

St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

Convent Station, NJ
973-267-5330 • www.stmnj.org

Easter Sunday

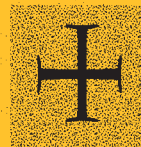


As a faith community, we keep in mind who have asked us to pray for them, that they may experience the healing power of our gracious God. Special requests for prayers at liturgy and donations made in honor of loved ones. These intentions and names of our sick are noted on the Table in the Remembrance Book and on the Weekly Sheet.



GOD of MERCY

You wash away our sins,
give us
new birth
in the
SPIRIT
and redeem us in the
Blood of CHRIST



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He has been Raised Up!

April 8, 2018 • Eighth Day of Easter

Why do we call the Resurrection 'Easter'? (No one really knows)

adapted from Emily Sanna, US Catholic

In many Romance languages, the word for the Feast of the Resurrection is tied directly to Passover: Pâques (French), Pascua (Spanish), and Pascha (Latin).

Paul was the first to connect the risen Christ to Passover. He refers to Jesus as the paschal lamb, sacrificed for his people's salvation. Also, Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples during Passover. So, where in the world did the word Easter come from?

Some historians suggest it came from the phrase hebdomada alba, Latin for "white week," used to describe the white garments of the newly baptized Christians. In Old German, the word became esostarum and, eventually, Easter.

The historian, Venerable Bede, writes Easter comes from the goddess Eostre, a Scandanaviangoddess of fertility and dawn. Over time, early Christians referred to the Feast by the name of the month—Eosturmonath (now April). This reflects other customs: Easter eggs and Easter Bunny, are ancient symbols of fertility and tied to the worship of Eostre.

Another, theory suggests Easter comes from old German for "east," derived from a Latin word for "dawn." In the past, the word easter could mean "to turn toward the east" and didn't necessarily have any implied religious meaning.

Historians are never going to figure out exactly where or when Easter was first used. It is one of the oldest Old English words, in use for over a millennium. Regardless of its roots, Easter is a time of resurrection and rebirth, a time to celebrate the risen Christ and God's promise of eternal life.



**PREPARING FOR
NEXT WEEK'S
LITURGY**

3rd Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts
3: 13-19

Chapter three of the Acts of the Apostles describes how Peter and John healed a lame man who sat begging each day at the gate of the temple. The people were astonished at this miracle. Peter used the opportunity to give a sermon encouraging the people to believe in Jesus. We hear a portion of that sermon now.

Second Reading: 1 John 2: 1-5

Each Sunday during this Easter Season, we are reading from the first letter of John. It was written for the community from which the fourth Gospel emerged. At the time, this community was seriously divided. Some members believed that as long as you had faith in Jesus, it didn't matter what you did in daily life. Today's passage deals with that issue.

This Week's Question

For Adults:

What could you do this week to inspire your family to resemble the early Christians more closely?

For Children:

What could you and your family do to help others who are in need?



Connect with us
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FLOCKNOTE

Text STMNJ to 84576
or visit flocknote.com/STMNJ

We love having you
as part of *our* flock

**Easter Egg Hunt
Next Sunday**

after the 9 am Mass

AND snow will be long gone!

Join Us

Bring Your Own Basket

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

Do you know state laws to combat human trafficking? Are local law enforcement personnel knowledgeable about human trafficking so that they can be effective resources? Website: sistersagainstrafficking.org.

Serving the Parish

We are in dire need of eucharistic ministers and lectors. Please serve. Contact the parish office or email Fr. Joe at jfarias@stmnj.org

Basket Bonanza

April 21 St. Patrick Parish Center, Chatham, 7-11pm. \$75. Fellowship, Food & Open Bar

Open House at Morris Catholic High School!

Sunday, May 6, 2-4 pm. Visit the campus, meet faculty, learn about student life from our Student Ambassadors. Register to attend at www.morriscatholic.org/OpenHouse/.

Conference for Family Caregivers

"Plan The Best and Safest Living Situation For Your Loved One." Sat. April 21, 8:30 - 12:30pm. Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Workshops focused on appropriate care for loved ones and the cost of care and options. Complimentary breakfast.

