

Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel - St. Thomas More

230 East 90th Street - 65 East 89th Street
New York City, New York 10128

December 13, 2015

PARISH OFFICE (212) 876-7718
FAX (212) 831-5756
E-MAIL: StmParish@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.ThomasMoreChurch.org
FACEBOOK: [Church of St. Thomas More](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchofSt.ThomasMore)

CLERGY

Rev. Kevin V, Madigan, Pastor
Rev. Edwin Diaz, Associate Pastor
Rev. Richard Terga, CICM

STAFF

Edward Litcher, Business Manager
StmBusiness@gmail.com
Margaret Peet, Development
Sharon McKenna, Sacristan
Mr. 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

SPECIAL MASSES - See Event Schedule

Mass for the Deaf - Alternate Saturdays and Sundays
Healing Mass - First Thursday of the Month

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

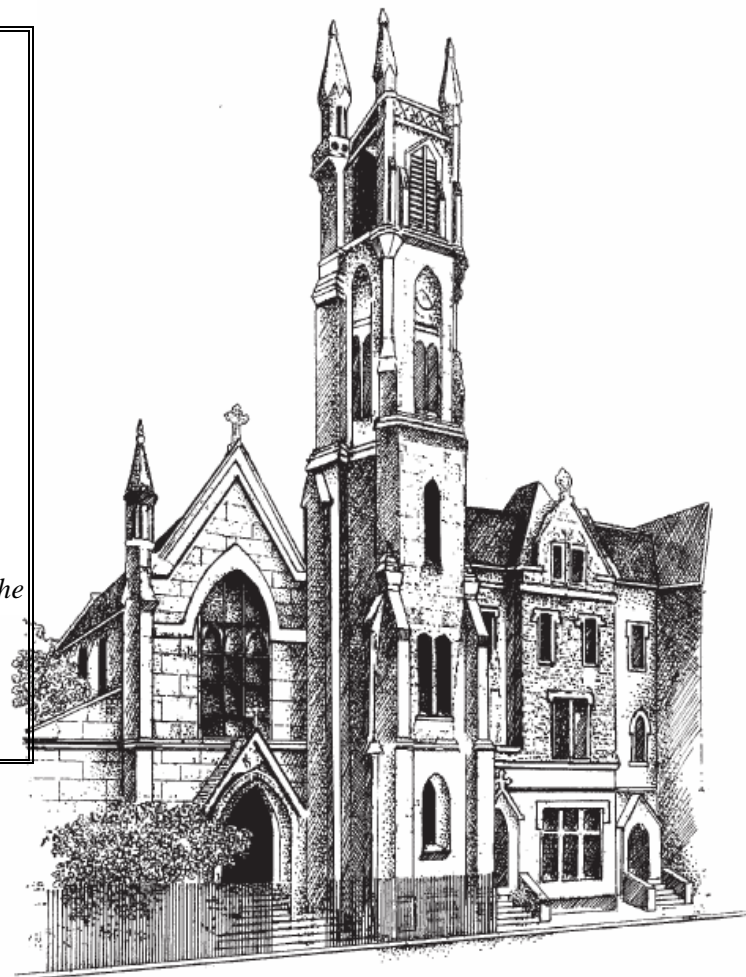
Alicia Damley

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 Our Lady of Good Counsel - St. Thomas More

December 13 2015

Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday

The Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Advent focuses on the teachings of John the Baptist. While it is likely that John was active for several years preaching and baptizing in the desert areas of Judea, the Gospel writers preserve very little of his words and deeds. What was clear among the early Christians was that John played a pivotal role in preparing Jews for the arrival of the Messiah.

