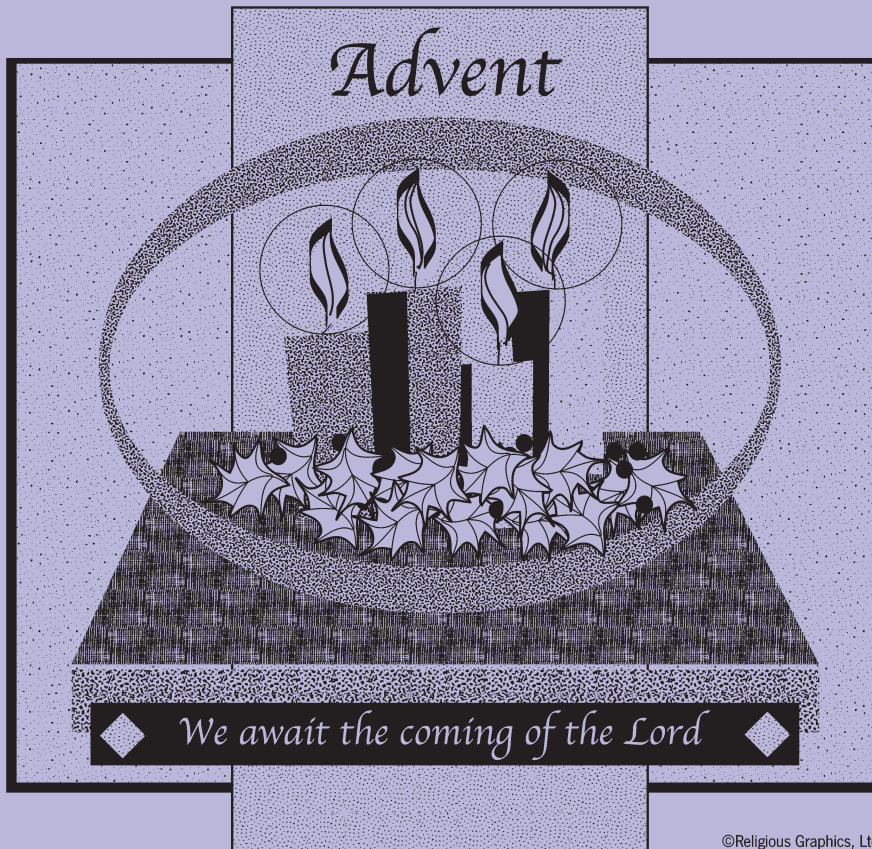


ST. THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC PARISH
CONVENT STATION, N J
973-267-5330 · WWW.STMNJ.ORG



NOVEMBER 27, 2016

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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Convent Station, NJ 07961

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Morristown, NJ 07960

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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

What's Happening This Week?

Today

Rel. Ed.

Next Sunday

Rel. Ed.

Things To Come

Dec. 8, Thom's Supper Club, 5 pm

Every Sunday

Pound A Week



Holiday Luncheon for Women

A luncheon at Serenade Restaurant in Chatham on Dec. 7, 12:30. \$40. A Great Time Together. Reservations: Pat Briscoe, 973-267-8276 or Bridie Murphy, 973-539-5008 or, by Dec. 5. An afternoon for all women. Sponsored by the Women's Guild.

Prepare- Advent & the Year

Six Minutes a Day for Advent blue booklets proved to contain words of wisdom and inspiration. Those who wish to contribute \$1 for the book may place it in the poor box (St. Thomas More Statue). This money will be used for the poor.

At Home with the Word contains scriptures for each Sunday, with reflections for daily living. Please use the accompanying payment envelopes and placed in the collection baskets. Large print is ordered and will be available soon.

Shop with iGive

Through iGive STM will receive donations. <<http://tinyurl.com/STMiGive>>. We learned Amazon is no longer part of iGive. We have applied to Amazon for their program and will hear soon.

Stewardship of Treasure

Last week: \$5532



Question for the Week

For Adults:

What will you do during Advent so that others can see that you have put on the light of Jesus Christ?

For Children:

What will you do during Advent so that others can see the light of Jesus in you?

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 Gifts Table in the Remembrance Book and on the Weekly Sheet.

Christmas Giving

We have the opportunity to share our Christmas generosity and joy with those who have less than us. We are proud to have been part of this tradition each year. Catholic Charities has suggestions for gifts in the giving basket. Gifts should be returned by Dec. 11, unwrapped in gift bags with the identification tag attached.

Sr. Magdalena is seeking help for Sisters, students, orphans and a few others in Tanzania for those looking to give a special gift to very needy people. There is a help list in the vestibule in the same area as the giving basket. If you are interested, contact Sr. Magdalena at nkeregochubwa@yahoo.com or let Fr. Joe know. She is looking for PCs, probably laptops for students. Sr. will be going home for Christmas and can take them with her.

Diocesan Christmas Concert

Join Bishop Serratelli on Sunday, December 4, 2016, 4 pm at St. Peter Church, Parsippany for the annual Christmas Concert, "Christmas Flourish", an exciting afternoon of music for the Advent and Christmas seasons with the Diocesan Choir, Diocesan Children's Choir, along with the Gramercy Brass Quintet.

