

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.

The Ascension of the Lord - May 24, 2020

Parish Staff

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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)
The Ascension of the Lord
May 24, 2020

'...why are you standing there looking at the sky?'

We all know that the great celebration of the Ascension usually falls on Thursday in our Diocese. But this year, the holy day is moved to the Seventh and Final Sunday of Easter. Each year, the 'why are you standing there' question to the Apostles conjures for me painful little league days. These were the days when it became clear that I would never be drafted. Ever. Coach would bark to me, colorfully, at my station in right field, 'why are you looking at the sky?' Sheepishly I admit that it wasn't just the sky which captivated me. I was also enraptured by dandelions and noticing that the ice cream man was in the parking lot, fixated on hopes of getting a rocket ice-pop, a push-up Creamsicle or maybe one of those ices that had a gumball at the bottom. *'Hmmm...you know what? I might go with a Chipwich.'* *'Will we go to Anthony's Pizzeria later?'* Such were my weighty musings in right field. Clearly my head was not in the game. And that's the lesson of the Ascension, guys. My little league coach gave a Christian lesson: We have to keep our heads in the game, focused on our common task. Christ was with the Apostles for forty days after His Resurrection. He told them He was not going to leave them orphaned. An Advocate would come, and so would Christ's demands: *'Go and make disciples of all nations, and teach them all I commanded you.'* Christianity is not for spectators. Don't be me in right field. Rather, be a disciple. Get your head in the game. Honor God and neighbor and make one small act of love in the name of Christ Jesus. As we prepare for Pentecost, don't just stand there looking at the sky, or dandelions, but pass on the joy you profess. Such is our Faith. Such is our calling. Happy Ascension.

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



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

All STM news, including regarding the anticipated resumption of public Masses, 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.



Monday, May 25: Saint Bede the Venerable

Thomas Briscoe

All Servicemen and Servicewomen Who Have Passed

Tuesday, May 26: Saint Philip Neri

Carm Sautter

Wednesday, May 27: Saint Augustine of Canterbury

Eileen O'Brien

Thursday, May 28: Venerable Pierre Toussaint

Joe Venito

Friday, May 29: Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat

Special Intention

Saturday, May 30: Saint Joan of Arc

Helen McCarthy Enright

Sunday, May 31: Pentecost Sunday

Helen McCarthy Enright

The Sanctuary Lamp will be lit this week in memory of Thomas Briscoe.



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 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.

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.



COMING
SOON

Mark your calendars - Monday, June 1st is our Target Date to Resume Public Masses

Please stay tuned to our website and Flocknotes where we will provide more details regarding our revised Mass schedule, procedures for admittance and other restrictions that will be in place to enable all to worship in as safe a manner as possible. Some initial highlights are below:

1. Attendance will be limited to **no more than 60 people** at any Mass. Social distancing of at least 6 feet between each individual will be required and enforced.
2. All persons over the age of 2 **must wear face masks** covering their nose and mouth at all times while inside the church.
3. Any person with a cough, fever of any kind or any other symptom **must stay home** to protect the health of others. A person who has symptoms places everyone else in jeopardy.
4. Those who are particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus, i.e. those sixty (60) years of age and over, and especially those with one or several underlying medical conditions, should follow Mass at home online or on television until all restrictions are removed.
5. Per Bishop Serratelli, the dispensation from the obligation of Mass attendance continues for those unable to get to Church. For this reason, those who wish to attend Sunday Eucharist and are unable to do so because of the limited access to the church may choose to attend Mass on another day.

*****Please note the reopening of St. Thomas More to the public and all of the above are subject to any necessary delays or revisions in order to comply with state and local governmental restrictions. In addition, the June 1 target date is contingent upon receipt of all cleaning and health supplies that have been ordered and are required for a safe reopening. Our focus, as always, is on proclaiming Jesus Christ while maintaining the health and safety of all of our parishioners. *****



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 way you can contribute is very much appreciated.



Prayer for the Bishop-Elect

Good and gracious God, we stand on the threshold of a new time for our diocese. As we cross that threshold in thankfulness, we ask you to pour out an abundance of grace on our Bishop-Elect Kevin Sweeney that he may faithfully assume his ministry among us and that, together with him, we may work for the building up of our local church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May we all keep Bishop-Elect Sweeney, his current parishioners, all of our Diocese and of course Bishop Serratelli, in our daily thoughts and prayers.

PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

God of power and mercy,
You destroy war and put down earthly pride.
Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears, that we may all
deserve to be called Your sons and daughters.
Keep in your mercy those men and women who have died in the cause of
freedom and bring them safely into your kingdom of justice and peace.
We ask this though Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

—from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*



*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 Galilee, 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



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.catholicv.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.

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.

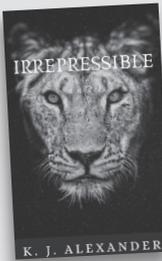
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross
took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

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.



IRREPRESSIBLE

K.J. Alexander

To her, she's just another foster kid.
To them, she's the queen
who will save them all.

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