

# 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)



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## 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](http://stmschool.com)

## Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 – VIGIL

\*4:30 PM - People of the Parish

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

\*9:00 AM - Dee Fedak

\*11:00 AM - John J. Skubie

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 23 – ST. JOHN OF KATY

8:15 AM - Jonathan Cehelnik

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

4:00 PM - People of the Parish

### WEDNESDAY, 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

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26 – ST. STEPHEN

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27 – ST. JOHN

8:15 AM - Living & Deceased Members of the  
Gadamer Family

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 – THE HOLY INNOCENTS

8:15 AM - December Birthdays

1:30 PM - Verba/Plaza Wedding

\*4:30 PM - Karen DiRienzo

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

9:00 AM - Father's Day Enrollment

11:00 AM - People of the Parish

\*Mass of Remembrance

## Financial Blessings

The financial information for December 15th is not available due to the early bulletin submittal.

Faith Direct as of 12/4 ..... \$4,010.00

Faith Direct Maintenance ..... \$1,350.00

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

### FAITH DIRECT

Enroll online at [faith.direct/OH684](http://faith.direct/OH684). Have questions?  
Please email [info@faithdirect.net](mailto:info@faithdirect.net) or call toll free 1-866-507-8757.

## THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

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### Monday, December 23

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, December 24

NO SCHOOL, PSR OR ATHLETICS

12:00 PM Rectory Closing

### Wednesday, December 25

RECTORY CLOSED

NO SCHOOL OR ATHLETICS



### Thursday, December 26

RECTORY CLOSED

NO SCHOOL OR ATHLETICS

### Friday, December 27

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

### 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



## FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Merry Christmas! We have spent the last few weeks preparing for our Lord's arrival by putting aside the things of this world to partake of the things of heaven. In a few days we will enter anew the mystery of heaven and earth being reunited in the Person of Christ.

"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 triumphing over 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. In fact, Irenaeus explained that God had foreseen Adam and Eve's Fall and had already prepared a plan to save us. Just as we prepared for Christmas by going through Advent, the LORD journeyed with Israel to make sure that they were ready for their savior.

Christmas thus inaugurates the moment of God's victory 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. For we are no longer separated from God because He has come to us!

If Christ is the New Adam, then we must become new in Christ. Celebrating the birth of Christ explicitly, we implicitly thank the Lord for our own sacramental rebirth. Attending Mass at Christmas we offer God our own human natures for rebirth and rejuvenation.

For every time we come to Mass, we present ourselves to God anew. Every time we receive Holy Communion, our soul is open again to being made one with God. Every time we pray our hearts are made more like Christ's Sacred Heart. At least, that is what God wants. The gift that Jesus desires from us is more of *us*. If we can give Him a few moments more each day, He will give us grace in an abundance that we cannot imagine.

We can all learn from St. Irenaeus' insight that Jesus joins the human and the divine. As Christ's disciples we are called to not only announce His Gospel but also become it. 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 good will."

In His Sacred Heart,  
*Fr. John*

## SEMINARIAN OF THE MONTH

**Cameron Galla**  
**Our Lady Help of Christians**  
**Litchfield**  
**Propaedeutic I, Borromeo**



Please keep Cameron 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

*"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 (1390-2473),  
Patron of Students, Feast Day: December 23rd  
(Bulletin Quote provided by AZ Quotes; [www.azquotes.com](http://www.azquotes.com))

## TRAVELING MADONNA

This week the statue is at the home of:  
**Tina Westfall.**

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.**

## 2025 MASS INTENTIONS

The Mass book for 2025 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. There are plenty of January Masses available.**

## OPLATKI

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



III - Hannah Verba & Brandon Plaza (STM)



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, 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, Dorothy Kashary, Francine Kawentel, Jesse Kazimer, 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, Tino Perez, Betty (Gruntkowski) Popow, Dawn Patel, Ronald Patten, Vinny Rini, Paula Ritter, Mike Sekerak, Susan Sidley, Elaine Smet, Mary Sparks, Margie & Don Spritz & family, Jennifer Stancato, Gerri Strodtbeck, 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. Names will remain on the list until you call to have them removed.**

### IN REMEMBRANCE

Please remember in your prayers Karen DiRienzo, Deacon Neal J. Novak, Teddy Foster, and Jerome Hodson. God grant them eternal rest.

