

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH Convent Station, New Jersey 973-267-5330 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 12, 2015

Sunday, Day of the Lord

July <u>12, 2015</u>

What's Happening

Today Pound A Week Next Sunday Clothing Collection

Every Sunday Pound A Week

Interested?

Interested in making a couple of bucks and helping the parish at the same time? We are looking at a new communications venture to be funded with advertising. We need one or two sales minded people to seek ads from local advertisers. Compensation by commission based stipend. It will not take much time at all. Contact the parish office.

Sew Sewers

Calling all sewers to make dresses for disadvantaged children. Even if you cannot sew, we have a job for you. Call Arlene at 732-503-3851.

Haddy

Birthday

Birthdays in April

- 2 Jack Anderson
- 3 Robert Drozd
- 3 Valerie Selwyn
- 5 John Roche
- 5 Daisy Wary
- 6 Phil Nobile
- 7 Ed Heslin
- 9 Mike Murphy
- 10 Mary Murphy
- 10 Margaret Roman
- 14 Joe Alesso
- 14 Lori Carucci
- 14 Joan Rooney
- 15 Kathleen Tumelty
- 15 Kainieen Tumelty 17 John Tohol
- 17 John Tobak
- 20 Caitlin Tiwar
- 21 Ann Mangino
- 22 John Abraham
- 22 Anthony Gagliano
- 23 Sue Blankmeyer
- 25 Jacob Pearson
- 27 Jennifer Young
- 31 Tony Olivo

Happy Anniversary

18 Lori & Vincent Carucci, 50

25 Jeanne & Bob Bass, 51



WELCOME

To all our visitors this weekend

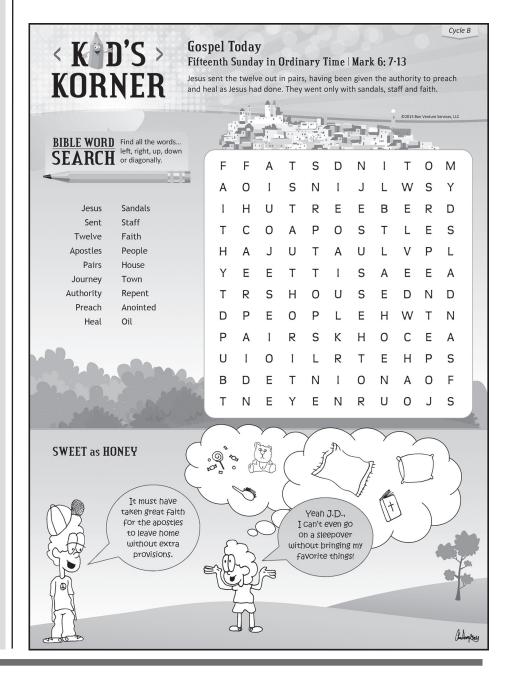


Please remember the sick and homebound of our Parish.

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, Elaine Bellock, Eric Braham, Pat Brennan, Maureen Brodeur, Jim Cavanaugh, Cheryl, Dan Doyle, Frank Falcone, Joe & Peg Farrell, Mary Finlay, John Flaherty, Hayley Kuhn, Maria Ludwig, Joseph Montgomery, Adalcina Antao Moreira, Fr. Charles Parr, Michael Papalos, John Pra, Christopher Raiola, Tom Warren, Diane Zadrozny.

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



Convent Station, New Jersey

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.

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.

SOME MINISTRIES and ORGANIZATIONS

Altar ServersBereavement MinistryBulletinCollection CountersFinance CouncilHome/Sick VisitsLectors/Ministers of Communion Youth MinistryPrayer Shawl MinistryUshers/GreetersWomen's GuildPastoral Council

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.



Name:

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

Tel. or email:

Saint Thomas More Parish



Notes & Remembrances

Weekly Readings - Moved

Daily scriptures and short reflections are now a regular addition to our bulletin, listed on a separate page.

Remembering our Own

Requests and donations were made in honor of the following, asking to remember them at liturgy this week. Please join with them in prayer and premembrance.

