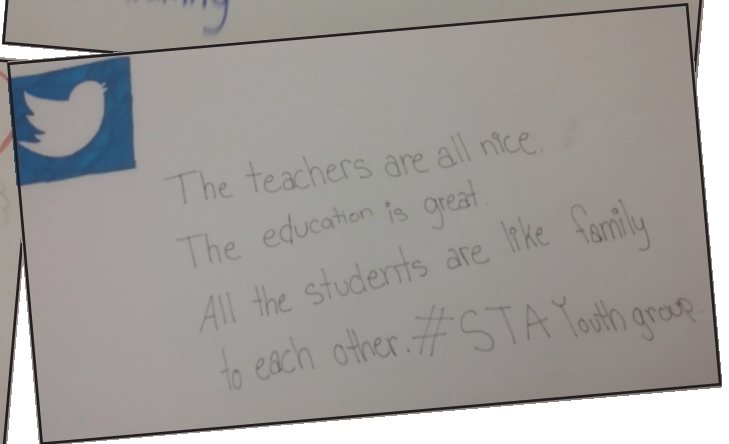
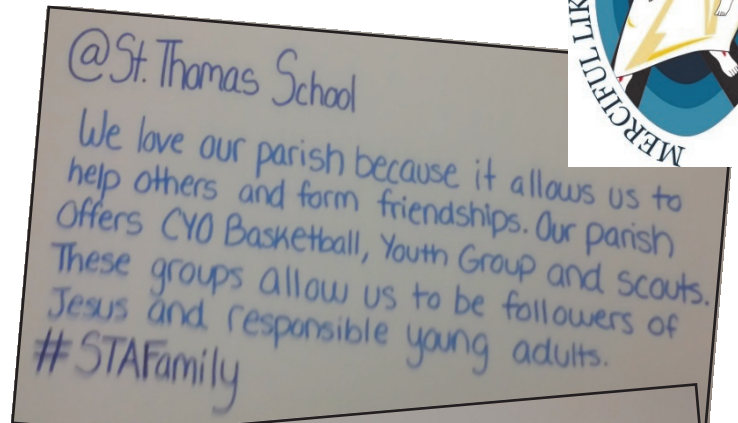
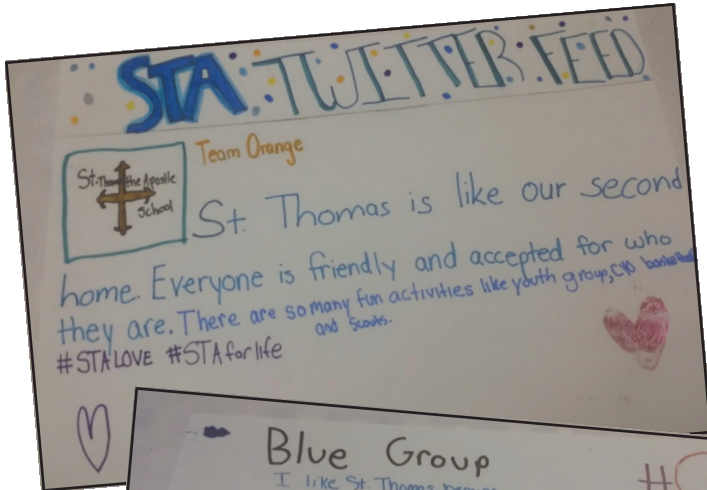


St. Thomas the Apostle Church

24 Westminster Road, West Hempstead, New York 11552

www.stthomasapostle.org



St Thomas students imitate Twitter feeds to express their appreciation of our school.

Celebration of the Eucharist

Weekend: Saturday Evening 5 pm
 Sunday 9 am, 10:30 am, 12 pm and 6 pm
 Weekday: (lower Church)
 7:45 am daily, 9 am Tues., Thurs. & Sat.
 Holy Day Eve: 7:30 pm, Holy Day: 7:45 am, 12:10 pm

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday: 3:30-4:30 pm, other times as requested

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Fridays after the 7:45 a.m. Mass until 2 p.m.
 on First Fridays until 8:30 p.m.

St. Thomas the Apostle Chapel

Hempstead Ave. & Nassau Blvd.

Celebration of the Eucharist

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11 am and 12:30 pm
 Weekday: 9 am Mon., Wed., Fri.
 Holy Day: 9 am, 7:30 pm

Third Sunday of Lent February 28, 2016



Parish Clergy

Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Maniscalco, *Pastor*
 Rev. Noel Effiong, *Associate Pastor*
 Rev. Marcellus Gorleku, *Associate Pastor*
 Rev. Msgr. John A. Alesandro, *In Residence*
 Rev. Msgr. Michael Barimah-Apau, *In Residence*
 Rev. Alexander N. Iheonunekwu, *In Residence*
 Deacon John Ford
 Deacon Edward Cunningham
 Deacon Jacques Philippeaux
 Deacon Anthony D'Auria

Pastoral Team

Ray Rockensies, *Business Manager*
 Valerie Gigante, *School Principal*
www.stthomasschool.net
 Mary Ann Pellegrino, *Director of Religious Education*
 Eileen Minutoli, *Asst. Director of Religious Education*
 Irene Peplinski, *Director of Human Services*
 Mary Rockensies, *Director of Youth Ministry*
 Martha Pramnieks, *Director of Music*
 Cindy Sobiesiak, *Director of Parish Growth*

Pastoral Council (E-mail: stthomasapostlepc@gmail.com)

Luann Viglione, <i>Chair</i>	Peter & Coleen Petersen
William & Karen Bowe	Richard Seery, Sr.
Mary Anne & James Denon	Megan Smith
Michael Harding	Haydee & Manuel Torres
Louis Imperioli	Robert York
Annemarie & Sean Lapham	

Finance Council: William Daly, *Chair*

Development Committee: Brian Browne, *Chair*

Rectory
489-8585

Rectory Fax
292-2651

School
481-9310

Religious Education
538-7460

Human Services
538-7465

Youth Ministry
538-7467

PARISH MEMBERSHIP:

All who worship regularly with the St. Thomas Parish Community are members of our faith community. We urge new members to register at the Parish Office so we may better know and respond to your needs. Those leaving St. Thomas Parish are asked to inform the Parish Office in order to keep our records accurate.

