

# ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH



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



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



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



[STMoreParish](https://www.instagram.com/STMoreParish)



Join our email list at [stmparish.net/email](http://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](http://stmschool.com)



## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6 – VIGIL

4:30 PM - People of the Parish

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

\*9:00 AM - Patrick Huff

\*11:00 AM - Donald & Maria Nunney

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 – THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8:15 AM - Mary Margaret & Richard John Vanza

6:45 PM - Mother's Day Enrollment

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 – ST. JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATZIN

6:45 PM - Bob Poole

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 – OUR LADY OF LORETO

8:15 AM - Thomas Howard

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11 – ST. DAMASUS I

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 – OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

8:15 AM - Women's Guild

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 – ST. LUCY

8:15 AM - Jan Woytek

\*4:30 PM - Frank Patalini

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 AM - People of the Parish

\*11:00 AM - Regina Dayton

\*Mass of Remembrance

# Financial Blessings

Collection for November 23rd .....	\$2,892.00
Maintenance .....	\$565.00
Student's Weekly Offering (9 Envelopes) .....	\$89.00
Collection for November 30th .....	\$2,981.00
Maintenance .....	\$470.00
Student's Weekly Offering (16 Envelopes) .....	\$63.00
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](http://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 8 NO ATHLETICS

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE *Blessed Virgin Mary*

### Tuesday, December 9

11:30 AM Women's Guild Meeting - 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 - School

### Wednesday, December 10

12:00 PM 60+ Club - Queen of the Holy Rosary  
Shrine at Incarnate Word

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

### Thursday, December 11

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

### Friday, December 12

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

### Saturday, December 13

2nd Collection - Religious Retirement Fund

### Sunday, December 14

2nd Collection - Religious Retirement Fund

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Breakfast with Santa - Gym



### SUNDAY'S HYMNS 12/7

**Processional Hymn:** #41

On Jordan's Bank

**Offertory Hymn:** #60

Comfort, Comfort, O My People

**Communion:** #305

Gather the People

**Closing:** #63

Ready the Way

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 12/8

**Processional Hymn:** #464

Christ Be Our Light

**Offertory Hymn:** #695

Holy Is His Name

**Communion:** #702

Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

**Closing:** #210

Hail, Holy Queen



## FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

The Lord be with you! Today we examine Martin Luther's key propositions about Faith, Sanctifying Grace, and Divine Revelation. Although Luther rightly highlighted the centrality of Grace, he misunderstood what God intended to achieve through it.

As mentioned a few weeks ago, Martin Luther proposed that grace alone (*sola gratia*) saved. The Church has always affirmed that human beings are saved by the gift of grace. Luther argued, however, that human salvation consisted only in the acceptance of Christ as Savior and nothing else. In other words Luther holds that grace remits the punishment of sin without changing human nature or the person's fundamental relationship with God. His most famous example is that grace is like snow covering up a piece of dung: God sees Christ (the pure snow) and ignores the vile excrement (us). Grace has achieved a legal but not a real remission of sin for Martin Luther.

If grace does not remove humanity's actual sinfulness, what will humanity be like in Heaven? Luther has no real good answers here. His entire criticism of the Church's theology of grace is that it leaves room for people to reject grace and salvation. Luther wanted a theology that guaranteed once a person accepted Christ he could never go to Hell. To achieve that version he created the contradiction that grace did not remove sin but just allowed God to ignore it.

When the Church condemned Luther's theology, he began attacking the Church's role as guardian of Divine Revelation. The Church has held that Christ revealed God to mankind through Scripture *and* Tradition. Tradition is the lens through which we read Scripture and live it out in our daily lives. Devotions and liturgies help us to experience the Word of God in a living practice (Tradition) that grows and matures over time. Luther, in contrast, argued that Scripture by itself is the Revelation of Christ for each individual without any shared context or community. We certainly want to affirm that the Holy Spirit will move the hearts of individuals through Scripture. God, however, wisely foresaw that people of good will would disagree over the interpretation of various passages. Accordingly, the Church acts as the arbiter and keeps the community together and united.

Perhaps ironically, most Lutherans (and most Protestants for that matter) believe that Faith and Works go together. All Christians have experienced the phenomenon that the more we love God and neighbor, the more our Faith in God grows and vice versa. The Church's theology of merit is our articulation that the soul can and should grow in grace over time. Although only Christ merited in strict justice, all Christians can merit congruously with the saints being the best examples. It is tragic that Luther reduced the scope of grace to mere forgiveness when God's life is the entryway to infinite goodness. May we all desire to grow in God's love.

In His Sacred Heart,  
*Fr. John*



# ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

©LPI

## TRAVELING MADONNA

This week the statue is at the home of:

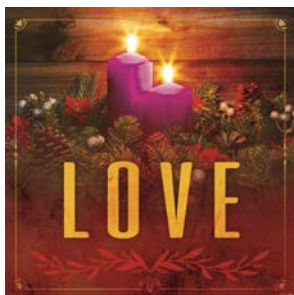
**The Magistro Family.**

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.**

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Father:** O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds. Through Christ Thy Son, our Lord.