15th Week of the Year Sebastian Choondassery - 5 pm June DeSena - 9 am Anita Farias - 7 pm

Anita Farias - Tues. Alice Gallagher - Thurs..

15th Week of the Year Anita Farias - 5 pm June DeSena - 9 am Anita Farias - 11 am

Stewardship of Treasure

Last Week's Collection: \$ 5301 June Electronic donations: \$ 1520

Please sign up for electronic giving. Regularly scheduled donations through electronic giving help us budget better, and it provides donors with accurate records of their payments. Visit stthommore.weshareonline.org today to sign up for automatic donations and schedule your regular parish donations. It's that simple. If you need help, call the parish office. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Family Promise of Morris County

Family Promise is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to ending the crisis of homelessness faced by Morris County families by partnering with other public and private agencies, religious congregations and community volunteers to provide shelter, case management and mentoring services leading to self-sufficiency

Their summer wishlist ranges from rain ponchos to paper towels. These can be seen on Amazon at http://tinyurl.com/q4x57da or contacting them for info or donations at 973-998-0820

Are you Registered?

Our parish invites all to participate fully in our spiritual and social life. Households wishing to join are asked to register as "official" members. Forms are in the vestibule and parish office. If you would like a form sent to you or you're not sure if you're registered, call the office or email info@ stmnj.org.

Why register? For yourself to receive pertinent information; for us, so we can plan accordingly.



Parish on a Journey

Prayer for Travelers

God of the covenant, you called Abram to leave Ur of the Chaldees and guided him to the Promised Land. God of the Exodus, you led your people out of slavery in Egypt and brought them to a land flowing with milk and honey. God of the Exile, you restored your people after their captivity in Babylon and settled them in the holy city, Jerusalem. Watch over and protect all who travel. Guide their steps with your outstretched arm, and at the end of their journey lead them safely home to their loved ones and friends. Amen.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

Sixteenth Sunday of the Year

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

The prophet Jeremiah preached some 500 years before Christ, at a time when unworthy kings ruled the Jewish people. He looked to the day when God would raise up a good shepherd from the House of David. Later, the Gospel writers emphasized Jesus was born of the House of David, and Christians have seen him as the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:13-18

Our second reading is from the letter to the Ephesians. Ephesus was a community made up of Jewish people who had become Christian, and Gentiles who had become Christian. In this part of the letter, the author is addressing Gentiles people who were once "far off' from the true God, but have "come near". As a result, both Jews and Gentiles are together as one "new person," namely the Body of Christ which is the Church.

God's Grace is Young Enough

For the Young and Young At Heart Readings for this Sunday

Amos 7:12-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:7-13

Sent Suggested Reflection Questions

• The job description for Prophet does not seem very attractive in today's readings. Why would anyone accept such a position?

Has God ever called you to change your life in a big way? What was the biggest challenge of that transformation? What was the biggest blessing to arise from the change?

When have you had to "shake the dust from your feet" and leave something or someone behind?

The warmer season makes for relaxation and creativity. It's movie time . If you have movie that would make for a good group discussion? *Tell Fr. Joe.*



SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2015 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Not even a carry-on

Naked and Afraid is a television "reality" program that follows a man and woman who for weeks must fend for themselves in a jungle with nothing, not even clothing. Whether you are a viewer or not, it is a stark demonstration in a literal way of what Jesus charges his first apostles to do as his missionaries, to depend upon God alone. The point of the TV show is to document the participants' survival skills. A reviewer said the program "takes the outrageousness of other reality genres, but applies it to celebrate human strength and fortitude." How outrageous would a Christian "reality show" be that celebrates spiritual survival skills? Is one even imaginable? Would you dare to be on it?

TODAY'S READINGS: Amos 7:12-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:7-13 (<u>104</u>). "For the journey take no food, no sack, no money in your belts, no extra tunic."

