

December 1, 2019
First 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.



The Advent Mystery
Awakening to the Presence of God

In the darkness of the womb, we have all been nurtured and protected.

In the darkness of the womb, the Christ-child was made ready for the journey into light.

It is only in the darkness that we can see the splendor of the universe —

It was the darkness that allowed the Magi to find the star that guided them to where the Christ-child lay.

In the darkness of the night, desert peoples find relief from the relentless heat of the sun.

In the blessed desert darkness, Mary and Joseph were able to flee with the infant Jesus to safety in Egypt.

In the darkness of sleep, we are soothed and restored, healed and renewed.

In the darkness of sleep, dreams rise up. God spoke to Jacob and Joseph through dreams.

God is speaking still.

*With these words from a New Zealand Prayer, we ask:
Be with us, O God, in darkness and in light.*

May God's awakening Spirit lead us from delusion to truth and into your righteous way.

*Advent Hope and Peace,
Fr. Andrew*

CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS MORE

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

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK:

Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9am - 3pm; Weds: 9am - 1pm
Office closed Friday

Weekday Masses at 12:10pm:
Mon, Tues & Wed

Food Pantry: Thursdays 4-6pm

December 8: Second Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Isaiah 2:1-5
Reading II: Romans 13:11-14
Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44



For November 30th – December 1st

Saturday, 5pm – † Doris Rahilly
Sunday, 9am – † Ken Geremia
Sunday, 11:15am – † Gertrude Heid

For December 7th – December 8th

Saturday, 5pm – † DJ Ober
Sunday, 9am – † Stella Thomas (1st Anniv)
Sunday, 11:15am – † Terry Miller

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

Average Weekly Regular Offertory Amount Needed to Meet Our Annual Budget = \$5,234

Offertory for Nov 24: See the 12/8 bulletin

"Give and it shall be given to you." - Luke 6:38

Thank you for your generous contributions.

Second Collections...

Last weekend was for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Black and Indian Missions.

Next weekend will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Thank you for your generosity!

LIFE LONG FAITH FORMATION

This week (12/1):

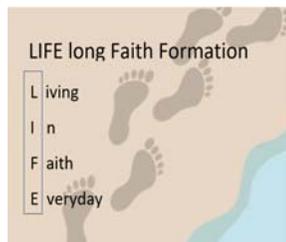
- + No classes (Thanksgiving weekend)

The following week (12/8):

- + **Whole Parish Faith Formation (WPF);** in the gym. All are welcome!
- + The whole parish is invited to learn more about the symbols of Advent and to create an Advent wreath (made of felt) to take home to celebrate this Holy Season. On Sat Dec 7, at 4 pm, prior to the 5pm Mass, the gym will be open for parishioners to participate. Sunday, December 8th, parishioners can meet in the gym after either the 9am or 11:15am mass to make a wreath. Come join us!

The week after (12/15):

- + **Children Faith Formation Classes (CFF):** Children have classes in their classrooms; and
- + **Adult Faith Formation (AFF):** Adults meet in the gym. All adults are welcome!



Immaculate Conception Masses:

Masses: Mon, Dec 9, 12:10pm & 7pm
It is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

UPDATE ON THE

2019 MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN:

The St. Thomas More Matching Gift Campaign is off and running. Already we have two generous pledges to match totaling \$8,000 (one for \$5,000 and another for \$3,000). This means that if we raise \$8,000 more from other donators, we will get that money AND the pledges for a total of \$16,000. We have a GREAT start from the two generous pledgers to create such a huge incentive for others to donate so we can earn those matching funds. In light of our offertory shortfalls last year, the income from the 2019 Matching Gift Campaign is critical to supporting the costs of our day-to-day Parish operations.

Now is the time to donate to the Matching Gift Campaign. IT'S EASY! Simply write a check or initiate an electronic transfer to "St. Thomas More". You can drop the check in the collection basket, drop it at the office or mail it to PO Box 620, Durham, NH 03824. In the memo field indicate "Matching Gift Campaign". If you would like to remain anonymous, you can indicate that as well.

The response to the St. Thomas More Matching Gift Campaign in past years has been inspiring and we appreciate it very much. This income is needed to cover routine expenses and much needed maintenance and repairs that often have been postponed for some time. The campaign will continue for a few more weeks, so please do not hesitate to make a donation. We will track our progress relative to the two pledges at the Church. We thank you in advance for your generosity and support.



