

St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

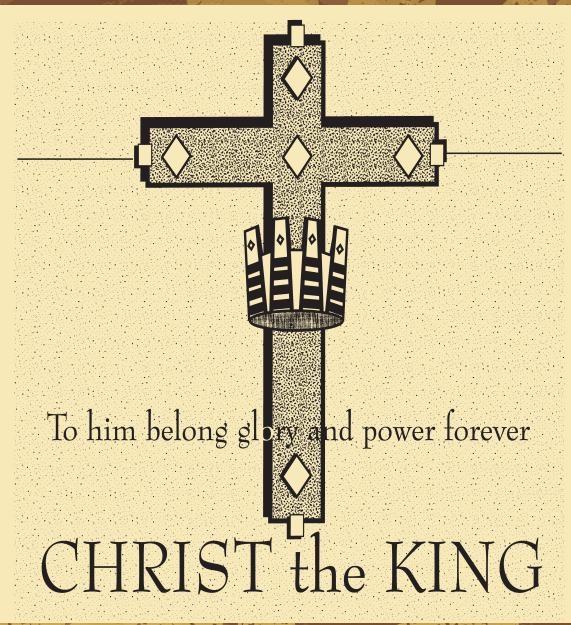
Convent Station, NJ

973-267-5330 • www.stmnj.org



Feast of Christ the King

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.



November 26, 2017 • The Day of the Lord

Remembering those Who Died

We will remember parishioners, family and friends who entered eternal life this year on the Feast of Christ the King, Nov. 26 at all the weekend liturgies. You are welcome to invite family of the deceased.

Christmas Party for Women

The Women's Guild will hold its Christmas Party on Dec 6 at 12:30 pm at the Serenade in Chatham. \$40.00 per person. Includes a glass of wine. RSVP Pat Briscoe 973 267-8276 or Bridie Murphy 973 539-5008 All women of the parish are welcomed.

In Giving We Receive

This time of the year we reflect on how we use all of the gifts given to us by a loving God. Consider showing your thanks for all your blessings by making a gift to the **2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal**. As we are reminded in this year's Appeal theme, In Giving, We Receive - your participation not only impacts the lives of tens of thousands of people in need, but it benefits you as well. Please make a pledge today! For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge at www.2017appeal.org.

Women's Advent Retreat

Tues., Dec. 5, 9:30 - 2:30. Sisters of Charity Motherhouse. Free will offering. RSVP: lpechello@scnj.org by Nov. 28. Info: 973-290-5325.

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

Diocese Mass & Breakfast

Diocesan 80th anniversary Dec. 9 - 9:30 am Mass at the Cathedral and breakfast at the Brownstone at 11 am. Tickets are \$40. Info: www.rcdop.org/breakfast.

Holiday Candlelight Remembrance

The Dangler Family invites families to their Annual Candlelight Remembrance, Thurs. Dec. 7, 7 pm., 600 Speedwell Ave, Morris Plains, to include memories of loved ones in this holiday season. RSVP by Dec. 1, 973-539-3300, danglerfuneralhomes@gmail.com with # of guests. Bring a framed picture or some memorabilia of your loved one.

We Need YOU - Desperately

At this time of the year, we give thanks for all we have been given. It is also a time to share our gifts with others. One way to include the parish and parish community in this spirit is to help in a liturgical ministry such as reader, eucharistic minister or hospitality. Hospitality may take the form of a traditional usher, a greeter or helping with fellowship hospitality after Sunday morning liturgies. We desperately need eucharistic ministers for all masses, especially Sunday morning and evening. And of course we always need readers. The more volunteers in a ministry the less frequently ministers will need to serve. You can designate the number of times you serve and, for the most part, any service you cannot serve at. In this time of giving back and sharing with others, come share with our parish community.



PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

First Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16 - 64:7

The Israelites returned from exile and were suffering economic hardship and persecution. The prophet expresses their expectation that God will intervene in human history in a dramatic way to help them. At the end, we will hear a familiar image.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

In Paul's day, writers would begin by extending greetings and thank the gods for blessings they received. Paul begins this letter for blessings his converts in Corinth received by their king God. (It helps to know the phrase "day of the Lord" refers to Jesus coming again in glory.)

