

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.

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 17, 2025

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

Veronica O'Brien
Director of Music
musicdirector@stmnj.org

Kay Kiernan
Coordinator of Religious
Education/Youth
Protection Coordinator
religioused@stmnj.org

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 send an email to tjurgaitis@stmnj.org or call the Parish Office at 973-267-5330. We'd love to welcome you!!



Blast from the Past(or)
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 17, 2025

I have come to set the world on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!

The Gospel of Luke will take us through Labor Day, which, according to my handy St. Thomas More wall calendar, is somehow in just over 2 weeks. Though it always takes me by surprise, summer's conclusion seems to occur annually. I know this because law school taught us to recognize fact patterns, of which I was a quick study. Matlock and Saul Goodman had nothing on me! In today's Gospel of seasonal transition, Jesus minces no words in announcing that His Purpose is to start a fire. And not a nice little beach bonfire. Could this be? Is the Savior of the World, the Divine Physician and Word Made Flesh also an...arsonist? Fire can be a frightening, dangerous, crude and unwelcome guest. As legend has it, this is why Ed Sullivan got so mad when Jim Morrison sang *Light My Fire* live on his show in 1967. Although it was a *really big shew*, Ed was so angry that he smoked a whole pack of Phillip Morris that evening and never invited the Doors to perform again! Sorry, let's get back on topic: while fire can be devastating, when it is harnessed, it is cauterizing and purifying, proffering life-giving light and heat. The divergent effects of fire will expose divisions foretold by Jesus. Christ's Fire is often rejected because it causes change, which as we all know is difficult and often painful. Nonetheless, Jesus is eager to complete His Work, *how I wish it were already blazing!* Fire causes us to move and act, just as the tongues of fire that came to rest on the Disciples at Pentecost spurred them on to their mission. Our task is the same, to be light for the world as our Passover is fulfilled in this Baptism of Fire. Sometimes we can feel dry or perhaps even despondent or lackadaisical in our Faith. Jesus's purpose is to refine us again in Divine Life, burning away all that would snuff us out. Our seminary rector always advised all people, 'stay close to the flame.' Staid advice! Burn brightly, little Flock!

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 8/2-8/3 \$8,316.38

"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)



Monday, August 18: Saint Louis of Toulouse

Aurora Marcos Travis

Tuesday, August 19: Saint John Eudes

James Wallace

Wednesday, August 20: Saint Bernard Of Clairvaux

Sandy Clyde

Thursday, August 21: Saint Pius X

Neil Kilcoyne

Friday, August 22: Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Pasquale L. Cutaneo

Saturday, August 23: Saint Rose Of Lima

Megan Casey and Michael Casey

Dwight Smith and Pete Liloia

Sunday, August 24: Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am: Todd Wharton

11:00 am: Helen McCarthy Enright

Sally Henderson



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. 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. 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, Claire Brady, Ron Brodeur, Fred Donikowski, Caitlyn Gara, Barbara Kline, Gina Lazaro, Vincent Lazaro, Elizabeth Napoli, Iwona Nowak, John O'Neil, Bethann Panzer, Christopher Popp, Eileen Scheibner, Michael Schieber, Gloria Souchuk, Flynn Sullivan and Celia Zelinsky. 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 tjurgaitis@stmnj.org or call the Parish Office.



Blessing of College Students

It's hard to believe, but the new school year is quickly approaching. At all Masses **this weekend, August 16-17**, we will be offering a special blessing for all college students— those attending the universities just down the street from us, as well as those who will be heading to other destinations. All students are most welcome to come and receive prayers and best wishes as you embark upon the upcoming school year.



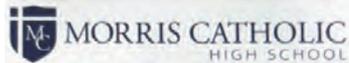
Parish Picnic is Coming!

Our parish picnic will be returning in less than one month! So, mark your calendars for Saturday, September 13, from 1-4 pm, and come join the fun. If you'd like to help, please contact Kay Kiernan at religioused@stmnj.org. Hope to see you there!



Silver and Gold Wedding Anniversary Mass

Couples, were you married in 2000, 1975 or 1965? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 25th, 50th or 60th wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson. Bishop Sweeney will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held on Sunday, November 16 at 3:00 pm. Arrangements can be made by calling or emailing Tina in the Parish Office. Please note there is a limit of 5 guests per couple. **The deadline to register is October 17, 2025.** You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. Congratulations on this very special occasion!



