



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

First Sunday of Advent

- Saturday, December 2, 2017**
4:00 PM Georgette Mandeville
- Sunday, December 3, 2017**
8:30 AM Nancy Southworth – 2nd Anniversary
11:00 AM Yvonne & Adrian Harrison

**Daily Mass this week will be held on
Monday through Thursday at 8:00 AM**

- Monday, December 4, 2017**
8:00 AM Manuel Ledo – Birthday
 Remembrance
- Tuesday, December 5, 2017**
8:00 AM Pasquale A. Accardo
- Wednesday, December 6, 2017**
8:00 AM Mary Crahan
- Thursday, December 7, 2017**
8:00 AM George G. McMullen, Sr.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Immaculate Conception of Mary

- Friday, December 8, 2017**
8:00 AM Anna Meyer
7:00 PM Jankowski Family

Second Sunday of Advent

- Saturday, December 9, 2017**
4:00 PM Sharon May Durant
- Sunday, December 10, 2017**
8:30 AM Michael J. Leonardo – 3rd
 Anniversary
11:00 AM J. Paul Audette

**For the Month of December the Altar
Breads, Altar Wine, Mass Missalettes and
Music Missals are in memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Lionel Gagnon &
John Pacheco, Jr.**

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to donate Christmas Flowers in memory of loved ones, please forward the Christmas Flower envelope with the names by **December 17th**. Extra envelopes are available at the entrances of the church.



THE GIVING TREE

THIS WEEKEND

The first Saturday & Sunday of Advent, December 2nd & 3rd begins the *Giving Tree* program. This is our way to give to the less fortunate and those who are alone at Christmas.

Our adopted friends are as follows:

***Catholic Memorial Home**, (A Skilled Nursing Home), wrap and return the gift with tag attached.

***St. Vincent's Home** various gift cards, place in box under tree.

***Cardinal Medeiros Residence**, a home for retired Diocesan Priests, Monetary donations, place in box under the tree. Checks should be made payable to St. Thomas More Church.

***Catholic Social Services**, ages newborn-17 attach gift tag to unwrapped gift.

Ornaments will be hung on the tree and will be available for anyone who wishes to take one. Each ornament has the name of the organization adopted along with a gift request. **The date for returning the gifts is Sunday, December 17th** so it will allow us time to get the gifts to the organizations in time for their distribution dates to their recipients.

Today's Hymns

Entrance: #39 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Preparation: #41 Waiting in Silence

Communion: #74 Bread of Life

Meditation #69 The King Shall Come

Recessional: #576 Soon and Very Soon

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Weekly Collection 11/19	\$ 2,256.25
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 1,263.00
Weekend Collection 11/26	\$ 2,126.00
Renovation Fund 11/26	\$ 1,146.35
Annual Collection 11/19	\$27,840.00
Annual Collection 11/26	\$28,315.00

The second collection will be for the Renovation Fund. Next weekend there will be a Special Collection to Support the Retired Religious.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry

The knitting ministry will meet on **Tuesday, December 5th at 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM.**

Thank you to the Collectors & Counters for obtaining the parish attendance counts through the month of November for the Annual Diocesan Report!

FAITH FORMATION

Religious Education 2017-2018

Classes begin **9:20 AM through 10:30 AM**

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAM

All children who will be **entering First Grade** in September **must register for Religious Education Classes to begin in the fall.** This is a two-year program that begins with First Grade and ends with the reception of the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in Second Grade.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

This is a two year program for ***both Catholic and Public School*** parishioners. **Students need to register in Grade 9 to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in Grade 10.**

REMINDER

The next ministry schedule is being prepared for the months of *January, February and March, 2018.* Please notify the office by e-mail office@stthomasmoresomerset.org or call 508-673-7831 with any conflicting dates you might have for scheduling no later than December 17th. Thank you.

REMINDER LECTORS

Please pick up your new 2018 Lector Books in the main foyer of the church. Thank You.

CHURCH ORGAN DONATION

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners we are still making strides to reaching our goal of **\$32,000** and to date we have collected **\$26,575.** The memorials and contributions will be posted at a later date. Thank you to those who have already donated.

