

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



DECEMBER 18, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Joseph
DO NOT BE
AFRAID
for it is through
the HOLY
SPIRIT
that the child
has been conceived.

You are to name him
JESUS
because he will
save his people from
their sins

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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

What's Happening This Week?

Today
Rel. Ed.

This Week

Monday – Advent Penance Service,
7 pm

Saturday. – Clean and Decorate
church, 9 am

Next Sunday — Christmas

Christmas Eve Masses – 5 pm & 11 pm
Christmas Day Masses – 9 am & 11 am (no 7pm)
No Rel. Ed.

New Year - Mary, Mother of God

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

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: \$ 6687



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.

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.

Unite Against Human Trafficking

Not all persons experience loving families and receive multiple gifts. REMEMBER those who are bought and sold as commodities for greed and pleasure. US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking (sistersagainstrafficking.org)

Family Reunions

Lots of people come home for Christmas either for dinner or visits or to share gifts. Stories are told, food is shared, love is felt. Reunion happens in church as well. Sometimes, people need to be invited. If you know someone has been away from Church attendance for awhile, why not invite them to join you for Christmas. They might just have been waiting for someone to invite them back for years.

Also make all visitors feel at home. Remember they are visitors, so welcome them and make them feel special. They are our guests. Treat them as such in the same way you would treat your guests at home.



Question for the Week

For Adults:

Whom do you find it difficult to welcome in your life? What can you do to overcome that?

For Children:

What could you do this week to make someone feel welcome, as Joseph welcomed Mary?

Parish on a Journey

Ministries in the Parish

Minister of Communion

In the early Church, it was common to entrust the eucharist to lay persons. With the gradual falling off from frequent communion, these practices fell into disuse.

The reforms of Vatican II led to the development of new ministries. In 1969 lay persons were permitted to act as ministers of communion in certain circumstances. Later these circumstances were expanded. This practice is now being followed in most parts of the world. More ministers were

needed when eucharistic was offered with bread and wine.

When only priests and deacons could bring communion to the sick, it was difficult for them to come often; it was rare indeed that they could come on Sundays and feast days. Now the Church desires that the sick be given communion frequently, and certainly on



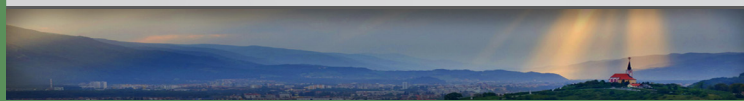
Sundays. Ministers may visit and bring communion to the sick, and free priests for other responsibilities. By bringing communion to the sick and shut-in members of the parish on Sunday, lay ministers make it possible for these people to take a closer part in the community's worship.

Like ushers, eucharistic ministers should also be people of hospitality as people approach them, smiling, looking at them in the eyes and announcing Body/Blood of Christ. .

We need ministers of communion badly. Ideally, we should have a minimum of five 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 eucharistic ministers, new and old will take place Saturday January 7 at 10:00 pm.



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>



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**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 7:10-14; Romans 1. 1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

Joseph, the Rghteous Man

- Isaiah speaks to the King Ahaz, more interested in politics than religion. Isaiah announces that the wife of Ahaz will soon have a son, who will be a better king than his father.
- Paul highlights the fact that Jesus was descended from the Royal House of David. Early Christians (many of them from the lower class) were particularly proud of this.
- In Matthew, Joseph, not Mary, receives the limelight. Matthew is writing for a Jewish audience and he wants to show them that Jesus is a true descendant of Abraham and David. Joseph is Jesus' link to the house of David. While not ignoring Jesus' divine origin, Matthew wants to show that Jesus is the son of David. Jesus' divinity emanates from his virginal conception by the power of the Holy Spirit.