John's preaching and baptizing must have had significant impact. In today's Gospel reading, one fundamental question is asked repeatedly of John from various sources—the crowds, the tax collectors, and the soldiers—"What should we do?" Presumably, the questions stem from their shared desire to be prepared for the coming Messiah and messianic age. John offers different answers to the different groups, but each speaks to the importance of a high ethical code. Given John's influence and apparent moral authority, not surprisingly, Luke informs us that some wondered if John himself "might be the Christ." John's response leaves no room for doubt as to whether he was the Messiah: while John baptizes with water, the coming Messiah will baptize with "the Holy Spirit and fire." Furthermore, the Messiah is coming to judge and to separate "the wheat" from "the chaff." John's message about preparation for the coming messianic age contained not only exhortations, it also included warnings.

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

Save the Date

Wednesday, December 16th at 8 PM

Tapestry

an excellent acappella choral group

*In Concert: Performing Classical Pieces by
Mozart, Brahms, and Britten
in the Church of St. Thomas More*

Sunday – December 06, 2015

Regular Collection - \$10,919.09

Regular Weekly Expenses - \$14,819.43

Attendance – 638

This Advent, Prepare your Heart for the Peace of Christ

Reconciliation Monday

Monday – December 14th

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

Leisure Lunch Program

Tuesday December 15th after the 12:15pm Mass

Celebrant / Lector Mass Schedule

Dec 13	Celebrant	Lector
Sat 5:45 pm	Fr. Madigan	Nick Farnham
Sun 8:30 am	Fr. Madigan	Louisa Martin
Sun 10:00 am	Fr. Quinn	Branche Family
Sun 12:00 pm	Fr. Quinn	Nilsa Santiago
Sun 5:45 pm	Fr. Diaz	Jim Sterling

Dec 20	Celebrant	Lector
Sat 5:45 pm	Fr. Diaz	The Rosses
Sun 8:30 am	Fr. Diaz	TBD
Sun 10:00 am	Fr. Gibbons, SJ	Boorady Family
Sun 12:00 pm	Fr. Gibbons, SJ	Christine Stonbely
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.

*Rejoice in the Lord always.
I shall say it again: rejoice!*

**MASS INTENTIONS AND FEAST
DAYS AT ST. THOMAS MORE
FOR WEEK OF
DECEMBER 13 – DECEMBER 19**

Mon. December 14 *St. John of the Cross*

8:00 John Pena Saldajeno (D)

* 12:15 The Crossey Family

Tues. December 15

8:00 Michael Futterman (D)

* 12:15 Douglas McCormick (L)

Wed. December 16

8:00 Aziz & Victorine Gorra (D)

* 12:15 Sheila Butler (L)

Thurs. December 17

8:00 Jane Blaney (D)

* 12:15 Mary Benjamin (D)

Fri. December 18

8:00 Edward Zimmerman (D)

* 12:15 Margaret Phelan (D)

Sat. December 19

8:00 Bayhia Kansao (D)

* 12:15 Maria & Joseph Muccino (D)

Sunday Vigil

5:45 Rosalind Campbell (D)

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



WEEKDAY BIBLE READING

Sun: Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Mon: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

Tues: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

Wed: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23

Thurs: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Fri: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Sat: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

This Sunday's Special Collection

Our annual archdiocesan collection for those Religious 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.

Events at St Thomas More.....

