

St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

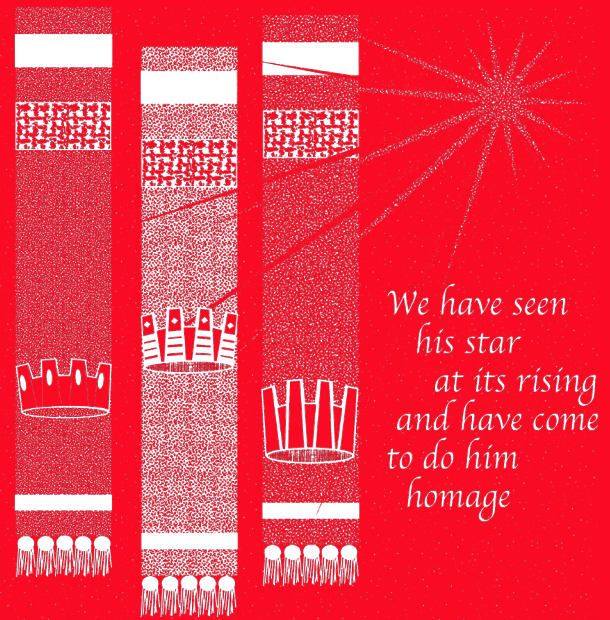
Convent Station, NJ

973-267-5330 • www.stmnj.org

Feast of the Epiphany - 2018



As a faith community, we keep in mind all 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.



*We have seen
his star
at its rising
and have come
to do him
homage*

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A Great Christmas

Christmas was overwhelming this year. Not the amount of work but the amount of help. Parishioners, young old and in between joined together to prepare for our celebration and participate in the liturgies. It all began with the Thanksgiving food collection and continued through the parish Giving Tree project, the practices of the "Religious Ed. singers" and then the preparations outside and inside the church. All this culminated with the celebration of faith in our Christmas liturgies.

Many thanks to those who helped prepare for our celebration, served at the liturgies and all who shared their time, their talents, their gifts, their treasure and food with one another, with staff, the parish and many hungry and poorer strangers. A true Christmas Miracle in action, making God more present in our midst.

Recovery Mass

The 2nd Saturday of each month Noon-1:30 pm. Shrine of St. Joseph, Stirling. Info: 973-370-DRUG (3784).

Calendars

2018 Liturgical Calendars are available in the vestibule, thanks to the generosity of Doyle Funeral Home.

Thank you

We thank Joe Alesso and other firefighters who offered their time and service to change some of the lights in our church before Christmas.

Two Retreat Opportunities


Annual Men's Retreat, Loyola Retreat Center, Morristown. Jan. 19-21. The men of St. Thomas More have traditionally gathered for an annual retreat at Loyola. This year's theme is Transformation through Christ, directed by Fr. George Collins, S.J. The parish coordinator is Desmond Lloyd. The retreat begins Friday at 7:30 pm and ends after lunch on Sunday. Contact Desmond at 973-822-2838 for info and register online at <http://tinyurl.com/stmatloyola>

Women's Cornerstone Retreat, Feb. 16-17 at Loyola Retreat Center, sponsored by Assumption Parish. A program for spiritual renewal and personal growth for women by women who come together to grow in the knowledge and love of God. Contact Chrissy West at 973-809-1646, costa1112@yahoo.com. A great opportunity for our parish to form our own parish Cornerstone team. Most parishes use their facilities for their programs which put us at a disadvantage, but Loyola is a great idea and an excellent location.



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as part of *our* flock

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3-19

This reading takes place 11 centuries before Christ at an Israelite shrine which housed the "Ark," a chest in which the Ten Commandments were kept. Eli was the high priest. Samuel was a young man in Eli's service. We will hear how God called Samuel to be a prophetic leader of Israel.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6: 13 -20

For a few weeks, we will read from this letter of Paul. Corinth, a port city in ancient Greece, was noted for its immorality. Anything and everything was thought permissible. Paul doesn't counter this attitude by putting down the human body as evil or of little worth. Rather, he does just the opposite.

This Week's Question

For Adults:

When have you found the presence of Christ in an unexpected place?

For Children:

Where and in whom will you look for Jesus this week?

Pastoral Council News

The Pastoral Council will meet next Saturday morning. During their last meeting in October, the main discussion concerned areas of parish improvement. Much of the discussion centered around the introduction of the parish to new members and retention. One positive practice was the social time after Sunday morning liturgies. One member suggested a "Bring a Friend to Church" drive. Two other suggestions were for the Council to host an annual cocktail party similar to the one this spring as well as a social for new member households. During a discussion about parish marketing and branding, it was pointed out that an advantage in our parish is that St. Thomas More was a lay person and a parishioner of a parish. Our next meeting will begin to put some ideas into action.

Member of the Pastoral Council are Pat Brisco, Jolie Elmore, Paul Gamerdinger, Ginny Lund, Tom McGough, Mary Murphy, Mike Murray, and Walter Olshanski.

Enrichment Series

Grace Counseling Center, Madison Ave. (next to Drew) is presenting a free monthly series, "How to Create a Healthy Life." Info: 973-822-0707. The first two are:

Food and You, Thurs. Jan. 25, 10-11 am and 7-8 pm, exploring some issues behind emotional eating as well as helpful guidelines for healthy eating. Joanne S. Miller, M.Div.

You said What?, Wed. Feb 7, 7-9 pm, on communication. A persons in special relationships (married, committed, friendship, parent and adult child) to enrich their lives through dialogue. For the greatest benefit, both parties of the relationship should attend together. Sr. Catherine Morrisett, D. Min.



Human Trafficking Awareness

The Sisters against Trafficking remind us that January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month. There are millions of slaves on the earth today, including millions of children who will never see the inside of a classroom. Plan to learn something this month about Modern Day Slavery. Visit: sistersagainsttrafficking.org, website of U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking.

Some New Year's Resolutions

Try some of Jesus' teachings:

- Don't worry. Luke 12: 22-32
- Pray. Luke 5: 16, 10: 38-42
- Take low position in mtgs. Luke 14: 8-10
- Feed the hungry. Matthew 25: 31-46
- Welcome new neighbors, co-workers, immigrants. Matthew 25: 31-46
- Don't store things not using. Matthew 6: 19
- Care for those who are sick. Matthew 25: 31-46
- Pray for your enemies. Luke 6: 27-29
- Do to others as you want them to do to you. Luke 6: 31
- Beware of hypocrisy and greed. Luke 12: 1, 15
- Don't charge others for what God freely gives you. Matthew 10: 8
- Stop grumbling. John 6: 43
- Forgive, over and over again. Luke 17
- Be a servant. John 13: 3-17

What's Happening This Week?

This Sunday

Rel. Ed.

Saturday

Pastoral Council Mtg., 9:30

Next Sunday

Rel. Ed.

Clothing Collection

Every Sunday

Pound A Week



Stewardship of Treasure

Last week's

Collection: \$ 8822

Christmas to date: \$ 30,106

Many thanks to the collection counters who faithfully gather each week to prepare the collection for deposit.



Stewardship is easy with Online Giving System, WeShare. Make a onetime or recurring donation using debit or credit card, or savings account. Visit our website, and click on Online Giving to set up your account. Choose a payment option and customize your donation. Or scan the QR Code on other side of this bulletin.

Meditate on the scriptures during the week. Take Five for Faith is located on the website under "Faith Formation."

Mail: P.O. Box 286

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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

"The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective."
—G.K. Chesterton