

# St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

Convent Station, NJ

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter



*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.*



May 6, 2018

Sixth Sunday of Easter

## Wanted: Desktop Publishing Person

Someone with desktop publishing skills who can help publish the bulletin each week. Right now we are using Adobe InDesign. A few hours a week. Can work from home. There is a stipend for this work. Those interested, contact Fr. Joe at [jfarias@stmnj.org](mailto:jfarias@stmnj.org).

## Love gardening?

We have Easter plants that can be put around our grounds. We're hoping there are hobby gardeners who can help. Call the office.

## Serving the Parish

Offer your time as a eucharistic ministers and lectors. Contact the parish office or email Fr. Joe at [jfarias@stmnj.org](mailto:jfarias@stmnj.org)

## Sisters of Charity Fundraisers

- Golf Tournament, June 18, Echo Lake Country Club, Westfield
- Spring Lake Luncheon, June 14, Michelle Charlesworth, Guest Speaker

For Further information, contact the parish office.

## Youth Pilgrimage to our Cathedral

Sunday, June 10, 2:30-6 pm. An afternoon with Bishop Serratelli and other high school youth in the diocese. Informative and Fun. Call the office for info. .

## This Year's Annual Appeal

Our parish pledged \$ 542,752, to top our goal of \$ 538,500 this year. Bishop Serratelli was pleased that overall, \$ 4.6 million has been pledged throughout the diocese.



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

## Sisters Against Trafficking

Be aware that online technologies give traffickers the ability to exploit a greater number of victims and advertise their services globally. Social media opens the door for predators to gain access to your child. U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking.

[<sistersagainsttrafficking.org>](http://sistersagainsttrafficking.org)



## PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

*Ascension of the  
Lord*

First Reading: Acts  
1: 1- 11

This passage takes us back to the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles and sets themes that Luke develops throughout this longest book of the New Testament. His major theme is the role of the Holy Spirit, who enables the apostles to be effective witnesses to Jesus. The Spirit is mentioned 57 times in Acts.

Second Reading: Ephesians 4: 1 - 13

This passage was chosen because of its reference to Jesus' ascent to heaven, contrasted with his descent to the dead. Early Christians believed that those who died before the coming of Jesus awaited redemption in a shadowy existence described here as the lower regions of the earth. It is our Christian tradition that immediately after his death, Jesus went to these people to announce that they had been saved.

## This Week's Question

*For Adults:*

How is love of others connected to love for God?

*For Children:*

Who needs Jesus' love this week? How can you show them his love?

## LAUDATO SÍ

*During Lent, members of our parish studied Pope Francis's encyclical dealing with the environment, consumerism and responsible development. Subtitled, "On Care for our Common Home, he calls all people of the world to action. At the group's last session, they volunteered, to share some of his teaching with the parish. This is their first installment.*

Pope Francis observes, "A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. In recent decades this warming has been accompanied by a constant rise in the sea level and, it would appear, an increase of extreme weather events, even if a scientifically determinable cause cannot be assigned to each particular phenomenon." [23]

Are we causing this?

The evidence is clear. Climate change conditions that we are experiencing today are extremely likely caused by human activity. Over 95 percent of scientists who are examining what is happening agree. The U.S. Global Change Research Program found, "The global warming of the past 50 years is due primarily to human induced increases in heat-trapping gases. Human fingerprints also have been identified in many other aspects of the climate system, including changes in ocean heat content, precipitation, atmospheric moisture, and Arctic sea ice."

As a result of this human induced climate change we face the challenges of global temperature rise, warming oceans, shrinking ice sheets, glacial retreat, decreased snow cover, sea level rise and an increase in extreme events. It will take a world wide effort to mitigate the impact of these events. No country can address the problem alone. It can, however, be dealt with if individually and collectively we work together.

**TIP Take your own tote to grocery store.**

## "Secrets of a Happy Retirement" (Not about Money)

Monday, May 7. 7 pm, Grace Counseling Center, Madison Ave. A conversation about relationship survival in retirement, achieving something meaningful and what to do.

