

# ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH

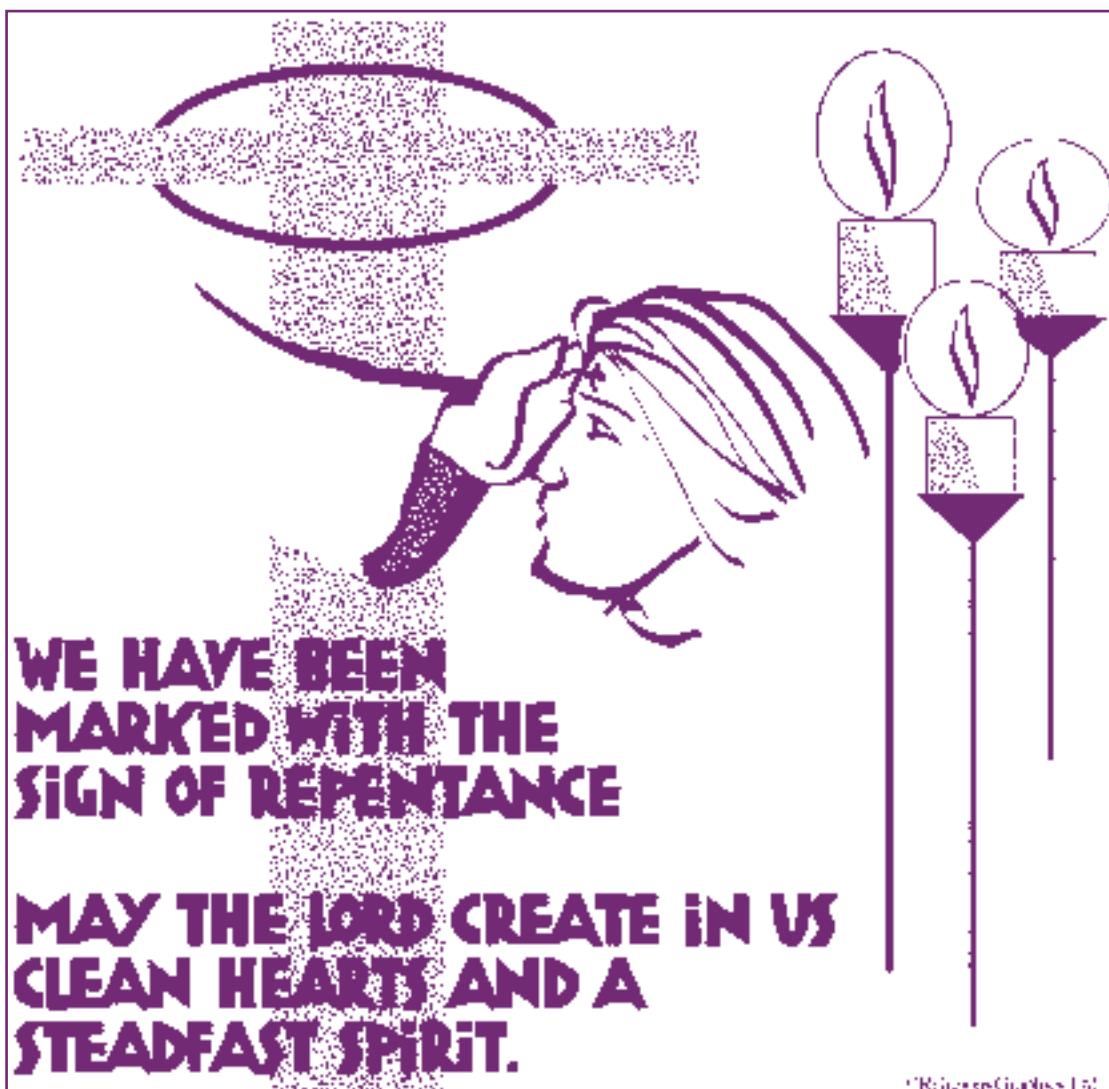


CONVENT STATION, NEW JERSEY · 973-267-5330 · [WWW.STMNJ.ORG](http://WWW.STMNJ.ORG)

MARCH 5, 2017

1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT

Please  
Read Me!



