

# St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

Convent Station, NJ

973-267-5330 • [www.stmnj.org](http://www.stmnj.org)

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



*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 Table in the Remembrance Book and on the Weekly Sheet.*

Marked with the  
SIGN of REPENTANCE



We enter  
the HOLY  
SEASON  
of LENT

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## February 18, 2017 • First Sunday of Lent

### St. Patrick's Day Party

March 17 this! Still only \$30, young people still free! Same Great Food and Music! Same Place (VFW Hall, Mt. Tabor Rd.) So, don't miss this Great Party. Reservation envelopes in the vestibule, go to [stthommore.weshareonline.org](http://stthommore.weshareonline.org) or call the parish office.

### Care of our Common Home

Do you want to learn more about Pope Francis's Encyclical Laudato Si', and the Church's teaching on the environment and God's people? Come to our Lenten Series on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm.

### Women's Guild Presentation

The Women's Guild meeting is Feb. 27, 1 pm. Pizza for all. There will be a speaker from Mc Hugh & Marci attorneys seminar on Elder and disability law. All are welcome to attend.

*Meditate on the scriptures during the week. Take Five for Faith is located on the website. Pull down "Faith Formation" and find it at the bottom.*

Connect with us  
via  
**FLOCKNOTE**  
Text STMNJ to 84576  
or visit [flocknote.com/STMNJ](http://flocknote.com/STMNJ)

We ❤️ love having you  
as part of *our* flock

### Rice Bowl

Join our parish and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the country in a life changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. Rice Bowls are in the vestibule. During the 40 days of Lent, as companions on the journey, we will encounter some neighbors.

In Iraq, this week we encounter Majd and his family, people forced to flee violence, searching for stability. How are we called to welcome the stranger in our midst? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to safety or better opportunities? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more.

### Your Membership Data

Update birthdays, anniversaries, pictures, email addresses and other info on our database: <https://stmnj.bythebook.us/co/>. Enter your email address and last name. Receive a confirmation email in order to log on. If you don't see your info, call the office or email [info@stmnj.org](mailto:info@stmnj.org) to give us your name and email address. We will enter that address and send you a note back to try again. Your email address needs to match the one in the database to log in.



### PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Genesis 22: 1-18

Events in today's reading took place approximately 1800 years before Christ. In that pagan culture, child sacrifice was common. That's why Abraham believed God wanted him to sacrifice his only son Isaac. Later generations constantly looked back to this event as an example of Abraham's great faith.

Second Reading: Romans 8: 31-34

Today's reading is part of a hymn that celebrates God's love and which concludes the eighth chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans. In our first reading, we heard how God spared Abraham's only son; in this passage we will hear how, out of love for us, God did not spare his only son.

### This Week's Question

#### For Adults:

When or how could you step away from daily responsibilities to renew yourself, so you can do a better job of following Jesus?

#### For Children:

What good habit could you work on during Lent so you could grow closer to God?

## Evening with Sisters

Fri. Feb. 23, 7 - 8:30 pm at Morris Catholic H.S. (200 Morris Ave., Denville). Open to H.S. and college aged women. An evening of conversation, prayer, food and fun! To RSVP & info: Sr. Bernadette McCauley, sbernadette@scceast.org before 2/20.

## Thanks from Food Pantry

The Interfaith Food Pantry acknowledged our donation of \$65 and 665 pounds of food in the last three months. With much generous help they distributed 1,134,854 pounds of food assisting over 10,000 people across Morris County this year! This now includes healthy dairy, fresh meat, fruit and vegetables.

## Tradition!

Villa Walsh Academy will present "Fiddler on the Roof," Sat. March 24, 7 pm and Sun. Mar. 25, 3 pm Tickets \$12. Info: 973-538-3680 or [www.villawalsh.org](http://www.villawalsh.org).

## Laudato Sí? What is it?

It's Pope Francis's now famous encyclical on the environment and our charge to make the world sustainable. The Pope writes, "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience" This teaching is a great opportunity to reflect together on the gift of creation that God has given us. Our responsibility includes plant life, creatures and people. Tuesdays of Lent in the rectory, 7 pm.

**What's Happening?**  
**Sunday**  
Pound A Week  
**Monday**  
Confessions, 7 pm  
**Tuesday**  
Lenten Program, 7 pm  
**Friday**  
Stations of the Cross, 7 pm  
**Next Sunday**  
Religious Ed.  
**March 10**  
No 8:15 am Mass  
**March 18**  
Anointing Mass, 11 am  
**March 19**  
Parish Penance Service, 7 pm  
**Sign up Now**  
St. Patrick's Day Party, March 17  
**Stewardship**  
of Treasure  
Last week: \$ 4555  
Monthly: \$ 1607  
*Sign up Today*  
for electronic giving  
[stthommore.weshareonline.org](http://stthommore.weshareonline.org)



