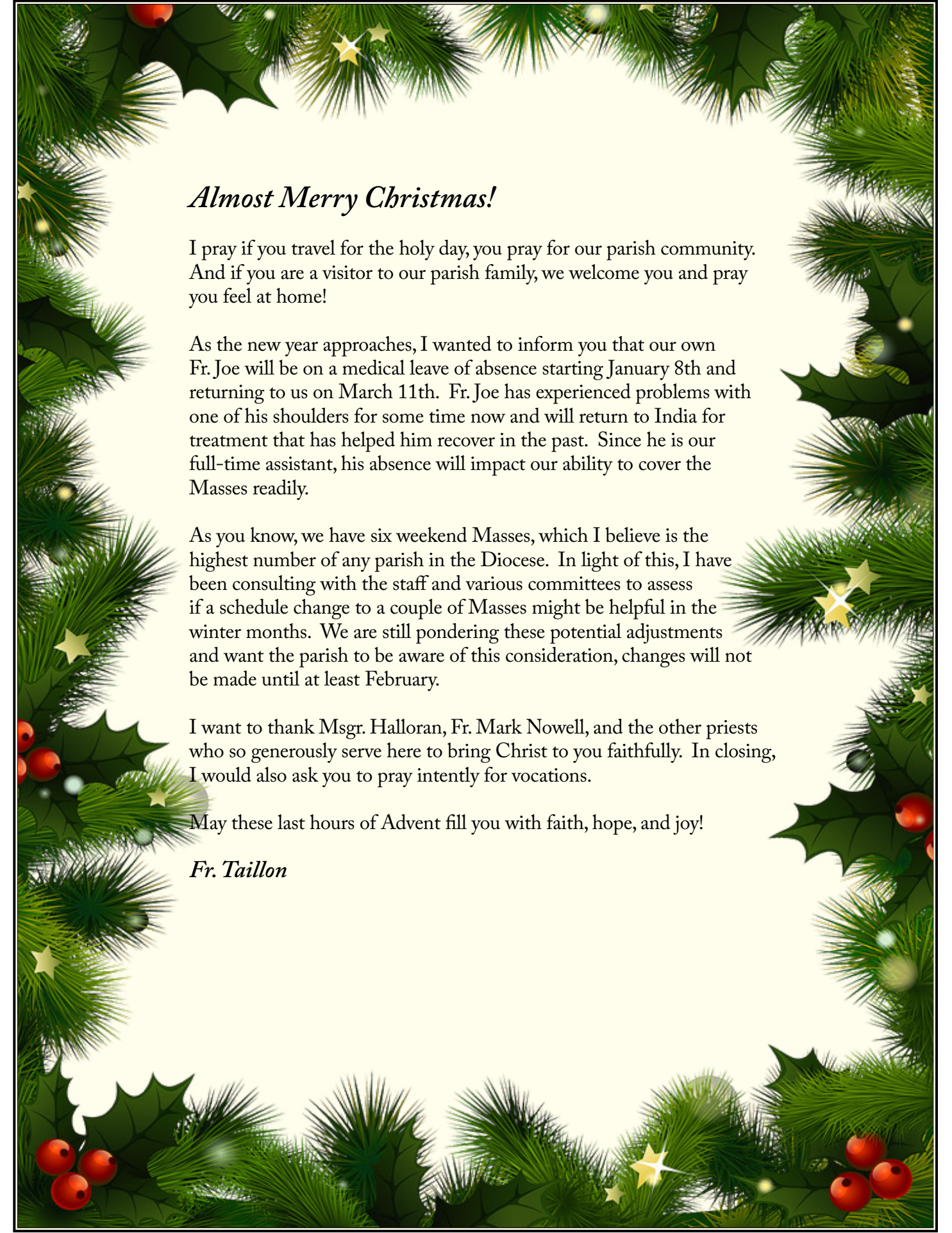




A Savior is born

Merry Christmas

DECEMBER 24, 2023 - STTHOMASMORERI.ORG



Almost Merry Christmas!