CHAPEL USAGE:

Because the necessary support staff is not always available in the chapel, weddings and funerals are generally celebrated in the main church. The chapel may occasionally be used if the main church is unavailable or for some other serious reason. Because of the threat of winter storms, the chapel is not in use on weekdays from the week after Christmas through the first week of March.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Baptisms take place on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m. Parents must have an interview with one of the parish clergy and attend a Baptismal Preparation Class at least six weeks in advance of their preferred baptism date. The classes take place on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Parents should call the rectory to register for a class and interview. Parents who are not registered parishioners will be registered at the interview. Because of diocesan requirements, in the case of adoptions, parents should consult a priest or deacon in advance. A sponsor must be at least 16, confirmed and an active Catholic. If there are two sponsors, one must be a Godfather and one a Godmother. Private baptisms are not encouraged, but if allowed a celebrant from outside this diocese must provide a testimonial of good standing from his diocese or religious superior.

SACRAMENT OF PÉNANCE:

Celebrated every Saturday from 3:30 to 4:30 PM. Priests of the Parish are available any day (especially before Holy Days and First Fridays) to celebrate this Sacrament with you. Please call the Rectory for an appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Engaged couples are asked to arrange an appointment with one of the priests or deacons of the Parish at least SIX months prior to the desired wedding date. Reservations must be made by the couple ONLY.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

Celebrated at a Mass by the community twice a year, in the spring and the fall. If it is an emergency or if a person cannot attend the communal celebrations, please call the Rectory. Every Saturday morning at the 9:00 AM Mass, after Communion, those who are entering the hospital in the coming week can be anointed. Inform the celebrant BEFORE Mass begins.

VISITING THE SICK OR HOMEBOUND:

Please contact the Rectory if you would like Eucharist brought to a member of your family who cannot come to Church for any reason.

Unfortunately experience teaches that not even our church parking lot at Mass time is safe from those who have no respect for the commandment,

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2016**
9:00 AM Benefactors of St. Thomas
5:00 PM Patrick Hyland
- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2016**
9:00 AM People of the Parish
10:30 AM Clara Rea and Members of Purgatorial Society
12:00 Nn Michael Mallia, Vincent Lauri, Doris Mallia, Cary Novichonek, Suzanne Morabito, Lorraine Zizzamia and Vera Lauri
6:00 PM People of the Parish
- CHAPEL:**
7:30 AM Angela & Colagero Maniscalco
9:30 AM People of the Parish
11:00 AM Alfonso J. Iervolino
12:30 PM Salvatore Marando
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016**
7:45 AM Benefactors of St. Thomas
9:00 AM For the Intentions of Herb Barnes "Happy Birthday"
- TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016**
7:45 AM Benefactors of St. Thomas
9:00 AM Bernard Baradyn
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016**
7:45 AM Benefactors of St. Thomas
9:00 AM Antoinette D'Elia
- THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016**
7:45 AM Benefactors of St. Thomas
9:00 AM Rita Reid
- FIRST FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2016**
7:45 AM John & Margaret Gilroy
9:00 AM Phyllis Clough
- SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2016**
9:00 AM Louis Croce
5:00 PM Jane Staudinger
- SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2016**
9:00 AM Joan Gallagher
10:30 AM Arnold Parente and Members of Purgatorial Society
10:30 AM **Family Mass:** People of the Parish
12:00 Nn Joseph Sgaramella, Nunzy Valitutto and Antonio Montalvo (1st Anniversary)
6:00 PM People of the Parish
- CHAPEL:**
7:30 AM Dominick & Lelia DiBella
9:30 AM Margaret & John Roethel
11:00 AM Mary Jane Vitale
12:30 PM Msgr. Joseph Bynon



Weekends of February 7, 14 & 21 2016

	Church	Chapel	Faith Direct	TOTAL
2/7	9,273.00	6,067.00	3,654.00	18,994.00
2/14	7,268.00	4,182.00	3,654.00	15,104.00
2/21	8,944.00	6,354.00	3,654.00	18,952.00



	Envelopes	TOTAL	Average	
2/7	523	13,004.00	24.86	
2/14	399	9,922.00	24.87	
2/21	566	13,670.00	24.15	
		2016	2015	Difference
2/7	Attendance	1,672	1,663	9
2/14	Attendance	1,228	1,174	54
2/21	Attendance	1,462	1,086	376

BREAD AND WINE MEMORIAL
The Bread and Wine consumed during the week of February 28 — March 5, 2016 have been donated in memory of

Louis Croce

With Love & Prayers from:

Your Loving Family

Members of Purgatorial Society

Carmen Nazario Rolon

A MESSAGE FROM MSGR. FRANK MANISCALCO

Dear friends,

Before the month of February departs, I would like to share with you a favorite story of mine about "Lincoln and the actor."

Ironically, before he met death in Ford's Theater, Lincoln enjoyed going to the theater as an escape from the overwhelming pressures of his office. Besides plays almost entirely forgotten today, Lincoln also attended performances of Shakespeare's plays. In March, 1863, an actor named James Hackett sent Lincoln a copy of a book he wrote on performing Shakespeare. This was due to Lincoln's attending a performance of his as the character Sir John Falstaff in the "Henry the Fourth" plays. In acknowledging the gift, Lincoln wrote to the actor that "for one of my age, I have seen very little of the drama." Hackett's Falstaff was the first he had seen on stage, and he paid the actor the compliment of saying that he was "very anxious to see it again."

Lincoln went on to say that while he had never read some of Shakespeare's plays, others he had "gone over perhaps as frequently as any unprofessional reader." These included King Lear, Richard the Third, Henry the Eighth, Hamlet and "especially Macbeth. I think nothing equals Macbeth. It is wonderful." Lincoln continued that in Hamlet he preferred another of soliloquies to the famous "To be or not to be," asking pardon for "this small attempt at criticism."

Hackett, undoubtedly pleased at being complimented by so distinguished a person, had the letter printed and circulated "privately." However, it became public; and in the highly polarized political atmosphere of the times, this seemingly harmless note unleashed a torrent of abuse and mockery on Lincoln's head from a hostile press. How dare this ungainly, backwoods lawyer -- president or not -- dare to presume to play the role of sophisticated literary critic?

