

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.

First Sunday of Lent - February 22, 2026

<p>Parish Staff</p> <p>Fr. Thomas Fallone, J.D. Pastor tfallone@stmnj.org</p> <p>Fr. Daniel Paré In Residence lionheartdan@gmail.com</p> <p>Tina Jurgaitis Business Manager tjurgaitis@stmnj.org</p> <p>Veronica O'Brien Director of Music musicdirector@stmnj.org</p> <p>Kay Kiernan Coordinator of Religious Education/Youth Protection Coordinator religioused@stmnj.org</p> <p>Parish Office Hours</p> <p>Wednesday - Thursday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm</p>	<p><i>Celebration of the Eucharist</i></p> <p><u>Saturday Evening</u>: 5:00 pm</p> <p><u>Sunday</u>: 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]</p> <p><u>Daily Mass</u>: Monday through Friday at 8:15 am</p> <p><u>Holy Days</u>: Vigil 7:00 pm; Holy Day 8:15 am and 12:10 pm</p> <p><i>Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance)</i></p> <p><u>Saturday</u>: 3:30 pm or by appointment</p> <p><i>Eucharistic Adoration</i></p> <p>Every First Friday of the Month following the 8:15 am Mass, concluding with Benediction at Noon.</p> <p><i>Additional Sacraments</i></p> <p><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.</p> <p><u>Funeral Rites</u>: Please contact Father Tom for more information and to make arrangements.</p> <p><u>Marriage</u>: 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.</p> <p><i>Join the St. Thomas More Family</i></p> <p>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!!</p>
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Blast from the Past(or)

First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

So she took some of its fruit and ate it...

Before we make our way to Jesus's Temptation in the desert, the readings stop us at the Garden of Eden, Ground Zero of all that is wrong, painful, unjust and otherwise evil in our world. Why do we annually revisit this 'scene of the crime?' Because humanity has yet to learn its lesson. While basking in the Friendship of God and participating in His Creative act, Eve honors the Words God spoke to her. But when Doubt slithered in and challenged Eve's recollection of God's Words, the world begins to wobble a bit. He questions her version of events. Eve second-guesses herself, and here we find ourselves. In our world, as in Eden, the serpent never denies that God spoke; he simply asks us if we believe Him. *Did God really mean that, Eve? If He loved you, how could He really deny you that fruit?* That fruit really did look awesome, plus, it would make her wise! (Now, that's what I call a 'Whole Food.' Yup, came up with that all on my own. There's a tip jar on the way out...) In second-guessing herself, Eve engages Doubt. And that's a dangerous game, often resulting in shared heartaches of a humanity well-worn with the observable effects of sin (Way to go, Eve. You had one job!) One of our chief lessons from the School of Eden is to be aware of our tendency to engage Doubt, giving it power. The trick Doubt pulled on Eve is the same one he will try on Jesus in the Desert. Now, in our Lent, know he will try the same on us, for the serpent is a one-trick pony. But we learned a lesson from Eve: Don't second-guess who you know yourself to be in God. He is not your rival. He is not out to get you. He is not keeping something from you. He desires you, and your joy. Among our challenges this Lent is to acknowledge our failures, and also to accept God's humility. Have a good Lent!

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 2/7-2/8: \$5,902.38

"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)

Did you know? Sending a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) directly from an IRA to a church is a "Qualified Charitable Distribution" (QCD), allowing individuals 70 ½ or older to satisfy RMD requirements tax-free! If you have any questions, please contact your accountant/financial advisor.



MASS INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK

Monday, February 23: Saint Polycarp

Michael Griffin

Tuesday, February 24: Blessed Luke Belludi

Ray Meyers

Wednesday, February 25: Blessed Sebastian of Aparicio

Sandy Clyde

Thursday, February 26: Saint Maria Bertilla Boscardin

Pat Schell

Friday, February 27: Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

Loretta Critchley

Saturday, February 28: Blessed Daniel Brottier

Mary Murphy

Sunday, March 1: Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 am: Ann Anderson

11:00 am: Isabel Almeida

7:00 pm: Iwona Nowak



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, Claire Brady, Patricia Brady, Ron Brodeur, Elizabeth Crepeau, Fred Donikowski, Caitlyn Gara, Josephine Gatti, Steve Helmer, Barbara Kline, Gina Lazaro, Vincent Lazaro, Elizabeth Napoli, John O'Neil, 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.



Faith Sharing Group Meeting
Genesis to Jesus Video Program
New Moses & New Covenant

The “New Adam” in the garden. Jesus as the “Son of Abraham” and the awaited “New Moses.” The change in priesthood and the New Passover celebrated and fulfilled.

Wednesday, March 4 at 2:30 pm

In the Parish Office Meeting Room



CAN YOU HELP??

Assumption School 8th Grader
Urgently in Need of a Kidney

A Morristown family is desperately seeking a living kidney donor for their son, Thaddeus Giansanti. He is a 13-year-old, 8th grade student at Assumption School who was born with kidney disease and has undergone many surgeries throughout his life, including one to remove a non-functioning kidney when he was still an infant. Neither of his parents, Christa and Carlo, are a match, so are reaching out to the community for help to find a living donor. Thaddeus’s remaining kidney is failing and will require dialysis if he does not receive a kidney transplant within the next couple of weeks. A donor needs to be in good health, under 45 years old, have a BMI under 30, and have blood type O. If you fit the criteria and are interested in determining if you might be a match, please go to: www.penntransplant.donorscreen.org/register/now. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of giving this incredible gift of life!



