

# St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

Convent Station, NJ  
973-267-5330 • [www.stmnj.org](http://www.stmnj.org)

4th Sunday of Lent



*As a faith community, we keep in mind who have asked us to pray for them, that they may experience the healing power of our gracious God. Special requests for prayers at liturgy and donations made in honor of loved ones. These intentions and names of our sick are noted on the Table in the Remembrance Book and on the Weekly Sheet.*



## March 11, 2017 • Fourth Sunday of Lent

### St. Patrick's Day Party

March 17 is this Saturday! Did you get your tickets yet? If not, call the office or go online to [stthommore.weshareonline.org](http://stthommore.weshareonline.org). \$30 per person. young people free! Great Food and Music! VFW Hall, Mt. Tabor Rd., Morris Plains.

### Care of our Common Home

Do you want to learn more about Pope Francis's Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, and the Church's teaching on the environment and God's people? Come to our Lenten Series on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm.

*Meditate on the scriptures during the week. Take Five for Faith is located on the website. Pull down "Faith Formation" and find it at the bottom.*

### Rice Bowl

This week we encounter Andrise, a teacher in Haiti who knows the importance of forming young people who will give back to the community—and their country. Reflect on the role teachers have played in bringing you closer to God and your community.

How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more.



### Your Membership Data

Update birthdays, anniversaries, pictures, email addresses and other info on our database: <https://stmnj.bythebook.us/co/>. Enter your email address and last name. Receive a confirmation email in order to log on. If you don't see your info, call the office or email [info@stmnj.org](mailto:info@stmnj.org) to give us your name and email address. We will enter that address and send you a note back to try again. Your email address needs to match the one in the database to log in.

*Meditate on the scriptures during the week. Take Five for Faith is located on the website. Pull down "Faith Formation" and find it at the bottom.*

### PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31-34  
Jeremiah ministered at a difficult time in Jewish history. Jerusalem, their beloved capitol, had been destroyed, and most of the people taken captive to far-off Babylon. In this gloomy setting, Jeremiah expresses the conviction that the Lord will raise up a new leader from the line of David to restore and rebuild their homeland.

Second Reading: Hebrews 5: 7-9  
The Letter to the Hebrews was written to a Christian community that had become dispirited and whose faith was faltering. Jesus is presented in today's passage as a model of suffering and a source of strength in time of need. (*This passage is also part of the second reading on Good Friday.*)

### This Week's Question

*For Adults:*

Do you see the world as basically evil, or as good? What difference does this make in the way you live?

*For Children:*

Where do you see goodness in God's world?

Connect with us via **FLOCKNOTE**  
Text STMNJ to 84576 or visit [flocknote.com/STMNJ](http://flocknote.com/STMNJ)  
We ❤️ love having you as part of *our* flock



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

## Tradition!

Villa Walsh Academy will present "Fiddler on the Roof," Sat. March 24, 7 pm and Sun. Mar. 25, 3 pm Tickets \$12. Info: 973-538-3680 or [www.villawalsh.org](http://www.villawalsh.org).

## Lent: A Time for Inner Cleansing

Kathy Kuczka

In the early Church, Lent was the final leg preparation for catechumens preparing for Baptism. It was also a time when already baptized penitents, isolated from the assembly would prepare to be reconciled to God and the community. The journeys of the catechumen and the penitent were related in that both embraced conversion. As the catechumen looked forward to Baptism, the penitent looked forward to reconciliation. The focus of Lent still remains both baptismal and penitential. Return, repent, reconcile, and renew are words we hear in the liturgies of Lent. A common factor among these words is the prefix **re-** that expresses the meaning "again," as in words such as redo, remake, and revise; but it also indicates withdrawal or backward motion, as in words such as return, revert, and remember. During Lent, we are called to change by going back to childlike innocence, simplicity, and joy.