Later the same year, Hackett wrote Lincoln again, expressing his belief -- or perhaps "hope" -- that Lincoln "as a man of the world now and an experienced politician" would not be "so thin skinned" as to regret having favored him with the original letter. Lincoln's reply shows he could be as eloquent writing privately as when speaking publicly:

"My note to you I certainly did not expect to see in print; yet I have not been much shocked by the newspaper comments upon it. Those comments constitute a fair specimen of what has occurred to me through life. I have endured a great deal of ridicule without much malice; and have received a great deal of kindness, not quite free from ridicule. I am used to it."

The word "malice" links this private letter to Lincoln's greatest public utterance, the Second Inaugural Address, in which he said, "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan--to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."

Although that last, fatal night at the theater robbed Lincoln of the opportunity to accomplish the vision of his Second Inaugural, undoubtedly if anyone could have done it, it was he. As his second letter to Hackett shows, such a vision for his country was grounded in the kind of man Lincoln had become. Personally he had risen above both criticism and flattery and was unmoved by either to do anything other than the "right" as he saw it. He was a man who himself felt malice toward none and charity for all. His greatness as a president flowed ultimately from the greatness of his spirit.

In His peace,



Monsignor Frank Maniscalco
Pastor

Third Sunday of Lent

Parish Message: God offers us the grace to do whatever God asks us to do.

When Moses failed as a leader, it was not for lack of support from God, but because Moses failed to call upon the help that God was offering. Many other biblical leaders failed not because they were in an impossible situation, but because they did not accept God's plan and call upon God's grace to carry it out. The truth is that we have all drawn back from what God has asked of us; we have all feared that God's requests would crush us. In fact, it is the alternatives that we have accepted that have crushed us. When we are completely honest with ourselves, we can always identify some things that we need to start doing and other things the we need to stop doing.

Parish Question for Reflection: How do I use my time? How do I use my money? Is God asking me to do something different with my time? with my money?

Parish Intention: For each of us, that we discern the ways in which God is calling us to ministry here at St. Thomas.

PADRE PIO

The Padre Pio Prayer Group, meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 2nd, Rosary at 7:15 p.m. in the lower church. Followed by Mass. If you are interested in becoming a member, please call Louise (516) 485-8747.

FIRST FRIDAY, MARCH 4

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place every First Friday continuously from 8:15 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Lower Church. Many graces are obtained during an hour before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. We invite you to attend for a part of the day and pray and spend some time with the Lord.

NOCTURNAL ADORATION SOCIETY

St. Thomas teaches that the whole world and all it contains is of less value before God than the grace of a single soul. Let us make a little return by giving Our Lord one hour of our time in adoration during the night. Our Lord is never outdone in generosity.

Nocturnal Adoration will meet First Friday, March 4th, 2016. Our hour of adoration is between 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. We encourage you to join us earlier for recitation of the rosary at 7:15 p.m. We need your stewardship effort of love and sacrifice of time, especially this month since it is The Eucharistic Congress.

**"COULD YOU NOT WATCH
ONE HOUR WITH ME"**

Year of Mercy Activities at St. Thomas

- At one of the side altars in the church, chapel and lower church, there will be a **"Mercy Basket"** in which you can place petitions asking God for his merciful intervention in your life or the life of someone you know. You might also consider putting in equivalent petitions of Thanksgiving for answered prayers. The basket will be emptied once a month to make room for new or renewed petitions. Each weekend's Prayer of the Faithful at Mass will include a petition covering all the requested prayers in the "Mercy Basket." Slips of paper with the Jubilee Logo will be available near the basket for you to write your petitions.
- After Christmas, the Giving Tree will be replaced by a **Mercy Tree** which will contain cards suggesting various actions inspired by the Corporal and Spiritual Works of mercy. We hope that each week end the Mercy Tree will be cleared by parishioners willing to do these acts of mercy.
- After Communion at each weekend Mass the celebrant will lead the congregation in a **post-Communion prayer**, done in responsorial psalm format, using one the psalms designated as **"Psalms of Mercy"** for the Jubilee.
- The Sacrament of Penance on several Saturdays during the year will be celebrated with individual confessions as part of a **Communal Penance Service** from 3 to 4:30 p.m.
- One of the Hours of the **Divine Office** will be celebrated as part of selected weekend Masses.
- **Eucharistic Adoration** will be extended to 4 p.m. on the non-First Fridays.
- Although independent of the Year of Mercy but wholly consistent with it, the Paulist Fathers **Living the Eucharist** program, which centers on small groups meeting throughout Lent focused on the Sunday readings, will be offered for our parishioner's participation. This will take the place of the usual Lenten Mission.

SUNDAY MASS CELEBRANTS Weekend of March 6, 2016	
CHURCH	
5:00 PM	Msgr. Alesandro
9:00 AM	Fr. Callan
10:30 AM	Msgr. Strynkowski
10:30 AM	<i>Family Mass:</i> Fr. Marcellus
12 Noon	Msgr. Alesandro
6:00 PM	Msgr. Maniscalco
CHAPEL	
7:30 AM	Fr. Noel
9:30 AM	Fr. Noel
11:00 AM	Fr. Alexander
12:30 PM	Fr. Marcellus
THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.	

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

ON THE FOLLOWING FRIDAYS
DURING LENT
EXPOSITION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
WILL BE IN THE UPPER CHURCH
FOLLOWING THE 9 AM MASS
(celebrated in the lower church)
AND INCLUDE
STATIONS OF THE CROSS
AT 4:30 PM

MARCH 4
MARCH 11
MARCH 11
MARCH 18



HUMAN SERVICES

humanservicesta@optonline.net

Please take a card off the **Mercy Tree** to fulfill Lenten spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The corporal works on the cards will help to stock our pantry for the Easter bags we will give to our brothers and sisters in need. All donations can be brought to the Rectory or Human Services or put in the brown baskets in the Church and Chapel. As always, **thank you** for your continued generosity...

Have a blessed Lent,
Irene Peplinski

\$1200.82

On **SuperBowl Weekend**, February 6/7, 2016, St. Thomas the Apostle Religious Education and School Confirmandi were at the doors of the Church and Chapel collecting \$1.00 donations to feed the hungry as part of the Soup-Er Bowl of Caring. All donations collected went to the Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN) to feed the hungry.

Thank you for your generosity!

