

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Saturday, December 19 <sup>th</sup> ,	5:00 PM	Birthday Remembrance – Mary Turco
Sunday, December 20 <sup>th</sup> ,	8:00 AM	Birthday Remembrance – Raymond Contillo
	10:00 AM	In Memory – Joseph L. & Mary J. Hodde
Monday, December 21 <sup>st</sup> ,	9:00 AM	In Memory – Gerard Finn & Linda Ciccarelli
Tuesday, December 22 <sup>nd</sup> ,	9:00 AM	In Memory – Rev. Joseph L. Powers
Wednesday, December 23 <sup>rd</sup> ,	9:00 AM	In Memory – Lydia Coli
Thursday, December 24 <sup>th</sup> ,	9:00 AM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary – Mary Earley
Saturday, December 26 <sup>th</sup> ,	9:00 AM	In Memory – Margaret Eldredge
	5:00 PM	Members of the Military
Sunday, December 27 <sup>th</sup> ,	8:00 AM	In Memory – Herb & Mildred Bennett
	10:00 AM	Pro Populo

**St. Veronica Chapel**

Saturday, December 19 <sup>th</sup> ,	4:00 PM	In Memory – Anthony Moretti and Angelo & Marie Calore
Sunday, December 20 <sup>th</sup> ,	9:00 AM	In Memory – Lydia Coli
	11:00 AM	In Memory – Dante Pingitore
Saturday, December 26 <sup>th</sup> ,	4:00 PM	8 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Elizabeth A. Harlowe
Sunday, December 27 <sup>th</sup> ,	9:00 AM	In Memory – Donna Martone-Benner & Robert C. Benner
	11:00 AM	Special Intention – Members of the Silvia & Gelinas Families



*Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." - Lk 1: 41, 42, 45*

*Welcome the Newly Baptized  
John Joseph Batista,  
son of John & Angela  
Congratulations!!!*

**PRAYER CHAIN**

Did you know that our Parish has a Prayer Chain Ministry? If anyone would like some extra needed prayers, you may call 295-1241 and express your request.



**WHAT EVERY CATHOLIC SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE**

**GUEST PRESENTER:  
DR. FRITZ WENISCH, PH.D.  
St. Thomas More Parishioner  
URI Professor**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27  
6:30 – 7:30PM**

**St. Thomas More Church Hall  
Join Us For An Informative Evening  
in this  
YEAR OF EVANGELIZATION!**

**ANNULMENT: FACT AND FICTION**

As part of the Year of Evangelization, a presentation on Annulment: Fact and Fiction will be given by Fr. Francis Kayatta, pastor of St. Mary Star of the Sea Church on Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00PM at the Church. All are invited to attend this informational presentation. Fr. Kayatta served as Presiding Judge of the Marriage Tribunal, Diocese of Providence from 1985-2000. Q & A to follow. For more information, call 783-4449.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Religious Education Schedule  
December 2009**

**SUN. AM:** DEC. 20<sup>TH</sup>  
**GR. 1-4** 10:10-11:00AM @ ST. V.

**MON. PM:** DEC. 21<sup>ST</sup>  
**GR. 1-4** 4:10-5:00PM @ STM



**YOUTH GROUP**

The next meeting will be on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00PM, all 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited. We will meet at St. Thomas More Parish Hall. Pizza & soda. All are welcome.

**COOKIES FOR THE HOMEBOUND**

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist may pick up a gift of home-baked cookies for the homebound or ill parishioners they visit at Christmas. The cookies are at the hall kitchen at St. Thomas More.

Our Lady's Guild thanks the many caring & generous bakers of the parish for the wonderful Christmas goodies!!



**BISHOP TOBIN TO OFFER RETREAT**

Bishop Tobin will direct a weekend retreat for men 18-35 who are discerning a call to the priesthood on January 15-16, 2010 from 7:00PM on Friday to 7:00PM on Saturday at the Seminary of our Lady of Providence. Do you know someone who might be interested? Even if they are away at college, consider sending in their name. Anyone interested should call Fr. Michael Najim, Assistant Vocation Director at 831-8011 or contact Fr. Taillon.

**FAITH DIRECT**

Faith Direct - online giving or direct deposit is now available. Information/enrollment forms are available at the Church entrances.

**☆☆ Christmas Mass Schedule ☆☆**

**Christmas Eve:**

4:00PM – St. Veronica

5:00PM – St. Thomas More

6:00PM – St. Veronica

12:00 Midnight Solemn Midnight Mass with an 11:30PM Music Prelude at St. Thomas More

**Christmas Day:**

9:00AM – St. Veronica

10:00AM – St. Thomas More

**ST. VERONICA MASSES NOW LIVE  
ON THE INTERNET!!**



You can invite shut-ins, those far from home to join us for Christmas Masses and each Mass every weekend from now on – simply go to our website - [www.stthomasmoreri.org](http://www.stthomasmoreri.org). Technology serving Christ in the Year of Evangelization.

**REGIONAL ADVENT PENANCE  
SERVICES**

There are two Regional Communal Penance Services this week. There will be six priests available at each of these services to hear private confessions.

Mon., Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> – 7:00PM - Mary Star of the Sea

Tue., Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> 12Noon - St. Francis of Assisi

“Our faults are like a grain of sand beside the great mountain of the mercies of the good God”.

St. John Vianney



## Welcome Jesus “Home” This Christmas!

As Christmas day is upon us we turn our thoughts to Christmas past and the so many traditions and memories that fill the landscapes of our families and lives. Of course I remember Advent when the arrival of the giant Sears catalogue (now I am dating myself!) would provoke our imagination and dreams of getting many of the toys advertised therein. One of my treasured and vivid memories is of being together before Midnight Mass at the home of my aunt and uncle to share food, laughter and the annual Christmas carol sing-a-long (spirited but not any choir material!). Later each Christmas Eve our parish church had enormous bells in the towers that were rung throughout the thirty minute prelude which required at least ten teenagers, gloves and drinking water to keep it all going. We always stopped just before midnight to hear “O Holy Night/Minuit Chretien” be sung incredibly well by the local auto mechanic in the high pulpit decked out with red robes with a small light on the manger in front of the church. It was magical, blessed and comforting. It was sort of like we were at Bethlehem that special night.

Of course people grow up, move out and sadly some of those big churches have since closed and many of our traditions have melted away in modern times. Yet, the truth and reality of what those traditions pointed to remain as true and real as ever. In some sense, in our complex, modern society, they are more important now than they were then. This Christmas welcome the Baby Jesus into your heart in a new and more profound way. Welcome the God-made-man into the crevices of our hearts where there is the need for something more lasting and real than we find in frenetic daily life. Christ is born in Bethlehem and He desires to be born anew in our hearts! This can happen again and in a new and deeper way if we take the time to pray and meditate on the real meaning of Christmas. In the beginning God came into our world in a quiet, obscure and unpredictable manner. He died in a very public and unpredictable manner. Perhaps this is the year He will be reborn in our hearts in an unpredictable time and manner. Jesus wants to come “home” again in us. Will He find a place or a “home” in your heart this year?

Blessed and holy Christmas season to all of you and those you love! He is born in Bethlehem – let Him be born in our hearts!

*Fr. Tailon*

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