

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 Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God - January 1, 2023

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)

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God January 1, 2023

And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

Happy New Year!!! This declaration inspires new resolutions, beginnings, calendars and maybe even gym memberships. Luckily for me, I am exempt from the last one as I don't want to get too huge, too shredded or jacked, and so I avoid the gym. In fact, I am not even flexing now. Hard as it is to believe, these are my muscles in their natural, relaxed state. The New Year also recommits us to Our Lady with the reminder that 'we must love Mary as Christ loves His mother,' as Mother Teresa said. Indeed, this love will make us ponder Mary's quietude. After the Annunciation, Mary did not 'Tweet' about it or take to 'social media.' She did not hold a press conference, nor did she schedule a photo shoot to update everyone on her status. She made no Tik Tok video. Heck, even St. Joseph decided to divorce his wife *quietly* in his confusion concerning the Annunciation. You get the point: quietude pervades Mary's life, even as she is the Portal of Salvation! In a culture saturated with ubiquitous, boorish and often salacious updates from people I've never heard of (Thank you, but I don't want to keep up with the Kardashians. No, really, I'm good.), Mary's quietude proposes a refreshing and hopeful respite. We do not have to broadcast our actions so that others may see them. I read that somewhere. Rather, let us imitate Our Lady reflecting on the Grace and Will of God in the year to come as we welcome the Christ Child into our hearts and homes! *Mary, my Queen and my mother, I adore you. And in proof of my affection, I offer you my eyes, ears, heart and whole being without reserve. Since I am your own, keep me and guard me as your property and possession. Happy New Year!*

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 17-18: \$ 9,990.50

Christmas Collection (to date): \$24,517.50

"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)



MASS INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK

January 2 – Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nanzianzen

Frank Griffin

January 3 – Most Holy Name of Jesus

John Kiernan

January 4 – Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Bill and Alma McAllister

January 5 – Saint John Neumann

Bill and Florence Kearney

January 6 – Saint André Bessette

Duncan Sinclair

January 7 – Saint Raymond of Peñafort

Colin Patrick Finan

Willem Kookyer

January 8 – The Epiphany of the Lord

8 am: Mike Murphy

11 am: Frank Figlia

7 pm: Peggy Farrell



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.



First Friday Eucharistic Adoration

We hope you'll join us on Friday, January 6 for Eucharistic Adoration beginning with Exposition at 8:30 am and concluding with Benediction at Noon. It's a beautiful way to start the New Year! Whether you can come for hours or even just 10 minutes, all are invited to spend some quiet time with Jesus.



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 "Metenoia" 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

Natural Family Planning – The Marquette Method

The Marquette Method will be presented by Amanda Khanjian on January 9 from 7:30 pm to 9 pm via Zoom. Come learn the most effective, natural, healthy and inexpensive system integrating excellent women's health and true family planning for couples trying to achieve pregnancy, couples having infertility concerns or couples planning to postpone pregnancy, all within God's natural design.

Catholicism from Scratch

This series will be offered on Saturday mornings at St. Paul Inside the Walls, beginning on January 14 from 10 am – 12 pm. Each Saturday will consist of a self-contained session on a specific topic, focusing on the basics of Catholicism for those who need a brush-up, those who missed it the first time around, or those who never heard it before. This year we will use Bishop Baron's video series, "The Creed" to orient, inform and energize our discussions. The topic for January is "The Passion." Upcoming *Catholicism from Scratch* topics: February 11, "The Holy Spirit," March 25, "The Church," and May 6, "Q&A."

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

"If only Christmas was more than one day a year..." The good news is—it is!!

CHRISTMAS SEASON

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High"

Luke 1:30-32

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the feast of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment"). It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him), He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His Flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him...including the fact that he was born to die for us. (Taken from: <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/christmas>)

So if you're feeling a little blue that Christmas is over...take heart, it is still Christmas after all! While we may be seeing after-Christmas clearance sales at the stores, and discarded Christmas trees on the curbs, we know Christmas continues! May we keep the miracle, promise and hope of Christmas in our hearts and in our thoughts, words and deeds throughout this blessed season and into the new year to come!



Prayer for the New Year

Remember us, O God;
from age to age be our comforter.
You have given us the wonder of time,
blessings in days and nights, seasons and years.
Bless your children at the turning of the year
and fill the months ahead with the bright hope
that is ours in the coming of Christ.
You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever.
Amen.

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