## Postal Food Collection

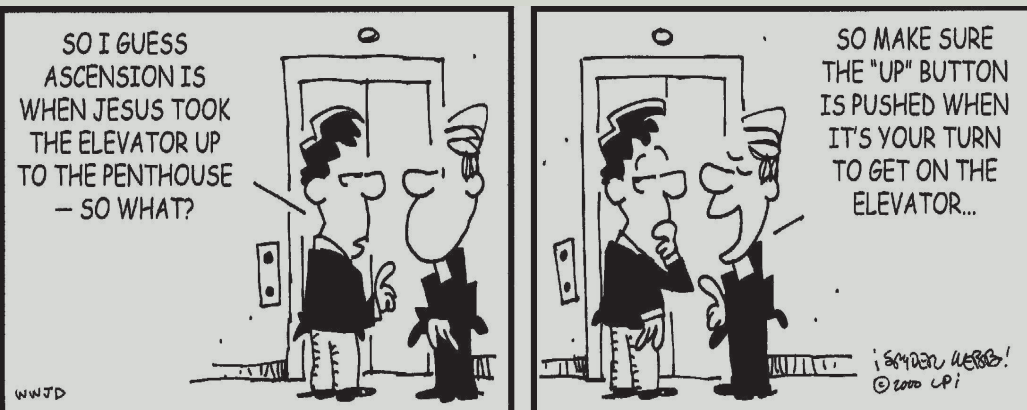
Letter carriers food collection will take place on Saturday. You can place unopened can and boxed items in a bag next to your mailbox for the mail carrier to pick up.

## Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

Thursday is the Feast of the Ascension, a holy day. Masses are at 8:15, 12:10 and 7 pm.

## 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. Log on after confirmation email. 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. It means we have an incorrect email. Your email address needs to match the one in the database to log in.



## What's Happening?

### Sunday

Rel. Ed.  
Cake Sale  
Pound A Week

### Thursday - Ascension

Masses at 8:15 am,  
12:10 & 7 pm

### Next Sunday

No Rel. Ed.  
Mother's Day

### Every Sunday

Pound A Week



## Stewardship of Treasure

Collection: \$5,847

April Electronic: \$3,260



Sign up Today for electronic giving at  
<[www.sthommere.weshareonline.org](http://www.sthommere.weshareonline.org)> or at  
the top of our website.

## Presiders - May 3

5 PM Fr. Joe Davis

9 AM Abbot Richard

11 AM Fr. Das

7 PM Fr. Joe Farias

## HomeTouch Bulletins

Take a Hometouch Bulletin to a home bound person. Bulletins are on the desk at the church entrance doors.

