

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 Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) - December 25, 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

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

Funeral Rites: Please contact Father Tom for more information and to make arrangements.

Marriage: Please email info@stmnj.org 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!!



Blast from the Past(or)
Christmas, The Nativity of the Lord
December 25, 2022

...and this Life was the light of the human race, the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...

Merry Christmas!!!! It's ok! We can say that to anyone because it is a salutation of blessing and good wishes. It is a greeting of peace! This proclamation announces the True, the Beautiful and the Good! 'Merry Christmas' is perhaps the most universal and 'user friendly' of all human communications because it is the definitive declaration of love. It is Christmas that made Mary blessed among women and set her out in haste to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. The reality of Christmas made John leap in his mother's womb. It is Christmas that makes me wear a sweater that has a nine-volt battery in it! Yeah! (Do I look awesome in that sweater? Uh, hello? You know I do!) It is Christmas that overcomes my disagreement with lactose and allows me to have eggnog. Fist-pump, yeah! All that aside, the reason *Merry Christmas* is often muffled in our culture is because Christmas is a Person, a baby once unborn. 'Happy Holidays,' though well-meaning, leads to bigger questions. What is the holiday, and why is it happy? *Merry Christmas* is comprehensive because it reminds us of what humanity is. It is in God Whom we are persons. When we contemplate Joseph and Mary in a smelly stable with their Child propped in a trough, we note that their destitution belies wealth untold: they have Jesus. In this Child they have Christmas. In Christmas, we have Everything. Christmas is the Truth about God which in turn is the truth about mankind. Say it in the Love from which it stems: ***Merry Christmas!!!!!!!!!!!!***

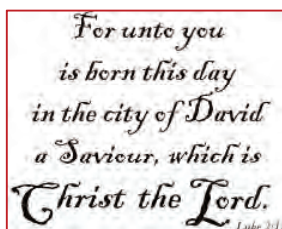
God Bless you!!!!!!



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.

Due to the early Christmas printing deadline, the Weekend Collection for December 17-18 will appear next week.



MASS INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK

December 26 - Saint Stephen

Madison Torres

December 27 - Saint John the Evangelist

John Carlin

December 28 - Feast of the Holy Innocents

All of the Unborn

December 29 - Saint Thomas Becket

Tom Sullivan

December 30 - Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Margarita Granflor

December 31 - Saint Sylvester I

Pauline Falcone

Howard J. Finlay, Sr.

January 1 - The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

8 am: Alma McAllister

11 am: Special Intention for Lorraine Moschini

*****THERE WILL BE NO 7 PM MASS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY*****

The Sanctuary Candle will be lit this week in remembrance of Thomas Briscoe and Michael and Anna Keyes, and for Brendan Briscoe.



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, Brendan Briscoe, 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 complete our online Mass request form at <https://stmnj.org/request-a-mass-card>, click on the link on our home page or call the Parish Office. 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.



Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers

As we give thanks for so many blessings this time of year, we want to take a moment to especially thank those who give of their talents each and every week by serving as Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. We are very grateful for you and all you do! We are always happy to welcome new ministers—no experience is needed and there is no time commitment outside of Mass! If you feel you may be called to this ministry, please reach out to the Parish Office. Thank you!



Scripture Study Group

At the request of several Scripture Study Group attendees, we will be taking a break from our meetings to allow all of us to enjoy the Christmas and New Year's festivities. We will resume our regular bi-weekly meetings on January 11th, 2023 with the next segment of the "Metanoia" video and discussions about:

"Jesus' Power over the Evil One."

All are invited to join us when we resume our meetings in January.



Upcoming Events at Saint Paul Inside the Walls

Journey - A Marriage Enrichment Training Program

This program will be held via Zoom on Monday evenings, from January 12 through February 9. It will offer the faith-inspired support couples need at any stage of marriage. Using a different approach from engaging in parallel men's and women's faith activities, couples will come together to grow in holiness and the joy of the Lord through the gift of their marriage covenant. This will also serve as marriage enrichment training for marriage ministry leaders.

One Way for All Adults

This program, offered on Sunday mornings beginning on January 15, from 9:15 am - 10:30 am, is our intermediate-level course in discipleship. All adults 18+ are welcome to join this interactive, small-group experience which aims to bring each participant to a new understanding of Jesus and His Church. Please note: only the first 15 registrants for each three-week topic will be admitted.

For more information these programs and others offered, please check out: <https://insidethewalls.org/>.



The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is next Sunday, January 1. Masses will follow the usual weekend schedule, except there will be no 7 pm Mass on January 1.



Blessing of a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
You have made manifest Your love:
when our need for a Savior was great
You sent Your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives He brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.

Lord,
bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise our thoughts to Him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.
Amen.

(From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/blessing-christmas-manger-or-nativity-scene>)

Wishing you and your families a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year!!

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