

CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS MORE
DECEMBER 24, 2006
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ©

Theme/Call To Worship

“Blessed are you who *believed* that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

Introduction To The Word

I. Mi 5: 1-4a. Micah speaks of the ruler who will come from Bethlehem. He discusses how the people of Israel will be saved from corruption and live in peace.

II. Heb 10: 5-10. Paul describes to the Hebrews how Jesus came into the world and offered to do God’s will. We were saved through his sacrifice, the only offering sufficient for the sins of the world.

III. Lk 1: 39-45. Mary paid a visit to Elizabeth, whose baby stirred in her womb upon hearing Mary’s greeting. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” Elizabeth was deeply overjoyed that the words God had spoken to Mary had now been fulfilled.

At St. Thomas More This Week:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
12/24	No Baptisms / No Confessions	
12/25	Parish Office Closed after 2:00 p.m	
12/26	Stephen, first martyr	
	A.A. Meeting	6:30 p.m.
12/27	John, apostle, evangelist	
	Christian Meditation	5:45 p.m.
12/28	Holy Innocents, martyrs	
	A.A. Meeting	6:30 p.m.
12/29	Thomas Becket, bp., martyr	
	A.A. Meeting	6:30 p.m.
12/30	Holy Family Vigil	5:45 p.m.

WEEKDAY BIBLE READING

12/25	Is 52:7-10, Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6, Heb 1:1-6, Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
12/26	Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59, Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17, Mt 10:17-22
12/27	1 Jn 1:1-4, Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12, Jn 20:1a and 2-8
12/28	1 Jn 1:5-2:2, Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8, Mt 2:13-18
12/29	1 Jn 2:3-11, Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6, Lk 2:22-35
12/30	1 Jn 2:2-17, Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, Lk 2:36-40

The Christophers have announced their Twentieth Annual Video Contest for College Students. Students are asked to create videos five minutes or less in length with the theme: “One Person Can Make a Difference.” Entry deadline is June 8, 2007. For entry form and rules, contact The Christophers at 212-759-4050; e-mail youth@christophers.org or visit www.christophers.org/cotnests.html.

“Lord, I have no trouble forgiving certain people, but recently I have seen that the forgiveness is not complete in Your eyes until I can love them too.”
- Catherine Marchall

The Priest and Staff of Saint Thomas More wish all of our parishioners, families and friends a blessed Christmas. May Christ reign!

Please note that there is no 5:45 p.m. Mass on Monday, December 25.

The Parish Office will be closed after 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 25.

Special Christmas Mass Schedule for December 25, 2006

- 8:30 a.m. - Celebrant: Rev. John A. Boehning
- 10:00 a.m. - Celebrant: Rev. Aanaclito S. Asebias
- 11:15 a.m. - Celebrant: Rev. Edwin Diaz
- 12:30 p.m. - Celebrant: Rev. Jose C. Tentativa
- There will be no evening Mass Christmas Day
- There will be no 5:45 p.m. Mass on Tuesday, December 26 through Friday, December 29, 2006. St Ignatius of Loyola celebrates a 5:30 p.m. Mass daily.

The Parish Council of the Church of St. Thomas More extends a heartfelt thank you to all of the volunteers, families, and children who helped make this year’s Parish Christmas Party a wonderful event.

“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”
- Heb 10:24 -

“Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.”
- Eph 4:15-

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 24TH

Monday, December 25th

8:30 *The Nativity of the Lord*
 10:00 *The Nativity of the Lord*
 11:15 *The Nativity of the Lord*
 12:30 *The Nativity of the Lord*
 5:45 **No Evening Mass**

Tuesday, December 26th

7:00 Catherine Curtin (l)
 8:00 Josephine Terzaghi (d)
 12:15 A Special Intention
 5:45 **No Evening Mass**

Wednesday, December 27th

7:00 Jayne Wrightsman (l)
 8:00 Mary & Ray McCaffrey (d)
 12:15 Mary Stefanik (d)
 5:45 **No Evening Mass**

Thursday, December 28th

7:00 Michael O'Connor (d)
 8:00 Ruth Patricia Adams (d)
 12:15 Mary Kennedy (d)
 5:45 **No Evening Mass**

Friday, December 29th

7:00 Molly Goodwyn (d)
 8:00 Hugh O'Connor (d)
 12:15 Frank Lorusso (d)
 5:45 **No evening Mass**

Saturday, December 30th

8:00 Holy Souls in Purgatory
 12:15 Joseph Keane (d)
 5:45 -

Celebrant Sunday Schedule

<i>Mass</i>	<i>Dec. 24th</i>	<i>Dec. 31st</i>
Sat. 5:45 PM	Fr. Asebias	Fr. Tentativa
Sun. 8:30 AM	Fr. Tentativa	Fr. Asebias
Sun. 10:00 AM	Fr. Diaz	Msgr. Shelley
Sun. 11:15 AM	Msgr. Shelley	Fr. Boehning
Sun. 12:30 PM	Fr. Boehning	Fr. Diaz
Sun. 5:45 PM	•	Fr. Diaz

• *See special Christmas Mass schedule*

The Leisure Luncheon Club will enjoy a brief recess, then resume on Tuesday, January 16, 2007 immediately following the 12:15 p.m. Mass. All Seniors are welcome.

Prayer to Saint Michael. "Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our safeguard against the wiles and wickedness of the devil. Restrain him, O God, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into Hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin and destruction of souls. Amen."

God's Light Has Come

"In the beginning was the one who is called the Word. The Word was with God and was truly God. From the beginning the Word was with God. And with this Word, God created all things. Nothing was made without the Word. Everything that was created received its life from him, and his life gave light to everyone. The light keeps shining in the dark, and darkness has never put it out. God sent a man named John, who came to tell about the light and to lead all people to have faith. John wasn't that light. He came only to tell about the light. The true light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. The Word was in the world, but no one knew him, though God has made the world with his Word. He came into his own world, but his own nation did not welcome him. Yet some people accepted him and put their faith in him. So he gave them the right to be the children of God. They were not God's children by nature or because of any human desires. God himself was the one who made them his children. The Word became a human being and lived here with us. We saw his true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. From him all the kindness and all the truth of God have come down to us."

- John 1.1-14

A Baby by God's Holy Spirit

"This is how Jesus Christ was born. A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph from King David's family. But before they were married, she learned that she was going to have a baby by God's Holy Spirit. Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone. So he decided to quietly call off the wedding. While Joseph was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her. Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

- Matthew 1.18-21

World Marriage Day, February 11, 2007 - Longest Married Couple Search....

Plans for World Marriage Day 2007 are underway. This annual celebration honors the vocation of marriage and family life, sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, the largest Catholic pro-marriage and family movement in the world. The search is on for the longest married couple in the Archdiocese of New York! To enter, the couple must be sacramentally married for a minimum of 65 years and live in the Archdiocese of New York. The winning couple(s) will be honored on Sunday, February 11th at St. Patrick's Cathedral at the 10:15 a.m. Mass. Send entries to: Brendan and Noreen McCormack, 3 Old Clave Rd., Congers, NY 10920. Deadline for entries is 02-01-07. For further information on the contest or reservations, contact Nancy Rizzi at 212-371-1011, ext. 3190.

"Avoid every kind of evil."

- 1 Thes 5:22 -