

# *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.*

*Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 23, 2020*

## **Parish Staff**

Fr. Thomas Fallone, J.D.

Pastor

tfallone@stmnj.org

Fr. Joe Davis

Weekend Assistant

Fr. Daniel Chajkowski

In Residence

lionheartdan@gmail.com

Pat Schell

Parish Secretary

secretary@stmnj.org

Mark Davis

Music - Organist

732-340-0190

Frank Miles

Trustee

Mary Murphy

Trustee

## **Parish Office Hours**

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

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, 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, Tuesday or Thursday, or send an email to info@stmnj.org. We'd love to welcome you!!



***Blast From the Past(or)***  
**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**February 23, 2020**

*Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.....*

Um, Jesus? Do You have five minutes? Yeah, I hate to bother You, but it's about what You said in Matthew 5: 48. Are you serious about that? Because I kind of messed that up already. I feel constantly lacking in the perfection department. Our culture imposes perfection in so many ways, even on children. We've got to get in to the right school, have the right clothes and live in the approved communities. Look, has traffic stopped when I've walked along Main Street in Madison? Duh. Of course it has. That's the cost of perfection. But aside from that, Jesus' statement worries me in many ways. Smart professors have told me that this word 'perfect' is used only twice in the New Testament. So what gives? Perfection is not logical. It is impossible. Yet that's where our prayerful intake of the Gospel comes in. I may be an epic failure in perfection as the world understands the word. But the perfection in the Sermon on the Mount is actually attainable for regular folks like me! Christian life is an apprenticeship in self-giving love. Thus we are all saints-in-training. From the Manger to the Cross we have to practice daily little acts of love in humble acceptance of God's grace. The other day, I grew quite angry watching Seton Hall lose to Providence. So I changed channels and happened upon a figure skating competition (Yeah, so I watched figure skating for a bit. You got a problem with that?). The skaters' countless hours of training morph into years of sacrifice. The result is a seemingly perfect routine at which spectators gasp. But their flawless display came with falls along the way. Difficult routines only become perfect after a lot of grueling work. So it is with the Sermon on the Mount and the Imitation of Christ.

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

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

Weekly Collection for February 15-16: \$4,197.00

***Parish Directory Participants***

If you elected to have your free 8x10 photo sent to the church, please check the back sacristy for your photo. They will be arriving in a few shipments.

*Counting our Blessings* 

Please join us as we celebrate the Baptism of Thomas James Weber at the 11 am Mass this weekend and welcome this little one into our parish family. May God bless Thomas and his family on this special day and always!



MASS INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK

**Monday, February 24: Blessed Luke Belludi**

8:15 am- The Repose of the Unborn

**Tuesday, February 25: Blessed Sebastian of Aparicio**

8:15 am- Sandy Clyde

**Wednesday, February 26: Ash Wednesday**

8:15 am- Fr. Arthur Colaiacovo

12:10 pm- Kay Brewer

6:00 pm- Deceased Members of Our Parish

**Thursday, February 27: Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows**

8:15 am- Fr. Arthur Colaiacovo

**Friday, February 28: Blessed Daniel Brottier**

8:15 am- Mimi Flynn

**Saturday, February 29:**

8:15 am- Todd Wharton

5:00 pm- Margaret Farkas

**Sunday, March 1: First Sunday of Lent**

9:00 am- Robert Kennedy

11:00 am- Clyde Imagna

7:00 pm- Rita Roscoe

***Prayers for the Sick***

Please join us in praying for all who are ill in our community, and in a particular way for Chris Auger, Phil Barrett, Bob Bass, Karen Cutaneo, Fred Donikowski, Paul Gamedinger, Florence Kearney, Barbara Kline, Anne Morrison, Bobby Polidore, Christopher Popp, Edmond Sherry, James Stewart and Flynn Sullivan. 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 Sue Marshall at [smarshall@stmnj.org](mailto:smarshall@stmnj.org).

***Please remember in your prayers...***

We remember and honor in a special way this week Baby Annie Theresa. Please keep the soul of this blessed child and her family in your prayers.

***St. Patrick's Day Celebration***

St. Thomas More will hold its Annual St. Patrick's Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 21, 2020 from 6 - 10 pm at the VFW Hall at 45 Tabor Road in Morris Plains. The cost will be \$35 per person, with kids 13 and under free. To join us, please place your payment in one of the envelopes found 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 black mailbox outside the Parish Office. Please make checks payable to "St. Thomas More Parish." For more information, please call the Parish Office at 973-267-5330.



**“...[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 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.

### ***This Week in our Parish***

**Sunday, February 23:** 9:00 am- Religious Education, Church, Parish Office Rooms and Basement Meeting Room

**Monday, February 24:** 9:30 am- Collection Counters, Parish Office Meeting Room

7:00 pm - Finance Council Meeting, Parish Office Meeting Room

**Tuesday, February 25:** 1:00 pm- Women’s Guild Meeting, Basement Meeting Room

**Wednesday, February 26:** 8:15 am, 12:10 pm and 6:00 pm- Ash Wednesday Masses, Church

7:00 pm- Lenten Scripture Program, Basement Meeting Room

**Sunday, March 1:** 9:00 am- Religious Education, Church, Parish Office Rooms and Basement Meeting Room

***Ashes Will be Distributed at All Masses on Ash Wednesday, February 26:***

8:15 am, 12:10 pm and 6:00 pm

***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 in March between 7 and 8:30 p.m. as part of the Welcome Home to Healing program. All are welcome to participate in this beautiful Sacrament this Lent!

### ***Pivotal Players Lenten Forum***

Join Father Tom on Tuesdays- March 3, 10 and 17- at 7:00 pm for a presentation and discussion of Bishop Robert Barron’s “Catholicism: The Pivotal Players” DVD Series. Each week we’ll examine a different figure who not only shaped the life of the Church but changed the course of civilization.

### ***Lenten Scripture Program - “Genesis to Jesus”***

This 14-session video explores the divine covenants that God made with humanity in the course of salvation history. It focuses on His Old Testament covenants with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David, and then sees how each is fulfilled in the New Testament covenant that God makes with the world through Jesus Christ. All are welcome to participate in this program led by Frank Miles at 7:00 pm each Wednesday evening starting on Ash Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> in the Basement Meeting Room. For further information, please call Frank at 973-538-6554.



### ***Little Black Lenten Books***

The Little Black Lenten Books are back, filled with six-minute daily reflections to help us walk through our reflection and preparation during the Lenten Season. Books are available in the church vestibule.

### ***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.*