

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.

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord - April 12, 2020

Parish Staff

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

Fr. Joe Davis
Weekend Assistant

Fr. Daniel Chajkowski
In Residence
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Pat Schell
Parish Secretary
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Mark Davis
Music - Organist
732-340-0190

Frank Miles
Trustee

Mary Murphy
Trustee

Due to CDC guidelines and in an abundance of caution in light of continuing COVID-19 concerns, Bishop Serratelli has mandated the following:

Parish Facility Closures:

The church, the parish office and all parish grounds will remain closed until further notice. We look forward to updating you when we can resume with scheduled ministries and events.

Celebration of the Eucharist

All public Masses are suspended until further notice.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance)


All parish activities and events, including Penance Services and scheduled Confessions, are suspended until further notice.

Additional Sacraments and Celebrations

Baptism: Until further notice, all Baptisms are deferred except in case of urgent necessity.

Funeral Rites: All Funeral Masses are discontinued until further notice. The Rite of Committal as established in the *Order of Christian Funerals* may be used for a graveside service with no more than 8 members of the immediate family present. All are to keep the recommended social distance. The priest will offer a private Mass for the repose of the soul of the departed. A public memorial Mass can be arranged for a later date when restrictions on the gathering of large crowds have been lifted.

Marriage: Until further notice, all weddings are deferred.



Blast from the Past(or)
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
April 12, 2020

They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put Him.....

With our Churches closed, millions share the pining of Mary of Magdala. Where is the Lord? We want Him. We need Him. Where is He? In the collective anxiety of a global pandemic, we can answer: 'He is Risen.' This epicenter of the Faith is proclaimed with joy in the face of despondence and worry. Easter is the meaning of Christianity and the meaning of and our lives. But, wait. There's more. The bodily resurrection of Christ proffers the same for us. That's the game-changer! Bam. Seriously, when we examine the externals of our own attachments, anxieties and legitimate, real-world concerns, Easter proves that they are signposts to a life beyond them. This pandemic gives our lives perspective, but the Resurrection gives this perspective its purpose. This is why we can be like the women at the tomb: *fearful but overjoyed*. As we share Easter in suspended animation under the current crisis, Christ's tomb is our hope. And we know instinctively that *we need difficulties to enliven our hope, patience to test it, a community to support it, and God to direct it. We purify our hope as we separate what is superficial from what is essential, what is fleeting from what is lasting* (Donald DeMarco, *The Heart of Virtue*). He is Risen. Be happy. Be safe. Fear not little flock, your Father desires to give you the Kingdom. Happy Easter!

God bless you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Online Donations

As you can imagine, our main source of income is greatly depleted with the suspension of public Masses and therefore in-person collections. Please consider signing up to contribute to our weekly collection, our monthly second collection or making a one-time donation online at: <https://stthommore.weshareonline.org/> or clicking on the "Online Donations" link on the St. Thomas More home page. Please email Sue Marshall at smarshall@stmnj.org with any questions. You can also make contributions by mail if that is more convenient. Any small way you can contribute is very much appreciated. Thank you so much for supporting our parish during this difficult time.



Monday, April 13: Saint Martin I

Kay Brewer

Tuesday, April 14: Blessed Peter Gonzalez

Michael Murphy

Wednesday, April 15: Blessed Caesar de Bus

Henry and Dorothy Fallone

Thursday, April 16: Saint Bernadette Soubirous

Cheryl Farrie

Friday, April 17: Saint Benedict Joseph Labre

Gloria LaTorre

Saturday, April 18: Blessed James Oldo

Jackie Macaluso

Sunday, April 19: Second Sunday of Easter - Sunday of Divine Mercy

Vincent Massey, Sr.

Mary and Howard Finlay



Mass Intentions

Although public Masses are currently suspended, please know that Father Tom or Father Daniel will continue to say Mass on their own for all Mass intentions. If you would like to request that a Mass be said for a loved one or another intention, please email Sue Marshall at smarshall@stmnj.org.

