

Third Sunday of Lent

"During Lent, let us find concrete ways to overcome our indifference."

POPE FRANCIS



Giving - Fasting - Praying
Repenting - Forgiving

Church of St. Thomas More

Parish Office: 603-868-2666 Fax: 603-868-3765

Campus Ministry: 603-868-2666 ext. 113

Email: stmdurham@comcast.net

Website: stmdurham.org

March 23, 2025
Third Sunday of Lent

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 Holy Cross

The crucifix hanging above our bed and in the church is not just an ornament. Every age depicts Christ on the cross in its own way. In the time of Charlemagne it was a king wearing a crown. The Middle Ages, was more realistic – Christ was presented in graphic and tortured form. Today, the figure is more composed – arms outstretched to embrace the whole world in love.

No single crucifix can represent all that Christ on the cross tells us. The crucifix is the ultimate expression of God's love for us, a love beyond which even God cannot go.

It is the ground of our hope; it alone gives meaning to our suffering. Saint Ignatius of Antioch in the very early years of the Church summed this up well:

"There are two different coinages, so to speak, in circulation. God's and the world's, each with its own distinctive marking. Unbelievers carry the stamp of the world, while the faithful bear the stamp of Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

If I were an artist, how would I depict Christ on the Cross?

May Christ give us strength, comfort, sustenance and hope~

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 & **No Sunday 5pm Mass**

WEEKDAY MASS

NO 12:10pm Masses this Week

OFFICE HOURS

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



Stations of the Cross on Friday at 7pm



March 22nd-23rd; Third Sunday of Lent

Reading I: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15
Reading II: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

March 29th-30th; Fourth Sunday of Lent

Reading I: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12
Reading II: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32



March 22nd-23rd; Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday 5pm – ✠ Norman Lamontagne
Sunday 9am – ✠ Jud Porter
Sunday 11:15am – ✠ Sisters Annunciation Monastery

March 29th-30th; Fourth Sunday of Lent

Saturday 5pm – ✠ Lucille McGinn
Sunday 9am – ✠ Illa Schaller
Sunday 11:15am – ✠ Carol Ober



STM FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

Faith Formation (Grade K-5) Classes March 23rd

For more information please contact Ann McGurty
stmfaith@comcast.net or call 603 868-2666 X110

Faith Formation

Grades K-5th Classes

9:00am-Kindergarten-Grades 1 (Church Hall Classroom)

10:00am- Grade 2 (Student Center Prayer Rm)

10:00am- Grade 3 (Library Student Center)

10:00am- Grades 4 & 5 (Church Hall)

Middle School Youth Ministry

Next class March 23rd

10:00am-Middle School (Grades 6-8) Gym –See MS Calendar

For more information and Sacrament inquiry, please contact Ann McGurty at 603-868-2666 or email stmfaith@comcast.net

LIFE– Living In Faith Everyday



We hope you will join us for
Mary's Way of the Cross
(by Richard G. Furey, C.Ss.R.)
on **Sunday, March 30th** in the gym at **10am**
(after the 9:00am Mass).

As we journey through Lent and approach Palm Sunday and Holy Week, let us walk with Jesus as he prepared for the ultimate sacrifice.

Presentation narrated by our Faith Formation Catechists & Parishioners.



WE ARE PUTTING OUT A CALL FOR HELP!

The Parish Finance Council recently did our annual inspection of the interior of our three parish buildings and the grounds around them. Just like last year, we added several projects to our "Big List" of projects that need some cleaning, maintenance, repair or replacement. We had already been planning a volunteer session to do some additional clean-up of the Church for Palm Sunday and Easter. Many of the cleanup and maintenance projects on the "Big List" can be done safely and effectively by Parish volunteers under the direction of our Parish Maintenance Director or a qualified designee. Not only will taking on these tasks with members of the Parish improve and beautify our Parish environment, but completing the projects with volunteers will save the Parish the cost of getting these services from outside firms. We have also found that bringing parishioners together to accomplish a common goal provides an opportunity for them to meet one another and strengthen our Parish community. A great by-product also will be increased pride in our shared Parish home.

We are planning a **Spring Volunteer Workday on Saturday, April 12, 2025, from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM rain-or-shine** (but you can come for all or part of the event when you can). We will have both indoor and outdoor projects ready and will go with what the weather allows. We will have sign-up lists at the back of the Church during the weekends leading up to the day. The PFC will provide the supplies that will be needed for the tasks.

Thank you in advance. Please come out and join in the fun!



OFFERTORY UPDATE:

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

Offertory for March 16th **\$ 3,230.00**

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

Thank you for your generous contributions.



St. Thomas More Food Pantry Update

In 2025, we are planning to offer both an Easter Basket and a Thanksgiving Basket to our patrons for these celebrations. Easter is right around the corner, so we are collecting items we don't normally receive such as spring/Easter themed napkins, Easter candy, cake mixes and frosting, and canned pineapple or fruit cocktail. **Your donations are needed by April 10.**

We are fortunate to have a donor cover the expense of the hams/turkey breasts. One of our dedicated volunteers, Pat Barbour, is graciously funding this effort in memory of her husband, Al. As always, if you would like to join our team, contact Regina Smick Attisano at rasamom3@comcast.net. We are doing great for our Thursday sessions but have openings for other times of the week. This week, at the pantry, we have a need for:

- Baking spices such as cinnamon and nutmeg
- Toilet paper & Tissues



200 CLUB

*March winds are blowing strong!
If you're a 200 Club member,
those winds could blow some
winnings your way on Sunday, March 30th.*

Both enrollment and renewal are easy. There's plenty of time to become a new member or renew your membership. Subscription options are for 3, 6 or 12 months, at a cost of \$50, \$100 or \$200 respectively.

