



ST. THOMAS MORE

4170 North Amber Drive

Brooklyn, Ohio 44144

P: 216.749.0414

www.stmparish.net • rectory@stmparish.net

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.

Parish Staff

Father Michael J. Feldtz
Administrator

Father James J. Vesely
Pastor Emeritus

Deacon Don Brandt
Deacon

Deacon Charles Zawadzki
Deacon

Lisa Carson
Parish Secretary

Alex Ulle
Music Director

Frank Budziak
Pastoral Associate

Terri Sozio
Religious Education

Jeff Stutzman
Youth Minister

Melissa Wensing
Business Manager

Mass Times

Weekend
Saturday - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday - 9 & 11 a.m.

Weekdays
Monday, Wednesday,
Friday & Saturday - 8:15 a.m.
Tuesday - 6:45 p.m.
No Mass on Thursday

Holidays - To Be Announced

Holy Days
Eve of Holy Days - 6 p.m.
Holy Days - 8:15 a.m.,
11:15 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Confessions

Saturday - 3 - 4 p.m.

Rectory Hours

Monday-Friday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

St. Thomas More School

Grades Pre-K - 8

P: 216.749.1660

Jennifer Francis - Principal



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 2 –
VIGIL**

*4:30PM - Emilie Juran

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 –
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

9:00AM - People of the Parish

*11:00AM - Robert L. Dillon

**MONDAY, JANUARY 4 –
ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON**

8:15AM - Living & Deceased of the Ritter & Naylor Families

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 –
ST. JOHN NEUMANN**

6:45PM - Memorial Garden

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6 –
ST. ANDRÉ BESSETTE**

8:15AM - Diane Lada

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 7 –
ST. RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 8 –
CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY**

8:15AM - James W. Westfall - Student Liturgy

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 9 –
CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY**

8:15AM - Joseph & Mary Nagaj

*4:30PM - Richard Czarnecki

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 –
BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

*9:00AM - Andrew Yambor

11:00AM - People of the Parish

*Mass of Remembrance



WEEKLY CONTENT GUIDE

First Reading:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph 2:5-6)

Gospel:

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. (Mt 2:10-11)

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

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Karen Plank

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.

Financial Blessings

Collection for December 20th.....	\$4,818.00
Faith Direct as of 12/15.....	\$4,540.00
Maintenance.....	\$1,441.00
Votives.....	\$78.00

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.



Congratulations and welcome
Giovanni Christopher Neal and Ava Lee Neal
who were baptized on December 19th
and Faith Elizabeth Stanley who was baptized
on December 20th at St. Thomas More.
God bless you!

FROM THE CORNER OFFICE...

Well, is the tree down and the Christmas decorations back in storage yet? I'm hoping that you *are still wishing Merry Christmas* to family, friends, and others around town. The Christmas season is still upon us, and still very much something we continue to celebrate. This week we join Fr. Georges and the faithful of **St. Elias**, in celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord. The faithful of St. Elias, being Melkite Greek Catholic, are in communion with Rome, and it can be said that they are brothers and sisters with us as Catholics. Celebrating the splendor of the three kings' visit to the Holy Family, we are reminded of *all the nations called to walk in the light of Christ*.

Learning a little bit about our neighbors at St. Elias helps us to go deeper in our faith, as we learn about these relative in our family of faith. Yes, you will be hearing the back phrases a lot this year, such as; **Family of Faith, going deeper, growing in our faith**, and others. You (*hopefully*) will see a difference as we all journey together to grow closer to each other and closer to our God. It was mentioned back in July, *that we are all in this together!* – and it will be a fun ride, so strap your seatbelts securely, and keep your hands inside the cart...

Fr. Mike



TRAVELING MADONNA

This week the statue is at the home of:

Jim & Paulette Higgins.

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 2021.**

SAINT QUOTE

“To holy people the very name of Jesus is a name to feed upon, a name to transport. His name can raise the dead, and transfigure and beautify the living.”

St. John Neumann (1811-1860)

Patron of Catholic Education,

Feast Day: January 5

Thank You!

THANKFUL CORNER

There are so many people who took the time to help with many things around the parish to get ready for Christmas. We are very thankful for the ushers that helped keep things running smoothly at all the Masses. Thank you to the behind the scene “characters” and Mr. & Mrs. Anonymous who helped make St. Thomas More so beautiful for the Advent and Christmas seasons! We are so grateful for all of you and extremely blessed.



VOCATION CORNER

VOCATION OF THE MONTH:

Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament

Please keep in your prayers:

Postulants - Gracie Kupiszewski and Chelsea Parza

Novices - Sister Ashley Santora and Sister Monica Waters

In Temporary Vows - Sister Ines de Jesus Soto, Sister

Yve Marie Bernard, Sister Tonia of the Heart of

Jesus Borsellino and Sister Raquel of the Holy Spirit Gutierrez

You can learn more about this order by visiting www.mercedariansisters.org. Please keep the Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and all those discerning a vocation in your prayers as we continue to pray for vocations. To let them know that they are in your thoughts and prayers, send a card to 1355 West 70th Street, Cleveland, 44102.

