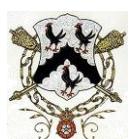




More News

The Seasonal Newsletter of
St. Thomas More Catholic Parish
Scranton, Pennsylvania



Advent - Christmas - Epiphany 2022

[In this edition the Pastor's Letter is provided separately; please click here.](#)

Worship

First Friday / First Saturday

Upcoming First Friday / First Saturday devotions will be offered on **January 6-7 & February 3-4**. Exposition of the Sacrament and **Choral Evensong** with our Maria Kaupas Academy Upper School Choir* will be at **4:30 p.m.**



p.m. on Friday, with 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration continuing until that same hour on Saturday. Mass is offered Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. Please call Kathleen O'Donnell at 570-947-7027 if you can serve as an adorer.

*Evensong will be *said* in January, owing to the Christmas break for our Upper School Choir; *Choral* Evensong resumes in February.

Christmas Pageant Dec. 18

As always, the annual Christmas Pageant will be enacted during the Gospel at **10 a.m.** **Mass** on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, **December 18**. We are excited for the return this year of director Geri Featherby! All children



and youth intending to participate should attend the rehearsal the preceding day, **Saturday the 17th, 10 a.m.-noon**. Please bring as many costume items as you have at home

(even for characters other than your own) to supplement those on-hand at the church.

Christmas Cleaning

We continue to feel the loss of our faithful volunteer church cleaning team, currently taking a much-needed and well-deserved break in response to some health challenges. An attempt at a formal signup has not taken hold, but we are grateful to volunteers who have stepped into the void on an informal ad



hoc basis. Nonetheless, we'll need to put our best foot forward for Christmas, both for our Lord and our visitors. To that end, a cleaning day has been scheduled on **Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 10:00 a.m.** Please come contribute to the effort!

Christmas Decorating

After Mass and Morning Prayer on Saturday, December 24, the Parish will spring into action decorating the church for



Christmas Eve. Please join us at **9:00 a.m.** to arrange poinsettias, set up the indoor and outdoor Nativity sets, and otherwise adorn the campus for our Nativity celebration later that day.



Holiday Worship Schedule

Weekday, Saturday Vigil, & Sunday 7 PM Masses as normal unless specified:

- Sat 12/17, 10 AM** • Pageant Rehearsal
- Sun 12/18, 10 AM** • Christmas Pageant
- Wed 12/21, 10 AM** • Church Cleaning Day
- Sat 12/24, 9:00 AM** • Christmas Decorating
- **No 5:30 PM Vigil Mass Sat. 12/24**
- Sat 12/24, 7 PM** • Christmas Eve Sol. Mass
- Sun 12/25, 10 AM** • Christmas Day Mass
- Sun 12/25, 7 PM** • Christmas Sung Mass
- Sat 12/31, 5:30 PM** • MMG Sung Vigil Mass
- Sat 12/31, 7 PM** • Parish New Year's Party
- Sun 1/1, 10 AM** • Mary, Mother of God
- Sun 1/1, •** Caroling (?), details TBA
- Sun 1/8, 10 AM** • Epiphany Sunday
- Sun 1/8, 4 PM** • Lessons & Carols
- Sun 1/8, 5:30 PM** • Three Kings Supper

Mary, Mother of God Masses

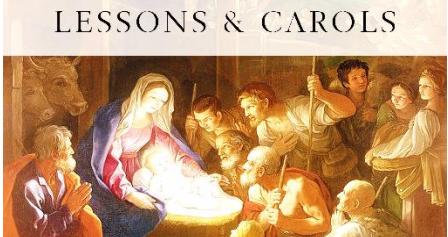
The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is celebrated on **January 1**, falling this year on a Sunday. In anticipation of the Parish New Year



party that follows, our **5:30 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass** – normally said – will be sung this year. **Sunday's Masses at 10 a.m. (Solemn) and 7 p.m. (Sung)** will follow the established pattern.