I pray if you travel for the holy day, you pray for our parish community. And if you are a visitor to our parish family, we welcome you and pray you feel at home!

As the new year approaches, I wanted to inform you that our own Fr. Joe will be on a medical leave of absence starting January 8th and returning to us on March 11th. Fr. Joe has experienced problems with one of his shoulders for some time now and will return to India for treatment that has helped him recover in the past. Since he is our full-time assistant, his absence will impact our ability to cover the Masses readily.

As you know, we have six weekend Masses, which I believe is the highest number of any parish in the Diocese. In light of this, I have been consulting with the staff and various committees to assess if a schedule change to a couple of Masses might be helpful in the winter months. We are still pondering these potential adjustments and want the parish to be aware of this consideration, changes will not be made until at least February.

I want to thank Msgr. Halloran, Fr. Mark Nowell, and the other priests who so generously serve here to bring Christ to you faithfully. In closing, I would also ask you to pray intently for vocations.

May these last hours of Advent fill you with faith, hope, and joy!

Fr. Taillon

Christmas Flowers

in memory and honor of our loved ones



Ernest & Helen Agnew
The Ahearn Family
The Aissis & Flemming Families
Joseph Baffoni
Calvin Bamford
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Belmonte
The Bergeron Family
Antoinette & Eugene Bessacini
James & Gloria Blinzler
Ida & John Boitano
Brenda Bolster
The Boscia & Fera Families
Dustin Boucher
Kathy Boutilier
Leon & Margaret Brown
Walter Brown
Peter Brunenmeister
The Buerry Family
Barbara & Frances Buresh
Dr. Frank Burke
Alfred W. Butler
The Canning Family
Jim & Jane Cannon
Judge Frank Caprio*
Rita Carey
The Carroll & Frigon Families
The Casasanta & Matrullo Families
The Chappell Family
Donat & Margaret Chatelle
The Choiniere & Dunnigan Families
The Ciambrone & Koutsogiane Families
The Coghlin-Degnan Families
Gerald & Lydia Coli
John & Dorothy Cook
Manuel & Mary Costa
The D'Abate & Orton Families
WWI Soldier Dante D'Abate
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Domenico & Bianca Dolce
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Philip Durigan, Jr.
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Ronald Duska, Sr.
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Rosemarie Ferolito*
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The Gagne Family
Micheline Geruso
Lucia Given
Geanna Given

Earl & Elena Goodison
Tom Goodison
Donna Gunning
The Harte-Maguire Families
Kelly Herbert
Pierre Herbert
Mary Beth Holland
The Hopkin and Richard Families
The Hoyt Family
The Huntley Family
The Inman - Riley Family
James & Mary Kennedy
David Kenney, III
LC Roy, Eleanor, & Beverly Kenyon
Hope & Norman LaSalle
Jennifer Leone
John Leyden
Pat Leyden
Ray Lydon
Patti Lydon
Walter Manning
Michael & Patrick Mannix
Vincenza & Pasquale Masiello
Bertrand Masse
Lucille Masse
The Masterson Family
Daneile Mathieu
Mr. & Mrs. Al Mathieu, Sr.
The McCarthy and Winters Families
Mary Ann & Andrew McGuinness
Bernard F. McSally
Martin A. McSally
Robert Menard
Lee Ann Miele
Anthony & Jennie Miele
Dr. Nicholas & Anna Migliaccio
Justin Monaghan
The Monroe & McGhee Families
Kathleen Burke Moore
The Morelli & Bianco Family
Patricia Morin
J. Neil Murphy
The Murphy Family
Charles & Helen Napolitano
John & Mary Napolitano
Thomas M. Needham
Bill Noonan
William & Rita Noonan