MONDAY, JULY 13 FEAST OF HENRY The best use of power

Good boss, bad boss. Most of us have served under both. A bad boss is like the Pharaoh of Egypt: Threatened by his own subordinates, he oppresses everyone to maintain control. A good boss is exemplified by King Henry II, who in 10th-century Bavaria encouraged the growth of monasteries to spread blessings through the land. Today Muslims celebrate the Night of Power and Destiny in which they believe God blesses everyone, forgives all sin, grants all prayers, and sends angels to earth. The best use of power: bless and forgive!

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 1:8-14, 22; Matthew 10:34-11:1 (<u>389</u>). "The Egyptians, then, dreaded the children of Israel and reduced them to cruel slavery."

TUESDAY, JULY 14 FEAST OF KATERI TEKAKWITHA, VIRGIN Saints are no strangers to being bullied

Saints often endured harsh treatment from others, and some were bullied since early in their lives. Such was the case for Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. She was teased for her appearance and abilities (her face was scarred and her eyesight impaired from smallpox), and when she became Christian, she was ridiculed and threatened with harm. Yet Kateri was able to find people who believed in her and who encouraged her to be herself and to seek safety from abuse. Kateri never gave up on herself and her dream to help others. How are we ensuring our classrooms, parishes, workplaces, and homes are safe havens for those in need?

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 2:1-15a; Matthew 11:20-24 (390). "Why are you striking your companion?"

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

FEAST OF BONAVENTURE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Fortune smiles upon us

When Saint Francis of Assisi spoke, people listened, and in the case of Saint Bonaventure, the result was his very name. At the pleading of a child's mother, Saint Francis prayed for the ill boy's recovery and foresaw his future greatness by exclaiming *O buona ventura!*—O good fortune!—upon his recovery. And great indeed was Bonaventure's future as a Franciscan. Chosen at age 35 to lead the order, he restored peace at a time of internal dissension that could have doomed the fledgling order after Francis' death. Given the great contribution of Franciscans over the centuries, the good fortune belongs to us all.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12; Matthew 11:25-27 (<u>391</u>). "The Lord secures justice and the rights of all the oppressed."

THURSDAY, JULY 16 FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL Wear your faith on your sleeve

In the Middle Ages knights wore strips of cloth around their arms representing the colors of the lady they were honoring. In essence they were "wearing their hearts on their sleeve"—hence the origin of the phrase. The idea of outwardly displaying where your affections and commitments lie are behind everything from heart tattoos to wedding rings to cross jewelry. Today, we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, who tradition holds encouraged Saint Simon Stock and his Carmelite order to wear a brown scapular as a sign of her protection and their devotion to Christ. Scapulars, from the Latin *scapula* for "shoulder," were soon fashioned in all sizes from medals to small neckwear to other styles of religious habits, all meant to be an outward sign of Christian discipleship. Consider the many ways you might put your faith on display.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 3:13-20; Matthew 11:28-30 (<u>392</u>). "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart."

FRIDAY, JULY 17 Take a day off

In the words of Ferris Bueller, one of the world's most beloved truants, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." That's why we need unscheduled breaks in our routine—something that goes beyond our regularly scheduled sabbath day of rest. Jesus continually encourages his followers not to be slaves to the law, but rather to be inspired by the spirit of the law, that is, the love inherent in all God's laws. Don't be afraid to do something spontaneous, out of the ordinary, not on the agenda. Remember the Holy Spirit blows where it will—get swept up in its tailwinds every now and then.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 11:10-12:14; Matthew 12:1-8 (393). "For the Son of Man is Lord of the sabbath."

SATURDAY, JULY 18 FEAST OF CAMILLUS DE LELLIS, PRIEST Lose your shirt but save your soul

Gain the world, lose your soul. These gospel terms are very familiar. The allure of the good life can tear us away from values and relationships that really matter. Saint Camillus, unhappily, was good at losing both world *and* soul. An unusually large man, he was quarrelsome and addicted to gambling. After his shirt was literally stripped from his back in a big loss, he fell to his knees and begged heaven for mercy—and got it. It changed his life. Examine your life: Are your values in the right place?

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 12:37-42; Matthew 12:14-21 (394). "Many people followed Jesus, and he cured them all."



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

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