Middle School Faith Formation

Next sessions are **Dec 2 & Dec 16 from 6-7:30pm.**
Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass at 7pm on Dec 12.

High School Youth Ministry



Life Teen: Sunday, Dec 1; 6-8pm (snacks)
Whole Parish FF: Sunday, Dec 8; 10am
DTS: Sunday, Dec 15; 6-8pm (meal)

STM PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



St. Thomas More Prayer Shawl Ministry is *seeking new members*. Our Ministry provides prayer shawls for special celebrations; for the sick or lonely, and baby blankets for Baptisms. *We need a facilitator* to pair prayer shawls or baby blankets with cards, to give to Father Andy or Roberta when requested, and to keep track of who receives the shawls and blankets.

Our group meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month from October through May in the Student Center Library, 11:00 am to noon.

We hope you will consider joining us on **Tuesday, December 3.**

If you have questions or know anyone who would benefit from God's healing love by receiving a shawl, please contact the STM office at 868-2666, or Mary Ann Marchi at 868-2019.

CARING & SHARING



For this week the Pantry needs are:
jelly, condiments, tuna, juice, vegetable soup,
other soups except tomato and chicken

Thank you!!

The Yarn Crew will resume meetings on

Monday, Dec 10 at 10:00 am
in the church hall.

All are welcome. Hope to see you there!



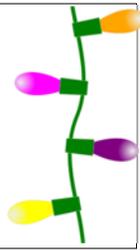
Christmas Fair!!



Saturday, Dec 7

9am - 2pm

Come join the fun!



Effie, the Christmas Elephant...

Is coming to our fair, **Dec 7!** She's looking for new and re-giftable items. Space is limited, so please NO large items. ??? In doubt, call us!

Sue: 988-2610; Marci: 749-9011

Donation drop-offs begin Monday, Nov 25

Christmas Fair - Donations needed...



If you have gently used, nice ...



- ◆ costume jewelry,
- ◆ winter hats, or
- ◆ accessories



to donate, please drop off at Roberta's office in the Student Center. Office open Mon, Tues, Thurs 9am - 3pm & Wed 9am - 1pm.

Questions: Call Joanne at 659-8055 or Lynn at 868-1962.

Care for Creation

Winter farmers' markets have started!

Saturdays, 10 am - 2 pm

Dec. 7
Wentworth Greenhouses
Rollinsford

Dec. 14
Exeter High School
1 Blue Hawk Dr. via Rte. 27

Dec. 21
Wentworth Greenhouses
Rollinsford



WWP Connect Coffee Talk: God - First Place in All Things

Our most important priority is our relationship with God. When He is at the center, everything else stays in balance. When we let other things take center stage, it all comes crashing down. Please join us as we discuss putting this priority first amidst the messiness of life. No experience necessary, just come as you are for some coffee and a chance to see what Walking with Purpose is all about!

**Dec 5, 2019; 10:30am;
STM Student Center Library**

"He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He himself will come to have first place in everything." (Colossians 1:18)

Walking with Purpose is held weekly Oct - May. For more info: Michelle Dunbar at STMDurhamWWP@gmail.com or 498-2778.



How to Report Suspected Abuse

If you know of or suspect abuse or neglect of a minor (a person under 18), you must report it to the NH Division for Children, Youth and Families at **1-800-894-5533** or **603-271-6556**.

As an employee or volunteer in the Catholic Church in New Hampshire, in addition to reporting to DCYF, if you know of or suspect sexual abuse of a minor by Church personnel you must also report it to:

1. Local law enforcement and the Delegate for Ministerial Conduct if the abuse involves a minor
2. Delegate for Ministerial Conduct if the abuse involves a person who is no longer a minor



Delegate for Ministerial Conduct - **603-669-3100**

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults RCIA Journey to the Easter Sacraments



Please pray for our seekers who have begun their journey to the Easter sacraments.

