

# THIRD SUNDAY *of Advent*



CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS MORE

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

Email: [stmdurham@stmdurham.org](mailto:stmdurham@stmdurham.org); Website: [stmdurham.org](http://stmdurham.org)

**December 14, 2025**  
**Third 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.*



**Third Sunday of Advent**

The Third Sunday of Advent is often referred to as “Gaudete” Sunday, meaning “Rejoice” from the first word of the entrance antiphon:

*“Rejoice in the Lord always,  
again I say rejoice!  
The Lord is near.”  
(Ph. 4:4-5)*

The candle on the Advent wreath and the Mass vestments may be rose colored. This is to insure that the joyful character of the season is seen as an integral part of it. There is no contradiction between Advent as penitential and joyful since to repent means to change one’s attitude.

May the dear Lord support and console us who trust in his love.

*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](mailto: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-Thursdays 4-6pm**



**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 20th-21st; Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Reading I: Isaiah 7:10-14

Reading II: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24



**December 13th-14th; Third Sunday of Advent**

Saturday 5pm – † Michael McGurty

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

Sunday 11:15am – † Jack Humphrey

**December 20th-21st; Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Saturday 5pm – † Deceased Parishioners

Sunday 9am – † Noel Austin

Sunday 11:15am – † Robert Paul Teixeira, Sr.





## STM FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

### FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

#### Grades K-5th Classes

#### Faith Formation Grades K-5 Classes– December 14th

#### Middle School Youth Ministry

#### Middle School Class December 14th

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

**Have a wonderful Christmas**

**Classes Resume Sunday, February 1st**

*LIFE– Living In Faith Everyday*



### STM CHRISTMAS 2025 GIVING PROJECT FOR CHILDREN

**(Last Weekend for Donations)**



We are collecting **brand new unwrapped toys and coats** for children (infant–high school) Ends **Sunday, Dec 14th**.  
*As always, thank you for your generosity!*



#### Memorials for Deceased Loved Ones

Thomas McNulty	Connor Jacobsen
Norman Lamontagne	Abraham Paniagua
Catalina Chaves	Milena Fonseca
Lacasse Family	Randall Perkins
Noel Austin	Mabel Austin
Virgin Wilman	Kenneth Wilman,, Sr.
Susan J. Wilman	Estelle Terrill-Blois
Michael E. Healy	Joan P. Doll
Helen & Fran McGinn	Mary & Gus Wislocki
Lucille & John McGinn	Arthur Dubuc
Raymond Couture	Lucille Simoneau
Maria Sutherland	The Verbil & Stines Families
The Nussbaum Family	Szabunka Families
Giguere & Unrein Families	
The Hurley & McDowell Families	
Deceased Residents from Riverwoods-Durham	
Deceased Members of the Slavin & Clifford Families	
Deceased Members of the Cataneo & Boucher Families	
Deceased Members of the Foss and McCool Families	



### MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN

Our goal is **\$15,000.00**.

2026 Matching Gift Campaign will begin in January 2026. We are accepting early donations before the 2025 tax year ends

This campaign is a major fundraiser for our Rectory & Parish .  
Call the STM Office for more Information 603-868-2666.

Please help us reach our goal.

*Your generosity is greatly appreciated!*



### OFFERTORY UPDATE:

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

Offertory for December 7, 2025 **\$4,475.00**

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



### St. Thomas More Food Pantry Update

In the month of November, we served 234 patrons from eight towns. Thanks to all the UNH volunteers who have faithfully given their time this semester. We hope to see you in 2026.

We are seeking volunteers to help with the USDA delivery which happens once a month on a Friday morning; typically, the delivery arrives at the church around 11:00am. Would need you for about an hour. Need volunteers able to lift canned goods and frozen meat and put heavy items onto a shelf. Please let me know if this sounds like you! Contact me at rasamom3@comcast.net.

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

- Shampoo
- Soy sauce
- Pretzels

### 200 CLUB

*Our Christmas angel is announcing that the next 200 Club drawing will be on **December 28, 2025**.*



Both enrollment and renewal are easy. There's plenty of time to become a new member or renew your membership before the December drawing.

New/renewal application forms are available at the church entrances. 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](mailto:tomdolan84@hotmail.com) or 603-519-0369

*A special note of thanks to all those who have supported and continue to support the 200 Club.*  
*You have made a difference!!*



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

**We Reach Our Goal! Thank You!**

*Thank you for your continual support.*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**“Be patient, my brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer awaits the precious yield of the soil. He looks forward to it patiently while the soil receives the winter and the spring rains. You too, must be patient. Steady your hearts, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.”**

Advent ought to be a time of special focus. We need to adjust our lens to see the dire need in our world for God’s intervention today, as it was needed with the coming of the Savior. As bad as things seem, what was it like before the Messiah came to rescue us?

As we admire the poinsettia plants blooming at this time, the grower had to adjust light and shade and provide correct heat to make sure they would be ready. Saint James’ example, especially calling for patience, is advice for us, to patiently prepare ourselves spiritually for the Lord.

### HIS WORD TODAY

BY REV. WILLIAM J. REILLY

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON  
THE SUNDAY READINGS





Jesus told the people John the Baptist had been sent ahead of Him to prepare for His coming. Jesus continued preaching the Good News and helping the poor, sick and dying. By His lessons we are taught to help others by our good words and actions.

