

Church of Saint Thomas More

65 East 89th Street (east of Madison Avenue)

New York City, New York 10128

November 30, 2014

PARISH OFFICE (212) 876-7718
FAX (212) 831-5756
E-MAIL: StmParish@gmail.com
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

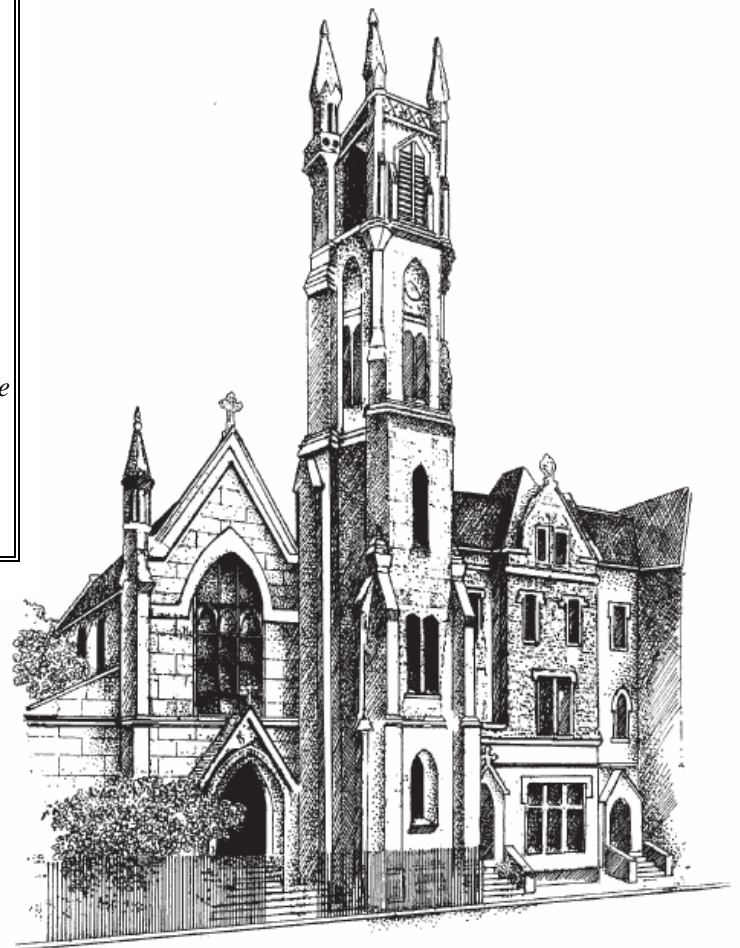
Elizabeth Williams

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

November 30, 2014

First Sunday of Advent

Theme/Call To Worship

The Roman Catholic Church has a longstanding tradition of beginning a new church year with the celebration of the season of Advent. For the next four Sundays, we will celebrate Jesus' second coming as Lord and Judge. The season of Advent reminds us that chronological "time" does have a sacred dimension.

Introduction To The Word

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7: The first reading for the season of Advent this year comes from the prophet Isaiah. The words of Isaiah for today come from the final chapters in this long prophetic book. Deep in prayer, Isaiah ponders the mystery of God and the sins of the people of Israel.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9: The second reading is the greeting and thanksgiving from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Paul wrote this letter to the Christian community in the city of Corinth about twenty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Paul's thanksgiving to the Corinthians reveals the deep-seated belief in the imminent return of Jesus among the first generation of Christians: "You are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Mark 13:33-37: With the new church year, our Lectionary readings now turn to Cycle B, with the Gospel readings taken from Mark. Today's Gospel reading is part of Jesus' private eschatological discourse with Peter, James, John, and Andrew ([see Mk 13:1- 37 for the full discourse](#)). Scholars refer to this discourse between Jesus and his disciples as the *eschaton* or end-time discourse because Jesus is speaking about events associated with the end of time (e.g., the destruction of the Temple, coming persecutions, great tribulations, etc.) and events associated with his second coming (e.g., the coming of the Son of Man)

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

At St. Thomas More This Week

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>	<u>Time</u>
11/30	Baptism	1:00 pm
12/01	A.A. Meeting	6:30 pm
12/02	Leisure Club Lunch after the 12:15 Mass	
	Religious Ed Class	5:00 pm
	A.A. Meeting	6:30 pm
12/03	Christian Meditation - Chapel	6:00 pm
12/04	A.A. Meeting	6:30 pm
12/05	First Friday	
	Exposition & Benediction after 12:15 Mass	
	A.A. Meeting	6:30 pm
	Communion and Liberation	7:00 pm