PREPARING HEARTS, MINDS AND FUTURES

At Morris Catholic High School in Denville, we believe *Every Student Matters*. A premier, faith-filled co-ed Catholic education that prepares students not just for college, but for a lifetime of success. Morris Catholic offers generous financial aid and transportation including a shuttle from the Denville train station.

Transfer applications are still being accepted for the 2025-2026 school year!

Discover the difference.

Learn more today: www.morriscatholic.org
admissions@morriscatholic.org



2025-26 Religious Education Program

Time is running out!

Registration for this year's religious education program is open for all children from Kindergarten through 8th grade. Basic details are below. For more information, or to volunteer as a catechist, please email Kay Kiernan at religioused@stmnj.org or call the Parish Office.

Who can register? Our program is open to all children who do not attend Catholic school and whose families are registered with St. Thomas More.

What ages are included? We welcome students from Kindergarten through 8th Grade.

How do I register? Please register and pay online at: <https://stmnj.org/2025-26-registration>. If you encounter any issues with the registration, please contact Kay Kiernan at religioused@stmnj.org or call or email Tina in the Parish Office.

When are the Sacraments received? The Diocese of Paterson permits students to receive their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion after they have completed 2 years of religious education, so this typically occurs in 2nd Grade. Similarly, the Diocese requires each student to complete 2 years of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, which typically occurs at St. Thomas More in 8th grade or later.

We still need volunteers to serve as catechists and classroom aides. If you are interested in this vital ministry, please email Kay Kiernan at religioused@stmnj.org. No previous experience is required. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of helping to deepen the faith of our children!

TEN SIGNS OF A SAFE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH



1. SCREENING of staff/volunteers
2. Adults trained in safe environment strategies and signs of abuse
3. Code of conduct enforced
4. Open COMMUNICATION between parents and staff/staff and children/children and parents
5. PARENTS always WELCOME
6. Children educated in **right relationships** and what to do if a relationship isn't right
7. All children treated with **DIGNITY** and **RESPECT**
8. Clear **RULES** and **EXPECTATIONS**
9. Adequate supervision of youth (team approach - accountability - no 1:1 isolation)
10. All abuse is reported.

"If any person may have been abused by any priest, they should immediately contact their local County Prosecutor's Office at the Diocese's Victims Assistance Coordinator: Dr. Ken McNiel at 973-879-1489. You may also be in touch with either of the Diocesan Response Officers: Monsignor T. Mark Condon, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, 973-777-8818 ext. 205 or Sister Theresa Lee, FMA, Chancellor/Delegate for Religious, 973-777-8818 ext. 248."

The entire text of the Policy of the Diocese of Paterson in Response to Complaints of Sexual Abuse is available on the diocesan website: www.patersondiocese.org.

CARNIVAL RETURNS!

AUGUST 15, 16 AND 17

2025



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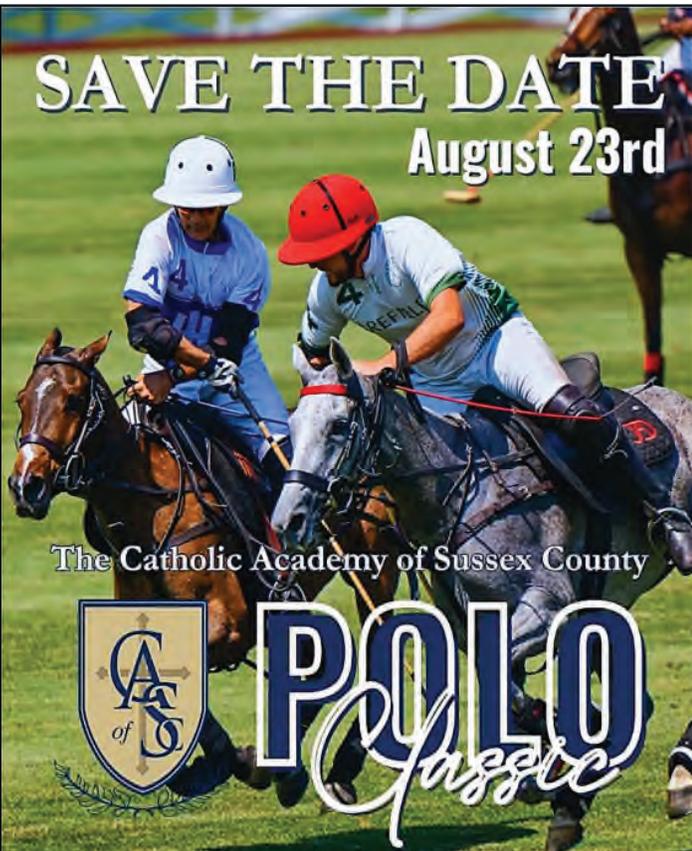
Entry: \$10
Walk-ins are welcome