## Things to Do in Lent

**Spend Six Minutes a Day**  
*Black books for adults*

**Operation Rice Bowl**  
**Sacrament of Penance**

**Francis' letter on the Environment**

**Stations of the Cross**  
**Eucharist**

**Parish Media Library**  
**Prayer**

**Find 40 good things to do for others**

**"No act of virtue can be great not if it is followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great."**

**— St. John Chrysostom**

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**Morristown, NJ 07960**

973-267-5330

See us on Facebook

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**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

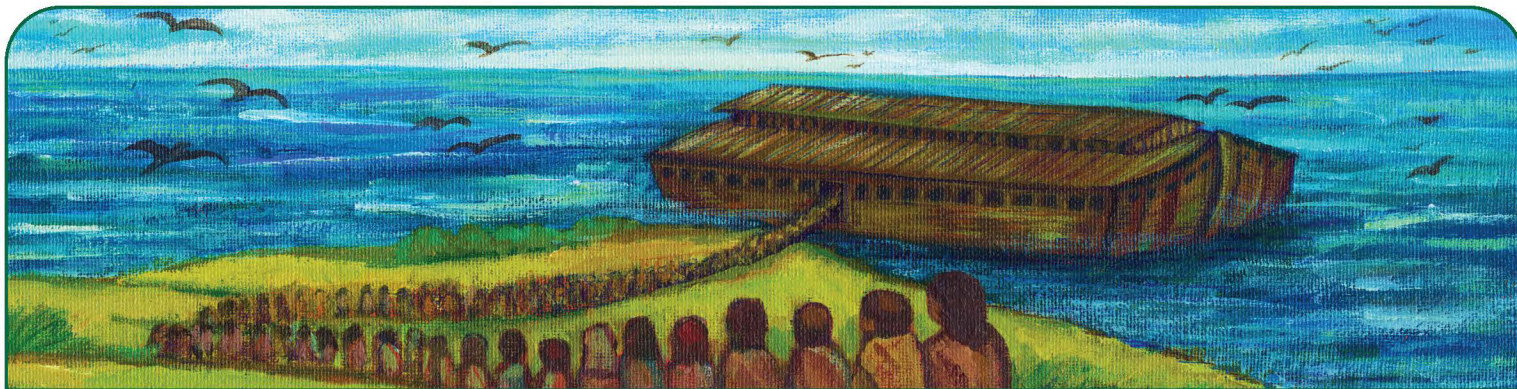
**Parish Office Hours**

Mon. - Wed, 9:30–2 pm

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

[www.stmnj.org](http://www.stmnj.org)





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, February 19

#### Your Words

Today's Responsorial Psalm reminds us that God's words are spirit and life. When the Psalm is read in relationship to the First Reading, we see that listening and following the precepts of the Lord will help us be holy just as God is holy. The ultimate Word that God spoke was Jesus, who showed us how to love and show mercy. How has God's Word given you spirit and life? Listen to or sing Bernadette Farrell's "Praise to You, O Christ Our Savior." Journal about what you hear. *Today's Readings: Leviticus 19:1–2, 11–18; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Matthew 25:31–46.*

### Tuesday, February 20

#### Rescue

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us not to babble in our prayer. Prayer is an intimate encounter or dialogue with God. It is a safe space to call upon the Lord in times of trouble and in times of joy. The Psalm reassures us that God rescues the just who call upon him and hears the cry of the poor. It can be difficult to enter into prayer sometimes and trust ourselves enough to share with God or to trust that God is listening. God is present and hears your prayers. Use the Lord's Prayer as a starting point for your conversation with God today. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 55:10–11; Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19; Matthew 6:7–15.*

### Wednesday, February 21

#### Repent

In prayer, have you ever asked God for a sign? Jonah called the people of Nineveh to follow God's law. He was a sign from God who called the people to repent. Jesus, the Word of God made flesh, calls all generations to conversion of heart and mind. Jesus heals and saves us from our sin. Consider celebrating the Sacrament of Penance in the coming days. *Today's Readings: Jonah 3:1–10; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 18–19; Luke 11:29–32.*

### Thursday, February 22

#### The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

Today's feast is about the office of the shepherd who leads his flock on the right path. In the Gospel, Peter confesses that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God; Jesus chooses Peter to shepherd the Church. In what ways have you confessed that Jesus is the Son of God? Spend some time reading First and Second Peter today. *Today's Readings: 1 Peter 5:1–4; Psalm 23:1–3a, 4, 5, 6; Matthew 16:13–19.*

### Friday, February 23

#### Turn Away

The process of turning away from sin includes reconciliation. The readings today illuminate this reality and call us to seek forgiveness from those we have wronged in the community. Consider the ways you might seek forgiveness from those whom you have harmed. Reconciliation frees us from sin and strengthens us to embrace a virtuous life. God is merciful and will shower you with abundant grace. Light a candle today and ask for the grace to turn away from sin. *Today's Readings: Ezekiel 18:21–28; Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–7a, 7bc–8; Matthew 5:20–26.*