Lessons & Carols January 8

Each year the Parish Choir offers the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on the afternoon of Epiphany Sunday, falling this year on **January 8 at 4 p.m.**. Through Scripture readings, congregational carols, and choral music, this most beloved of Christmas services traces salvation history from the Fall to the Incarnation.



tion. As always, our annual Three Kings Supper will follow (see "Fellowship,") providing an ideal opportunity to invite non-Catholic friends to a beautiful non-Eucharistic service

presenting the Gospel story, followed by warm parish fellowship.

2023 Parish Calendars

Handsome 2023 Ordinariate liturgical calendars with our Parish contact information and weekly schedule will again be available at the church for \$5. These calendars are an



excellent tool for ordering our lives around the Church's seasons and saints' days, as well as sharing our Parish worship and ministry information with friends and family. A supply of calendars will soon be at the back of the church. Pick yours up while supplies last!

Daily Office Books Reprinted

The Ordinariate Chancery is pleased to announce that they can begin taking orders for the most recent printing of **Divine Worship: The Daily Office**. The price per book is



currently \$45 plus the appropriate shipping and handling. If you would like to place an order, please find the order form [here](#). Once your order has been received, we will send a confirmation email and receipt. You will also receive an email tracking notification for the package from Stamps.com. Please direct any questions to secretary@ordinariate.net.

Discipleship

Advent Adult Education

After 10 a.m. Mass on the four Sundays of Advent, our Adult Education Series is being offered by an array of our very own parishioners. Entitled **Building Community: Four Pillars of Catholic Culture**, the series examines the

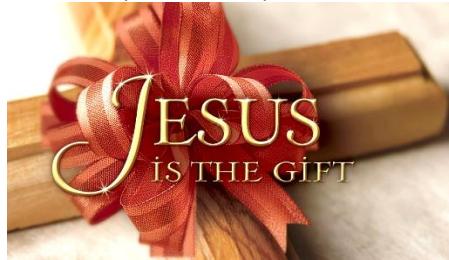


topics of **Food** (Dr. Matthew & Jessica Nickel, Divine Mercy Farm), **Healthcare** (Dr. Philip Huffman and Kelly Babinski, Our Lady of Providence Medical), **Education** (Dr. Camina Chapp,

Maria Kaupas Academy), and **Charity** (Jessica Freyne, Providence Pregnancy Center). [An informative flyer is here.](#) To help ensure each session gets underway efficiently, please bring a **no-cook** item for light potluck lunch.

Christmas Appeal

Enclosed with this newsletter (or arriving separately by U.S. Mail) is the Parish's annual Christmas Appeal. In recent years we have begun promoting a few specific needs toward which your end-of-year giving might be directed, and this year is no exception.



1. The General Parish Operating Fund is our principal bank account, from which we pay our bills and compensate our Pastor and Staff. In recent months, finances have tightened up, so we find ourselves holding a number of unpaid bills. Your end-of-year Christmas gift to the Parish will help us finish the year in the black.

2. Maria Kaupas Academy is growing and thriving. While we have made reasonable tuition increases, we remain resolved to keep a superb Classical Catholic education at our Academy affordable, both to our current families and to prospective ones. Your gift will help enable children of modest financial circumstances to continue growing in knowledge and faith here at Maria Kaupas Academy.

Thankfully, a **third item** for which we had anticipated asking your assistance – fixing our a broken pump to restore heat to some portions of our building – **has already been funded**. Thank you for so generously aiding our Parish and School in meeting these challenges!

Fellowship

Parish New Years Eve Party

Following **Sung Vigil Mass** for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (**5:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 31**), all members and friends desiring a family-friendly New Years Eve gathering are welcome to the Parish Hall for potluck supper, fellowship, games, and a movie on the big screen. Participants are welcome to stay up for the midnight New Year celebration, though of course there is no

obligation to do so. Please join us for this family-friendly celebration of the New Year!



Three Kings Supper Jan. 8

The Parish's annual Three Kings Celebration Supper will be held on **Sunday evening, January 8 at 5:30 p.m.**, immediately following



the **Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols** which precedes it at 4:00 p.m. A potluck affair, please bring a main dish, side dish, or salad; drinks and dessert will be provided. The three guests who discover a dime under their pound

cake will regale us all with a verse of "We Three Kings," but will be rewarded for their efforts with gifts from the Parish. Please join us for this delightful pair of events, which also offers the opportunity to invite non-Catholic

friends to a beautiful non-Eucharistic expression of our worship, and to a warm and welcoming fellowship meal afterward.

