



**Church of Saint Thomas More
New York City, New York**

Church of St. Thomas More
DECEMBER 28, 2008
HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY IN THE OCTIVE OF CHRISTMAS

Theme/Call To Worship

We grow as a human family as we respond to the many different ways God calls us to holiness. This is the meaning of Incarnation: growth in God's ways.

Introduction To The Word

- I. **Sir 3:2-6, 12-14:** Those who fear the Lord honor their parents. "God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons" and daughters.
 - II. **Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17:** Family life in the Lord. "Put on; as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved; heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another ... as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection."
 - III. **Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40:** The child grew and became strong filled with wisdom. When the holy family was able to rejoin temple worship, they returned to Jerusalem to consecrate Jesus to the Lord. While there they encountered two prophets who recognized Jesus as the fulfillment of the first covenant.
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At St. Thomas More This Week:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
12/28	Group Baptism	1:30 pm
12/30	A.A. Meeting	6:30 pm
12/31	Christian Meditation	5:45 pm

Celebrant Schedule

<i>Mass</i>	<i>December 28</i>
Sat 5:45 pm	Fr. Joy
Sun 8:30 am	Fr. Joy
Sun 10:00 am	Fr. Diaz
Sun 11:15 am	Fr. Francis
Sun 12:30 pm	Fr. Francis
Sun 5:45 pm	Fr. Boehning

Special Mass Schedule
Holy Day of Obligation
The Solemnity of the Blessed
Virgin Mary
the Mother of God
Wednesday, December 31
5:45PM
Thursday, January 01
8:30AM and 12:30PM

Have a Happy,
Health and
Prosperous New
Year

Visit the St. Thomas More website,
www.thomasmorechurch.org

Mass Schedule

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST. THOMAS MORE FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 28 – JANUARY 03

Monday, December 29

7:00 Nora McManus (d)
8:00 Sarah O'Shea (l)
12:15 Frank Lorusso (d)

Tuesday, December 30

7:00 James McManus, Jr. (d)
8:00 Thomas Simon Tanuska (d)
12:15 Wendy Sherman (d)

Wednesday, December 31

7:00 Nora McManus (d)
8:00 Elizabeth F. Cooper (d)
12:15 Robert Taylor (d)
5:45 Vigil – Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, January 01

8:30 Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
12:30 Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Friday, January 02

7:00 Denis McManus(d)
8:00 Rosario Conejos (d)
12:15 Elizabeth Cooper (d)

Saturday, January 03

8:00 Mary Gillespie (d)
12:15 Michael Gillespie (d)
5:45 Sunday Vigil



WEEKDAY BIBLE READING

12/29 1 Jn 2:3-11, Lk 2:22-35
12/30 1 Jn 2:12-17, Lk 2:36-40
12/31 1 Jn 2:18-21, Jn 1:1-18
01/01 Nm 6:22-27, Gal 4:4-7, Lk 2:16-21
01/02 1 Jn 2:22-28, Jn 1:19-28
01/03 1 Jn 2:29-3:6, Jn 1:29-34

March for Life in Washington DC

Thursday, January 22nd, 2009

Join us on pilgrimage to Washington DC! We will gather with hundreds of thousands from throughout our nation to pray and publicly witness so that hearts and minds may be opened to the Gospel of Life and laws may be changed to reverence all human life. A Manhattan bus (Sponsored by the Archdiocesan Family Life/Respect Life Office) will be leaving from St. Malachy's Church, 329 W. 49th St. (between Broadway and 8th) at 6:45am/Mass at 6:15am. The cost for the trip is \$35. If you are not able to make the trip, please consider making a donation so that others can attend.

For further information or to register call Sr. Mary Loretta at 212-371-1011 Ext. 3195 or e-mail sr.mary.loretta@archny.org

Catholics in New York - 1808 through 1946 at Museum of the City of New York

- Friday, May 16th, 2008 thru to December 31, 2008, Tuesday through Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM
- Museum of the City of New York - 1220 Fifth Avenue, New York City
- –Suggested Donation is \$9.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors and students and \$20.00 for a family.

Learn how the Catholic community grew over the course of a century and a half, gaining a political voice, creating a set of institutions that reshaped New York, and facing and overcoming prejudice.

Choral Vespers for the Solemnity of Epiphany

Sunday, January 4, 2009, 4:00 p.m.

A service with Gregorian chant antiphons, psalms, lessons, motets, hymns, organ music

CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH

529 West 121st Street, East of Broadway
212-666-9350

No. 1 subway to 116th Street Columbia University,
or M4 or M104 bus

A freewill offering will be received.

A reception immediately follows the service.

**EXCERPTS FROM A MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XVI
FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD DAY OF PEACE 1 JANUARY 2009
FIGHTING POVERTY TO BUILD PEACE**

Once again, as the new year begins, I want to extend good wishes for peace to people everywhere. With this message I would like to propose a reflection on the theme: *Fighting Poverty to Build Peace*.

- Poverty is often considered a consequence of *demographic change*. For this reason, there are international campaigns afoot to reduce birth-rates, sometimes using methods that respect neither the dignity of the woman, nor the right of parents to choose responsibly how many children to have; graver still, these methods often fail to respect even the right to life.
- Another area of concern has to do with *pandemic diseases*, such as malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS. Insofar as they affect the wealth-producing sectors of the population, they are a significant factor in the overall deterioration of conditions in a country.
- A third area requiring attention in programs for fighting poverty, which once again highlights its intrinsic moral dimension, is *child poverty*. When poverty strikes a family, the children prove to be the most vulnerable victims: almost half of those living in absolute poverty today are children.
- A fourth area needing particular attention from the moral standpoint is the *relationship between disarmament and development*. As I have pointed out before, it can happen that “immense military expenditure, involving material and human resources and arms, is in fact diverted from development projects for peoples, especially the poorest who are most in need of aid.
- A fifth area connected with the fight against material poverty concerns the *current food crisis*, which places in jeopardy the fulfillment of basic needs. This crisis is characterized not so much by a shortage of food, as by difficulty in gaining access to it and by different forms of speculation.

Global solidarity and the fight against poverty

One of the most important ways of building peace is through a form of globalization directed towards the interests of the whole human family. In the field of *international commerce and finance*, there are processes at work today which permit a positive integration of economies, leading to an overall improvement in conditions, but there are also processes tending in the opposite direction, dividing and marginalizing peoples, and creating dangerous situations that can erupt into wars and conflicts. If the poor are to be given priority, then there has to be enough room for *an ethical approach to economics* on the part of those active in the international market, *an ethical approach to politics* on the part of those in public office, and *an ethical approach to participation* capable of harnessing the contributions of civil society at local and international levels.

Conclusion

In the Encyclical Letter *Centesimus Annus*, John Paul II warned of the need to “abandon a mentality in which the poor – as individuals and as peoples – are considered a burden, as irksome intruders trying to consume what others have produced.” The poor, he wrote, “ask for the right to share in enjoying material goods and to make good use of their capacity for work, thus creating a world that is more just and prosperous for all”

The Church's social teaching has always been concerned with the poor. At the start of the New Year, then, I extend to every disciple of Christ and to every person of good will a warm invitation to expand their hearts to meet the needs of the poor and to take whatever practical steps are possible in order to help them. The truth of the axiom cannot be refuted: “to fight poverty is to build peace.”

From the Vatican, 8 December 2008.