

Fourth Sunday of Lent

"As Lent is the time for greater love, listen
to Jesus' thirst... 'Repent and believe.'"

BLESSED TERESA OF CALCUTTA



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

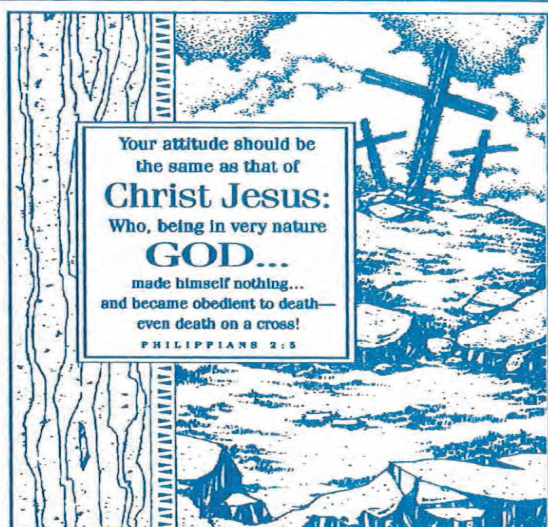
March 30, 2025

Fourth 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.*



Humility

The word "humility" comes from the Latin word "humus" meaning earth; and if we seek to know what humility means for ourselves, these elements can give us some help:

Water always seeks the lowest point, yet has the power to dissolve the hardest rock, and to generate and sustain all life.

Air is content to remain invisible, yet it is the breath of life, with the power to carry seeds across deserts.

Fire is willing to serve us by bringing warmth to our winters and light to our darkness, yet to be consumed in the process.

Earth is content to be continually trodden on and walked over, yet it is the cradle of all our growth and the welcoming arms to receive our dying.

Creation itself seems to suggest that true humility has something to do with: *Accepting the circumstances in which we find ourselves, with a positive attitude and actively seeking to bring life out of those circumstances.*

To act as Jesus would act, and to reflect his attitudes, is to seek to make our circumstances life-giving, to choose what is creative over what is potentially destructive.

*Shalom,
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 5pm Mass

WEEKDAY MASS

12:10pm Mass Monday and Wednesday
NO 12:10pm Mass Tuesday

OFFICE HOURS

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



Stations of the Cross on Friday at 7pm



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

April 5th-6th; Fifth Sunday of Lent

Reading I: Isaiah 43:16-21
Reading II: Philippians 3:8-14
Gospel: John 8:1-11



March 29th-30th; Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

April 5th-6th; Fifth Sunday of Lent

Saturday 5pm – † Christopher "Fritz" Polt
Sunday 9am – † Danny Hunter
Sunday 11:15am – St. Thomas More Parishioners



STM FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

**No classroom classes for Faith Formation
Grades K-5 on March 30th. Meet in the Gym
after 9am Mass for Mary's Way of the Cross.
All Parishioners Welcome!**

Next class April 6th (Last Class)

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 April 6th (Last Class)

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



OFFERTORY UPDATE:

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

Offertory for March 23rd **\$5510.43**

"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, as announced last week, we are offering an Easter dinner Basket to our patrons for their spring celebration. 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 an additional donor (anonymous) to help with the purchase of hams/turkey breasts. We will still need monetary donations (gift cards are great) to cover fresh produce. 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:

- Cupcake liners
- Herbal teas
- Savory snacks



*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.*



Our Food Pantry is giving **Easter Baskets** to our patrons this Spring. 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 also seeking donations of gift cards to purchase fresh produce for the baskets. We will need additional volunteers to help assemble the baskets on April 11 and give them out on April 12. If you would like to help with this effort, please contact at Regina – rasamom3@comcast.net



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Noel Austin
Peter Farrington

Ed Donnelly
Dot Meneghin

Barbara Farrington
Jody Newman

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



Prayer Shawl Ministry

*April 2nd at 11:30 in the library; and
May 7th at 11:30 in the library.*

EASTER FLOWER OFFERING



Honor or remember loved ones with a donation for Palms/Easter Flowers. Envelopes are available on the church window sills and all entrances. Names will be posted in the bulletin.



