



Church of St. Thomas More

Parish Office: 603-868-2666

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December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome Child of God!

*No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church,
No matter your personal history, age, income, background, gender, race, ethnicity or spirituality, or marital situation,
No matter your own self-image of holiness or virtue,
You belong to Jesus Christ and you belong to us!
You are invited, accepted and respected here at the Parish of Saint Thomas More.
Take our hands, Lord Jesus, leading us in courage to confront with courage the forces which oppress and divide.
Take our hearts, Lord Jesus, and open them to the truth which will set others free.
Accompany us on our way, Lord Jesus, as we seek to share our Roman Catholic faith and life in your Spirit.*

Advent IV



Dear Friends in Christ,

I wish you a Blessed, Joyous, and Holy celebration of the Birth of Jesus. May the Christmas Season be a special time of year for you and yours as we celebrate the Lord Jesus being with us here and now and always.

We are a privileged, gifted, and graced people because Jesus came to dwell with us. As we look forward to a new year of grace, the marvelous truth of Jesus coming to live with us on earth is the most glorious event that ever happened. And not only to live with us but to live within us truly makes us a sacred people.

My prayer this Christmas is that a deeper sense of the presence of God may be born within this faith community because with Jesus we can do all things.

And so, as I mark my 19th Christmas as your pastor, may the blessing of the Holy Child fill your homes and lives, and may the coming year bring us lasting peace on earth.

Merry Christmas,

Fr. Andrew

CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS MORE

*A Community of Parish & University Ministry
PO Box 620, Durham, NH 03824; 603-868-2666
stmdurham@comcast.net*

MASSES & OFFICE HOURS

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5pm
Sunday 9am, 11:15am & **Sunday No 5pm Mass**
resumes January 26, 2025

WEEKDAY MASS

12:10pm Mass Monday
(Please see inside for the Christmas & New Years Schedule)

OFFICE HOURS

Mon 9-3pm & Tues 9-1pm **Closed Wed, Thurs & Fri**

December 21st-22nd; Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Micah 5:1-4a
Reading II: Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel: Luke 1:39-45



**December 28th-29th; The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary & Joseph**

Reading I: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28
Reading II: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
Gospel: Luke 2:41-52



December 21st-22nd; Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday 5pm – † Richard Cardarople (2nd Anniversary)
Sunday 9am – † Rosemary Maciolek
Sunday 11:15am – † Jeffrey Howard Cryans



**December 28th-29th; The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary & Joseph**

Saturday 5pm – † Michael McGurty (1st Anniversary)
Sunday 9am – † Donald Holden (1st Anniversary)
Sunday 11:15am – † Cynthia Van Zandt



CHRISTMAS EVE~TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24th



3:15pm Christmas Pageant
4:00pm Vigil Mass
7:00pm Vigil Mass
12:00am Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY ~

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25th, 10:00am

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year



OFFERTORY UPDATE:

**Average Weekly Regular Offertory Amount
needed to meet our Annual Budget, \$5,192.31**

Offertory for December 15th \$4,112.00

*"Give and it shall be given to you." - Luke 6:38
Thank you for your generous contributions.*



Memorials for Deceased Loved Ones

Slavin & Clifford Families	Randall Perkins
McGurty Family	Jane & Clayton Douville
Clifford Family	Frank J. Lonano
For Family	Sarah Elizabeth Couture Dumont
Soucy & McCrone Families	Rose Blough
For All Our Loved Ones	Claire Way
Albert & Lorraine Landry	Linfred & Norma Bovat
Earl Way	Karl Brown
John & Cathy Coropolis	Fred Holmes
Martin Faley	Umberto Gandina Tagliani
Mary Lee Oidman	Randy Rainville
Manlis Meissner	F.X. Letellier
Prayers of the Dubuc & Thomas Families	
Deceased Members of the Foos & McCool Families	



St. Thomas More Food Pantry Here's What We Do

The Food Pantry has a great team of volunteers. Some pick up food donated by Hannaford and Walmart plus others unload, sort and put away the donations typically on Tuesday and Wednesday. Others break down and recycle lots of cardboard boxes. A few very dedicated volunteers travel each week to Rochester or Manchester to collect our NH Food Bank order. Others shop for items that aren't donated each week. The Pantry is then set up, organized and operated by some of the same volunteers and a few more very faithful volunteers each Thursday. Behind the scenes work volunteers also perform include ordering, completing and sending in reports, writing grants and attending NH Food Bank meetings.

If something we do intrigues you, just contact Regina at rasamom3@comcast.net and we'll find the opportunity to fit your talents.

This week, we can use

- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Hot Chocolate



Christmas Baskets Update

On Saturday, December 14th we **distributed 61 Christmas Baskets** to our patrons.

Thank you to our St. Thomas More and St. George's parishioners who donated food and money to make these baskets happen.

Another thank you to the groups of volunteers who helped assemble the baskets on Friday and then gave out the baskets on Saturday morning. Our community is certainly blessed.

200 CLUB



*Our Christmas angel is announcing
that the next 200 Club drawing will be
on **December 29, 2024.***

Both enrollment and renewal are easy. There's plenty of time to become a new member or renew your membership before the December drawing.

New/renewal application forms are available at the church entrances.

