

St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

Convent Station, NJ

973-267-5330 • www.stmnj.org

First Sunday of Advent - 2017



As a faith community, we keep in mind all 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.



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In Giving We Receive

As you celebrate the joy of the Christmas season by giving gifts to friends and loved ones, there is one gift that you can give to tens of thousands. It does not require ten thousand names tags or ten thousand bows. All that's needed is a completed pledge card to the Bishop's Annual Appeal or an on-line gift at www.2017appeal.org. Say "Merry Christmas to so many of your brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Paterson who need some hope and joy in their lives by participating in the **Bishop's Annual Appeal** today. May God bless you for your generosity!

We Need YOU - Desperately

At this time of the year, we give thanks for all we have been given. It is also a time to share our gifts with others. One way to include the parish and parish community in this spirit is to help in a liturgical ministry such as reader, eucharistic minister or hospitality. Hospitality may take the form of a traditional usher, a greeter or helping with fellowship hospitality after Sunday morning liturgies. We desperately need eucharistic ministers for all masses, especially Sunday morning and evening. And of course we always need readers. The more volunteers in a ministry the less frequently ministers will need to serve. You can designate the number of times you serve and, for the most part, any service you cannot serve at. In this time of giving back and sharing with others, come share with our parish community.

Good Seamstress/Tailor

We are looking for suggestions for a good tailor or seamstress to repair some of our good quality vestments. Call the parish office if you know someone.

Women's Advent Retreat

Tues., Dec. 5, 9:30 - 2:30. Sisters of Charity Motherhouse. Free will offering. RSVP: lpechello@scnj.org by Nov. 28. Info: 973-290-5325.

Diocese Mass & Breakfast

Diocesan 80th anniversary Dec. 9 - 9:30 am Mass at the Cathedral and breakfast at the Brownstone at 11 am. Tickets are \$40. Info: www.rcdop.org/breakfast.

Remembering this Summer

A few parishioners reviewed the A/C proposals this week. They included refurbishing the present system to creating a more powerful system. The group agreed on a middle proposal. This is a new system with efficiency that would allow it to be smaller and less costly to purchase and to run. At the same time, it could accommodate future planning. For instance, our boiler, like our A/C system is also forty-seven years old. If the boiler would ever have to be replaced, this system would be able to produce heat as well as cooling. The estimate is about \$200,000, which is actually not much more than refurbishing the old system, but less expensive than a new version of what we have now. This is still the proposal stage. Now it's design time. More news to come!

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1 - 11

This passage begins with God calling upon the prophet to encourage the Jewish people who are exiled in Babylon. The prophet is to tell them that they will be returning home soon, and the road of the return will pass through the desert. We will also hear God call the people to proclaim from a mountaintop the goodness of God.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3: 8 - 14

Our second reading comes at the end of Paul's first letter to the Thesalonians. Just as a parent might give last-minute instructions as their child heads out the door, so Paul has a list of last-minute instructions for these people whom he loves.

This Week's Question

For Adults:

How do you know when you're following Christ and living his teachings faithfully?

For Children:

What good thing might God be asking you to do right now?

Giving Tree

Still want to contribute? Please do. A suggestion sheet is by the Tree. Gift cards are allowed both for adults and teens but should be some place convenient.

Do not include food or candy, toys or games that suggest war or violence. Do not wrap gifts but they will accept wrapping paper and gift bags.

Attach the gift tag to the gift with a clip, tape or tie. You can write a note to the person.

We've been given an extension. Dec. 17 is the last date to bring a gift.

Recovery Mass

The Shrine of St. Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, hosts a monthly Recovery Mass on the 2nd Saturday of the month, Noon-1:30 pm. Following Mass, there is a prayer session in the chapel to pray for loved ones still enslaved by addictions, and give thanks for those who have found recovery. Info: 973-370-DRUG (3784).

Christmas Set Up

Setting up for Christmas on a Monday makes it difficult for last minute setup. Dec. 24 is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas begins the same day with the 5 pm liturgy. To be creative, we're looking for help from many people at different times.

Dec. 9, beginning 10 am. Decorate outside - wreaths on doors and lamp posts, Outdoor nativity scene. This needs younger people and some low ladder work

Dec. 16, beginning at 10 am. Inside nativity scene and decorations. All ages.

Dec. 21 at 2 pm and at 7 pm to clean the church, polish, and general sprucing up.

Dec. 24 immediately after 11 am mass - Plants and done! Sign up for one or more.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Lisa Jordan
1	Angela Schmidt
1	Al Wickens
2	Sean Clare
4	Mark Bubniak
4	Leila Fitzpatrick
5	Joseph Sauchelli
7	Chris Davis
8	Gregg Michael Marella
10	Maureen Gaffney
12	Petar Topalovic
13	John Naudts
17	Paul Gamerdinger
19	Alex Arenas
20	Arlene Calabrese
20	Frank Nolan
22	Christopher Pearson
22	Tony Raiola
23	Deyn DeRose
24	Julie Romano
28	Donny Chang
29	Marie Dolan
7	Kathy & Albert Stock (60)
27	Alma & Bill McAllister (70)

By the way, who says we're an "Old Parish?" The average age for this month's birthdays is 53. Eight years ago, the average age was 78. We're getting younger every day!

What's Happening This Week?

This Sunday

Rel. Ed.

Next Sunday

Rel. Ed.

Wednesday

Women's Christmas Luncheon

Mon. Dec. 18

Advent Penance Service, 7 pm

Every Sunday

Pound A Week

Stewardship of Treasure

Last week's

Collection: \$ 4477

Stewardship is easier than ever with our Online Giving System, WeShare. Make your onetime or recurring donation using debit or credit card, checking or savings account. Visit our website, click on Online Giving. Set up your account. Choose a payment option and customize your donation. Or scan the QR Code on other side of this bulletin.

Meditate on the scriptures during the week. Take Five for Faith is located on the website under "Faith Formation."



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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.

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“Advent” means “coming,” of course, and the promise of Advent is that what is coming is an unimaginable invasion. The mythology of our age has to do with flying saucers and invasions from outer space, and that is unimaginable enough. But what is upon us now is even more so — a close encounter not of the third kind but of a different kind altogether. An invasion of holiness. That is what Advent is about.

—Frederick Buechner, *The Clown in the Belfry*