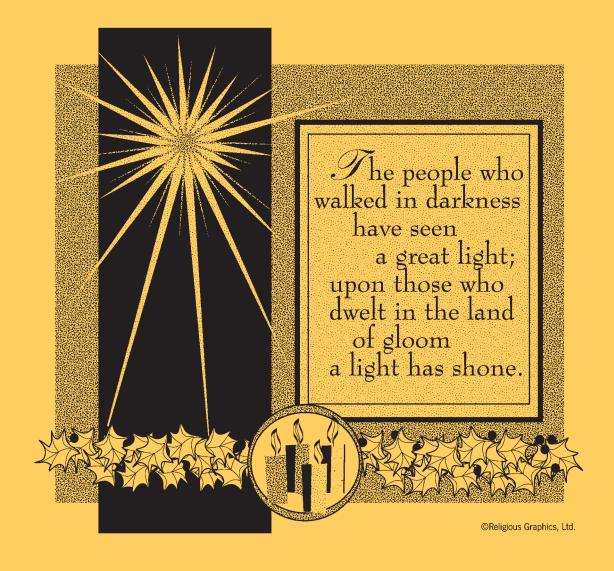


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JANUARY 3, 2016

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Mail: P.O. Box 286 Convent Station, NJ 07961

> GPS: 4 Convent Rd. Morristown, NJ 07960

> > 973-267-5330

Weekly Eucharists

Saturday 5 pm
Sunday, 9 am, 11 am, 7 pm
Monday – Saturday: 8:15 am
Reconciliation
Saturday 3:30 pm or by appt.
Holy Days

8:15 am, 12:10 0m, 7 pm

Parish Office Hours Mon. - Wed, 9:30-2 pm

Other times & days, call to see if office is open.

What's Happening?

Sunday

No Religious Ed

Next Sunday Religious Ed. Clothing Collection

Every Sunday Pound A Week



1 Joan Boylan1 Ann Brice3 Mike Acampora4 Rosemarie Raiola6 Jessica Sarolli7 Jim Cavanaugh8 Mary Feketie

- 10 Nicole Justo
- 12 Corinne Heslin
- 13 Betsy Reidinger
- 14 Kevin Bateson
- 16 Justin Sobers
- 18 Jacob Jordan
- 18 Richard Murphy
- 19 John Muoio
- 21 Benoy Jose
- 21 Elaine Stroppel
- 23 James Lee
- 24 Ralph Cardello
- 24 Bridie Murphy
- 26 Paul Pizzimenti
- 27 Elena Colicelli, SC
- 28 Bob Bass
- 28 Ciaran Bateson



19 Mary Lou & Frank Miles (52)

This Week's Question For Adults:

When have you been jealous or fearful of another person? When are such feelings harmful?

For Children:

When were you jealous that something good happened to another person instead of you? What is the problem with feeling that way?

WELCOME

To all our visitors this weekend

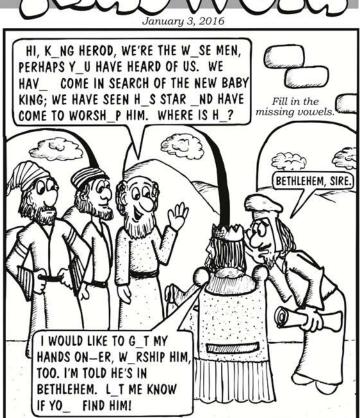
Please remember the sick and homebound of our Parish.

We are all called to prayer. As a faith community, let us keep in mind all those who have asked us to pray for them, that they may experience the healing power of our gracious God

Peter An, Elaine Bellock, Eric Braham, Pat Brennan, Ronald & Maureen Brodeur, Dominic Cantarella, Jim Cavanaugh, Kay Cavanaugh, Michael Cavaliere, Cheryl, John Dolan, Dan Doyle, Frank Falcone, Joe & Peg Farrell, Mary Finlay, John Flaherty, Hayley Kuhn, Maria Ludwig, Joseph Montgomery, Adalcina Antao Moreira, Fr. Charles Parr, Michael Papalos, John Pra, Christopher Raiola, Tom Warren, Diane Zadrozny.

If you know someone whose name should be removed, please keep us informed. To add a name, please fill out the form on the website or in the rectory (sorry, the forms in church keep disappearing)..





From the East came magi, or wise men who believed that the stars can tell us about important human events. They saw in the stars that a new king was to be born among the Jews. They set out to find him and offer him gifts, stopping to see King Herod and ask for directions.





Parish on a Journey Blessing of the Home On the Feast of the Epiphany

In many places it is custom to celebrate the blessing of the home by writing the numerals of the new year in chalk over the front door, as well as the initials C, M, and B, representing the traditional names of the Magi—Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Gather the family at the front door of your home. Begin by singing "We Three Kings" and praying the Sign of the Cross. Then offer the following prayer of blessing.