Date	Event	Time
12/12	Alzheimer's Workshop	9:00am
	Mass for the Deaf	3:00pm
	STM PC Youth Committee	
	Community Service Outreach Event	
	STM Parish Christmas Food Drive	
12/13	Family Coffee Hour after the 10am Mass	
	Brunch with a Special Visitor	
	Advent Concert - OLG	4:00pm
12/14	Reconciliation Monday	4 - 8:00pm
	A.A Meeting	6:30pm
12/15	Leisure Lunch after the 12:15 Mass	
	A.A Meeting	6:30pm
12/16	Christian Meditation	6:00pm
	End of STM Toy Drive	
	Tapestry Concert	8:00 pm
12/17	A.A Meeting	6:30pm
12/18	A.A Meeting	6:30pm
12/19	Holy Land Sale after the 5:45pm Mass	
12/20	Family Coffee Hour after the 10am Mass	
	Mass for the Deaf	2:00pm
	Holy Land Sale after each Mass	
12/21	A.A Meeting	6:30pm
12/22	Leisure Lunch after the 12:15 Mass	
	A.A Meeting	6:30pm
12/23	Christian Meditation	6:00pm
12/24	Mass for the Deaf	2:00pm
	Christmas Eve Masses 4, 6 and 10pm	
	A.A Meeting	6:30pm
12/25	Christmas Day Masses 8:30, 10 and Noon	
	Mass for the Deaf	2:00pm
	A.A Meeting	6:30pm
12/28	A.A Meeting	6:30pm
12/29	Leisure Lunch after the 12:15 Mass	
	A.A Meeting	6:30pm
12/30	Christian Meditation	6:00pm
12/31	New Year's Eve - No 5:45pm Mass	
	OLGC has a 6:00pm Mass	
	A.A Meeting	6:30pm
1/1	New Year's Day Masses 8, 12:15 and 5:45	
	A.A Meeting	6:30pm
1/3	Family Coffee Hour after the 10am Mass	
	Cocktail Hour following the 5:45pm Mass	
1/9	STM PC Youth Committee	
	Community Service Outreach Event	
1/10	Family Coffee Hour after the 10am Mass	
1/11	Parish Council Meeting	7:00pm
1/17	STM Parish Food Drive	
1/17	Family Coffee Hour after the 10am Mass	
1/24	Family Coffee Hour after the 10am Mass	
1/31	Family Coffee Hour after the 10am Mass	
	Family Day Celebration	

No Parish Council Meeting in December,

Sunday Coffee Hour

We extend our thanks to our volunteer *Peter & Celeste Manice* for hosting this Sunday's event, which is a wonderful way for parishioners to meet and get to know one another. We look forward to meeting you there after **the 10:00am Family Mass**.

CHURCH OF ST THOMAS MORE Christmas Toy Drive

In support of
**Little Sisters of the Assumption
Family Health Service**

In this season of joy and giving, STM will again be holding its Christmas Toy Drive from **Dec 1 – 16** in support of Little Sisters of the Assumption, which works with families in East Harlem to address the many dimensions of health - physical, emotional, educational and spiritual. With nearly 60 years experience in the East Harlem community, their goal is to help families become self-sustaining, contributing members of the community.

Please drop off new, unwrapped toys, books and clothing for children 0 – 12 years in the marked box at the back of the church. Suitable items include educational games, soccer and basketballs. Please do not include stuffed animals, games or toys that glorify violence. Gift cards for Old Navy, Target or Marshalls are also welcome. Gift cards may be left with the parish Reception Desk.

Help brighten this Christmas for a child less fortunate.

Thank you for your generous support!
Wishing you and yours Joy and Peace this Christmas Season!

St. Patrick's Cathedral

**36th Annual A City Singing at Christmas
Thursday, December 17, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.**

Celebrate this joyful time of the year with traditional and contemporary Christmas hymns and carols!

To end the evening, the Cathedral lights are dimmed to allow the candle lights to illuminate the Cathedral as Silent Night is sung.

Coming Soon: Handcrafted Olivewood from the Holy Land December 19th and 20th after each Mass in the Rochester Room.

The Olivewood carving industries has evolved as a cultural tradition of the Christians over many centuries. Many Holy Land Christians in the Bethlehem area alone rely upon income generated from this art form. The items are carved by local craftsmen. Many families are facing crisis situations. Without income, many craftsmen and families leave their traditional trade and emigrate with their families to find relief from the difficult conditions of their Homeland. Sixty years ago, Christians represented more than 28% of the population and now represent less than 2%. The loss of Christians in the land of Christ's birth will represent a tragedy of immeasurable proportions for the billions of Christians worldwide.

Thank you for your vital support for a Christian Tradition and in protecting this very important culture and industry.

DEMELLO-STROUD SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

Saturday, December 19 - 8:00 AM - 4:45 PM
Epiphany Church Hall, Second Ave, 21-22 St,
Manhattan

WAKE UP TO THE JOYS OF ADVENT
"Listen to the song the Angels sang when YOU were born!"

