to raise more scholarship funding to support our students. Contribution forms can be found at the rectory or online at CatholicCommunity.org/angel-contribution.

CHRISTMAS CASH

Congratulations to the following Christmas Cash winners:

11/27 - Joe Godley
11/28 - Jo Lynn Kidd
11/29 - Alberto Lopez
11/30 - Paul & Paula Schoch
12/1 - Rhiannon Kado
12/2 - Jack Alexander
12/3 - Chris Hecker
12/4 - Sharon Campbell
12/5 - Jose Lozada, Jr.
12/6 - Carri Root
12/7 - Inge Curran
12/8 - Cassandra Aiken

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

The sixth grade class attended a leadership academy through the Brooklyn City Schools. During their experience, the students were engaged in activities that challenged them to expand their knowledge of how to develop leadership skills. The academy is a year-long project that has the students examining the school community to think of an area that could be strengthened to improve the school environment for all. The students are in the process of developing teams and brainstorming ideas for this project. The challenge will allow students to collaborate with teachers, administrators, classmates, and each other to become greater leaders in their knowledge and belief in themselves.

By providing an opportunity like the leadership academy to our students, we are able to find ways that our students can serve the community of St. Thomas More and the surrounding neighborhood. This sixth grade class has shown great leadership so far this school year by bringing in 2,050 items for this year's food drive! Their leadership led the school in total items collected by a class. They have shown what leadership in action means and we as a school community can't wait to see what this group of leaders will bring to the St. Thomas More community!



God bless,
Mr. Adam W. Cottos