

# *Saint Thomas More Catholic Church*

*4 Convent Road, Morristown, New Jersey 07960*

*973- 267-5330*

*www.stmnj.org*

*info@stmnj.org*

*We exist for one reason: to come to know and be formed by the Word of God and the Message of Jesus. When we gather in prayer and worship, in service and community, we assemble as disciples and friends with the Lord in our midst. Rooted in our Roman Catholic tradition, we are proud of our parish heritage and hopeful for our future.*

*Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time- March 3, 2019*

## **Parish Staff**

Fr. Thomas Fallone, J.D.  
Pastor  
tfallone@stmnj.org

Fr. Joe Davis  
Weekend Assistant

Pat Schell  
Parish Secretary  
secretary@stmnj.org

Mark Davis  
Music - Organist

Frank Miles  
Trustee

Mary Murphy  
Trustee

## **Parish Office Hours**

Monday - Wednesday  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

## ***Celebration of the Eucharist***

Saturday Evening: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am and 7:00 pm (*Please note there will be no 7 pm Mass on holiday weekends.*)

Daily Mass: Monday - Saturday 8:15 am

Holy Days: Vigil 7:00 pm; Holy Day 8:15 am and 12:10 pm

## ***Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance)***

Saturday: 3:30 pm or by appointment

## ***Eucharistic Adoration***

Every First Friday of the Month following the 8:15 am Mass and concluding with Benediction at Noon

## ***Additional Sacraments***

Baptism: Please call or email the Parish Office. Arrangements should be made at least 8 weeks in advance of the desired date.

Marriage: Please call or email the Parish Office. Arrangements should be made at least one year in advance of the desired date.

## ***Join the St. Thomas More Family***

New parishioners can register at any time! Please call or stop by the Parish Office between 9 am - 2 pm, Monday through Wednesday, or send an email to info@stmnj.org. We'd love to welcome you!!



**Blast From the Past(or)  
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
March 3, 2019**

One of my childhood obsessions was pro wrestling. I know, that explains a lot. It all becomes clear now, right? I'd ruminate over the bouts and story lines of Hulk Hogan, Quick Draw Rick McGraw and my all-time personal favorite Bob Backlund (before he became a bad guy, of course). I once went to Parsippany Hills High School to watch the likes of Tito Santana, Jimmy Superfly Snuka, King Kong Bundy and Andre the Giant. I even touched Andre as he walked by! It was a surreal, magical evening. But let's face it, everyone feels that way when they go to Parsippany. Anyway, as I got older, I learned that my wrestling heroes were simply acting a part. Their personae were self-made images created for public consumption: they were fake. It was a business. That was quite a revelation for a kid (although the Sargent Slaughter match with Pat Patterson at Madison Square Garden was real, and no one will ever convince me otherwise). At this conclusion of Ordinary Time, Jesus calls us to authenticity. Lent is a time to wash off the fake, and remove the beam from our own eye. Jesus' very Presence is a condemnation of the hypocrisy to which we can all fall victim. Plus, falsehood is exhausting! How tiring is it to keep up appearances for the sake of approval? Even a quick glance at last night's Oscars reveals that those who act most righteously indignant can be the biggest of frauds. But a common trait of all the Saints is that they are the most 'real' people you'll ever encounter. Authenticity in Christ is the key to joy. And who doesn't want that? Let's get real and have a blessed Lent!!

God Bless you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



***Thank You for Your Stewardship of Time,  
Talent and Treasure!***

Weekly Collection for February 16-17: \$5,100.25

Special Collection for Church in Central and Eastern Europe: \$564.00



***2018 Contribution Statements***

2018 Contribution Statements are available near the collection envelopes in the vestibule of the Church. If you're unable to locate your statement, would like a copy emailed to you or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity!



**Monday, March 4: Saint Casimir**

8:15 am- Thomas McGuire

**Tuesday, March 5: Saint John Joseph Of The Cross**

8:15 am- Joseph Yuppa

**Wednesday, March 6: Ash Wednesday**

8:15 am- Carmen Liuzza

12:10 pm- Kay Brewer

4:00 pm- Joan Gensicke

**Thursday, March 7: Saints Perpetua and Felicity**

8:15 am- Frank Mrocka

**Friday, March 8: Saint John Of God**

8:15 am- Kiernan Foley

**Saturday, March 9: Saint Frances Of Rome**

8:15 am- Special Intention

5:00 pm- Thomas Hoey

**Sunday, March 10: First Sunday of Lent**

9:00 am- Bill Kearney

11:00 am- John Fragomeni

7:00 pm- William Amberg, Jr.