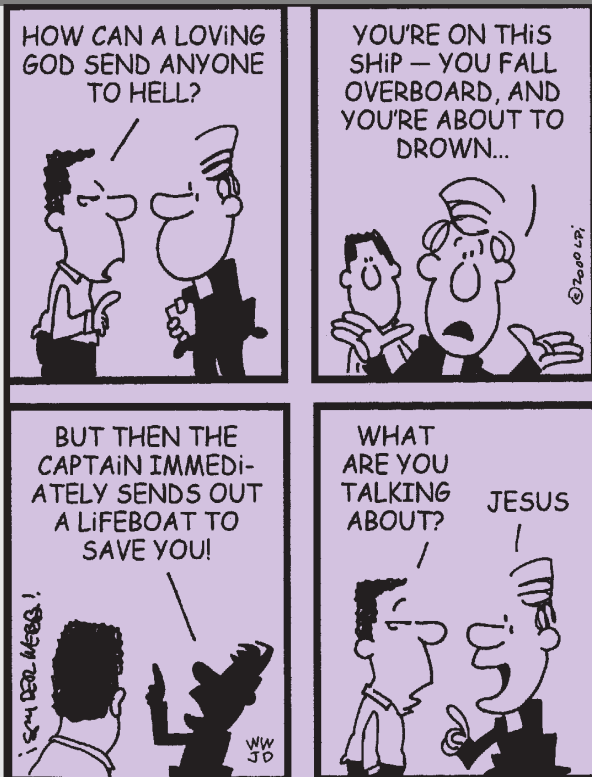
Prayer helps us to return to childlike innocence. Prayer your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret." Prayer nurtures our relationship with God and with ourselves. Prayer peels away the masks we wear and layers of ego defenses we think we need to survive. Prayer tells us that it's okay to be who we really are. Prayer changes us.

**What's Happening?**  
**Sunday**  
Pound A Week   
**Monday**  
Confessions, 7 pm   
**Tuesday**  
Lenten Program, 7 pm  
**Friday**  
Stations of the Cross, 7 pm  
**Saturday**  
St. Patrick's Day Party, VFW Hall, M.P.  
**Next Sunday**  
Religious Ed.  
Anointing of the Sick Mass, 11 am  
**March 19**  
Parish Penance Service, 7 pm

Stewardship  
of Treasure



Sign up Today  
for electronic giving  
[stthommore.weshareonline.org](http://stthommore.weshareonline.org)  
Or at the top of our website.



## Saints, Heroes & Heroines

A return of a popular Lenten event. "Food and a Flick" on two Thursdays of Lent at Noon and 7 pm.

**March 15:** Ignatius of Loyola: Soldier, Saint, Sinner. Hot-headed soldier who went from a life of brutal violence and debauchery, to to one of spiritual dedication and the founder of the Jesuit order.

