

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH

St. Thomas More Church

53 ROCKLAND STREET, NARRAGANSETT, RI 02882-3620



St. Veronica Chapel

1035 BOSTON NECK ROAD, NARRAGANSETT, RI 02882

Fr. Marcel L. Taillon, S.T.L. | *Pastor*

*Chaplain, Narragansett Police Department, Chaplain, Narragansett Fire Department,
Chaplain, South Kingstown Police Department
fathermtaillon@gmail.com*

Fr. Joseph Mappilamattel, C.M.I. | *Associate Pastor* | *mappilajoseph60@gmail.com*

Fr. Przemyslaw "Shemek" Lepak | *Part-time Assistant Pastor* | *frshemek@gmail.com*

Msgr. John C. Halloran | *Pastor Emeritus*

Deacon Joseph Clossick | *joseph.clossick@bms.com*

Mass Schedule

St. Thomas More Church

Vigil Mass - Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday Mass: 10:00 AM

Daily Mass - Monday - Saturday: 9:00 AM

Confession - Saturday: 4:00-4:45 PM

St. Veronica Chapel

Vigil Mass - Saturday: 4:00 PM

Sunday Masses

8:30 AM

11:00 AM



JANUARY 12, 2025 - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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A Jubilee Year of Hope 2025!

Pope Francis recently opened the “Holy Doors” at St. Peter’s in Rome, and every Cathedral in America has done this. It is a year of Jubilee that the Church has had every 25 years since Pope Julius proclaimed one in 1300 AD. The Jubilee year was practiced in the Jewish faith as well. It was a time to forgive debts, be open to mercy, and be renewed. This Jubilee year is titled “Pilgrims of Hope.” Central to the year of grace is special forgiveness, which one can receive by visiting designated places of pilgrimage. I would urge you to read Pope Francis’ “Spes Non Confundit,” the Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee Holy Year 2025, which lays out the foundation for the 2025 Jubilee which says, “To all who read this letter, may hope fill your hearts.”

Who among us is never in need of hope? I read the letter, and I found it inspiring and encouraging. I would suggest that as we begin this new year, you can receive this letter from Pope Francis to you personally. Of course, the Lord always wants to share Himself with us. Perhaps this is the year we will have more hope than ever for our families, friends, the Church, and our world, which so badly needs it. As St. Paul tells us, hope comes from faith and not from circumstances.

Pope Francis suggests that we go on pilgrimages to designated places (like our Cathedral, and go through the doors) and increase our visits to the sick at home or in hospitals, instill hope in children, be aware of migrants, the elderly, and even our next-door neighbors who we might be too busy to visit or engage with.

This year is the 1700 Anniversary of the Council of Nicea. This Creed we pray on Sundays has been in use since 325 AD. In light of this, soon I plan to offer a talk one evening on the formation and meaning of our Creed. Stay tuned!

Let’s ask the Lord to fill us with hope and share it. Enter into the Jubilee with me and the whole Church. Our hope will be a sign to others of the presence of Jesus in our world and hearts. Remember, forgiveness does not change the past; it cannot change what happened in the past, yet it can allow us to change the future and to live different lives free of anger, animosity, and vindictiveness.

Fr. Taillon

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen.

Franciscus



Fr. Paul-Anthony Halladay named new Vocation Director for Archdiocese for Military Services



Fr. Taillon and Fr. Halladay together at the SEEK conference last week in Salt Lake City, Utah, where there were 17,000 catholic college students in attendance.



Fr. Taillon leading a panel of chaplains, representing each branch of the military in Salt Lake City.



Catholic members of the military and college students attending the military presentation.

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: It makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. But the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow.

Beneath the Surface

When I was seventeen, I wasn't sure that I wanted to be confirmed. It was a rough period in my life, and I was having some intense questions and doubts. It upset my mother, understandably. She knew that, at such a pivotal and difficult moment, I needed the grace of the sacrament more than ever. So, she called our priest and asked him to talk to me.

After that meeting, I made the decision to be confirmed.

