

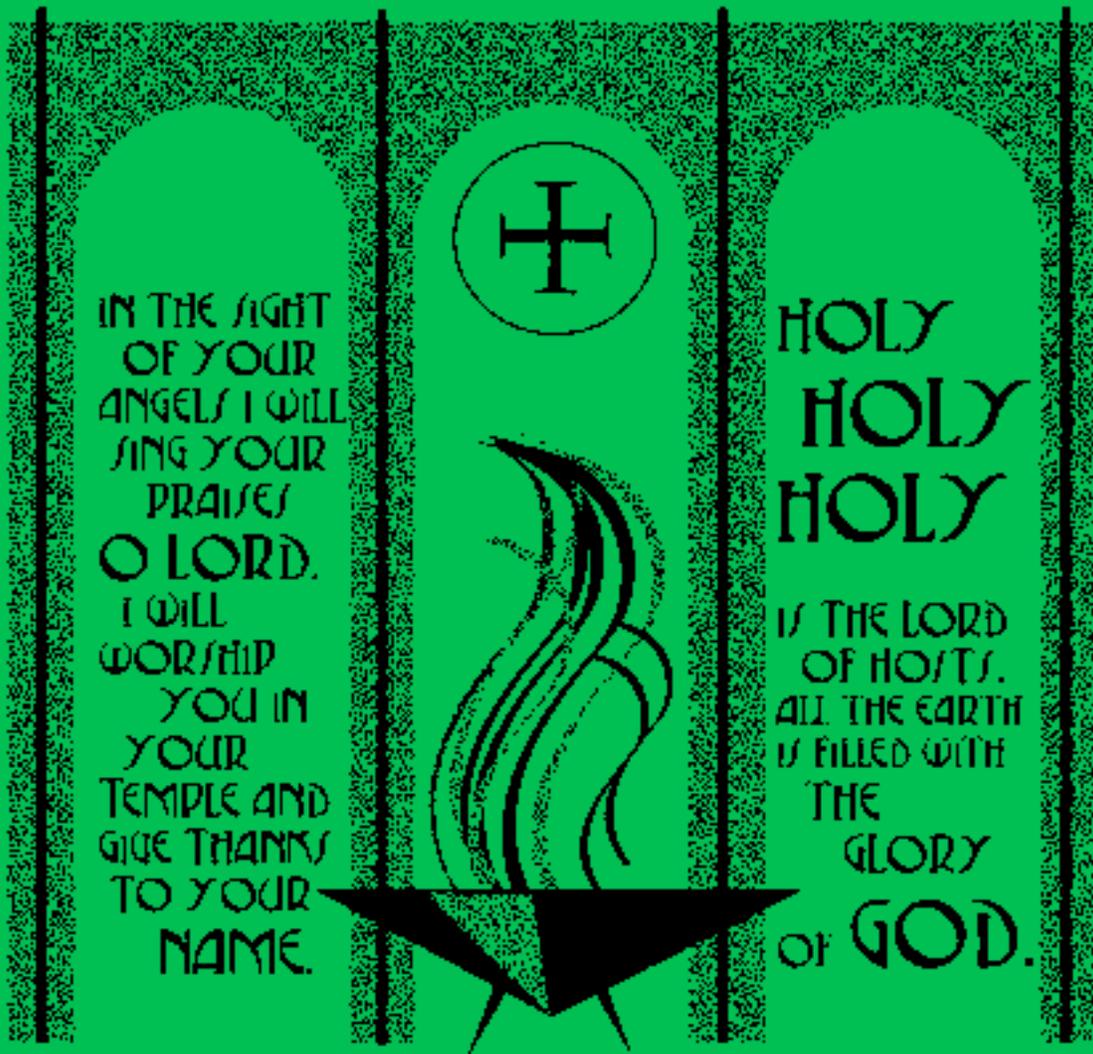
ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH



CONVENT STATION, NEW JERSEY · 973-267-5330 · WWW.STMNJ.ORG

FEBRUARY 26, 2017

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



© Bishop G. Michael, LMS

Mail: P.O. Box 286
Convent Station, NJ 07961

GPS: 4 Convent Rd.
Morristown, NJ 07960

973-267-5330

Weekly Eucharists

Saturday 5 pm
Sunday, 9 am, 11 am, 7 pm
Monday – Saturday: 8:15 am

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30 pm or by appt.

