

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.

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity - June 14, 2020

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:

Except for limited, public Masses as announced on our website, 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

See our website each week for the most up-to-date information on limited public Masses to be celebrated on weekends and applicable sign-up information.

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 limited members of the immediate family present. All are to keep the recommended social distance. Please contact Father Tom for more information and to make arrangements.*

Marriage: Until further notice, all weddings are deferred.

Parish Staff

Fr. Thomas Fallone, J.D.
Pastor
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Fr. Joe Davis
Weekend Assistant

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Pat Schell
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Frank Miles
Trustee

Mary Murphy
Trustee



Blast from the Past(or)
The Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ
June 14, 2020

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in Him...

For me, one of the most compelling and beautiful (and emotional) modern explanations of the Eucharist comes in the form of a short film called, *God in the Streets of New York City*. In this film, Grassroots Films of Brooklyn, NY, depicts the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal carrying Jesus in the Eucharist through the chaotic streets of Manhattan. It's only 5 minutes long (score!) but long enough to renew appreciation of what it means to be Catholic in the Power of the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith. The film also reminds me why in the heck I became a priest in the first place, clarifying a desire finding its direction amidst daily administrata, conflicts, complaints, critiques, joys and sorrows. Clearly, I failed to read the Priest Brochure carefully. And, what's with the black outfit? I was really hoping for something in a more festive, pastel madras. But anywho, in Corpus Christi, it's all there: the proper place for the most tender and fundamental devotion of the Body and Blood of Christ. In the Real Presence of Jesus, we're reminded that to be the Body of Christ, we have to consume the Body of Christ. Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist is a gift and mystery: a reminder, once again, that the bread I give you is my flesh for the life of the world. Yupper, God loves you that much. Contemplating the Eucharist, any thinking person would have to catch his or her breath. That is the Eucharist, for our consumption, contemplation and companionship for the journey. This is Jesus in the Flesh. Thanks be to God. *Sweet Sacrament, we thee adore, oh make us love thee more and more....*As we slowly reopen for public Mass, May we Catholics again be amazed at what takes place here.

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



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

All STM news, including information regarding additional reopenings and our public Masses, 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. Please note, longer messages and sign-ups for upcoming Masses will **only be sent by email**, so please make sure you have a current email address on file! If you have any issues accessing or updating your profile, please reach out to Sue Marshall at smarshall@stmnj.org.



MASS INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK

- Monday, June 15: Saint Marguerite D'Youville**
Margaret Farkas
- Tuesday, June 16: Saint John Francis Regis**
Jean Wayer
- Wednesday, June 17: Saint Joseph Cafasso**
Robert Stafford
- Thursday, June 18: Venerable Matt Talbot**
Mark Schulman
- Friday, June 19: Saint Romuald**
Samuel Lankford
- Saturday, June 20: Saint Paulinus Of Nola**
Pauline Falcone
- Sunday, June 21: Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Michael Murphy
Hubie O'Toole



Mass Intentions

Although public Masses are currently very limited, 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, Patty Myers, John O'Neil, Bobby Polidore, Christopher Popp, Edmond Sherry 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.



Parish Donations

A heartfelt “thank you” goes out to all who have continued to make donations to our parish during this difficult time. You can contribute to our weekly collection, monthly second collection or make a one-time donation online at: <https://stthommore.weshareonline.org/> or by 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 at 4 Convent Road, Morristown, NJ 07960. Any way you can contribute is very much appreciated.



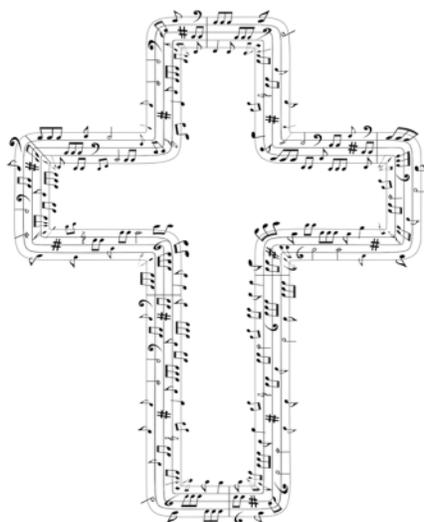
Prayer for the Bishop-Elect

Good and gracious God, we stand on the threshold of a new time for our diocese. As we cross that threshold in thankfulness, we ask you to pour out an abundance of grace on our Bishop-Elect Kevin Sweeney that he may faithfully assume his ministry among us and that, together with him, we may work for the building up of our local church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May we all keep Bishop-Elect Sweeney, his current parishioners, all of our Diocese and of course Bishop Serratelli, in our daily thoughts and prayers.



Our Music Ministers, Mark Davis and Preston Davis, are leaving us to pursue other endeavors. Please join us in thanking them both for enabling us all to worship even more fully by sharing their beautiful gifts. We will miss them but wish them God’s many blessings as they embark upon new chapters.



“He who sings, prays twice!” (St. Augustine)

INITIAL LIMITED PUBLIC MASS RE-OPENING PROCEDURES

[These procedures are subject to revision upon receipt of any additional guidance from Bishop, the Governor and/or any other governing entity, as well as updates as we find any ways to improve the process as we go along.]

