

# St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

Convent Station, NJ

973-267-5330 • [www.stmnj.org](http://www.stmnj.org)

Feast of the Holy Family - 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.*



*Live as the Holy Family. Unite yourselves in love and respect for each other, live in peace with all people and pray that you may share in the life of the Lord.*

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## A Great Christmas

Christmas was overwhelming this year. Not the amount of work but the amount of help. Parishioners, young old and in between joined together to prepare for our celebration and participate in the liturgies. It all began with the Thanksgiving food collection and continued through the parish Giving Tree project, the practices of the "Religious Ed. singers" and then the preparations outside and inside the church. All this culminated with the celebration of faith in our Christmas liturgies.

Many thanks to those who helped prepare for our celebration, served at the liturgies and all who shared their time, their talents, their gifts, their treasure and food with one another, with staff, the parish and many hungry and poorer strangers. A true Christmas Miracle in action, making God more present in our midst.

## Feast of Mother Seton

The Sisters of Charity invite all to join them for the Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and the Seton Associate Commitment Ceremony, Sat. Jan. 6, 11 am at the Chapel. A light lunch will follow in the Academy study hall. The Heritage Room will display Mother Seton memorabilia. Info: 973-290-5470. Snow date is January 13. In case of inclement weather call (973) 290-5478.

## Feast of Mother Seton

The 2nd Saturday of each month Noon-1:30 pm. Shrine of St. Joseph, Stirling. Info: 973-370-DRUG (3784).

## Calendars

2018 Liturgical Calendars are available in the vestibule, thanks to the generosity of Doyle Funeral Home.

## January 1

January 1 is the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God and World Day of Peace. Since this day falls on a Monday, there is no obligatory observance this year. Liturgies for the Feast are 5 pm on Sunday evening and 10 am on Monday morning.



- 1 Joan Boylan
- 4 Rosemarie Raiola
- 8 Mary Feketie
- 12 Corinne Heslin
- 13 Betsy Reidinger
- 16 Hollis Sobers
- 18 Jacob Jordan
- 18 Richard Murphy
- 19 Robert Fitzpatrick
- 19 John Muoio
- 21 Elaine Stroppel
- 23 James Lee
- 24 Bridie Murphy
- 26 Paul Pizzimenti
- 27 Elena Colicelli, SC
- 28 Bob Bass



- 19 Mary Lou & Frank Miles (54)



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as part of *our* flock

**PREPARING FOR  
NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY**

## Epiphany of the Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

The last part of the book of Isaiah contains the words of a prophet who lived after the Jews returned from exile in Babylon (which is modern-day Iraq). They found their temple destroyed and the city leveled. But with great faith the prophet envisions a wonderful future for Jerusalem.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-6

The Ephesians were a community in which Jewish converts to Christianity lived side-by-side with Gentile converts. The author of this letter confirms that God's saving grace is available to everyone, whatever their background.

## This Week's Question

*For Adults:*

**How do your family members know that you are a compassionate person?**

*For Children:*

**What family member needs your kindness right now?**



## New Years' Eve

People like to celebrate the beginnings of things, like launching a vessel, inaugurating a president or christening a baby. Our fascination with beginnings may explain why we like colts, cubs and kittens. They hold the bright promise of tomorrow. New Year's Eve is the threshold of a host of tomorrows with their promise and possibility.

Twelve untouched months lie ahead of us, like some great canvas on which we will sketch a fresh chapter in the history of our lives with endless possible story lines. God waits with consuming interest for the themes we will choose. The brush strokes we make will affect lives of many others. Will they bring hope and promise to those around us or be somber, without the warmth of our caring?

As we grow older, we may take a more jaundiced view of New Year's Eve. Perhaps we remember other beginnings and see with dismay what we have done with the days already allotted us. If that is the case, then the angelic Christmas message is directed to us: "A Savior has been born to you." By accepting this Good News we acknowledge God as the great artist of our lives. With a few bold strokes God can turn even a badly spoiled painting into a work of art.

The child of Bethlehem grew into the man who blazed a trail through the dark passages

of suffering and death to a place at the right hand of God. This was not just a personal triumph. Jesus grafted each of us to himself like vines to a branch.

In the preface we pray, "By his birth, we are reborn, by his suffering we are freed from sin, by his rising we rise to everlasting life, in his return to you in glory we enter into the heavenly kingdom."

Our New Year's Eve is bright with hope because our Savior promises to lead us through all our tomorrows to the kingdom of his Father.

## New Year's Resolutions

Using the New Year as a time for resolutions dates far back in human history. The ancient Babylonians would promise to return borrowed farming equipment at the year's commencement. The Romans looked to Janus, a mythical king with two faces. Janus viewed both future and past at once, and became a symbol of seeking forgiveness from enemies before the year's end. Celtic tribesmen later adopted many traditions after the Roman invasions in 43. Today, many will make resolutions to drop bad habits or lose weight. Whatever form resolutions have taken, the motivations remain the same: a desire to change things in and around us for the better, at the beginning of a fresh, new cycle in our lives.

## What's Happening This Week?

### This Sunday

No Rel. Ed.  
Holy Day Mass, 5 pm  
No 7 pm Mass

### Monday, Feast of

Mary, Mother of God  
Mass, 10 am

### Next Sunday

Rel. Ed.

### Every Sunday

Pound A Week



### Stewardship of Treasure

Last week's  
Collection: \$ 6618  
Monthlly collection: \$ 27422



**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. your account. Choose a payment option and customize your donation. Or scan the QR Code on other side of this bulletin.**

*Meditate on the scriptures during the week. Take Five for Faith is located on the website under "Faith Formation."*

**Mail:** P.O. Box 286

Convent Station, NJ 07961

**GPS: 4 Convent Rd.**

**Morristown, NJ 07960**

973-267-5330

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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.

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*"Christmas reminds us we are not alone. We are not unrelated atoms, bouncing and ricocheting amid aliens, but are a part of something, which holds and sustains us.*

— Donald E. Westlake