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Joseph Notarantonio, Sr.
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Antonio & Mary Pacheco
Albert & Dorothy Palombo
Steven Penta
Donald Pepin
Michael Pepin
Mark Pepin
Daniel Perley
Walter Pristawa
Raymond Riccio
Robert Riccio
Bruna Rocha
Frank, Adelaide & Jeff Roderick
Albert & Muriel Rogers
Salvatore Ruggieri
Josephine Ruggieri
The Russo & Del Monico Families
Tex Ryan
Lillian & James Salome
Amleto Ugo Salvatore
Joseph Salvatore
Anthony & Rose Salvato
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Thomas Schenk
Margaret Shields
William Shields
Eleanor Skenyon
Mary Z. Smith
Albert Soucy
Florence Soucy
Eileen & Charles Speight
Charles Speight
The Spohr Family
Robert Stearns
Mr. & Mrs. Irving Stearns
Jeannette (Miele) Suter
Brendan Tapley
The Terminesi Family
Sal & Angie Torregrossa
The Unborn
The Vellone Family
Peter Vendresca
Angelena Ruci Ventura
Jean & Jack Wales
Danuta & Kazimierz Zalewski
Ann Zarella
All of My Friends, Parents &
great grandchildren
All My Family Members
no longer with us
Innocent Palestian Victims of War



THE ST. THOMAS MORE *Knitting Ministry*

*Look at all of the wonderful creations
made by our Knitting Ministry elves!*

The St. Thomas More Knitting ministry recently held their annual collection of all items in the St. Thomas More parish hall. They worked all year long to make these beautiful pieces, which have been packed to be distributed as donations to several locations including: The Scallop Shell Nursing Home, the Johnny Cake Center, Welcome House; Narragansett Senior Center, Roberts Health Center, Mother of Life Center, RI Right to Life, and St. Charles and St James in Providence.





Congratulations to parishioners
 Molly and Mark Christina, married in Christ!



Thank you to our Christmas Card elves!
 A full house came to help stuff our
 Christmas card envelopes.



MASS *intentions*

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd (Vigil)

4 PM – for the soul of William Bean

5 PM – for the souls of Joseph & Elizabeth Kearney
& daughter Elizabeth

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th

8 AM – for the soul of Al Leger

9 AM – for the soul of Julia Sullivan

10 AM – for the soul of Anthony R. Leone

11 AM – for the soul of Albert Alba, Sr.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th (Christmas Vigil)

4 PM – for the soul of Salvatore Ruggieri

5 PM – for the souls of Gerald & Lydia Coli

12 PM – for the soul of Peter Gardiner

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25th (Christmas Day)

9 AM – for the soul of John Weber

10 AM – for the souls of Charles & Ann McMahon
& daughter Catherine

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26th

9 AM – Special Intentions ~ Delaney & Kirwan families

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27th

9 AM – for the soul of Rev. Ralph Hogan

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28th

9 AM – Birthday Remembrance ~ Helen Leger

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29th

9 AM – for the soul of Paula Wiste

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30th

9 AM – for the soul of Barbara McCauley

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30th

4 PM – for the soul of Donna Gunning

5 PM – for the deceased members of the Delaney &
Kirwan families

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st

8 AM – for the soul of Robert Brown

9 AM – for the soul of Vincenza Masiello

10 AM – for the souls of Frank & Kathy Palumbo

11 AM – for the soul of Michael McCarthy



Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24th

4:00 PM Vigil - St. Veronica Chapel

3:15 PM Music Prelude

5:00 PM Vigil - St. Thomas More

4:30 PM Music Prelude

Solemn Candlelight Midnight Mass

12:00 Midnight - St. Thomas More

11:30 PM Music Prelude

Monday, December 25th

Christmas Day

9:00 AM - St. Veronica Chapel

10:00 AM - St. Thomas More

Monday, January 1st - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

9:00 AM - St. Thomas More

The parish office will be closed on
December 25th, Christmas Day.