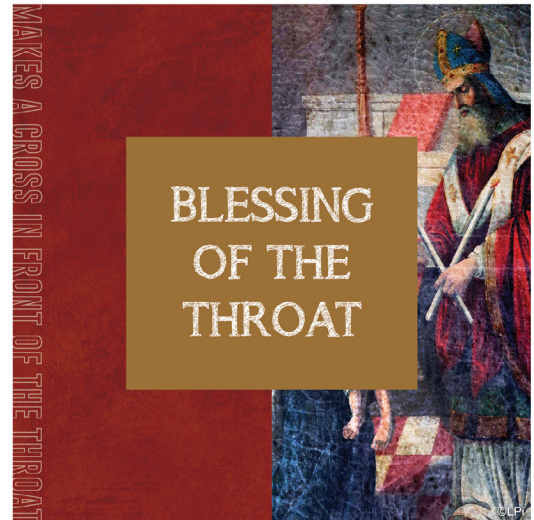
To be honest, I can't remember anything he said to me. All I remember is that he sat with me. He listened to me. He let me talk and talk and talk (and cry). And when he said whatever he said, whatever it is that I cannot remember, it was obvious that he had listened to me.

Reading today's Gospel, it makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. Of course it seemed natural that he would be "the one." The one they were all waiting for.

But instead, the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow — and in doing so, he sanctified it. He made it a means of redemption.

Jesus is our Savior, yes. When we dig ourselves a hole of sin and confusion and we can't climb out, he is the one who brings us back to the surface. But he doesn't pull us out; he lifts us. He jumps down into the pit. He looks around. He offers his hand, gives us a leg up, and by his strength and not our own, we are brought back into the light.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



Devotions, Explained!

Catholics traditionally receive a blessing of the throat on the feast day of St. Blaise (Feb. 3), who was a bishop and martyr of fourth-century Armenia. During the blessing, a cross is formed from two blessed candles that are held over the throat.

Prayer for Baptism

Oh God,
You desire each of us to
be a part of Your sacred
family, called and invited into
relationship with You. May
the grace of our Baptisms
surround us anew, who are
beloved and chosen by You.

Amen.



SAVE THE DATE!

Parish Lenten Mission

March 9 & 10

Fr. Alex Wyvill

St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, Bethesda, Maryland

Details to follow.

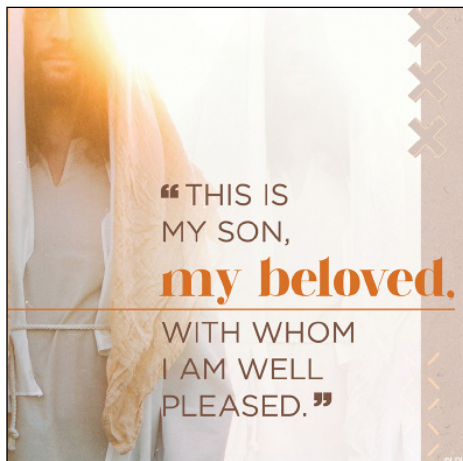
GOSPEL MEDITATION -

The Baptism of the Lord

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

In my second year of theology studies, I went to confession to a priest visiting the seminary for a three-day retreat. My heart wasn't in it. I was going through the motions. I confessed my sins and waited for his response. The priest said, "For your penance, I'd like you to go into the chapel and repeat the words 'You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased' (Luke 3:22) until they mean something to you." Easy penance, I thought.

But to my surprise, I struggled to say those words. I sensed a strong interior resistance blocking them. How could God be well-pleased with me? He couldn't be, I thought. A battle within me ensued. Two hours later, the resistance vanished, and I found myself able to speak, and claim as my own, those marvelous words. I emerged from the chapel with a new, deep, peaceful conviction that I was indeed God's beloved son.



Those words are a precious gift from heaven to all of us. Jesus' baptism, which we celebrate this week, offers them to us. Are we willing to receive these words anew? Many things can block this deepening of our baptismal identity: failings, sins, disappointments, traumas, problems, and so on. Yet God's love is always greater. This week I challenge you to prayerfully repeat these words over yourself — or perhaps over someone you're struggling to love — until those words find a home in your heart.