TAX CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

If you would like a tax contribution statement for your 2020 donations, please contact the rectory at 216-749-0414. Or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the rectory to Lisa's attention.



Please remember Catherine Griffin, Tina Medina, Pat DeLuca, Gertrude Maher and David Laule in your prayers. 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 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.



Mary Ellen Popovich, Samantha Call, Martha & George Kysil, Audrey Roginsky, John Zindroski, Jim Viets, Theodore Maslanka, Pierce Downing, Meagan & Levi Chisholm, Ann Marie Kaczmarek, Betty Novatny, Marge Davis, Paula Ritter, Anne McElroy, David Elmore, Ava Kaspar-Hernandez, Rev. Dennis O'Grady, Robert Zunt, Mills & Lillian Mooney, Ed Rogers, Ellen Omilanowski, Rev. Jim O'Donnell, Debbie Tomusko, Doris Kaczmarek, Alice Stokes, Bryan Poole, Therese, Mary Ann & Tom, Peg Nicholay, Bill & Joanne Uhl, Sr. Ignatius Jones, SIW, Gladys Colon, J. Caraballo, Jennifer Bonus, Jesse Kazimer, Diana Downes, Mary Ryba, Norma Gademer, Alice Gruden, James Malames, Jennifer Stancato, Raymond Kuhar, Jessica Kuhar, Stephen Kuhar III, Alexis Simecek, Gregory Simecek, Haley Simecek, Heather Hudak, George Bouchahine, Peggy & Larry Bennett, Patricia Ann Werley, Patricia & Robert Coombes, Nancy Taube, Michael Kovach, Iola Natal, Rafaela Morales, Frank Colonna, Margaret Ann Jablonski, Arthur Markee, James Mortach, John & Kathy Cigas, Terri Hammond, Barbara Laughlin, Mary Ann Cowgill, Pat Palumbo, Jack Palumbo, Joanne Palumbo, Jodi Palumbo, Jennifer Palumbo, Pam Turner, Jeremy Cheetham, Joy Turner, Ida Jean Hopkins, Marlene Sutowski, Jean Palumbo, Stephanie Ziolkowski, Meg Zalar, Juliana Turner, Aurora Pelleschi, Vinny Mercurio, Lorrie Turner, Erica Wilmot, Avianna Burgos, Baby Divina, Julie Ersek, Sharon Erich, Tom Erich, Mick Jones, Bobby Hengoed, Jeff McCormick, Sean Szill, Melissa Korhely, John Szill, Grayson Wilmot, John Misch and Tim Misch. Please call the rectory by noon on Monday to add a name to the list. Names will remain on the list for the month.

Cluster Corner

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE: 216-749-2323

Blessing of Epiphany Water - The Blessing for Epiphany Water will be on Tuesday, January 5th at approximately 6:50AM (after the 6:15AM Latin Low Mass and before the 8AM English Mass). Please bring your own water.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO: 440-884-3030

Global Pilgrimage - Once-in-a Lifetime Opportunity! Fr. Josh Cochrac, your Chaplain and Spiritual Guide, invites you..via Zoom...on a Global Pilgrimage celebrating our Catholic Faith on Tuesday afternoons in January from 1-2:15PM. Only \$10/pilgrim. All are welcome! Please visit St. Charles Borromeo website to register by January 4th.

ST. LEO THE GREAT: 216-661-1006

Great Sweepstakes - Tickets are now being sold for the NEW Great Sweepstakes weekly drawing that will start on January 1, 2021. Forms are available at the office or on the website (leothegreat.org).



Readings of the Week ©LPI

Readings for the week of January 3, 2021

- Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
- Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/ Mk 6:34-44
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52
- Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a
- Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16
- Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30
- Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3])/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11



This weekend we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany or the feast of the Three Kings. The names often associated with them are Balthasar, Melchior, and Caspar (sometimes spelled Kasper or Gaspar).

I remember back in my youth at St. John Cantius, a traditionally Polish parish, and the custom of the parish priest visiting the people in their homes during this time. A benefit of being an "Altar Boy" back then was getting out of school to accompany the priest. The price, well, we'd have to sing a Christmas Carol for the people we visited which was a little embarrassing. Sometime we'd sing Silent Night, Oh Little Town of Bethlehem or "Dzisiaj W Betlejem" for the 'Polish' folks. I remember the priest marking the letters K + M + B = 19xx above the doorway with chalk. You may remember sharing a similar tradition here at St. Thomas More where we would mark our doorways with chalk blessed and distributed at church, before this year with the virus that is.

I remember being taught that the Three Kings symbolize us, the Gentiles, and Our Lord coming to all people! The Three Kings were on a journey. They were searching for something "out of the ordinary", a new king. In fact, the word epiphany is sometimes used to refer to an "Aha!" moment.

