

Church of Saint Thomas More

65 East 89th Street (east of Madison Avenue)

New York City, New York 10128

December 7, 2014

PARISH OFFICE (212) 876-7718
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WEBSITE: www.ThomasMoreChurch.org
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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

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.

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

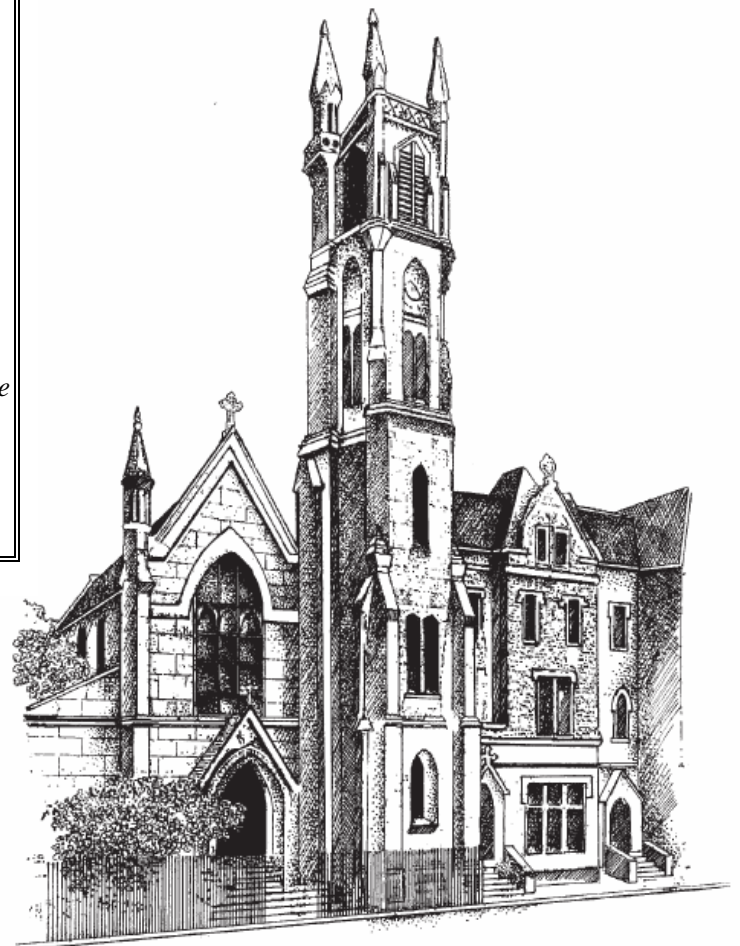
Christopher Baldwin
Michael Poulos

Parish Council President

Elizabeth Williams

Head Usher

John F.R. Smilgin, III



Church of St. Thomas More

December 7, 2014

Second Sunday of Advent

Theme/Call To Worship

The season of Advent is a time of repentance for our sins and a time of preparation for the arrival of God's Son who comes to bring comfort, mercy, and forgiveness to his people.

Introduction To The Word

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11: The words of the prophet Isaiah in the first reading are directed to a people hungry for God's presence in their lives: "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God."

2 Peter 3:8-14: The second reading is taken from the Second Letter of Peter. In this letter, the author takes up one of the pressing problems for second- and third-generation Christians: an explanation for the "delay" of the second coming of Christ.

Mark 1:1-8: Today's Gospel reading is the opening verses to the Gospel of Mark. For Mark, John is inseparable from Jesus. In fact, the movement toward understanding Jesus begins with the person of John the Baptist. According to Mark, the person of John the Baptist fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies of Isaiah and Malachi, because John's baptizing the Jews was a "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." Not only did preparation for the arrival of the Messiah require a disposition of repentance on the part of Israel, but the baptism itself also signaled to Israel God's deep mercy and forgiveness in anticipation of the Messiah's arrival. The first words spoken by John the Baptist in Mark's Gospel both summarize the heart of John's message and also differentiate John the baptizer from Jesus, the Messiah and Son of God: "I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Finally, Mark's description of John the Baptist would have elicited the image of the prophet Elijah for any of Mark's readers familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures, and Mark's comment that John fed on "locusts and wild honey" was meant to communicate that John lived a simple life, since locusts and wild honey were a common source of nutrition for people living in the Ancient Near East.

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>
12/07	Monthly Parish Cocktail Hour	
	After the 5:45 Mass	
12/08	<u>Immaculate Conception</u>	<u>Holy Day</u>
	CHADD	5:55 pm
	A.A. Meeting	6:30 pm
12/09	Leisure Club Lunch after the 12:15 Mass	
	Religious Ed Class	5:00 pm
	A.A. Meeting	6:30 pm
12/10	Christian Meditation - Chapel	6:00 pm
12/11	A.A. Meeting	6:30 pm
12/12	A.A. Meeting	6:30 pm
	Communion and Liberation	7:00 pm

Celebrant / Lector Mass Schedule

<u>Dec. 07</u>	<u>Celebrant</u>	<u>Lector</u>
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

<u>Dec. 14</u>	<u>Celebrant</u>	<u>Lector</u>
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	Nilsa Santiago
Sun 5:45 pm	Fr. Madigan	Jacqueline Ackerina

TOWN HALL MEETING
 St. Thomas More Church
 Wednesday, Dec. 17th,
 at 7:00pm - to discuss
 Cardinal Dolan's proposal that
 St. Thomas More be merged with
 St. Ignatius Loyola.

