

# ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH



CONVENT STATION, NEW JERSEY · 973-267-5330 · WWW.STMNJ.ORG

APRIL 17, 2016

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER



For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

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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**

**What's Happening?**

**Sunday**  
 Religious Ed  
 Easter Egg Hunt  
 Pound A Week



**Next Sunday**  
 Campaign For Human Development Coll.  
**Every Sunday**  
 Pound A Week

**Pics for Website**

Did you take any pictures at the St. Patrick Day part? At Easter? A baptism or other event? Why not share them so we can use them on our website. Bring them to the rectory or email them to [info@stmnj.org](mailto:info@stmnj.org).

**Heifer Project**

Make a donation to purchase animals for needy families. You can donate a share of an animal. Forms are in the vestibule. Make checks payable to St. Thomas More. This will continue our Heifer project until Pentecost.

**Women's Guild**

The Womens Guild will hold its meeting on April 26 at 7 pm Our speaker will be Jill Duff on "HOME SAFETY" All are welcome.

**Open House**

The Academy of Saint Elizabeth Open house will be May 1, 1 pm for grades 6-8, girls and their families. Info: 973-290-5225 or 973-290-5200 or [aosenj.org](http://aosenj.org).

**Campaign for Human Development**

Bishop Serratelli reminds us CHD is a voice of hope for those on the margins of society who experience the realities of living in poverty. This branch of the US bishops CCHD supports programs to heal the wounds of crime and violence, advocate for more just policies, protect God's creation, and develop strong communities. Your donation twill help build a society where all have a voice and all know their inherent dignity..

**This Week's Question**

*For Adults:*

Whom do you try to protect as Christ protects you?

*For Children:*

Who helps you feel safe and protected? Whom can you take care of and help feel safe?



**WELCOME**

To all our visitors this weekend

Please remember the sick and homebound of our Parish.

We are all called to prayer. As a faith community, let us keep in mind all those who have asked us to pray for them, that they may experience the healing power of our gracious God

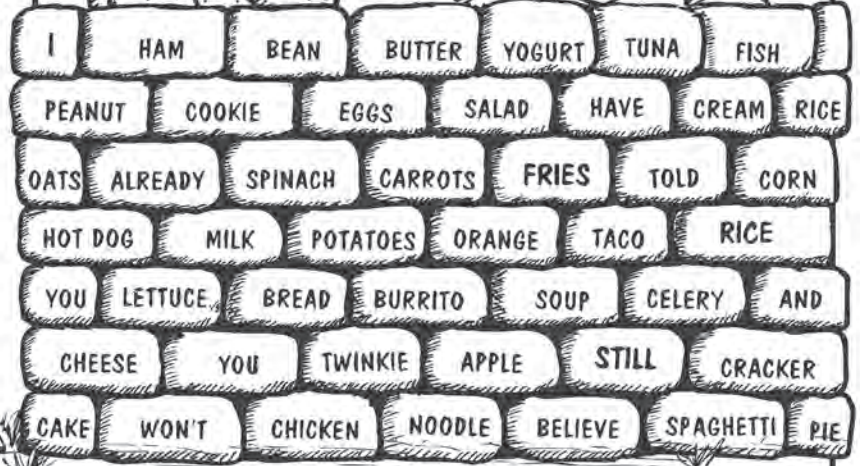


Peter An, Phil Barrett, Elaine Bellock, Eric Braham, Pat Brennan, Ronald & Maureen Brodeur, Dominic Cantarella, Jim Cavanaugh, Kay Cavanaugh, Michael Cavaliere, Cheryl, John Dolan, Dan Doyle, Frank Falcone, Joe & Peg Farrell, Mike Faul, Mary Finlay, John Flaherty, Hayley Kuhn, Maria Ludwig, Joseph Montgomery, Adalcina Antao Moreira, Fr. Charles Parr, Michael Papalos, John Pra, Christopher Raiola, Josephine Rapp, Tom Warren, Diane Zadrozny.