**March 22:** Edith Stein: The Seventh Chamber. Story of the Jewish philosopher, Carmelite nun, Auschwitz martyr.

## Things to Do in Lent

**Spend Six Minutes a Day**  
*Black books for adults*

**Operation Rice Bowl**  
**Sacrament of Penance**

**Francis' letter on the Environment**

**Stations of the Cross**  
**Eucharist**

**Parish Media Library**  
**Prayer**

**Find 40 good things to do for others**

**"Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God..."**

**— Pope Benedict XVI**

**Mail:** P.O. Box 286

Convent Station, NJ 07961

**GPS: 4 Convent Rd.**

**Morristown, NJ 07960**

973-267-5330

See us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter@StThomMore

**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 pm, 7 pm

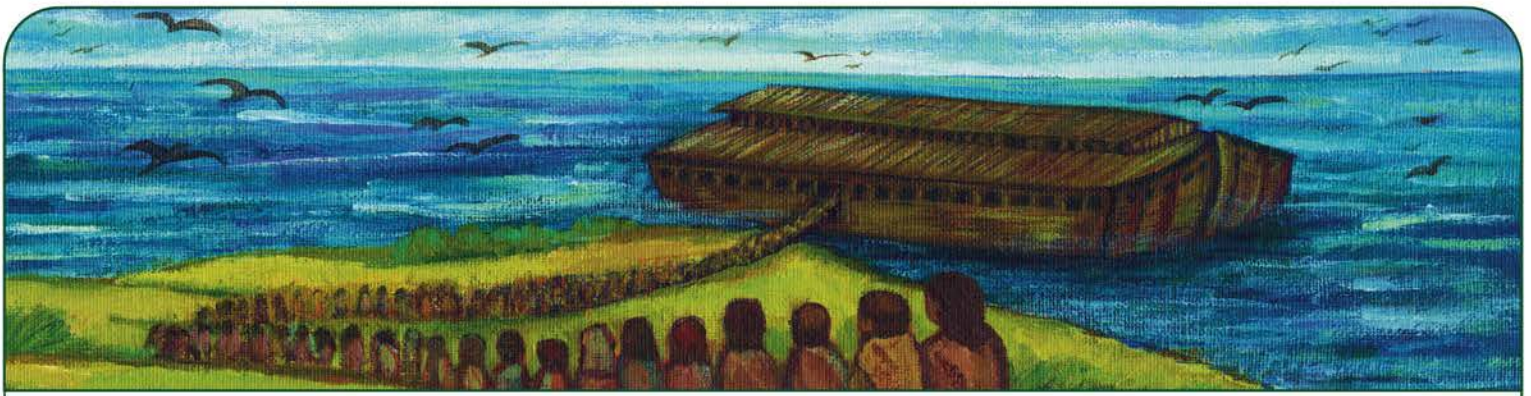
**Parish Office Hours**

Mon. - Wed, 9:30-2 pm

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

[www.stmnj.org](http://www.stmnj.org)





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, March 12

#### Healed

When we reflect on Scripture, we consider not only physical healing but spiritual transformations. The first thing you might notice in the Gospel is that the official's son is healed, but that is not the end of the story. When the son is healed, the man "came to believe." The Psalm provides a prayer of thanksgiving for the times we have been rescued/healed by God. Make a list of those times God has been with you and healed you. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 65:17–21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5–6, 11–12a and 13b; John 4:43–54.*

### Tuesday, March 13

#### Living Water

As you reflect on today's readings, keep Baptism in mind. Water is a mighty force of nature. It can nourish our bodies and the ground or destroy everything in its path. In Baptism, everything unclean in us is destroyed and we are nourished with the Living Water. Ezekiel's vision tells of the abundance where the river flows. Christ is the Living Water that brings us life. *Today's Readings: Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–3, 5–6, 8–9; John 5:1–16.*

### Wednesday, March 14

#### Jesus, the Son of God

In the Gospel, Jesus tells the people that he is the Son of God and that the time will come when all will be raised to new life. As in the First Reading, where Isaiah prophesies about the day of the Lord, Jesus too promises that the dead who have done good will hear and have life. How well have you responded to God's voice this Lenten season? God is truly gracious and merciful. Open your hearts to his Word. Write about or draw the images that come to mind after reading the Gospel. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 49:8–15; Psalm 145:8–9, 13cd–14, 17–18; John 5:17–30.*

### Thursday, March 15

#### Golden Calf

The First Reading once again highlights God's profound mercy for his loved ones. The Israelites have crafted a golden calf to worship. They have lost faith in God and turned away from him. We too struggle to remain faithful, especially when we feel lost, alone, or afraid. Moses helped the people see God's presence. Who helps you see God's presence? Know that no matter the sin, God will not shower wrath upon you but will call you home and wait patiently for your loving gaze. Make a list of the "golden calves" in your life and offer them up in prayer. *Today's Readings: Exodus 32:7–14; Psalm 106:19–20, 21–22, 23; John 5:31–47.*

### Friday, March 16

#### The Wisdom of God

Though written long before the time of Christ, the First Reading describes how those who reject Jesus' wisdom plotted to kill him. Wickedness blinds our hearts to see what is good and righteous. It sets us on a path of destruction. By his death and Resurrection, Jesus confronts sin and death so that we might have life. Do we have ears to hear and hearts to learn the wisdom of God? Invite a wisdom figure from your life to coffee or tea. *Today's Readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12–22; Psalm 34:17–18, 19–20, 21 and 23; John 7:1–2, 10, 25–30.*