Fatima/Lourdes/Nevers/Paris Catholic Pilgrimage

September 12 - 22, 2016, Fr. Alessandro da Luz, Spiritual Director of Our Holy Redeemer in Freeport is hosting a Jubilee Year of Mercy Catholic Pilgrimage to 2 Nights Fatima/1 Night Spain/ 2 Nights Lourdes/1 Night Nevers/ 2 Nights Paris/Daily Mass. Air from JFK / Breakfast & Dinner Daily. For a flyer or more information call Cathie or Mike Milano 631-569-2620

The Diocese of Rockville Centre

Golden Wedding Liturgy

Honoring Couples Married Fifty Years or More

Sunday, April 10

St. Lawrence the Martyr in Sayville

Sunday, April 24

Maria Regina in Seaford

Both liturgies will begin at 2:30 PM
Couples may register for ONE liturgy

For further information and registration, please call:
Suzanne Lynn/Western Vicariate

(516) 867-6340



Thank you for visiting
St. Thomas the Apostle Church.
If you have enjoyed your time with us
and would like to make a donation,
simply scan the attached QR Code
for a one time donation. Thank you!



Please Pray for the Deceased of the Parish



John Anthony Breen * Irene Faller
Mario Pagano * Gertrude Hanson



Catherine Arlotta * Elvira Bogatic * Deborah Boha *
Richard Bombardieri * Flora Brown * Leonard Cagno *
Rose Calapai * Donald Carter * Gerard Catapano *
Stephen Cavallo * Taylor Dattoli * Bradyn D'Agostino *
Deacon Anthony D'Auria * Daphne Davis-Irabor * Keisha Diamond *
Keith D'Ornellis * Rosemarie Kane Dorsty * Anne Dunne * Patricia
Langan-Dunne * Walter Ellensohn * Agnes Farrell * Cecilia Finelli *
Gigi Geller * Justin Gentile * Gerald R. Gentile * Flo Gioffe * Francine
Giulikas * Betty Goetz * Eileen Grabler * Enza Grimaudo * Jim
Harman * Mark Herbert, Jr. * Jamir James * Linda Jennings *
Norma Jespersen * Carl Johnson, Sr. * Josephine Justic * Patrick
Kenny * Victor Keuhhas * Jacqueline LaRocca * Baby Erin Larson *
Linda * Cecelia Lisante * Donna Marie * Nadiria Martin * Joan
McComb * Julia McEntee * Peter McEntee * Charles Melchiorre *
Al Menendez * Christopher Michael * Jean Minutoli * Suzanne
Mistretta * Vincent Mistretta * Vincent E. Mistretta * Jennie Mistretta *
Mary Molloy * Suzanne Montalbano * Catherine Mullin * Michael
Nuzzi * Bertha Ortiz * John Penalosa * Michael Petito * Ann Pizzi *
Rocco Pomatico * Maria Pramnieks * Marybeth Reitz * Diane Rizzo
* Regina Robinson * Dr. William T. Robinson * Joseph Saccone *
Fran Saccone * Jennifer Spano * Remigio Tan * Clara Tombler-Long
* Emedio Torre * Carmella Torre * Frank Torre * Dan Trezza * Fred
Vordermeier * Gary P. Vosgianian * Brigid Quinn Wagner * David
Webb * George Yuhas

PLEASE NOTE: Names for the sick list will appear for three consecutive weeks. If you would like to have someone placed on the sick list, please call the Rectory at 489-8585.

If you are homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call Human Services at 538-7465.

Please pray for the safe return of

Natale Franco • Miguel A. Flaquer • Mark E. Satira • PFC James Morrison
Justina Medina • Lt. Col. John Lehane, USMC • Cpl. Kieran Grogan, USMC
PFC Matthew Sirianni • Sgt. James A. Conklin • Sgt. Joseph Giordano, USMC

Members of St. Thomas the Apostle Church stationed in Iraq & Afghanistan
Lt. Col. Thomas Brennan • Lt. Commander Peter J. Eberhardt
Staff Sgt. Joseph D. Marciano • Capt. Timothy Miller USMC
Spec. Kenneth Albarran • Sgt. Erich McCartney • Kris Kleffman
Major Patrick Sweeney • Lt. Col. Paul Sweeney
Sgt. Matthew R. Schmidt • Sgt. Christopher McKay
Joseph Della Ratta PFC • Capt. Anthony Caruso • Capt. Emily Ladd
1 Lt. Dennis Valdez • Cpt. Joseph Munger • Major Christian M. Capece, USMC
have returned home safely.

The families wish to thank you for your prayers,
and ask that you please continue to pray. God Bless You All.

BAPTISM: Please welcome, the following little Christians into the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Community:

Kaylan Alexa Balmir * Charlotte Avery Balmir
Luciano Joseph Cervini * Kellan Matthew Lacombe

**St. Thomas the Apostle
ROSARY SOCIETY**

Day of Recollection

March 3, 2016

Following 9:00 am Mass

Lower Church

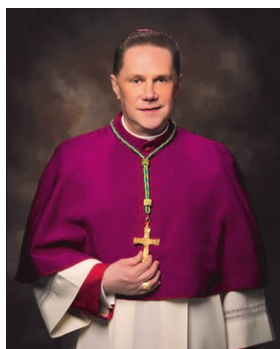
Price \$16.00

**Send check to Eileen Kastner
458 Roy Street
West Hempstead, NY 11552**

**Questions, call:
Jean McGovern
481-8597
DEADLINE: FEB. 29th**

We would like to welcome all of you
to join us on March 1st, 7:30 pm
in the Church as we host:

Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski



speaking upon the Year of Mercy.

**St. Christopher's Church
11 Gale Ave, Baldwin, NY 11510**

Please join us after in McGoldrick Hall
for some light refreshments.

Celebrating

SOCIAL SUNDAY

at Saint Thomas the Apostle!

***Please join us
in the Chapel Center
(the lower level of the chapel)***

**Sunday, February 28th
after the 11:00am Mass
at the chapel**

for bagels, coffee,
seasonal pastries and
friendly hospitality!

See you there!



**Our next Social Sunday
will be in the
Parish Center on
April 17th after the
10:30 Mass.**

Divine Mercy Ministry



Saint Maria
Faustina

Who was Saint Faustina?

Sister Faustina was a young, uneducated, nun in a convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Cracow, Poland during the 1930's. She came from a very poor family as most in her farm village. Her basic school education consisted of three years of learning. Because of this, she was assigned menial tasks in the convent. Whether it be helping in the kitchen, assigned as a door

monitor or garden worker, she accepted her jobs humbly.