Holy Days

8:15 am, 12:10 pm, 7 pm

Parish Office Hours
Mon. - Wed, 9:30–2 pm

*Other times & days,
call to see if office
is open.*

www.stmnj.org

What's Happening?

Sunday
Religious Ed
Pound A Week



Wednesday
Ash Wednesday Masses 8:15, 12:10, 7 pm

Friday
Stations of the Cross, 7 pm

Next Sunday
Religious Ed.

Every Sunday
Pound A Week

Stewardship of Treasure

Last Week's Collection: \$ 5952
Please sign up for electronic giving at stthommre.
weshareonline.org



Increased Offering Program

As a family of faith, last weekend many of us made our commitment to our parish, thank you. For those unable to participate, you should have received our invitation to make your commitment to our family of faith, please return this Commitment Card via mail or at Mass next weekend. We also encourage you to use our online giving and visit our website to see how you can use your credit card or bank account to continue to support our parish family.

Partners in Faith Rebate

We received a check from the Diocese this week for the amount of \$30,018.28. As a reminder, in that diocesan capital campaign we were to receive 25% of all donations that were unrestricted and 60% of unrestricted donations over the goal of \$310,000. Since 2013, we have received a total of \$107,025.65. As we promised we have set this money aside for our future parish hall. Together with our existing savings, this year's Gala and bequest, we are getting closer to our dream.

This Week's Question

For Adults:

What things do you worry about most frequently?
How do you deal with your worry?

For Children:

What can help you worry less about something that might happen?



WELCOME

To all our visitors this weekend

As a faith community, we keep in mind who have asked us to pray for them, that they may experience the healing power of our gracious God.

Special requests for prayers at liturgy and donations made in honor of loved ones. These intentions and names of our sick are noted on the Gifts Table in the Remembrance Book and on the Weekly Sheet.



Ministry to the Homebound

If you know a homebound person who would like communion and/or on a regular basis, if you are ministering in that way OR if you can visit and/or bring communion to a homebound person, please fill out the form on the info rack in the vestibule.

Ashes

“You’ve got dirt on your forehead.”

We’re likely to hear those words from thoughtful friends who display their intimate concern as well as their religious absentmindedness when we go out in public after Mass on Ash Wednesday.

The distribution of ashes replaces the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass. Instead of merely “calling to mind our sins,” we receive a very public reminder of our sinfulness.

“Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel,” we hear. Or, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return.”

But it wasn’t always that way. In the early church, only public sinners wore ashes. These sinners convened regularly to prepare for their reconciliation at a parish service and they formed - well, what we now call “support groups.” As penitents, they used to wear ashes on their heads or in their clothes. Symbols of human mortality, ashes represented their complete dependence on the mercy of God. In the middle ages, the support groups dwindled but sinners remained strong in numbers. So Pope Urban II ordered up the first Ash Wednesday in 1091. Ashes were for everybody, and we’ve been rubbing dirt on our foreheads ever since.

Dirt is something we’re constantly washing off children and ourselves. Only in church do we deliberately put dirt on the most public part of our bodies, our foreheads.

Ashes are what’s left in the now-cold fireplace. Ashes heat the barbecue. Ashes are all that remains of the home after the tragic fire. Ashes enrich the compost heap. Ashes of the faithful departed fill commemorative urns. Ashes represent destruction, refuse and waste, but they hint at new life.

Long before recycling became popular, the church got into the act on Ash Wednesday. Ever wonder what happens to those palm branches left over from last Holy Week? They’ve been burned into ash, stuffed into bags and now await the chance to dirty your forehead on Ash Wednesday this year. The symbol of Christ’s glory has become the symbol of our sin.

On Ash Wednesday, you’re not just another dirty face. No, you’ve tossed yourself into the recycling bin of Lent, ready for renewal this Easter.

Paul Turner

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

First Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Genesis 2:3-7

The account of the sin of Adam and Eve is a classic example of how everyone sins. The author recognized that there is a standard pattern: We toy with temptation ... we fall ... then we make excuses.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Paul's letter to the Romans is his most detailed and important theological work. His purpose in this passage is not to teach about original sin, but to contrast Adam and Christ. From Adam we inherited a strong pull toward sin. From Christ (the "new Adam") we received a gift that is incomparably stronger: Divine grace.