*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.*

[www.stmnj.org](http://www.stmnj.org)

**What's Happening?**

**Sunday**  
Religious Ed  
Pound A Week

**Wednesday**  
ALPHA, 7 pm

**Friday**  
Stations of the Cross, 7 pm

**Next Sunday**  
Religious Ed.  
Clothing Collection

**Every Sunday**  
Pound A Week

**Stewardship of Treasure**  
Last Week's Collection: \$ 6059  
*Please sign up for electronic giving at stthommore.weshareonline.org*

**Increased Offering Program**

We hope to celebrate our success and will send out a summary report at the end of our increased giving program. If you have not yet participated please turn in your commitment card as soon as possible so that we may include your information and our great results. Thank you again for your continued support and we encourage you to continue using our Online Giving.

**Contribution Reports**

A number of people mentioned discrepancies in their annual report. We apologize for any mistakes. If you made a contribution towards the Gala these would not have been included but you should have received a notification of your donation after the Gala. Some errors are caused by unmarked weekly envelopes and we ask you to please mark the envelopes with your amount. If you use electronic contributions, you can download your donation amount directly from your account. Also, over the next few months you will be able to download your contribution amount and update your membership records online as well.



**WELCOME**

To all our visitors this weekend

*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 Gifts Table in the Remembrance Book and on the Weekly Sheet.



**Ministry to the Homebound**

If you know a homebound person who would like communion and/or on a regular basis, if you are ministering in that way OR if you can visit and/or bring communion to a homebound person, please fill out the form on the info rack in the vestibule.

**Living the Eucharist**

This is a weekly insert in the bulletin during Lent. You can receive daily Lenten devotionals by downloading *Living the Eucharist Mobile App* and begin praying *From Exodus to Easter: My Daily Journey Through Lent*. Get it on Google Play or Apples AppStore.

**Rice Bowl**



Join nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the US in a Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's Rice Bowl from and don't forget to download the CRS Rice Bowl app! May these 40 days better prepare us to encounter ourselves, our neighbors and our God. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org).

**Carmel Boyle - Celtic Journey of Reflective Song**

If you missed Carmel Boyle when she was at the parish or wish to hear her again, she will be at the Sisters of Charity Chapel on Tuesday at 6:30 pm. \$10 Free Will offering accepted.

**Great Catholic Parishes**

Bill Simon, Jr. is the author of this book and will be at St. Paul Inside the Walls on Saturday 9:30-12:30. The parish will pay for all registrations. Call the parish if you will attend.

**Meatless Fridays**

There still seems to be misunderstandings of Fridays of Lent as being meatless, or days of abstinence. Perhaps this comes from older belief that eating meat on Friday was a mortal sin and sent shivers down one's spine, even if done by forgetfulness.

Abstaining from meat does not include condiments made of animal fat, meat juices and liquid foods made from meat. Chicken broth, soups cooked or flavored with meat, meat gravies or sauces, as well as seasonings or condiments made from animal fat are not forbidden. Even bacon drippings which contain little bits of meat may be poured over lettuce as seasoning. Fridays are observed as a whole or "substantially." No one should be scrupulous in this regard; failure to observe an individual day is not considered serious. Neglecting the whole season is different than eating meat on a particular Friday, especially if there is a good reason, such as a birthday or St. Patrick Day celebration.

**SAVE THE DATE – Parish Retreat, Week of March 27: Spirituality of Imperfection**

This parish retreat will be led by Fr. Lou Bihl. Fr. Lou is a retired priest of our diocese who began his ministry in Paterson. As a young priest and CYO Director he founded Fr. English Community Center for he realized that hungry kids can't eat basketballs. He also established Youth Haven, the first runaway house for teens in New Jersey. His last ministry in the diocese before retirement was still in Paterson as chaplain at Straight & Narrow, ministering to adults living with addictions. Fr. Lou is a powerful preacher and witness who has been at St. Thomas More with Straight & Narrow Gospel Choir a number of times.

**This Week's Question**

*For Adults:*

What helpful advice could you offer someone faced with a temptation?

*For Children:*

What helps you do the right thing when you want to do something wrong?

## PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

### *First Sunday of Lent*

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4

The first 11 chapters of Genesis have very little historical foundation but they teach religious truths in parable form. Today we begin the 12th chapter which contains stories with identifiable historical roots. The first of these is the call of Abraham, whose original name was "Abram".

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-10

The second letter to Timothy, although probably written some 30 years after Paul's death<sup>9</sup> was written in his name. This was an acceptable practice at that time. It was not a forgery<sup>7</sup> but an acknowledged way of continuing someone's spirit and authority. In this passage, the author encourages the readers in the face of trials.

YES, I DO UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR COUSIN COMES FROM A SHOW BUSINESS BACKGROUND...



