

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

And the child grew and became strong; he was filled
with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

— Luke 2:40



Church of St. Thomas More

*Parish Office: 603-868-2666
Email: stmdurham@comcast.net*

*Fax: 603-868--3765
Website: stmdurham.org*

December 29, 2024
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

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 miracle of the Incarnation was that God chose to intervene in the lives of men and women. For he did not come into the world in order to dazzle with signs and wonders; he came in order to save those whom he regarded as his children. *The divine became human to redeem men and women.*

What the coming of Christ gave was forgiveness. The star of Bethlehem drew the whole of the created universe into the great act of love. The star which pointed to the birth of Jesus linked our fate with the greater design of God.

Forgiveness costs a lot in personal terms, and it certainly involves the surrender of past hatreds. As we move into another year, may each of us benefit from the forgiving love of God.

Fr. Andrew

CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS MORE

*A Community of Parish & University Ministry
PO Box 620, Durham, NH 03824; 603-868-2666
stmdurham@comcast.net*

MASSES & OFFICE HOURS

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5pm
Sunday 9am, 11:15am & **Sunday No 5pm Mass
resumes January 26, 2025**

WEEKDAY MASS

12:10pm Mass Monday
(Please see inside for the Christmas & New Years Schedule)

OFFICE HOURS

Mon 9-3pm & Tues 9-1pm **Closed Wed, Thurs & Fri**

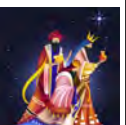
**December 28th-29th; The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary & Joseph**

Reading I: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28
Reading II: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
Gospel: Luke 2:41-52



January 4th-5th The Epiphany of the Lord

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6
Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



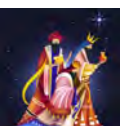
**December 28th-29th; The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary & Joseph**

Saturday 5pm – † Michael McGurty (1st Anniversary)
Sunday 9am – † Donald Holden (1st Anniversary)
Sunday 11:15am – † Cynthia Van Zandt



January 4th-5th The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday 5pm – † Ursula Weber Crews
Sunday 9am – † Foos & McCool Deceased Family Members
Sunday 11:15am – † Colleen Weale





**Merry Christmas and a Blessed
New Year**

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD,
WED, Jan 1, 2025, 12:10pm



OFFERTORY UPDATE:

**Average Weekly Regular Offertory Amount
needed to meet our Annual Budget, \$5,192.31**

Offertory for December 15th \$4,112.00

"Give and it shall be given to you." - Luke 6:38
Thank you for your generous contributions.



*Christmas Flower
Memorials*

Memorials for Deceased Loved Ones

Giuseppe & Maria Amato	Derk J. Weirda
Russell & MacBride Family	Estelle Terrill
Johnston Family	Ralph & Claire Miles
Wladyslawa & Antoni Nikolas	Mike & Eileen LaRocca
Kenneth Wilman, Sr.	Susan J. Wilman
Norman Lamontangne	Meredith Brady Mistretta
Michael & Bette Jablonski	Michael Jablonski
Chuck Longchamps	Rita Smith
Helen & Fran McGinn	Mary & Gus Wislocki
Thomas Mullin	The Porter Family
Michael Healy	Jean P. Doll

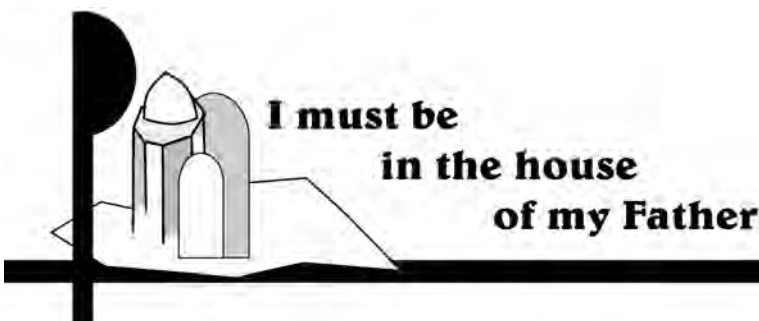
Deceased from Riverwoods~Durham 2024
Deceased Members of the O'Shea & Murphy Families
Deceased Members of Ambrose & Holmes Family



**ADVENT CHRISTMAS
FLOWERS & ENVIRONMENT**

Thank you for your generous donations to our Christmas Flowers and Greens. Envelopes are available at the church entrances to honor or remember loved ones during the Christmas Season. You can stop by the office, or you can mail your names/donations to:

St. Thomas More, Box 620, Durham, NH 03824



St. Thomas More Food Pantry
Thank You!

2024 at the Food Pantry has been very rewarding. The number of patrons increased and the donations from our parishioners from both St. Thomas More and St. George's Episcopal have been generous and continuous. We were able to secure two grants, received donations of shelving, and provided any excess food to the pantry at UNH.

The greatest thing about our Food Pantry are our volunteers. Whether it was helping once with assembling our holiday baskets or volunteering every week to shop or to serve our patrons, they are wonderful individuals. It is a team effort each week to open for our neighbors in need.

A sincere thank you to all you gave of their time, talents and treasure to the St. Thomas More Food Pantry in 2024.

If your schedule changes in the new year, consider adding some service to your 2025; contact Regina Smick-Attisano at rasamom3@comcast.net. We can match your availability with our opportunities to volunteer.

This week, at the pantry, we have an increasing need for:

- Hot Chocolate
- Body wash
- Toothpaste



St. Thomas More
Christmas Carolers

Many thanks to our students and their families from our Faith Formation Program who us joined in spreading Christmas Joy to residents in Brookdale at Sprucewood and Carriage Hill last week.



