

# THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

And the child grew and became strong; he was filled  
with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

— Luke 2:40



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 28 2025**  
**The Holy Family or Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**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.*



Christmas is our yearly reminder of the great love God has for us. Whatever else is lost among the years, let us keep Christmas, for its meaning never ends.

Saint Augustine wrote:

***"The maker of Mary, He was born of Mary;  
the son of David, He is David's Lord;  
the maker of earth, made on earth;  
Creator of Heaven, created under Heaven.***

***"He lies in a manger, but holds the world;  
He is nursed by Mary, but feeds the angels;  
He is wrapped in swaddling clothes,  
but vests us with immortality;  
He found no place in the inn, but makes for  
myself a temple in the hearts of all who believe  
in Him.***

***"He was made man, who made man;  
was created by a mother, whom He created;  
was carried by hands that He formed;  
cried in the manger in wordless infancy;  
He is the word, without whom all human  
eloquence is mute."***

May great joys be yours this Christmas,  
with an abundance of happiness in the New Year.

*A Blessed Christmas...*

Fr. Andrew, Fr. John and the Parish Staff

**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 IN THE CHURCH  
**OFFICE HOURS**  
Mon, Tues 9-3pm & Wed: 9-1pm & **Closed Friday**



**Solemnity of Mary Mother Of God**

**Thursday, Jan 1st -9am**

**Merry Christmas and a  
Blessed New Year**

**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



**Jan 3rd-4th; The Epiphany of the Lord**

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6  
Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6  
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-22



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

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



**Jan 3rd-4th; The Epiphany of the Lord**

Saturday 5pm – † William MacBride  
Sunday 9am – † All STM Ministers  
Sunday 11:15am – † Desmond Gibbons





## Solemnity of Mary Mother Of God

Thursday, Jan 1st ~9am

**Merry Christmas and a  
Blessed New Year**



### 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 McGurt Family		



**"I am the Resurrection and the life"**

We pray for the repose of the soul of  
**William MacBride**

His Memorial Mass was celebrated here at STM on  
**Saturday, December 27th.**



*Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*



### Angels behind the Scenes



We want to thank all of the volunteers who help with our Church Environment, office helpers, STM Choir, 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.



### 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**



### 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



### 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!**



### 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**



### Attention All Christmas Fair Volunteers

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered and assisted with the Christmas Fair.....we couldn't do it without all of you!! We raised **\$6,760.00** (net income) for the parish. We have planned a pot-luck luncheon scheduled for **Sunday, Jan 11th at 12:30pm** in the church hall. We hope you can attend to enjoy some after the holidays fellowship. We will also "debrief" this year's fair and make suggestions for next year's fair.

If you plan to attend and can bring either a dish or dessert, please let Kara (603-767-9837) or Stacey (603-534-5420) know. Thank you all so much for another wonderful year! Kara & Stacey



## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

**“Because you are God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another, forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. Over all these virtues put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect. Christ’s peace must reign in your hearts.”**

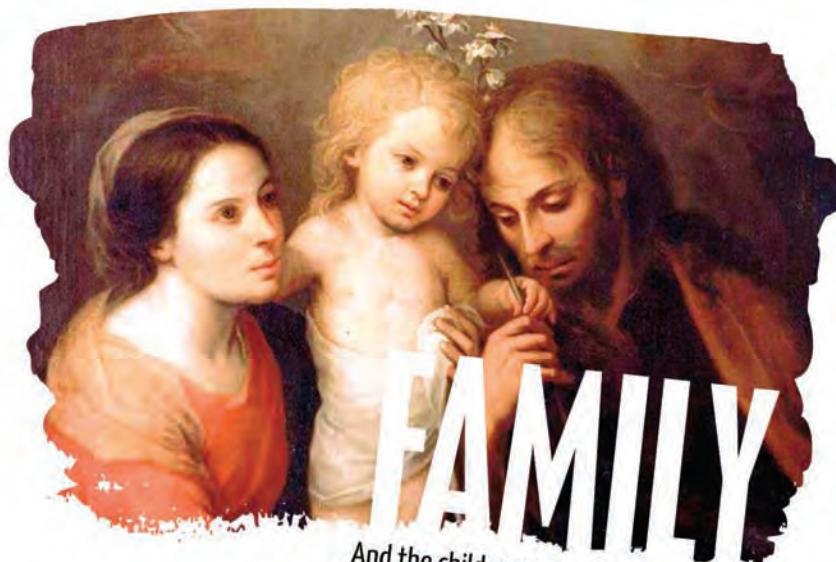
As the year draws to a close, rather than make new year’s resolutions we will soon forget, may I use the teaching of Paul to examine my 2025 conduct and seek ways to be sure these gifts are part and parcel of my daily living. The family of Nazareth had great difficulties and trials but surely they model the virtues spoken of in the scripture passage.

Paul’s audience was chosen by the Lord. We are chosen too but often forget how special we are. Why not consider a family which needs your prayer and support them, or one who models these virtues and imitate them. Isn’t that a great way to begin 2026. Our family living is OJT ‘on the job training.’

### HIS WORD TODAY

BY REV. WILLIAM J. REILLY

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON  
THE SUNDAY READINGS



*And the child grew and became strong;  
He was filled with wisdom, and the grace  
of God was on Him.*

*-Luke 2:40*

# KID'S KORNER

## Gospel Today

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph / Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Following the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and a visit from the Magi, the Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream with a message to take Jesus and Mary to a safer place. When it was time to return to Israel, Joseph was again guided by the angel in a dream.

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# HOLY FAMILY

## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find all the words... left, right, up, down or diagonally.



Bethlehem  
Following

H	T	R	I	B	L	J	E	S	U	S	V	A
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Birth

N	R	U	T	E	R	V	L	T	H	G	I	N
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Visit

S	C	W	I	T	H	D	R	E	W	S	S	A
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Magi

A	M	O	T	H	E	R	E	H	G	L	I	Z
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Angel

G	J	E	P	L	A	C	E	P	P	N	T	A
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Lord

N	O	D	R	E	A	M	S	O	N	A	A	R
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Appeared  
Message

I	S	W	U	H	R	L	O	R	D	P	R	E
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Joseph

W	E	A	O	E	S	C	A	P	E	P	D	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Dream

O	P	R	F	M	E	S	S	A	G	E	E	H
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Child

L	H	N	S	E	A	R	C	H	Y	A	G	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Jesus

L	D	E	D	I	U	G	V	O	P	R	U	E
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Mother

O	T	D	L	I	H	C	I	F	T	E	A	S
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Mary

F	U	L	F	I	L	L	E	D	O	D	T	M
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Escape

Egypt

Safe

Place

Search

Night

Return

Guided

Fulfilled

Prophet

Son

Warned

Withdrew

Nazareth

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# READY.GOV

Don't be afraid...Be Ready

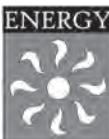
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