**Mail:** P.O. Box 286

Convent Station, NJ 07961

**GPS: 4 Convent Rd.**

**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

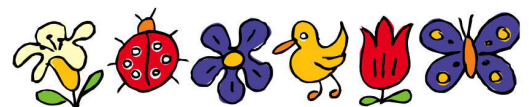
8:15 am, 12:10 pm, 7 pm

Parish Office Hours

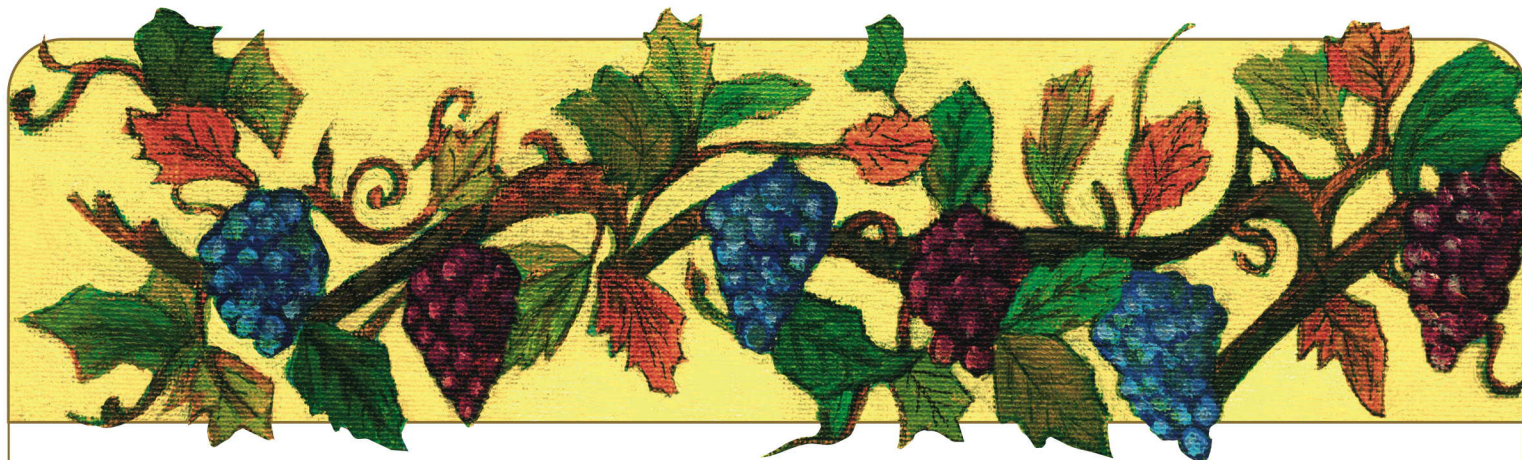
Mon. - Wed, 9:30-2 pm

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

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







## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, May 7

#### St. Lydia

The First Reading tells of the conversion of Lydia. She was a dealer of purple cloth, which was expensive. She encounters Paul and Timothy outside the city gates and by God's grace, her heart was opened to receive the Good News. This encounter with the Word moved her to receive Baptism along with her household. The hospitality she provides is the same care we are called to offer our neighbors. Spend fifteen minutes listening to the Lord in silence today. *Today's Readings: Acts 16:11–15; Psalm 149:1b–2, 3–4, 5–6a and 9b; John 15:26–16:4a.*

### Tuesday, May 8

#### The Jailer

The reading from Acts provides another account of conversion. After an earthquake opened the door of the cell, the jailer was amazed that the prisoners remained. What moved the jailer to seek the Lord? When the Word of God resonates in our hearts, it shakes with joy and yearns to be in communion with the living God. Paul and Silas teach that belief in God saves. Do you experience daily conversion? Today, pray for those imprisoned in any way. *Today's Readings: Acts 16:22–34; Psalm 138:1–2ab, 2cde–3, 7c–8; John 16:5–11.*

### Wednesday, May 9

#### Mighty and Strong

Is your heart alive with the joy of the Resurrection? Today's Psalm places upon our lips words of praise. Recall the Easter Vigil and the signs and symbols. Christ has truly conquered sin and death, and by his Resurrection, restored all life. We have much to be grateful for and much to share. Join with all of creation and sing your praise to God, who is mighty and strong. How can you spend time expressing praise? Can you do this through drawing, baking, gardening, poetry, or writing in your journal? *Today's Readings: Acts 17:15, 22–18:1; Psalm 148:1–2, 11–12, 13, 14; John 16:12–15.*

### Thursday, May 10

#### The Ascension of the Lord

Imagine yourself at the Ascension. What do you see? What do you hear? Are you eager to go into the world to make disciples? *Today's Readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9; Ephesians 1:17–23 or 4:1–13 or 4:1–7, 11–13; Mark 16:15–20.*

### Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter

The First Reading introduces us to a married missionary couple: Aquila and Priscilla, who lived and worked with Paul. The little we know about the couple tells us they were strong pillars in their community and great teachers of the faith. Today, pray for all catechists. *Today's Readings: Acts 18:1–8; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 16:16–20.*

### Friday, May 11

#### Shake with Joy

A line in the *Exsultet*, the proclamation the deacon sings at the Easter Vigil, states, “let his holy building shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.” These words are so vivid they nearly bring about a tangible vision. The joy of Christ's triumph over death fills the whole Church and should “shake” our hearts with joy. Allow the love of Christ to capture your being. *Today's Readings: Acts 18:9–18; Psalm 47:2–3, 4–5, 6–7; John 16:20–23.*

