

Church of Saint Thomas More

65 East 89th Street (east of Madison Avenue)

New York City, New York 10128

September 28, 2014

PARISH OFFICE (212) 876-7718
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WEBSITE: www.ThomasMoreChurch.org
FACEBOOK: Church of St. Thomas More

CLERGY

Rev. Kevin V. Madigan, Pastor
Rev. Edwin Diaz, Associate Pastor

STAFF

Edward Litcher, Business Manager
StmBusiness@gmail.com
Margaret Peet, Development
Sharon McKenna, Sacristan
Christopher Candela, O.P., Director of Music
StmMusicOffice@gmail.com

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday thru Friday: 8:00 am and 12:15 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am and 12:15 pm

CONFESSIONS

Monday thru Friday
12:00 pm - 12:10 pm (before Mass)
Saturday 5:00 – 5:30 pm

BAPTISM

1:00 pm on Sunday
(Arrangements must be made in advance)

MARRIAGE

Arrangements should be made at least six months prior to the wedding

VISITS TO HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

Our clergy are happy to visit.
Call the parish office to arrange.

Parish Trustees

Christopher Baldwin
Michael Poulos

Parish Council President

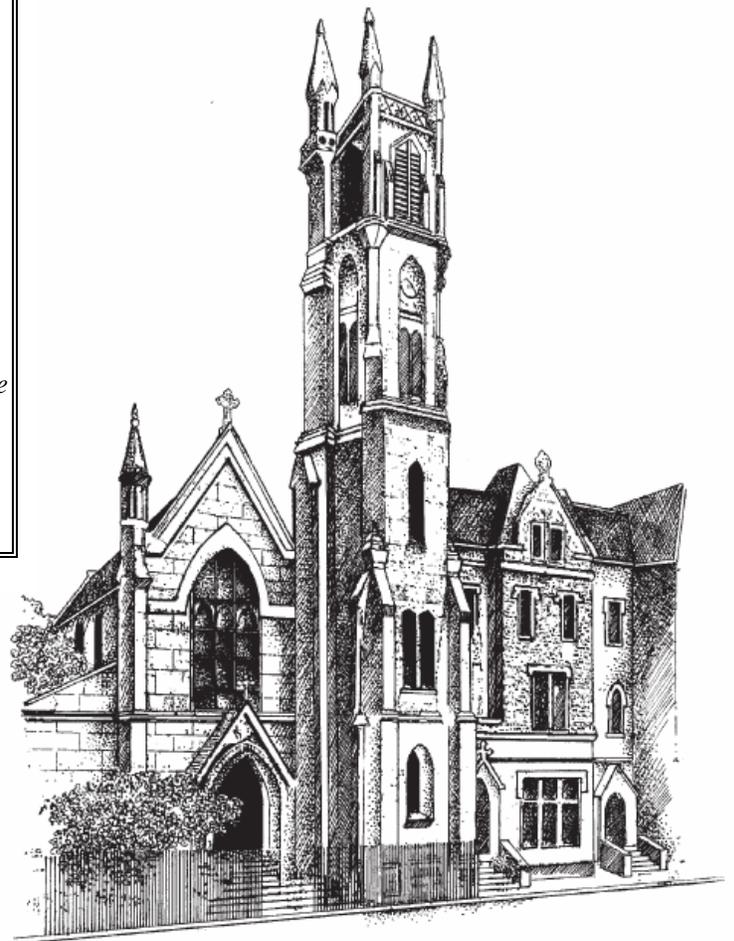
Elizabeth Williams

Head Usher

John F.R. Smilgin, III

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening: 5:45 p.m.
Sunday Morning: 8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m. (Family Mass)
Families and children are encouraged to attend the Family Mass at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Afternoon: 12:00 p.m. (Choral Mass)
Sunday Evening: 5:45 p.m.



Church of St. Thomas More

September 28, 2014

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme/Call To Worship

The readings for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time emphasize the importance of humility, and warn us against an arrogance that blinds us to our sin and to the work of God in our lives.