To this very simple young nun, Our Lord Jesus and His Blessed Mother appeared and spoke to her on many occasions. Jesus asked Sister Faustina to record these conversations, which she then compiled into a series of notebooks. These notebooks are known today as the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska. The words contained within her Diary are God's loving message of Divine Mercy for all of us. Although Sister Faustina questioned her ability to write and spell correctly, she was blessed with the gift to be His secretary of mercy.

Though the Divine Mercy message is not new to the teachings of the Church, Sr. Faustina's Diary sparked a great movement, and a strong and significant focus on the mercy of Christ. St. Pope John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 30, 2000, making her the "first saint of the new millennium." Speaking of St. Faustina and the importance of the message contained in her Diary, the Pope called her "the great apostle of Divine Mercy on our time." Today, we continue to rely on Saint Faustina as a constant reminder of the message to trust in Jesus' endless mercy, and to live life mercifully towards others.

We also turn to her in prayer and request her intercession to our merciful Savior on our behalf:

Saint Faustina,

You told us that your mission would continue after your death and that you would not forget us. Our Lord also granted you a great privilege, telling you to "distribute graces as you will, to whom you will, and when you will." Relying on this, we ask your intercession for the graces we need, especially for the intentions just mentioned. Help us, above all, to trust in Jesus as you did and thus to glorify His mercy every moment of our lives. Amen

The St. Thomas Divine Mercy Ministry and Knights of Columbus invite you to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on **Sunday, April 3rd** beginning with the 12 pm Mass at the Main Church. After this mass, we will gather in the Lower Church where we will celebrate with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, readings and reflections of Our Lord's wounds, recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet in song and veneration of the Divine Mercy Image. All are welcome to attend this very special gathering.

SAVE THE DATE

*Bishop Murphy is happy to announce
that there will be a*

Diocesan Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Washington, D.C.

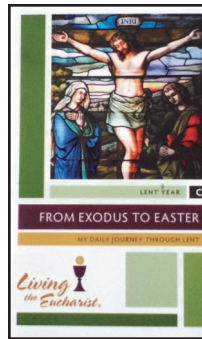
Saturday, September 24, 2016

More information will be coming soon.
Please watch your bulletin and diocesan website.

St. Thomas the Apostle eNews

Would you like to receive occasional emails with parish news, reflection questions, Catholic trivia, and other information? Then sign up today for St. Thomas eNews! Just send an email to STANews@yahoo.com with your last name and the word "subscribe" in the subject line, and you'll be added to our mailing list.

Lenten Daily Reflection Booklet

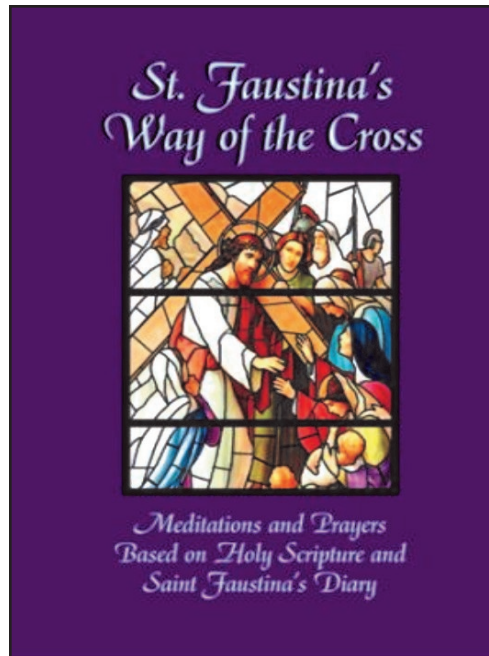


Limited quantities of the Living the Eucharist daily reflection booklet "From Exodus to Easter" are still available. If you haven't yet gotten one, look for them in the basket at the front left area of the church or chapel. A small donation to defray their expense would be appreciated.

Beginning Monday, Dec. 28, all weekday Masses will be in the lower church on Westminster Road. Weekday Masses in the chapel will resume on Monday, March 14. There will be Ash Wednesday Masses and services in the chapel on Feb. 10. While the Friday 9 a.m. Masses are celebrated in the Lower Church, Eucharistic adoration will begin after the 9 a.m. Mass.

The 2016 calendars donated by the Barnes-Sorrentino Funeral Home will be distributed at the Sunday Masses and not by mail. Distribution will begin the weekend of Dec. 12-13 and limited to one calendar per household. Please call the rectory if you cannot pick up your calendar at church, and arrangements will be made to get calendars to these households.

*The St. Thomas the Apostle Divine Mercy Ministry
presents...*



Friday, March 11, 2016

**Confessions 6:30-7pm*

**Stations of the Cross begins 7:00pm*

**Divine Mercy Holy Hour to follow 7:30-9:00pm*

St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Lower Church

24 Westminster Rd

West Hempstead, NY 11552

For more info: 516-538-0180

St. Faustina found tremendous solace in meditating on the Lord's Passion- especially at the three o'clock hour. In her Diary, Jesus told her, " **My daughter, try to make the Stations of the Cross in this hour, provided your duties permit it.**"(Diary, 1572)

Take this time to reflect on *The Stations of the Cross* and how they relate to your life.



Ministry of Hope for the Bereaved

"May you always remember when the shadows fall-

You do not walk alone "

Old Irish Blessing

SPRING 2016 BEREAVEMENT PROGRAM SESSIONS



Anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one is encouraged to attend.

The program consists of eight weekly sessions that help people know what to expect and not to expect during the grieving process. It gives them the opportunity to share with other grieving people who can understand and support them. All groups are led by professionally trained facilitators.

Tuesdays 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the PARISH CENTER
Beginning MARCH 29th for Eight Weeks including
April 5, 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17

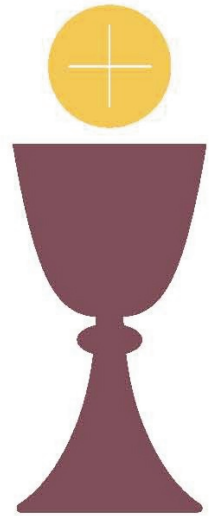
For more information/ to register CALL
St. Thomas the Apostle Human Services
(516) 538-7465

A member of the Bereavement Program Team will contact you to complete the registration process.



