

# FOURTH 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 21 2025**  
**Forth 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.*

**Advent IV**  
**Child of Bethlehem**



Joseph does not figure prominently in the scriptures or in the Liturgy. Yet popular devotion has appreciated his role in the events surrounding the birth of the Christ child. He is asked to recognize the child as his own and so guarantee its legal status. His acceptance of his role and Mary's similar acceptance of hers is a model for Christian discipleship.

The fourth Sunday of Advent falls during the second part of Advent when there is an increase in pace, intensity and expectation. The ancient "O Antiphons" are used daily from December 17 until Christmas Eve and contribute to the heightened sense of waiting.

The "O Antiphons" were already in use by the Eighth Century and together form the tapestry of titles for Jesus in the mystery of his Incarnation: **Wisdom, Lord, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Rising Sun, King of Nations and Emmanuel.**

Let us keep Vigil, Christmas is near,

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-Thursday 4-6pm**

**CHRISTMAS EVE~WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24th**

Children Pageant 3:30pm (Church)

4:00pm Vigil Mass  
7:00pm Vigil Mass  
12:00am Midnight Mass



**CHRISTMAS DAY ~**  
**THURSDAY, DEC. 25th, 10:00am**

**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 27th-28th; Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

Reading I: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14  
Reading II: Colossians 3:12-21  
Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



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

Saturday 5pm –† Deceased Parishioners  
Sunday 9am –† Noel Austin  
Sunday 11:15am –† Robert Paul Teixeria, Sr.



**December 27th-28th; Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

Saturday 5pm –† Belen Mendoza  
Sunday 9am –† Nora Kennedy  
Sunday 11:15am –† Patricia Craig (1st Anniversary)



**Happy Birthday, Fr. Andy!**

**December 23rd**

**We wish you a**

**Happy & Blessed Birthday!**



**Fr. Andy, Fr. John and Staff Wish You and Your Family Many Christmas Blessings**



**Merry Christmas**



**Memorials for Deceased Loved Ones**

Regis Croke	Jeff Waterhouse	Ed & Eddie Siudut
Ken Geremia	Geremia Family	Soucy Family
Greg Soucy	Steve Burnham	Evan Henstenburg
The Meissner Family	The Letellier Family	
Andrew Distell	Janet & Clayton Douville	
Albert & Lorraine Landry	Linfred & Norma Bovat	
Daniel Amazeen	Val & Jean Clifford	
Robert & Sarah Mottershead		
Deceased Members of the McGurty Family		



**MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN**



**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!**

**Angels behind the Scenes**



**We want to thank all of the volunteers who help with our Church Environment, office helpers, food pantry volunteers, all of our ministers and volunteers who help to make our Church welcoming, festive and special. These angels are our greatest treasure at St. Thomas More. Thank you for your generosity and gift of time. You are true angels! We are always looking for more angels, if you'd like to earn your wings.**



**St. Thomas More Food Pantry Update**



This week we are seeking volunteers to help with the pickup of donations from Walmart in Newington on Tuesdays at 1:00pm. Your task would be to collect the items and return to the church where a set of volunteers will help unload your vehicle. You would be in a rotation with at least two others so typically your turn would be once every three weeks. Please let me know if this sounds like it can fit into your schedule. Contact me at [rasamom3@comcast.net](mailto:rasamom3@comcast.net).

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

- Conditioner for your hair
- Paprika, garlic salt or onion powder
- Fruit snacks or fruit roll ups

**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!!*



**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**Ed Donnelly  
Peter Farrington  
Dot Meneghin**

**Barbara Farrington  
Joan Fleming  
Bernadette Komonchak**

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



AND THE

*Word*  
BECAME FLESH  
AND  
*dwell  
among us...*

JOHN 1:14

Christmas 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As the Music of Hanukkah and Christmas fills the air, I want to wish each of you the joy and grace of this sacred season.

Christmas is not a day but a season! It lasts from Christmas Day until the Solemnity of the Lord's Baptism.

God is color blind, race blind and sex blind. His universal love for all peoples is manifested in his Holy Child, Jesus. The crib of Bethlehem is the place where all can meet this universal love.

At Christmas there came to the crib the local shepherds. They were Jews. They were poor and unlettered. At Epiphany they were joined by 3 Kings. The Wise Men from the East. They were not Jews. They were Gentiles.

There at the crib they all met. Jew and Gentile, shepherd and wise man, King and commoner, rich and poor, east and west, all people, all ages, you and me.

Look around you at Mass. See the gospel of God's universal love made flesh. Every church is a Bethlehem- "a house of bread." Every altar a crib. Every Mass an Epiphany of the Lord.

For all of this we give thanks. Very Great Thanks.

Shalom and Merry Christmas,

Father Andrew

**STM Faith Formation Families and Friends Christmas Caroling**

**Carriage Hill & Brookdale Sprucewood**



***Sharing Our Spreading Christmas Joy***

***With the Residents!***

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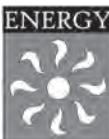
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 Memory



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OUR PARENTS**

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We Love & Miss You Very Much,  
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friend.**

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