*If you know someone whose name should be removed, please keep us informed. To add a name, please fill out the form on the website or in the rectory.*

# Kidsword

Easter Week 4, Year C  
 John 10:22-30  
 April 17, 2016



YOU KNOW  
WHAT I  
NOTICED,  
FATHER?  
SOME PEOPLE  
GET MAD  
WHEN YOU  
TALK ABOUT  
JESUS!

isidore webb!  
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BUT  
I JUST  
SMILE AND  
FIND  
SOMEBODY  
ELSE TO  
TALK TO  
ABOUT  
HIM...



## PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

### *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

First Reading: Acts 14.21-27

The Acts of the Apostles shows how the Easter message spread to all parts of the Mediterranean world. Today we hear a travelogue of part of one of Paul's missionary journeys that took him to modern day Turkey. The mountainous terrain there made travel difficult and dangerous. The situation was made even worse because of the constant threat of robbers, flash floods and wild animals.

Second Reading: Revelation 21.1-5

Many people think that the book of Revelation gives secret information about future events, including the end of the world. But it was really intended to be a source of hope for Christians suffering persecution toward the end of the first century. The author vividly describes visions of how God will ultimately overcome all evil and bring all creation to its destiny.

## *Parish on a Journey*

### *Journey to the Past • Move to the Future*

The Book of Deuteronomy reminds us, "Remember the days of old; consider the years long past; ask your father, and he will inform you; your elders, and they will tell you." Celebrating our history reminds us of our journey and our connections with what has come before us. We stand on that foundation as we gaze toward our future. That journey includes our parish's official coming to life, changes in styles of worship, friendship created and renewed, births and deaths, marriages and baptism, growth in a common faith, and a probing of life's questions. There were prayer groups and parties, women and men organizations, a discovery of scripture, faith development of our children.

Celebrating an anniversary is about the past, but past tells us who we are, where we have come from so we can move into the future. Anniversaries should remind us that the journey of faith is never static; it is a forward journey which God calls us to. Where is God calling us? What is the church that we are called to be? What new and bold things await our future? What role will each of us play as this new era in the life of our church unfolds?

As we begin to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our parish and then of our church building, we need your help to remember and to plan. Please say yes and help us plan, especially when asked.

## *God's Grace is Young Enough*

For the Young and Young At Heart

Readings for this Sunday

*Acts 13:14, 43-52; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:27-30*

### *My Sheep Hear My Voice*

#### Suggested Reflection Questions

- God tends us as a shepherd tends a flock. Most of us live lives relatively removed from the realities of raising livestock. What does it mean to be the "flock of God?" What do sheep mean to their shepherd? Can you think of another analogy that might express this relationship?
- John has a vision that shows people of every race and culture adorned in white at the throne of the Lamb (Jesus). Jesus is the shepherd who guards them, attends to their every need, and comforts them. The sheep of Jesus are all different, yet they belong to one flock ... just like the Church. What gifts do people of different cultures and backgrounds bring to the flock of your parish community?
- In the Gospel, Jesus assures us that if we follow him and listen to his voice he will give us eternal life. No one can take us from him. What does it mean to belong to God? Why do sheep follow their shepherd? Why do we follow Jesus?



## SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY)

### Ministry is not for the sheepish

Good Shepherd Sunday, also celebrated as Vocations Sunday, is a day to give thanks for those who have dedicated their lives to ministry. But don't get too romantic an idea of what that means; rather keep in mind that religious life is often compared to the gritty task of shepherding. Being a shepherd is very tough work, with long hours, physical demands that involve getting your hands dirty, and some pretty long stretches of alone time that can get downright lonely. A life of ministry likewise has its challenges and lonely moments. Let someone who ministers in your faith community know how much you appreciate their efforts.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 13:14, 43-52; Revelation 7:9, 14b-17; John 10:27-30 (51).* "All who were destined for eternal life came to believe."