Belief and Belonging

A few years ago, a popular department store launched an advertising campaign at the holiday season centered on a logo made up of the word “Believe!” This cheerful exclamation emblazoned on shopping bags and the like might suggest believing in Santa Claus, or yourself, or, really, anything.



It might be an act of faith to believe you’ll have enough money to pay your credit card bill at the end of the month! The success of the campaign (it was repeated the following year) suggests that belief itself has a kind of magic or charm, regardless of the object of that belief.

There may be something to this. It is human nature to believe, after all, and human dignity demands a respect for belief as part of the human person. But we also know that placing faith in an unworthy object can diminish people, and leave them empty and disappointed. Beliefs give shape to our commitments and guide our actions. Beliefs that matter must be grounded in truth.

TO BELIEVE IS TO TRUST

To believe, *credere* in Latin, is to trust. It is to give one’s heart to something. In the Eucharist on Sundays we profess our faith, saying “I believe.” We say this together to affirm that we are believers together. At times my personal faith may be weak. The faith of others supports me. At other times it is my faith that provides the support for those around me. Believing is a community project.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* affirms that “faith needs the community of believers” (CCC 1253). Infants are baptized based on the faith of their parents. The Church community walks with catechumens on their journey of

faith. Even to the end of our days, sharing faith is important. It is no accident that the funeral rites make reference to the faith of the person who has died. The journey is long, but it leads us to God, in whom we have placed our trust. Blessed are those who have given their heart to *this* something—a faith that leads beyond death, to eternal life.

THE CREED AT SUNDAY MASS

The Creed that we say at Sunday Mass is a wonderful witness to the multi-faceted nature of Christian believing. What is most personal to each individual—the trust I give to God’s revelation—is also something universal, shared with millions of other believers. In a day and age when people try to “make their mark” by being different, the Creed is counter-cultural. What the Creed gives us is something that individuality and personal flair can never provide: the strength that comes from a believing community. Christians in some parts of the world have been professing their faith at Sunday Mass since the fourth century. The Creed has deep roots.

The Apostles’ Creed is a summary of the profession of faith made in Baptism. Therefore, every time we say the Creed we should remember our dignity as the baptized. The Creed tells our story. The Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed was composed as an expression of the faith of the bishops gathered at the Council of Constantinople in the fourth

century. Its precise expressions concerning each Person of the Trinity guard and protect us from false ideas (heresies) and keep us grounded in the truth that sets us free. Today, either may be used at Sunday Mass.

Within the flow of the liturgy, the profession of faith follows the homily. Coming as it does after the Word of God, it affirms God's revelation. The Creed also prepares us to enter into the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the second great section of the Mass. At the center of the Creed stands the Paschal Mystery—Christ's death and resurrection—which is the pivot on which the whole revelation turns. The Paschal Mystery is the heart of the Eucharist. Thus, the Creed points us forward, to the Eucharist.

WHAT'S IN THE CREED?

The Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed consists of four parts. Each person of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Spirit—is named, and their interrelationships are named as well. The unique work of each Divine Person for our salvation is recalled. The fourth part of the Creed concerns the Church and her beliefs. It may surprise some that belief in the Church is an article of faith. Yet the Church is indeed part of the mystery of Christ. Gift from the heart of God, the Church is integral to the work of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit in the world. It continues to the end of time.

At various moments in our faith journey, specific articles of the Creed can stand out and call us to more abundant life. Here are some examples: After the tragic attack on the World Trade Center in New York City on 9/11, some people heard our profession of faith in "one God" as a call to solidarity with all monotheistic religions: it became a key to reconciliation. A passion for the natural environment has made some acutely aware of affirming God as "maker of heaven and earth": it has become a call to stewardship of the gifts of the earth. After burying a loved one, some hear the affirmation of "the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come" as a fresh promise: it has become

an occasion of healing and hope. How has the faith we affirm in the Creed called you to more abundant life? Each person has particular moments of insight. Although we say "Yes" to all of it at once, we realize the power of what we proclaim only a little at a time.

REFLECT

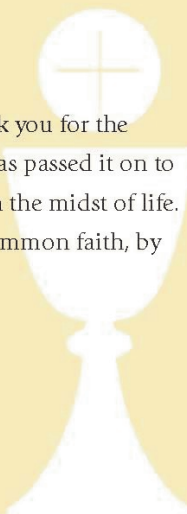
Try this exercise at home, as a way to hear the Creed afresh: At every point where it says "I believe" substitute the words "I put my trust." What insights occur to you, when you consider the Creed in light of trust?

ACT

Memorize the Creed. In the early Church the Creed was never written down on paper or parchment, but "retained in the hearts of the faithful" (Rufinus, *Commentary on the Apostles' Creed*, 4th century). Get to know it "by heart."

PRAY

Giver of the gift of faith, we thank you for the Creed, and for the Church that has passed it on to us. Let it be our strong support in the midst of life. Help us to bear witness to our common faith, by all we say and do.



AUTHOR ■ Rita Ferrone is an award-winning writer and speaker in the areas of liturgy, catechesis, and renewal in the Roman Catholic Church.

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Our Lady of Fatima Pilgrim Statue

Through The Legion of Mary

Awaits your invitation ...

Not everyone can go to Portugal and visit the Shrine of Fatima, but everyone in St. Thomas Parish can have the Statue of Our Lady in their home. Would you like to know more about her apparitions at Fatima?

We welcome her into your home with prayers and rosary. She stays in your home one to two weeks. She is our Mother! To schedule a visit, please call Grace at (516) 489-6886.

Mother of Christ Crusade by John E. Cassidy, Bishop of Fall River
Apparition of the Angel of Fatima to the three children

"I am the Angel of Peace, Pray with me! My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you. I beg pardon of you for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love you."

3x Pray this way, the Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplication."

A Gift of Prayer



*Besides the tradition
of prayer
for our deceased
loved ones,
an announced Mass
intention
is a wonderful way
to recognize*

- a birthday
- a wedding anniversary
- the anniversary of an ordination or entrance into religious life
- some other special occasion
- or simply to let those you love know that they are in your prayers.

Except for the last days of Holy Week, Mass is said every day for special intentions.

