

# ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH



CONVENT STATION, NEW JERSEY · 973-267-5330 · WWW.STMNJ.ORG

DECEMBER 25, 2016

CHRISTMAS - BIRTH OF THE LORD



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**Mail:** P.O. Box 286  
Convent Station, NJ 07961

**GPS:** 4 Convent Rd.  
Morristown, NJ 07960

**973-267-5330**

## 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.**

**What's Happening This Week?**

Today  
No Rel. Ed.

This Week  
Monday – Office Closed



Next Sunday — New Year -  
Mary, Mother of God

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

**To Come**

Eucharistic Minister Mtg., Jan. 7, 10 am  
Usher Mtg., Jan. 14, 10 am  
Lector Mtg., Jan. 28, 10 am

Every Sunday  
Pound A Week

**Stewardship of Treasure**

Last week: \$ 5157



“Christmas is not an event within history but is rather the invasion of time by eternity.” —Hans Urs von Balthasar

**This Week's Question**  
*For Adults:*  
Why is knowing Jesus important in your life?

*For Children:*  
How do you experience Jesus when you give a gift to someone else?



**WELCOME**

To all our visitors this weekend

*Please remember the sick and homebound of our Parish.*

*We are all called to prayer. As a faith community, let us keep in mind all those 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.



**Welcome to St. Thomas More Parish**

We are glad you decided to celebrate with our Parish Family. If you have recently moved into the parish and would like to register as a parishioner, please take a parish membership form at the entrances of the church or email and we will send you a form. Hopefully we can set up an appointment to meet one another. Or you may call the parish office at 973-267-5330.

**SOME MINISTRIES and ORGANIZATIONS**

- |                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Altar Servers                  | Bereavement Ministry |
| Bulletin                       | Collection Counters  |
| Finance Council                | Home/Sick Visits     |
| Lectors/Ministers of Communion | Youth Ministry       |
| Prayer Shawl Ministry          | Ushers/Greeters      |
| Women's Guild                  | Pastoral Council     |



Whether you are new or a veteran, consider joining or helping in the various areas of parish life. Call the office. Interested in something you don't see, don't be shy, talk to Fr. Joe.

**Visit of Eucharist at Home.** Communion may be brought to the home of any person permanently or temporarily homebound. For the confined, elderly and/or shut-in at home or in the hospital, our parish ministers make calls to homes and hospitals. Fill out the form below..

**Moving In or Out?** If you are relocating either in or out of the parish area please takes a moment to help keep our records current. Contact the parish office or drop a note into the collection basket.

**Pound A Week.** Show how much we care! Bring a pound of goods when you come to church. Pasta, tuna, powdered milk or soup. Peanut butter or jelly or crackers. Even a pound of diapers. While shopping add a pound!

**Don't forget to check out our website regularly. Besides parish news, there is world church news, spirituality resources, weekly bulletins and lots of other information. You can even check our our Facebook Page right from the website. Why not set your browser homepage to [www.stmnj.org](http://www.stmnj.org)!**

WHAT A SCENE!  
CAN YOU IMAGINE?  
SHEPHERDS IN THE NIGHT,  
CHOIRS OF ANGELS SINGING...



BEATS E-MAIL..



## PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

### *Mary, the Mother of God — New Year*

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

The fourth book of the Bible is called the Book of Numbers simply because in describing the wanderings of the people in the Sinai Desert, it gives two census reports. In this section, we hear how God instructed the priestly leaders to bless the people.

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Galatia was a Roman province in what is now central Turkey. Paul had visited there and founded a Christian community. In this section of his letter to them, he explains that all people, not just a select few, are called to be sons and daughters of God.

### *Prayer before Christmas Dinner*

God of all gifts,  
we thank you for the many ways  
you have blessed us this day.  
We are grateful each of those  
who are gathered around this table  
We ask you to bless us and our food  
and to bless those we love  
who are not with us today.



In our gratitude and love,  
we remember your humble birth into our lives  
and pray for those without enough to eat  
We remember the stable  
in which you were born  
and pray for those who have no place to live.  
We remember your challenging message  
of caring and giving  
and we pray for peace in families and nations  
throughout the world.  
We bless you and give you thanks in your Spirit  
who brings our hearts to life the Christmas Day  
and forever.  
Amen.

### *God's Grace is Young Enough*

For the Young and Young At Heart

Readings for this Sunday  
Isaiah 9:1-6 Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

### *Today is Born a Savior* Suggested Reflection Questions

- In Isaiah's time, the northern Jewish Kingdom of Israel was laid waste by the armies of Assyria. Today's passage offers the conquered people hope for a glorious future under a wonderful king. Christians have seen Jesus as fulfilling this prophecy. Where do you look for hope in your life?
- The letter to Titus was written about 30 years after Paul's death, and was written in Paul's name, a practice common in the ancient world. Titus was a traveling companion of Paul, and later was in charge of a Christian community on the island of Crete. He writes that the Spirit of God is poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life? How have you been blessed? Name the ways that God has graced you.



# CHRISTMAS 2016

## A Christmas Prayer



Loving Father,  
 Help us remember  
     the birth of Jesus,  
 that we may share  
     in the song of the angels,  
 the gladness of the shepherds,  
 and worship of the wise men.  
 Close the door of hate  
 and open the door of love  
 all over the world.  
 Let kindness come  
     with every gift  
 and good desires  
     with every greeting.  
 Deliver us from evil  
     by blessings  
 which Christ brings,  
 and teach us to be merry  
     with clear hearts.  
 May the Christmas morning  
 make us happy  
     to be thy children,  
 and Christmas evening  
 bring us to our beds  
     with grateful thoughts,  
 forgiving and forgiven,  
 for Jesus' sake. Amen.

by Robert Louis Stevenson

## Welcome, Visitors and Family Members

Christmas is about strangers as much as it is about family and friends. The scriptures speak of Magi and messengers, shepherds and angels, people on the fringe, at best. The travelers Joseph and Mary, a foreign guiding star and even a murderous king. Among them arrives, Emmanuel, the Christ, the uninvited guest. But it was the presence of the Christ and the divine plan that brought these unlikely disparate groups together as part of God's plan of salvation, strangers no more.

We welcome the many visitors this weekend and former parishioners who are returning to celebrate Christmas with family and friends. Here, there are no strangers, just new friends. So please feel at home.



## HOW you can HELP

Offering to share time and talent is the backbone of the life of parishes. At the same time, fuller participation in parish life is most beneficial to you as well. We urge you to help enliven parish life. Some of the avenues are obvious, you can serve as a reader, usher/hospitality minister, eucharistic minister, assisting in the young people's ministries. But there are many aspects of parish life that are less visible. We could use help in the areas of technology, digital communication, desktop publishing overseeing our website, media, social outreach. Looking for a New Year resolution?

## Stay Connected

We are always happy to see so many parishioners whose schedules may not allow them to be here on a regular basis. If you cannot visit as much as you like, you might want to check out our website at <[www.stmnj.org](http://www.stmnj.org)>. You will find current church news, weekly bulletins and other resources. You will also find an Online Donation link that can allow you to continue to support the parish even when out of town, working weekends, or attending Mass at another parish. It is an easy, safe and secure way of giving, please contact the parish secretary at 973-267-5330.

