



More News

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



Advent - Christmas - Epiphany 2021

[In this edition the Pastor's Letter is provided separately; please see enclosure \(or click this link\).](#)

Worship

Bishop Lopes Elected Chair USCCB Worship Committee

Peter Smith reports, "Steven J. Lopes, the bishop of the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, was elected to head the Committee for Divine Worship by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) at their annual general assembly in Baltimore. Bishop Lopes



was elected to the position on November 16, 2021 by 121 U.S. bishops over Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski of St. Louis, who received 120 votes." We give thanks to God for our bishop's call to service in this role, and pray that it may further foster the kind of liturgical cross-fertilization Pope Benedict XVI envisaged in *Anglicanorum Coetibus*.

First Friday / First Saturday

Upcoming First Friday / First Saturday devotions will be offered on **December 3-4 & January 7-8**. Exposition of the Sacrament and **Solemn Evensong** with our Maria Kaupas Academy Upper School Choir* will be at **4:30**



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, as some time slots are still available.

*Evensong will be *sung* in December, but *said* in January, as the Upper School Choir will be unrehearsed during the Christmas break.

Immaculate Conception

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – a Holy Day of Obligation – is observed on **December 8**. Being a Wednesday



this year, Masses will be offered at our two regular Mass times for that day: **Said Mass at 11:00 a.m.**, and **Solemn Mass at 5:30 p.m.**



Holiday Worship Schedule

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

Wed 12/8, 11 AM • Immac. Conc. Said Mass

Wed 12/8, 5:30 p.m. • Solemn Mass

Sat 12/18, 9 AM • Pageant Rehearsal

Sun 12/19, 10 AM • Christmas Pageant

Fri 12/24, 7 PM • Christmas Eve Sol. Mass

Sat 12/25, 8 AM • Christmas Said Mass

Sat 12/25, 10 AM • Christmas Sung Mass

➔ **No 5:30 PM Vigil Mass Sat. 12/25**

Sun 12/26, 10 AM • Holy Family Mass

Sun 12/26, 1 PM • Caroling, Scranton Manor

Fri 12/31, 5:30 PM • Solemn Vigil Mass

Fri 12/31, 7 PM • Parish New Year's Party

Sat 1/1, 8 AM • Said Mass: Mary, Moth./God

Sun 1/2, 10 AM • Epiphany Sunday

Sun 1/2, 4 PM • Lessons & Carols

Sun 1/2, 4 PM • Three Kings Supper

Christmas Decorating

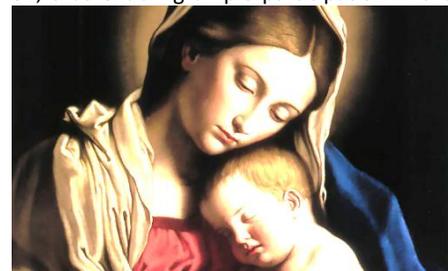
After 7:00 a.m. Mass and 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Friday, December 24, the Parish will spring into action decorating the church for Christmas Eve. Please join us that



morning to arrange poinsettias, set up the indoor and outdoor Nativity sets, clean the church, and otherwise adorn the campus for our Nativity celebration later that day.

Mary, Mother of God Masses

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is celebrated on January 1, falling this year on a Saturday. Our principal observance will be the **Solemn Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m. on December 31**, thus enabling ample participation in the



Parish New Years Eve Party which will follow in the Parish Hall (see "Fellowship"). **Said Mass** will be offered the next morning at our weekly Saturday Mass time, **8:00 a.m.**

Lessons & Carols January 2

A casualty of the pandemic last year, this season we welcome the return of the annual Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols, a prime example of "treasure to be shared" from the Anglican tradition with the wider Catholic Church, envisaged by Pope Benedict XVI. Through Scripture readings, congregational carols, and choral music, this most beloved of



Christmas services (begun at King's College, Cambridge, England in 1918, and still sung there by the world-famous choir every year) traces salvation history from the Fall to the Incarnation. Offered here at the Parish at **4:00 p.m.** on Epiphany Sunday, note the unusually

early date: **January 2**. 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 that presents the Gospel story, followed by warm parish fellowship.

