

St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

Convent Station, NJ

973-267-5330 • www.stmnj.org

4th Sunday of Lent



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 Table in the Remembrance Book and on the Weekly Sheet.



March 18, 2017 • Fifth Sunday of Lent

Rest in Peace

This week Rita Lade and Howard Kraus entered eternal life, as well as Abbot Giles, Fr. Michael Burke and Fr. Brian Tomlinson. We offer our prayers, and our sympathy to their families.

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild will hold its meeting on Tuesday March 20 at 1 pm. We will show a Movie. All are welcome.

Care of our Common Home

Learn more about the Church's teaching on the environment and God's people. Our Lenten Series is Tuesdays at 7 pm.

Interested in Catholic Schools?

Our local catholic schools are interested in speaking to you about their successes in education. **St. Vincent** has an information session for Pre-K, K and 1st Grade, March 21 at 8:30 am. **St. Patrick, Chatham** has Walk in Wednesdays, 9-11 am for guided tours or call 973-625-2311 to schedule a visit.

Rice Bowl

This week we encounter Alefa in Malawi, where seeds are helping her family survive an uncertain climate. How can you care for God's creation this Lent? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.



Your Membership Data

Update birthdays, anniversaries, pictures, email addresses and other info on our database: <<https://stmnj.bythebook.us/co/>>. Enter your email address and last name. Receive a confirmation email in order to log on. If you don't see your info, call the office or email info@stmnj.org to give us your name and email address. We will enter that address and send you a note back to try again. Your email address needs to match the one in the database to log in.

Meditate on the scriptures during the week. Take Five for Faith is located on the website. Pull down "Faith Formation" and find it at the bottom.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

Passion Sunday

First Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-7

Chapters 40-55 of the Book of Isaiah contain the message of a prophet who spoke to God's people during their exile in Babylon. Several times the prophet speaks about a servant who will one day deliver God's people. Because the Servant is portrayed as suffering, Christians have traditionally identified Jesus with him.

Second Reading: Philippians 2: 6-11

In the years following Christ's death and resurrection, Christians began to develop the prayers and hymns that would become part of their rituals. In today's passage from the letter to the Philippians, Paul appears to be quoting an early Christian hymn celebrating the dying and rising of Christ.

This Week's Question

For Adults:

When and in what way have you seen life come from death?

For Children:

When have you felt stronger because you sacrificed something for a friend or member of your family?



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We ❤️ love having you
as part of *our* flock

Tradition!

Villa Walsh Academy will present "Fiddler on the Roof," Sat. March 24, 7 pm and Sun. Mar. 25, 3 pm Tickets \$12. Info: 973-538-3680 or www.villawalsh.org.

Chrism Mass

The Mass of Chrism is one of the most solemn and significant liturgies celebrated each year at the cathedral of every diocese. During the eucharist, the bishop blesses the oils of catechumens, the sick, and chrism. These are used for adult catechumens and infants, for the anointing the sick, and chrism for baptism, confirmation, ordination of priests, and the consecration of altars. These blessings have existed since the early church. This is done before the Triduum in order to allow time to transport the oil from the cathedral to all the churches in the diocese. The bishop is the only minister who may consecrate chrism. The bishop may not be able to baptize and confirm everyone in the diocese, but he will be symbolically present in the chrism which the priests and deacons will use. The Mass of Chrism gathers people of the whole diocese at their mother church to prepare for celebrations of Christ in all our churches throughout the year."

This year's Chrism Mass will take place in the newly renovated cathedral in Paterson. There is free parking in the parking garage across the street. Anyone wishing to attend and represent our parish and bring the oils to our church for this year's Triduum should contact Fr. Joe.

What's Happening?

Sunday

Pound A Week
Anointing of the Sick Mass, 11 am



Monday

Lenten Penance Service, 7 pm

Tuesday

Women's Guild, 2 pm
Lenten Program, 7 pm

Friday

Stations of the Cross, 7 pm

Next Sunday

Religious Ed.