Reflections in the spirit of Anthony Demello, S.J.
8:00-9:00. Bagels and coffee

9:00-4:45. Interactive discussion, talks, video--
JOY, AWARENESS, SILENCE, LOVE, MEDITATION
Presented by Desmond Towey & Josephine Dixon Hall
of the Demello-Stroud Spirituality

Center, located at Epiphany Church. Register:
917-859-1701/demellostroud@aol.com
FREE OF CHARGE: Modest gratitude donations will
enable the Center to continue its work.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Saturday Morning Breakfast

Come serve breakfast at the OLGC
Saturday Morning Breakfast on Saturdays
from 7:15-9am. All adults welcome. To
sign-up visit www.thomasmorechurch.org.
For information email Kathleen Dana at
kathleendana@yahoo.com Location:
Cafeteria at OLGC 230 East 90th Street.
(Down the steps in the front of the church
and the doors directly in front.)

SING WE NOEL

Annual Christmas Concerts

December 13, 2015 and December 20, at 3 PM

Includes well-known seasonal favorites rendered by the Choirs and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola and the N.P. Mander Organ, as well as carols for everyone to join in.

Cost: \$35-\$85

Location : Church of St. Ignatius Loyola,
212.288.2520 or concerts@stignatiusloyola.org

Advent Liturgy of Lessons and Carols

A festive holiday tradition at St. Vincent Ferrer Church, the choir, clergy, and lectors present an Advent-Christmas liturgy proclaiming God's promise of salvation to mankind, through scripture, anthems, and familiar carols.

Day, Date and Time: Sunday, Dec. 13 at 3:00pm

Cost: Free Will Offering

Location: The Church of St. Vincent Ferrer
869 Lexington Avenue NYC

Contact: Music Office: (212) 744-2080, ext. 16

Christian Meditation

December 16th – 6:00pm - Chapel

Location: St. Thomas More - 65 East 89th St
Manhattan Group Facilitator:

Donald Main - 415-668-143

costmny@christianmeditation.us

ADVENT CONCERT

Sunday, December 13, 2015

at 4:00 PM

The Combined Adult and Children's Choirs

of

The Church of

Our Lady of Good Counsel - St. Thomas More

230 East 90th Street

New York, NY 10128

Readings and music for Advent

Joan Barton, Director of Music

Marcelle Devine, Director, Religious Education

Christopher Gillespie, Director,

Liturgical Music Education

All are invited

Layperson Contacts **Volunteer Outreach for St. Thomas More Church**

Ushers

Daniel Flynn

flynn.daniel@gmail.com

Altar Servers

Fr. Diaz

fredwindiaz@yahoo.com

Steve Schiller

steveschiller@gmail.com

Eucharistic Ministers

Fr. Diaz

fredwindiaz@yahoo.com

Teen Volunteers (Including Saturday
Morning Breakfast Program) Kathy Dana

kathleendana@yahoo.com

Lectors/Mass Reading Jim Dillon

jvd422@gmail.com

Coffee Hour

Elizabeth Williams

elizabeth.ewilliams@gmail.com

STM Sunday Cocktail Hour

Catherine Scalera

scaleracat@aol.com

Leisure Lunch

Pat Saunders

pasaunder@aol.com

Collection Counters

Ed Litcher

stmbusiness@gmail.com

Religious Education Teachers

Fr Madigan

kmadigan@nyc.rr.com

Book Signing and Reading: Fr. James Martin, SJ.

The New York Times- bestselling author and former *The Colbert Report* resident chaplain, will be reading excerpts and signing copies of his debut novel, *The Abbey*, a story of three lives intersecting at a local monastery.

Date/Time: Wednesday, December 16th at 7:30 PM

Location: Wallace Hall,

The Church of St. Ignatius Loyola,
980 Park Avenue (between 83rd and 84th Streets)

Questions or need additional details

Elizabeth O'Sullivan Communications Coordinator

212-288-3588 x647