

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 20 –
VIGIL**

*4:30 PM - Danny Fedak

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 –
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*9:00 AM - Donald Stopa

11:00 AM - People of the Parish

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 22 –
LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY**

8:15 AM - Leona Vrsansky

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23 –
ST. JOHN OF KANTY**

6:45 PM - Jonathan Cehelnik

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 –
LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY**

4:30 PM - People of the Parish

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 –
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

12:00 AM - Priest's Intention

9:00 AM - Priest's Intention

11:00 AM - Priest's Intention

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26 –
ST. STEPHEN**

8:15 AM - Deceased Members of the Gadamer
Family

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27 –
ST. JOHN**

8:15 AM - December Birthdays

*4:30 PM - Vicky Gustincic

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 –
THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

9:00 AM - People of the Parish

*11:00 AM - Father's Day Enrollment

*Mass of Remembrance



Financial Blessings

The financial information for December 14th is not available due to the early bulletin submittal.

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

OLPI

Monday, December 22

NO SCHOOL

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

Tuesday, December 23

NO PSR OR SCHOOL

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

Wednesday, December 24

NO SCHOOL, PSR OR ATHLETICS

12:00 PM Rectory Closing

Thursday, December 25

RECTORY CLOSED

NO SCHOOL OR ATHLETICS



Friday, December 26

RECTORY CLOSED

NO SCHOOL OR ATHLETICS

MUSIC MINISTRY

SUNDAY'S HYMNS 12/21

Processional Hymn: #44 O Come, Divine Messiah

Offertory Hymn: #76

Bread of Life (only two verses)

Communion: #43 People Look East

Closing: #55 See How the Virgin Waits

CHRISTMAS VIGIL 12/24 4:30PM

Processional Hymn: #102 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Offertory Hymn: #95 O Come, Little Children

Communion: #91

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

#84 Silent Night

Closing: #90 Joy to the World

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT 12/25

Processional Hymn: #102 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Offertory Hymn: #88 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Communion: #91

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

#84 Silent Night

Closing: #90 Joy to the World

CHRISTMAS DAY 12/25 9:00AM & 11:00AM

Processional Hymn: #102 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Offertory Hymn: #93

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Communion: #88 O Little Town of Bethlehem

#84 Silent Night

Closing: #90 Joy to the World

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Merry Christmas!

I hope that everyone is ready to rejoice at the Birth of Our Savior, which is only days away. We spent the last few weeks of Advent preparing for our Lord's arrival. On Christmas we will acclaim that heaven and earth meet in the person of Jesus. Just as Mary and Joseph adored Christ in Bethlehem, let us adore Him in our hearts and homes.

"Christ opened heaven for us in the manhood he assumed" said St. Irenaeus, a Church Father of the second century. All too often we forget that Christmas and Easter are linked together as the celebrations of God's Mercy defeating sin and death. In his writings against the gnostics, St. Irenaeus presented Jesus as the New Adam and Mary as the New Eve. Whereas the gnostics thought that God only pretended to become a human being, St. Irenaeus defended the Catholic belief that God really did become man in the person of Jesus Christ. Irenaeus explained that God had foreseen Adam and Eve's Fall and had already prepared to save us. Just as we prepared for Christmas by going through Advent for four weeks, the LORD journeyed with Israel for centuries to make sure that they were ready for our savior.

Christmas thus inaugurates the moment of God's triumph over sin. Christ's life on earth - from His Incarnation to His Ascension - is a single act of redemption. Joining human nature to the Divine, Jesus reclaims what Adam and Eve had lost. Likewise, Mary rectifies Eve's disobedience at the temptation of a fallen angel by her obedience at the word of the Archangel Gabriel. Accordingly, at Christmas we celebrate that the Kingdom of God has arrived in all its glory and grandeur. For we are no longer separated from God because He has come to us!

What of Easter? By His Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Jesus took the most broken parts of humanity and made them into His Victory. Trampling down death and sin, Jesus glorified our earthly body so that it would never die.

What Christ is by nature, we become by adoption. In this sense Christmas is the birthday for all of humanity. The goodwill and peace that we wish upon our neighbors is the fruit of His grace. May all the downcast and troubled look upon the Holy Infant and see God smiling upon them.