Stewardship of Treasure

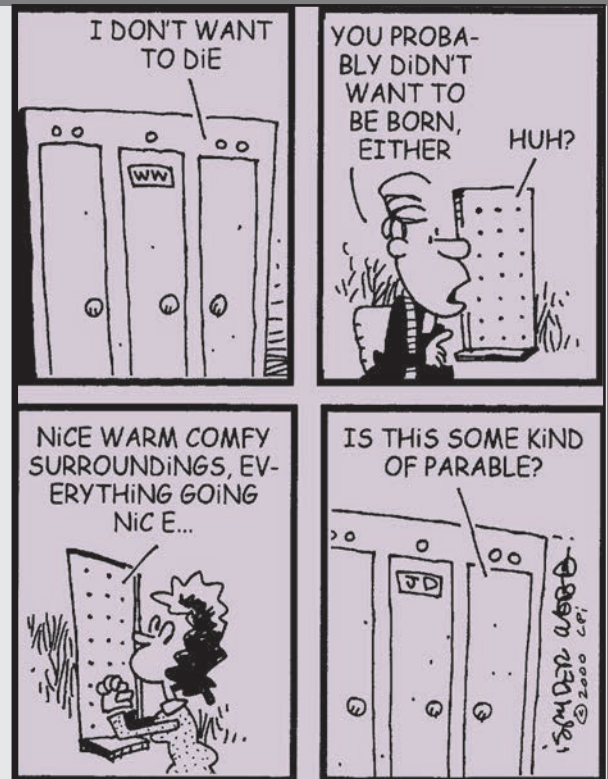


Last week: \$ 4665
2nd Coll: \$ 2974
Feb. Online: \$ 2545

Sign up Today
for electronic giving

stthommore.weshareonline.org

Or at the top of our website.



Saints, Heroes & Heroines

A return of a popular Lenten event. "Food and a Flick" on Thursday at Noon and 7 pm: **Edith Stein: The Seventh Chamber**. Story of the Jewish philosopher, Carmelite nun, Auschwitz martyr.

Organ Recital

As part of the Diocese's 80th anniversary and the reopening of St. John's Cathedral, Sunday, April 15 at 4 pm. Free-will offering. Free parking in the parking garage across from the Cathedral. Info: john@peragallo.com.

Things to Do in Lent

Spend Six Minutes a Day

Black books for adults

Operation Rice Bowl

Sacrament of Penance

Francis' letter on the Environment

Stations of the Cross

Eucharist

Parish Media Library

Prayer

Find 40 good things to do for others

"The Lord measures out perfection neither by the multitude nor the magnitude of our deeds, but by the manner in which we perform them."

— St. John of the Cross

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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

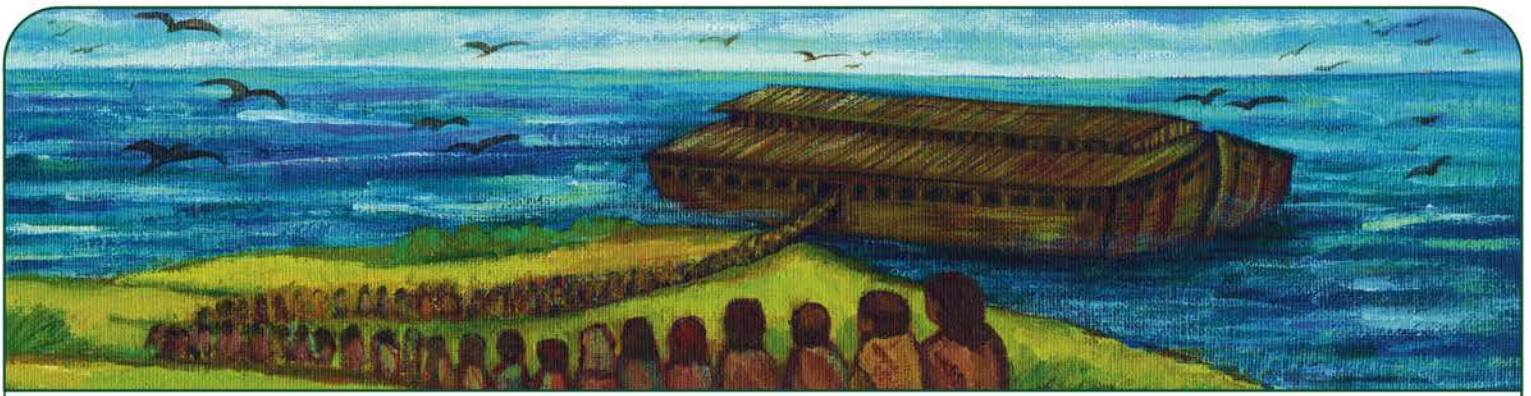
8:15 am, 12:10 pm, 7 pm

Parish Office Hours

Mon. - Wed, 9:30–2 pm

*Other times & days,
call to see if office
is open.*

www.stmnj.org



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 19

Solemnity of St. Joseph

Only a few passages in Scripture provide a glimpse into the person of St. Joseph. His care for Jesus and the Blessed Virgin speaks volumes about his character and devotion to God. As you reflect on the Gospel today, pay attention to the words or images that stir within you. What do they invite you to understand about Joseph? Consider taking part in a St. Joseph table in your community. *Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29; Romans 4:13, 16–18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18–21, 24a or Luke 2:41–51a.*