If you are interested in joining the Catholic church, **BEGIN THE CONVERSATION** with Roberta MacBride stmpastoralmin@comcast.net ~ 603-868-2666 x115

Safe Environment training Required

All clergy and adult employees and volunteers who work with minors on a regular basis in the schools, parishes, or camps of the Diocese of Manchester are required to participate in child abuse awareness training. The training covers topics such as how to recognize the signs of abuse and how to report suspected abuse. Training is offered in an online format. To take the online training, go to manchester.cmgconnect.org. This training is for adults only. For further information, please visit www.catholicnh.org/child-safety or contact our Safe Environment Coordinator, Maura Slavin at stmdurham@comcast.net or 868-2666 x110.

Community News

ADVENT EVENSONG & BENEDICTION at Corpus Christi Parish. **Dec 1st, 8th and 15th:** 5:30pm exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; 6pm: prayerful, half-hour Candlelight Service of reflective prayer & song, concluding with Benediction. Confession 5:30pm - 7pm. Candlelight Rorate Masses Weds: **Dec 4, 11, 18** at 7pm. For info: 436-4555 or www.corpuschristinh.org

THE WONDER OF SILENCE An Advent Candlelight Retreat at Corpus Christi Parish Center, Portsmouth. **Fri, Dec 6,** 6pm - 8pm. Peaceful retreat exploring the topic of silence. Light appetizers. RSVP by **Dec 2** to Nancy at corpuschristiwwp@gmail.com or online <https://corpuschristinh.org/>

NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM at St. Michael Parish, Exeter. **Fri, Dec 13,** 5:30 - 8:30pm. Come follow the footsteps of Mary and Joseph on the night Jesus was born. Tours leave every 15 minutes. www.stmichaelparish.org

MARCH FOR LIFE NH Pilgrimage. Love will end abortion. Join the diocesan pilgrimage to Washington, DC, **Thurs Jan 23 - Sat Jan 25, 2020.** Questions: contact Derek McDonald, Director of Family Life Ministries & Respect Life, at dmcDonald@rcbm.org or 603-663-0171.

December 2019

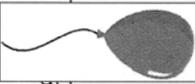
WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:
 Saturdays: Reconciliation 4:00pm
 Saturdays: 5pm
 Sundays: 9am, 11:15am
 5pm Sun when UNH is in session

AFP: Adult Faith Formation
CFE: Children Faith Formation
FFF: Family Faith Formation
PCC: Parent/Child FF in Classroom
WPF: Whole Parish FF in Gym
FP: Food Pantry
HSYM: High School Youth Ministry
MS: Middle School
RCA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
WWP: Walking With Purpose
 Women's Bible Study



OFFICE HOURS: MON, TUES, THUR 9am - 3pm; WED 9am - 1pm; (FRI closed)

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 First Sun of Advent NO FF classes 200 Club Drawing NO 5pm Mass / Supper 6pm HSYM Lifeteen	2 12:10 Mass MS Edge 6pm	3 Prayer Shawl 11am - library 12:10 Mass	4 12:10 Mass	5 WWP 10:30 - noon FP 4-6pm	6 Office Closed	7 Christmas Fair!! 9am - 2pm 2nd Collection at all Masses for Retirement Fund for Religious
8 2nd Sun of Advent WPF classes after 9am Mass 5pm Student Mass 6pm Student Supper	9 Immaculate Conception 10am Yarn Crew 12:10pm & 7pm Masses	10 12:10 Mass	11 12:10 Mass	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe WWP 10:30 - noon FP 4-6pm 7pm Mass	13 Office Closed	14
15 3rd Sun of Advent CFE & AFP classes NO 5pm Student Mass or Supper 6pm HSYM DTS	16 12:10 Mass MS Edge 6pm	17 12:10 Mass	18 12:10 Mass	19 WWP 10:30 - noon FP 4-6pm	20 Office Closed	21
22 4th Sun of Advent NO FF classes ONE 10am Mass NO 5pm Student Mass or Supper	23 Happy Birthday, Fr. Andy!! Office OPEN	24 Christmas Eve Masses: 4 & 7pm Midnight Office Closed	25 Christmas Day Mass: 10 am Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 Holy Family No FF classes NO 5pm Student Mass or Supper	 12:10 Mass Office OPEN	31 12:10 Mass Office Closed	Christmas Masses: Christmas Eve: 4pm, 7pm, midnight Christmas Day: 10am Jan 1, Mary, Mother of God: 9am May you all have a Blessed & Joyful and Merry Christmas!!			
Student Suppers resume on January 26.						Next 200 Club drawing (for December) is Sunday, January 5 after th 9am Mass.