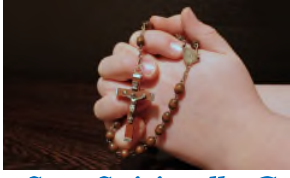


Prayers for the Sick

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, Fred Donikowski, Jim Johnson, 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 (or removed from) the request for healing prayers in our weekly bulletin, please send an email to Sue Marshall at smarshall@stmnj.org.

For the Most Up-To-Date STM Information...

Any closures, schedule changes or other STM news will be communicated via Flocknote (by text and email) and also posted to our parish website. If you haven't already signed up for Flocknote, please take a moment to do so by texting 'STMNJ' to 84576 or visiting flocknote.com/STMNJ.



Ways to Stay Spiritually Connected While Public Masses are Suspended and Churches are Closed

1. **View Mass Online or on Television:** Check out our parish website to view Mass each day celebrated by Bishop Robert Barron. You can also view Mass at www.catholicv.org or on television on EWTN. We will try to post a recording of the Sunday Mass Father Tom will be saying on his own as well, to the extent possible.

2. **Make an Act of Spiritual Communion:** This beautiful practice has been part of the lives of countless saints who found it drew them closer to God on a daily basis. Below is a traditional prayer of spiritual communion which can be prayed while watching Mass online or on television, in the midst of your daily work, or at any time during the day, lifting up your thoughts to God.

My Jesus,

*I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.*

*Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.*

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

3. **Pray the Rosary:** Appealing to our beloved, Blessed Mother and uniting with other Catholics throughout the world by praying the Rosary is a profound way to find peace and strength during these difficult times. A number of resources are available to assist in praying the Rosary at home, in the car, or wherever your social distancing might take you.

Apps: (Free, available in the Apple and Google Play stores)

Laudate App- Combines a large number of Catholic resources such as Daily Mass, prayers (including the Rosary), the Bible, Stations of the Cross, the Catechism and much more.

Mary App- Created by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, this app is a helpful resource on our Blessed Mother and includes, among many other things, an interactive Rosary with an audio option.

Family Rosary's Mobile Rosary- Offers the traditional Rosary with the text of each prayer. You can pray in silence or with the companion voice of Venerable Patrick Peyton.

iRosary- Displays a fully-animated set of Rosary beads which displays each prayer as you move each bead with your finger, like a standard Rosary.

YouTube: There are many videos of people praying the Rosary that you can join. One popular example is that of the Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist, which can be found through a YouTube search or at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCijv_J5ozpFLoxo4vZ4RRYA.

Online: The Rosary Center & Confraternity website offers a number of resources and options for praying the Rosary, including, "Praying the Rosary Without Distractions," "Scripturally Based Rosary," and "In Stained Glass." You can find a description of the Rosary and prayer links here: <https://www.Rosarycenter.org/homepage-2/Rosary/how-to-pray-the-Rosary/>

4. **Participate in Virtual Stations of the Cross:** Various examples can be found online, but here is one: <https://bustedhalo.com/video/virtual-stations-of-the-cross>.

5. **Even Washing your Hands Can Lead to Prayer:** Instead of singing *Happy Birthday*, try reciting the *Hail Mary* two times as you scrub. It's a great way to keep us centered while we're keeping safe.



Prayer of Pope Francis for Protection and Help

O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross
took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.
You...know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
Who has taken upon Himself our sufferings and carried our
sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the
resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do
not disdain the entreaties of those of us who are in trial, but deliver
us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



Hope Builds: Rolling Away the Stone During an Easter That Looks Different

BY ERIC CLAYTON APRIL 7, 2020

Found at: <https://bustedhalo.com/life-culture/hope-builds-rolling-away-the-stone-during-an-easter-that-looks-different>

“You don’t want the bookshelf to fall on the kids,” my wife said. No, I agreed. I decidedly did not.

I was desperately searching for a stud in the newly painted wall. The stud finder was succeeding in finding only my irritation, and that I could discover all on my own. I had successfully secured one side of the old gray bookshelf to the wall, but the second stud was proving more elusive.