Sunday Collection – November 23, 2014
Regular Collection - \$8,684.17
Fall Semi Annual Collection – \$3,775.00
Weekly Expenses - \$15,756.60
Adult Attendance – 517

*May your help be with the man
of your right hand, with the
son of man whom you yourself
made strong.*

Celebrant / Lector Mass Schedule

Nov. 30	Celebrant	Lector
Sat 5:45 pm	Fr. Diaz	Nick Farnham
Sun 8:30 am	Fr. Diaz	Louisa Martin
Sun 10:00 am	Fr. Madigan	Bednar Family
Sun 12:00 pm	Fr. Diaz	Jacqueline Ackerina
Sun 5:45 pm	Fr. Madigan	Jim Sterling

Dec. 07	Celebrant	Lector
Sat 5:45 pm	Fr. Madigan	The Rosses
Sun 8:30 am	Fr. Madigan	Mary Ellen McEvily
Sun 10:00 am	Fr. Diaz	Kehoe Family
Sun 12:00 pm	Fr. Madigan	Bob Burke
Sun 5:45 pm	Fr. Diaz	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](#) website and click the Donate button located on our home page.

**MASS INTENTIONS AND FEAST
DAYS AT ST. THOMAS MORE
FOR WEEK OF
NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 06**

Mon. Dec. 01

8:00 Maria Lucaj (D)

* 12:15 Agatha Whelan (D)

Tues. Dec. 02

8:00 Arthur Crist (D)

* 12:15 Luigi & Marcella Manzo (D)

Wed. Dec. 03 *St. Francis Xavier*

8:00 Aurora Lickon (D)

* 12:15 Augusto Vertucio (D)

Thurs. Dec. 04 *St. John Damascene*

8:00 Pedro & Fransico Toquero (D)

* 12:15 Anne Bolan (L)

Fri. Dec. 05

8:00 Dionisio & Alejandro Toquero (D)

* 12:15 Catherine Patricia Smyth (D)

Sat. Dec. 06 *St. Nicholas*

8:00 Anselmo Toquero
& Melisio Salgado (D)

* 12:15 James Gorman (D)

Sunday Vigil

5:45 Diane DePass (L)

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



WEEKDAY BIBLE READING

12/01 Mon: Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11

12/02 Tues: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

12/03 Wed: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

12/04 Thurs: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

12/05 Fri: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

12/06 Sat: Is 30:19-21, 23-26;
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Christian Meditation

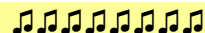
December 3rd – 6:00pm

Location: St. Thomas More - Chapel
65 East 89th Street – Manhattan

Group Facilitator: **Donald Main**

415-668-1430 -

costmny@christianmeditation.us



**"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.



You're invited! Join Boomers & Beyond for our annual Christmas Caroling event at the Lott Assisted Living Residence. You don't have to be a super soprano

or terrific tenor ... just someone who wants to join with us in sharing some Christmas joy through song... and perhaps stop at a local spot for a snack and drink afterwards.

Date: Sunday, December 7th Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Lott Assisted Living Residence
5th Avenue (between 107th-108th).

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

Save the Date

MoreMusic

Tapestry Choir

In the Church of St. Thomas More

Friday, December 19th – 7:00 pm

Cost: \$10.00 – at the door

Join the St. Thomas More E-Group

Send an email with your Name and the words

Join the E-Group (Currently 301 members) to stmbusiness@gmail.com receive the weekly Bulletin and other important information.



Parish Council Advent Event Calendar

The season of Advent is marked with a number of events at our parish. Please join in the celebrations and bring a friend or two to re-engage in our faith at this holy and joyous time of year!

- **Nov 23** - Make Advent Wreaths during Children's Religious Education programs and Family Coffee Hour
- **Dec 1 - 16:** STM's Children's Toy Drive - bring a new, unwrapped toy or gift card in support of Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Services
- **Dec 7:** Christmas tree set-up during Family Coffee Hour
- **Dec 13 - 14:** STM's Christmas Food Drive in support of NY Common Pantry
- **Dec 14:** Christmas Tree Lighting and Children's Ornament Making during a special Family Coffee Hour with a visit from Santa
- **Dec 19:** MoreMusic Concert - Tapestry Choir
- **Dec 21:** Family Coffee Hour
- **Dec 28:** Family Coffee Hour

STM's popular note cards and paintings by young girls from India rebuilding their lives away from prostitution will be available for sale during the Nov 30 - Dec 21 Family Coffee Hours.

