

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.

Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 10, 2020

Parish Staff

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Music - Organist
732-340-0190

Frank Miles
Trustee

Mary Murphy
Trustee

Due to CDC guidelines and in an abundance of caution in light of continuing COVID-19 concerns, Bishop Serratelli has mandated the following:

Parish Facility Closures:

The church, the parish office and all parish grounds will remain closed until further notice. We look forward to updating you when we can resume with scheduled ministries and events.

Celebration of the Eucharist

All public Masses are suspended until further notice.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance)

All parish activities and events, including Penance Services and scheduled Confessions, are suspended until further notice.

Additional Sacraments and Celebrations

Baptism: Until further notice, all Baptisms are deferred except in case of urgent necessity.

Funeral Rites: All Funeral Masses are discontinued until further notice. The Rite of Committal as established in the *Order of Christian Funerals* may be used for a graveside service with no more than 8 members of the immediate family present. All are to keep the recommended social distance. The priest will offer a private Mass for the repose of the soul of the departed. A public memorial Mass can be arranged for a later date when restrictions on the gathering of large crowds have been lifted.

Marriage: Until further notice, all weddings are deferred.



**Blast from the Past(or)
Fifth Sunday of Easter,
May 10, 2020**

How can we know the way.....?

Man, this Gospel verse sure seems apropos for a pandemic. Thomas's question to Jesus resonates with our anxious times. How can we know the way? What is the plan? Where are we going and when will we get there? Christ's well-known reply is quizzical but essential: we learn that the Way, the Truth and the Life is a Person. We acquire our sense of direction from Flesh and Blood. Isn't it interesting that we recall our own first guidance and introduction to our Easter Faith from flesh and blood as well? These are the instruments of Christ whom we call our mothers. Even God has a mom. Where did Jesus take His Mom for brunch? I never found that out. But the point is, that both in our Moms and in Christ, flesh and blood is our directive and the bedrock of our Christianity. *Do whatever He tells you*, Our Lady once said at a wedding in Cana where they ran out of wine (but the DJ there was awesome. In fact, I highly recommend booking *Cana In The House Productions* for your next birthday party or bar mitzvah. Now, they are pricey. But I'm telling you, they're worth it. Also, the Cana wedding had these little jerk chicken appetizers that were served on a stick. Yum.). Ahem, I am so sorry...so, The Gospel. We share Thomas's hesitations, fears and worries. But today as we thank our moms for their flesh and blood, we also thank Mary for Christ's Flesh and Blood, and in doing so, our way becomes clear. *Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.* And since a Mother always knows: *do whatever He tells you....* Happy Mother's Day.

God bless you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Parish Donations

A heartfelt "thank you" goes out to all who have continued to make donations to our parish during this difficult time. You can contribute to our weekly collection, monthly second collection or make a one-time donation online at: <https://stthommore.weshareonline.org/> or by clicking on the "Online Donations" link on the St. Thomas More home page. Please email Sue Marshall at smarshall@stmnj.org with any questions. You can also make contributions by mail at 4 Convent Road, Morristown, NJ 07960. Any small way you can contribute is very much appreciated.



Monday, May 11: Saint Ignatius Of Laconi
Leonard Bendzin
Tuesday, May 12: Saint Leopold Mandic
Leonard Bendzin
Wednesday, May 13: Our Lady Of Fatima
Lena Scialla
Thursday, May 14: Saint Matthias
Mary Alice Ruckel
Friday, May 15: Saint Isidore The Farmer
All Those Suffering from Coronavirus
Saturday, May 16: Saint Margaret Of Cortona
Margaret Farkas
Sunday, May 17: Sixth Sunday of Easter
Janis Murphy



Mass Intentions

Although public Masses are currently suspended, please know that Father Tom or Father Daniel will continue to say Mass on their own for all Mass intentions. If you would like to request that a Mass be said for a loved one or another intention, please email Sue Marshall at smarshall@stmnj.org.



Prayers for the Sick

Please join us in praying for all who are ill in our community, and in a particular way for Chris Auger, Phil Barrett, Bob Bass, Fred Donikowski, Jim Johnson, Florence Kearney, Barbara Kline, Anne Morrison, Bobby Polidore, Christopher Popp, Edmond Sherry, James Stewart 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 (or removed from) the request for healing prayers in our weekly bulletin, please send an email to Sue Marshall at smarshall@stmnj.org.



For the Most Up-To-Date STM Information...

Any schedule changes or other STM news will be communicated via Flocknote (by text and email) and also posted to our parish website. If you haven't already signed up for Flocknote, please take a moment to do so by texting 'STMNJ' to 84576 or visiting flocknote.com/STMNJ.

*St. Thomas More Catholic Church
4 Convent Road
Morristown, New Jersey 07960*

May 2020

Dear St. Thomas More Family,

It is my sincere hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy during these difficult times.

In the 8th chapter of Matthew's Gospel, we learn of the apostle's fear and panic when confronted by a great storm while in a boat with our Blessed Lord. Yet, once they called upon Jesus for help, their prayers were answered and the storm subsided. In these times when the storms of the present moment try both our patience and endurance, we, as the apostles, are asked to place ourselves in the care of our heavenly father. We must remember that, although we are being asked to distance ourselves, physically, from each other, we are joined, deeply in faith, to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Each Sunday, when we gather as a community of faith, we encounter the comforting presence of our Heavenly Father in both the words of the Gospel and the reception of the Eucharist. Although we are, in this current moment, unable to physically gather together to express our love for our Lord and each other, we may rejoice in the strength of our parish, which is greater than the challenges that we will be asked to manage in the coming days.