***Mass Cards***

Having a Mass offered is a wonderful way to remember a deceased loved one, celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or for any special intention you may have. Mass Cards can be obtained by visiting the Parish Office Monday - Wednesday between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm.



***Prayers for the Sick***

Please join us in praying for all who are ill in our community, and in a particular way for Rose Marie Raviola, Phil Barrett, Mary Murphy, Madeline McCloskey and Brian Smith. May God bring them and their families His healing, comfort and peace. If you would like to have your name or that of a loved one included in the request for healing prayers in our weekly bulletin, please send an email to [smarshall@stmnj.org](mailto:smarshall@stmnj.org).



### ***How Well Do You Know Saint Thomas More?***

A couple more famous quotes attributed to our patron:

“You must not abandon the ship in a storm because you cannot control the winds....What you cannot turn to good, you must at least make as little bad as you can.”

“I think that if any good thing shall go forward, something must be adventured.”



### ***Food and Fellowship for Single Parishioners***

Our next monthly lunch will be this Tuesday, March 5 at 12:30 pm at Charlie Brown’s Steakhouse, 522 Southern Boulevard, Chatham. Our luncheon is a no-host fellowship gathering. Please contact Monika Mangan at 973-451-1499 for more information and/or to RSVP.



### ***St. Thomas More’s Annual St. Patrick’s Day Celebration***

Our annual St. Patrick’s Day Party will be on Saturday, March 16, 2019 from 6-10 pm at the VFW Hall at 45 Tabor Road in Morris Plains, complete with music provided by our favorite DJ, Alan, and delicious, Irish food. Admission is \$35.00 per person, with kids under 14 free. To join us, please place your payment in one of the envelopes in the vestibule of the Church, indicate your name and the number of people in your party, and drop it in the collection basket or in the mailbox outside the Parish Office. Please make checks payable to “St. Thomas More Parish.”



### ***Welcome Home to Healing***

All Catholic Churches in Morris, Sussex and Passaic counties (including St. Thomas More) will have their doors open for Confession every Monday night from March 11 to April 8 between 7 and 8:30 p.m. as part of the Welcome Home to Healing program. In his letter inviting all to participate, the Bishop wrote, “Like the Prodigal Son barely able to confess his sins, we at times are ashamed and even afraid to name those evils that separate us from God who loves us so much. But the Father is not ashamed to recognize us as his own son or daughter. He longs to wrap his arms around us. He is waiting to welcome us home.” All are welcome to participate in this beautiful Sacrament this Lent!



***“...[All] are made from the dust, and to the dust they [all] return.”***

*- Ecclesiastes 3:20*

What do those ashes really mean? As we look around our world and are confronted with drive-through ash distribution and tables set up outside local cafes for quick ashes (coffee and ashes for your one-stop shopping pleasure!), the true significance of those ashes as an entry to our penitential, Lenten journey seems at times to get lost. A quick look at the *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy* promulgated by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in 2001 provides us with a helpful reminder of just what that Cross on our foreheads really signifies:

“In the Roman Rite, the beginning of the forty days of penance is marked with the austere symbol of ashes which are used in the Liturgy of Ash Wednesday. The use of ashes is a survival from an ancient rite according to which converted sinners submitted themselves to canonical penance. The act of putting on ashes symbolizes fragility and mortality, and the need to be redeemed by the mercy of God. Far from being a merely external act, the Church has retained the use of ashes to symbolize that attitude of internal penance to which all the baptized are called during Lent.”

Ashes are not a symbol of righteousness. Rather, the darkness above our brows is a reminder of that “fragility and mortality” and the mercy we all desperately need and crave. May we embark upon our Lenten journey with this in mind, opening ourselves up to a season of repentance so we may prepare to fully receive and celebrate God’s mercy on that glorious Easter Sunday to come.

***Ashes Will be Distributed at All Masses on Ash Wednesday, March 6:***

8:15 am

12:10 pm

4:00 pm

### ***What are We Called to do During Lent?***

In addition to whatever personal prayer, fasting and almsgiving each individual may decide to undertake after prayerful consideration, to further foster a spirit of reflection during Lent, Catholics age 14 and older are called to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays during Lent. Also, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are seen as days of fasting for Catholics between the ages of 18-59. This means there would be only one full, meatless meal, as well as food at other regular meal times equaling less than a full meal.