

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH



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

APRIL 2, 2017

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



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

Wednesday
Alpha, 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: \$ 7476

Please sign up for electronic giving at stthommore.weshareonline.org

Increased Offering Program

As a family of faith we have made significant progress. We appreciate your continued generosity in support of our parish. Thank you for all those that have responded to our program. If you have not responded yet, it's not too late, please turn in your commitment card as we will be sending out a summary shortly. And as our family continues to grow please be sure to use our online resources. Our website and Online Giving are here to serve you..

Concert for Pediatric Cancer

Various music groups of Drew University are running a benefit concert on April 1 at Drew's Concert Hall. Tickets: www.f4mmc.org/benefitconcert Proceeds benefit Goryeb Children's Hospital at Morristown Medical Center.



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.

Living the Eucharist

This is a weekly insert in the bulletin during Lent. You can receive daily Lenten devotionals by downloading *Living the Eucharist Mobile App* and begin praying *From Exodus to Easter: My Daily Journey Through Lent*. Get it on Google Play or Apples AppStore.

Rice Bowl



We encounter resilience in Dita of Ethiopia. She sees how her newfound entrepreneurial skills are providing three meals a day for her children— even during a devastating drought. What skills have you discovered this Lent that can be put to good use in building God's kingdom? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

Reflections on the Stations of the Cross

Reflections written by Blessed Miriam Teresa. \$1.00 per copy. Contact Sister Rita O'Farrell, 973-290-5465, rofarrell@scnj.org

Holy Hour for Peace

The Sisters of Charity invite all to a monthly Holy Hour of Quiet Prayer at their Chapel, 6:30 – 7:30 pm, the third Tuesday of every month beginning March 21. Info: Sr. Maryanne Tracey, mtracey@scnj.org.

I want to pray more, but it's hard to concentrate. What can I do?



Ever wonder how you can be riveted by a cheap novel or mindless TV show for hours, but spend no more than a few minutes in prayer before your mind wanders?

Believe it or not, distractions can be useful in enriching prayer life. Our minds wander to those things that are really important to us. We might as well admit to them and make them a part of our prayer.

For example, if your mind wanders while praying, bring it back to the point of your prayer ... "Lord, thank you for the beautiful gift of my home and its comfort. Of course, I better clean out the gutters or the roof will leak all over the furniture. That would be bad, even if the furniture isn't as nice as my neighbor's. They have so much money. But forgive me Lord for feeling envy, and help me to be grateful for what I have. Also help me to show my neighbors the love of Christ, the only possession worth having." And so on.

The idea is to acknowledge the distraction and ask God's help in overcoming its source. Then use it as a tool to get back on track.

Think of prayer as a conversation between two people who love each other. So there is no one right way to pray. As in any loving relationship, it is most rewarding when you talk to your loved one as often as possible. Pope John Paul II said, "Pray any way you like, so long as you do pray." God is always ready to listen.

Remember, prayer is not a rigid routine we have to get right. It's a conversation with someone we love who loves us back.

This Week's Question

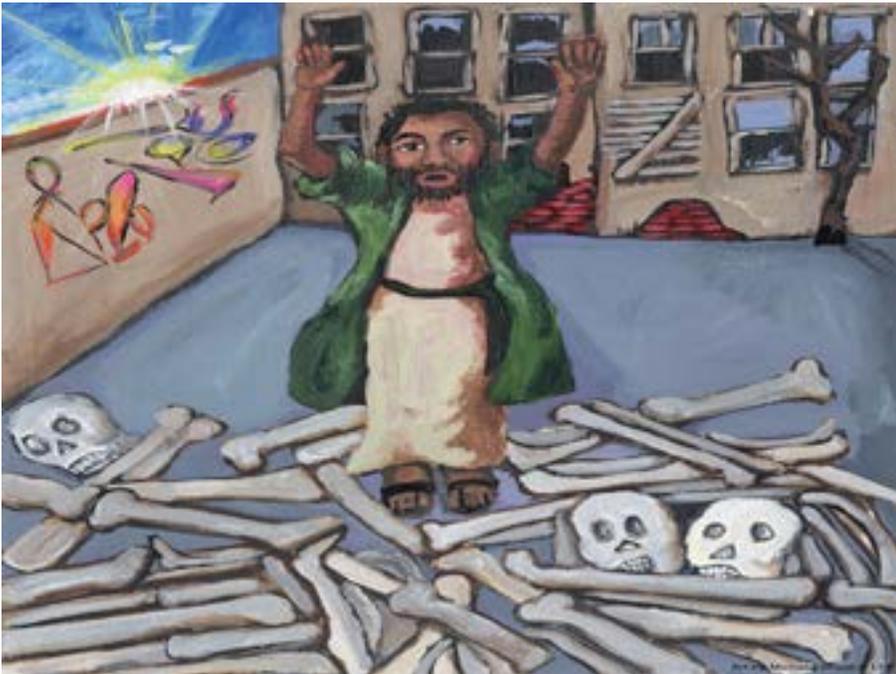
For Adults:

Christ calls us from death to new life. To what new life are you being called during this Lent?