I would encourage you to join us for the weekly celebration of the Eucharist, which will be placed on our website. I would also ask, your circumstances permitting, that you consider continuing your financial support of our parish. With the suspension of our regular offertory collections, costs associated with managing the parish, such as heat, continue to grow. I have enclosed several courtesy reply envelopes with this letter and would ask that you prayerfully consider making your regular offertory commitment (please enclose checks, not cash).

Thank you for all that you do for our parish. We will, as a community of faith, emerge from these challenges provided that we, as the apostles did on the Sea of Gallilee, place our hope and trust in our heavenly Father.

In Him,

Fr. Thomas Fallone, J.D.



**“And God is able to
provide you with
every blessing in
abundance, so that
you may always have
enough of everything
and may provide in
abundance for every
good work.”**

2 Corinthians 9:8

Blessed Mother's Day

A Mother's Day Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank You for the gift of our mothers, as they counted fingers and toes, kissed scrapes and bruises, listened, loved, sacrificed, forgave...for the times they talked with, sang to and comforted us...for the Faith they instilled in us by their living example...and for all of the hopes and dreams they've had for us from the moments before we were born to those after we'd grown and sometimes forgotten how very much we needed them.

Thank You for our grandmothers, Godmothers and all others who have shown us a mother's love, tenderness and compassion, whether for years of our lives or even just a single moment.

Thank You for all mothers-to-be and those hoping to be mothers. May they be blessed and guided on their journey and graced with the gift of happy, healthy children to love and protect who will love and protect them, too.

We ask Your special blessing upon all those for whom today may be a difficult day-- mothers who have suffered the heartbreaking loss of a child, all who have lost a mother, and those who desperately want to be mothers but for whom motherhood may not be a part of Your plan. May You gather them into Your comforting arms and wrap them in Your healing love.

And Thank You most especially for the extraordinary gift of our Blessed Mother who so bravely and selflessly said "Yes" to Your plan and who continues to care for, protect and intercede for us still. May we follow her incredible example by living a life of faith, gratitude and unconditional love.

Amen.

Wishing a Blessed Mother's Day to All!





Call to Ministry
Helping Those in Need During These Challenging Times

In this time of self-isolation and social distancing, some people have kindly expressed an interest in helping the elderly or anyone else needing assistance to get something from the store or pharmacy, needing a meal, or simply wanting someone to talk to during these sometimes trying days. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Sue Marshall at smarshall@stmnj.org and provide her with your contact information and how you might be willing to assist. If we receive enough participants, we will then invite parishioners to submit requests so we can match them with a volunteer. Thank you for your prayerful consideration. May God continue to bless you and your families and keep you safe and healthy!

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you...
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.
- John 14:27



Ways to Stay Spiritually Connected While Public Masses are Suspended and Churches are Closed

1. **View Mass Online or on Television:** Check out our parish website to view Mass each day celebrated by Bishop Robert Barron. You can also view Mass at www.catholicstv.org or on television on EWTN. We will try to post a recording of the Sunday Mass Father Tom will be saying on his own as well, to the extent possible.

2. **Make an Act of Spiritual Communion:** This beautiful practice has been part of the lives of countless saints who found it drew them closer to God on a daily basis. Below is a traditional prayer of spiritual communion which can be prayed while watching Mass online or on television, in the midst of your daily work, or at any time during the day, lifting up your thoughts to God.

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

3. **Pray the Rosary:** Appealing to our beloved, Blessed Mother and uniting with other Catholics throughout the world by praying the Rosary is a profound way to find peace and strength during these difficult times. A number of resources are available to assist in praying the Rosary at home, in the car, or wherever your social distancing might take you.

Apps: (Free, available in the Apple and Google Play stores)

Laudate App- Combines a large number of Catholic resources such as Daily Mass, prayers (including the Rosary), the Bible, Stations of the Cross, the Catechism and much more.

Mary App- Created by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, this app is a helpful resource on our Blessed Mother and includes, among many other things, an interactive Rosary with an audio option.

Family Rosary's Mobile Rosary- Offers the traditional Rosary with the text of each prayer. You can pray in silence or with the companion voice of Venerable Patrick Peyton.

iRosary- Displays a fully-animated set of Rosary beads which displays each prayer as you move each bead with your finger, like a standard Rosary.

YouTube: There are many videos of people praying the Rosary that you can join. One popular example is that of the Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist, which can be found through a YouTube search or at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCijy_J5ozpFLoxo4vZARRYA.

Online: The Rosary Center & Confraternity website offers a number of resources and options for praying the Rosary, including, "Praying the Rosary Without Distractions," "Scripturally Based Rosary," and "In Stained Glass." You can find a description of the Rosary and prayer links here: <https://www.Rosarycenter.org/homepage-2/Rosary/how-to-pray-the-Rosary/>

4. **Participate in Virtual Stations of the Cross:** Various examples can be found online, but here is one: <https://bustedhalo.com/video/virtual-stations-of-the-cross>.

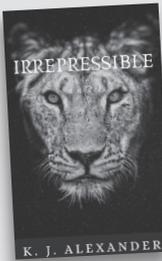
5. **Even Washing your Hands Can Lead to Prayer:** Instead of singing *Happy Birthday*, try reciting the *Hail Mary* two times as you scrub. It's a great way to keep us centered while we're keeping safe.



Prayer of Pope Francis for Protection and Help

O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross
took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.
You...know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
Who has taken upon Himself our sufferings and carried our
sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the
resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do
not disdain the entreaties of those of us who are in trial, but deliver
us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



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K.J. Alexander

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To them, she's the queen
who will save them all.

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