Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

4 Convent Road, Morristown, New Jersey 07960

973- 267-5330 www.stmnj.org info@stmnj.org

We exist for one reason: to come to know and be formed by the Word of God and the Message of Jesus. When we gather in prayer and worship, in service and community, we assemble as disciples and friends with the Lord in our midst. Rooted in our Roman Catholic tradition, we are proud of our parish heritage and hopeful for our future.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 22, 2019

Parish Staff

Fr. Thomas Fallone, J.D.
Pastor
tfallone@stmnj.org

Fr. Joe Davis
Weekend Assistant

Fr. Daniel Chajkowski
In Residence
lionheartdan@gmail.com

Pat Schell
Parish Secretary
secretary@stmnj.org

Mark Davis
Music – Organist
732-340-0190

Frank Miles
Trustee

Mary Murphy
Trustee

Parish Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday Evening: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am and 7:00 pm *(Please note there will be no 7 pm Mass on holiday weekends.)*

Daily Mass: Monday – Saturday 8:15 am

Holy Days: Vigil 7:00 pm; Holy Day 8:15 am and 12:10 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance)

Saturday: 3:30 pm or by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration

Every First Friday of the Month following the 8:15 am Mass, concluding with Benediction at Noon

Additional Sacraments

Baptism: Please call or email the Parish Office. Arrangements should be made at least 8 weeks in advance of the desired date.

Marriage: Please call or email the Parish Office. Arrangements should be made at least one year in advance of the desired date.

Join the St. Thomas More Family

New parishioners can register at any time! Please call or stop by the Parish Office between 9 am - 2 pm, Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, or send an email to info@stmnj.org. We'd love to welcome you!!

Blast From the Past(or)
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2019

The Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son.....

Christian discipleship is marked by waiting. As Fr. Alfred Delp, SJ said in his Advent reflections from a Nazi prison, 'life is promise, not fulfillment.' But as we prepare for Mary to bear God's Son, we recall that living in the future tense can be exhausting. *When* is God going to make everything right? Waiting for that phone call, interview or big break can be grueling. When does the fulfillment come? Is Santa going to bring me Hulk Hands and/or my Colorforms set this year? We don't know. It's a waiting game. But such is salvation history. What we do know and proclaim is that while battles endure, the war is won. God has secured our Redemption. How do we know this? We know because we share Mary's expectation: The Christ is Born. This means that nothing has any power over you. Mary's predicament is our fulfillment. Thank you, Dear Blessed Mary, for saying 'yes' on our behalf. In our breathlessly over-hyped news cycles, it seems that the anticipation of Advent can be overshadowed. How about we relax and accept the adventure of anticipation in which God Himself participates? In our crazy world, recall the wisdom of Fr. George Rutler: 'when satan is angry, something really good is about to happen.' That's Christmas, of course. And there's nothing anyone can do to prevent it. As I prepare for a surprise (well, maybe less of a surprise now that it's in print...) Christmas visit to my folks' in Vero Cocoa del Ray Cove Vista Bonita Grove The Villages Beach, FL, I wish you and all a blessed Nativity. God is in Love with you. How do I know that? Christmas will explain.

God Bless you!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thank You for Your Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure!

Weekly Collection for December 14-15: $5,717.25

Prayers for the Sick

Please join us in praying for all who are ill in our community, and in a particular way for Phil Barrett, Bob Bass, Karen Cutaneo, Fred Donikowski, Paul Gamerdinger, Florence Kearney, Barbara Kline, Anne Morrison, Christopher Popp, Edmond Sherry and Flynn Sullivan. May God bring them and their families His healing, comfort and peace. If you would like to have your name or that of a loved one included in the request for healing prayers in our weekly bulletin, please send an email to Sue Marshall at smarshall@stmnj.org.