Or simply write a check made payable to **St. Thomas More Church. Don't forget to put 200 Club in the memo section.** Mail it, along with your contact information [address, phone, and email], to the parish office at:

**St Thomas More Parish, PO Box 620, Durham NH
03824**

For additional member information contact **Tom Dolan** at tomdolan84@hotmail.com or **603-519-0369**

***A special note of thanks to all those who have supported
the 200 club.***



ADVENT CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & ENVIRONMENT

Honor or remember a loved one with a donation to our Advent/Christmas flowers & greens. Names of those remembered will be listed in the bulletin during the Christmas Season. Envelopes are available at the church entrances; you can stop by the office, or you can mail your names/donations to:

St. Thomas More, Box 620, Durham, NH 03824



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 23

O Emmanuel

Today's antiphon is "O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!" With the end of Advent near, pray with the song "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," and if you are able, go to Mass today. Ask God to help you see that he is coming to save us. Consider how you, like Zechariah, might speak blessing God. *Today's readings: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Luke 1:57-66.*

Tuesday, December 24

Sing the Goodness of the Lord

Today we hear the Canticle of Zechariah in the Gospel. Like the Canticle of Mary, this hymn proclaims the greatness of the Lord. Zechariah's praise of God speaks of the Lord's mercy, guidance, and salvation. Apart from the inevitable chaos of preparing for tomorrow's celebrations, write a canticle of praise. Remember to "worship him without fear!" *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Luke 1:67-79.*

Wednesday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

Alleluia! "A light has shone," today a Savior is born for us! Amidst the darkness and constant pull of worldly desires, rest in abundant joy knowing that the "Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace" reigns and sustains, "both now and forever." Resolve to proclaim this good news during Christmas Time. How can you "announce his salvation" and tell of "his wondrous deeds"? Consider sending mail to family and friends, baking Christmas cookies for someone who is homebound, or serving at a shelter. *Today's readings: Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a); Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25. Midnight: Isaiah 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14. Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12; Psalm 97:1, 6, 11-12;*

Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20. Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c); Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18.

Thursday, December 26

St. Stephen, Martyr

The Church celebrate the witness of St. Stephen, who was chosen by the community of disciples to share Jesus' teachings. St. Stephen was stoned for "working great wonders and signs among the people." Read the account of his witness and martyrdom in Acts 6-7:60. Pray for the courage to model yourself after this saint's discipleship. *Today's readings: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Matthew 10:17-22.*

Friday, December 27

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Today we celebrate the Feast of St. John, apostle and evangelist. From this saint, we hear that the faithful are to share the Good News, or to evangelize "so that you too may have fellowship . . . with the Father and with his Son." The work of evangelization is done in community: in today's Gospel, Mary Magdalene and two disciples share the news of the resurrection of the Lord. With whom do you share the call to evangelize? Say a prayer for that person and consider reaching out in gratitude for the partnership. *Today's readings: 1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20:1a and 2-8.*

Saturday, December 28

Feast of the Holy Innocents

Just as the angel told Joseph in the dream, King Herod searched for Jesus "to destroy him." Mary and Joseph take Jesus and flee, seeking refuge and safety. Today, on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, we honor the first martyrs: the children massacred in Bethlehem by King Herod as he searched for baby Jesus. If there is a pantry or community center near you, donate baby supplies, such as diapers or baby food. Say a prayer for those who are persecuted, for refugees, migrants, and displaced persons seeking safety. *Today's readings: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8; Matthew 2:13-18.*



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



A Body Prepared

Saving God,
you shepherd your flock
and give new life.
Preparing to welcome the king of all nations,
we call upon your name.
Let us see your face,

guide us to serenity so we can discern
your will.
Grant us the courage to respond to you.
Come to save us!
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Leaping for Joy



Today's readings: Micah 5:1-4a; Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45. Just before today's Gospel, the angel Gabriel tells Mary that she will "bear a son" (Luke 1:31). As confirmation of the pregnancy, Gabriel says that Elizabeth, is also pregnant. Since Elizabeth is past childbearing age, Gabriel implies that if Elizabeth is pregnant, Mary can be as well: "for nothing will be impossible for God" (1:37). Finally, when Elizabeth greets Mary, we hear that she is blessed because she "believed that what was spoken . . . by the Lord would be fulfilled."

This fulfillment is proclaimed in the first reading as Micah shares his prophecy of salvation: "From you shall

come forth for me / one who is to be ruler in Israel / . . . / his greatness / shall reach to the ends of the earth; / he shall be peace." The Letter to the Hebrews tells of Jesus' sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins, for as is sung in the refrain of the responsorial psalm, "we shall be saved."

Knowing this, Elizabeth exclaims, "the infant in my womb leaped for joy" the moment she heard Mary's greeting. Overcome by the Holy Spirit, mother and son anticipated the coming of the Lord. As we enter the final week of Advent, how can you ready yourself so that you, too, can leap for joy when the Lord approaches?

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READY.GOV

Don't be afraid...Be Ready

**HEAVENLY ANNIVERSARY
BLESSINGS TO
OUR PARENTS**

SEPTEMBER 12, 1964

We Love & Miss You Very Much,
Your Five Kids!! XO



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help end hunger.**

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