

**CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS MORE**  
**JANUARY 20, 2008**  
**THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)**

**Theme/Call To Worship**

Today's Sunday begins the first cycle of Sundays in Ordinary Time for this new church year. We Catholics have two separate cycles in Ordinary Time in each church year, a short cycle and a long cycle. Today begins the short cycle, covering only three Sunday's from January 20 through February 3 (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time). Ash Wednesday falls on February 6 this year. John's gospel teaches: "A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me." It is Jesus who is the Christ, "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

**Introduction To The Word**

**I. Is 49:3, 5-6.** This reading is a short passage from the second song of the Servant of the Lord. The Lord will show his glory through His servant whose mission is to restore Israel and bring salvation "to the ends of the earth."

**II. 1 Cor 1:1-3.** Paul sends greetings to the people of Corinth, who have been called to be holy and consecrated in Christ.

**III. Jn 1:29-34.** When Jesus visits John, John recognizes Jesus as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John further indicates that Jesus is truly the Messiah and "God's chosen One."

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

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Event:</b>	<b>Time:</b>
01/20	Group Baptism	1:30 p.m.
01/21	Parish Council Bella Lecture	7:00 p.m.
01/22	A.A. Meeting	6:30 p.m.
01/23	Christian Meditation	5:45 p.m.
01/24	A.A. Meeting	6:30 p.m.
01/25	A.A. Meeting	6:30 p.m.
01/26	Vigil: Third Sunday of the Year	5:45 p.m.

**WEEKDAY BIBLE READING**

01/21	1 Cor 1:26-31, Ps 23, Mt 13:44-46; or 1 Sm 15:16-23, Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23, Mk 2:18-22
01/22	1 Sm 16:1-13, Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28, Mk 2:23-28
01/23	1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51, Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10, Mk 3:1-6
01/24	Eph 3:8-12, Ps 37, Jn 15:9-17; or 1 Sm 18:6-9, 19:1-7, Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13, Mk 3:7-12
01/25	Acts 22:3-16, or Acts 9:1-22, Ps 117:1bc-2, Mk 16:15-18
01/26	2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5, Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10, Lk 10:1-9

**March For Life in Washington, D.C.: Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008...** 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. 49<sup>th</sup> St. (between B'way and 8<sup>th</sup>) at 7:00 a.m./Mass at 6:15 a.m. 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 and to register call Sr. Mary Loretta at (212) 371-1011, ext. 3195, or email: sr.mary.loretta@archny.org.

**His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI** will visit our Archdiocese! For inquiries please visit the ANY website: [www.archny.org](http://www.archny.org) or contact Mark Ackerman, The Papal Visit Office, 1011 First Avenue, Floor 20, New York, NY 10022; 212.371.1011, ext. 2958.

**THANK YOU** for your sacrificial giving to the Catholic University - Catholic Communications Campaign giving taken up last weekend. May your generosity continue to be a blessing to you and your families.

**Saint Thomas More Family Day**

Please join us for Saint Thomas More Family Day on Sunday, February 24 at 11:00 a.m. in the Rochester Room. Come enjoy food, coffee and entertainment, while chatting with other families in our parish. Looney Louie will be there to mystify all with his magic tricks, wit and balloon animals. We hope to see you there! Sponsored by the Saint Thomas More Parish Council.

**Saint Thomas Day Lecture**  
**Church of St. Vincent Ferrer**  
**869 Lexington Avenue (at East 66<sup>th</sup> Street)**  
**January 28, 2008, 7:30 p.m.**

*"Two Modernisms and the Thomistic Response: Reflections on the Centenary of Pius X's Condemnation of Modernism"*

On January 28, the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer will host a public lecture. In his address, Professor Russell Hittinger, the Warren Chair of Catholic Studies at the University of Tulsa, will remind us of the perennial need for Catholic theologians to employ sound philosophy when clarifying the truths of the faith. The lecture will be followed by a question-and-answer session and a light reception. For more information, please call St. Vincent Ferrer's Parish Office at (212) 744-2080.

