

SECOND SUNDAY of Advent



CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS MORE

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

Email: stmdurham@stmdurham.org; Website: stmdurham.org

December 7, 2025

Second 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 Two Parts of Advent



Part 1: up until December 16

While most liturgical seasons have the gospel as their main focus, during the first weeks of Advent, The Church gives us daily readings from the prophet Isaiah. With the eyes of faith, these foretell the coming of the Messiah. Rather than a continuous gospel narrative familiar to us for most of the year, this part of Advent offers a wide variety of gospel readings that support the first reading of the day.

After almost two weeks of Isaiah readings, we hear the foretelling of a Messiah from other prophets from the Hebrew Scriptures - in Sirach, Numbers, Zephaniah, and returning to Isaiah. With each passing week, the prophet speaks more clearly of the coming of a Savior.

So, in reading the first reading, for the first part of Advent, we listen to the anticipation, expectation, hope, and promise. In listening to the second reading, we listen for the fulfillment or connection with the gospel.



Part 2: December 17-24

In the Last eight days before Christmas, the relationship between the readings changes.

Now the gospel brings us to our celebration of Christmas. The gospels are taken from the Infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke.

Each of these days, the first reading is taken from the Hebrew scriptures, and chosen to match the gospel. In many cases we can imagine Matthew or Luke having the first reading open on their desks while they wrote the gospel.

So, we can read the gospel first and then read the first reading. The sense of anticipation and fulfillment builds as we read the story for the preparation of Jesus' first coming into this world for us.

In the midst of all our preoccupations, may we be grateful for our many blessings.

Blessings on your Advent Journey,
Fr. Andrew

CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS MORE

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

MASSES & OFFICE HOURS

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5pm

Sunday 9am, 11:15am & 5pm -When UNH is in Session

WEEKDAY MASS

12:10PM MASS ON MON, TUES & WED IN THE CHURCH
OFFICE HOURS

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

Food Pantry-Thursday 4-6pm



Immaculate Conception of the Blessed virgin Mary

Monday, December 8th
Masses at 12:10pm & 7pm



December 6th-7th: Second Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Isaiah 11:1-10

Reading II: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12



December 13th-14th: Third Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Reading II: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11



December 6th-7th: Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday 5pm – † Rosemary Maciolek

Sunday 9am – † Illa Schaller (1st Anniversary)

Sunday 11:15am – † Kevin Kearney



December 13th-14th: Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday 5pm – † Michael McGurty

Sunday 9am – † Mary Ann Wren (1st Anniversary)

Sunday 11:15am – † Jack Humphrey





**Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed virgin Mary
Monday, December 8th
Masses at 12:10pm & 7pm**



**STM FAITH FORMATION
PROGRAMS**

For more information please contact
Ann McGurty stmdurham@stmdurham.org
or call 603-868-2666

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

Grades K-5th Classes

Next Faith Formation Grades K-5 Classes – December 7th

Middle School Youth Ministry

Next Middle School Class December 7th

10:00am-Middle School (Grades 6-8) Gym
See Middle School Calendar for upcoming dates

LIFE – Living In Faith Everyday



OFFERTORY UPDATE:

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

Offertory for November 23, 2025 **\$4,524.15**
Offertory for November 30, 2025 **\$3,896.00**

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

St. Thomas More Food Pantry Update

Continuing our reporting of the spirit of giving, on the Thursday before we gave out Thanksgiving baskets, two college students, unknown to us, came by at the end of the session with bags of food to donate they just purchased; they just wanted to do something good. Additionally, when one of our volunteers was purchasing items for the Thanksgiving baskets, the person behind her offered to pay. These two examples highlight the work of the Holy Spirit amongst us.

This week, at the pantry, we need the following items:

- Deodorant
- Mayonnaise
- Paper cupcake liners



200 CLUB

Congratulations to our November winners...

**Regina Smick-Attisano
Gretchen Volpe
Kelly Kean**

There's plenty of time to become a new member or renew your membership before the December drawing on 12/28/25.

Subscription options are as follows: The 200 club year ends in January. For 2026 new or renewal of 'annual', 'semi-annual, and monthly' subscriptions will be accepted.