— Father John Muir

MASS *intentions*

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11th

4 PM – for the soul of Patricia Fogarty

5 PM – Birthday Remembrance ~ Anne Del Monico

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12th

8:30 AM – for the soul of J. Joseph Garrahy &
for the parishioners of St. Thomas More

10 AM – Birthday Remembrance ~ William Murphy

11 AM – for the deceased members of
the Vigliotti family

MONDAY, JANUARY 13th

9 AM – for the soul of Frank Morelli

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14th

9 AM – for the souls of Frederic & Patricia Hildebrandt

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15th

9 AM – for the soul of Peter McGinn

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16th

9 AM – for the soul of Claire Wayland

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17th

9 AM – for the soul of John Merlino, Jr.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18th

9 AM – for the souls of Lillian & Vinent Walsh &
Lillian Stannard

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18th

4 PM – for the soul of George DiChristofaro

5 PM – for the soul of Catherine Ranaldi &
for the parishioners of St. Thomas More

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19th

8:30 AM – for the soul of Emily “Lee” Listro

10 AM – for the soul of Margaret Dugan

11 AM – for the deceased members of
the Vigliotti Family

Christmas Flowers *in memory and honor of our loved ones*



Here are some additional memorial names.

Robert Costa

Alice McDonald

Ronald Costa

Kathelene Costa

The Jenard Family

The Dumond Family

The Brady Family

The Nassar Family

Margaret Ayres

Jacqueline Collins

Mario Tonarelli

Mary & Carl Belmonte

Charles & Margaret Galligan

Henry & Ann Lavalley

Anne & Ted Casasanta

Flora & Frank Matrullo

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Isabella & Joe Ferraro

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Daneille Mathieu

Mr. & Mrs. Al Mathieu

Mr. & Mrs. Al Soucy

Lee Ann Miele

Athony & Jennie Miele

Jeannett Miele

Dr. Nicholas & Ann Migliaccio

Albert & Muriel Rogers

Francis & Barbara Buresh

Mildred & Ed Molitor

Happenings around the parish

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 and welcome to join.

Our Lady's Guild

- Our Lady's Guild has meetings at 9:30AM on the second Wednesday of each month in the parish hall.
- On Mondays after the 9AM Mass, with coffee & refreshments, they meet as an informal gospel reflections group to discuss, read and reflect on the Gospels of the coming week and to share personal insights of those readings.
- The rosary is prayed Monday - Saturday at 8:30AM at St. Thomas More before the 9AM Mass.



All are welcome to join these activities.

To learn more about Our Lady's Guild, call Diane at 996-3876 or visit

<https://stm-ourladysguild.weebly.com/>

Prayer Chain Ministry

If you know someone who would like or needs extra prayers, we are happy to help. Call Jean at 783-3403 to express your request. New volunteers are always welcome to join this necessary and important ministry.

Remember the Poor

The small donation boxes on the church walls labeled "Remember the Poor" goes to the Mother Teresa Fund, which helps with local rental assistance, utilities, food and prescriptions. Thank you for your generosity.

Rosary Repairs

Drop your broken beads in envelope provided in the box in the foyer at St. Thomas More with your name and contact info. You will be contacted when complete.

St. Vincent dePaul clothing bins

Weekly pick up of clothing & shoes. Bins located at the back of the St. Thomas More parking lot, inside the fence.

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.

Religious Education

Sunday, January 12th

Grades 1 -4 at 10:00-10:50 AM

St. Veronica Chapel

Confirmation Prep at 6:00-7:15 PM

St. Thomas More

Wednesday, January 15th

Grades 5-8 at 5:45-6:45 PM

St. Veronica Chapel



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Heavenly Father,

We come before You with gratitude for the many blessings

You have poured upon the Diocese of Providence.

As we await the appointment of a new bishop, we entrust this process to Your loving care and guidance.

Send Your Holy Spirit to those involved in discerning and selecting our new shepherd. May they be filled with wisdom, insight, and fidelity to Your will. Bless the one You have chosen to lead us, that he may be a man of deep prayer, strong faith, and courageous love, devoted to serving You and the people of this diocese. Prepare his heart to embrace this mission with humility and joy and grant him the grace to guide us in truth and unity.

May he be a faithful teacher, a compassionate pastor, and a courageous witness to the Gospel, drawing us closer to You in all that we do.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, and our patron saints, St. Thomas More and St. Veronica.

May they guide and protect our diocese as we await this important moment.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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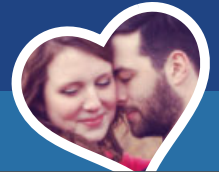
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