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**Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney
Founder of the Knights of Columbus
August 12, 1852 - August 14, 1890**



During the Lenten season, we recall Christ's suffering and death. In turn, remember to pray the Holy Rosary daily for Christians who are today suffering and dying for their belief in Christ. Through the Knight's Christian Refugee Relief Fund we have distributed more than \$10 million to provide housing, food, medical aid, education and general relief to persecuted Christians and other religious minorities especially from Iraq and Syria. Please help raise awareness of this continuing genocide of Christians in the Middle East. You can also visit christiansatrisk.org to learn more about "our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted, tortured and killed for their faith in Jesus." (Pope Francis)

UPCOMING EVENTS/SAVE THE DATES:

MARCH 4-6th – ST. THOMAS MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT AT BISHOP MOLLOY RETREAT HOUSE: Come join some of your parishioners and Brother Knights at this rewarding weekend retreat! See the bulletin for more information.

MARCH 25th – GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION – Please join us as we process through the streets of West Hempstead reciting the Stations of the Cross from 6:00 –7:00 pm. See further details in the bulletin.

If you have any questions or would like to join our organization, please contact George Nieves or our Grand Knight, Manny Torres at: GrandKnight11588@gmail.com or visit our website at www.KofC11588.org

Vivat Jesus

St. Thomas Knights of Columbus



Please join the friends and families of the St. Thomas Knights of Columbus for our annual **Good Friday Procession** on **March 25th**. We are meeting at **5:30** in the **Msgr. Smith Auditorium** and the procession is from **6 to 7 p.m.**



What Catholics Believe

(A Refresher Course for Adults)

- ◇ *Were you old enough to drive yourself to the last religion class you attended?*
- ◇ *Do you feel confident answering questions about our Catholic faith?*
- ◇ *Have you ever looked at the basic teachings of Catholicism with the eyes of an adult?*

If you answered “no” to any of these questions, you are invited to take another look at what Catholics believe.

Come to the Parish Library at 7:30pm on Mondays*
to discuss these topics:

February 29:	<i>God Calls Us</i>
March 7:	<i>Loving God & Neighbor</i>
March 14:	<i>Sin & Freedom</i>
March 21:	<i>The Death & Resurrection of Jesus</i>
April 4:	<i>Faith & Prayer</i>
April 11:	<i>The Eucharist</i>
April 18:	<i>Three Persons, One God</i>
April 25:	<i>The Church of Christ</i>
May 2:	<i>The Holy Spirit</i>

All Are Welcome!

*In the event of inclement weather, please call the parish office at 516-489-8585 to make sure evening activities have not been canceled.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish
and
St. Thomas the Apostle Council No. 11558



MEN'S RETREAT

Weekend of March 4 - 6

Bishop Molloy Retreat House
invites the men of St. Thomas the Apostle
to participate in a retreat the weekend of March 4
The retreat opens with dinner at 7pm on Friday
and concludes with Mass at 11am on Sunday.

This is a "Retreat" from everyday "busyness"
Held at a spiritual center where the soul can be nurtured.
It is conducted by **Passionist Priests** proclaiming
the great signs of God's love.

The retreat is open to people from near and far
who seek refuge from day to day turmoil and look for
Rest, Renewal and Redemption.
It is our intent to emphasize each of these facets.

For further information, please call a Parish Coordinator

Claude Madrazo 516-481-5040
Larry Doyle 516-978-0966

Joe Fitzgerald 516-538-4550
Manny Torres, GK 917-418-5398

or

Bishop Molloy Retreat House 718-739-1229
(secure overnight parking)

+++

*"Come to me
all who labor and are heavy laden
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest
for your souls."*

+++





**West Hempstead / Franklin Square
Association of Girl Scouts**

**19th Annual
Community Food Drive**

February 22, 2016—March 14, 2016

**• Suggested Donations for the
Food Pantry, Kitchen or Shelter**

- Tuna Fish, Soups
- Vegetables, Fruits (canned or dried)
- Juices, Beef Stew, Rice/Beans
- Pasta's and Sauces
- Dry or Evaporated Milk
- Peanut Butter/Jelly
- Crackers, Tea/Coffee, Cereal
- Personal Hygiene Products
- Paper Goods
- Diapers #'s 3, 4 or 5



**No One
Should Go
To Bed
Hungry**

**Polk Street
John Street
Washington Street
George Washington
Cornwell Avenue
and**

**St. Thomas
students may donate food
in their school lobby!!**

Food will be donated to:

Long Island Cares, Inc.*
Saint Catherine of Sienna Outreach
St. Thomas the Apostle Outreach
Saint Vincent De Paul

**** Public Drop Off Sites (check what hours the Church is open)**

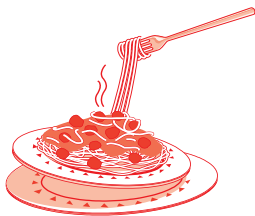
Franklin Square Library
West Hempstead Library
Saint Catherine of Sienna
Saint Thomas the Apostle
Ridgewood Savings, 1010 Hempstead Tpke. FS

*Founded in 1980 by the late Harry Chapin in response to the problems of hunger and poverty on Long Island. This is the only regional food bank serving Nassau and Suffolk counties by providing emergency assistance. Member agencies include, Homeless Shelters, Food Pantries, Soup Kitchens, Group Homes, Day Care Centers, Rehabilitation Centers, Senior Nutrition Sites.

Troop 240
West Hempstead, N.Y.



Annual Pasta Dinner
Sunday, March 13, 2016
4:00 PM



American Legion Hall

233 Woodlawn Avenue, West Hempstead

Tickets: \$15 per person
Kids age 5-12 \$7.00 each
4 & under are FREE

Dinner includes all you can eat:
Bread Basket, Garden Salad,
Pasta, Meatballs,
Soda, Dessert & Coffee

Call for tickets:
Susan Norton @ 516-489-8025
or snorton@fidelifacts.com

*Seating reserved on a first come,
first served basis.*
Call early to reserve your seating now.

K of C 11588
Blood Drive



Sunday, March 13, 2016
8:15 am — 12:45 pm
St. Thomas the Apostle
24 Westminster Road
Auditorium

Your donation will help to save up to **THREE** lives. Our community hospitals need your help. Please share this life-saving gift! **Thank you for caring!**

Eligibility Criteria:

- Bring ID with signature or photo
- Minimum weight 110 pounds
- Age 16 - 75 (16 year olds must have parental permission. Age 76 and over need doctor's note)
- EAT well (low fat) & drink fluids
- No tattoos for 12 months

For questions concerning medical eligibility
call 1-800-688-0900.

