

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



THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1 – VIGIL

*4:30 PM - Jeanne M. Parti

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 – THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

*9:00 AM - Madeline Stimac
11:00 AM - People of the Parish

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3 – SS. BLAISE & ANGAR

8:15 AM - Those Suffering Throat Illnesses

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 – WEEKDAY

6:45 PM - Deceased Members of the Sawicki & Harvat Families

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5 – ST. AGATHA

8:15 AM - Women’s Guild

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6 – ST. PAUL MIKI & COMPANIONS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7 – WEEKDAY

8:15 AM - Maryann Blakeley - Student Liturgy

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 – SS. JEROME EMILIANI & JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

8:15 AM - Patricia Ann Werley (Living)
4:30 PM - People of the Parish

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 – FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*9:00 AM - Beverly Ward
*11:00 AM - Rita Babarscik

*Mass of Remembrance

Financial Blessings

Collection for January 26th \$3,813.50
Maintenance \$1,087.00
Student’s Weekly Offering (11 Envelopes) \$47.51

Faith Direct \$1,410.00
Faith Direct Maintenance \$357.00

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

FAITH DIRECT

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

Monday, February 3

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, February 4

9:30 AM Praying the Sunday Readings - Rectory
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Cheer - Gym
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM 5 B BB Practice - Gym
6:30 PM - 7:45 PM PSR - School
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM 5/6 G BB Practice - Gym
8:00 PM - 9:30 PM HS BB Practice - Gym

Wednesday, February 5

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Band Concert - Utopia Hall
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM 3 B BB Practice - Gym
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM 3 G BB Practice - Gym
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM 6 B BB Practice - Gym
8:00 PM PTU Meeting - Utopia Hall
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM HS BB Practice - Gym

Thursday, February 6

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, February 7 National Marriage Week 7-14

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, February 8

Holy Land Carvings in the Main Vestibule in Church
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM PTU Sweetheart Dance - Gym & Utopia Hall

Sunday, February 9 World Marriage Day
Holy Land Carvings in the Main Vestibule in Church
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Confirmation - Mass & Meeting: Church & Utopia Hall

2025 ST. THOMAS MORE FESTIVAL CORNER

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 22nd for our annual Summer Festival.

This year, we will be making a Festival Book! We will be looking for businesses or families to place ads. Any donation will help us defray our costs. More details to come about the Ad Book...

It takes a lot of volunteers to run a festival. Please call the rectory to sign up to help. This week, we are asking for donations of toys/games for prizes for our children’s games or baskets. We will collect them for the next two weeks (until February 9th). All donations can be dropped off at the rectory or in the old baptistery room.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

The Lord be with you, and happy Candlemas! This weekend we celebrate an often forgotten feast: the Presentation of the Lord. Remembering His humility helps us to embrace God's Will in all things.

We know from Luke's Gospel that Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:22-40) as an act of purification. The Law of Moses required that a woman come to the Temple forty days after childbirth to be cleansed of blood impurity (Lv 12). But what is that?

For both Jews and Gentiles the world could be divided into four related but separate categories: pure, impure, sacred, and profane. A pure creature was one in its proper place and not infected by sin or defilement; things were pure by default if they were in their correct place. An impure creature was out of its proper place and could spread its contagion by merely touching anything else. Those with leprosy were considered unclean or impure and could not be with the rest of society. A sacred object or creature was something set aside to be with God and reserved for God, like the Temple. A profane creature or object was anyone or anything that did not belong to God.

The Law of Moses declared that certain actions made people unclean, like having a baby. It would take too much time to explain the nuances of this, but we should remember that being impure did not doom anyone. Being impure did require purification before entering into normal life and especially before entering into the presence of the sacred.

Jesus being presented to God *in the Temple* was not required and is out of place, so to speak. When we call to mind Simeon and Anna's reactions, Christ coming to the Temple is even more out of the ordinary. Luke is contrasting the normal purification of Mary with the extraordinary presentation of Jesus.

Why did Mary and Joseph present Jesus to God in the Temple? Because they knew that Jesus was a priest by nature. They understood that He was God's Son and thus innately holy and should be shown to God in a priestly way. Anna and Simeon's declarations about Jesus demonstrate how well Mary and Joseph had understood God's will and would come to understand it.