**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR
PRAYERS...**

Ed Donnelly
Barbara Farrington

Peter Farrington
Dot Meneghin

For all our homebound and residents of our local nursing homes and care facilities.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 30

Octave of Christmas

The octave of Christmas begins on Christmas Day and ends on January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. An octave is an eight-day feast, or period of celebration. Two of the most important times in the liturgical calendar are the Octave of Easter and that of Christmas. The celebration and joy experienced on Christmas Day carries through the octave of Christmas as we are invited to continue to reflect on the glory of the season. If you are able, attend Mass to continue your celebration of Christmas. *Today's readings: 1 John 2:12–17; Psalm 96:7–8a, 8b–9, 10; Luke 2:36–40.*

Tuesday, December 31

True Light

Today's Gospel is the prologue to the Gospel of John. It highlights many themes that emerge throughout the Gospel, including light and life: "What came to be through him was life, / and this life was the light of the human race; / the light shines in the darkness, / and the darkness has not overcome it." How can you testify to the true light, to Jesus Christ, who enlightens us? With someone you love, share how Christ enlightens you. *Today's readings: 1 John 2:18–21; Psalm 96:1–2, 11–12, 13; John 1:1–18.*

Wednesday, January 1

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

After the birth of Jesus, Mary keeps the shepherd's words about the Christ child, "reflecting on them in her heart." At the end of the octave of Christmas, spend time in silence, reflecting on the season in your heart. The birth of a child can often be a whirlwind for parents, even more so for those who have fled persecution. Say a prayer or, if you are able, send a donation to an organization serving refugee families. *Today's readings: Numbers 6:22–27; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4:4–7; Luke 2:16–21.*

Thursday, January 2

Remain in Him

In today's first reading, John stresses the unity of the Father and Son, stating, "Anyone who denies the Son does not have the Father." Then the apostle reassures followers in their faith: "Let what you heard from the beginning remain in you." Many prepare to return to work today after the holiday festivities. How can you let the joy of Christmas remain in you? Consider starting your days with centering prayer. Return to the sacred word you chose throughout the day so that you can remain in Christ. *Today's readings: 1 John 2:22–28; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 1:19–28.*

Friday, January 3

Holy Name of Jesus

Today we remember and honor the Most Holy Name of Jesus. What name or title of Jesus from Scripture stands out to you (for example, Teacher, Prince of Peace, Preacher, Messiah, Savior)? Pray with the most salient one and reflect upon its meaning for you. *Today's readings: 1 John 2:29–3:6; Psalm 98:1, 3cd–4, 5–6; John 1:29–34.*

Saturday, January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Elizabeth Ann Seton was the first native-born United States citizen to be canonized. After her husband died, she became a Catholic and opened a school for impoverished children and orphans. She founded the Sisters of Charity, a religious society that serves the marginalized. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is the patron saint of converts, widows, and those ridiculed for their piety. To honor her, reach out to a teacher and ask how you can support them in their work. *Today's readings: 1 John 3:7–10; Psalm 98:1, 7–8, 9; John 1:35–42.*



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



Dwell in Us

God our Father,
you astound us
with life-giving forgiveness.
We are thankful for your gift of peace
and the example of the Holy Family.

Hear our prayer:
Open our hearts.
Help us to dedicate ourselves to you
and to love one another.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 29, 2024

Put on Love



Today's readings: 1 Samuel 1:20–22, 24–28 or Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14; Psalm 84: 2–3, 5–6, 9–10; 1 John 3:1–2, 21–24 or Colossians 3:12–21; Luke 2:41–52. As a faithful Jewish family, Joseph and Mary traveled with twelve-year-old Jesus to Jerusalem for Passover. A day into their return to Nazareth, the couple realize that Jesus was not in their caravan. They are filled with anxiety as they make the long trek back to Jerusalem in search of Jesus. The parents find their son engaging in thought-provoking conversations with teachers—something that astounds those in the temple. Though Mary and Joseph do not fully understand Jesus' actions, we hear that Mary “kept all these things in her heart.” As a community, the Body of Christ contemplates the wisdom, faith, and mystery of the Holy Family today.

Regardless of which readings are proclaimed at the Mass at your parish, all of today's options for the Liturgy of the Word express much of what can be learned regarding striving for holiness in family life and in the community of loved ones that surrounds us. Prayer and dedication to the Lord bears much fruit for future generations; we are advised to honor and revere our parents and older generations. To grow in love for others, we remember the importance of letting “the word of Christ dwell” in us. Let us strive to be like the Holy Family: honor, forgive, be patient with one another. Every day this week, commit to one act of service for someone in your family or community that demonstrates putting “on love, that is, the bond of perfection.”

KENT & PELCZAR

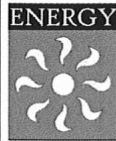
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THE FIGHT AGAINST
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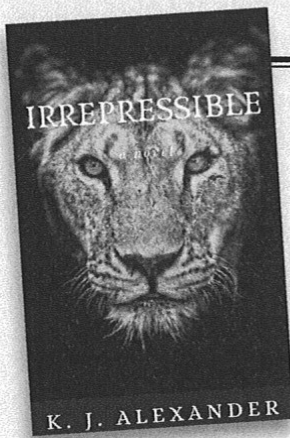
Please Continue
To Pray For



World Peace

IRREPRESSIBLE

K.J. Alexander



To her, she's just
another foster kid.
To them, she's the
queen who will
save them all.

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