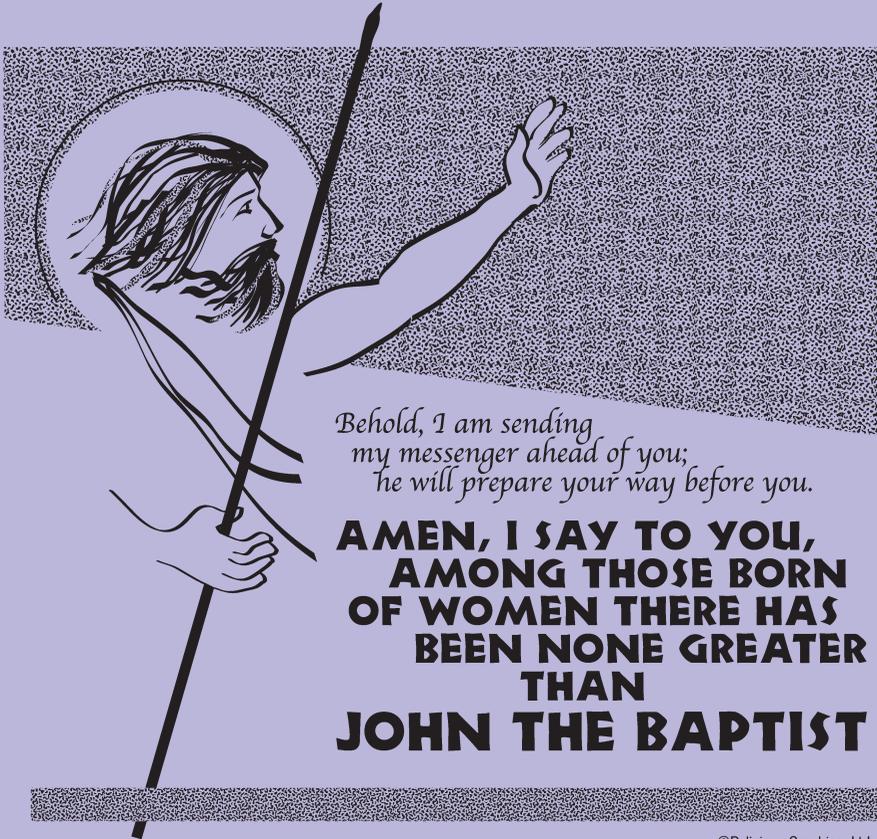


ST. THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC PARISH
CONVENT STATION, N J
973-267-5330 · WWW.STMNJ.ORG



DECEMBER 11, 2016

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*Behold, I am sending
my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you.*

**AMEN, I SAY TO YOU,
AMONG THOSE BORN
OF WOMEN THERE HAS
BEEN NONE GREATER
THAN
JOHN THE BAPTIST**

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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.



This Week

Saturday. – Set up Nativity and wreaths, 10 am

Next Sunday
Rel. Ed.

Dec. 19. – Advent Penance Service, 7 pm

Dec. 24 – Clean and Decorate church, 9 am

Christmas

Christmas Eve Masses – 5 pm & 11 pm
Christmas Day Masses – 9 am & 11 am (no 7pm)

New Year - Mary, Mother of God

Regular weekend Masses: 5 pm, 9 am & 11 am
(no 7pm mass)

Every Sunday

Pound A Week

Gala Pictures

We have many pictures from the Gala and are trying to get more on the website and in also on screen in the vestibule. Pictures are available online at www.kramerimages.com and can be purchased there. Click order online, corporate events and portraits and look for STM Gala.

Good Bye and Good Luck

Jeanine and Nick Losito that they sold their house more quickly than they expected and have moved into their new place in Rockaway Twp. We're sorry to have them go, but we also wish them good luck in their new home.

Stewardship of Treasure

Last week: \$6006



Question for the Week

For Adults:

How do you prepare yourself to meet Christ in those around you?

For Children:

What good thing have you done so far during Advent to be like Jesus?

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.

Why do Catholics celebrate Christ's birth on December 25th?

The Gospels do not identify a specific date for Jesus' birth. December 25 was chosen for several reasons, including that the date was close to the winter solstice.



The early Church attempted to replace existing pagan celebrations with Christian ones. Under the Emperor Aurelian, December 25 was celebrated as the "birth of the unconquered sun." As Christianity became more widely practiced, the pagan celebration was replaced by Christmas to celebrate Christ's birth — the real "unconquered" light of the world.

At Home with the Word in Big Print

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 editions are now available.

Two Too Many Envelopes

Discard the Sunday envelopes for Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. There will be 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.

Parish on a Journey

Ministries in the Parish

Minister of Hospitality - Usher

Ushers and Greeters have an important role in making Sunday Liturgy vibrant and alive. They help set the tone by being friendly and welcoming people, especially visitors, to our liturgy.

Ushers and greeters help the Holy Spirit assemble the church in preparation for Sunday Liturgy. They need to be upbeat and excited about celebrating Eucharist. They welcome not only friends, but especially strangers who may feel uncomfortable about being in a new church. They help handicapped feel wanted and at home, just as Jesus did. Ushers and greeters help people find places, and are truly servants of the assembly.



We need ushers/greeters badly—men and women. Ideally, we should have a minimum of ushers per mass. We would like to have so that we can have a schedule and people won't be pressured to be there every week.

We will be having meetings for all ministries during the month of January.

The meeting for all ushers, new and old will take place Saturday January 14 at 10:00 pm.

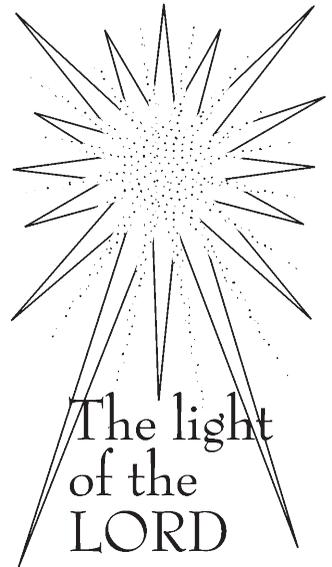
The collection is taken and the gifts are presented. Ushers facilitate all this. They also pay attention in case someone might be in need during mass.

At the end of the liturgy, besides distributing bulletins, they are the smiling faces that wish worshippers well as they leave.

We need ushers/greeters badly—men and women. Ideally, we should have a

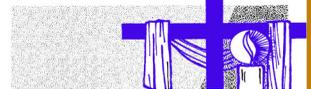


These daily scripture reflections are on the website under "Faith Formation." A few 'hard' copies are in the vestibule as well. Download an app for daily reflections at: <http://www.takefiveforfaith.com/mobile-app>



The light
of the
LORD
grows
brighter

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Pat Schell, secretary, secretary@stmnj.org, ext. 103
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.**

Today's Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5. 4-10; Matthew 3:1-12

Salvation offered on a Cross

- TV news in the Middle East has familiarized us with the empty expanse described in today's reading. We can appreciate the transformation Isaiah promises. desert will become a lush garden, as God's chosen people return singing and dancing from their 70 year exile in Babylon.
- The letter of James, written about 50 years after the death of Jesus was addressed to a group of Christians who were disappointed that Jesus had not yet returned in glory. Using an agricultural image, the author encourages them to keep their hope alive as they face the day to day trials of life.
- Today we meet John the Baptist in prison (an awful experience for a man who loved the wilderness). He is in jail because he has told Herod that it is wrong for him to marry his brother's wife.