## MONDAY, APRIL 18 EASTER WEEKDAY

### Invest in mercy

Saint Alphonse Ligouri described spiritual reading as the "reading of holy books [beyond scripture], not in a passing way and for a short time, but regularly and for a considerable time." Eastertide seems an especially opportune time to invest yourself in the "mystery of faith." Pope Francis' latest book, *The Name of God Is Mercy*, is so stunning that it is often difficult to keep reading because the last sentence you read was so powerful. Don't let the time after Easter slip by without investing yourself in the "mystery of faith."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 11:1-18; John 10:1-10 (279).* "I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved."

## TUESDAY, APRIL 19 EASTER WEEKDAY

### Facing the new with apostolic zeal

Starting something new is never easy, and the early church certainly faced challenges—namely that the disciples were called to live and proclaim the Good News, not just in their own lives but throughout the world! There was no CEO, no strategic plan, no budget—just a mission and women and men on fire with the Holy Spirit to serve it. What new beginnings are you embarking on? How might you bring the early church's same apostolic zeal and perseverance to this new moment?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30 (280).* "The hand of the Lord was with them."

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20 EASTER WEEKDAY

### Engage in some light reading

Where would we be without light? Sunlight fills our sky by day and brings color to all that is around us. And electric light is such a central part of our evening activities it's hard to imagine a world without it. It's also hard to imagine a world without the light that Jesus brought through his life, mission, and timeless message. His illuminating words light a path we can walk day or night, at noon or at midnight. How important is the light of faith? The Bible seems to take it seriously. [Here are 98 biblical quotes about light.](#) Pull up a chair and shed some light on the subject.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 12:24—13:5a; John 12:44-50 (281).* "I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness."

## THURSDAY, APRIL 21

FEAST OF ANSELM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

### Faith brings understanding

Often referred to as the "Father of Scholasticism," Saint Anselm is best known for the eloquent way he reconciled faith and reason, not as contrary factors but as two complementary parts of the gift of belief. "I do not seek to understand in order to believe," Anselm wrote, "but I believe in order to understand. For I believe this: Unless I believe, I will not understand." At times, faith can be a difficult thing to sustain, yet when we strive to see and understand the world with eyes of faith, we discover that reasons to believe abound around us.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20 (282).* "I am telling you before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe that I AM."

## FRIDAY, APRIL 22

### Three cheers for Mother Earth!

"When we can see God reflected in all that exists," Pope Francis writes in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, "our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all his creatures and to worship him in union with them." *Laudato Si'*, which means "Praise be to you," underscores that the call to care for all creation is universal. Praising our God means preserving and protecting our common home. Today, on Earth Day, why not consider how praising God and caring for Earth are deeply connected. Work to more consciously praise God in actions that will help the earth.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6 (283).* "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

## SATURDAY, APRIL 23 EASTER WEEKDAY

### Walk closer with God

Today marks the first full day of the Jewish Passover. In Jesus' time, Passover was a festival of pilgrimage for the Jewish people, when the entire population made a pilgrimage to the Temple of Jerusalem. Have you ever been on a pilgrimage? Those who take the time to do so often say it has changed their lives forever. The [Camino de Santiago](#) to the shrine of Saint James the Great in Santiago de Compostela, Spain is a pilgrimage with the power to change lives, according to countless firsthand accounts. Learn about it and consider the possibilities. Who knows—maybe it's time you go take a hike!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14 (284).* "Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do."



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

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## Who, Where Why, How ...