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 20TH

### Monday, January 21st

- 7:00 The Clark, Fernandes & Medina Families  
8:00 Nicholas Moor (d)  
12:15 Joseph & Agnese Storniello (d)

### Tuesday, January 22nd

- 7:00 Nicholas Moor (d)  
8:00 Fructuoso B. Marte & Virginia M. Marte  
12:15 Ray Feerick (d)

### Wednesday, January 23rd

- 7:00 M/M James Durkin (l)  
8:00 Leon Horne (d)  
12:15 Janina & Danuta Zielonka

### Thursday, January 24th

- 7:00 The Clark, Fernandes & Farley Families  
8:00 M/M James Durkin (l)  
12:15 Elizabeth Weber (d)

### Friday, January 25th

- 7:00 Terence McDonough  
8:00 Albert, Regina & Virginia Wojcik (d)  
12:15 Andrew Fernandes (l)

### Saturday, January 26th

- 8:00 Antee (l)  
12:15 Edith Adams (d)  
5:45 *Vigil Mass: Third Sunday of Ordinary Time*

### Celebrant Sunday Schedule

<i>Mass</i>	<i>Jan. 20th</i>	<i>Jan. 27th</i>
Sat. 5:45 PM	Fr. Tentativa	Fr. Diaz
Sun. 8:30 AM	Fr. Boehning	Msgr. Shelley
Sun. 10:00 AM	Msgr. Shelley	Fr. Monaghan
Sun. 11:15 AM	Fr. Monaghan	Fr. Monaghan
Sun. 12:30 PM	Fr. Diaz	Fr. Boehning
Sun. 5:45 PM	Fr. Diaz	Fr. Boehning

### Archdiocese of New York Vocation Office

Father. Destiny. Courage. Character. Tradition. Sacrifice. Love.

WWW.NYPRIEST.COM is our new website for those young men interested in a vocation. If you are a young man interested in the priesthood, please contact Father Luke Sweeney or Father Luis Saldaña at the Vocation Office in the Archdiocese of New York at (914) 968-1340 or [www.NYPRIEST.COM](http://www.NYPRIEST.COM).

**Prayer For the Suffering.** "Mary, Mother of Sorrows and Comforter of the Afflicted, grant that we may share with you in the pain of your Son's sufferings. As you were so fully present to the agony of your Son, may we too be present to the pain and suffering of those in our midst and, through our compassion and love, bring to them a measure of consolation, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen."

### A SPECIAL FUEL COLLECTION

Next Sunday, January 27, we will have a special second collection to defer the increasing cost of heating our Church and Parish House.

We spent \$38,799 during the last heating season (2006-2007). This fiscal year we have already spent \$16,575 on fuel oil (from 9-14-07 — 12-22-07).

Your wonderful generosity for this special collection is much appreciated.

*Fr. Boehning*

### Lenten Retreat 2008 - Save the Dates:

The Parish of St. Thomas More will hold a Lenten Retreat starting on the weekend immediately following Ash Wednesday. Father James van Dyke, the Rector of St. Ignatius Loyola, will give the retreat. Father van Dyke will preach the homily at all of the week's anticipatory and Sunday Masses on February 9th and February 10th.

The children of the parish will be able to participate in a special retreat for them on Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. A pizza party will follow at 4:30 PM in the Rochester Room.

On Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>; Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>; and Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>; Father will celebrate Mass for the Parish participants at 6:00 PM and, then, offer his Lenten Meditations immediately following Mass on those days.

On Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, there will also be a special penitential service conducted by Father Boehning, Father van Dyke and two other priests — one from our Parish and one from St. Ignatius to allow all to participate in this special service. On Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be a wine and cheese social so that Parishioners can meet and talk personally with Father van Dyke.

Please be sure to save the dates for yourselves and your children.

