

St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

Convent Station, NJ

973-267-5330 • www.stmnj.org

Third 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.



The Spirit of the Lord
is upon me
because the Lord has
annointed me.
He has sent me
to bring glad tidings.

REJOICE, FOR THE LORD IS NEAR!

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In Giving We Receive

If you have not yet responded to the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal, there is still time. Our parish goal for this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal was \$38,500. \$40,097 has been pledged to date with 108 donors from this parish.

Christmas Set Up

Thanks to all who helped with decorations this weekend. Next Thursday, Dec. 21 we will get the church nice and clean and spruced up at 2 pm and at 7 pm. On Dec. 24 immediately after 11 am mass we will arrange the plants and take care of last minute things! Sign up for one or more.



o come,
emmanuel

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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.



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We love having you
as part of *our* flock

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-16

The "Ark of God," was a wooden chest overlayed by gold, that housed the 10 Commandments. King David, rich and comfortable in his palace, felt the Ark deserved to be housed in similar splendor. God tells David a physical building is not as important as the "house" (dynasty) of David. This prophecy was fulfilled in Christ, who was born of the House of David.

Second Reading: Romans 16: 25 -27

This conclusion of Paul's letter is much like a toast offered to God. We should give thanks to God that salvation is available to all people through faith in Jesus Christ.

This Week's Question

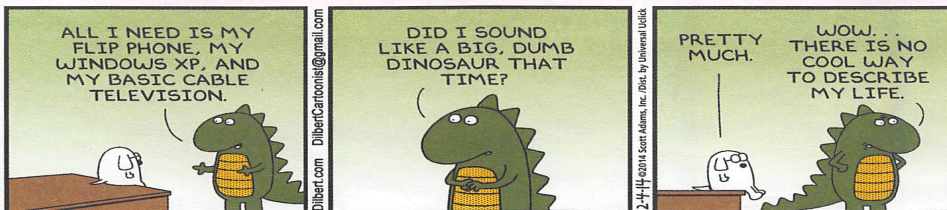
For Adults:

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

For Children:

What work of justice could you do this week to bring someone joy?

Don't be a DILBERT Dinosaur



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SATURDAY/SUNDAY

2/3 DECEMBER



A Needed Message of Advent Hope

Psychologists sometimes speak of “the holiday syndrome”. In the weeks before Christmas, they know that many people feel anxious, restless, lonely, even hostile. They seem to internalize the deepening darkness of the season as the sun moves to its southern most point and the hours of daylight continue to diminish.

The Advent liturgy itself reflects the mood with its images of struggle, puzzlement, pain and doubt. Yet, through it all, a note of hope sounds ever louder. Isaiah speaks of it when he utters the words that Handel will work so triumphantly into his Messiah:

“Lift up your voice with strength, O herald of good tidings to Jerusalem.” (Is 40:5)

“Good tidings”: those are the words of the angels at Bethlehem when they announced:

“We bring you good tidings of Great joy. A child has been born to you, a savior.”

The imagery of Advent points to a child who will be born; and a child is a symbol of the future with all its possibilities, hopes and dreams. Mothers have a way of collecting baby pictures. Perhaps one of dad and child, one maybe one in a stroller in the backyard peering curiously at the camera mom is holding.



Then there's that “pride picture”—a parent standing beside a daughter or son, holding their hand and looking down with what seems enormous fondness.

When the New Testament speaks of us as “children of God” the Greek word it employs means “nursling” very little children. Christ taught us to call God Abba Father for a very good reason.

As the “very little children” of God, we have the secret of the kingdom the power of a cry. Our Abba cannot resist the cry of a child. He will, whatever our age, bring us to his Kingdom of Peace. There, “the wolf will be the guest of the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid. The calf and the young lion will browse together.”

And a little child will lead them. (Is 11:6).

What's Happening This Week?

This Sunday

Rel. Ed.

Monday

Penance Service, 7 pm

Thursday

Church Set up, 2 & 7 pm

Next Sunday

No Rel. Ed.

Last Church Decoration, after 11 am mass

No 7 pm Mass

Christmas

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

Christmas Day, 9 & 11 am

Sunday Dec. 31

No 7 pm; Mass

New Year

Eve, 5 pm; Day, 10 am

Every Sunday

Pound A Week



Stewardship of Treasure

Last week's

Collection: \$ 4831

Monthlly collection: \$ 27422

Joyful Giving



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.

oops! from the bulletin of another church. . .

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM THE STAFF

Peach on earth, goodwill toward all.

Blessings in the New Year!

To those who will be away next week: Wishing you all a peachy, *peace*-filled Christmas!

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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 Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid.”

— Martin Luther