 **New York Blood Services**



**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- TAG SALE
- MEMBERSHIP APPEAL
- DINNER DANCE
- CASH CALENDAR

You can make a difference...help us to help our Parish.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

WEST HEMPSTEAD, NY

FEBRUARY, 2014

Back by popular demand...

The St. Thomas the Apostle TAG SALE!

Following the success of last year's inaugural Tag Sale we have chosen the dates of July 8, 9 and 10 for this year's event.

We ask that you start setting aside items to donate to this important parish fundraiser. Donation dates will be announced shortly. Details regarding items that will be ac-

cepted can be found in this bulletin.

Last year's success was due in large part to the tremendous amount of donations we received. It was also successful because of the large number of parishioners who volunteered their time at the sale.

A volunteer meeting will take

place in May. Please watch this bulletin for the date and time.

You can contact the Tag Sale committee by email (statagsale@gmail.com) or by leaving a message at the Rectory (489-8585).

There is still time to buy your

CASH

CALENDAR!

See the entry form in this bulletin or stop by the Rectory – odds of winning are better than the lottery!

MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

The St. Thomas the Apostle Development Committee assists our Pastor with the task of raising funds to support our parish ministries.

Members attend monthly meetings to discuss the progress of current initiatives as well as to share ideas for future events.

Chairpersons of events such as the Parish Dinner Dance, the Family Festival and the Tag Sale work in conjunction with the Development Committee when run-

ning their events. Other efforts currently include the Cash Calendar, One Cause.com online shopping program, and Estate Planning and Giving.

The Committee is looking for new members who will bring fresh ideas and perspective to the committee's efforts.

Please contact Brian Browne at 516-486-3965 or sthomasdevelopment@gmail.com for more information.

DINNER DANCE THANK YOU

Many thanks to our chair-couple, Anna and Russell Lord for a job well done. We also thank all who supported the event either by attending or purchasing raffle tickets. We raised over \$28,000 for our parish!

Saint Thomas the Apostle 2016 - Cash Calendar Sweepstakes

February 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<u>5</u> \$50	<u>6</u> \$25
<u>7</u> \$75	<u>8</u> \$25	<u>9</u> \$25	<u>10</u> \$25	<u>11</u> \$25	<u>12</u> \$25	<u>13</u> \$25
<u>14</u> \$100	<u>15</u> \$25	<u>16</u> \$25	<u>17</u> \$25	<u>18</u> \$25	<u>19</u> \$25	<u>20</u> \$25
<u>21</u> \$75	<u>22</u> \$25	<u>23</u> \$25	<u>24</u> \$25	<u>25</u> \$25	<u>26</u> \$50	<u>27</u> \$25
<u>28</u> \$75	<u>29</u> \$25					

March 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<u>1</u> \$50	<u>2</u> \$25	<u>3</u> \$25	<u>4</u> \$25	<u>5</u> \$25
<u>6</u> \$75	<u>7</u> \$25	<u>8</u> \$25	<u>9</u> \$25	<u>10</u> \$25	<u>11</u> \$25	<u>12</u> \$25
<u>13</u> \$75	<u>14</u> \$25	<u>15</u> \$25	<u>16</u> \$25	<u>17</u> \$100	<u>18</u> \$25	<u>19</u> \$25
<u>20</u> \$75	<u>21</u> \$25	<u>22</u> \$25	<u>23</u> \$25	<u>24</u> \$25	<u>25</u> \$50	<u>26</u> \$25
EASTER } <u>27</u> \$500	<u>28</u> \$25	<u>29</u> \$25	<u>30</u> \$25	<u>31</u> \$25		

April 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<u>1</u> \$50	<u>2</u> \$25
<u>3</u> \$75	<u>4</u> \$25	<u>5</u> \$25	<u>6</u> \$25	<u>7</u> \$25	<u>8</u> \$25	<u>9</u> \$25
<u>10</u> \$75	<u>11</u> \$25	<u>12</u> \$25	<u>13</u> \$25	<u>14</u> \$25	<u>15</u> \$25	<u>16</u> \$25
<u>17</u> \$75	<u>18</u> \$25	<u>19</u> \$25	<u>20</u> \$25	<u>21</u> \$25	<u>22</u> \$25	<u>23</u> \$25
<u>24</u> \$75	<u>25</u> \$25	<u>26</u> \$25	<u>27</u> \$25	<u>28</u> \$25	<u>29</u> \$50	<u>30</u> \$25

May 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>1</u> \$75	<u>2</u> \$25	<u>3</u> \$25	<u>4</u> \$25	<u>5</u> \$25	<u>6</u> \$25	<u>7</u> \$25
<u>8</u> \$75	<u>9</u> \$25	<u>10</u> \$25	<u>11</u> \$25	<u>12</u> \$25	<u>13</u> \$25	<u>14</u> \$25
<u>15</u> \$75	<u>16</u> \$25	<u>17</u> \$25	<u>18</u> \$25	<u>19</u> \$25	<u>20</u> \$25	<u>21</u> \$25
<u>22</u> \$75	<u>23</u> \$25	<u>24</u> \$25	<u>25</u> \$25	<u>26</u> \$25	<u>27</u> \$50	<u>28</u> \$25
<u>29</u> \$75	<u>30</u> \$100	<u>31</u> \$25				

June 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<u>1</u> \$50	<u>2</u> \$25	<u>3</u> \$25	<u>4</u> \$25
<u>5</u> \$75	<u>6</u> \$25	<u>7</u> \$25	<u>8</u> \$25	<u>9</u> \$25	<u>10</u> \$25	<u>11</u> \$25
<u>12</u> \$75	<u>13</u> \$25	<u>14</u> \$100	<u>15</u> \$25	<u>16</u> \$25	<u>17</u> \$25	<u>18</u> \$25
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<u>26</u> \$75	<u>27</u> \$25	<u>28</u> \$25	<u>29</u> \$25	<u>30</u> \$100		

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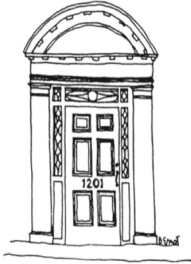
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