



December 21, 2025 | VOLUME 55 NUMBER 51 | Fourth Sunday of Advent



A Letter From Our Pastor

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Consider the verse, "Joseph, ...since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame..." The Hebrew word for "righteousness" meant much more than merely fair, just, or virtuous as it does today. It included one's complete relationship with God AND how that shaped one's interaction with others. The church leaders of Joseph's time practiced punishment and isolation for sinners; thankfully, Joseph's relationship with God far surpassed theirs.

Please engage in a little Lectio Divina with me here, and join me in imagining the scene.

Imagine you are Joseph. Mary has just returned from helping Elizabeth. You rush to welcome her into your arms, but she's distant. You immediately notice something is wrong in her face. You pause, confused, with a look that says, "What is it, my love?" Then you see the bump of Jesus protruding from her womb. The shock, disbelief, and overwhelming sense of betrayal wash over you! NO! This can't be! Your eyes open wide, and you try to speak, but no words come out. Mary rushes toward you, but you turn away and walk off. The silence is broken by her tears. She sobs, "Joseph, wait! Don't leave me!"

You fill in the blanks from there since scripture is silent, and we'll all have to wait till heaven to find out what actually went down. Did he bolt, give her a chance to explain, scoff and call her crazy when she told the truth? Did he brood for weeks before coming to his decision? The romantic in me wants to believe somehow he saw the truth in her beautiful eyes and angelic face, and although his mind couldn't process the reality, he wanted to believe with all his heart in her mind-boggling explanation.

However, let's not overlook the seriousness of her situation at that time. Her life was completely in Joseph's hands. If he publicly revealed that the child was not his, The Law called for Mary to be stoned. He faced the choice to expose her, marry her and raise a child he hadn't fathered, or to end the marriage process and have everyone believe he was the father. That would damage his reputation, but Mary's life would be spared. So he voluntarily took on the shame of being the father of her child, knowing he and Mary would be looked down upon, but at least her life would be saved. That's what he chose, of course, prior to the angel's direct intervention.

Thank you, Joseph, for your nobility, for your righteousness, for your trust in God. May we all practice the same Hebrew version of righteousness.

A merry, holy, and sanctifying Christmas to all!

Fr. Eddie



*Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"*

Amen.

- Henri JM Nouwen

St. Thomas More Christmas Season Schedule



The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas

Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Thursday, December 25, 2025

9:00 am

~

Friday, December 26, 2025

No Daily Mass

~

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, December 27, 2025

3:15 pm Confessions/4:30 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Masses: 8 am, 10 am & 5 pm

~

The church office will
be closed for the
holidays on the
following days:

December 23rd, 24th,
25th, 26th, 30th, 31st
& January 1st.

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

5:00 pm Mass

Thursday, January 1, 2026

9:00 am Mass

~

Friday, January 2, 2026

No Daily Mass



wishing you a
Blessed Christmas



& Joyful New Year!

Fr. Eddie and the Church Staff

STM MEN'S CLUB

ANNUAL MEETING & GUMBO COOKOFF

**SATURDAY, JAN. 10
6:30 PM
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Who will win the golden ladle this year?



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In the Our Father, we pray: 'Thy kingdom come,' as Jesus himself taught us. With this invocation we turn toward the new thing that God has in store for us, recognizing that the course of history is not already written by the powerful people of this world. Let us, then, put our thoughts and energy at the service of God who came not to reign over us, but rather to free us. This is the 'gospel,' the truly good news that motivates and draws us in.

FLOWER DONATION

The flowers on the altar next weekend, Dec. 27-28, are donated in memory of Hudson Jay Hargroder as requested by Mary and Rory Lato.

SANCTUARY LIGHTS

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Mery Sanchez the week of Dec. 21 as requested by the LOUIS Team. The sanctuary light in the chapel will burn in memory of Mary Lois and Lester Grave the week of Dec. 21 as requested by Tootie St. Romain.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Dec. 23 - 6 p.m.: Mery Sanchez, Adelyn Dugas, Huey Dufrene, Thomas Webre, Edel Acosta, Anatasio Nguyen

Wednesday, Dec. 24 - 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.: STM Families, Friends and Neighbors

Thursday, Dec. 25 - 9 a.m.: STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors

Friday, Dec. 26 - 12 p.m.: No Mass

Saturday, Dec. 27 - 4:30 p.m.: Lou and Emery Bares

Sunday, Dec. 28 - 8 a.m.: Mary Lois and Lester Graves; **10 a.m.:** STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors; **5 p.m.:** Andrew Littlefield, Michael Bannon, Eddie Landry, Mark Brabant, Wilmer McNair, Mark Midboe, Ned Dufour

PRAYER LIST FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL

Please remember in your prayers the following persons: Becky Cline, Buddy Vidrine, Baron Lacour, Laurie Bolanoff, Diane Green, John Pecoraro, Jr., Hunter Pecoraro, Loressa Watts, Destiny Kelley, Marcia Sells, Byron Ellis, Tim Bonin, Joe Bonin, Lloyd Hebert, Bubba Howell, Frank DePaula, Julie Zerbst, Wendall Blouin, Camilla Barlow, Kathy Moise, Allyce Trapp Alexander, Sharon Mann, Louis LaBauve, Melani Cagle

PRAYER LINE FOR IMMEDIATE PRAYER REQUESTS

For serious or urgent prayer requests, call Sharon Hebert at 225.978.1246 (leave your name and phone number if there is no answer), or send a request by email to kennyshar69@att.net.

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers: Capt. Austin Starks, PFC Alyssa Richardson, SSG Brian Edwards, SPC Havyn Henley, PO3 Tytan Henley, MAJ Nate Conlon (To add/edit names: email receptionist@stmbr.org.)

CHURCH STAFF

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— 2ND ANNUAL STM MEN'S CLUB —

HOG HEAVEN

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Office Hours:

Mon.- Thurs.: 8 am - 12 pm and 1 - 5 pm;

Fri.: 8 a.m. - 12 pm

DAILY MASSES

Tuesday: 6:00 pm, Wednesday: 12 noon (w/Rosary @ 11:30 am);

Thursday: 8:45 am, Friday: 12 noon

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 4:30 pm Vigil; Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, and 5 pm

RECONCILIATION

Wednesdays from 11:15 - 11:45 am; Thursdays from 8:00 - 8:30 am

Saturdays from 3:15 - 4:15 pm; and by appt.

Emergencies After Hours:

Please call 225.275.3940 and follow the directions
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