### Saturday, February 24

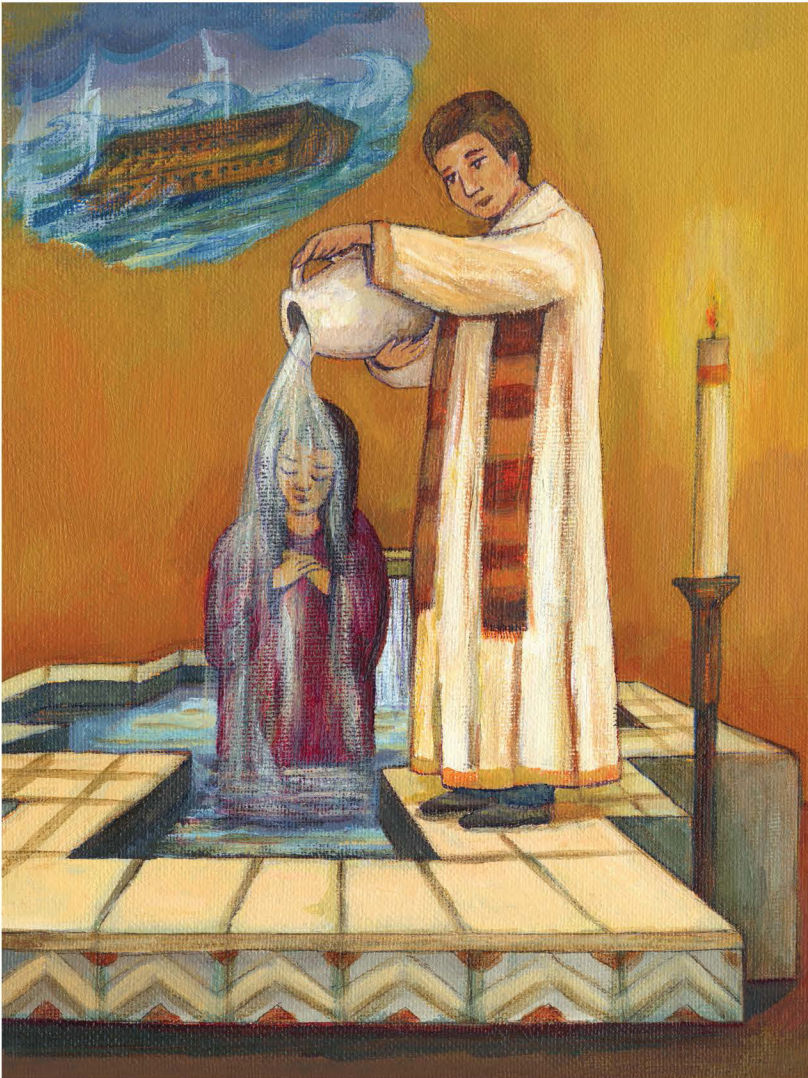
#### Path of Love

What is the path God is calling us to follow? This is a common theme throughout the season of Lent. What does it mean for you to follow the Lord? The Gospel gives us a clue that to follow the Lord is to love. Love is not always easy but is required of the Christian. God's love is nourished in the sacraments and our relationships so that we might overflow and share it with others. Think of a map as a tool for prayer. Consider the path you are on and the path God is calling you to walk. *Today's Readings: Deuteronomy 26:16–19; Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5, 7–8; Matthew 5:43–48.*





# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



## Washed Clean

Compassionate God,  
whose promise of love spans  
all generations,  
rouse our hearts to hear your Word  
and teach us to act according  
to your will.  
Give us courage to turn away  
from temptation  
and strengthen our desire to follow you.  
May we, who were washed clean of sin  
and saved from death in the waters  
of Baptism,  
be renewed by your Holy Spirit during  
these forty days.  
With the elect, guide our hearts  
to repentance  
so that, sustained by the Living Bread,  
we may forever give witness to your love  
and mercy.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus  
Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Conflict



*Today's Readings: Genesis 9:8–15; Psalm 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9; 1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:12–15.* Today's readings place us in the midst of conflict. In the First Reading, we hear of God's covenant with Noah after the flood destroyed the earth. The Second Reading highlights a spiritual struggle between right and wrong. Finally, the Gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert.

No matter our experience of conflict, it usually brings discomfort. These readings show that God reaches out to us with love and mercy in the midst of chaos. God saves us from chaos and orders us toward a deep love. After the flood, God sent the rainbow as a sign of his promise not to

devastate the earth again. The reading from Peter reminds us that Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice and in him, through the waters of Baptism, the chaos of our lives is eliminated. Finally, in the Gospel, the Spirit drives Jesus into the desert to be tested. His wrestling in the desert prepares him for ministry and he emerges from the desolation proclaiming the "good news of God."

What is the chaos in your life? As the psalmist pleads, we too ask for the Lord's compassion. God never forgets his children. This week ask for God's help in resolving a hurting relationship.