LENT...
 FAST • GIVE • PREPARE • PRAY



Welcome Home to Healing

Once again, all Catholic Churches in Morris, Passaic and Sussex Counties (including St. Thomas More) will have their doors open for Confession between 7 and 8:30 pm every Monday night in Lent, through March 30, as part of the Welcome Home to Healing Program. For more information and resources on how to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please take a look at the Welcome Home to Healing Website at: www.welcometohomehealing.org.



Stations of the Cross

Beginning this Friday, we will have Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 7 pm in the Church. All ages are most welcome.



Hallow Lenten Resources

The Hallow App offers many resources for the Lenten season, including prayer challenges, videos and even simple FAQ’s getting down to the Lenten basics. For more information, go to: www.hallow.com/lent.



Dynamic Catholic - Best Lent Ever

Dynamic Catholic is once again offering its “Best Lent Ever” series. It’s a free email program that will guide you on an incredible journey toward the-best-version-of-yourself. Each day during Lent you’ll learn about how God intervenes miraculously in human history through the lens of 33 mind-blowing events. Signing up is easy at: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/lent.html>.

What are We Called to “do” During Lent?

In addition to whatever personal prayer, fasting and almsgiving each individual may decide to undertake after prayerful consideration, to further foster a spirit of reflection and penance this Lent, 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.



JOIN US FOR DINNER!

Monday, March 16th
5:00-7:00 pm

Corpus Christi
234 Southern Blvd.
Chatham, NJ 07928

\$20 Adults
\$10 Children
*Chicken also available

eat in or takeout



Purchase dinners online!

FISH & CHIPS



CATERED BY
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Mental Health Matters: An overview for supporting well-being

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, POMPTON LAKES
Thursday, March 5, 2026
6:30 to 8 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER BY BISHOP KEVIN J. SWEENEY

This interactive workshop will provide a clear and accessible introduction to mental health, designed for anyone who works with or supports others. Participants will gain a foundational understanding of common mental health challenges, including stress, anxiety, depression, and the impact of trauma.

Through real-world examples and simple, actionable guidance, this session demystifies mental health and equips attendees with the tools to notice changes, respond with compassion, and connect individuals to appropriate resources.

- A basic understanding of key mental health concepts
- Early warning signs and symptoms to watch for
- Strategies for offering supportive, non-judgmental conversations
- Steps for connecting someone to additional help when needed
- A interactive theatrical scenario by the national award-winning NJ Mental Health Players

Ideal for youth workers, educators, community leaders, and anyone seeking to strengthen their ability to support the mental health of others, this workshop offers both clarity and confidence in a short, impactful format.

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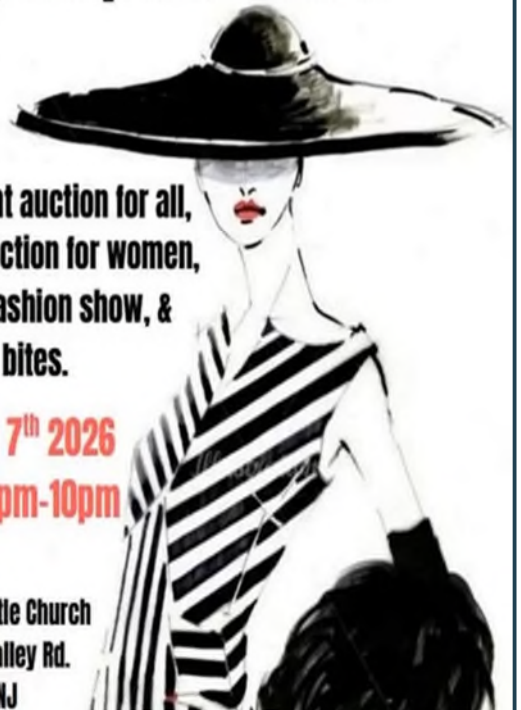
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Where:
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Oak Ridge, NJ

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BISHOP KEVIN SWEENEY

Retreat led by Bishop Sweeney and will include:

- Holy Mass
- Adoration
- Retreat talks
- Confession

SCAN TO REGISTER



Registration required

No fee



Contact: Fr. Charlie Lana

(973) 777-8818 x.715

vocations@patersondiocese.org

patersonvocations.org

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FEB. 27 - MARCH 1, 2026

LOYOLA JESUIT CENTER
MORRISTOWN, NJ

Respect Life Ministry Presents

FEMININE GENIUS BRUNCH

NURTURING & PROTECTING



Explore the unique role of women in building a culture of life, grounded in the Church's teaching on the feminine genius.

With Guest Speaker: Maria Moncaleano

Maria Moncaleano serves as Diocesan Director of Hispanic Ministry. She also acts as the Administrator of the Certificate in Hispanic Leadership, co-sponsored by St. Elizabeth University. Through her leadership, Maria offers support to all parish-based formation initiatives of evangelization, as well as to the ecclesial movements of the local church.

FEBRUARY 28TH, 2026

From 10 Am - 12 PM | Entry \$20

205 Madison Ave., Madison, NJ 07940



Scan the QR Code to register or go to <https://insidethewalls.org/feminine-genius-brunch-2>

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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 McNeil 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.

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