Feel free to bring lawn chairs
and blankets!

Wednesday,
August 27, 2025
7 PM

St. Paul Inside the Walls
205 Madison Ave.,
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SAVE THE DATE August 23rd



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Join us for ALTAR SERVERS DAY

September 20, 2025

11 AM - 4 PM

St. Paul Inside the Walls
205 Madison Avenue - Madison, NJ

Fun Games and Sports | Lunch and Desserts
Mass and Eucharistic Procession with Bishop Sweeney
Workshops on Eucharist and Vocations

- Learn about the True Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist
- Celebrate Holy Mass with Bishop Sweeney
- Give witness to Jesus' presence in the Eucharist with Adoration & Procession

All Altar Servers in the Diocese of Paterson are invited!



No Fee / Scan to Register / Registration Required

For more information, visit cate.scnvocations.org or call (973) 777-8618 x. 711. *Parents are welcome to attend.



Altar Servers Day is sponsored by the Paterson Federation of Knights of Columbus and the Paterson's Diocese Vocations Office



Diocese of Paterson

2025 Jubilee Year Celebrations

Opening Mass – Cathedral

December 29, 2024 at 3pm
Feast of the Holy Family

Jubilee of Consecrated Life

February 1, 2025, at 11am
Mass and Luncheon at St. Phillip, Clifton

Jubilee of People with Disabilities

February 16, 2025 at 6pm
Murray House Dinner

Christian Unity Roundtable

March 16, 23 & 30, 2025 at 4pm
Wayne, Parsippany, Sparta

Jubilee of Artists

April 3 – 6, 2025
24th Annual Festival of the Arts

Jubilee of Workers

May 1, 2025 at 12pm
Mass at St. Joseph's Hospital

Jubilee of Law Enforcement

May 3, 2025 at 10:30am
Blue Mass at Cathedral

Jubilee of Marian Spirituality and Educators

May 13, 2025 at 10am
Diocesan School Mass at Cathedral

Jubilee of Teenagers

May 18, 2025
NJ Catholic Youth Rally at Six Flags

Jubilee of Families, Grandparents, and Elderly

May 31, 2025, at 1pm (12pm pilgrimage)
Family Day at St. Joseph Shrine

Jubilee of Priests

June 2, 2025
Priest Jubilarians Mass

Jubilee of Christian Unity

June 22, 2025 at 3pm
Ecumenical Prayer Celebration at Cathedral

Jubilee of Deacons

August 9, 2025
Deacons Convocation

Jubilee Pilgrimage (Bishop Sweeney)

September 26 – October 4, 2025
9-day pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi

Jubilee of Catechists

October 18, 2025, at 9am
Catechists Convocation at St. Elizabeth University

Jubilee of Missionaries

October 19, 2025
World Mission Sunday

Jubilee of Young Adults

October 26, 2025 at 5pm
Mass and Dinner at St. Anthony of Padua, Passaic

Closing Mass – Cathedral

December 28, 2025 at 3pm
Feast of the Holy Family

Local Pilgrimages

The Cathedral | East

December 29, 2024, Paterson
Jubilee Year Opening Mass

Shrine of St. Joseph | South

May 31, 2025, Stirling
Jubilee of Families, Grandparents, and Elderly

St. Luke | West

June 29, 2025, Long Valley
Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul

St. James | North

July 25, 2025, Montague
Feast of St. James

St. Bernard | Center

August 17, 2025, Wharton
Feast of St. Bernard



More Updates Here



More Updates Here

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