

**CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS MORE  
DECEMBER 17, 2006  
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Theme/Call To Worship**

The presence of Christ (i.e., the Messiah) was the assurance that indeed the Lord was "in our midst." John told the crowds, "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

**Introduction To The Word**

**I. Zep 3:14-18a.** Zephaniah urges the people of Jerusalem to rejoice because the Lord is in their midst. He conveys the message that God will love and protect those who have remained faithful to him.

**II. Phil 4:4-7.** Paul encourages the Philippians to be ready for Christ. He tells them not to worry about their concerns, but to instead ask God's help and allow his peace to fill their hearts and minds.

**III. Lk 3:10-18.** John the Baptist clearly states that he will be followed by one so powerful that "I am not fit to loosen his sandal strap."

**At St. Thomas More This Week:**

<b><u>Date:</u></b>	<b><u>Event:</u></b>	<b><u>Time:</u></b>
12/17	Group Baptism	1:30 p.m.
	<b><i>Parish Christmas Party</i></b>	6:30 p.m.
12/18	St. David's Lessons Rehearsal	1:00 p.m.
12/19	A.A. Meeting	6:30 p.m.
12/20	St. David's Lessons Rehearsal	1:00 p.m.
	St. David's Carols Service	6:00 p.m.
	Christian Meditation	5:45 p.m.
12/21	Confessions	11:45 a.m.
	Confessions	5:15 p.m.
	A.A. Meeting	6:30 p.m.
12/22	Confessions	11:45 a.m.
	Confessions	5:15 p.m.
	A.A. Meeting	6:30 p.m.

12/23 Confessions 11:45 p.m.  
Confessions 4:30 p.m.

### **WEEKDAY BIBLE READING**

12/18 Jer 23:5-8, Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19, Mt 1:18-25  
12/19 Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a, Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17, Lk 1:5-25  
12/20 Is 7:10-14, Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6, Lk 1:26-38  
12/21 Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a, Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21, Lk 1:39-45  
12/22 1 Sm 1:24-28, Ps: 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd, Lk 1:46-56  
12/23 Mal 3:1-4, 23-24, Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14, Lk 1:57-66

**Thank You** for your most generous contributions to the Retired Religious Fund taken up last weekend. May your generosity continue to be a blessing to you and your families.

**The Parish Council of the Church of St. Thomas More** extends a heartfelt thank you to all the donors and volunteers who made this year's Christmas Toy Collection for the needy so successful.

"Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." - 1 Cor 13:7 -

"Live a life of love." - Eph 5:2-

### ***Come to the Parish Christmas Party Tonight***

***Sunday, December 17, 2006  
6:30 - 8:00 P.M.***

***St. Thomas More  
Rochester Room***

***65 East 89<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York***

***Special event: Santa Clause will be there!!!***

### **ADVENT PROJECT FOR CHILDREN**

On the **First Sunday of Advent** (December 3<sup>rd</sup>) an evergreen tree was placed near the front doors of our church. This tree will become part of our crèche scene on Christmas Eve (December 24).

During the weeks of Advent it will be unadorned except for a gift box underneath it.

We invite the children of our Parish to write a short love note to Jesus and put it in the box any time during Advent.

When Christmas comes, the crèche scene will be erected in front of the tree. The notes will then remain there as a special gift to Jesus from the children of Saint Thomas More.

***An Advent Reflection....***

- Do I accept God's authority over my life? To what extent do I follow my own agenda and fit God in when it's convenient? Is my life controlled by my own ambitions or desires to the exclusion of God's commandments?
- Do I set aside the Sabbath as a time to worship the Lord and rest in his presence?
- Do I reverence the name of God in my speech?

