

# St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

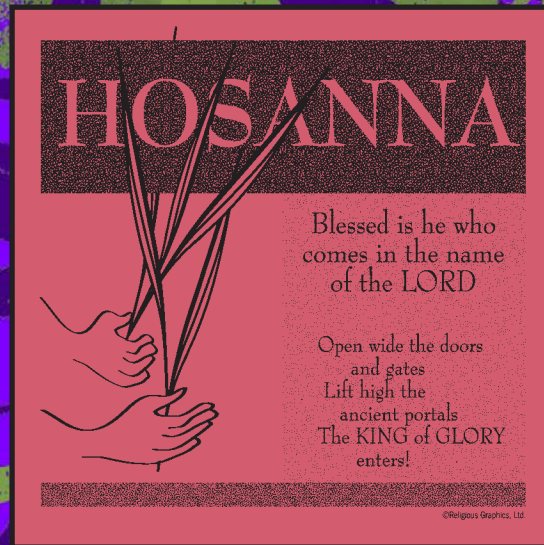
Convent Station, NJ

973-267-5330 • [www.stmnj.org](http://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 25, 2018 • Passion Sunday**

## Rest in Peace

This week Msgr. Rauscher entered eternal life. We offer our prayers, and our sympathy to his family and Assumption Parish where he served as pastor.

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto:john@peragallo.com).

## Holy Thursday Rice Bowl and Good Friday Collections



This week we encounter Jesus in Jerusalem, a community he knew well. We prayerfully enter our own communities too, encountering those who are hungry and thirsty, those who need our help. How does our Lenten journey motivate us to serve those we meet in our daily lives? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more.

The collection on Holy Thursday is for the poor. We will collect donations for Rice Bowl at this time. Please Place donations in an envelope with your name and contribution envelope number. Please use checks made out to STM or bills. No change.

The collection for Good Friday is for the Christians in the Holy Land. Bishop Serratelli reminds us that our contributions help the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines.

*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 Easter Sunday

First Reading: Acts 10: 34-43

The Apostle Peter was originally skeptical about preaching the Gospel to non-Jews. But one day, the Holy Spirit summoned him to preach to a Gentile -the pagan army officer Cornelius and his household. Today's passage is a portion of Peter's sermon, which summarizes the life and ministry of Jesus.

Second Reading: Colossians 3: 1-4

The letter to the Colossians depicts Christ as the only mediator between God and the world. A previous passage of the letter presented baptism as the way we are united with Christ. The author will today remind us of the heights to which Christ has raised us, and then call upon us to live up to this.

## This Week's Question

*For Adults:*

When have you found it hardest to accept God's will? What enabled you to accept it?

*For Children:*

When is it hardest for you to obey?



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## Triduum: Holy "Tree Days,"

"The summit of the Liturgical Year is the Easter Triduum—from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery. The single celebration of the Triduum marks the end of the Lenten season, and leads to the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at the Easter Vigil." *U.S. Catholic Bishops*

On Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of the institution of the Eucharist and the command to all disciples to be servants of others.

According to the Church's ancient tradition, the sacraments are not celebrated on Good Friday or Holy Saturday. "Celebration of the Lord's Passion," is the liturgy of the day, which includes the Liturgy of the Word, the Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion which was reserved from the eucharist the night before. Communion is "food for the hungry" in this day of fast. There is no formal opening of the liturgy, nor ending which reminds us that the three days are one unit. All merely depart in silence.

The climax of the Triduum and the whole liturgical year is the Easter Vigil. The vigil begins after sundown with the lighting of the Paschal fire and candle, "The Light of Christ." Easter Proclamation then announces, "Jesus is Risen." Next, the Liturgy of the Word proclaims salvation history from creation through Christ's resurrection. After the last Old Testament reading, the altar candles are lit, and Gloria

### What's Happening?

#### Sunday

Religious Ed.  
Pound A Week

#### Monday

Chrism Mass, Cathedral

#### Tuesday

Lenten Program, 7 pm

#### Thursday

Morning Prayer, 10 am  
Mass of Lord's Supper, 7 pm

#### Friday

Morning Prayer, 10 am  
Passion of the Christ, 3 pm

#### Saturday

Morning Prayer, 10 am  
Church Set up, 10:30 am  
Easter Vigil, 7:30 pm

#### Easter Sunday

Sunday Mass Schedule  
No 7 pm Mass

#### Every Sunday

Pound A Week

#### Stewardship of Treasure

Last week: \$ 5970



JESUS WAS BORN,  
LIVED AND DIED



THEN HE WAS RES-  
URRECTED AND NOW  
HE LIVES FOREVER!