### Marians of the Immaculate Conception - National Shrine of The Divine Mercy...

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Divine Mercy Conference**, Saturday, February 9, 2008; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx, New York; Featured speakers: The Most Reverend William E. Lori, Bishop of Bridgeport; Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR; Fr. Frank Pavone, MEV; Msgr. James Lisante; Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC

- The theme is "Healing and Forgiveness through God's Mercy", and preparation for the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy. For registration and information: 1-800-462-7426; or [www.thedivinemercy.org/bronx](http://www.thedivinemercy.org/bronx).

**OUR PARISH REPORT FOR  
DECEMBER 2007**

<b>SUNDAY COLLECTIONS (5)</b>	\$ 44,032
<i>ParishPay</i>	\$ 4,961
<i>Christmas</i>	\$ 72,185
<i>Christmas Flower</i>	\$ 1,844
<i>Immaculate Conception</i>	\$ 3,104

**SECOND COLLECTION**

<i>Retired Religious</i>	\$ 4,330
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**BAPTISMS (4)**

Ana Beatrice West Greenberg

Muro Baby

Primrose Baby

McKrennan Baby

Lodge Baby

**MARRIAGES (0)**

**Penance: Reconciliation**

Penance is the sacrament by which we receive God's healing forgiveness for sins committed after baptism. The rite is called reconciliation because it reconciles us not only with God but with the Church community. As members of Christ's Body, everything we do affects the whole Body. Sin wounds and weakens the Body of Christ; the healing we receive in penance restores health and strength to the Church, as well as to ourselves. When a person turns aside or away from God's love, the harm is to the sinner. Venial sin strains one's relationship with God. Mortal sin ruptures the relationship. Sin is a tragic reality. But the sacrament of penance is a joyful reunion. Chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel expresses this joy poignantly: the Pharisees accuse Jesus of being too merciful. In response, Jesus tells three parables. In the first, God is like a shepherd who leaves ninety-nine sheep to seek one who is lost. When he finds it, he is filled with joy. In the second parable, a woman finds a valuable coin she had lost and throws a big party. Jesus comments: "In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents." The third parable is the story of a wayward son. When the son returns home, his father receives him with tender embrace. When you confess your sins sincerely, with true sorrow and resolution not to sin again, God rejoices. The Pharisees depicted in Luke's Gospel were stern, rigid men — stricter judges than God. In contrast, the Father revealed by Jesus is almost too good to be true. And so is Jesus himself, whom you meet in this sacrament. Like Father, like Son. In penance, Jesus embraces and heals you.

**For Courage to Serve**

"God of our hopes and our dreams, you have planted the hunger for glad tidings within us. Make your joy more complete as we participate in proclaiming this Good News; the blind will see, the prisoner will be released. Give us the courage to reach out to the incarcerated and bring into reality this promise of freedom. Help us to diffuse our fears and know how to realize our calls so that a year of favor may be celebrated in your name. I pray this, holding my reservations and anxiety up to you, and I ask for your blessing and grace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and through your Holy Spirit. Amen."

**God's Two Great Commandments**

The basis of all law (your rule of life) rests on two commandments: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.....You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mt 22:37, 39)

**Commandments of God**

1. You shall honor no other god but me.
2. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

**Human Destiny**

*Individual Death and Judgement...*The Church believes in two final destinies — one for individuals and one for humankind as a whole. What you can expect at death is expressed in the New Testament Letter to the Hebrews. It says, "It is appointed that human beings die once, and after this is judgement..." Your life as an earthly pilgrim reaches its point of arrival at the moment of death. Having passed beyond the world of time and change, you can no longer choose a different reality as the ultimate love of your love. If your basic love-choice at the moment of death was the absolute Good whom we call God, God remains your eternal possession. This eternal possession of God is called heaven. If your ultimate love-choice at the moment of death was anything less than God, you experience the radical emptiness of not possessing the absolute Good. This eternal loss is called hell. The judgement at the instant of death consist in a crystal-clear revelation of your unchangeable, freely chosen condition — eternal union with God, or eternal alienation.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." Jn10:10