*If abortion excommunicates a person, how are some priests allowed to absolve such sinners in this Jubilee year? Are they still excommunicated?*

Canon law places many conditions to be present before a person incurs excommunication. Most would not be aware of them. "Formal cooperation" in an abortion constitutes a grave sin and can incur excommunication. This space is too short to explain what that means, but it introduces even more conditions. In order to incur this sanction a person must be of majority age and, more important, must be aware when the act is committed that an excommunication is involved. Many Catholics know abortion is wrong, yet do not know that an excommunication follows, if they even know what an excommunication is. Furthermore, if the woman is experiencing terrible fear or confusion, or if she is under severe pressure from family or close friends, there may not be an excommunication. Attaching the penalty of excommunication, makes clear the gravity of destroying unborn life but this never limits God's compassion and mercy.

### Welcome to St. Thomas More Parish

We are glad you decided to celebrate with our Parish Family. If you have recently moved into the parish and would like to register as a parishioner, please take a parish membership form at the entrances of the church or email and we will send you a form. Hopefully we can set up an appointment to meet one another. Or you may call the parish office at 973-267-5330.

#### SOME MINISTRIES and ORGANIZATIONS

Altar Servers	Bereavement Ministry
Bulletin	Collection Counters
Finance Council	Home/Sick Visits
Lectors/Ministers of Communion	Youth Ministry
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Ushers/Greeters
Women's Guild	Pastoral Council



Whether you are new or a veteran, consider joining or helping in the various areas of parish life. Call the office. Interested in something you don't see, don't be shy, talk to Fr. Joe.

**Visit of Eucharist at Home.** Communion may be brought to the home of any person permanently or temporarily homebound. For the confined, elderly and/or shut-in at home or in the hospital, our parish ministers make calls to homes and hospitals. Fill out the form below..

**Moving In or Out?** If you are relocating either in or out of the parish area please takes a moment to help keep our records current. Contact the parish office or drop a note into the collection basket.

**Pound A Week.** Show how much we care! Bring a pound of goods when you come to church. Pasta, tuna, powdered milk or soup. Peanut butter or jelly or crackers. Even a pound of diapers. While shopping add a pound!

The following person(s) is presently receiving a visit and/or communion

The following person(s) would like a regular visit and/or communion.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

You may call me with specifics (address, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. or email: \_\_\_\_\_



### Notes & Remembrances

#### Remembering our Own

*Special requests for prayers at liturgy and donations are made in honor of loved ones. Please join with them in prayer and remembrance at Eucharist. These intentions are noted on the Gifts Table in the Remembrance Book and on the Weekly Sheet.*

#### Stewardship of Treasure

Easter Collection: \$ 5,989

Monthly collection: \$ 1,984

*Please sign up for electronic giving.*

[stthommore.weshareonline.org](http://stthommore.weshareonline.org)

#### End the R Word

A group at FDU is running their annual Tricky Tray "End the R Word event at Tiff's in Morris Plains on April 24. They are looking for donations and baskets for the event. Anyone interested in offering a basket, a gift to put in a basket or any donation, please contact Fr. Joe. Anyone who has ever had a child or a sibling who was called the "R" word because of a disability knows how important this movement is.

#### "Future Covenant" Peace Program

A Justice and Spirituality Convocation, April 23, 10-4 at the Shrine of St. Joseph, Stirling, to examine our relationships and responsibilities towards today's youth and future generations. \$25. Keynote speakers: Chris Haw, from Notre Dame and Mark Dorley from Villanova. Info: 908-647-0208 or christine@stshrine.org.

#### Earth Day — April 22

The original inhabitants of the American continents based their life and built their civilizations on a sensitive recognition of the life-support system governing the cosmos. This sensitivity is captured in the recorded address of Seattle, chief of the Dwamish, upon surrendering his land to Gov. Isaac Stevens in 1854. Part of his address runs:

*This we know,  
the earth does not belong to man,  
man belongs to the earth.*

*This we know, all things are connected  
like the blood that unites one family.  
All things are connected.  
Whatever befalls the earth,  
befalls the sons of the earth.  
Man did not weave the web of life,*

*he is merely a strand in it.  
Whatever he does to the web,  
he does to himself.*

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