Introduction To The Word

Ezekiel 18:25-28: The first reading from the prophet Ezekiel stresses the importance of turning away from wickedness and doing “what is right and just.” He challenged those in captivity to an examination of conscience. Only with a humble heart can one see clearly what is right and just and accurately assess whether or not one’s ways are fair.

Philippians 2:1-11: The second reading from Paul’s Letter to the Philippians is commonly referred to as Paul’s “letter of joy.” Paul writes to his beloved Philippian Christians: “Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves.” He saw humility and selflessness as key components of being authentic believers in Christ.

Matthew 21:28-32: The parable in today’s Gospel reading begins Jesus’ public response to the religious leadership of Jerusalem and the Temple. The two sons in the parable could not be more different, much like the real focus of Jesus’ parable—the difference between the religious leaders of Jerusalem (the one son) and the tax collectors and prostitutes (the other son). What is at issue is the refusal of the Jewish religious leadership in Jerusalem to understand what God has offered his people with John the Baptist and Jesus.

Adapted from Liturgical Publications Inc, Connect! Uniting Word & World, Dr. Daniel J. Scholz

At St. Thomas More This Week

Date:	Event:	Time
09/28	Baptism	1:00 pm
09/29	A.A. Meeting	6:30 pm
09/30	Leisure Club Lunch after the 12:15 Mass	
	Clarion Music Society Concert	8:00 pm
	Religious Ed Class	5:00 pm
	A.A. Meeting	6:30 pm
10/01	Christian Meditation - Chapel	6:00 pm
10/02	A.A. Meeting	6:30 pm
10/03	A.A. Meeting	6:30 pm
	Communion and Liberation	7:00 pm

Celebrant / Lector Mass Schedule

Sept. 28	Celebrant	Lector
Sat 5:45 pm	Msgr. Pepe	The Rosses
Sun 8:30 am	Msgr. Pepe	Mary Ellen McEvily
Sun 10:00 am	Fr. Diaz	Kehoe Family
Sun 12:00 pm	Fr. Rafferty	Jacqueline Ackerina
Sun 5:45 pm	Fr. Diaz	Jim Sterling

Oct. 05	Celebrant	Lector
Sat 5:45 pm	Fr. Diaz	Nick Farnham
Sun 8:30 am	Fr. Diaz	Louisa Martin
Sun 10:00 am	Fr. Madigan	Osborne Family
Sun 12:00 pm	Fr. Diaz	Bob Burke
Sun 5:45 pm	Fr. Madigan	Chris Baldwin

Parish Pay

DONATE

Please consider joining Parish Pay to help you maintain your economic connection to your parish when you are away from home. To join the Parish Pay system, visit the [St. Thomas More](http://St.ThomasMore.org) website and click the Donate button located on our home page.

Next Sunday’s Special Collection

Weekly Flowers and Decorations

Help us to keep our sacred space beautiful.
Your generosity is most appreciated.

Tuesday, September 30th 8pm – After two years of planning the St. Thomas More Music Department is pleased to announce the return of “MOREMusic” the successful series of parish musical events begun by Music Director emeritus Harvey Burgett. To re-launch this series, **The Clarion Music Society** (one of New York’s most renowned period instrument ensembles) will perform Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons*. Tickets available at www.clarionsociety.org or call 212-580-5700.

Sunday, October 5th at 2pm - The Church of St. Thomas More will again welcome you and your special friends to a **Blessing of the Animals** ceremony.

