

St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

Convent Station, NJ

973-267-5330 • www.stmnj.org

Second Sunday of Advent - 2017



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.

A voice of one crying in the wilderness



**PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD
MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS**

In Giving We Receive

If you have not yet responded to the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal, there is still time. The 2017 Appeal funds are used to support ministries and programs through the end of the diocesan fiscal year on June 30, 2018. Your gift is a great blessing and valued so we can serve Christ by serving his people. For your convenience, you can make an online gift at www.2017appeal.org.

Christmas Set Up

Thanks to all who helped with decorations this weekend. The rest of the schedule: Next Saturday, beginning at 10 am. Inside nativity scene and decorations. All ages.

- Dec. 21 at 2 pm and at 7 pm to clean the church, polish, and general sprucing up.
- Dec. 24 immediately after 11 am mass - Plants and done! Sign up for one or more.

We Need YOU - Desperately

At this time of the year, we generously share 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.



Connect with us via **FLOCKNOTE**

Text STMNJ to 84576 or visit flocknote.com/STMNJ

We ❤️ love having you as part of *our* flock

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-11

The last part of the book of Isaiah contains the words of a prophet who preached after the Jews returned from exile in Babylon. They found their temple destroyed and the city leveled. In today's reading, the prophet describes how God called him to encourage the people in this desperate time.

Second Reading: 1 Thess. 5: 16 -24

Our second reading comes at the end of Paul's first letter to the Thesalonians. Just as a parent might give last-minute instructions as their child heads out the door, so Paul has a list of last-minute instructions for these people whom he loves.

This Week's Question

For Adults:
With whom could you be more patient this week, as God has been patient with you?

For Children:
With whom can you be more patient?



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Visit our church at: flocknote.com/stmnj
or Text: **stmnj to 84576** from your phone to subscribe to updates

FRIDAY

1 DECEMBER



Thanksgiving Food

Thanks to parishioners; generosity, the Interfaith Food Pantry received more than lbs of food and \$325. This is addition to donations delivered directly to the Patnry. Many thanks to Ginny Macko for coordinating this effort.

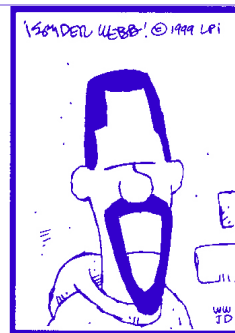
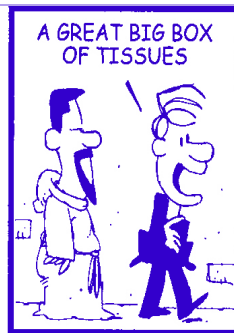
Good Seamstress/Tailor

We are looking for suggestions for a good tailor or seamstress to repair some of our good quality vestments. Call the parish office if you know someone.

The Woman in Advent

In the middle of Advent stands the figure of Mary, celebrated this past week in the Feast of the Immaculate conception, the patronal feast of the United States and this Tuesday as Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of all the Americas. Guadalupe devotion has advanced to the south from Mexico, and throughout all of North America. Guadalupe's faithful have been expanding for nearly five centuries. Her basilica in Mexico City is the most visited pilgrimage site on the American continent. After Jesus of Nazareth, her image is the most reproduced sacred icon in America. Long acclaimed as the national symbol of Mexico, Pope John Paul II acclaimed her as the "Mother and Evangelizer of America." At the request of the bishops of America, he decreed her feast "be celebrated throughout the continent."

Why does Our Lady of Guadalupe attract such a rich variety of followers? One answer is the tradition of her 1531 apparitions to the indigenous Juan Diego. Generations passed on his story to their children. They relate how Guadalupe sent Juan Diego to request that the bishop of Mexico, build a temple in her honor on the sacred hill of Tepeyac. The bishop



doubted the story but came to believe when Juan Diego dropped exquisite out-of-season flowers from his tilma (cloak) and presented the image of Guadalupe that miraculously appeared on the rough cloth of his garment. In various ways, Guadalupe provided Juan Diego with hope and consolation, especially through the healing of his uncle, Juan Bernardino.

The relationship and trust between Guadalupe and Juan Diego also resonates with many. Those who have experienced the pain of rejection find hope in Guadalupe's election of the unexpected hero Juan Diego, as well as in Juan Diego's unwavering faith and final vindication. The Guadalupe narrative reveals the deep truth of their human dignity and exposes the lie of experiences that unjustly diminish their fundamental sense of worth.

Finally, Guadalupe's beauty and unconditional love transform her people, enabling them to confront harsh realities with the confident assurance that no human force can thwart God's loving designs.

Guadalupe is our mother. Throughout the Americas, we enter into the ongoing eruption of God's compassion that St. Juan Diego first experienced in her centuries ago.

What's Happening This Week?

This Sunday

Rel. Ed.

Wednesday

Church Set up, 10 am

Next Sunday

Rel. Ed.

Mon. Dec. 18

Advent Penance Service, 7 pm

Christmas

Christmas Eve, 5 pm; Mass at Night, 10:30

Christmas Day, 9 & 11 am

Every Sunday

Pound A Week



Stewardship of Treasure

Last week's

Collection: \$ 4477

Online giving for Nov: \$ 4222



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.*

www.stmnj.org

"The problem is solved. Now go and utterly enjoy all remaining days. Not only is it "Always Advent," but every day can now be Christmas because the one we thought we were just waiting for has come once and for all."

—Richard Rohr, *Preparing for Christmas: Daily Meditations for Advent*