Paper Shredding Event to Benefit the Young, Physically Disabled

Cheshire Home, 9 Ridgedale Ave., Florham Park. Sat. April 14, 9 am - noon, rain or shine By Security Shredding of Morris Plains. Donation is \$5 per standard-size box. All proceeds will support programs of the Cheshire Home Community Resource Center.

Thank you from Rice Bowl

We changed lives this Lent. Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl at church.

Today's Catholic Woman: Feminine, Faithful, Fearless

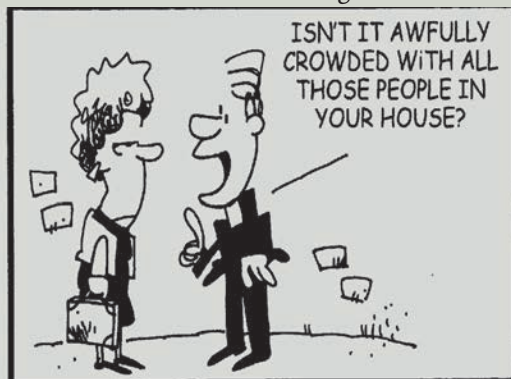
Sat. April 28, 1-1 pm. St. Paul Inside the Walls. \$25. Cindy Costello, Kate Wicker, Katie McKenna. < <https://insidethewalls.org/womens-conference>>.

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.

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. Log on after confirmation email. If you don't see your info, call the office or email info@stmnj.org to give us your name and email address. It means we have an incorrect email. Your email address needs to match the one in the database to log in.



What's Happening?

Sunday

Religious Ed.
Clothing collection
Pound A Week

Next Sunday

Easter Egg Hunt

Every Sunday

Pound A Week



Stewardship of Treasure

Easter: \$ 14,231

March electronic Giving: \$ 3357



*Sign up Today
for electronic giving*

stthommore.weshareonline.org

Or at the top of our website.

HomeTouch Bulletins

Take a Hometouch Bulletin to a home bound person. Bulletins are on the desk at the church entrance doors.

Mail: P.O. Box 286

Convent Station, NJ 07961

GPS: 4 Convent Rd.

