



*Be Doers  
of the Word*

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TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
AUGUST 30, 2015





## PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

### *Twenty-third Sunday of the Year*

**First Reading:** Isaiah 35:4-7

This section of the book of Isaiah contains the words of a prophet to God's people exiled in Babylon. He encourages them that one day they will be free to return home to Jerusalem. This journey will be through the desert, but God will transform this barren wasteland in order to ease their passage home.

**Second Reading:** James 2:1-5

The letter of James was written approximately 50 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. It was addressed not to a particular community, but to Christians everywhere. Because of this, it is part of a group of New Testament letters called catholic epistles meaning that the author wrote them for all Christians. One of the trademarks of the epistle of James is the need to act on God's word, not just listen to it.

## *Parish on a Journey*



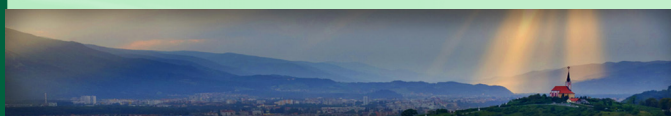
### *Backpack Blessing Next Weekend*

School starts this week for most students. Books, tablets, pads, pens and backpacks are all ready. Let's start the year right on all levels.

Here at STM, **next weekend**, we will celebrate and ask for blessings as we begin another school year.

Students, preschool through adult should bring backpacks or lunch boxes to any of the masses Saturday or Sunday and we will pray for an exciting and rewarding school year.

Teachers, aides, principals, administrators, secretaries, cooks, librarians, janitors, and bus drivers, come to church to be blessed, affirmed in your vocation, and encouraged as you serve children and families in your daily work! Join us for this Sunday Blessing! Everyone is encouraged to bring school supplies to church also. **Don't forget to invite your friends.**



## *God's Grace is Young Enough*

For the Young and Young At Heart  
Readings for this Sunday  
*Deuteronomy 4:1-8; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-23*

### *Hearing, Doing, Being* Suggested Reflection Questions

- The first reading from Deuteronomy talks about the rightness of the law given to the Israelites by God. Do you think that the laws of our nation are just? Do our public policies reflect the wisdom and intelligence of God's commandments?
- In what ways is your faith something actively lived, not just believed? In other words, how are you a "doer" of the word, not just a "hearer" of it?
- In what ways do your actions arise from an authenticity of heart, from a place of love, not obligation? In other words, how are you not just a "doer" of the word, but a "be-er" in the word?



## SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2015

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Put love in the balance

Church law is to be studied so as to be understood, and considered so as to be integrated into daily life. But the law that supersedes all other laws is love of God and love of neighbor. We must weigh every act in light of God's law of love. Keep your conscience well informed by sacred reading, listening, praying, and taking in all of life so that you will be able to determine where love resides on every issue.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8; James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (125)*. "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders?"

## MONDAY, AUGUST 31

### Come together

Everyone likes to think they're special. And indeed, everyone is. But not more so than anyone else. All of humanity is saved by Christ. As Pope Francis says, "The Lord has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the Blood of Christ; all of us, not just Catholics." This teaching is nothing new in the church; it's been spoken by popes, saints, and apostles for 2,000 years. Whether a person believes in the Good News or not, the Holy Father says, "... do good! We shall meet there."

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Luke 4:16-30 (431)*. "... we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words."

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

### For everything there is a season

For many, this time of year, when summer ends and school begins, feels more like the beginning of a new year than January 1. In fact, Jews and Muslims celebrate their new years in late summer/early fall. But it's Ordinary Time in the Catholic liturgical calendar, and as summer fun winds down and you get back to "ordinary" life, remember to take time to reflect and seek spiritual renewal with the changing season. Cooler weather and shorter days are conducive to turning inward; cultivate light and warmth in your heart.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11; Luke 4:31-37 (432)*. "... you are children of the light and children of the day."

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

### Faith comes first

A major part of Jesus' active ministry was as a healer. Those who came to him had faith that he could heal them; they believed in his power and were changed because of it. Scripture scholar Father Donald Senior, C.P. writes, "If there was faith, then the miracle had already begun: the miracle of a transformed life . . . physical cures were simply dramatic illustrations of the fundamental restoration Jesus worked in everyone whom he touched and who believed in him." Faith drew people to Jesus for healing,



not the other way around. Believing opens your life to God and allows for transformation that's nothing short of miraculous.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Colossians 1:1-8; Luke 4:38-44 (433)*. "I trust in the mercy of God forever."