New/renewal enrollment forms are available at the church entrances. Or simply write a check made payable:

St. Thomas More Church

Don't forget to put **"200 Club"** in the memo section. Mail it, along with your contact information [address, phone, and email], to the parish office at:

**St Thomas More Parish, PO Box 620
Durham NH 03824**

For additional member information contact Tom Dolan at tomdolan84@hotmail.com or 603-519-0369

You have made a difference!!



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Noel Austin

Peter Farrington

Ed Donnelly

Dot Meneghin

Barbara Farrington

Jody Newman

Emma True Otterbein

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



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 24 Being Prophetic

Today we are reminded that responding to the call to Christianity is not easy. Jesus tells the people in the synagogue at Nazareth that “no prophet is accepted in his own native place.” We know he will be rejected and crucified for his ministry. We are called to repent, to see God in all things, and to share our faith with others. This week, reach out to someone you love, and ask to share a prayer with him or her. If your invitation is accepted, lead with a simple prayer. If the invitation is declined, lift up the individual in your personal prayer. *Today’s readings: 2 Kings 5:1–15b; Psalm 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Luke 4:24–30.*

Tuesday, March 25 Annunciation of the Lord

Understandably, Mary is “greatly troubled” when the angel Gabriel appears. Still, Mary courageously and faithfully responds yes to God’s request. Her response is much like the words in today’s psalm: “Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.” Set aside time to pray the Rosary. As you pray, ask for the humility to hear God and the courage to respond to God. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 7:10–14, 8:10; Psalm 40:7–8a, 8b–9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4–10; Luke 1:26–38.*

Wednesday, March 26 Teach Them

Moses reminds the Israelites to observe and teach the Lord’s commandments, to share the goodness of the Lord that they have witnessed with their children and their children’s children. Jesus tells his disciples that “whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.” Say a prayer in gratitude for someone who taught you about your faith. Consider how you can teach others the way of the Lord with your actions and your words. *Today’s readings: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5–9; Psalm 147:12–13, 15–16, 19–20; Matthew 5:17–19.*

Thursday, March 27 Harden Not Your Hearts

We are reminded not to harden our hearts when we hear God. Jesus powerfully claims that “whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.” Reflect today on your Lenten journey. Have you taken time to listen to God? How have you responded? Commit to an action that will help open your heart to hear God’s voice: consider attending daily Mass a few times during the week, praying at a consistent time daily, or journaling with regularity. *Today’s readings: Jeremiah 7:23–28; Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 11:14–23.*

Friday, March 28 Sinners Stumble

Though we stumble, we are challenged to walk the path of the Lord. Jesus’ answers to the query about the greatest commandment guides us in walking the path of the Lord. We are to love God with all our being and, from that, love our neighbor. Before going to sleep tonight, pray the examen. For information on doing so, visit [The Daily Examen at IgnatianSpirituality.com](http://TheDailyExamen.com). Focus on how you have loved God and your neighbor today and how to resolve to love God and your neighbor tomorrow. *Today’s readings: Hosea 14:2–10; Psalm 81:6c–8a, 8bc–9, 10–11ab, 14 and 17; Mark 12:28–34.*

Saturday, March 29 A Heart Contrite and Humbled

Jesus’ parable encourages us to give God “a heart contrite and humbled.” The Pharisee, haughty and overly confident in being justified, compares his goodness to the tax collector and shares that he fasts, pays tithes, and keeps the commandments. The tax collector, on the other hand, repents and asks for God’s mercy. Acknowledging our sins frees us and gives space for God’s mercy. This weekend, offer God “a heart contrite and humbled” by going to confession. *Today’s readings: Hosea 6:1–6; Psalm 51:3–4, 18–19, 20–21ab; Luke 18:9–14.*



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



Patiently Cultivating

God our Redeemer,
you are merciful and gracious.
We often find ourselves grumbling,
struggling in our desire of evil things.
We are slow to repent,
yet your kindness abounds.
You tend to us
as a patient gardener
continues to cultivate and fertilize
his tree
as he waits for his orchard to bear fruit.
Grant that we might remember
that you make us holy.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Repent!

Today's readings: Exodus 3:1–8a, 13–15; Psalm 103: 1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8, 11; 1 Corinthians 10:1–6, 10–12; Luke 13:1–9. Jesus continues to teach on repentance in today's Gospel. He instructs that the Galileans who died at the hands of Pilate and those who died at Siloam are not greater sinners because of their death. Jesus clarifies that their death was not a punishment. If the victims are not greater sinners than those gathered (or any of us), then all must repent and return to the Lord.

Jesus then tells a parable about a gardener. Though many of us are not surrounded by agriculture as were people in Jesus' time, we can still relate to the gardener. Have you ever tended to a plant, a pet, or even cared for a child with a specific hope in mind? Perhaps you hoped your plant would

blossom, unlike another plant that did not do so well. You may have hoped that your pet would eat the food set out instead of getting into yet another article of clothing. Or you may have hoped your child would play with the toys you purchased instead of rummaging through the trash again.

It is easy for us to become frustrated or impatient when our hopes are unmet. God, unlike us, meets our continued sinfulness with kindness and compassion. Like the gardener who tirelessly cares for the fig tree, God continues to tend to us. Though grateful for God's abundant grace, we are still called to repent and work to be better. This week, consider how you can actively choose to allow God to cultivate your heart. As we continue our Lenten journey, say yes to God so your heart can blossom.

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603-319-8012
Hoover & Flynn, PLLC

Attorneys at Law

Hope M. Flynn, Esq.

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In Loving
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**HEAVENLY ANNIVERSARY
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OUR PARENTS**

SEPTEMBER 12, 1964

We Love & Miss You Very Much,
Your Five Kids!! XO

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