We have candles blessed on this day to celebrate Christ coming to enlighten the whole world. For much of our liturgical history, Candlemas ended the Christmas season. The candles symbolize Christ, the true Light of the world casting out darkness and sin. Even if we don't use candles at home or light them in Church, the Presentation reminds us that our souls are to be brightened by the Beloved Son. Just as the prophets longed to see His Face, may we long for His Real Presence. Jesus comes not only to the Temple built by human hands but also into the depths of our souls.

In His Sacred Heart,
Fr. John

SEMINARIAN OF THE MONTH

William Myers
St. Peter
North Ridgeville
Discipleship, Borromeo



Please keep William 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 only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ. I certainly did teach the doctrine of Christ. I thank God it is for this reason I die."

St. Paul Mikki (1564-1597), Martyr, Feast Day: February 6
(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.**

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

We recently registered the following people at St. Thomas
More during the month of **January**– Monica Sislak and Daniel, Sara, Daniel & Elizabeth Hernandez.
Welcome to you!

LATIN AMERICA

Thank you for your generous support for last week's Collection for the Church in Latin America. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/latin-america. #iGiveCatholicTogether also accepts online funds for this work - see usccb.igivecatholictogether.org. Your gift makes a difference!

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 for you. 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.



Congratulations and welcome
Olivia Kate Natale, Ryan Elizabeth Natale, and
Teagan Marie Natale who were baptized
on January 26th. God bless you!



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, Anita Dloniak, 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, Francine Kawentel, Jesse Kazimer, Freddy Kinsey, 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, Peggy Palumbo, Tino Perez, Betty (Gruntkowski) Popow, Dawn Patel, Ronald Patten, Vinny Rini, Paula Ritter, Janet Sekerak, Mike Sekerak, Susan Sidley, Elaine Smet, Bill Smith, Mary Sparks, Special Intention, Michael Spring, Margie & Don Spritz & family, Jennifer Stancato, Gerri Strodbeck, 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.**

IN REMEMBRANCE

Please remember in your prayers
 William J. Bouhall (Father of Fr. Bill Bouhall),
 Leona Vrsansky, Dorothy E. Kashary, Ethelle Mirande,
 Wayne Robertson, Jr. and Deacon Kenneth J. Hill.
 God grant them eternal rest.

WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

February 8/9

MASS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS	SERVERS	CELEBRANT
4:30 PM	*Mary Lou LoBue Abbey Eichenmiller David Marks Jill Parks	Sheryl Finohr Steve Cottos	Noah Nguyen Blake Liebert	
9:00 AM	*Jaclene Zauszniewski Jennifer Mladineo Vern Recker Terri Sozio	Jessica Noga Mary Lou LoBue	Jackson Colon Holly Roberts	
11:00 AM	*Patty Riegling Bernie Barker Heather Miksch Madelyn Koranda	Mike Sommers	Gabriella Madison Paige Madison	

WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING

PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE!!! The Women's Guild will meet on Tuesday, February 11th at 11AM in Utopia Hall (weather permitting). Suzanne Hrusch, Director of External Affairs at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, has over 32 years in public health experience. She has worked in all 59 municipalities of the county! Come and join us for a light-hearted look at the tricks every health inspector wishes you knew to prevent foodborne illness. Pastry, coffee, and tea will be served. Hope you can join us.

THE HOLY LAND SHEPHERDS

The carving of the Olive Wood Tree has been inherited since the time of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It was passed down from father to son for many generations including our family. More than 80% of the Christian community income comes from tourism and the olive wood trade. However, due to the ongoing difficult circumstances and the tremendous decrease in tourism the Christian community has suffered many hardships that led many Christian families to leave their homes in search of work and safety.

Our mission is to support and strengthen the presence of Christianity in the Holy Land by selling their beautiful olive wood artifacts here in the United States. We have been blessed and grateful to have had the opportunity to travel to different parishes all around the United States for the past 15 years to represent these less fortunate Christians. We are happy to announce that we will be visiting St. Thomas More on February 8th & 9th.

We encourage you to look over the beautiful hand-carved items. We value your support. We will be accepting cash, credit cards & checks.

May God bless you & keep you safe.
 The Holy Land Shepherds
www.theholylanshop.com
 810-394-5291



The Presentation of the Lord

February 2, 2025

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

The kindergarteners at St. Thomas More School have been working hard as we begin the second half of the school year. We are learning how to spell and read words. The students have been learning how to sound out and spell the words, then blend them together to read the words. Kindergarten has also been learning how to write narrative stories. As we learn about the writing process, we have learned about nouns and verbs. We have explored common and proper nouns and present and past tense verbs, both regular and irregular verbs. They have had fun coming up with characters and a setting to create their stories.