Thom's Supper Club

Join Thom's Supper Club on Dec. 8, 5 pm at Charlie Brown's in Chatham. Call Joan Cummings if you are interested so she can make reservations. Dinner should be by separate checks. Looking to see a few new people. Try to make it this month. Great way to make new friends. Fun time to celebrate the season with old friends.

Christmas Concert

Villa Wash Academy's annual Christmas Concert will be presented Sunday, December 11 at 3 PM in Mother Ninetta Auditorium. Tickets \$10. www.villawalsh.org

Parish on a Journey

Grandma's Accidental Thanksgiving Invitation to Wrong Teen Is Serendipitous for New Friendship

In the News:

A few days before Thanksgiving, Jamal Hinton, 17, a high-school senior in Phoenix, Arizona, received a group text message saying that Thanksgiving dinner would be served at 3 p.m. on the 24th.

"Let me know if you are coming," the text said. "Hope to see you all."

The only problem was, Jamal didn't recognize the sender's phone number. So he texted back and asked who the sender was.

"Your grandma," was the reply.

Last Jamal knew, his grandma hadn't learned how to send text messages, so he texted back asking for a selfie from the sender.

Moments later, he received a photo of a blond woman with glasses -- clearly not Jamal's grandma.

"You not my grandma," Jamal texted back, including a laughing emoji and a photo of himself.

Then, on a whim, he texted again, asking, "Can I still get a plate tho?"

The reply was "Of course you can. That's what grandmas do ... feed everyone."

Jamal and the sender, Wanda Delch, agreed to meet face to face the next evening, and when they did, Wanda extended the invitation to Jamal's entire family.

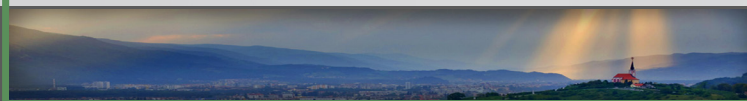
She then decided to get a larger turkey, as she would now have 20 people around the table.

Jamal also communicated with Wanda's grandson, Brandon Burgoyne, who echoed his grandmother's welcome.

Jamal shared the encounter on his Twitter page, where the story soon went viral.

"I think that's crazy that people can actually connect and be so nice to each other with people they don't even know," Jamal told a reporter who picked up the story. "I feel like everybody sees this joy that two people, two strangers can actually connect."

The Thanksgiving invitation sent to the wrong person but resulting in a new friendship is a good example of "serendipitous grace." It is gift that comes to us when we aren't even looking for it -- another form God's grace sometimes takes. Serendipitous grace is God's action on our behalf that yields an unexpected blessing -- sometimes when we aren't even hoping for it -- or an awakening of our sense of spiritual need. May our parish be an agent of God's serendipitous grace.



Take Five for Faith



Daily renewal for busy Catholics

These daily scripture reflections are on the website under "Faith Formation." A few 'hard' copies are in the vestibule as well. Download an app for daily reflections at: <http://www.takefiveforfaith.com/mobile-app>

Adoption Law Changes

As of Jan. 1, adoptees and certain relatives can obtain a copy of their original birth certificate without a court order. The certificate will include the names of birth parents who placed them for adoption unless a birth parent requests their name be omitted.

Birth parents who wish to preserve their privacy must submit a Redaction Request Form to the NJ Dept of Health no later than Dec. 31.

Retired Religious Collection

Aging religious need your help. Thousands of sisters, brothers, and order priests spent years working in schools, hospitals, and agencies—often for little pay. Their sacrifices leave communities without adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift in next week's collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Give to those who have given a lifetime.



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Fr. Das Choondassery (in residence), ext. 108

What's on our Website this Week?



'Events,' 'News' and other columns are constantly changing. More up to date than our bulletin.

Don't forget to check out the website.

Too (two) many envelopes

You received double envelopes for Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. There will be only one collection each of those days. We appeal to your responsible and generous commitment to the parish. We also appreciate your extra contributions that many make at Christmas. At the same time, we feel that "nickel and dime-ing" parishioners is both ineffective and undermining to the notion of responsible giving.

Again, we ask that each household consider their responsibility to the parish each year considering our needs and expenses as outlined in the annual finance report, as well as your own financial situation. We thank the many very generous parishioners who help us pay our bills and help us in our parish ministry.

Today's Readings

Isaiah 2: 1-5; Romans 13: 11-14; Matthew 24:37-44

Salvation offered on a Cross

- The prophet Isaiah dreamed of a day when Jerusalem (sometimes called Zion) would be the center of the world, and all people would come there to receive instruction from God. In today's reading, Isaiah presents a vision of peace and prosperity for the whole world.
- Behind everything Paul wrote was his strong belief that the hour of Christ's return in glory was near at hand. In this passage, Paul uses the image of darkness and light to describe how Christians ought to live as they await that coming.
- Matthew's gospel begins with a statement from Isaiah: "Emmanuel... God is with us" and ends with a similar statement of God's continuing presence, after the resurrection with Jesus' final words: "I am with you always, to the close of the age."