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## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Directions

- [1] Color the tree green, write your good deeds on the ornaments and color them in.
- [2] Cut out and fold at right angle to stand up by itself.
- [3] Each week of Advent complete the tree and repeat steps 1-2.
- [4] After you have 4 weeks of trees colored, filled in and cut out, attach **week 1** to **week 2** by matching the corner letters and gluing or taping halves together up to the fold line. Do the same for **week 3** and **week 4**, which will then attach to **week 1** and **2** to complete.

Color tree and fill in good deeds, then color ornaments and cut out.



Weeks 1 & 2 together.



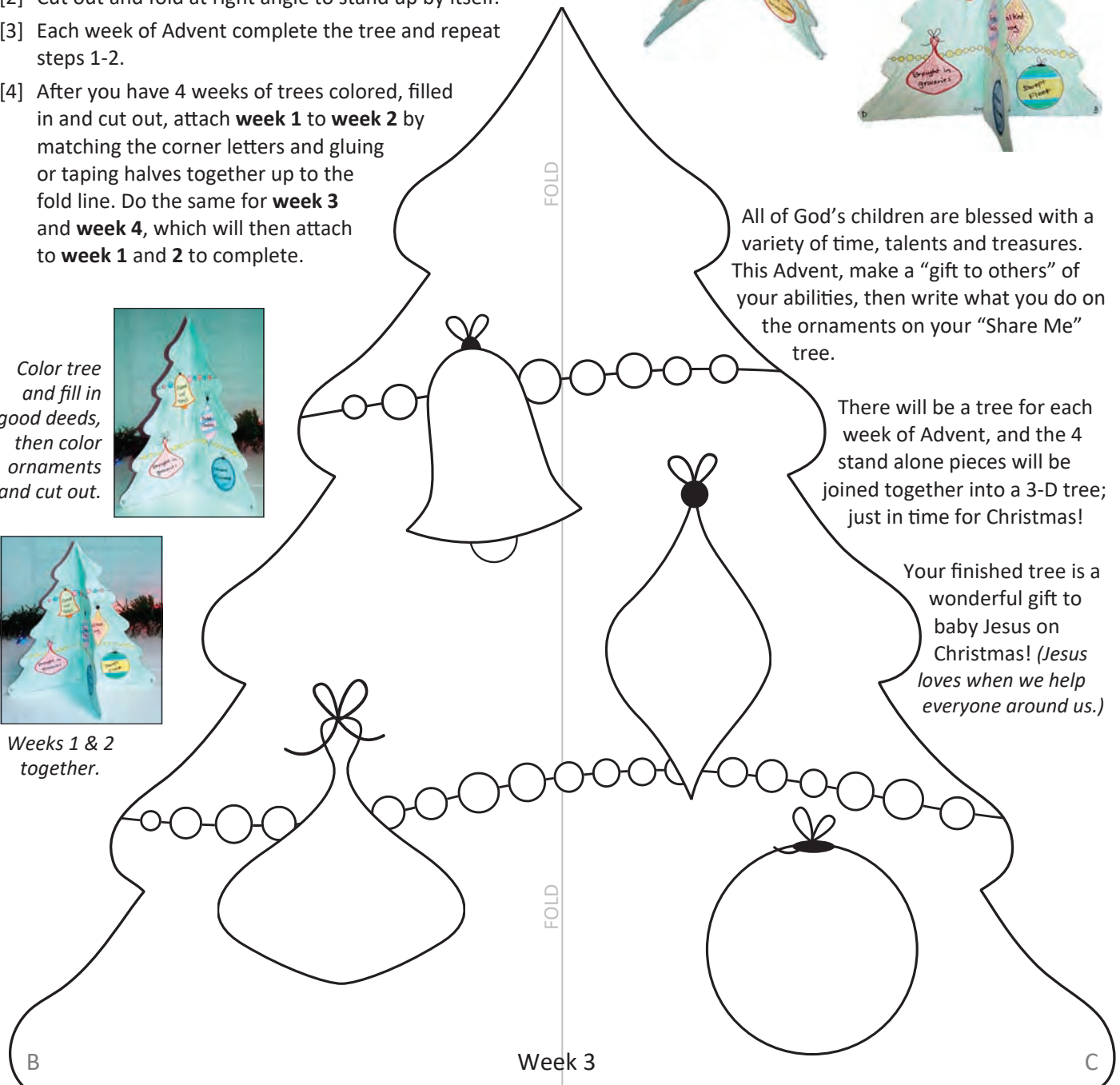
Different angles of completed tree.



All of God's children are blessed with a variety of time, talents and treasures. This Advent, make a "gift to others" of your abilities, then write what you do on the ornaments on your "Share Me" tree.

There will be a tree for each week of Advent, and the 4 stand alone pieces will be joined together into a 3-D tree; just in time for Christmas!

Your finished tree is a wonderful gift to baby Jesus on Christmas! (Jesus loves when we help everyone around us.)



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**Hoover & Flynn, PLLC**

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*Memory*



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BLESSINGS TO  
OUR PARENTS**

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