So, if the Three Kings, or Maji, were searching for something that Christmas season, what are we looking for? Would we/Will we follow along? How far are we willing go to find "Our King", our "Aha" moment? May God bless us all as we journey.

Grace, Love & Fellowship to you and yours,
Frank Budziak
Pastoral Associate

ANNUAL MEMORIAL CANDLES



In the month of November, we remembered our beloved dead. Why not remember them the whole year round? Memorial Candles for 2021 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.

SISTERS OF THE INCARNATE WORD ANNUAL RAFFLE

Sisters' Annual Raffle tickets are now on sale.

Grand Prize: \$10,000

Second Prize: \$1,000

Third Prize: \$500

Tickets are \$5 each and may be purchased online at siwraffle.com or by stopping in *Queen of the Holy Rosary Shrine*. Drawing to be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2021. Raffle tickets make great stocking stuffers! For additional information call the Sisters' Development Office at 440-886-6440, ext. 415.

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.



EPIPHANY BLESSING OF A HOME

ALL: Make the Sign of the Cross.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Peace be to this house and to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord.

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

READER: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things come to be through Him, and without Him nothing came to be...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3, 14)

Using chalk, write the first half of the current year (20), initials of the 3 Magi (C + M + B) followed by the other half of the year (21) (20+C+M+B+21). Each could be written by a different member of the household. Place this above the main entrance to your home.

ALL: Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

FESTIVAL OF PRAISE

St. Charles Borromeo's

FESTIVAL OF PRAISE "FOP"

An evening experience of Adoration,
Praise & Contemporary Christian Music

WEDNESDAY, January 6th

Starting with 7:00PM Mass in Church - 8:30PM

Join us for an evening experience of Adoration, Praise and Music of our Lord in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar - the Eucharist. A Festival of Praise (FOP) consists of praying through song. Our dedicated FOP band will lead us in song. All are welcome to join us on the first Wednesday of every month!

NEWS FROM AM 1260 THE ROCK

What would you like to ask the Bishop? Bishop Edward Malesic will be our guest on the next episode of "Table Talk Show"! Anything on your heart or mind that you would like to ask Bishop Malesic? If so, please email tabletalk@am1260throck.com with your question and it may be used on the air! This edition of Table Talk will air three times: Thursday, January 21st at 5PM, Friday, January 22nd at 8AM and Sunday, January 24th at 1PM. If you miss the broadcast, please go to the archive tab on www.am1260therock.com and listen there.

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION

Catholic Cemeteries Association continues with our free monthly in-office grief support groups on January 17th with limited seating for social distancing. We offer a comfortable, private, and safe environment where you are free to talk about your grief. Meetings do not build off each other so you can stop in any month and fit right in. You do not even have to talk, but come and listen and be in the presence of those who understand. The January topic is "Facing the New Year with Hope and Love" but discussions follow whatever is in your heart.

We meet the 3rd Sunday of every month from

3PM - 4PM at the following locations:

Saint Joseph Cemetery, Avon (New office)

Holy Cross Cemetery, Akron (office)

Holy Cross Cemetery, Brook Park (office)

Calvary Cemetery, Cleveland (office)

All Saints Cemetery, Northfield (office)

All Souls Cemetery, Chardon (office)

Meeting sites are sanitized and seating is arranged so everyone is at a safe distance. Participants are requested to RSVP so we can plan appropriate and social distancing at each location. It is required that participants wear facial coverings. To RSVP or for questions, please contact Rhonda at 216-930-4866.

LIGHTER SIDE

Are there HMOs in Heaven?

A doctor, a nurse, and the top executive of an HMO died and were in line together at the pearly gates. St. Peter asked each one what good they had done in their lives.

The doctor said, "I have devoted my life to the sick and needy and have had a part in caring for and healing thousands of people."

St. Peter replied, "That's great. Go ahead into heaven."

The nurse chimed in, "I have supported the doctor and his patients my entire life as an adult, have taken time to explain things to patients, and have helped them lead healthy lives."

"Wonderful," says St. Peter. "Please proceed in with the doctor."

Then the executive said, "I was the president of a very large health maintenance organization. I was responsible for the healthcare of millions of people all over the country."

St. Peter says, "Oh, I see. Please go on in ... but you can only stay two nights!"

Coming or Going?

On the way home from the Ash Wednesday service, a young boy asked his mother, "Is it true that we are made of dust?"

"Yes, darling."

"And do we go back to dust again when we die?"

"Yes, dear."

"Wow!" said the boy. "When I said my prayers last night and looked under the bed, I found someone who is either coming or going!"

Just a Second

Adam: What is a million years like to you?

God: Like one second.

Adam: What is a million dollars like to you?

God: Like one penny.

Adam: Can I have a penny?

God: Sure, just a second.

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