***- The Word Among Us***

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 17TH**

Monday, December 18th

7:00 Sarah & Michael Donellan (d)  
8:00 Ruth Patricia Adams (d)  
12:15 M/M Price (I)  
5:45 The Dziedzic Family (d)

Tuesday, December 19th

7:00 Mary & Michael Egan (d)  
8:00 Valerio Gil (d)  
12:15 Margaret Finley (d)  
5:45 The Bertani Family (d)

Wednesday, December 20th

7:00 Thomas McHugh (I)  
8:00 Robert M. Callagy (d)  
12:15 Vincent Leahy (d)  
5:45 Rosemary Black (I)

Thursday, December 21st

7:00 Thomas McHugh (I)  
8:00 Delia Gonzalez (d)

12:15 Elizabeth & Joseph Hughes (d)  
 5:45 Joseph & Maria Muccino (d)

Friday, December 22nd

7:00 Francisca Santiago (d)  
 8:00 Robert Arquello (d)  
 12:15 Staffa & Amatucci Family  
 5:45 Edelberta Gomez (d)

Saturday, December 23rd

8:00 Bernhord, Barbara, Lillie, Oalf Helgason (d)  
 12:15 Lillian Swanson and Family (d)  
 5:45 -

***Celebrant Sunday Schedule***

<b><i>Mass</i></b>	<b><i>Dec. 17th</i></b>	<b><i>Dec. 24th</i></b>
Sat. 5:45 PM	Fr. Diaz	Fr. Asebias
Sun. 8:30 AM	Msgr. Shelley	Fr. Tentativa
Sun. 10:00 AM	Fr. Tentativa	Fr. Diaz
Sun. 11:15 AM	Fr. Diaz	Msgr. Shelley
Sun. 12:30 PM	Fr. Boehning	Fr. Boehning
Sun. 5:45 PM	Fr. Asebias	

***See Confession / Christmas Mass Schedule:***

***Catholic Charities - Archdiocese of New York - Love in Action...***Each year, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York creates hope for thousands of families and individuals in need throughout the region. The *St. Nicholas Adopt-a-Family Project* allows you to put cheer into the Christmas holiday for more than 2,400 families. If you, your family, friends or co-workers would like to participate by purchasing gifts, donating cash or volunteering, please call Bridget Keller at 212-371-1000, ext. 2525; email: St.Nicholas@archny.org.

**GIVING AT CHRISTMAS**

Our ***Christmas collection*** is one of the main sources of parish revenue. Last year your Christmas giving totaled \$ 81,770. A breakdown of your individual Christmas gifts follows on this page. We are confident that despite the twists and turns of the business cycles your gracious sharing in the Lord's work will continue in the grand and gracious manner you exercise your faithful stewardship in this parish of St. Thomas More. May God bless you for your goodness.

## ANALYSIS OF 2005 CHRISTMAS GIVING

### AMOUNT DONOR TOTAL \$

\$6,000	1	\$6,000
5,000	1	5,000
3,000	1	3,000
2,000	3	6,000
1,750	1	1,750
1,000	12	12,000
500	29	14,500
400	3	12,000
350	1	350
300	12	3,600
250	23	5,750
240	1	240
200	9	1,800
150	10	1,500
140	1	140
125	6	750
120	2	240
100	61	6,100
Under 100	180	6,145

Cash 5,705

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TOTAL 81,770

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### **Archdiocese of New York Office of Vocations**

Thinking of the priesthood? Try praying every day, twice a day, for 20 minutes each (possibly before the Blessed Sacrament). If you are a young man interested in the priesthood, please contact Father Luke Sweeney or Father Luis Saldana at the Vocation Office in the Archdiocese of New York at (914) 968-1340, vocations@archny.org or www.archnyvocations.org; Sr. Deanna Sabetta at (212) 371-1000 ext. 2803 (Religious), and Deacon Anthony Cassaneto at (914) 968-6200 ext. 8269 (Diaconate).

***Rosary Aids Spiritual Growth..***, "Vatican City, May 17, 2006: At today's general audience, Pope Benedict XVI invited the faithful to pray the rosary: "I exhort all to intensify the devout practice of praying the rosary, especially in the month of May, dedicated to the Mother of God. Dear young people, I invite you to value this traditional Marian prayer which helps us to understand better the central moments of salvation realized by Christ....." - ***Legion of Christ*** -