I shook my head, frustrated. The bookshelf itself was already speckled with extraneous holes, the result of my overeager drilling. And soon, the wall would follow suit. I drilled straight into drywall and nearly threw the tool out the second-story window.

No one would describe me as “handy.”

My wife is very pregnant, due in early summer. So, I have found myself spending a good deal of this “lockdown” time assembling dressers, painting walls, and shuffling furniture among our upstairs rooms.

It’s hardly the spiritual journey I expected during these final days of Lent. A liturgical season meant to slowly, steadily temper our souls through the slow cooking flames of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving has become a pressure cooker ready to burst. Little hiccups like holes in the wall compound faster than they otherwise would, slipping quickly into bitterness and anger.

Lent has brought unique challenges. Easter will feel different this year.

So much of our Easter imagery involves going out, journeying with, seeking and finding. There is motion in the Easter narrative – a welcome transition from the interior soul-searching so often associated with Lent.

But this Easter, when the stone is rolled away, the vast majority of us will still be confined to our homes. Our metaphoric tomb will not be empty, but likely quite full. Our roads to Emmaus will stand vacant, quiet.

Few of us have the luxury of encountering strangers along the way.

And yet, the message of Easter is as timely as ever. We are a people of hope. Our God is a God of surprises. And the stone will, nevertheless, be rolled away. What will we find within?

I return to that image of the Lenten pressure cooker. And I see myself, so often during these past forty days, losing my patience, lashing out at my friends, family, and coworkers, defaulting to uncharitable thoughts and threatening to throw drills through windows. (Not literally, but you get the idea.) Lent in lockdown has pushed so many of us to our limits, limits we likely didn’t even consider a month ago.

Our Instapot pressure cooker has a helpful feature: It lets me know when food is burning. If that happens, I need to release the pressure, flip the switch and watch the steam slowly, steadily flood out.

That’s what Easter can be this year. As the stone is rolled away, as the risen Jesus steps into the garden, we release our own steam; we depressurize. Christ takes it from us. And we go from burned to simmering, not quite ready for the feast but cooling, almost there.

Easter this year will be different. But the message is the same. And while we can’t go out to encounter others in their joys and sufferings, we can make room for their joys and sufferings right where we are. We can build virtual bridges between our not-so-empty tombs and those of others.

But first – as is true every Easter – we have to roll away the stone. Let the steam stream out; let fresh air in. Give those things that cause us stress and anxiety to the risen Lord, recognizing that it might not be a once-and-done task but an ongoing process.

My stud finder will always uncover my frustration faster than it will studs. But the Easter message is slow burn; hope builds, so long as we continue to make room for it.



DIOCESE OF PATERSON

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Office of
THE BISHOP

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April 8, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

In our yearly celebration of Easter, we joyfully mark God's renewal of his creation and his renewal of our lives through Christ's victory over sin and death. At the dawn of creation God said: "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:4) and his powerful word made light to guide the crown of his creation, the human person.

Jesus Christ is the Light that redeems us and leads us to eternal life. While we will not be able to celebrate all of the beautiful rites of the Easter Vigil this year, such as the blessing of the new fire and the solemn preparation and lighting of the Paschal Candle, we can do something to express our certain hope for the Light of Christ to banish despair. I invite all of the faithful to place a small electric light outside of their home or in their window at sunset on the night before Easter Sunday, the vigil of the Day of Resurrection, to unite our hearts in hope and to express our undying faith in our Risen Lord who is the Light that never will be vanquished. As the electric candle or light is illumined I invite you pray with your household: "May the Light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds."

God continues to enlighten the world through our faith in the Lord Jesus and in the countless acts of sacrifice of so many selfless individuals during this difficult time. May God deliver from harm all of those who suffer in the midst of this pandemic and protect all who attend to their care. May he keep each of us safe in his loving embrace.

With a prayer for the Lord's blessing, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, S.T.D., S.S.L., D.D.
Bishop of Paterson