Morristown, NJ 07960

973-267-5330

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

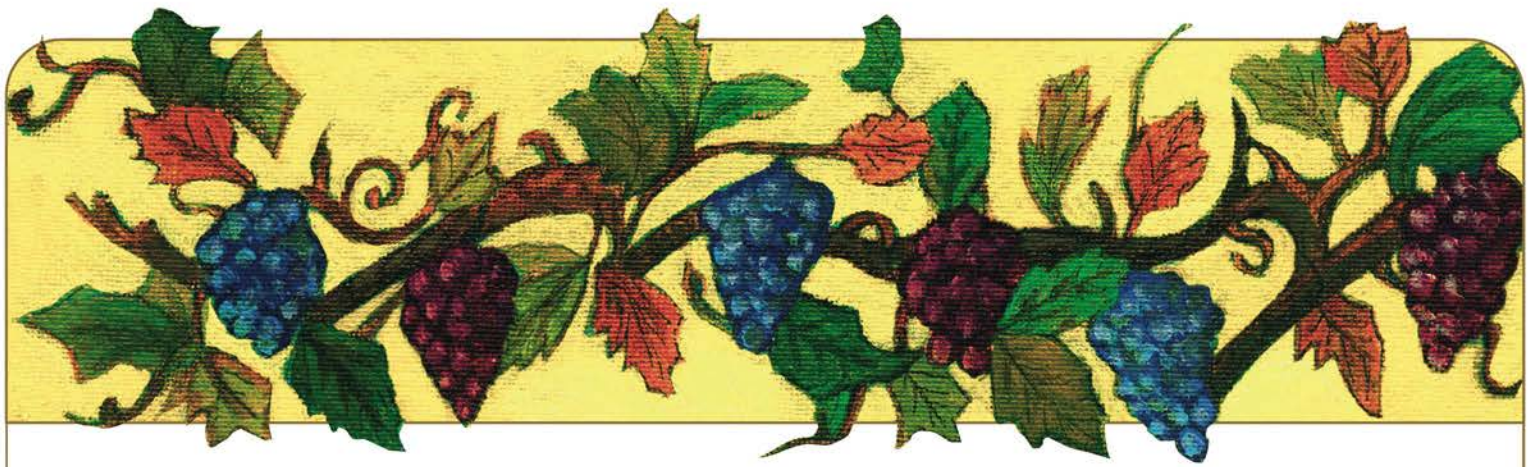
Parish Office Hours

Mon. - Wed, 9:30-2 pm

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

www.stmnj.org





THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 9

The Annunciation of the Lord

“Do not be afraid.” Imagine what it must have been like for Mary to learn God had chosen her to carry the Savior. By grace, she was able to say yes and remain faithful to God. In Baptism, we become temples of the Holy Spirit. Like Mary, we say yes and commit ourselves to a life that proclaims the Good News. When faced with trials or doubts, keep in mind what the angel said to Mary. There is no need to be afraid; God will be with us. Today, pray for all expectant mothers. *Today’s Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; 8:10; Psalm 40:7–8a, 8b–9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4–10; Luke 1:26–38.*

Tuesday, April 10

Of One Heart and Mind

Just as disagreements arise in faith communities today, the early Church had its difficulties. The picture that Acts paints of the Church as an ideal Christian community provides us something to ponder. Jesus’ Paschal Mystery unites us into one community of God’s mercy. Jesus showed this compassion during his earthly ministry. How does your parish imitate the community of believers? Consider volunteering to coordinate your parish outreach. *Today’s Readings: Acts 4:32–37; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd–2, 5; John 3:7b–15.*

Wednesday, April 11

Memorial of St. Stanislaus

God’s love and justice filled the heart of St. Stanislaus, who fervently opposed injustice and violence in his native Poland. He worked against the injustice of the government of his day, which eventually led to his death. Since we are filled with the light of Christ, we are called to bring light to those in darkness and help free others from oppression. Our Easter alleluias have no meaning if they do not lead us to work for justice and reveal God’s saving love. *Today’s Readings: Acts 5:17–26; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; John 3:16–21.*

Thursday, April 12

Share the Gospel

The Apostles are being challenged again in today’s First Reading. They remain fervent in their witness to God and refuse to stop sharing the Good News. Their faith in Christ moves them to glorify God’s name and witness to all what God has given in Christ Jesus. If we live in Christ, the Spirit works through us to share the Gospel. Research a modern-day saint who refused to stop sharing the Gospel. *Today’s Readings: Acts 5:27–33; Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17–18, 19–20; John 3:31–36.*

Friday, April 13

Tell the Story

No matter the obstacle, the Apostles remain passionate in teaching about Jesus. How would you respond if you found yourself in the First Reading and were flogged and told not to speak of Christ? Would you rejoice as these followers did? For thousands of years, God’s Word has permeated place after place. As disciples who seek to dwell in the Lord’s house, we must be found worthy to suffer for Christ our light. *Today’s Readings: Acts 5:34–42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14; John 6:1–15.*

