

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH Convent Station, New Jersey 973-267-5330 www.stmnj.org Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 6, 2015

#### Sunday, Day of the Lord

#### What's Happening?

Today Backpack Blessing

Next Sunday Vocationist Fundraiser Clothing Collection Every Sunday Pound A Week

#### **Religious Ed. Registration**

Rel. Ed. begins Soon!!! Register at www.stmnj.org. The link for Rel. Ed. Registration is at the top of the page. Then, look at the rest of the site.

#### **Thom's Second Course?**

We need to plan a future schedule. Help coordinate the Supper Club. Please call the office if you can help coordinate.

#### **Couple's Club?**

Thom's Club provoked interest in a fun club for couples as well. Anyone interested in helping to set it up? Call the office.

#### **Catholic Families Fully Alive**

*Catholic Families Fully Alive* with Bishop Serratelli Sun. Sept. 20, 4-6 pm at St. Paul Inside the Walls.

#### **Diocesan Filipino Mass**

Sat., Sept. 19, Our Lady of the Valley, Wayne. Rosary & Novena, 12:30 pm, Mass 1 pm followed by Fellowship. Info: Mila Burdeos, 973-777-8818 x256, mburdeos@patersondiocese.org.

#### **Gennesaret Retreat**

For men and women suffering with a life changing illness. Oct 16-18 Archdiocesan Retreat Center, Kearny N.J. No cost. Contact Hilare Reinold, 732-566-5237 or Linda Capobianco, 732-608-7277.

#### **Prayers for Fr. Pat Rice**

Fr. Pat Rice is critically ill at this time. Please remember him in prayer. Fr. Pat, newly ordained ,was our parish's first and only associate forty years ago.



### WELCOME

To all our visitors this weekend



September 6, 2015

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, Kay Cavanaugh, Michael Cavaliere, 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 the form on the website or in the rectory (sorry, the forms in church keep disappearing)..



#### **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 Servers	Bereavement Ministry
Bulletin	Collection Counters
Finance Council	Home/Sick Visits
Lectors/Ministers of Co	mmunion Youth Ministry
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Ushers/Greeters
Women's Guild	Pastoral 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.



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

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

Name:

Tel. or email: \_

#### Saint Thomas More



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 remembrance.

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> Week of the Year

Anita Farias 5 pm June DeSena - 9 am Gertrude Petoia- 11 am

James Fitzsimmons - Tuesday

Dorothy Lenygon - Thursday.

#### 24<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year

Sebastian Choondassery- 5 pm June DeSena - 9 am David Simpson-7 pm

#### **Stewardship of Treasure**

Last Week's Collection: \$\$5415 August Electronic Giviing: \$1235 *Please sign up for electronic giving.* 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.

#### **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.

#### **Registered?**

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.

Register for Religious Ed. for this coming school year at www.stmnj.org.

H.S. students looking to prepare for Confirmation, email or call the parish office.

Parish Registration now online at www. stmnj.org



### Parish on a Journey

### September Birthdays

- 2 Joe Farrell
- 2 Joseph Zack
- 5 Bill Kearney
- 8 Jason Marella
- 8 Steven Windt
- 9 Vincent Carucci
- 9 Jay Tiwar
- 9 Elisabeth Tumelty
- 13 Diana Ven
- 14 Carmen Galdieri
- 16 Ed Blankmeyer
- 16 Sal Esposito
- 18 Cathy Pappas
- 18 Hollann Sobers
- 19 Clyde Imagna
- 25 Nicholas Murray27 John Finlay

20 Marlene Sitter

Kathy Stock

Birthdavs

30 Joseph Smith

23



9 Maureen & Joe Adamo (27)

### PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year

#### First Reading: Isaiah 50:5-9

Chapters 40 55 of the book of Isaiah contain the message of a prophet who spoke to God's people during their exile in Babylon. Several times, the prophet speaks about a "Servant of God" who will one day deliver God's people and face many sufferings in doing so. Christians have traditionally identified Jesus with this "suffering Servant".