Mentors Needed: Catholic Big Sisters & Big Brothers (CBSBB)

CBSBB currently has a waitlist of both boys and girls, ages 10 to 18, who are eager for a mentor. There is no better gift than the gift of time – please consider becoming a mentor today! Basic program requirements include: a 1 year commitment to the match relationship and 8 hours a month spent with your Little. Contact us at 212 475-3291 x502 or at volunteers@cbsbb.org for more information about mentoring, or Ryan Sheppard at 212 475-3291 x203 or at rsheppard@cbsbb.org for more information about our volunteer recruitment efforts. Take a stand and make a difference!

Next Sunday – December 7th after the 5:45 Mass, we will have our parish monthly Cocktail Hour. Adults of all ages and their guests are welcome to attend. No need for reservations.

Sunday Coffee Hour: Volunteer for this important Community Service. We extend our thanks to our volunteer *Elizabeth Williams* 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.**

Note: The Sunday Coffee Hour announcement was inadvertently missed in last week's Bulletin. I apologize for the oversight. But, I would like to extend our thanks to *Maureen Barry* for hosting this important Parish gathering.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

As a result of our Thanksgiving Food Drive, we collected \$1,950 and 4 large boxes of food for the New York Common Pantry. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Canterbury Choral Society

Holiday Concert

"Hodie (A Christmas Cantata)
and "Fantasia on Christmas Carols"

Sunday, December 7th - 4:00pm

Church of the Heavenly Rest

Fifth Avenue at 90th Street

New York, NY 10128

Tickets \$25 - General Admission

\$20 - Seniors & Students - 1 D

Children 12 and under free

Making All Things New

I would like to speak with you for a few minutes about the future of our parish. As you may remember, since last fall a group of our parishioners have been working with a cluster of our neighboring parishes, St. Ignatius Loyola on 84th St. and St. Francis de Sales on 96th St, as part of the process of Making All Things New, the archdiocesan program to restructure parishes. At that time our charge was to consider how we might collaborate in ministry with our neighboring parishes, as well as recommend to Cardinal Dolan the possible closure of any of our parishes. As a result of those deliberations, our cluster recommended that we three parishes simply adopt a model of collaboration among us. That was truly our best judgment, and until quite recently we had thought it had been accepted by the Archdiocese.

What we have just learned is that our recommendation has not been accepted. After consulting with a variety of lay, religious, clergy, and administrative advisory groups, Cardinal Dolan has asked that our cluster reconvene to consider a different proposal, and to get back to him by March 1st with our response. His proposal is this: that the parish of St. Thomas More should merge with the parish of St. Ignatius Loyola; that St. Ignatius Loyola be the designated parish church: and that at the church of St. Thomas More, Mass and sacraments no longer be celebrated, except possibly for some special occasion. Effectively that means that our church of St. Thomas More would close. Our parish church would no longer be the site for our community worship, nor the focus of our parish activities. With this proposed merger, all activities would be transferred to St. Ignatius Loyola, and you would be invited to become members of that parish. This is scheduled to take place by August 1st of next year.

Needless to say, this comes as a shock to all of us. Although we have a vibrant parish life and are quite able to meet all our financial obligations, the rationale given for this proposal is this: "that since St. Thomas More will eventually close some day, it is better to do it now rather than later, when there is presently a momentum within the Archdiocese to merge parishes."

In the weeks and months ahead we will have to formulate a response to the Cardinal to make the case for the continued existence of our parish. Already our own parish cluster representatives have met to discuss the Cardinal's proposal. This afternoon we met with the other neighboring parish representatives to continue the discussion. I should add that while the proposal is not a "done deal," it is a very real possibility. However, the Cardinal is quite clear that he does not want to make a final decision in this matter, until he has heard from all the people involved.

In the weeks and months ahead we will be engaged in crafting our response to the Cardinal. I would hope that as many of you as possible will play a role in that process. We have placed clipboards with sign-up sheets in the rear of the church, asking our parishioners to leave their contact information so that we might be able to let you know at some later date how you might participate in the task of saving our beloved parish.

In the meanwhile, let us try to remain calm. We will come up with a process through which we can surface and discuss our concerns. We will offer regular updates as the three parishes in our cluster continue to meet in the weeks and months ahead. Through it all, we will maintain the spirit of charity, respect and trust that has always characterized this parish. Let us pray for a successful conclusion for our efforts to save our parish. And, whatever be the outcome, let us remain convinced that our faith is based on more than a building, even though that building, our parish church, may be the source of some of our fondest memories. Our faith is based on our following of the risen Lord Jesus. Thank you and God bless you.