Parish on a Journey

**GET
READY**

**ST. PATRICK DAY
PARTY
SATURDAY, MARCH 18
6:30 - 10:30 PM**

**VFW HALL
MORRIS PLAINS**

**\$30
PER
PERSON**

RUN & TELL EVERYONE

*IF YOU GIVE US THEIR EMAILS,
WE'LL SEND THEM EVITES!*

God's Grace is Young Enough

For the Young and Young At Heart

Readings for this Sunday
Isaiah 49:14-15; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, 11; Luke 5:1-11

Seek first God

Suggested Reflection Questions

- This section of Isaiah deals with a time when the Jewish people were in exile in Babylon and were complaining that God had forgotten them. God responds to this, and it is one of the times when we hear God speak as a mother. ("Zion" often refers to Jerusalem, or the Jewish people.)
- Paul continues to address a major problem in the Corinthian Church. Personality cults had developed and people were attaching themselves to various preachers – some to Paul, some to Peter, some to Apollos. Paul responds that all ministers of the Gospel work on God's behalf – not their own.
- Telling humans not to worry about tomorrow is like telling them not to be the center of their own lives. And that is exactly the point of this gospel! The two masters are God or ourselves. We are the mammon. If we choose ourselves, we worry. If we choose God, we will feed on God's generosity, be clothed in God's gift of Life, and be made rich in faith – for all eternity.

Who, Where Why, How ...

What is the connection between Carnevale or Mardi Gras & Lent?

Every year, Christians highlight Lent as a time of self-examination, reformation of one's life, and continued development of a deeper spiritual life. Prayer, fasting and alms-giving become the focus of Lenten activity and ritual. Each of these practices is aimed at personal discipline as well as concern for the other, especially the poor or alienated.

Relying on God's providence, no matter how difficult life becomes, is crucial to Lenten spirituality. Fasting was initially more strict, permitting only one simple meal a day. Meat, fish or other delicacies were not allowed in the house.

To prepare for this in an age of no refrigeration, people gathered to consume whatever was not allowed during Lent. Parties originally referred to were Carnivale, "goodbye to meat," or Mardi Gras, "Fat Tuesday," as eating and celebrating ended on the day before Ash Wednesday. Today we focus more on moderation in all things, as well as a strong concern for the poor. What are you doing for the poor this Lent?

Welcome to St. Thomas More Parish

We are glad you decided to celebrate with our Parish Family. If you have recently moved into the parish and would like to register as a parishioner, please take a parish membership form at the entrances of the church or email and we will send you a form. Hopefully we can set up an appointment to meet one another. Or you may call the parish office at 973-267-5330.

SOME MINISTRIES and ORGANIZATIONS

Altar Servers	Bereavement Ministry
Bulletin	Collection Counters
Finance Council	Home/Sick Visits
Lectors/Ministers of Communion	Youth Ministry
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Ushers/Greeters
Women's Guild	Pastoral Council



Whether you are new or a veteran, consider joining or helping in the various areas of parish life. Call the office. Interested in something you don't see, don't be shy, talk to Fr. Joe.

Visit of Eucharist at Home. Communion may be brought to the home of any person permanently or temporarily homebound. For the confined, elderly and/or shut-in at home or in the hospital, our parish ministers make calls to homes and hospitals. Fill out the form below..

Moving In or Out? If you are relocating either in or out of the parish area please take a moment to help keep our records current. Contact the parish office or drop a note into the collection basket.

Pound A Week. Show how much we care! Bring a pound of goods when you come to church. Pasta, tuna, powdered milk or soup. Peanut butter or jelly or crackers. Even a pound of diapers. While shopping add a pound!

The following person(s) is presently receiving a visit and/or communion

The following person(s) would like a regular visit and/or communion.

Name: _____

You may call me with specifics (address, etc.): _____

Tel. or email: _____



Daily scripture reflections are on our website under "Faith Formation" and in the vestibule.