SAVE THE DATE

*Saturday, April 12 from
9:30am-3pm*

*We are having our annual
Spring Clean-Up (inside and
outside) the Church. **We need
your help!***

*Signups are available at the main entrance of the Church.
Please come out and join in the fun!*



MEMORIALS FOR DECEASED LOVED ONES

Deceased Family Members
Mary & Clarence Hodson

Russell & MacBride
Norman Lamontagne
Joan Doll
Family

Micael E. Healy
Norma Monahan
Clare Way
Randall Perkins
Arthur Dubuc
Paul Cardarople



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 31

Believe

God responds to our petitions, though sometimes in ways and at times we do not expect. Today, we hear about the royal official asking Jesus to heal his ill son. Jesus tells him that his son will live and, though the official believes, it is not until later that he realizes that Jesus' word healed his son. Patient listening and a dedication to prayer are necessary to be attuned to God's movement in our lives. Reflect on how God has responded to your prayers. *Today's readings: Isaiah 65:17-21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b; John 4:43-54.*

Tuesday, April 1

Notice

Today we repeat with the psalmist: "The Lord of hosts is with us; our stronghold is the God of Jacob." God is with us just as Jesus is with the sick man in Jerusalem. This evening, reflect on God's presence in your day. Take care to notice the moments, big and small, in which God was with you. Say a prayer in gratitude, and ask for the strength to behold the deeds of the Lord tomorrow. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; John 5:1-16.*

Wednesday, April 2

Lifted Up

In today's reading from the Book of Isaiah, we are reminded that "the Lord comforts his people and shows mercy to his afflicted." We echo this with the psalmist, singing of God's grace and mercy. We are lifted up amid our struggles and strife. In your prayer today, write about something that weighs you down. Offer it up to God, knowing he "lifts up all who are falling / and raises up all who are bowed down." Make it a practice to humbly turn to God when you are feeling weighed down. *Today's readings: Isaiah 49:8-15; Psalm 145: 8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; John 5:17-30.*

Thursday, April 3

Accept Jesus

Jesus rebukes the Jews in today's Gospel, saying, "I came in the name of my Father, but you do not accept me." Jesus says they "accept praise from one another" instead of seeking the praise that comes from God. How can you accept Jesus more fully? Consider how you have prioritized the praise or earthly desires of those around you. How can you shift your priorities and seek God in your day-to-day? Challenge yourself to commit to a tangible action that will lead to accepting Jesus. *Today's readings: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; John 5:31-47.*

Friday, April 4

Blinded by Wickedness

The reading from the Book of Wisdom states that the thoughts of the wicked erred, "their wickedness blinded them, and they knew not the hidden counsels of God." Our sinfulness makes it hard to see God and to be guided in holiness. If able this weekend, schedule a time to go to confession. Can you participate in the sacrament of reconciliation more regularly? *Today's readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; Psalm 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30.*

Saturday, April 5

St. Vincent Ferrer

St. Vincent Ferrer, a Spanish Dominican, is the patron saint of builders; he is known for strengthening and building up the Church through his preaching and ministry. In today's Gospel, we hear of the division that emerged as people debated who Jesus was. This division continues today. To celebrate St. Vincent's memorial, pray for unity in the Church. How can you help unite your faith community? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; John 7:40-53.*



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



We Return

God our Father,
your compassion knows no bounds.
You hear us cry out to you
and you save us from distress.
We have sinned against you
and no longer deserve your mercy;
we find ourselves lost,
yet we return to you.
Grant us strength to repent, to return
to you,
and to share with others the
everlasting joy
of your mercy and forgiveness.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 30, 2025

The Lord Hears



Today's readings: Joshua 5:9a, 10–12; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7; 2 Corinthians 5:17–21; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32 (33). When reflecting on today's Gospel, we are often encouraged to consider the loving father's unconditional love for both of his sons. The younger son asks his father for his inheritance and foolishly wastes it, inevitably finding himself in dire need. He decides to return home and apologize to his father, expecting to be treated like one of his father's hired workers. Despite the younger son's selfish recklessness, his father is "filled with compassion" upon his return. His father rejoices, dresses him in fine clothes, and prepares a feast. Certainly, Jesus is encouraging us to return to God, who has unending love and mercy for us despite our sinfulness.

Having experienced God's goodness and boundless mercy, we rejoice. Joining the psalmist, we sing: "When the poor one called out, the Lord heard, / and from all his distress he saved him." It is important, though, to reflect on both the times we find ourselves living as the younger son and the older son. When have you found yourself acting selfishly, unsettled in worldly desires and neglecting those in your community? When have you found yourself acting out of jealousy, comparing your blessings and actions to another's? Spend time praying with today's parable, trying to approach it free of judgment. What can you do when you find yourself acting like either of the sons? How can you call out to the Lord and return to God? How can you resolve to do better?

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READY.GOV

Don't be afraid...Be Ready

**HEAVENLY ANNIVERSARY
BLESSINGS TO
OUR PARENTS**

SEPTEMBER 12, 1964

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



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help end hunger.**

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