BUT HE STILL CAN'T HIRE A STUNT DOUBLE TO FACE TEMPTATION FOR HIM.



ISMYREN WEBB!  
©2005 LPIWWJD

## *Parish on a Journey*

**GET  
READY**

**ST. PATRICK DAY  
PARTY  
SATURDAY, MARCH 18  
6:30 - 10:30 PM**

**VFW HALL  
MORRIS PLAINS**

**\$30  
PER  
PERSON**

**RUN & TELL EVERYONE**

**IF YOU GIVE US THEIR EMAILS,  
WE'LL SEND THEM EVITES!**

## *God's Grace is Young Enough*

For the Young and Young At Heart

Readings for this Sunday  
*Genesis 2:7-37; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11*

### *Seek first God*

Suggested Reflection Questions

- Two great theological truths—Creation and the Fall—are expressed in Gen 2 and 3 in the terms of the then-current mythology: the story Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and their eating the forbidden fruit at the serpent's behest. Today it is difficult to take Adam as an historical individual; it is easier to understand him as the personification of Everyman. Adam's story is the story of us all.
- Paul contrasts Adam, who did not resist temptation with consequences for humanity, and Christ, who did resist temptation and so gave humanity the promise of new Life. How frequently we are like Adam; how continuously grace calls us to be like Christ!
- Jesus spent forty days in the desert, alone and vulnerable, and was tempted. Temptation is an enticement to put our own desires and needs first. Resisting temptation, then, is really resisting self-centeredness. Like Jesus, we must choose instead to surrender ourselves to God who alone should be the center of our lives.

# First Sunday of Lent



## Lead Us From Temp- tation

Creator God,  
you formed us in your image  
and breathed your life into us,  
filling us with your spirit;  
Yet we turn our backs to you  
and respond to the temptations of wisdom  
beyond our grasp  
and the possibilities of power and gain.  
Be merciful to us, O Lord,  
for we have sinned with open eyes and selfish hearts.  
Be merciful, O Lord,  
for we know not what we do.  
May your mercy fall on us, O Lord,  
as we seek to do your will,  
for you live and reign united as Father, Son,  
and Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.



Daily scripture reflections are on our website under "Faith Formation" and in the vestibule.

### Human Trafficking

Trafficking today is a continuation of the Transatlantic Slave Trade with the sophistication of technology making the buying and selling of persons convenient and globally efficient. SUPPORT US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking ([sistersagainsttrafficking.org](http://sistersagainsttrafficking.org)).

### ALPHA

Alpha program believes everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view; wherever they are in the world.

Alpha is...

**Real.** Alpha presents the reality of who Jesus is. Those that run Alpha are open and authentic, and this allows guests to be real themselves.

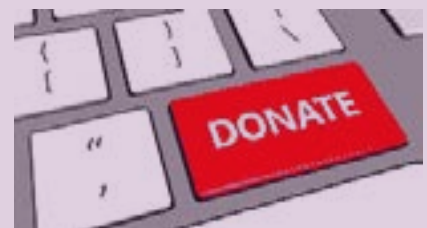
**Relational.** Alpha is based on real friendships that are built over a few weeks, and often last for years afterwards.

**Reliant.** We rely on the Holy Spirit for it is only God who changes people's lives – we just introduce him.

**Wednesdays, beginning this week with supper.**

**We have received only one response so far, if you are attending or know someone who is, please let us know especially since we need to prepare food.**

**Wednesdays at 6:45 pm**



### ONLINE GIVING

Stewardship is easier than ever with our online giving system, WeShare. Visit [stthommore.weshareonline.org](http://stthommore.weshareonline.org) for one-time or ongoing giving.

# Who are the Eucharistic Saints?



**Eucharistic saints. Who might they be? Are they the Apostles, with whom Jesus shared bread and wine at the Last Supper? Are they the ones whose feet he washed, and who heard him say, on the very night before he died: "Do this in memory of me"?**

Perhaps eucharistic saints must also include the earliest missionaries, who in the power of the Spirit built up communities of faith. Eucharist was the center of the life of these communities. They gathered on Sunday for "the breaking of the bread" (Acts 2:42). Keeping alive the memory of what Jesus did, they rejoiced in his presence as Risen Lord and waited in hope for his future coming. They stand at the beginning of our eucharistic tradition.