Monday, December 23: Saint John of Kanty
8:15 am- Michael and Anna Christie
Tuesday, December 24: Christmas at Greccio
8:15 am- MaryPat DeLisi
Tuesday, December 24: Vigil Mass for the Nativity of the Lord - Christmas
5:00 pm- People of the Parish
8:00 pm- Margaret Farkas
Midnight- Kay Brewer
Wednesday, December 25: The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas
9:00 am- Donna Buchner
11:00 am- Todd Wharton
PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO 7 PM MASS
Thursday, December 26: Saint Stephen
8:15 am- Jean Lawler
Friday, December 27: Saint John the Apostle
8:15 am- John Carlin
Saturday, December 28: Holy Innocents
8:15 am- Madison Torres
5:00 pm- Howard Finlay
Sunday, December 29: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
9:00 am- Andrew Gallagher
John and Winnie Lynch
11:00 am- Michael Russo
7:00 pm- Carmella Antonelli

Bishop's Annual Appeal – "For I Was Hungry"

As the year comes fast to an end and many are planning on how to make a final year-end charitable contribution that has the most impact, please consider the many lives that are helped because of the support given to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. These are your neighbors, your friends, our senior priests and seminarians and urban school students. All of us can play a part in the Bishop's Annual Appeal – as either a contributor to the cause or as a recipient of its mission – and all are blessed as a result. Please make the Bishop's Annual Appeal a priority in your year-end philanthropy. Gifts can be made by check, credit cards, through gifts of securities or on-line at www.2019appeal.org. If you are 70 ½ or over and have an IRA, you can receive a tax benefit by instructing your IRA investment manager to donate your required minimum distribution to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Please call the Bishop's Annual Appeal office at 973-777-8818, ext. 218 for additional details and also consult your tax or financial advisor for more information.

Advent/Christmas Season Schedule

Arrival of the Christmas Flowers

Monday, December 23

All are welcome to take part in incorporating the beautiful flowers into our church decor.

Christmas Eve Masses

5:00 pm, 8:00 pm and Midnight

Christmas Day Masses

9:00 am and 11:00 am

(Please note there will be NO 7 PM MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY.)

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31 (Vigil) – 7 pm
Wednesday, January 1 – 8:15 am and 12:10 pm

The Parish Office will be open on December 23 and 30 but closed the rest of the week of December 24 and also from December 31 - January 1. It will reopen at 9 am on Thursday, January 2.

On behalf of Father Tom and the entire parish staff, we wish everyone a blessed, peaceful and joyous Christmas Season!

Ministry Needs – Can You Help?

As we approach a New Year we ask you to prayerfully consider if God might be calling you and your talents to assist in any of the following ministries for which we have great need:

- Counters: We're looking for adults who can offer 1.5 – 2 hours one Monday a month to assist in counting the weekly collections. Counting takes place at the Parish Office on Monday mornings. If interested, please contact the Parish Office for more details.

- Eucharistic Ministers: Being a Eucharistic Minister is a beautiful way to participate even more fully in the Mass. There is no time commitment outside of Mass, so it's a great opportunity for those with even the busiest of schedules to serve. We are especially in need of ministers to serve at the 7 pm Mass. Parishioners and non-parishioners are most welcome. Please contact Sue Marshall for more information at smarshall@stmnj.org.

- Lectors: Proclaiming the Word of God is a tremendous privilege and also a great joy. New lectors are always needed and very welcome. You can serve at as many or as few Masses as you would like and choose the times that are convenient for you. If interested, please contact Ginny Lund at vdwlund@aol.com for more information.

God Bless you for all you do for our parish!

2020 Parish Directory

Professional photographers will be at St. Thomas More to take family or individual photos for our 2020 parish directory on:

January 23rd 2 pm – 9 pm
January 24th 2 pm – 9 pm
January 25th 10 am – 5 pm

You can sign-up after Mass or contact Jolie Elmore to reserve your 20 minute time slot at 201-589-7700 or jolieandjosh@gmail.com.

We're also seeking volunteers to help register parishioners after Masses, so please contact Jolie if you'd like to assist with this ministry.