

St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

Convent Station, NJ

973-267-5330 • www.stmnj.org

3rd 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 4, 2017 • Third Sunday of Lent

St. Patrick's Day Party

March 17 is around the corner! Join the party. Only \$30, young people still free! Great Food and Music! VFW Hall, Mt. Tabor Rd. Don't miss it. Reservation envelopes in the vestibule, go to stthommore.weshareonline.org or call the parish office.

The Pastor IS here

Fr. Joe is away but THE pastor is here. We are pleased that Bishop Serratelli the chief pastor of the Church of Paterson, is celebrating with us this weekend. St. E's invited Fr. Joe to chaperone a London program this week, please make sure Bishop Serratelli and Fr. Kevin feel at home in one of the many communities of his church.

Care of our Common Home

Do you want to learn more about Pope Francis's Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, and the Church's teaching on the environment and God's people? Come to our Lenten Series on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. **We will not meet this week!**

Connect with us via **FLOCKNOTE**
Text STMNJ to 84576
or visit flocknote.com/STMNJ

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

Rice Bowl

In Burkina Faso this week, we encounter Safiata, a mother, grandmother and farmer who relies on the money she makes from her crops to put her children through school. How can our purchases this Lent support farmers and artisans? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to leave their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.



Welcome Back Fr. Richard

Fr. Richard Cronin celebrated eucharist with us for many years. Many parishioners have missed him and wished he might return. Well, he has. However things have changed. He is no longer teaching at Delbarton. He doesn't have the time. His community elected him their pastor. We are pleased to welcome Abbot Richard back to celebrate with us once again.

Your Membership Data

Have you checked your info online yet? If not, go to <https://stmnj.bythebook.us/co/>. Enter your email address and last name. Get the confirmation email and log on. If you're not yet registered, this is a perfect time to do so. Also,, upload a picture of yourself.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

4th Sunday of Lent

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36: 14-23

Chronicles is part of a series which traces Jewish history from its beginning down to the end of the exile in Babylon, five centuries before Christ. This is the conclusion of the book. It summarizes the reasons for the exile and tells how it ended after 70 years. This book was placed last in the Jewish bible. When we hear the final words of this reading, we hear how the Jewish Scriptures conclude on a positive note.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2: 4-10

Ephesus is on the west coast of Turkey today. The author of this letter to its Christians writes about the saving power of God available to both Jews and non-Jews. The passage reminds us that salvation is God's gift alone. "Gift" is the root meaning of the word "grace."

This Week's Question

For Adults:

When has the message of the cross seemed absurd to you, and when have you seen its wisdom?

For Children:

What puzzles you in the gospel stories? Which story makes you the most hopeful?

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.

Partners in Faith Rebate

We received what is probably our last rebate check from Partners In Faith Campaign. We receive 25% of the parish goal and 60% above goal. This is only for unrestricted gifts; we receive no rebate for restricted gifts. This last check was for \$20,421 with a total of \$127,447 over the last four years. This has made a great impact on our dream of a parish hall in the future in order to expand our parish activities. Many thanks to our generous donors.

Saints, Heroes & Heroines

A return of a popular Lenten event. "Food and a Flick" on two Thursdays of Lent at Noon and 7 pm.

March 15: Ignatius of Loyola: Soldier, Saint, Sinner. Hot-headed soldier who went from a life of brutal violence and debauchery, to to one of spiritual dedication and the founder of the Jesuit order.

March 22: Edith Stein: The Seventh Chamber. Story of the Jewish philosopher, Carmelite nun, Auschwitz martyr.

CHRIST
the power & wisdom
of GOD

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What's Happening?

Sunday
Pound A Week

Monday
Confessions, 7 pm

Tuesday
Lenten Program Cancelled this week

Friday
Stations of the Cross, 7 pm

Saturday
No 8:15 am Mass

Next Sunday
Religious Ed.

March 17
March 17

March 18
Anointing Mass, 11 am

March 19
Parish Penance Service, 7 pm

Stewardship
of Treasure

Last week: \$ 7309

for electronic giving

stthommore.weshareonline.org

Or at the top of our website.



DO YOU KNOW
THE TEN
COMMANDMENTS?



WELL I KNOW
WE'RE SUPPOSED
TO LOVE GOD AND
EVERYBODY ELSE...