#### Second Reading: James 2:14-18

Among the New Testament letters, the letter of James is the one most attentive to social justice. Today's passage offers practical advice about how to put our faith into action.

### God's Grace is Young Enough

For the Young and Young At Heart Readings for this Sunday Isaiah 35:4-7; Ps 146: 7-10; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37

> Be Opened Suggested Reflection Questions

- here are beautiful images in the first reading of people's infirmities being cured and of water rushing through the desert – God's grace evident in dramatic changes. Have you ever seen God work in such big ways? Or has God come into your life in a more subtle way?
- In today's Gospel, Jesus says to the deaf man, "Be opened!" Can you imagine Jesus saying those words to you? What in you needs to be healed so that you can be more open to God?
- Why do you think Jesus told the people who witnessed this healing not to tell anyone about it? Why do you think they spread the word anyway?



#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2015 TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Reach out in tolerance

How do we love others who are different from ourselves? *Nostrae Aetate*, the Second Vatican Council declaration on non-Christian religions, offers wisdom for relating with anyone whose beliefs or behaviors differ from our own. The Council exhorts us, for example, to engage in "dialogue and collaboration . . . with prudence and love and in witness to the Christian faith and life." Further, we are called to "recognize, preserve, and promote the good things, spiritual and moral, as well as the socio-cultural values" that we share in common. A tall order, but necessary if we truly wish to conform ourselves to the gospel.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:4-7a; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37 (128). "My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ."

#### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 Labor heartily

Labor Day is a celebration of the value and contributions of workers. Remember, Pope John Paul II said, workers "want to share in the responsibility and creativity of the very work process." Work is a gift to be appreciated, not a burden to escape. You are a steward of the talents God gave you, and you've been entrusted to use them to their fullest. Work is an opportunity to give your best to others, so that you may take care of yourself and others as best you can.

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 1:24-2:3; Luke 6:6-11 (437). "... I am a minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God."

#### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

#### Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Like Mary, be a bearer of hope

Today, we celebrate the birth of Mary. Although the circumstances of her infancy and early life aren't directly recorded in the Bible, the "Protoevangelium of James," a document written very early in Christian tradition, describes Mary as being born in Jerusalem to Joachim and Anne in their old age, when they had given up hope of having children. Mary lived an ordinary life—until an angel appeared! The angel spoke of the child she would bear, a child who'd be a sign of hope, especially for the downtrodden. As we honor Mary's birth, consider how you might be a source of hope to others on this day. TODAY'S READINGS: Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30; Psalm 13:6ab, 6c; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 (636). "Behold, the virgin shall bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 FEAST OF PETER CLAVER, PRIEST Meet injustice with prophetic witness

Four hundred years ago, the slave trade flourished in the Spanish colonial city of Cartagena. Thousands of slaves were unloaded there every year after inhumane crossings in wretched conditions on slave ships run by European colonial powers. Jesuit Claver couldn't stop the trade but he could take a radical stance in the face of it. Declaring himself "slave to the slaves forever" he worked tirelessly to alleviate their suffering and bring them healing and hope. How will you respond to the injustice in front of you?

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 6:20-26 (<u>439</u>). "Rejoice and leap for joy! Your reward will be great in heaven."

#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 Set the bar high

"Virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do good," says the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The seven heavenly virtues are chastity, temperance, charity, diligence, patience, kindness, and humility. Each has an opposite counterpart among the seven deadly sins. Handy lists. Stick to one, not the other. Simple, right? Well, it's a lot easier to be virtuous with your nearest and dearest, who love and care for you, but you have to practice virtues with everyone, even those you believe are in the wrong, to experience the wonderful fullness of what those virtues mean.

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 6:27-38 (440). "... love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 Grave violation

#### Blasphemy is one of those old-time words you don't hear much, except in the Bible, which has a lot to say about this very serious sin—maybe the most serious. But what exactly is it? Simply, it's speaking against God; it's ridiculing sacred things or persons; it's holding anything related to God in contempt. There are even specific prayers and devotions, called Acts of Reparation, to repair the sin of those guilty of blasphemy. Don't make those necessary: Don't take the Lord's name in vain.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14; Luke 6:39-42 (<u>441</u>). "I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and an arrogant man, but I have been mercifully treated . . ."

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY How many ways can you say "full of grace"?

Some feasts seem curious until we appreciate their context. The Most Holy Name of Mary was honored in Spain as a counterpoint to the Most Holy Name of Jesus. It was a local observance until 1683, when the king of Poland won a battle under the name of the Virgin and Pope Innocent XI extended the feast to the whole church. The Marian titles prayed today in the various versions of the Litany of Mary provide a wonderful meditation on why this "Summit of Virtue" is the "glory of the human race."

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 1:15-17; Luke 6:43-49 (<u>442</u>). "For every tree is known by its fruit."



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

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St. Thomas More Parish

Convent Station, NJ

### One Minute Meditations

#### St. Robert Bellarmine

A Jesuit, Robert was a scholar devoted to studying and writing about church history, Scripture and the fathers of the Catholic Church. He taught against the divine right of kings and became unpopular. He worked to accurately record Church doctrine to explain and protect it from attack by Protestants. Although a cardinal and counselor to Pope Clement VIII, he lived and ate like the poor. He was canonized and declared a doctor of the Church.

#### Let go of the dream

Who wouldn't want to live the "good life?" Imagine having all the money you need, going on exotic vacations, and owning your dream home. Yet, people who have all the world can offer still say they don't have all they want. That's because the good life isn't here on Earth.

"We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).



## Discover God's plan of love for you

A vocation is a call from God to love him throughout your life. Whether you are called to be married, a priest or deacon, a religious brother or

sister, or committed to staying single, your vocation will bring you the most joy you can experience on Earth. It will help you and others to grow closer to God. Here are some ways you can better discern God's plan for you.

Personally meet him. The Church's sacraments are

opportunities to meet God personally and receive his grace. We can meet him often in the

Sacrament of Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Sacred Scripture is another opportunity for personal encounter. The more we open ourselves up to Our Lord, the more easily we can discern his voice.

Follow in another's footsteps. Find role models in the different vocations. See if you can picture yourself doing what

he or she does each day. Ask for details of their vocation stories to see how God chose them. That will give you clues

to how you are being called.

Keep in touch. Keeping a prayer journal is a good way to spot patterns that may show God is

working in your life. Pick a prayer buddy and pray for each others' vocations. Spend time in front of the Blessed Sacrament when you can.



The Catholic Church tells us that Baptism is the gateway to the Church, and the beginning of a lasting communion with God. At our Baptism, God adopted us as his children and "marked" us as his forever. This spiritual mark

# Why do Catholics only get baptized once?



of Christ opens us to grace, helps us resist the temptation to sin, and inspires us to love God and neighbor more perfectly (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1121*). This mark is permanent, so we are only baptized once.

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### Faith and Life for Young and Old



### **Back-to-School Prayer**

# God of all knowledge,

you knew us when we were still in our mother's womb.

You know our comings and our goings.

Grant us wisdom to act on the knowledge we have of you, and humility to admit when we do not know what to do.

Bless our minds with the knowledge of you and how you sent your Son into the world to show us the way to you.

Bless all students who are preparing to go back to school.

Bless their teachers and aides that help them to learn.

In addition, give us who are parents the ability to be the first teachers in the faith we have received from our parents

We ask all this through Christ our Lord and brother.







# Labor Day Blessing

# O God,

you asked St. Joseph to accept your will that his wife-to-be would have a Son.

St. Joseph accepted your will and worked with Jesus as his father and teacher.

We seek your blessing upon all the work of our hands,and we dedicate our work to your greater glory.

We ask your blessing upon all workers, especially those who work to make our lives easier and more enjoyable.

We ask all this through the intercession of St. Joseph, patron saint of workers, in the name of Jesus your Son, in the unity of Holy Spirit.

Amen.

St. Joseph the Worker, pray for us.