*If you look for Me
at Christmas*

you won't need a special star —

I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,

I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of Me

amid the celebrations —

*You'll have to look beyond the stores
and all the decorations.*

But if you take a moment

from your list of things to do

And listen to your heart, you'll find

I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with,

you're the reason that I came,

*And you'll find Me in the stillness
as I'm whispering your name.*

Love,

Jesus

Happenings around the parish

Fr. Jose Pilgrimage to India

September 23 - October 8, 2024

Please join Fr. Jose Parathanal on a pilgrimage to the magnificent cultural and spiritual sites of Incredible India! The tour begins in the ancient cities of Delhi (Sacred Heart Cathedral), Agra (Taj Mahal), Jaipur (Pink City), Kolkata (Mother Teresa) and Goa (St. Francis Xavier). The itinerary also includes the beautiful scenic state of Kerala in South India, where the famous shrines of St. Thomas the Apostle, the tombs of St. Kuriakose Chavara, St. Alphonsa and many other saints. For more details, contact Bernie Corpuz at 323-547-6618 or email at bcorp1114@gmail.com.

*Fr. Jose Joseph Parathanal, (C.M.I.), Pastor/
Administrator of the Shrine of St. Therese,
Our Lady of Good Help Church and St. Patrick
Church in Harrisville, RI.*

Gospel Reflections Group

All are welcome to join our informal discussion group which meets on Mondays from 10-11:30 AM in the parish hall. Over coffee & refreshments, we read and reflect on the Gospels of the coming week and share our personal insights of those readings.

Men's Bible Study

Our parish has a very active group of men who meet each Saturday morning in the parish hall at 7:30 AM to discuss the Sunday scripture readings. This is very informal and all are invited to join.

Remember the Poor

The small donation boxes on the church walls labeled "Remember the Poor" helps fund the Mother Teresa Fund, helping parishioners and locals in need.

Prayer Chain Ministry

If you know someone who would like extra prayers, please call Jean at 783-3403 to express your request. Volunteers are needed and welcome to join this important ministry.

Pray the Rosary

The rosary is prayed Monday - Saturday after the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Thomas More. All are welcome.

St. Vincent dePaul clothing bins

Accepts clothing and shoes. Bins located at the back of the St. Thomas More parking lot, inside the white fence.

Religious Education

There are **no** Religious Education classes for Christmas Break the weeks of

December 24th &

December 31st

Knights of Columbus

Interested in joining the Knight of Columbus?

We are looking for new members.

Please contact Bernie Casey at 617.293.9201



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Pope Pius XII Council 5295

WEEKLY PARISH FOOD COLLECTION

Current Needs

- ✓ Natural Peanut Butter
- ✓ Brown Rice
- ✓ Low Sugar Jelly
- ✓ Canned Fruit in 100% Juice
- ✓ Baked/Black/Kidney Beans
- ✓ Whole grain wheat flour
- ✓ Whole Grain Cereal/Crackers/Pasta & Jarred Pasta Sauce

Collection baskets are located at the entrance of both churches.



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THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.
What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race.

- Jn 1:3-4

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me;
your throne shall stand firm forever." (2 Sm 28:16)

Psalm:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 89)

Second Reading:

The revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages
but now manifested through the prophetic writings and,
according to the command of the eternal God,
made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith. (Rom 16:25-26)

Gospel:

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus." (Lk 1:31)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God's plans are not always what we imagined.
Sometimes they make us hesitate. Be like Mary.
Say "Yes, Lord" — and God will show you that His
imagination is better than yours.

Observances for the week of December 24, 2023

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve
Monday: The Nativity of the Lord
Tuesday: St. Stephen, First Martyr
Wednesday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Thursday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Friday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
Next Sunday: The Holy Family; New Year's Eve



Saint of the week

Servant of God Michelle Christine Duppong worked as a FOCUS missionary and a lay parish minister in the early 2000's. Her life was a testament to her commitment to God and social justice work. She died at age 31 in 2015 but her legacy lives on today in those whose lives she touched.

Prayer

Jesus, I praise and thank you for the life of your servant Michelle Duppong. In her life and suffering, she joined you in your thirst for souls and embraced the cross offered to her. Following her example, I ask for the special grace of [personal intercession] and, if it brings you greater glory, that she be honored by your Church. Jesus, I ask this in your Holy Name.