For Children:

How does Jesus help you do what is good and avoid what is not?

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Release Us by Your Spirit

God of all life,
 who raised Lazarus from the dead,
 and released the poor from their suffering;
 you who lead us in the land of the living:
 bless us and give us your Spirit,
 your Spirit of generosity and holiness,
 of life and of creative energy.
 Lift us from our graves of sinfulness
 and raise us from our dry and wasteful ways.
 May our sins be left behind
 and our life in your Spirit bring us joy.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever.
 Amen.



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



- 1 Louise Addonizio
- 4 Desmond Lloyd
- 7 Elizabeth Imagna
- 11 Frank Sweeney
- 14 Lois Doyle
- 16 Marilyn Kiernan
- 18 Mike Lloyd
- 20 Dan Burce
- 22 Jeanne Bass
- 24 Suzanne Kedersha
- 24 Kimberly Smith
- 28 Eric Chang
- 29 Colin Tiwar



- 8 Lisa & Rocco Nisivoccia 23
- 12 Terry & Rocky Fornaro 42



ONLINE GIVING

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

THE OLD YOU
IS DEAD -- YOU ARE
A NEW CREATION
IN CHRIST!



ISGIBER WEBB!
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...SO TELL
MY MOM
WHATEVER
I DID
YESTERDAY,
IT WASN'T
ME.



PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

Passion Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Isaiah 50.4-7

Chapters 40-55 of the Book of Isaiah contain the message of a prophet who spoke to God's people during their exile in Babylon. Several times the prophet speaks about a servant who will one day deliver God's people. Because the servant is portrayed as suffering, Christians have traditionally identified Jesus with this suffering servant.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

In the years following Christ's death and resurrection, Christians began to develop the prayers and hymns that would become part of their rituals. In today's passage from the letter to the Philippians, Paul appears to be quoting an early Christian hymn celebrating the dying and rising of Christ.

Parish on a Journey

HOLY WEEK PALM SUNDAY

(REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE)

CHRISM MASS

MONDAY, 7 PM, ST. PHILIP CHURCH

HOLY THURSDAY

MORNING PRAYER, 10 AM

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, 7 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

MORNING PRAYER, 10 AM

PASSION OF THE LORD, 3 PM

HOLY SATURDAY

MORNING PRAYER, 10 AM

FOLLOWED BY CHURCH SETUP

EASTER VIGIL, 7:30 PM

EASTER SUNDAY

9 & 11 AM (NO 7 PM MASS)

God's Grace is Young Enough

For the Young and Young At Heart

Readings for this Sunday

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 4:5-42

Thirsting for God

Suggested Reflection Questions

- God asks Ezakiel a startling question: "Can these bones come to life?" These verses are a challenge to believe that God will deliver them from death of exile. Read in the context of Christian faith, one could understand these verses as a reference to personal, individual resurrection beyond bodily death.
- Those who sin prefer darkness. Here, Paul goes further and suggests that we not only live in the light of Christ but also become light for others. If we produce "goodness and righteousness and truth," then we light the way for others and make their lives brighter. That's a good goal for each of us this Lent.
- The great paradox of the story of the raising of Lazarus that as Jesus gives life to Lazarus, the authorities begin to plan his death (vv 49-53). Jesus is condemned to death for being a life-giver. How strange and evil! We also notice again the struggle between light and darkness, belief and unbelief. As a result, many come to believe in Jesus, but others recede into the darkness of unbelief.

Becoming Bread for Others

“What the early Christians thus did at the altar of God, in the central act of Christian worship, they also lived out in their daily lives. They understood fully that the common action of worship was to be the inspiration of all of their actions.