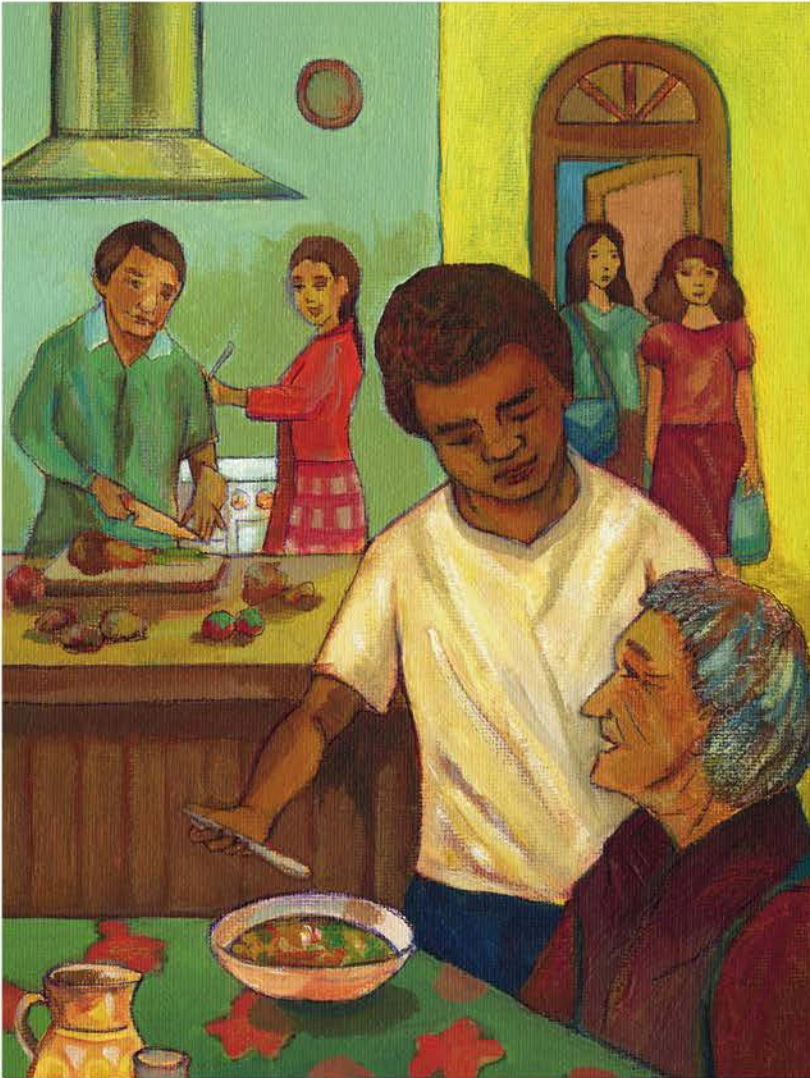
Saturday, April 14

Ministry of the Word

The First Reading describes the beginning of what we know as the diaconate. Since the community was growing, the needs within the community also grew. Seven men were called upon to help in the ministry through the distribution of goods, freeing the Twelve to spread the Good News. The number seven shows the universal nature of the Church. Today, pray for deacons and consider finding out more about St. Stephen. *Today’s Readings: Acts 6:1–7; Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19; John 6:16–21.*



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER / DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



Heart and Mind

God, font of all life,
through the Paschal Mystery of
your Son, Jesus,
you have restored your people to life.
Our house gives you praise
for your enduring mercy and
unending love.

Watch over and protect our community
as we work to make known the message
of salvation.

Keep us one in heart and mind
as we work to build up your Kingdom.
Give us hearts overflowing with mercy
as we minister to those most in need.
Help us remain faithful to your call
so that our words and actions
may always proclaim Christ as Lord.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 8, 2018

Easter Sunday



Today's Readings: Acts 4:32–35; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; 1 John 5:1–6; John 20:19–31. Jesus' Resurrection establishes a new way of living. He is the new covenant and in his life, death, and Resurrection, he reveals our loving and merciful God. This new way of living is one of mercy and reconciliation, one of peace and hope, one where the chains of sin can no longer hold us captive. Christ has changed us and, as we proclaim in the refrain to the Responsorial Psalm, we "give thanks to the Lord" because "his love is everlasting." Our First Reading gives a sense of this new way of living. Acts tells us that the community was united in one heart and mind and that they held their possessions in common. The final lines describe the social outreach of this early community. Christ brought them together

and continues to bring us together. We are united to him in one Body, which invites us to risk everything for him and the Kingdom.

Too often we hear of division in our communities. Being members of Christ's Body urges us to love and forgive. This mercy should not be insular but lead us into the world to advocate for justice. If Christ has truly united us in one heart and mind, then we must work to reconcile differences and let the light of Christ within us shine forth so others may know the transforming love of God. Consider how your faith in Christ leads you to build up the Body of Christ. This week, reach out to your neighbors and friends for conversation or a meal.