### ANNUAL MEMORIAL CANDLES

In the month of November, we remembered our beloved dead. Why not remember them the whole year round? Memorial Candles for 2025 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.

### THANKFUL CORNER

Thank you to all those who donated to the Advent Giving Tree. You helped to make Christmas a little brighter for families in need. We would also like to thank all of those who have helped to decorate the church. It looks beautiful and we are so very grateful.

### 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.



### 2024 CHRISTMASTIDE SCHEDULE

**Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve**

4:00 PM Afternoon Vigil

12:00 Midnight Vigil

**Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day**

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

**Tuesday, December 31- New Year's Eve**

4:30 PM Vigil Mass

**Wednesday, January 1, 2025 – New Year's Day**

**Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

10:00 AM

### CHRISTMAS RECTORY HOURS

The rectory will close at noon on Tuesday, December 24th and will be closed on Wednesday, December 25th and Thursday, December 26th. The rectory will also close at noon on Tuesday, December 31st and will be closed on Wednesday, January 1st and Thursday, 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 Božić* - Slovenian

*Veselé Vánoce* - Czech

*Gleðileg Jól* - Icelandic

*Hyvää Joulua* - Finnish

*Glaedelig Jul* - Danish

*Afeyhia Pa* - Akan

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

**ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL**

It has been a busy second quarter for fourth grade! We’ve been working hard on our writing abilities and writing quality paragraphs. We’ve spent time reflecting and preparing ourselves for Jesus’ arrival during this Advent season. The students wrote about ways they can have hope, peace, love, and joy in their lives after learning what the different candles meant on the Advent wreath. Fourth grade (along with the rest of the elementary grades) enjoyed spreading Christmas cheer with their Christmas concert. They put in a lot of hours and it turned out great! It’s hard to believe that we are almost halfway through this school year. Merry Christmas from the 4<sup>th</sup> graders!

Ms. Emily Viskocil  
Fourth Grade

<u>WEEKLY CONTENT GUIDE</u>		<u>READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF</u> <u>DECEMBER 22, 2024</u>	
<b>First Reading:</b> You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel. (Mi 5:1)	Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/ Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45	
<b>Psalm:</b> Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80)	Monday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66	
<b>Second Reading:</b> “Then I said, ‘As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.’” (Heb 10:7)	Tuesday:	<i>Morning:</i> 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79	
<b>Gospel:</b> “And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” (Lk 1:43)	Wednesday:	<i>Vigil:</i> 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 <i>Night:</i> Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/ Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 <i>Dawn:</i> Is 62:11-12/ Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 <i>Day:</i> Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14	
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.	Thursday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22	
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lec- tionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.	Friday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8	
©LPi	Saturday:	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18	
	Next Sunday:	1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52	
	©LPi		

WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE December 28/29				
<b>MASS</b> 4:30 PM	<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b> Terri Cottos Mary Lou LoBue Marilu Slimak David Marks	<b>LECTORS</b> Peggy Palumbo Chet Omilanowski	<b>SERVERS</b> Blake Liebert Emma Wright	<b>CELEBRANT</b> Rev. Don Snyder
9:00 AM	Aidan Cepek Patty Riegling Terri Sozio Heather Roberts	Rob Cepek Jaclene Zauszniewski	Aubrey Rankin Holly Roberts	Rev. John Schneider
11:00 AM	Bernice Barker Madelyn Koranda Heather Miksch Sue Poole	Mike Sommers	Paige Madison Gabriella Madison	Rev. Don Snyder



## GROWING WITH THE Gospel

CYCLE C



### COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Christmas • Luke 2:1-14



### GOSPEL

Imagine how the Christmas story may have happened today: Joseph drove Mary in their jeep through sleet and snow to the city of his birth to be counted. No motels had rooms. A homeless shelter attendant said, "We have no beds, but you can sleep in the broom closet." Jesus was born the next day in a sleeping bag in a closet with three mice, a couple of cats and a dog. God and his angels were happy.



### PRAYER

Lord, thank you for my bed. Give others a place to sleep.



BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER



### PUZZLE

Circle the picture that is facing the **wrong** way. Then color in all the pictures.



### MISSION

I will give canned food, sheets, blankets, or money to help a homeless shelter.



### DRAW

Draw Jesus, Mary, and Joseph with mice, cats, and a dog in a closet.



BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER