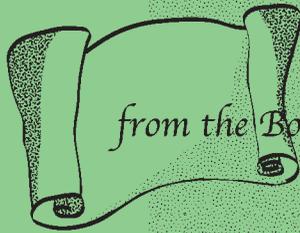


ST. THOMAS MORE  
CATHOLIC PARISH  
CONVENT STATION, N J  
973-267-5330 · WWW.STMNJ.ORG



AUGUST 28, 2016

22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



from the Book of Sirach

*Conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts. Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God. Water quenches a flaming fire, and alms atone for sins.*

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See us on Facebook

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

## What's Happening This Week?

### Sunday

Pound A Week  
Gala Raffle Ticket Sale

### Every Sunday

Pound A Week



### New Bulletin?

Kind of... We are doing some experimenting, attempting to reduce our bulletin and paper use and expand the use of our website and the video screen in church. There are a number of motivations. The first is the environment and our responsibility to God's gift of creation. Secondly, without a large staff, we hope to reduce the number of hours needed to produce and print a weekly bulletin. Much material is unnecessarily repeated weekly in most parish bulletins.

Some parishioners are discussing the value and possibility of both electronic and print communication. We need an evangelization component but perhaps that can happen monthly rather than weekly.

We have already begun printing children's bulletins, available on the vestibule desk and a prayer list at the Gifts table along with the Book of Remembrance. This week, we've included names of homebound and sick parishioners.

We do need to evaluate the inclusion of advertisement and how we can best utilize their help and how to best promote them and their generosity. Meanwhile, we are looking for lots of ideas. Contact us, we could use your help.

### Reminder: What is Pound a Week?

If every household could bring a pound of food a week, we could greatly help our neighbors in need- a lb. of pasta, a can of soup, a jar of sauce, anything. We have received public thanks by the pantry for our generosity.

### Religious Education Registration

Please register your children for our Religious Education program this year. Go to the website <[stmnj.org](http://stmnj.org)> and click on "CCD Registration" link on the top of the page. This is important so that we can have the proper materials for each child. Registration fee this year is \$30 per child. This is much less than most parishes since we believe that the whole parish has the responsibility of assisting parents in the religious formation of our young

*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.

**For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.**  
*Book of Proverbs*

When F. Scott Fitzgerald published *The Great Gatsby*, Jean Caputo, Manual Barrett, Isabel Rich and Joe Farrell could carry the book home from school but probably couldn't read it. They were all five years old in 1925 and were just beginning to learn to read. Additionally, Jean and Manny's books were printed in Italian and Spanish, respectively. We believe all four are our true elders. Their birthdays span the year. Jean we born in the winter, Manny in spring, Isabel in the summer, and Joe in the Fall.

Isabel turns 96 this weekend (Sunday) and we are happy to celebrate with her. We were looking forward to celebrate with Joe in a few weeks, but unfortunately we learned that his earthly life ended this week as we were writing this bulletin. We thank God for the lives of our fellow parishioners and commend Joe to the eternal embrace of God.



SAINT THOMAS MORE PARISH

50TH ANNIVERSARY

PRESENTS THE

*Spirit of Charity  
Gala*

THE  
GREAT GATSBY

**Saturday, October 29**

## WEEKLY READINGS & THOUGHTS

### Sunday, August 28, 2016

*Let me show you this picture!* In the “Age of the Selfie,” humility is rare. Really treasured is the snapshot that shows not just you alone, but someone famous with you. It’s not just you waving your cell phone saying, “Hey, look at me,” but, “See me standing next to this famous person!” as if their celebrity has rubbed off on you. Jesus doesn’t seem to get that: “When you are invited to a banquet . . . seek the lowest place.” Worry less about your image and more about what God sees.

*Sirach 3:17-29; Hebrews 12:18-24a; Luke 14:1-14. “Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God.”*

### Monday, August 29 Passion of the Baptist

*I am John.* The “I am . . .” meme is familiar (some would say overused) on social media websites as a sign of solidarity with a person or group that is mistreated or worse. We express our solidarity, but from the safety and distance of our keyboard. When it comes to walking the walk, however, few respond as fully as John the Baptist. John was able to say “yes” totally and unconditionally to God’s call. His bold proclamation of the reign of God at hand cost him his life. None of us will ever do what John did, yet all of us are called to that same mission—proclaiming the reign of God in our words and our actions. Prepare the way!

*1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Mark 6:17-29. “When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.”*

### Tuesday, August 30

*What about justice?* Some folks view religion as the rulebook. Do things God’s way or be sorry! Yet Saint Augustine wrote, “It is easier for God to hold back anger than mercy.” Rule-based souls will wonder: If God is merciful, what happens to justice? Pope Francis has an answer: “If God limited himself to only justice, he would cease to be God, and would instead be like human beings who ask merely that the law be respected. But mere justice is not enough. God does not deny justice. He rather envelopes it and surpasses it with an even greater event.” Mercy makes us bigger people!

*1 Corinthians 2:10-16; Luke 4:31-37. “We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God.”*

### Wednesday, August 31

*Find hours in the day.* Back-to-school sea-

son is in full swing, which means that for many people a change in schedule is in order. Not so for the church, though. For centuries, religious orders and clergy have kept time through a series of prayer periods throughout the day known as the Liturgy of the Hours, or Divine Office. This practice helps to structure the day around prayer. Be it Matins, Lauds, or Vespers, the Liturgy of the Hours reminds us that life is a constant dialogue of prayer. As the summer nears its end, perhaps now is a good time to renew prayer’s part in your daily schedule.

*1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Luke 4:38-44. “For we are God’s co-workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.”*

### Thursday, September 1

*Unburden yourself.* Have you ever overpacked for a trip? Hauling too much luggage is never worth the hassle. Your Catholic faith demands you travel light through life. Too many material possessions can slow you down on your spiritual path, and the desire for accomplishment can sideline meaningful relationships. Emotional baggage, too, can turn you too far inward and away from a God-centered life. Jesus’ advice to his disciples to take nothing with them through the harsh desert required a great leap of faith on their part, and it is the same today. Jesus invites you to go on a real “trust walk.” But if you set down your things, your pretensions, and your worries, you’ll find you won’t need any of it to walk with him.

*1 Corinthians 3:18-23; Luke 5:1-11. “They left everything and followed him.”*

### Friday, September 2

*Start anew.* Not that long ago Catholics abstained from meat every Friday of the year. That rule changed in 1966 when U.S. Catholic bishops decided that economic and dietary times had changed so much that it was no longer a great sacrifice to have a meatless meal. The bishops said it was OK to go ahead and eat meat on Friday, but it still was important to do something sacrificial on Fridays as a way of keeping sacred the day of the week on which Christ died. Catholics heard the first part. But did we hear the part about volunteering, or fasting for peace, or visiting the sick every Friday? What practices would help you keep the spirit of Friday? Can you start today?

*1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Luke 5:33-39. “The new wine will burst the old wineskins.”*

### Saturday, September 3 Gregory the Great

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### Anniversary Picnic

In June, we mentioned that the common understanding that we became a parish in September 1966 was incorrect. Upon investigation, St. Thomas More Parish was officially proclaimed in May 1967. The cause of the confusion was the fact that Father Feenan was appointed as the pastor in order to plan for the future parish. His appointment took place on September 15, the Feast of the Holy Cross.

With a change in these dates, a summer that seemed to fly by and a few scheduling difficulties, we've decided to postpone the picnic on September 11 to May. However, we are not ignoring that date or the following months.

On September 11, we will dedicate the statue of the Welcoming Christ, that we may welcome friends and strangers as Jesus did. We will mark the fifteen anniversary of 9/11 by remembering those who died on that day and as a result of that tragedy. As we dedicate the statue, we also dedicate ourselves to the work of promoting peace and justice. The statue not only welcomes friends and strangers to our parish, but also stands as a constant prayer, asking Christ to help us always embrace all of God's people, and to be an agent of God's Mercy. We will also have extended social time together after each of the weekend masses.

### Today's Readings

*Sirach 3:17-29; Hebrews 12:18-24; Luke 14:1-14*

#### *Humility Before a Caring God*

- The Wisdom of Ben Sira is comprised of divinely inspired words of a Jewish teacher, primarily on the topic of moral instruction. Today focuses on the virtue of humility. In our culture of reality TV stars, social media, and drawing constant attention to oneself, what does it mean to be humble?
- Paul writes that we are to use the freedom we have in Christ to serve one another with love. He explains the whole of the law can be summed up in the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself. Why is this commandment the summation of the law? Why do we need to be free in order to follow it fully?
- Jesus tells his followers "no one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God." This teaching seems harsh, especially considering the requests Jesus is confronted with. Why does Jesus make this demand on those who wish to follow him? What is he asking?