The Blessing of the Home

Loving God, the doors of our hearts and the doors of our home are open to you and to all who need warmth and welcome.

(Write the year and the initials C, M, and B in chalk over the front door or main entrance of your home.)

We give you thanks for our home, for the gift of family, and for the blessing of friends. Keep us safe as we come in and as we go out each and every day. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

Baptism of the Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

'This passage from the book of Isaiah begins with God calling the prophet to encourage the Jewish people exiled in Babylon. He is to tell them that they will be returning home soon, and the road of the return will pass through the desert. We will also hear God call thepeople to proclaim from a mountaintop the goodness of God.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-3:7

The Ephesians were a community in which Jewish converts to Christianity lived side byside with Gentile converts. The author of this letter confirms that God's saving grace is available to ever, one, whatever their background.

God's Grace is Young Enough

For the Young and Young At Heart

Readings for this Sunday Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3:2-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Seeking Christ Suggested Reflection Questions

- Isaiah paints a picture of Emmanuel's light flooding the world and filling the people of God with joy. What makes your heart "throb and overflow" with joy? What can you do this week to "rise up in splendor" and bring joy to someone in your life who is going through a rough time?
- The Gospel reading refers to a coming King. He is a king who "shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him." "He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save." We proclaim this king is Jesus Christ How can you imitate the King of Kings this week? How does this vision of righteous leadership influence the way we participate in government?
- Herod (however sinister his motivation) exhorts the magi to "go and search diligently for the child." Like the magi, we all seek Christ on our own path. What does it mean to search for Christ in today's world?



SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2016 SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD Bless our home

We Catholics are great believers in the sanctity of time, person, and place. We honor special feasts, declare some glorious souls as saints, and worship in holy space. We even bury our dead in consecrated earth. Today we observe the annual Blessing of the Home—surely among the most significant spaces in our lives. Gather some objects that symbolize the holiness of home: a kitchen dish, a souvenir from a shared vacation, a family heirloom. Offer personal prayers to bless your home and each of its members for the year ahead.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20). "Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you."

MONDAY, JANUARY 4 FEAST OF ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS Surf the transitions!

Imagine being born to one identity, only to lose it to compelling forces. Elizabeth Bayley was born in New York a citizen of the British Empire. Yet shortly thereafter, the Revolutionary War reorganized her family's loyalties toward a new realm. In a similar way, her devotion to the Church of England was tested after her husband's death on the shores of Italy. Wandering through Italy's Catholic churches, Elizabeth Bayley Seton was magnetically attracted to the beauty of the Eucharist. Catholicism became her destiny. Be fearless in seasons of transition.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25 (212). "Beloved, do not trust every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they belong to God."

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 FEAST OF JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP Power for the people!

Power often corrupts. So we watch politicians rise and fall, and religious leaders are not exempt from the temptations of unchallenged authority. Count Bishop John Neumann among the good leaders. Small in stature, he was large in courage and conviction. Mid-19th-century European immigrants in America were in need of spiritual leaders, and Neumann answered the call with zeal, being willing to walk 15 miles through rugged territory to confirm a single child. He collaborated with religious sisters and lay leaders to serve his sprawling Philadelphia diocese. Whatever authority you have, put it at the service of the common good.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44 (213). "When Iesus saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them."

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6 FEAST OF ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS Don't let narrow-mindedness limit your vision

An epidemic breaks out, a religious brother volunteers to attend the sick, and amazingly, no one he attends dies. People flock to his monastery where his prayers bring comfort and relief to multitudes. He takes no credit and attributes all the healing to Saint Joseph. What's not to like about the story of Saint André Bessette of Quebec? Yet people complained: Some believed he was a charlatan, others objected that "diseased" people put those at the monastery and its school "at risk." Not-in-my-backyard thinking can crop up in the holiest of situations, where people in great suffering are finding relief. Reason to pause the next time you are ready to complain about something that affects your comfort zone.

Today's readings: 1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52 (214). "He saw that they were tossed about while rowing, for the wind was against them."

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7 CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY Celebrate the un-holidays

In the Walt Disney animation of *Alice in Wonderland*, Alice stumbles upon a party where everyone's singing "A very merry *un*-birthday to you!" Wouldn't it be great to celebrate your birthday every day without getting older? Well, perhaps we can call this time an "un-Christmas"—not the big day anymore, but the effect of the Incarnation continues to unfold in you. Its significance can't be grasped in just a day. And Christmas Day is only the *beginning* of the season, *not* the conclusion. Let its mystery seep into your soul and move you to see Christ in others. Without tinsel or Santa, can you make a little Christmas happen for someone today?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22a (215). "He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8 CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY Theology on tap

Water is a precious resource. It can be easy to forget the scarcity of clean water when every tap in our society flows freely. Yet, 750 million people lack access to clean water. That's well over twice the population of the United States. Water gives and helps sustain life, it cleanses and purifies as well. It was central to Jesus' ministry and is central to the ministry of the church. Without it, what would Baptism look like? Today, remember the new life given in the waters of Baptism and help conserve water so that others might simply live.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16 (216). "This is the one who came through water and Blood, Jesus Christ."