**MASS INTENTIONS AND FEAST
DAYS AT ST. THOMAS MORE
FOR WEEK OF
SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 04**

Mon. Sept. 29 *Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael*

8:00 Finn X. Murphy (L)

* 12:15 Alicia Conill (D)

Tues. Sept. 30 *St. Jerome*

8:00 Carol Ann Griffin (D)

* 12:15 Lela Carruega (D)

Wed. Oct. 01 *St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus*

8:00 May E. Rooney (D)

* 12:15 May E. Rooney (D)

Thurs. Oct. 02 *The Holy Guardian Angels*

8:00 May E. Rooney (D)

* 12:15 Anthony Declemente (D)

Fri. Oct. 03

8:00 May E. Rooney (D)

* 12:15 Kathleen Gorman (D)

Sat. Oct. 04 *St. Francis of Assisi*

8:00 May E. Rooney (D)

* 12:15 Theresa Fields (D)

Sunday Vigil

5:45 Mercy Asencio (D)

* **Rosary said after the 12:15 Mass**



WEEKDAY BIBLE READING

09/29 Mon: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a
Jn 1:47-51

09/30 Tues: Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23; Lk 9:51-56

10/01 Wed: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16; Lk 9:57-62

10/02 Thurs: Jb 19:21-27; Mt 18:1-5, 10

10/03 Fri: Jb 38:1, 12-21, 40:3-5; Lk 10:13-16

10/04 Sat: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Lk 10:17-24

Sunday Collection – September 21, 2014
Weekly Collection – \$7,298.71
Weekly Expenses - \$15,944.17
Adult Attendance – 457

Join the St. Thomas More E-Group

Send an email with your Name and the words Join the E-Group (Currently 289 members) to stmbusiness@gmail.com receive the weekly Bulletin and other important information.

Sunday Coffee Hour: Volunteer for this important Community Service. We extend our thanks to our volunteer **Alicia Damley** for hosting this gathering, which is a wonderful way for parishioners to meet and get to know one another as well as to share a sweet and a cup of coffee or apple juice for the children. We look forward to meeting you there **after the 10:00 am Mass**. (Correction – Last week **Karine Boorady** was our Coffee Hour volunteer)

Christian Meditation The next session will be held in the Chapel on October 1st



Do you like to sing? The Music Department of St. Thomas More would like to hear from parishioners who might be interested in dedicating their talents to sing chorally. Music reading ability is desirable as well as a clear voice with a good sense of pitch and the ability to blend with others. For more information, contact Christopher Candela, Director of Music by e-mail at STMMusicOffice@gmail.com

The TACHS (Test for Admission into Catholic High Schools) will be administered in the Archdiocese of New York on **Friday, November 7th.**

Online registration is available 7 days a week by going to the website: www.tachsinfo.com or by calling 1-866-618-2247. The deadline for internet/telephone registration is **Monday, October 20th.**



"Rejoice"! the Children's Choir Returns on Gaudete Sunday

We are seeking children ages 8-12 to participate in a children's choir to sing at the 10am Mass on Sunday, December 14th, 2014. It's not too early to sign up! Parents who wish to have their children participate in this ensemble must sign up with the Director of Music by contacting the Christopher Candela at STMMusicOffice@gmail.com. For more information, please see the flyer in the rear of the church.

Fr. Madigan's - Increased Giving Campaign - Presentation September 21, 2014

I'd like to spend a few minutes outlining the financial condition of our parish. The bottom line is that we had a surplus of \$127,000 this year. **However, that is somewhat misleading because this surplus was only achieved as a result of a bequest of \$140,000, as well as a very good return on our investments due to the past year's rally in the stock market.** Obviously, this is income we can't count upon every year. **Without it we would actually have a deficit of \$152,000.**

I would like to point out some significant figures in the Annual Report and, more importantly, explain what those figures really mean. If you look at Operating Income, you will notice that contributions from the Sunday and Holyday collections are on a decline for the past two years. **The pie-chart of Income Sources indicates that less than 40% of our total income comes from these collections.** In comparison to most parishes of the Archdiocese, this is extremely low, and not a healthy sign of over-all support. What is not shown on the graph, but which is revealed by an analysis of the breakdown in individual contributions, is that 20% of the congregation contributes about 80% of the collection. **The fact is we rely upon the generosity of a rather small segment of the total parish community for most of our support.** And to that point, within the past year three families whose yearly contributions totaled \$40,000 have moved away. Without the rent paid by the Play Group downstairs, the returns on investments, a large bequest and the Semi-annual Appeals, we would not come close to balancing our budget. In fact, without those subsidies a parishioner (based on average attendance throughout the year) would have to contribute \$47 each Sunday in order to meet our parish's financial needs. The cost of the music program alone would require a weekly contribution of \$6. I should also mention that since last year we are now required by the Archdiocese to pay \$54,000 for the support of Catholic grammar schools. This is in addition to the Archdiocesan tax of almost \$63,000 that we already have been paying.

