

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.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 11, 2024

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]

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 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.

Funeral Rites: 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)
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 11, 2024

He reached out His hand, touched him, and said to him, 'I do will it...'

In preparation for next week's Lenten desert, we stumble upon the meeting of Jesus and the Leper. The Leper is one who lives in isolation. He is cut off from society and has no social media following. He has no likes on TikTok and is an outsider in his own community. History is replete with famous loners whom circumstance kept separate and apart from the group. We know Rudolph was excluded emphatically from any and all reindeer games. Quasimodo was rejected and cut off from the people of Paris. The Philadelphia Phillies are shunned by normal, sane people, because they are not nice. I'm looking at you, Chase Utley and Darren Daulton. The Leper is the Yoko Ono of the band. But Jesus *touches* him. Oft-times we'll see a family out to dinner who are not engaging with one another. Instead, they are isolated and apart from one another, looking down at their screens. Our Lord and Savior puts down His phone and actually engages with this outsider, eye to eye, and the world is better for it. Mark's Gospel is often called the 'gospel of the present tense,' where Jesus's focus is seeking out the lost. Though forced to live in isolation (man is not made to be alone), the Leper kneels before Jesus requesting to be made 'clean,' which is to say, made whole. As Ash Wednesday approaches, we're reminded that we do not go to the desert to die alone. Christ *touches* us and we are made whole. Remind yourself that Christ takes solidarity with the Leper. What part of us might be disfigured? What part of our life is excluded of Christ? Today is an invitation to put yourself in the way of grace, to live in the fold and live fully, wholly and healthy again. We are created for the integration into full community of Love that is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Don't be a loner. Simply ask, 'If you wish, Lord, You can make me clean...' Spoiler alert: He does will it. You got this.

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 1/27-28: \$4,652.38

2023 Contribution Statements

The 2023 Contribution Statements have been sent! If you have any questions, need adjustments or would like to have a copy emailed to you, please email Tina at tjurgaitis@stmnj.org. Tina is also in the parish office on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Thank you!



February 12 - Saint Apollonia

Mrs. Jean Wassem

February 13 - Saint Giles Mary of Saint Joseph

Mary Tyne

February 14 - Ash Wednesday

8:15 am: Joseph Meehan

12:10 pm: Ann Theresa Topalovic

6 pm: People of the Parish

February 15 - Saint Claude De La Colombière

Rev. Francis Feenan

February 16 - Saint Gilbert of Sempringham

Florence and Louis Rich

February 17 - Seven Founders of the Servite Order

Pat Schell

February 18 - First Sunday of Lent

8 am: James Blauvelt

11 am: Gloria Connelly

7 pm: Lorraine Moschini



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.

Prayers for the Sick

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.



Ashes Will be Distributed (only) at All Masses on Ash Wednesday, February 14

**Masses will be celebrated at 8:15 am,
12:10 pm and 6:00 pm.**

Just what is it about Ash Wednesday? So often pews in our churches sit empty, with “plenty of good seats still available” throughout Mass. They offer God’s Word and the chance to actually receive the Body and Blood of Jesus but are rarely ever near capacity. But come Ash Wednesday, there’s often standing room only. What brings this change? Is it Fear of Missing Out (“*Get your ashes, one day only, before they run out!!*”)? A sentimental reminder of a childhood tradition? Perhaps it’s a symbol of hope for the season that lies ahead.

We begin each Lent by recalling our last Holy Week, when we gathered on Palm Sunday to welcome Jesus, branches held high. Almost a year later, we’re setting fire to those branches, placing their ashes on our foreheads. Why? Chances are, a lot has happened since last Easter. There were probably times we weren’t so welcoming to Jesus. Burning those branches reminds us of this. Our sins may feel overwhelming, and the hope of Easter Sunday a distant memory. But the good news? We now have the chance to walk the Lenten journey anew. We’re marked with ashes not because it makes for a great Instagram post of our foreheads or because we are holy or perfect or righteous. Instead, we put on an outward sign of all of the times we have failed, have separated ourselves from God. It is in recognizing our great need for His mercy that we can take our first steps towards His healing. As we gather on Ash Wednesday, let us give thanks for the 40 days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving ahead. May this season of repentance help us to be redeemed in God’s mercy, prepare to fully celebrate the Easter Sunday to come, and hopefully inspire the filling of our churches once more!

*“All are made from the dust, and to the dust they [all]
return.”*

- Ecclesiastes 3:20

What are We Called to “do” During Lent?

In addition to whatever personal prayer, fasting and almsgiving each individual may undertake after prayerful consideration, to further foster a spirit of reflection and penance, all Catholics age 14 and older are called to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays during Lent. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are also seen as days of fasting for Catholics between the ages of 18-59. This means there would only be one full, meatless meal, as well as food at other regular mealtimes together equaling less than one full meal.



Welcome Home to Healing

All Catholic Churches in Morris, Passaic and Sussex Counties (including St. Thomas More) will have their doors open for Confessions between 7 and 8:30 pm every Monday night in Lent as part of the Welcome Home to Healing Program. It is a beautiful chance to take advantage of this powerful sacrament and prepare ourselves to celebrate the promise of salvation through Christ’s resurrection this Easter. For more information and resources on how to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please see the Welcome Home to Healing Website at: www.welcomehometohealing.org.

Little Black Lenten Books

The Little Black Lenten Books are back, filled with six-minute daily reflections to help us walk through our reflection and preparation during the Lenten season. Please feel free to take one from the church vestibule.

Religious Education Food Drive for Hope House

During the weekend of February 24-25, our religious education students will be collecting donations of non-perishable food for Hope House in Dover, which serves those in need in Morris County. They specifically requested canned tuna, canned meats, soups, rice, pasta, small jars of peanut butter, canned milk and coffee. Please do not bring large items, as they are more difficult to distribute. Donations can be left before or after the 5 pm, 8 am and 11 am Masses that weekend. Due to storage limitations, please do not drop off food at any other time. Thank you for your generosity!



Food and Fellowship for Single Parishioners

You are invited to join other single parishioners for their monthly gathering on THURSDAY, February 15 at 12:30 pm at Puleo’s Brick Oven, 162 Columbia Turnpike in Florham Park. Please contact Monika Mangan at 973-615-4715 for more information and/or to RSVP.



Scripture Study Group Meeting

A Body Suffering and Glorious - Part 1

Mystical Union of Christ and the Church

Bishop Barron explores the Catholic Faith’s Unique understanding of the relationship of Jesus Christ and the Church. Witness how the Mystical Body of Christ is a living organism that stretches from Rome to New York, Sao Paulo, Manila, and Namugongo, embracing humanity in all of its joys and sorrows.

Presented by the STM Scripture Group

February 21st at 3:00 pm in the church.

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