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9 CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY Live outside the box

There's a popular saying going around on social media these days: "Life begins where your comfort zone ends." If anyone lived that adage, it was John the Baptist, and he challenged everyone to do the same. Even the very place where John conducted most of his ministry and baptized Christ—on the Jordan side of the Jordan River—is an unpleasant spot: hot, dusty, full of flies. In the New Testament, Jordan was called Peraea, which means simply the "land beyond." John was willing to go the distance for his mission. Are you?

Today's readings: 1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30 (217). "He must increase; I must decrease."



Who, Where Why, How ...

Why isn't the Nativity scene at the altar?

The Nativity scene takes on great importance during this season. It reminds us of Incarnation, God entering humankind, of the fulfillment of prophetic promise, of God's continued covenant with humankind and the presence of Christ in our Church. It is nevertheless a symbolic scene and shrine. While important, it can never take away from liturgical action or detract from the importance of the sacred furnishings and space necessary for the liturgy. The most important elements of a church building are altar, ambo, the presider's chair and a space for the assembly and music. All other elements or furnishings should never interfere with their prominence. The altar is the symbol of Christ and of the church. We are nourished from this Table of the Lord. The Word of God is proclaimed from the ambo. They should never lose their central importance, nor should ever be hidden by decorations.

Welcome to St. Thomas More Parish

We are glad you decided to celebrate with our Parish Family. If you have recently moved into the parish and would like to register as a parishioner, please take a parish membership form at the entrances of the church or email and we will send you a form. Hopefully we can set up an appointment to meet one another. Or you may call the parish office at 973-267-5330.

SOME MINISTRIES and ORGANIZATIONS

Altar Servers
Bulletin
Finance Council
Lectors/Ministers of Communion
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Women's Guild

Bereavement Ministry
Collection Counters
Home/Sick Visits
Youth Ministry
Ushers/Greeters
Pastoral Council



Whether you are new or a veteran, consider joining or helping in the various areas of parish life. Call the office. Interested in something you don't see, don't be shy, talk to Fr. Joe.

Visit of Eucharist at Home. Communion may be brought to the home of any person permanently or temporarily homebound. For the confined, elderly and/or shut-in at home or in the hospital, our parish ministers make calls to homes and hospitals. Fill out the form below..

Moving In or Out? If you are relocating either in or out of the parish area please takes a moment to help keep our records current. Contact the parish office or drop a note into the collection basket.

Pound A Week. Show how much we care! Bring a pound of goods when you come to church. Pasta, tuna, powdered milk or soup. Peanut butter or jelly or crackers. Even a pound of diapers. While shopping add a pound!

☐ The following person(s) is presently receiving a visit and/or communion ☐ The following person(s) would like a regular visit and/or communion.
Name:
You may call me with specifics (address, etc.):
Tel. or email:



Notes & Remembrances

Remembering our Own

Requests and donations were made in honor of the following, asking to remember them at liturgy this week. Please join with them in prayer and remembrance.

Epiphany of the Lord

Margaret & Edward Montemeir - 5 pm Angelo Rich-11 am

Robert Hanna – Mon. Helen Sheridan — Wed. Stella Zadrozny – Sat.

Baptism of the Lord

Joseph & Agatha Clement & Family - 5 pm Jill Talevi-11 am

The tabernacle lamp was dontated in memory of Angelo Rich

Stewardship of Treasure

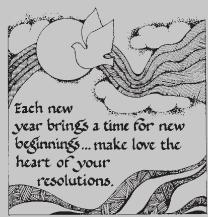
Last Week's Collection: \$ 5463 Christmas Collection: \$22,753 Please sign up for electronic giving.

Contribute electronically

stthommore.weshareonline.org

Those Interested in a ND Game...

The Notre Dame Club of Northern NJ has a block of tickets for ND vs. Syracuse at MetLife Stadium on Oct.1, 2016. Tickets are \$55—\$105 depending on location. There is a \$5 surcharge for non-members. Proceeds will be used for club operations, including scholarships. If interested, contact alums in the parish or the parish office.



Lectors Eucharistic Ministers Needed

What have you done to give back?

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Fr. Joe Farias, jfarias@stmnj.org, ext. 102 Bill McGuire, parish mgr, wmcguire@stmnj.org, ext. 104 Pat Schell, secretary, secretary@stmnj.org, ext. 103 Fr. Das Choondassery (in residence), ext. 108



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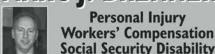
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