WHAT THE HECK,
CLOSE ENOUGH



2 Margaret Gilhooley
4 Matthew Gamerdinger
10 Sylvia Abbodanzo
11 Jean McLaughlin
11 Audrey Politowicz
12 Danielle Pearson
13 Margaret Drozd
15 Jessica Chang
16 James Kelly
17 Marlene Ferrence
17 Frank Miles
18 Robert Simoldoni
21 Veronica An
22 Dana Von Dentzer
23 Rob Landwehrle



25 Mary Finlay
26 Neal Ryan
26 Mariannaa Zegel
27 Pat Bendzin
27 Dave De Nooyer
28 Thuy Politowicz
30 Barbara Brady
31 Bill Connolly



28 Joan & John Naudts (38)

**"Don't start looking in the Bible for the answers it gives.
Start by listening for the questions it asks.**

— Frederick Buechner

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Morristown, NJ 07960

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See us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter @StThomMore

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

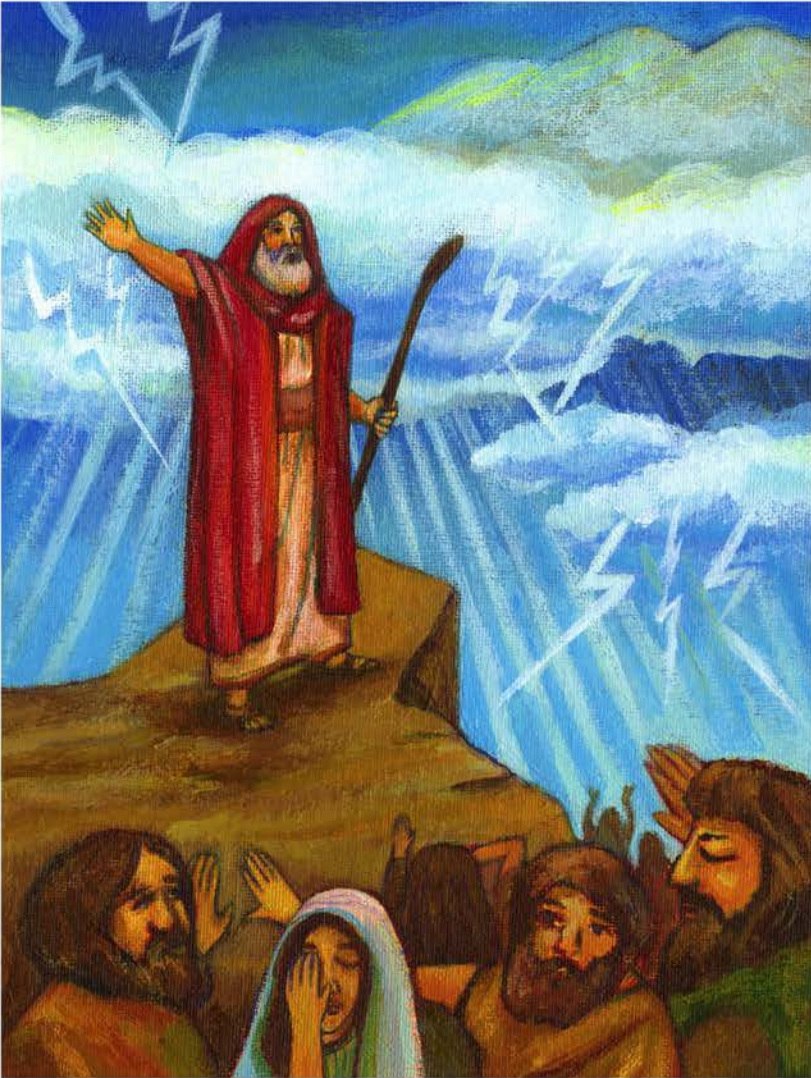
Parish Office Hours

Mon. - Wed, 9:30-2 pm

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

www.stmnj.org

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



Law of Love

Holy God,
you established a covenant with your
people Israel
and gave them the law to direct
their hearts.

Keep us ever mindful of the law of love
revealed in your Son, Jesus,
who liberates us from sin and directs
our hearts.

Give us strength to follow Christ
and wisdom to discern his presence.
Have mercy on us, O Lord,
and banish from us all that keeps us
from you.

Grant us ears to hear your
life-giving words,
which are like honey from the comb,
so that, as temples of their Holy Spirit,
we may proclaim your majesty
to all nations.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 4, 2018