Tuesday, March 20

Son of Man

The desert of the Lenten season might find us complaining as did the children of Israel. Our parched hearts yearn for drink. In the desolation of the desert our hearts and minds can be free to seek God. The First Reading foreshadows the life-giving event of Christ's death and Resurrection. Just as the serpent was raised and healed the Israelites, so too was the Son of Man raised so that whoever believes in him will be saved. What have you learned in the desert this season? Plant some seedlings, nurture them in the coming days, and watch your desert bloom. *Today's Readings: Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 102:2–3, 16–18, 19–21; John 8:21–30.*

Wednesday, March 21

Fiery Furnace

The three men in the First Reading refuse to worship the idol. They had faith that God would protect them from death in the furnace. Even the king is transformed when he learns of the angel of the Lord walking among them and protecting them. The Psalm response, "Glory and praise for ever," is a portion of the song of praise the men sing. Pray the Psalm at mealtime and name something for which you would like to praise God. *Today's Readings: Daniel 3:14–20, 91–92, 95; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31–42.*

Thursday, March 22

I AM

Today's Gospel presents another encounter between Jesus and the Jews. The passage helps to affirm the divinity of Jesus once again, even though his audience struggles to understand. For the third time in John's Gospel Jesus says, "I AM." By saying this, Jesus equates himself with God. This was radical and not well-received. Jesus truly reveals God to us. Place yourself in the story. What do you hear? What do you see? *Today's Readings: Genesis 17:3–9; Psalm 105:4–5, 6–7, 8–9; John 8:51–59.*

Friday, March 23

Son of God

Jesus' adversaries question whether he is truly the Messiah. Jesus skillfully explains that he is the Son of God. He wonders why the works he performed are not proof enough that he reveals the one true God. The Jews in John's Gospel account think this is blasphemous and try to arrest him once again. The end of the Gospel reminds us that Jesus' ministry reveals God's power and so many come to know God. At the Stations of the Cross this evening, meditate on how Jesus did the work of the Father as he carried the cross. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 20:10–13; Psalm 18:2–3a, 3bc–4, 5–6, 7; John 10:31–42.*

Saturday, March 24

One Nation

Ezekiel paints a great picture of what life will be when all heed God's voice. In Christ, God will gather all peoples unto himself. God will heal them and restore them to life. They will flourish and God will dwell among them. This is a hopeful image. No matter how far away we are, God promises to bring us home and make us holy. As the week ends, think about how you will observe Holy Week. *Today's Readings: Ezekiel 37:21–28; Jeremiah 31:10, 11–12abcd, 13; John 11:45–56.*



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Pure Hearts

Good and loving God,
you have written your law within
our hearts.

In these final Lenten days,
examine our hearts and purge them of
all that keeps us from you.

Grant us, who were baptized into
Christ Jesus,
the strength of the Holy Spirit to release
our selfish desires
and through this dying to self, rise to
new life.

Grow within our hearts a deep desire to
live in union with you
and aid our journey as we follow
your will.

Give us pure hearts that remain
obedient to your promises
so that, filled with the grace of
your covenant,
we may imitate your Son
and proclaim your goodness throughout
the earth.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 18, 2018

Covenant



Today's Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33. During the past few weeks, the theme of the Scriptures focused on God's covenant. In the reading from Jeremiah, God's covenant takes center stage once again. Jeremiah tells the people that God will make a new covenant with them and it will not be the covenant of their fathers. We learn that this covenant will be written on hearts and that all will know the Lord. It is clear that God deeply loves his people. No matter how many times before they have disobeyed the Law and turned away from God's love, God continues to reach out to them in love.

This new covenant is revealed in Christ, and in Baptism, the new law, the law of love, was written in our

hearts. Yet, we still submit to sin and often turn away from God. Psalm 51 is a helpful prayer when our hearts have gone astray. The deep emotion of the petitioner can be sensed as this text is sung. When have you needed to seek God's mercy? We know that God will not abandon us; God wishes to share abundantly his mercy. The law that God has placed within us demands that we die to self and learn to follow the Lord. As the Second Reading states, Jesus learned obedience from his suffering on the Cross. His death brought about a new creation. The suffering we undergo as part of dying to self will strengthen us and lead us to produce much fruit. For prayer this week, meditate upon your favorite hymn about God's love or mercy.