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

FEAST OF GREGORY THE GREAT, POPE, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

### Noblesse oblige

According to Luke's gospel, "much will be required of the person entrusted with much," and much was certainly given to and by Pope Saint Gregory the Great. Gregory was born in sixth-century Rome into a wealthy, high-ranking family. He had the best education and was an excellent student. He was surrounded by strong religious influences; his mother and two aunts became saints. And he applied his blessings to making his chaotic world a better place with his many accomplishments. What have you been given that can be given back in service?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Colossians 1:9-14; Luke 5:1-11 (434)*. "You may be filled with the knowledge of God's will . . . to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, so as to be fully pleasing, in every good work bearing fruit . . ."

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

### Give God a smile

Here's a simple challenge: Smile when you receive Communion. Many of us find that hard to do. Why? Because we are aware that we are sinners; we know that the Lord is mighty and wondrous, and we are not. But, if we truly trust in the Lord's promise, we know that we are loved and showered with mercy. We believe that in every misstep we make, the Lord is there to help us back on the path of love. That is the promise of the Eucharist: that God is with us, ever present, ever available to us. And so, we have every right to put on a happy face. In fact, as today's responsorial psalm reminds us, it is our sacred duty to "come with joy into the presence of the Lord."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 5:33-39 (435)*. "Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?"

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

### Rest with God

The Sabbath is a concept that traces its origins back to the story of creation in the Book of Genesis. On the seventh day, God rested. This act shows that rest has a part to play in the work of creation. As Christians, we are called to take time each week to, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it, "rest in God." We pause so we can be rejuvenated. We acknowledge the holiness of each day. We worship and witness to a God whose work is never done. And we realize that each day is a call to be co-creators with our God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Colossians 1:21-23; Luke 6:1-5 (436)*. "The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

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**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.

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.

**SOME MINISTRIES and ORGANIZATIONS**

- |                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Altar Servers                  | Bereavement Ministry |
| Bulletin                       | Collection Counters  |
| Finance Council                | Home/Sick Visits     |
| Lectors/Ministers of Communion | Youth Ministry       |
| Prayer Shawl Ministry          | Ushers/Greeters      |
| Women's Guild                  | Pastoral Council     |

**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.



**ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH**  
**MAIL: P.O. Box 286, Convent Station, NJ 07961**  
*GPS: 4 Convent Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960*  
**973-267-5330**

**Parish Office: Mon. - Wed, 9:30-2 pm**  
**Other times & days, call to see if office is open.**

**Sunday Eucharist:**  
**Saturday 5 pm; Sunday, 9 am, 11 am, 7 pm**  
**Weekday Eucharist: Monday - Saturday: 8:15 am**  
**Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 pm or by appt.**  
**Holy Days - 8:15 am, 12:10, 7:00 pm**

**Information: info@stmnj.org**  
 Fr. Joe Farias, jfarias@fdu.edu, jfarias@stmnj.org, ext. 102  
 Bill McGuire, parish mgr, wmcguire@stmnj.org, ext. 104  
 Pat Schell, secretary, secretary@stmnj.org, ext. 103  
 Fr. Das , ext. 108

- 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**

**Weekly Readings - Moved**

*Daily scriptures and short reflections are now a regular addition to our bulletin, listed on a separate page.*

**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.*

**22<sup>nd</sup> Week of the Year**

Sebastian Choondassery 5 pm  
 Phyllis Marella, Emilie Ruta, June DeSena - 9 am  
 Aldo Caputo, Sebastian Choondassery- 11 am

Anita Farias - Wed.

**23<sup>rd</sup> Week of the Year**

Anita Farias 5 pm  
 June DeSena - 9 am  
 Gertrude Petoia- 11 am

**Stewardship of Treasure**

Last Week's Collection: \$ \$5251

*Please sign up for electronic giving.*

**Electronic Giving**

*Regularly scheduled donations through electronic giving help us budget better, and it provides donors with accurate records of their payments. Visit stthommore.weshare-online.org today to sign up for automatic donations and schedule your regular parish donations.*

**Sew Sewers**

Calling all sewers to make dresses for disadvantaged children. Even if you cannot sew, we have a job for you. Call Arlene at 732-503-3851.

**Registered?**

Forms are in the vestibule and parish office. If you would like a form sent to you or you're not sure if you're registered, call the office or email info@stmnj.org.

**Don't Forget!!!!**  
**Register for Religious Ed.**  
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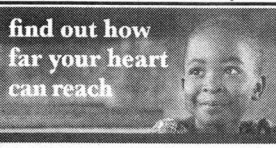
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