*I will hear what God proclaims;
 for he proclaims peace to his
 people*

**MASS INTENTIONS AND FEAST
DAYS AT ST. THOMAS MORE
FOR WEEK OF
DECEMBER 07 – DECEMBER 13**

Mon. Dec. 08 *The Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

- 8:00 Elizabeth Fuller Cooper (D)
* 12:15 Albert, Regina & Virginia Wojcik (D)
5:45 Immaculate Conception

Tues. Dec. 09 *St. Juan Diego*

- 8:00 Christopher Begley (D)
* 12:15 Jaime Ocampo (D)

Wed. Dec. 10

- 8:00 Patrick Kearney (L)
* 12:15 Maria Morales & Guadalupe Mutio (D)

Thurs. Dec. 11 *St. Damasus I*

- 8:00 Antonio Gebauer (D)
* 12:15 In Thanksgiving for God's Gifts

Fri. Dec. 12 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

- 8:00 Tomasa & Melquiades Toquero (D)
* 12:15 Claire McCrudden (D)

Sat. Dec. 13 *St. Lucy*

- 8:00 Manuel Alejâga, Sr. (D)
* 12:15 Mary Benjamin (D)

Sunday Vigil

- 5:45 Caesar Geraci (D)
* **Rosary said after the 12:15 Mass**

WEEKDAY BIBLE READING

12/08 Mon: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
Lk 1:26-38

12/09 Tues: Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

12/10 Wed: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

12/11 Thurs: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

12/12 Fri: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a,
12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

12/13 Sat: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Christian Meditation

December 10th – 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**

GAUDETE SUNDAY CHILDREN'S CHOIR UPDATE:
Over the past month, too few children were available within the 8-12 range for a liturgical children's choir, so we have decided to open up the endeavor to children of all ages! No formal sign up is required, but attendance at rehearsal this Thursday, December 11th from 6:00-6:45pm in the Rochester Room is **MANDATORY** for children who wish to perform at the conclusion of Mass on Sunday, December 14th. Children who are not present for the entire rehearsal will not be allowed to sing on Sunday.

Sunday Collection – November 30, 2014

Regular Collection - \$8,807.80

Fall Semi Annual Collection – \$3,605.00

Weekly Expenses - \$14,209.96

Adult Attendance – 511

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) website and click the Donate button located on our home page.

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 308 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!

- **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.

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).

This Advent, Prepare your Heart for the Peace of Christ

Reconciliation Monday

Monday – December 15th

Confessions will be heard in the Church of St Thomas More (and in each of the Parishes of the Archdiocese of New York) from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Next Sunday's Special Collection

Our annual archdiocesan collection for those sisters and brothers who are in their senior years, affords us an opportunity to offer them our love and support by helping to provide for their needs. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

This 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 **Christopher Boova** 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**.

Next Sunday – December 14th

after the 10:00am Mass in the Rochester Room

Santa Brunch

With Santa arriving at 11.30 a.m.



Making All Things New Update

The Cluster Teams of St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Thomas More, and St. Francis de Sales have met twice over the past two weeks to consider Cardinal Dolan's proposal that the parishes of St. Ignatius Loyola and St. Thomas More merge. We are still very early in the process, clarifying the terms upon which our response will be based.

The most recent meeting, on the evening of December 3rd, was facilitated by Mr. John Reid of the Reid Group, the consulting firm contracted by the Archdiocese to facilitate the entire Making All Things New (MATN) initiative.

After consulting with Cardinal Dolan, Mr. Reid shared with us that the two points we need to focus on are questions of parish vibrancy and proximity of location. Taken from the larger set of MATN goals published from the very beginning, these are the issues that prompted the Cardinal's proposal, and he wants to hear the Cluster's best thinking about them.

Please continue to pray that a true spirit of discernment will pervade the ongoing deliberations.

Fr. Kevin V. Madigan
Pastor

Church of St. Thomas More **Christmas Toy Drive**

Benefiting The Little Sisters of the Assumption
Health Family Service

Spread a little holiday cheer to those who are most in need.

Donate - New, Unwrapped Toys
Sports-related gifts and board games are greatly appreciated.
(No stuffed animals, please!)
Gift Cards (for older children)
can be left with the Parish Receptionist.

Toys can be dropped off in the specially marked boxes at the back for
the Church

December 1ST through December 16TH

The Parish Council thanks you in advance
for helping to make a needy child's Christmas a little brighter.