### Saturday, May 12

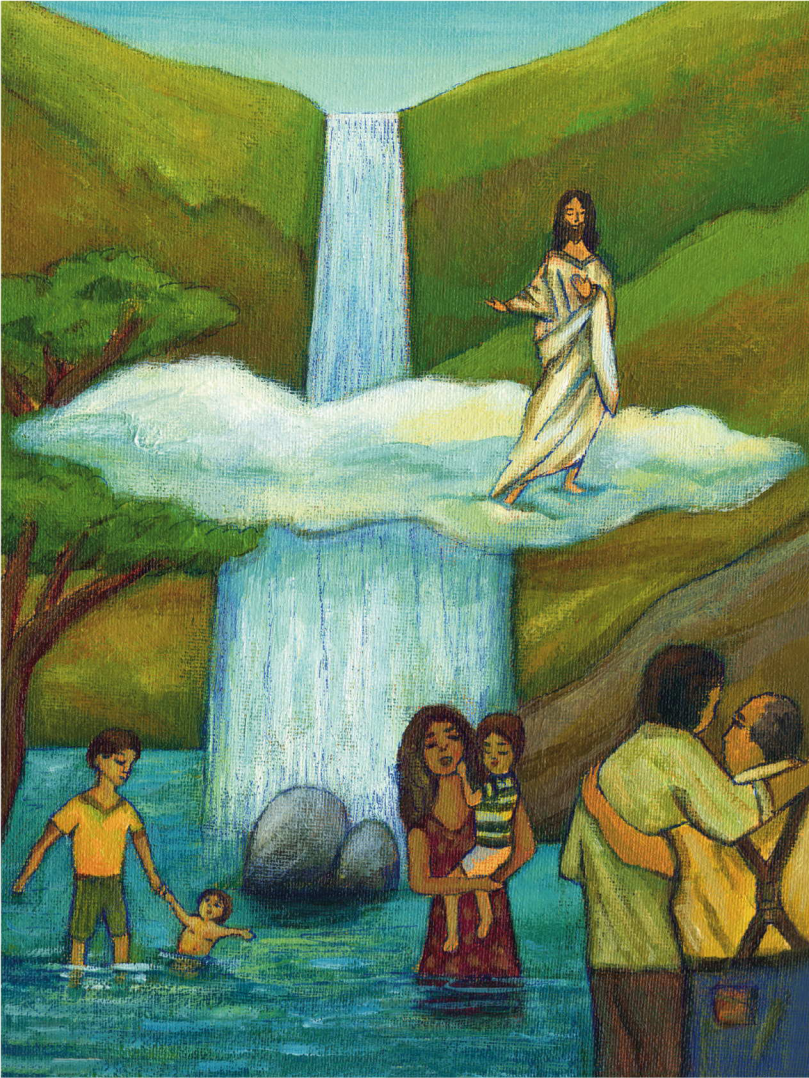
#### Sing

Knowing that God loves you and fills you with joy, lift your voice in song as you sing (even make up a melody) Psalm 47 for your prayer. *Today's Readings: Acts 18:23–28; Psalm 47:2–3, 8–9, 10; John 16:23b–28.*





# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## Love

O God,  
you are the source of all love  
and we joyfully lift our voices in song  
to give you praise for the gift of  
your Son, Jesus,  
who gave his life so that we might live.  
Help us turn away from the slavery  
of sin  
and embrace your Word,  
who calls us to love one another.  
Grant that, with hearts filled  
with compassion,  
we may courageously lay aside  
our needs  
and work to promote peace and justice  
throughout the world.  
Keep us faithful to our  
baptismal covenant  
so that we may reveal your saving power  
and be found on that final day praising  
your blessed name.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 6, 2018

Love One Another



*Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48; Psalm 98:1, 2–3 3–4; 1 John 4:7–10; John 15:9–17.*

John's first letter reminds us once again, in these final days of the Easter season, that God sent his only Son to save us from death. The theme of love permeates today's readings. As is shown in these readings, love requires much more than warm and fuzzy feelings. In death, Christ shows us love. His suffering, death, and Resurrection remind us that love of God and for our neighbors does require, that we set aside those things that hinder us from knowing God. When we open ourselves to God, we are filled with love and love cannot be contained. God's love overflows and yearns to be shared. Because God's love is so great, it is easy for us to

sing the words to Psalm 98. Joined with all of creation, we joyfully sing of God's salvation.

In the Gospel, Jesus commands that we love as he loves, which means we must take the cross seriously. Jesus laid down his life so that we might have life. He went about healing the sick and listening to those on the margins. This is what Jesus teaches us about love, and if we are his followers, we must lay down our life for our neighbors and be willing to risk everything for God's Kingdom.

It is not always easy to love. This week, pray with the Gospel and be attentive to the command, "love one another." Consider hosting a meal for friends and family to show your love.