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.

Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday - December 11, 2022

Parish Staff

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

Fr. Daniel Chajkowski In Residence lionheartdan@gmail.com

Tina Jurgaitis Parish Bookkeeper tjurgaitis@stmnj.org

Caitlin Ross Music Minister

Parish Office Hours

Wednesday - Thursday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday Evening: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 11:00 am and 7:00 pm [No 7 pm Mass from the weekend before Memorial Day through the weekend of Labor Day, or on holiday weekends]

Daily Mass: Monday through Friday at 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

<u>Baptism</u>: Please email <u>info@stmnj.org</u> or submit the Baptism Request Form at: <u>https://stmnj.org/baptism-request-form</u> for more information. Arrangements should be made at least 8 weeks in advance of the desired date.

<u>Funeral Rites</u>: Please contact Father Tom for more information and to make arrangements.

Marriage: Please email <u>info@stmnj.org</u> or submit the Marriage Request Form at https://stmnj.org/marriage-request-form for more information. 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 complete the new parishioner form at https://stmnj.org/membership-information or call the Parish Office at 973-267-5330. We'd love to welcome you!!



Are you the One Who is to come, or should we look for another...?

Thus goes one of the most stirring, definitive inquiries in all of Scripture. This question comes from Jesus's own family!! As we know from our recent Thanksgiving gatherings, family members can be sources of some of the most vexing conversations. So it is that Jesus's own cousin sends delegates to find out if Iesus is indeed the Christ. In apocryphal writings, Jesus of course responded, 'Um, Cuz? Yeah, you know I'm the One. Because, remember when My Mom visited your mom and you leapt in your mother's womb? Remember that whole thing?' Oh...upon my further research...it appears Jesus did not actually say that. My bad. But back to JBap's question: it is symbolized in the rose color we wear for this Sunday and the rose-colored candle we light. Today is *Gaudete*, a joyful reminder that the Birth we anticipate is very close. As Isaiah points out in the first reading, the desert and the parched land will exult. They will bloom with abundant flowers. Just remember, in the winter, far beneath the bitter snows, lies the seed..." Okay, that last part was a Bette Midler song. Ahem. But the point is that John the Baptist's inquiry embodies the Christian virtue of hope. Hope is so essential that Pope Benedict XVI wrote an entire encyclical on it! In Spe Salvi he wrote: the distinguishing mark of the Christian is that they have a future. So, let us rejoice this Gaudete Sunday, mindful that God has more in store for us: that, indeed, Jesus is the One for Whom we should look. In Him is Advent. In Him is our very life.

God Bless you!!!!!!



Thank You for Your Generous Contributions!

We are very grateful for all who contribute to the financial support of our parish and who take stewardship seriously.

Weekend Collection for

December 3-4:

\$6,234.50

"Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7)





December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

Donna Buchner

December 13 - Saint Lucy

Bruce LaFera

Special Intention for Sarah Thomas

December 14 - Saint John of the Cross

Theresa Gallagher

December 15 - Blessed Mary Frances Schervier

MaryPat DeLisi

December 16 - Blessed Honoratus Kozminski

Carmen Liuzza, Jr.

December 17 - Saint Hildegard of Bingen

Joseph Murphy

Margaret Cummins

December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8 am: Jack Anderson

11 am: Nydia Heath

Gail Decker

7 pm: John Pappalardo



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, Fred Donikowski, Barbara Kline, John LaCosta, Ray Meyers, Lorraine Zedalis Moschini, John O'Neil, Bethann and Bob Panzer, Bobby Polidore, Christopher Popp, Eileen Scheibner, Gloria Souchuk, Flynn Sullivan and Marlene Widmer. 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 info@stmnj.org.



Mass Intentions/Mass Cards

If you would like to request a Mass to be said for a loved one, please email info@stmnj.org, complete our online Mass request form at https://stmnj.org/request-a-mass-card or click on the link on our home page. In your request, please let us know if you would like us to mail the card or leave it for you to pick it up (or if you do not want a card). Our Mass intentions are finalized two weeks in advance, so please understand we unfortunately may not always be able to accommodate last-minute requests.



Welcome to our New Music Minister, Caitlin Ross!

Caitlin Ross was born and raised in northern New Jersey and grew up singing in the youth choir at Resurrection Parish in Randolph. She graduated in 2018 from The Catholic University of America with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. While attending The Catholic University of America, Caitlin sang at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for Masses and for their annual Christmas concerts for charity. She also performed in nine operas through the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music. Caitlin currently lives in West Chester, Pennsylvania with her husband and has more recently been singing for different churches throughout northern New Jersey and southeast Pennsylvania. Caitlyn has family members who were and are currently parishioners at Saint Thomas More, and she is excited to be able to bring music to this community.



Lector and Eucharistic Minister Schedules

All Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers should have received a Flocknote link via email earlier this month to sign up to serve at December Masses. The link to sign up for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will follow this week. Please reach out to the Parish Office if you do not receive the link or encounter any issues. Thank you!



Diocesan Ministries Appeal 2022– One Body in Christ

With the year coming to an end, many people look to make a final year-end charitable contribution that has a significant impact. Please consider the Diocesan Ministries Appeal which helps so many of your brothers and sisters in Christ. In fact, tens of thousands of people are supported each year by the work of our Diocese with assistance from the Appeal. All of us can play a part in the Diocesan Ministries 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 Diocesan Ministries Appeal a priority in your year-end philanthropy. Gifts can be made by check, credit cards, through gifts of securities or online at www.2022appeal.org. May God bless you for your generosity!





Scripture Study Group

All are welcome to join the STM Scripture Study Group meeting on Wednesday, December 14th at 3:00 pm in the church. Our program is based on the "**Metenoia**" video about deepening our faith. This segment of the video is about:

"Jesus Calls & Empowers"

Following the video we will share how what we have seen affects our own lives and faith. For further information or questions, call Frank Miles at 973-538-6554 or email lexan@ix.netcom.com.



Women's Guild Christmas Luncheon

The Women's Guild will hold its Annual Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 13 at Restaurant Serenade in Chatham at 12:30 pm. The cost is \$40.00 per person. Please RSVP to Pat Briscoe, Bridie Murphy or Ginny Lund. All checks should be made payable to St. Thomas More Women's Guild. All women of the parish are most welcome for a nice afternoon!



Advent/Christmas Season Schedule

Masses for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday, December 7 (Vigil) - 7 pm Thursday, December 8 - 8:15 am and 12:10 pm

Advent Penance Service

Tuesday, December 13 - 7 pm
Opportunity for individual Confessions will follow the service.

Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 pm, 6:30 pm and Midnight

Christmas Day Masses

8:00 am and 11:00 am

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

Masses for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Saturday, December 31 (Vigil) - 5 pm Sunday, January 1 - 8 am and 11 am (Please note there will be NO 7 PM MASS ON JANUARY 1.)

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