Amen.

-With ecclesiastical approval of Bishop David D. Kagan, Diocese of Bismarck

(Prayer Source: <https://bismarckdiocese.com/prayer-of-intercession>)

Readings for the week of December 24, 2023

Sunday:

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday:

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/
Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps
97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 *Day:* Is
52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn
1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and
8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday:

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday:

1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/
Mt 2:13-18

Friday:

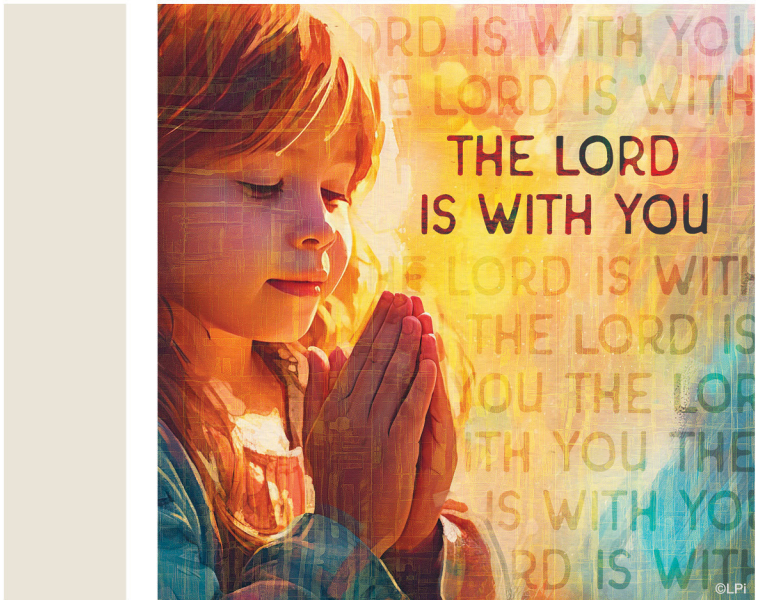
1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/
Lk 2:22-35

Saturday:

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps
128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12,
17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, **"But she was greatly troubled at what was said."** An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her precisely when she is troubled. Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing, Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, **"Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God."**

— Father John Muir



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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

What Is Your Fiat?

Are you an anxious people-pleaser prone to overcommitting yourself? Welcome to the club! We have slogans, and for your convenience I've listed them here:

"Sounds great!"

"No worries!"

"Absolutely, I can do that, not a problem!"

These are your go-to responses for when someone requests a favor that is a huge inconvenience, but you would rather die than disappoint. It's not exactly disingenuous — it's just a little neurotic. Again, welcome to the club.

You know who doesn't belong to this club? The Blessed Mother. For many reasons, I'm sure, but the biggest one is that she's always completely up-front. Take her response to the Angel Gabriel: "Let it be done."

If there are more powerful words than these, I can't think of them now. And yet, as responses go, this certainly isn't an enthusiastic one. There was never a human creature more willing to obey God than Mary, full of grace, so it makes it all the more striking that her response to Gabriel is this reserved — and it makes it all the more certain that she means exactly what she says.

Let it be done.

Not: Yes, this is exactly that I asked for!

Not: Nope. This sounds awful. Count me out.

But precisely this: If God is asking, my answer is yes.

The Angel Gabriel visits us all, in a way, at some point or another, bearing news we did not expect. When we can say, in the face of that uncertainty, "Let it be done," we are embracing our calling as disciples. We are becoming like Mary.

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord." — Luke 1:38

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do Catholics light candles in church?

Answer:

Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints.

Thank you to the many new families who have signed up for Faith Direct to support our ministries. Your support allows us to continue to serve the spiritual and corporeal needs of our parish and wider community. And, thank you to our many virtual parishoners who continue to support us, we appreciate your support too!



St. Thomas More Parish counts on your prayers and support and we truly appreciate your continued generosity during this difficult time.

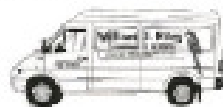
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