Temples

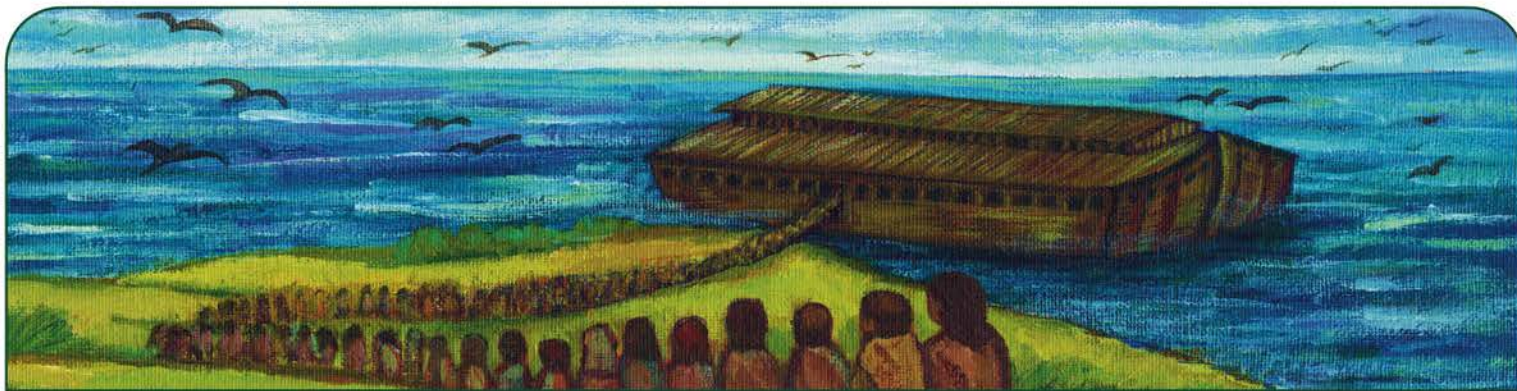


Today's Readings: Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Corinthians 1:22–25; John 2:13–25. Today's Gospel is filled with much emotion and action. Imagine yourself either as a merchant or one of the bystanders who observe these events unfold. Jesus, using a whip, drives the merchants from his Father's house. After sitting with this experience, what insight do you gain? Who is Jesus?

The temple is a main theme this week. Jesus makes a bold claim that he will destroy the temple and raise it in three days. Of course, we know the ending of the story, but those in the moment must have been confused. Jesus' actions and words invite us to contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation. To encounter Jesus is an encounter with the living God. Jesus' radical proclamation in this passage was

likely missed by those present. Through Jesus' death and Resurrection, a new covenant is created. No longer, as in the passage from Exodus, will our relationship to God be measured only by how the Commandments are kept. In Christ, the new temple, the sacrament of God's presence, our relationship is measured by how well our lives are patterned after Jesus.

In Baptism, we died with Christ and we rose to new life. In Baptism, we became temples of the Holy Spirit, which means our bodies are to be honored and others are to be respected as sacred vessels who announce God's love. What must you die to in your life in order to be raised up? As a prayer mantra this week, use today's Psalm refrain "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 5

The Need for Healing

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that a prophet is not accepted in his native place. As he tells of the healing of Naaman, by Elisha, Jesus shows the power of God's Word. Like the prophets of old, Jesus announces and shares the Good News. Jesus was driven out of town because of what he said. When have you heard Jesus but were unwilling to heed his instructions? Naaman eventually listened to Elisha and was healed. Spend fifteen minutes in silent prayer, listening to God. *Today's Readings: 2 Kings 5:1–5ab; Psalm 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Luke 4:24–30.*

Tuesday, March 6

Boundless Mercy

We hear Peter again ask about forgiveness. Jesus reminds Peter that since God's mercy has no limits, we cannot put a number on the amount of times we should forgive another. Consider the Lord's Prayer. It reminds us, as does the parable, that we are to forgive as God forgives. At dinner, using the crosses you made that first week, discuss the importance of forgiveness. *Today's Readings: Daniel 3:25, 34–43; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8–9; Matthew 18:21–35.*

Wednesday, March 7

Sts. Perpetua and Felicity

The two saints we remember today were beheaded at public games in Carthage because they refused to deny their Christian faith. The First Reading reminds us to keep the commandments. Look carefully at verse nine, which warns us to not forget the things we have seen. Like Perpetua and Felicity, we have seen the living God and we must not forget his love and mercy. We are called to give witness to the Paschal Mystery in all we do. Pray today for widows and all those unjustly imprisoned. *Today's Readings: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5–9; Psalm 147:12–13, 15–16, 19–20; Matthew 5:17–19.*

Thursday, March 8

God's People

Jeremiah has a tough audience before him. The Lord has said that those who listen and follow him will be his people and prosper, but the Lord reveals to Jeremiah that the people have not listened. This refusal of the people to listen is heard many times during Lent. Time and time again, the Lord sent prophets to his people to call them back, and yet, they remained in the darkness of their hearts. Do the People of God listen today? To open your heart to God's voice, pray the refrain to the Psalm: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 7:23–28; Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 11:14–23.*

Friday, March 9

St. Frances of Rome

The reading from Hosea paints a picture of God's profound love for his people. God yearns for us to turn back to him and share in his life and love our neighbor as ourselves. This is exactly what Frances of Rome did. She longed for the Lord, which led her to serve Rome's poor. We are also called to witness God's love. This caring for neighbor is a prophetic voice, like Hosea's, that calls all people to share in the life God offers. Today consider how you can help the poor in your community during the next week. Perhaps you could make a dessert for the homeless shelter. *Today's Readings: Hosea 14:2–10; Psalm 81:6c–8a, 8bc–9, 10–11ab, 14 and 17; Mark 12:28–34.*

Saturday, March 10

Return to the Lord

Hosea's words are clear that God will heal all that is weak and dead within us. When we turn to God in love, we grow in faith and holiness and God showers us with love so that we might live. What does it look like to love God? Let the coming spring be a reminder of God's unfading love for us. Take time to pray with the images of the First Reading today. *Today's Readings: Hosea 6:1–6, Psalm 51:3–4, 18–19, 20–21ab; Luke 18:9–14.*