We can all learn from St. Irenaeus's insight that Jesus joins the human and the divine. As Christ's disciples we are called to not only announce His Gospel but also to become like Him. Through our festive celebrations and fraternal charity, let our hearts be freed to sing with the angels: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill."

In His Sacred Heart,
Fr. John

TRAVELING MADONNA

This week the statue is at the home of:

Gil & Joan Vanza.

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

"What kind of work can be more noble than to cultivate the minds of young people, guarding it carefully, so that the knowledge and love of God and His holy precepts go hand-in-hand with learning? To form young Christians and citizens - isn't this the most beautiful and noble-minded way to make use of life, of all one's talents and energy."

St. John of Kanty (1403-1474),

Patron of Students, Feast Day: December 23

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

SEMINARIAN OF THE MONTH

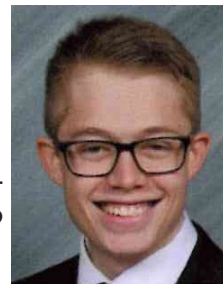
Andrew Bendahan

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 (Grunkowski) 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.



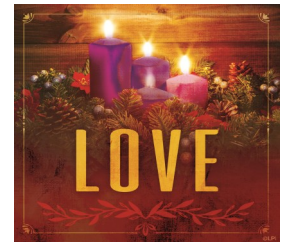
IN REMEMBRANCE

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

FOURTH 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.



Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lighted four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.

Let us pray...

God,
you became human through the obedience of a simple young woman named Mary. Mary is our model of faith. May we be faithful to your word as Mary was. Give us the courage to face each day with the yes that Mary gave to you. We ask this through the incarnate God, who comes to us again during this Christmas season. Amen. ©LPi

WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 27/28

MASS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS	SERVERS	CELEBRANT
4:30 PM	Mary Lou LoBue David Marks Marilu Slimak Sheryl Finohr	Al Margevicius Wendy Huynh	Noah Nguyen Emma Wright	Fr. Don Snyder
9:00 AM	Bonnie Kaznoch Vern Recker Chris Koch Terri Sozio	Jennifer Mladineo Dolores Hules	Noah Redloske Henry Nguyen	Fr. John Schneider
11:00 AM	Sue Poole Carl Krist Madelyn Koranda Heather Miksch	Patty Riegling	Amelia Nieves Geovanna Fagher	Fr. Don Snyder

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025



2025 CHRISTMASTIDE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

4:30 PM Afternoon Vigil

12:00 Midnight Vigil

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Wednesday, December 31- New Year's Eve

4:30 PM Vigil Mass

Thursday, January 1, 2026 – New Year's Day

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

10:00 AM

CHRISTMAS RECTORY HOURS

The rectory will close at noon on Wednesday, December 24th and will be closed on Thursday, December 25th and Friday, December 26th. The rectory will also close at noon on Wednesday, December 31st and will be closed on Thursday, January 1st and Friday, January 2nd.

CHRISTMAS DINNER PRAYER

Loving God and Father of us all, we joyfully celebrate the birth of your Son, the eternal Word who came to dwell with us and is born this day of the Virgin Mary. May the meal we share on this great feast satisfy us not only with the good food you give us, but also grace us with the fullness of your love, which you bestowed on our human nature when your Son took on our very flesh. May we come to share completely in your divine life through the coming of your Son among us. May his self-giving love be made manifest in our hearts so that the joy of our Christmas feast may extend beyond our family and home to touch the lives of others with the love that makes this day holy and makes us all children of one family in you. Amen.

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On behalf of the Fr. John, Fr. Don, and
the staff of St. Thomas More Parish and School,
we wish you all a very
Merry & Blessed Christmas!