200 Club enrollment forms for December are available at the entrances to the church.

Or simply write a check made payable to **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 **603-767-3578**.

A special note of thanks to all those who have supported and continue to support the club. You have made a difference!!



**STM CHRISTMAS 2025 GIVING PROJECT
FOR CHILDREN
(Last Week for Donations)**



This year we are working with the Durham Fire Dept in collecting **brand new unwrapped** toys and coats for children (infant-high school) from **Nov 9th -Dec 14th**.

There will be designated boxes between the glass doors at the Student Center for coats and toys. Gift cards are accepted but please bring to the Office.

As always, thank you for your generosity!



St. Thomas More goal is **\$31,101.00**
We have raised **\$26,854.29**

Help Us Reach Our Goal!

Thank you to all who have contributed. Feel free to take an envelope complete it and mail it directly to **2025 NH Catholic Appeal**; drop it in the basket at the entrances of the Church; place it in the collection basket; or go online at www.catholicnh.org/nhca

Our Parish number code is 41830.

Thank you for your continual support.



We would like to personally thank all of our table leaders, volunteers and individuals who donated items to the Fair.

Thank you to all who came out to support the Church Christmas Fair fundraiser. We had a great team and we couldn't have done it without the parish support.

Kara Kane and Stacey Schlender



**ADVENT CHRISTMAS
FLOWERS & ENVIRONMENT**

Honor or remember a loved one with a donation to our Advent/Christmas flowers & environment. Names of those remembered will be listed in the bulletin during the Christmas Season. Envelopes are available in the church; you can stop by the office, or you can mail your names/donations to:

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



THE STM MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN FOR 2026

The official kick-off of the St. Thomas More Matching Gift Campaign for this year will take place early in 2026. This kick-off date was chosen to wait until after the holidays and to not conflict with the ongoing NH Catholic Appeal.

As you know, the Campaign typically has “pledgers” who promise contributions provided that amount is also collected from other “donators”. Last year, the Campaign had 3 pledgers and 35 donators, and we raised \$19,324, just a few dollars short of our goal of \$20,000! We understand that there are reasons why some Parishioners may prefer to donate to the Matching Gift Campaign BEFORE the end of Calendar Year 2025 and BEFORE the official kick-off of the Campaign. We will gladly accept either a pledge or a donation BEFORE the end of the Calendar year and apply that contribution to the 2026 Matching Gift Campaign. As always, any contribution will be very much appreciated. The income from the Campaign will again be absolutely critical to supporting our day-to-day Parish operations. It is one of our largest Parish fundraising efforts.

Donating to the Matching Gift Campaign NOW is EASY. Decide on the amount you would like to pledge or donate and simply write a check or initiate an electronic transfer to the “Church of St. Thomas More”. In the note or memo field indicate “2026 Matching Gift Campaign”. You can put your check in an envelope and drop it in the offertory basket at a Mass or mail it to Fr. Andy at the Parish Office. If you would like to remain anonymous, you can indicate that on the check as well. All who donate \$250 or more to the Matching Gift Campaign will receive a return thank you letter from the Parish that also documents the tax deductible status of your donation.

We thank everyone who has supported the Matching Gift Campaign in the past or plans to support the Campaign this year for your generosity and support of the Parish programs and operations.

STM Finance Committee



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Accept one another, then, as Christ accepted you, for the glory of God. Yes, I affirm that Christ, became the servant of the Jews because of God's faithfulness in fulfilling the promises of the patriarchs, whereas the Gentiles glorify God because of his mercy. As scripture has it 'therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and I will sing to your name.'"

We continue this season of anticipation and expectation. How special it is. Saint Paul reminds us of those in former times, how they longed for, yearned for the one who was to come as Messiah and Savior of us all. He later would tell us that we are no different, but all are one in Christ Jesus.

Today when there is such hate, division, and separateness, we need to seek Jesus who unites not divides. May this be part of our advent prayer this week.

'Come Lord Jesus.'

HIS WORD TODAY

BY REV. WILLIAM J. REILLY

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON
THE SUNDAY READINGS



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