Outreach

Neighbor Nights

Upcoming "Neighbor Nights" in the Parish Hall will be on **Saturdays, December 17 and January 21 at 6:00 p.m.** All in the Parish, the Neighborhood, and invited friends and



guests are welcome for an evening of free supper, pool, ping-pong, board games, wi-fi, conversation, and a movie on the "big screen" each third Saturday of the month.

Providence Pregnancy Center

Work continues apace at the newly founded [Providence Pregnancy Center](#) – a separate entity, yet launched and heartily supported by St. Thomas More Parish – which intends to lease space from the Parish at 119 Ferdinand Street in order to house and support women in crisis pregnancies. Having secured a Small Games of Chance license, the center is raising funds through many appealing online raffles, which digital readers can learn about at the center's [Facebook page](#).



From now thru December 18, A bin is available at the back of the church for collecting baby items to help women and babies facing crisis; suggested items for donating are listed on the bin.

Christmas Cookie Sale

The Parish will again offer a **Christmas Cookie and Bake Sale on Sunday, December**



18, providing customers with a convenient and inexpensive means to stock up for holiday entertaining. Please take advantage of the delectable treats available, while supporting the Parish to boot!

Christmas Caroling Jan. 1 (?)

Historically the parish undertakes an outreach of Christmas Caroling to the residents of a local nursing home on the Sunday after Christmas. This year's calendar is a little unusual, with that Sunday falling on New



Years Day. Nonetheless, efforts are underway to secure a location for this year's caroling. Please "pencil it in" on your calendars for that afternoon, and updates will be forthcoming via email and Sunday announcements.

Business Card Ads

The Parish has begun running FREE ads in the weekly liturgy guide for parishioners and friends who run their businesses in accord with Catholic principles. As space allows, they will be included in this newsletter as well, as on the outside of this mailing. Please provide your business card to the Parish Office if you would like your local business included!

Evangelization

Former Anglican Bishop Reflects on First Year as a Catholic

[The National Catholic Register recalls](#),

"On Sept. 29, 2021, in London, [former Anglican Bishop Michael] Nazir-Ali was received into full communion with the Catholic Church by Msgr. Keith Newton, the ordinary for the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. The next day, Nazir-Ali was ordained a Catholic priest for the ordinariate. On April 6, Pope Francis named him a monsignor.

"Msgr. Nazir-Ali, who was born in Karachi, Pakistan, in 1949, comes from a background of both Christian and Muslim traditions; however, he attended Catholic schools. After being ordained as an Anglican clergyman in 1976, he

became the Anglican bishop of Rochester in 1994.

"Like many other Anglicans who have entered into full communion with Rome, Msgr. Nazir-Ali has found his home in the ordinariate. On a personal level, he went from being a bishop in a state religion, the Church of England, to being a simple Catholic priest. Since his conversion, he admits that his former contact with Anglicans throughout that communion has decreased considerably, something by which he does not appear surprised. What is perhaps more surprising, however, is that, during the last year, he has been contacted by people who have sought him out to help them to discern the same path he has chosen. When pressed on a figure for such contacts, he hesitates to give an exact number; but only

because there has been — and continues to be — so many.

"One year on since his reception into the Church, Msgr. Nazir-Ali continues to work for Christians persecuted openly in far-flung corners of the globe — and in more subtle ways across the United Kingdom. Recent court cases and legislative moves in the U.K. have had a chilling effect on anyone prepared to voice Christian beliefs in the public square, especially in regard to issues concerning marriage, family and the sanctity of life.

"Msgr. Nazir-Ali recognizes a strong temptation for Christians to keep their beliefs private and to refrain from becoming involved in public debates for fear of being castigated for their views and positions. He is adamant, however, that Christians must not retreat from the public square.

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