They knew well that their common giving of themselves to God and to the brethren of Christ was in fact a solemn promise made to God that they would live their lives in this same love of God and of God's children, their brethren in Christ, throughout all the day. Unless they did that, their action before God's altar would be at best lip-service, a lie before God" (*Orate Fratres*, Vol. XIV, February 1940, p. 156).

Thus wrote Dom Virgil Michel, OSB, one of the pioneers of the Liturgical Movement in the United States. His reflections on the liturgy—its origins and present meaning—emphasized the Mystical Body of Christ, which is a way to define and understand the Church. The unity of the Mystical Body, he believed, calls all Catholics to the practice of justice. The poor and the oppressed are not in some different category of persons, but are part of that same Body of Christ that the privileged and prosperous share. The Mystical Body of Christ, experienced in the liturgy, made justice and respect for the human person imperative for the faithful. Engagement with the liturgy, he taught, is the necessary path to transformation, leading to a more just and peaceful society.

Servant of God Dorothy Day was one of the noteworthy people persuaded by Virgil Michel's vision. Co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, Day had long been influenced by Benedictine spirituality, which prized prayer and work and unified them in the practices of daily life. Under the influence of Virgil Michel, she grasped the role of liturgy in building a just society. The Catholic

Worker movement, founded in 1933, with its coffee lines, hospitality houses, and farm cooperatives, may seem a surprising venue for liturgical piety, yet a strong alliance formed there. Catholic Worker houses in St. Louis, Detroit, New York, and more, incorporated Scripture, the Divine Office, and Eucharist into their daily routine.

THE CHURCH'S SOCIAL MISSION AND YOU

Beginning in the nineteenth century, with Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *On Capital and Labor*, popes and bishops have given voice to the teaching of the Church on social mission in the modern world. The resulting body of teaching, called Catholic social teaching, has brought the light of the Gospel into focus on the harsh and continuing problems of modern life. Industrialization, urbanization, changes in the means of production and the distribution of this world's goods, as well as the horrors of modern warfare, have required a thoughtful and disciplined response.

Catholic social teaching makes it clear that personal charity alone is not sufficient to the task we must embrace to build God's Kingdom as followers of Christ. The members of Christ's Body must also be committed to the transformation of unjust structures of society, so that the common good is fostered in all realms of life. All people share in the responsibility for helping their neighbor attain the necessities of life. As Catholics, we are also responsible for arranging our common life so that it corresponds, as much as possible, to Christ's teachings of mercy and love.

It follows, therefore, that believers must work together to promote the common good. Widespread problems require the faith-filled response of individuals, but they also require organized, communal efforts. Rarely can we find the strength to tackle social problems alone—be they in our neighborhood, workplace, family, or wider community. Yet, as a community, we can truly become bread for others.

As individuals search their consciences, and pay attention to the needs around them, they are also called to band together to address these needs. At times, we may push aside the issues of the day, because they seem complicated and overwhelming. What gives us courage, however, is Eucharist.

EUCHARIST AND THE SOCIAL MISSION OF THE CHURCH

What we find in the Eucharist is the strength of connection—through our faith and through the life of Christ, given to us in the sacrament. The Eucharist fortifies us for the work of bringing gospel values to the world in which we live. Parish communities, dioceses, agencies, and movements can be the vehicle for working together to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, build respect for all human life, and promote the common good.

The Eucharist gives us a rich witness, through sign and symbol, of what it means to be the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, empowered for mission. As we gather at one table, eat of one bread, and drink from a common cup, our unity—our oneness in Christ—is powerfully symbolized. As we exchange the sign of peace, we are renewed in solidarity, which empowers us to be bridge-builders and healers. As we are sent forth from the celebration, we are reminded that Christ established the Church with a mission to bring about God's Kingdom. It is a mission that we must undertake together—all of us—day by day, as the Spirit of God works among us and within us to bring about a civilization of love.

REFLECT

Where do I hear a specific call to bring gospel values to my world? How am I responding to that call? Do I find myself making excuses, or putting off to tomorrow the actions I may be called to take today? Or do I embrace my part of the Church's social mission eagerly and readily?

ACT

Choose one action that will contribute to the Church's social mission, and do it this coming week. Whether it is volunteering an hour of service, sharing material possessions, or giving your know-how and skills to make the world a better place, do it in a spirit of gratitude and joy—the spirit of Eucharist.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, you taught us to seek your face in the lowest and the least among us. Help us to see the needs of our brothers and sisters with the same love and passion with which you see them. Give us strength together, through the Eucharist, to become peace-makers and bridge-builders, to be your hands and your heart in our world.

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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