**All:** Amen.



## SEMINARIAN OF THE MONTH

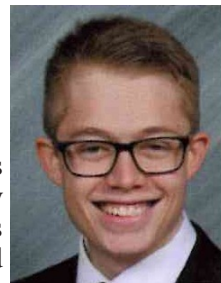
**Andrew Bendahan**

**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.



## SAINT QUOTE

*"The Lord was Baptized, not to be cleansed Himself, but to cleanse the waters, so that those waters, cleansed by the flesh of Christ which knew no sin, might have the power of Baptism."*

St. Ambrose (340-397),

Patron of Candlemakers, Feast Day: December 7

(Bulletin Quote provided by AZ Quotes; [www.azquotes.com](http://www.azquotes.com))



### PRAYER REQUESTS

Baby Elijah, Baby Juliet, Baby Kevin, Donna Baker, Albert Becerra, Barbara Behlke, Michael J. Bogucki, Robert Bonus, Jr., 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, Bill Smith, 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, and Donald Stopa.  
God grant them eternal rest.

### PRE-PLAN FUNERAL INFORMATION

If you are interested in planning your own funeral Mass, please contact the rectory and 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.

### WOMEN'S GUILD

Join us this Tuesday, December 9th for our next meeting. It will be a Christmas Potluck. Please bring a dish to share. We will enjoy a Christmas sing-a-long and a drawing for gift cards. There will be a collection of toiletry items for the St. Vincent de Paul Ozanam Center, Southwest Pantry. Items requested are body wash, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, and toothpaste.

### 60+ CLUB

Please join us to say the rosary at 12pm at the Incarnate Word Shrine (6618 Pearl Road) on Wednesday, December 10th. Lunch at Ichabon on Pearl Road afterward. All are welcome!

### HOLY LAND CARVINGS

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

### WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 13/14

<b>MASS</b>	<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>	<b>LECTORS</b>	<b>SERVERS</b>	<b>CELEBRANT</b>
4:30 PM	David Marks Sheryl Finohr Mary Lou LoBue Nina Ferguson	Wendy Huynh Chet Omilanowski	Noah Nguyen Ainsley French	Fr. Don Snyder
9:00 AM	Jaclene Zauszniewski Jessica Noga Jennifer Mladineo Nathan Noga	Dolores Hules Mike Sommers	Sabriena Smith Chase Gerlach	Fr. John Schneider
11:00 AM	Heather Miksch Madelyn Koranda Carl Krist Sue Poole	Patty Riegling	Geovana Fagher	Fr. Don Snyder

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025



### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 8th, is a Holy Day of Obligation this year as we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Masses on December 8th will be at 8:15am and 6:45pm.

### 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 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.

### WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

All donations are due by this Sunday, December 7th. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### ADVENT GIVING TREE

If you forgot your tags, please return them to the rectory by Tuesday, December 9th.

### THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention this month:

For Christians in areas of conflict - Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

### RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION

**A lifetime of service deserves care in return.** "Thanks to your generosity, we can provide the very best care to the sisters in our community," says Sister M. Stephanie Belgeri, 73, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, Illinois. Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides housing, medical assistance, and essential support for thousands of aging religious. Please consider giving next week.



### 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!

### WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

We recently registered the following at St. Thomas  
More during the month of November -  
Janet Malkowski.

### 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.**

### 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](https://CatholicCommunity.org/angel-contribution).

### CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION

The Catholic Cemeteries Association's next Sunday Grief Support Group will be on Sunday Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>. In-person will meet at 3pm, virtual at 5pm. In a welcoming and supportive setting, find fellowship among others who share their experiences and understand the pain of loss. Meetings are being held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, at no charge to you. Please join us for an hour of listening, healing, and finding comfort with others who understand.

For details, call Renee at 216-930-4866 or visit:  
[www.clecm.org/Events](https://www.clecm.org/Events)  
Virtual – Please register at  
<https://clecm.org/Information/Bereavement.aspx>





## ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

Last month the student activities team did a wonderful job organizing canned goods for our annual food drive. The school collected over 6,100 items and the parish donated over 500 items. It was amazing to see all of the students come together and collect food for those in need in our community.

In academic news, we have been hard at work learning new things. In math, sixth grade just wrapped up a geometry and algebraic expressions unit. Next we are going to be studying fraction and decimal operations. In seventh grade, we finished proportions and are now learning about rational number operations. In eighth grade, we wrapped up transformations on coordinate planes and are now focusing on graphing lines and equations. In science, we are learning about rocks and minerals (grade 6), energy and ecosystems (grade 7) and plate tectonics (grade 8).

Mrs. Stefanie Relic  
Middle School Math/Science Teacher