This Week's Question

For Adults:

Who are the least of your sisters and brothers for whom you do care? Who are those whom you ignore?

For Children:

To which person did you especially try to show the love and care of Jesus?

Giving Tree

We are happy to say that most of the tags were taken last week. You can still contribute by choosing a gift and attach a tag with gender and age group. Gift cards are allowed both for adults and teens but should be some place convenient.

Do not include food or candy, toys or games that suggest war or violence. Do not wrap gifts but they will accept wrapping paper and gift bags.

Attach the gift tag to the gift with a clip, tape or tie. You can write a note to the person.

Try to bring the gifts by Dec. 10 to give CFCSS time to wrap and deliver gifts.

Recovery Mass

The Shrine of St. Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, hosts a monthly Recovery Mass on the 2nd Saturday of the month, Noon-1:30 pm. Following Mass, there is a prayer session in the chapel to pray for loved ones still enslaved by addictions, and give thanks for those who have found recovery. Info: 973-370-DRUG (3784).

Farewell, Matthew

This Sunday we conclude this year's journey with Matthew. This Gospel has long held a privileged place as first in the New Testament. Fr. Raymond E. Brown points out its importance. "Its organizational skill and clarity, plus a penchant for unforgettable images, have given this Gospel priority as the church's teaching instrument." Only in Matthew do we find the Lord's Prayer as it is prayed today. Only Matthew gives us the Sermon on the Mount, often described as the heart of the teaching of Jesus. Only in Matthew does Jesus declare Peter the rock on which the Church is built. Matthew impacts our understanding of who Jesus is, of how

to live the Christian life, and of what it means to be Church.

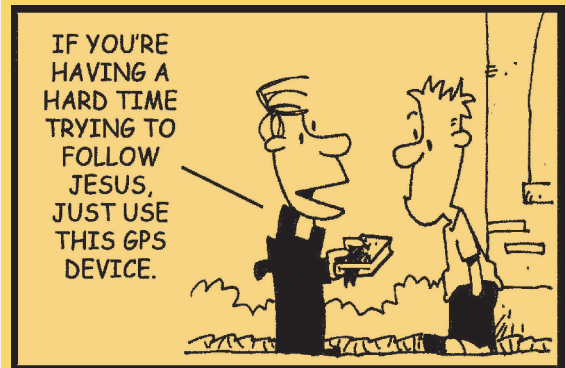
The author of Matthew borrowed extensively from Mark, the earliest Gospel—about 80% of Mark and used an additional source which was only a collection of the sayings of Jesus.

The author Matthew was a Jewish Christian, writing for a community of Jewish Christians, probably in Antioch, in Syria. He was most concerned about the Jewish people, and he focuses on the salvation of, and from the Jews more than any other Gospel writer. In the beginning of the Gospel, the names of so many saints and sinners of the Hebrew Scriptures leap out at us: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob; David, Bathsheba, Solomon. At the same time, he challenges the religious leaders in the way that Jesus almost dismisses them. At the same time, with these accusations and the account of Pilate washing his hands of Jesus, he gave encouragement to anti-Semites for centuries.

He portrays Jesus the teacher, the new Moses. Jesus is the healer, the wonder-worker, the Son of God, but mainly the teacher. Just as Moses came down the mountain with the law of God, so Jesus "went up the mountain . . . [and] began to teach"

In Matthew Jesus has the last word, as the risen Jesus with his commission to the Eleven and to us to "make disciples of all nations, . . . teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" The divine Teacher calls his disciples and us to be teachers as well.

Next week we begin our journey with Jesus through Mark, the shortest and earliest of the Gospels.



What's Happening This Week?

This Sunday

No Rel. Ed.

Next Sunday

Rel. Ed.

Giving Tree til Dec. 10

Tuesday

Women's Guild, 7 pm

Every Sunday

Pound A Week



Stewardship

of Treasure

Last week's

Collection: \$ 5536



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

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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.*

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