We are the second oldest house of worship of any denomination in the Upper East Side. While that is a mark of distinction, it means that around here there is always something breaking, bursting, leaking, or sagging. Any of you who have lived in an old house knows what I am talking about. **We estimate a sum of at least \$250,000 in repairs for the exterior of the**

church that will have to be made within the next few years. While not urgent, if unattended to they could create even more serious problems.

On our part we have tried to economize wherever possible. You'll notice that the amount spent on clergy salaries and medical benefits has decreased by one third; the amount spent on household expenses for the Rectory has been slashed by two thirds in the past two years. We are trying to do more with less.

The average American Catholic, because of travel, family events, vacation, etc., attends their local parish church only 42 Sundays of the year. I would bet that that number is even smaller for our parish community. **So, I would ask you to be diligent about maintaining the level of your contributions even for those weekends when you are away, being as generous as your means allow.** This can be done in either of two specific ways: by using the weekly envelopes, and making up for missed collections when away, or by Parish Pay, whereby after signing up online, you can have a specific amount taken out of your checking account or applied to your credit card every month.

In conclusion I want to thank especially those who have been so generous in their support of our parish. And generosity is determined not by the size of the contribution, but by the degree of sacrifice entailed. Obviously some are capable of giving much more than others. **But I would ask that you prayerfully consider if you could increase your contributions to our parish.** This week you will receive a letter including an envelope, that you are asked to return next Sunday, indicating what you intend to contribute weekly. In deciding on an amount, you might reflect on what you spend on other things that are not really necessities, or donations you make to other organizations that you support, and how that matches up with your Sunday contribution. Also, if your personal income has grown in the past few years, is that reflected in the level of your contributions to St. Thomas More Church?

Thank you for your time. And at this time let me express my gratitude for how welcoming and supportive you have been to me, since I arrived two years ago as your pastor. **Let us continue to work together to maintain the wonderful tradition of our parish.**



Church of St. Thomas More

Our Parish Is Our Home.

Help maintain it and the services and ministries it offers by considering increasing your weekly contribution to the Sunday collection. We are a family, and together we can help the parish and its future.

Help our parish by filling out a special campaign envelope to increase your giving, and continue that increase over the next 52 weeks.

We are asking you to think about what you can afford to give to our parish. A general guideline for donations to your parish is 5% of your family's total income. Many people find that their total annual gifts are 1% or less. What percentage of your income can you afford to give?

	Suggested Weekly Contribution Levels							
Annual Income	1.50%	2.00%	2.50%	3.00%	3.50%	4.00%	4.50%	5.00%
\$30,000	\$9	\$12	\$15	\$18	\$21	\$24	\$27	\$30
\$50,000	\$14	\$19	\$24	\$29	\$34	\$38	\$43	\$48
\$70,000	\$20	\$27	\$34	\$40	\$47	\$54	\$61	\$67
\$90,000	\$26	\$35	\$43	\$52	\$61	\$69	\$78	\$87
\$100,000	\$29	\$38	\$48	\$58	\$67	\$77	\$87	\$96
\$150,000	\$43	\$58	\$72	\$87	\$101	\$115	\$130	\$144
\$200,000	\$58	\$77	\$96	\$115	\$135	\$154	\$173	\$192
\$250,000	\$72	\$96	\$120	\$144	\$168	\$192	\$216	\$240

Your help is important!