### Saturday, March 17

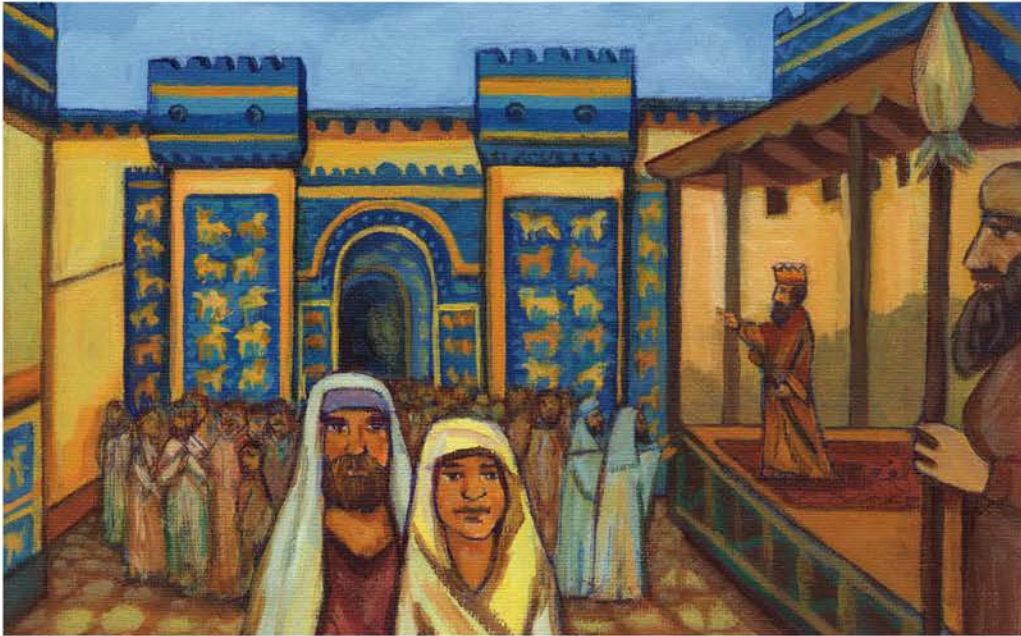
#### Refuge

During these final days of Lent, listen carefully to the refrain of the Psalm. In times of pain and weakness, God is truly our refuge. This Lenten season may have revealed the blind spots within our hearts, but all should know that sin cannot take hold when we seek refuge in God. Allow God's mercy to wash over you and ask for God's justice. Pray today for all those who seek refuge and safety. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 11:18–20, Psalm 7:2–3, 9bc–10, 11–12; John 7:40–53.*





# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



## Raise Us Up

O God,  
you are rich in mercy and full  
of compassion.  
From generation to generation,  
you poured forth your abundant love upon  
your people.  
Liberate us from the darkness of sin  
and raise us up with Christ,  
so that, renewed by the Cross,  
we may be strengthened for ministry.

Watch over us when we go astray  
and keep us close to the heart of  
your Son.  
Give us prophetic voices  
that joyfully announce your mercy  
and love  
to all those who are exiled by sin  
so that all may find a place at the  
heavenly banquet.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, March 11, 2018**

**Mercy**



*Today's Readings: 2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23; Psalm 137:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6; Ephesians 2:4–10; John 3:14–21.* The readings today tell of the merciful love of God. Carey Landry emphasizes this aspect of God in the song “God is Rich in Mercy” in which he wrote, “God is rich in mercy, full of compassion.” Today’s Gospel points out that God’s love for us is so profound that he offered his only Son on the Cross so that we might have eternal life. When we consider our ancestors in the faith, we learn they wrestled to follow the Commandments and remain faithful to God just as we do today.

In the Book of Chronicles, the Israelites were taken into captivity as punishment for their infidelity, but even here,

God’s mercy prevails when King Cyrus, inspired by the Lord, freed the people. Sin causes us to turn away from God, but instead of punishment, God gives us the gift of his Son who has redeemed us; he has brought us out of the darkness into his light. No matter the circumstances in which we find ourselves, God is present and mercy overflows.

In this season of mercy, it is important to name those sins that keep us from God and seek forgiveness. It is also important to show mercy to others, especially those whom we may have harmed in any way. As you ponder God’s mercy, consider celebrating the Sacrament of Penance this week.