In Math, we finished learning about addition and subtraction before we left for the Christmas break. Since returning from break, we are learning about composing and decomposing numbers 11-19 and breaking them into groups of ten and "some more." Our next topic will be measurement. The students will be able to use different manipulatives such as connecting cubes and balance scales to experiment and learn about length, height, and weight.

In Social Studies we just finished our community helpers unit. We learned about many different community helpers such as police officers, firefighters, teachers, librarians, postal workers, etc. To conclude the unit, the students completed an opinion writing activity where they wrote about what they want to do when they grow up and why. Our current focus is economics where we are learning about things such as wants and needs and goods and services. Once we finish our Social Studies unit, we will be looking forward to learning about Science.

Ms. Julia Henderson - Kindergarten

2025 ANNUAL CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL

Make me a channel of your peace. Many parishioners received letters in January, inviting their support of the Appeal. Please pray for the good work of Catholic Charities and make a pledge today. Your donation makes a difference! Your support of the 2025 Catholic Charities Appeal will help us serve those individuals who are most in need and most vulnerable. From Matthew's Gospel: Whatever you did for the least of these, you did it for me. When we feed the hungry, take care of the sick, and welcome the stranger, we are also serving Jesus himself. We appreciate your donation and will take special care to use it wisely in providing essential programs and services to people in need throughout all eight counties of the Diocese of Cleveland. We invite you to view stories of inspiration and more information at CatholicCommunity.org/2025Appeal.

MARDI GRAS VOLUNTEER FOR MARDI GRAS

In order to make Mardi Gras successful, help is needed in a variety of tasks including decorating, kitchen prep, dinner service, side boards, raffle basket tickets and more. Want to help? Visit stmparish.net/mardigras to view our SignUpGenius form to volunteer. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

DONATE TO MARDI GRAS

Do you have sports, concert or theatre tickets? Do you own a business? Do you want to donate to Mardi Gras? We are currently accepting donations of a variety of items for our auctions and basket raffles. In addition, you can make a monetary donation which will be turned into one of our signature gifts. If you are making a basket, the value of each completed donated basket must be at least \$25. No lottery baskets can be accepted. Contact the rectory or email Jeff Stutzman at jstutzman@stmparish.net to donate.

DESSERT DASH

One of our favorite games during Mardi Gras is a Dessert Dash, where participants bid to be the first to choose a dessert from the table. Under the dessert is a chance to win a gift card. To donate a dessert to the game, please contact the rectory. Even if you are unable to attend, you can still provide a dessert.

St. Thomas More Parish
MARDI GRAS
Saturday, March 1, 2025

Doors Open at 5:30pm /Dinner at 6:15pm
(Adults age 21 and over)

Dinner Ticket
\$35 per person
includes 1 alcoholic drink

Table of 8
\$265 per table

DEADLINE TO PURCHASE TICKETS: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025

Beer/Wine **\$3** each or **\$10** unlimited

After Dinner Ticket (8pm entry) - **\$10** per person
includes 1 alcoholic drink

**Live & Silent Auctions,
Basket Raffles, DJ & more!**

Tickets available at
stmparish.net/mardigras or at the rectory
No Outside Alcohol Permitted

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.

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is Sunday, February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day: the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. If you would like to purchase these blessed candles, they will be in a basket on the altar. \$5 donations greatly appreciated.

WORD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

The World Day for Consecrated Life is celebrated in the church on Sunday, Friday, February 2nd. Please pray for all those who have made commitments to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE

The feast of St. Blaise is next Monday, February 3rd. A general assembly blessing will take place at all Masses this weekend.

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

The observances of National Marriage Week (February 7-14) and World Marriage Day (Sunday, February 9) are an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. This year's theme is "Marriage: Source of Hope, Spring of Renewal. Pursue a Lasting Love!" Visit uscbb.org for more information.

WEEKLY CONTENT GUIDE

First Reading:

Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; and suddenly there will come to the temple the LORD whom you seek. (Mal 3:1)

Psalm:

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord! (Ps 24)

Second Reading:

Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God. (Heb 2:17)

Gospel:

"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation." (Lk 2:29-30)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF

FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Sunday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11//Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 (1c)/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11

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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.