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 17, 2023

Parish Staff

Fr. Thomas Fallone, J.D. Pastor

tfallone@stmnj.org

Fr. Daniel Chajkowski In Residence lionheartdan@gmail.com

Tina Jurgaitis Business Manager 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]

<u>Daily Mass</u>: 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 call the Parish Office 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.

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

Marriage: Please call the Parish Office 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) Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) December 17, 2023

Golden Globe Nominee for Best Church Bulletin Paragraph...5 years running!

'Who are you....?'

I woke up in a SoHo doorway, a policeman knew my name... Wait a minute; hold up. Sorry. Wrong 'who are you?'. That's a line from The Who's 1978 track, Who Are You, the album on which Keith Moon last played drums before his untimely passing. Anyway, wrong reference—my bad! Moving on... Just what is it about identity that captivates us? Even my parents just spent \$76K on a DNA test for their dog. (Okay, that number might be a *little* inflated...but it was not cheap!) The sample was flown by drone in a hermetically sealed baggy to Kansas State University Veterinary School where it was analyzed by very smart people wearing masks and gloves and white coats. After all that, the big reveal was...the dog is a mutt. I could've told you that, Dad. And for a lot less money. Okay, sorry, once again, wrong 'who are you?'! But really, what is it about identity that seizes our attention? Advent scratches this curious itch. A man named John was sent from God. He pointed the way to the reality that God could be a Person! Christianity is mind-boggling, isn't it? Can time and eternity conflate in a specific, spatial location known as Nazareth? Yes! Such is Christmas. Can God be hidden in human form? Yes, again! The question to John the Baptist centers us to this very day. Who are you? He is the one pointing to the One, in Whom is embodied our healing, rest and salvation. Who are you? It's a good question. Reflect on the answer this Advent!

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.

Weekly Collection for 12/2-12/3/23

\$18,422.38

"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 18 - Blessed Anthony Grassi

Peter and Julia Rend

December 19 - Blessed Pope Urban V

Stephen Hinkes

December 20 - Saint Dominic of Silos

Pat Schell

December 21 - Saint Peter Canisius

Helen Marie Chajkowski

December 22 - Blessed Jacopone da Todi

Madison Torres

December 23 - Saint John of Kanty

Thomas Connor

December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8 am: Helen and Bob Bass

11 am: Bill and Florence Kearney

4 pm (Christmas Vigil): People of the Parish 6 pm (Christmas Vigil): Jonathon McCloskey

December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord

Midnight: Ray Meyers

8 am: Theresa Gallagher

Marge O'Kane Lucy Paolella

11 am: Thomas Briscoe

THERE WILL BE NO 7 PM MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY.



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. To make sure your request is received in a timely manner, please do not place requests in the collection. In your request, please let us know if you would like us to mail the card directly to the recipient or leave it for you to pick it up (or if you do not want a card). If you do not want a card mailed directly to the recipient but would like one with a blank envelope, it will be left for you to pick up in the parish vestibule. Our Mass intentions are finalized two weeks in advance, so please understand we unfortunately may not always be able to accommodate last-minute requests.



Parish Prayer List

Please remember all of those for whom this is a difficult time...

Please join us in praying for all who are ill in our community, and in a particular way, for Joan Allen, Chris Auger, Phil Barrett, Brendan Briscoe, Ron Brodeur, Fred Donikowski, Caitlyn Gara, Barbara Kline, Gina Lazaro, Vincent Lazaro, Elizabeth Napoli, John O'Neil, Bethann and Bob Panzer, Bobby Polidore, Christopher Popp, Father Ed Rama, Eileen Scheibner, Bishop Emeritus Arthur Serratelli, Gloria Souchuk 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 info@stmnj.org or call the Parish Office.



Ministry Schedule

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers -Register Now for Christmas Masses

If you are a lector or Eucharistic Minister, please be sure to take a minute to sign up for the Christmas Mass at which you would like to serve through the Flocknote link. If you run into any issues, please contact the Parish Office. We still have some spots available. Thank you! We're always happy to welcome new ministers, so if you'd like to join either of these vital ministries, please contact the Parish Office.



Scripture Study Group December 20 Meeting Postponed

Please note that the Scripture Group meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 20th has been postponed to allow participants to concentrate on preparations for welcoming Christ at Christmas. The Group will resume meetings on January 10th in the New Year.



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Fourth Sunday of Advent Masses

Saturday, December 23-5 pm Sunday, December 24 – 8 am and 11 am ONLY (no 7 pm Mass)

Christmas Eve Masses 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and Midnight

Christmas Day Masses

8:00 am and 11:00 am (There will be NO 7 PM MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY.)

Masses for the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday, December 30- 5 pm Sunday, December 31 - 8 am and 11 am ONLY (no 7 pm Mass)

Masses for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God Monday, January 1 - 8:15 am

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UPCOMING AT SAINT PAUL INSIDE THE WALLS



One Way for All Adults 18 and Over Sundays - January 14, 21 and 28

All adults are welcome to join this interactive, in-person, small-group experience which aims to bring each participant to a new understanding of Jesus and His Church. The program is offered on Sunday mornings from 9:30 am - 10:30 am, and is an intermediate-level course in discipleship. All attendees, and not just the young adult participants, are invited to the 11 am Mass that follows each session. The upcoming three-week session is entitled, "Church: Your part in the structure and mission of the Kingdom" and will take place on January 14, 21 and 28. Please note: only the first 15 registrants for each three-week topic will be admitted. For more information or to register, please check out https://insidethewalls.org/.

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