## IN TIME OF PERSECUTION

But surely there are more. Are eucharistic saints the martyrs, like St. Ignatius of Antioch (d. 170), who saw themselves and their own terrible fate lifted up by the Eucharist? Condemned to death for his Christian belief, Ignatius was taken in chains from Syria to Rome to be executed by being thrown to the wild beasts in the arena. On his way, he wrote: "I am God's wheat, and I am being ground by the teeth of wild beasts to make a pure loaf for Christ."

## PROTECTED AND PROTECTING

Perhaps eucharistic saints are those who defended the Eucharist with their lives, as St. Tarcisus did. This twelve-year old altar boy lived in Rome during the Valerian persecution (3rd century). On his way to bring the Eucharist to Christians in prison, he was stopped by a gang of boys who demanded to see what he was carrying. He wouldn't hand it over. Infuriated, their rage turned into violence, and Tarcisus was killed—protecting the holy Eucharist.

Or, on the other hand, they may be the saints whom the Eucharist protected, like St. Clare of Assisi (1194-1253). When mercenary soldiers invaded Assisi and came to sack her convent, Clare rose from her sickbed, took a monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament in it, and held it up before them. They turned and ran.

## PRAISE AND ADORATION

Are they the saints who composed hymns to the Eucharist, as did St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-74)? Here is a verse of one that is still sung today, translated by the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins:

Godhead here in hiding, whom I do adore,  
Masked by these bare shadows, shape and nothing more,  
See, Lord, at thy service low lies here a heart  
Lost, all lost in wonder at the God thou art.

Perhaps they are the saints who spent hours in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, like St. Pascal Baylon (1570-1592). A lay Franciscan brother in Spain, he chose to live in poverty. Pascal would often spend the whole night in ecstatic prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. He is the patron saint of Eucharistic Congresses.

## COME AND RECEIVE

Are eucharistic saints the men and women who founded religious communities devoted to the Eucharist, as St.

Peter Julian Eymard (1811-1868) did in nineteenth-century France? He established the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament to reach out to the unchurched and to prepare the faithful to approach Eucharist worthily.

Are they pastors and popes, such as Pope St. Pius X (1835-1914), whose decisions encouraged eucharistic participation? Pius lowered the age of First Communion to seven, because he had confidence in the faith of young children. He also urged all the faithful to receive Communion frequently—not only once a year or a few times a year, as had been their custom. Because of him, many Catholics in the twentieth century returned to the ancient practice of receiving Communion every Sunday.

### MINISTRY AND MISSION

Maybe eucharistic saints are those for whom Eucharist was central to mission, such as Blessed Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997). Her care for the poorest of the poor was constant and passionate. Where did her energy come from? She and her sisters, the Missionaries of Charity, found strength in the Eucharist. “In each of our lives Jesus comes as the Bread of Life,” Mother Teresa wrote, “to be eaten, to be consumed by us. This is how He loves us. Then Jesus comes in our human life as the hungry one, the other, hoping to be fed with the Bread of our life, our hearts by loving, and our hands by serving.”

### EUCHARISTIC SAINTS TODAY

Finally, yes, there must be “eucharistic saints” living today. They may bring Communion to the sick, or prepare children for first Eucharist, or serve as special ministers of the Eucharist, or perform some other service. They are the ones who embody charity, the hallmark of Eucharist. Although the Church has not proclaimed them to be saints (worthy of universal devotion), their faith in Christ and the Eucharist shines brightly.

Down through the ages, men and women have gathered at the altar of God to remember and celebrate what Jesus has done. The term communion of saints, *communio sanctorum*, means not only the people whom the Church has canonized as saints, but all those who are united in the sharing of “holy things”: most especially, the Eucharist. The saints are those who have witnessed to Christ among us, full of thankfulness and praise. We all are eucharistic saints, “God’s holy ones,” when we faithfully participate in the sacred mysteries of Christ’s dying and rising—through the Eucharist.

### REFLECT

What does the Eucharist mean in my life? Do I have a deep reverence for the presence of Christ in the Eucharist? Do I feel that my participation in the Eucharist connects me with others in the communion of saints?

### ACT

This Lent, make an effort to attend Mass more frequently, or to spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. From even a small investment of time you can reap a big reward.

### PRAY

Apostles and evangelists, pray for us! Holy martyrs and witnesses to Christ, pray for us! Saints who shaped the Church and changed the world—pray for us!

**AUTHOR** ■ Rita Ferrone is an award-winning writer and speaker in the areas of liturgy, catechesis, and renewal in the Roman Catholic Church.

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