NOW, THAT WOULD  
BE EXTREMELY  
COOL!



WE CAN ARRANGE  
THAT FOR YOU —  
BAPTISMAL  
CLASSES ARE JUST  
STARTING!



is sung before the New Testament readings and the Easter Alleluia is boldly announced.

The third part of the Vigil is the Baptismal Liturgy. This includes the initiation sacraments and the renewal of baptismal promises of the already baptized.

Finally, the Liturgy of the Easter Eucharist is celebrated, again reminding us that we are to be Christ for others. At the end of the Easter Vigil, we are "dismissed" and sent to serve others.

Please join the whole parish in this most ancient and rich liturgies of the Church.

## HOLY THURSDAY

MORNING PRAYER, 10 AM  
MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, 7 PM

## GOOD FRIDAY

MORNING PRAYER, 10 AM  
PASSION OF THE LORD, 3 PM

## HOLY SATURDAY

MORNING PRAYER, 10 AM  
FOLLOWED BY CHURCH SETUP  
EASTER VIGIL, 7:30 PM

## EASTER SUNDAY

MASSES, 9 AM, 11 AM

**"Awake, thou wintry earth – Fling off thy sadness!  
Fair vernal flowers, laugh forth Your ancient gladness! "**

**— Thomas Blackburn, "An Easter Hymn"**

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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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## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, March 26

#### Chosen One

In the First Reading, we hear part of the Servant Song. God's chosen one will bring justice to the nations. He is not a warrior, but will restore sight to the blind and free captives. The Gospel tells the story of Jesus' anointing that foreshadows his burial. The message at the start of this week is that Jesus is the chosen one who frees us from sin and unites us as one family. What gift might you present or give to the poor and dying? *Today's Readings: Isaiah 42:1-7; Psalm 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14; John 12:1-11.*

### Tuesday, March 27

#### Betrayal

As today's Gospel unfolds, it is revealed that Judas will betray Jesus. Throughout the passage, Jesus seems to be clear about what he will endure in the coming days, but the disciples seem clueless. How do you think you would have accompanied Jesus during his passion and death? Have you ever betrayed Jesus? Disconnect from social media for the remainder of the week and focus on prayer and listening. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 49:1-6; Psalm 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17; John 13:21-33, 36-38.*

### Wednesday, March 28

#### Spy Wednesday

Today is known traditionally as Spy Wednesday because the Gospel narrates Judas' act of betrayal. Like Judas, we have seen and heard the Good News, but yet we also at times give in to the temptations of money, power, or authority. This Lenten season invited us to recall those times we have betrayed Jesus, to repent, and to open our hearts to be transformed in love. Make time to journal about your Lenten experience. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34; Matthew 26:14-25.*

### Thursday, March 29

#### Holy Thursday

This evening, parishes throughout the world gather to celebrate the beginning of the Sacred Triduum with the Mass of the Lord's Supper. These three days, the holiest of the liturgical year, invite us to lay aside distractions and experience the Paschal Mystery. Be nourished by the Eucharist and stay to keep vigil with the Lord. *Today's Readings: Chrism Mass Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Psalm 89:21-22, 25 and 27; Revelation 1:5-8; Luke 4:16-21. Mass of the Lord's Supper Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15.*

### Friday, March 30

#### Good Friday

We enter the church today in silence to meditate on Jesus' death and what it means for our life. Pay close attention to the Gospel, the Adoration of the Cross, and the Solemn Intercessions. Give yourself over to the prayer of the liturgy and listen to God's invitation. What do you hear? *Today's Readings: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42.*