Birthdays in March

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Bob Mangino | |
| 2 | Margaret Gilhooley | |
| 4 | Matthew Gamerdinger | |
| 10 | Sylvia Abbodanzo | |
| 10 | Rocky Fornaro | |
| 11 | Jean McLaughlin | |
| 11 | Audrey Politowicz | 2! |
| 12 | Danielle Pearson | |
| 13 | Margaret Drozd | |
| 15 | Jessica Chang | |
| 16 | James Kelly | |
| 17 | Marlene Ferrence | |
| 17 | Frank Miles | |
| 18 | Nidhi Benoy | |
| 18 | Robert Simoldoni | |
| 19 | Kristin Pakonis | |
| 19 | Ashley Windt | 27 |
| 21 | Veronica An | 27 |
| 23 | Rob Landwehrle | 28 |
| 25 | Mary Finlay | 30 |
| 26 | Marianna Zegel | 31 |
| | | Patricia Bendzin |
| | | Dave De Nooyer |
| | | Thuy Politowicz |
| | | Barbara Brady |
| | | Bill Connolly |



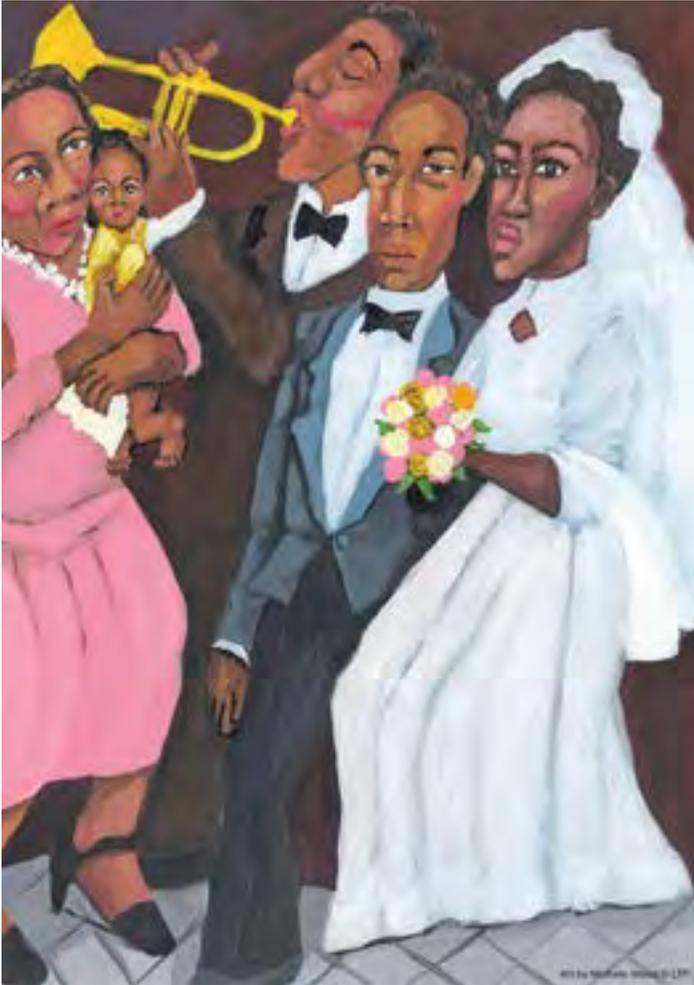
Wish these Friends a "Happy Birthday!"



ONLINE GIVING

Stewardship is easier than ever with our online giving system, WeShare. Visit <stthommore.weshareonline.org> for one-time or ongoing giving.

ASH WEDNESDAY



Unbounded Mercy

Gracious and merciful God,
we are assembled before you,
returning to you with humble hearts
as we enter this sacred season of Lent.
Accept our repentant spirits;
spare us with your unbounded mercy;
Bless our offerings,
those of joy and those of sorrow;
for we know your blessings in our lives
and approach you with open hearts.
May the spirit of the People of God
proclaim a community of joyful praise,
assembled wisdom,
and prayerful proclamation
as we gather in your name,
and commend ourselves to you.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Lenten Dietary Expectations

Catholics in good health, 18-59 are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No more than one main meal is eaten, with two partial meals during the day. Catholics 14 and older are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and on all other Fridays of Lent. Abstinence does not include condiments made of animal fat, meat juices and liquid foods made from meat. Chicken broth, soups cooked or flavored with meat, meat gravies or sauces, as well as seasonings or condiments made from animal fat are not forbidden. Even bacon drippings which contain little bits of meat may be poured over lettuce as seasoning.