2022 Parish Calendars

Handsome 2022 Ordinatee liturgical calendars with our Parish contact information and updated weekly schedule are again available at the church for \$5. These calendars are an excellent tool for keeping track of the



Church's seasons and saints' days, as well as sharing our Parish worship and ministry information with friends and family; and, they make great stocking stuffers as we approach the Christmas season. A supply of calendars will soon be at the back of the church. Pick yours up while supplies last!

Discipleship

Advent Adult Education

As with every season, a Christian Education series for adults is being offered after the 10:00 a.m. Mass on the four Sundays of Advent: **November 28, and December 5, 12, & 19**. Our topic will be "**Historical Sources for Our Knowledge of Jesus of Nazareth,**" using a DVD series by the Australian Anglican pastor (and PhD in Ancient History) Dr. John Dickson. In



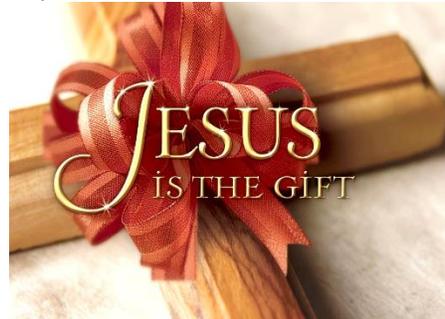
addition to the strong evidence of the four canonical Gospels, we'll also be examining extra-Biblical references to Jesus in ancient Greco-Roman and Jewish sources, archeology, oral tradition, and other topics. Online readers can view a trailer [here](#).

In order to prevent the day from becoming too long, this year we will experiment with

teaching the series *during* our light potluck lunch, rather than completing lunch and then starting the program. Please bring a simple dish to share, and join us for this informative series!

Christmas Appeal

Enclosed with this newsletter (or arriving separately by U.S. Mail, if you receive the newsletter by email) is the Parish's annual Christmas Appeal. In recent years we have promoted numerous projects around the campus toward which your end-of-year giving might be directed, but this year we have narrowed our focus to only two.



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 a bit, so we find ourselves holding a number of unpaid bills, without the funds in the bank to cover them. Your end-of-year Christmas gift to the Parish will help us pay our bills and finish the year in the black.

Maria Kaupas Academy has grown substantially, warranting the hiring of our first-ever full-time School Administrator, Dr. Carmina Chapp (the Parish's first full-time employee, in fact, since Paul Campbell came to us over 13 years ago). 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. Thus, we are projecting a substantial deficit. Your gift will help enable children of modest financial circumstances to continue growing in knowledge and faith here at Maria Kaupas Academy.

Thank you for so generously aiding our Parish and School in meeting these perennial end-of-year challenges!

Fellowship

Parish New Years Eve Party

Following **Solemn Vigil Mass** for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (**5:30 p.m. on Friday, December 31**), all members and friends desiring a more temperate and family-friendly New Years Eve gathering than may be



available elsewhere are welcome to the Parish Hall for potluck supper, fellowship, games, and a movie on the big screen (on a sacred theme, unlike our monthly Neighbor Nights). 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. 2

The Parish's annual Three Kings Celebration Supper will be held on **Sunday evening, January 2 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 expres-

sion 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 18 and January 15 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.

Christmas Cookie Sale

The Parish will again offer a **Christmas Cookie and Bake Sale on Sunday, December 19**, providing customers with a convenient and inexpensive means to stock up for holiday entertaining. Order forms have been sent to



local households by email, and have also been distributed at the Parish. Please take advantage of the delectable treats available, while supporting the Parish to boot!