Buon Natale - Italian
Joyeux Noël - French
Nollaig Shona - Gaelic
Sretan Božić - Croatian
Feliz Navidad - Spanish
Feliz Natal - Portuguese
Wesolych Świat - Polish
Crăciun Fericit - Romanian
Frohe Weihnachten - German
Meli Keuliseumaseu - Korean
boldog Karácsonyt - Hungarian
Schastlivogo Rozhdestva - Russian
Chúc Mừng Giáng Sinh - Vietnamese

God Jul - Swedish & Norwegian
Felicem Natalem Christi - Latin
Shèngdàn jié kuàilè - Chinese
Veselo ho Rizdva - Ukrainian
Maligayang Pasko - Filipino
Vrolijk Kerstfeest - Dutch
Veselé Vianoce - Slovak
Vesel Božič - Slovenian
Veselé Vánoce - Czech
Gleðileg Jól - Icelandic
Hyvää Joulua - Finnish
Glaedelig Jul - Danish
Afehyia Pa - Akan



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations and welcome Halle Kay Schneider
who was baptized on December 7th.
God bless you!



2025 #WEGIVECATHOLIC - THANK YOU!

We are excited to announce the results of our 2025 #WeGiveCatholic Giving Tuesday campaign. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our parish community, we raised a total of \$15,507.04! This success means we can move forward with essential lighting, sound, and aesthetic enhancements for our confessionals. Any funds not used for the confessionals will be dedicated to installing TVs for digital communication, updating the Stations of the Cross, and general church enhancements.

Thank you for your generosity and for investing in the beauty and spiritual mission of our parish!

Early Giving Grand Prize Winners:

\$50 Amazon Gift Card: Sylvester Kovacic
\$50 Giant Eagle Gift Card: John Alexander

Early Giving Second Prize Winners:

\$20 Gift Card 1: Charles Cramer
\$20 Gift Card 2: Paul and Mary Lou LoBue
\$20 Gift Card 3: Joseph Kovacic
\$20 Gift Card 4: Brent Collins
\$20 Gift Card 5: Tina Valencik

Giving Tuesday Winners:

\$25 Gift Card 1: Susan Poole
\$25 Gift Card 2: Mary Heidamos
\$25 Gift Card 3: Tom Schloemer
\$25 Gift Card 4: Margaret Baxter
\$25 Gift Card 5: Christine McGann
\$25 Gift Card 6: Melissa Eschuk

**Congratulations to the raffle winners and thank you
again for your generous support!**

CHRISTMAS CASH

Congratulations to the following
Christmas Cash winners:

12/9 - Mireya Ponce
12/10 - Rob Moore
12/11 - Gina Whitt
12/12 - Geovana Fagher



ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

The 5th-grade class has been extremely busy since the beginning of the school year! We just finished our unit on Ecosystems. As a final assessment, students had to create a flipbook that explained the different parts of a food web, how animals gain their energy from each other, and models of energy flow. We will now be entering our unit on the solar system. Students will take a deep dive into each planet in our solar system and create a presentation about their chosen planet. The 5th-grade students will be completing their Unit 2 Math final test after Christmas break. Please keep them in your prayers as they study for their test. The 5th-grade class has worked incredibly hard this school year and continues to show perseverance through difficult tasks. I know they will come back from Christmas break, refreshed, recharged, and ready to learn!

Ms. Hangauer

5th Grade Homeroom

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.

THANK YOU!

Dear St. Thomas More Community,
On behalf of Brooklyn City Schools, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continued partnership and generous donation of canned goods during this year's food drive. Your kindness and commitment to supporting our Brooklyn families embody the true spirit of community.

This donation will make a meaningful difference for many of our families during the holiday season. We are truly grateful for your willingness to help ensure that our students and their loved ones feel supported and cared for.

Thank you once again for your compassion, generosity, and ongoing partnership with Brooklyn City Schools. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and caring neighbor in St. Thomas More.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Theodore Caleris

Superintendent, Brooklyn City Schools

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION

Heartfelt gratitude for your generosity. "Thank you very much for your donations, always," says Sister Olivia Bellegante, 93, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St. Louis, Missouri. Your gift directly impacts thousands of senior religious, providing the support they need in their later years. Learn more at retiredreligious.org.

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.

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.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF

DECEMBER 21, 2025

- Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
- Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
- Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
- Wednesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79
- Thursday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 *Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/
Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/*Ti* 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
- Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
- Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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