The obligation to observe, as a whole or “substantially,” the days of penance is important. However, no one should be scrupulous in this regard; failure to observe individual days of penance such as a Friday is not considered serious.

Neglecting the season is very different than eating meat on one particular Friday of Lent.



FEAST before the FAST

MARDI GRAS

Tuesday Night
7 PM

Rectory Basement

Put on your party clothes and
bring some eats to share.

Drinks will be provided.

If you can help decorate on Tues. just
before the event, call the parish office

Lent Begins This Week

Lent Begins this Week

Ash Wednesday Eucharist: 8:15 am, 12:10 pm, 7 pm
Stations of the Cross: Fridays of Lent, 7 pm
Individual Confessions: Mondays of Lent, 7 pm
Lenten Penance Service: Monday, March 27, 7 pm
Parish Retreat: Week of March 27, 7 pm

What should I do ?

During Lent we should practice the three disciplines of prayer, fasting and charity. These practices offer us all opportunities to grow in faith and in love for God.

Six Minutes a Day For Lent

This small black booklet of prayers and reflections for the Lenten Season, based on the writings of the late Bishop Untener of Saginaw, MI has become a popular staple throughout the country. Bishop Untener's goal was to help people find six minutes of quiet time each day during Lent and work through the booklet one day at a time.

The Little Purple Books are available for children.

For those who wish to do so, we are inviting people to make a donation of \$1 for the hungry. These donations can be placed in the poorbox, which is now the candle safe at St. Thomas More Statue in the vestibule. There are LARGE PRINT copies but they cost \$7 each.

Parish Retreat: Spirituality of Imperfection

This parish retreat held on the week of March 27 will be led by Fr. Lou Bihl. Fr. Lou is a retired priest of our diocese who began his ministry in Paterson. As a young priest and CYO Director he founded Fr. English Community Center for he realized that hungry kids can't eat basketballs. He also established Youth Haven, the first runaway house for teens in New Jersey. His last ministry in the diocese before retirement was still in Paterson as chaplain at Straight & Narrow, ministering to adults living with addictions. Fr. Lou is a powerful preacher and witness who has been at St. Thomas More with Straight & Narrow Gospel Choir a number of times.

Heifer International

This organization's mission is to work to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth by giving families a hand-up, not just a hand-out, and empower them to turn lives of hunger into self-reliance and hope with gifts of livestock and training. Families agree to give one of its animal's offspring to another family in need. True Passing on the Gift.

We will begin this annual project in the middle of Lent and continue throughout Easter season. You can also make donations in church or on **WeShare**

Hungering for the Journey

Join nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the U.S.—in a Lenten journey with **Rice Bowl**. Pick up your family's rice bowl in the vestibule, and don't forget to download the CRS Rice Bowl app! Remember, what you give up for Lent changes lives. Bowls are collected on Holy Thursday..

ALPHA

Alpha program believes that everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view; wherever they are in the world.

Alpha offers the opportunity to do just that – in an informal, friendly and open environment. No one can force anyone to believe anything, we've found over the years that if we're hospitable and just let guests be themselves, lives will be transformed. Alpha now runs in every part of the global church, including the Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church and all mainline Protestant denominations Alpha is...

Real. Alpha presents the reality of who Jesus is. Those that run Alpha are open and authentic, and this allows guests to be real themselves.

Relational. Alpha is based on real friendships that are built over a few weeks, and often last for years afterwards.

Reliant. We rely on the Holy Spirit for it is only God who changes people's lives – we just introduce him.

Wednesday of Lent, beginning with supper.

Take brochures and flyers to put around town. Great program for young adults. *We need people to set up each week and heat the precooked food.*

MARDI GRAS PRAYER

God of all creation, on this day of celebration
we ask your blessing
on our food, our wine, an
Remind us again that we live by faith
and that our greatest power is in loving one another,
friend and stranger.
Show us again your justice,
where the lowly are lifted high,
the beggar is clothed in jewels, the hungry are filled
and the small and weak sit in the place of honor.
Join us at our feast on this last day of carnival.
Laugh and dance with us for we celebrate life.
Be our compassion now
and in the coming days of Lent.
Nourish and strengthen our bodies and spirits
as we walk together on this pilgrimage of prayer.
May this celebration show us a glimpse
of the joy of Easter and the promise of resurrection,
when we will again sing Alleluia!