Christmas Caroling Dec. 26

The Parish’s annual Christmas Caroling outing to **Scranton Manor Assisted Living** will take place at **1:00 p.m.** on the Sunday after Christmas: **Sunday, December 26**. All mem-



bers and friends are welcome – **not just choir members!** Come lend your voice to our Lord’s praise as we engage in this Corporal Work of Mercy, bringing Christmas cheer to the aged and lonely. **Given the fragile health of those to whom we will be singing, please wear a mask.**

March for Life Jan. 21

The annual March for Life will take place in Washington, D.C. on **Friday, January 21, 2022**. The Parish typically sends a large contingent to this important witness, and we hope

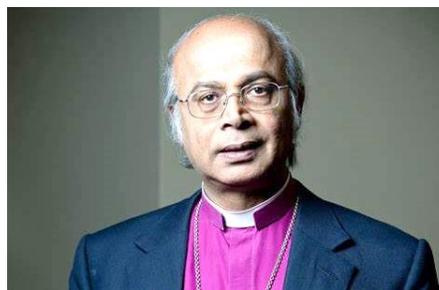


this year will be no exception. Please stay tuned to our weekly announcements for details regarding transportation and accommodations. Ordinariate Mass will be offered at 9:00 a.m. that day at St. Luke’s, St. Ignatius Church, Fort Washington, MD.

Evangelization

Another Anglican Bishop Becomes Catholic in England

In our last newsletter we brought you the news that the Rt. Rev. Jonathan Goodall, the Anglican bishop of Ebbsfleet, was stepping down to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. Almost immediately after publication, news broke that Dr. Michael Nazir-Ali, retired Bishop of Rochester (which was St. John Fisher’s see, back when it was Catholic) – once a top candidate to be Archbishop of Canterbury – would become Catholic via the Ordinariate and be ordained a Catholic Priest. *The Catholic Herald* [reports](#), “A high-profile Anglican bishop has joined the Catholic Church in what has been described as ‘one of the most politically significant conversions for a very long time.’ The reception of Michael Nazir-Ali, the former Anglican Bishop of Rochester, represents the third English episcopal move to Rome this year and the fourth in the last two years. Bishop Nazir Ali was received into the Catholic faith on September 29, the feast of St Michael and All Angels by Monsignor Keith Newton, the former Anglican who now leads the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of



Walsingham. He will serve in the Ordinariate, a Catholic organisation set up by Pope Benedict XVI a decade ago for the corporate reception of Anglicans, after he is ordained deacon at Oscott College on October 28 by the Most Rev. Bernard Longley, the Archbishop of Birmingham, and then as priest by Cardinal Vincent Nichols in Westminster Cathedral on October 30. It is likely that he will be named ‘Monsignor’ by Pope Francis in keeping with titles accorded previously to Anglican bishops who have transferred to Rome. He said: ‘I believe that the Anglican desire to adhere to apostolic, patristic and conciliar teaching can now best be maintained in the Ordinariate.’”

Writing in *Christian Today*, Gavin Ashenden (the Queen’s Anglican chaplain, who be-

came Catholic last year), [reflects](#), “Previous high-profile Episcopal conversions were mainly of Anglo-Catholics. It was almost expected of them. But Nazir-Ali is different. The route by which he came to prominence was evangelical. And of course evangelicalism is usually uncompromisingly hostile to Catholicism. First, [this] is an indication that Nazir-Ali has, like others who have converted recently to the Catholic Church, judged that the schism in the Church rooted in the Reformation has run out of steam. Secondly, in Nazir-Ali’s judgement, Anglicanism has been so compromised by the forces of progressive secularism that it cannot now be rescued. The implications of this will shake Anglicans throughout the worldwide Communion.” For digital readers, here’s a roundup of additional items about this extraordinary move:

- [The Portal Magazine podcast interview](#)
- [The National Catholic Register](#)
- [Video: Ordination to the Priesthood](#)
- [Catholic News Agency](#)
- [Anglicanorum Coetibus Society blog](#)

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