Thank you fellow Parishioners!

The St. Vincent de Paul Society wishes to extend their thanks to Msgr. Fitzgerald and the St. Thomas More parishioners for the generous support to the Thanksgiving Food Drive. We received a tremendous amount of food, as well as \$325 in food gift cards and checks. Your generous response has filled our Food Pantry and will help the needy all through the holiday season. *Thank you again.*

CALENDERS

St. Thomas More Calendars for **2018** have been generously donated by Hathaway Funeral Home. Please pick one up at the entrances of the church after mass.

20/20 RAFFLE

This weekend there will be a **Raffle Ticket in each Bulletin.** Tickets will go on sale before and after each mass beginning **December 2, 2017.** Extra tickets are available to sell to friends and family and also makes a great stocking gift. **Tickets are \$20 each. There will be one lucky winner! The winning ticket will be drawn on March 18, 2018 after the 11 o'clock mass.** The winner is guaranteed \$1,000 or 20% of what is totally collected, whichever is larger. You may drop your ticket and donation in the collection basket. Thank you to all who participate. **Anyone willing to volunteer to sell the raffle tickets before and after the masses to please speak with Msgr. Fitzgerald or call the rectory at 508-673-7831.** Your help makes this fundraiser successful.

FYI: NEW MISSALS

The first weekend of Advent, December 2nd and 3rd we will have a new missal, 'Breaking Bread'. This new missal has the weekend and holy day mass readings along with the music book combined. The change to one book per year instead of four times per year with a separate music book will bring a savings of \$580 a year.

St. Thomas More Retirees Group

The St. Thomas More Retirees will be meeting on **December 14th at Magoni's Restaurant for the Christmas Luncheon.** Please contact **Eileen Chmielewski at #774-526-0811 as soon as possible to make your reservation and meal choice.**

HARVEST BREAKFAST

Thank You to **Normand & Anne Marie Menard, their committee, the volunteers and the Confirmation Students** for a successful Harvest Breakfast this past Sunday. It was a great morning enjoyed by all who attended. There were a total of **132 tickets sold.** Also, thank you to **Norman & Gloria Bessette** for the success of the Raffles. The parish realized a profit of **\$2,171.00** of which **\$1,085.00 was from the raffles alone.** We would like to also thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to our parish and all who attended. This success could not be without all of you.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

This year the Penance Service will be held on **Monday, December 18th at St. John of God** for the parishes of Somerset and Swansea.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7

In this straightforward psalm, the people acknowledge their sinful ways, yet plead that their Creator might reveal himself to them. They ask God to remember, not their sins, but that “We are all the work of your hands.”

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Paul explains to the Corinthians that they are specially favored by God who has sent his only Son to them. He reminds us all that it was through God’s grace that we have been called to kinship with Christ.

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Just as a servant watching over the master’s house does not know when he will return, we do not know the hour of the Second Coming. Mark reminds us of the warning from Jesus to always be on guard, for we know not the day nor the hour.

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

“Jesus said to His disciples: ‘Be constantly on watch, stay awake. You do not know when the appointed time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge each with his own task, and he orders the man at the gate to watch with a sharp eye. Look around you.’”

We begin a new season of grace, the wonderful time of preparing the way of the Lord, recalling His coming in history, His abiding presence among us now, and looking to discover the way He enters our lives. This year we have four full weeks to live advent.

Like the person in Mark’s gospel, the Lord has entrusted each of us with distinct, yet important tasks. My work is different from others, and if I fail to do it, it will remain undone. How am I going to begin this time of prayer?

I can make a resolution not to get caught up only with the material things in our consumer oriented society. My prayer with my family, my reflection on the scriptures, will certainly point me in the right direction. As I consider what I am going to do, I want to include others, the elderly, the sick and the poor, those alone or lonely, to make their lives better. They are part of God’s gift for me to take care of.

May the closing words of the Bible become my mantra each day, simply repeating three words prayerfully ‘Come Lord Jesus.’