### Saturday, March 31

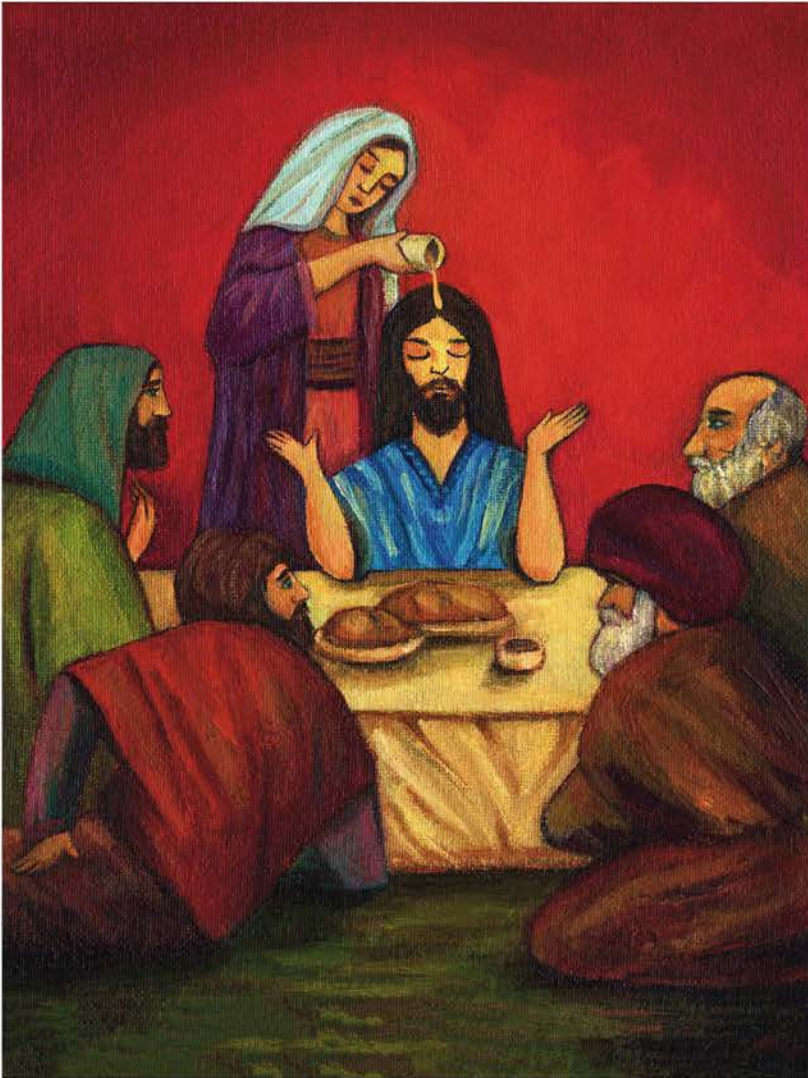
#### Easter Vigil

In the stillness of the night, the Church gathers to share her story of salvation and to proclaim the Good News of Christ's Resurrection. Listen for the many images in the *Exsultet* so that you may ponder them later. *Today's Readings: Genesis 1:1-2:2; Psalm 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 or Psalm 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22; Genesis 22:1-18; Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Isaiah 54:5-14; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13; Isaiah 55:1-11; Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Psalm 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 or Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Romans 6:3-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mark 16:1-7.*





# PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



## Worthy Vessels

Eternal and glorious God,  
you sent your Son, Jesus, to redeem us.  
Bring your Holy Spirit upon each of us  
and like the anointing at Bethany,  
may your Spirit anoint us with your love  
and make us worthy vessels ready to  
pour out your gift of mercy.  
Give us generous hearts  
so that, transformed by Jesus' Passion  
and renewed in his Resurrection,  
our lives may become signs of your  
generosity, love, and peace.  
Grant us, O Lord,  
the courage to embrace the cross,  
which calls us to put aside our desires  
and witness to the victory over sin  
and death.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Triumph and Suffering



*Today's Readings: Mark 11:1–10 or John 12:12–16; Isaiah 50:4–7; Psalm 22:8–9, 17–18, 19–20, 23–24; Philippians 2:6–11; Mark 14:1–15:47.* As we begin the holiest week of the liturgical year, the liturgy is filled with emotion. During the past five weeks, the Church has taken time to ponder God's mercy. At the same time, each of us has confronted our sin to prepare our hearts for the fullness of life promised by the Paschal Mystery of Christ. At the procession the Gospel is filled with excitement as Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem. Is this a foreshadowing of the triumph of the Resurrection? Imagine the crowds that might have gathered and spread their cloaks as Jesus entered the city. At Mass, after the Preface, we still sing "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" At every liturgy, Christ,

who reigns in glory, is present and nourishes us so we should sing *Hosanna*.

As the liturgy progresses, the mood changes and we hear the passage of the Suffering Servant and the anguish in Psalm 22, which both prepare us to hear the story of the Passion. When have you prayed the words of Psalm 22? When all of these readings are proclaimed together, we learn that Christ is the servant who suffered and died for our sins. Even though the Passion narrative is filled with sorrow, Mark's Gospel account presents us with a strong confirmation that Jesus is the Messiah. As we draw closer to Easter, take time to pray with the Passion, praying for all who suffer that they may rise with Christ.