Welcome back! We are excited to be able to welcome those of you who will be able to join us. As we reopen our church in phases, we wanted to explain the procedures we are putting in place that will help keep you and those around you safe during Mass. Please be patient with each other and us as we learn these new procedures. Good humor, understanding and patience are very much appreciated and will add to our joy as we welcome each other back. Please remember this is a new world for all of us and we are doing our very best.

Remember:

*Please follow CDC recommendations regarding your own health. If you are at higher risk for severe illness according to the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>) we strongly encourage you to stay home and join us for Mass online. We will continue to post Sunday Mass on our website (www.stmnj.org) and our YouTube Channel. We are encouraging you to stay home because we care about you! **If you are sick or symptomatic, taking care of someone who is ill, or living with a sick or symptomatic person you must stay home.** Additionally, if for any reason you are unable or unwilling to abide by each of these procedures, we must also ask you to remain home. Each person who enters our doors is relying on compliance with these guidelines to make us all as safe and comfortable as possible. Please respect the health of those around you as well as your own by following these procedures.*

As a reminder, Bishop Serratelli has continued to dispense the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. The purpose is to enable anyone who chooses not to or is unable to attend Mass because of COVID-19 or other concerns to be serenely free. We are continuing to consider options for distribution of Communion for those who are at greater risk or will not be able to come to Mass. Please pay attention to the website and Flocknotes for further information.

MASS SIGN-UPS:

We will celebrate public Masses at a capacity of **no more than 60 people** at each Mass. We will begin with Sunday Masses only. The number of Masses each weekend will vary, starting at first with only one as we attempt a "soft reopen" to work through the system. **Initially, only those who have registered or contributed as parishioners and have provided an email address will receive a Flocknote with the link for sign-ups. Each individual will need to be signed up separately, even if part of the same family, so we can accurately gauge capacity. Please take care to avoid duplicate signups so we can allow as many people to come as possible. Please also take note of the signup cutoff time that will be referenced in the email. After that deadline we will open any remaining spots to non-registered parishioners. Also, if you reserve a spot but later cannot come, please cancel your reservation to allow someone else the opportunity to attend.**

Any online sign-up will be confirmed immediately. Any registered parishioner without access to a computer may leave a message on the parish voicemail at 973-267-5330 requesting to sign up for a specific Mass. Voicemail requests will be granted on first come, first serve basis, subject to availability. Those who have left a voicemail will receive a call letting you know if your requested Mass was available. To avoid any unnecessary trips, if you request a reservation by phone, please do not come to Mass unless you receive a call confirming your reservation.

Once we get a better feel for the demand for Mass, if we find additional spaces are available, we will also post the sign-up on our website. **While we hope to be able to accommodate everyone who wishes to attend, if we find any Mass is reaching capacity, we may institute a weekly rotation system to confirm that everyone has equal opportunity to attend Sunday Mass.**

WHEN ATTENDING MASS:

Before you arrive at church:

Before you arrive for Mass, please wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water. Please use the restroom before coming to church. Our restrooms will be available only in case of emergency and will be cleaned before and after each Mass. If you do need to use the restroom, please allow for only one occupant at a time (with the exception, of course, for an infant, young child or anyone else needing assistance).

Arrival at church:

Please remember to provide and wear a facemask that completely covers your mouth and nose. Unfortunately, Seaters/Greeters are required to turn away anyone who does not have a facemask for the safety of all.

Please note only the front, main entrance to the church will be open. All other doors will remain locked. This door will be open 20 minutes prior to the start of Mass to ensure time to sanitize and clean the church. This also allows time to have the Seaters/Greeters ready to serve you. Please remain in your vehicle until the front door has been unlocked and opened. **As you approach the church please keep a six-foot distance from anyone outside of your household.**

Please bring your own hand sanitizer to use during Mass. Seaters/Greeters will check you in on the reservation list and dispense sanitizer on your hands at the entrance of the church as you enter.

In the church, every third pew will be available for seating. **Please note this important change: For now, each family will be seated by a Seater/Greeter who will be responsible for filling the Church starting from the front and finishing in back. Please understand this means you will not be able to choose a preferred or "regular" seat.** Once seated, please do not leave your pew for the entirety of Mass absent an emergency. For the safety and comfort of all, we must require that no one gather in the vestibule, Sacristy or anywhere else inside the church other than in your assigned seat. Please note unfortunately Father Tom will not be able to meet with anyone before or after Mass. If you would like to set up a time to speak with him, please call or email to schedule a separate appointment.

If the seating in the church reaches our 60-person capacity, the Seaters/Greeters will not be permitted to allow anyone else into the church. If this happens, you may return for a later Mass (when available) or watch online. Our registration for Mass should help to eliminate this problem. Seaters/Greeters will be checking people in and asking those who have not registered to wait in their cars to see if a seat is available.

During Mass:

All are required to wear a facemask, fully covering their nose and mouth, for the duration of Mass. A collection will not be taken during the offertory, but a collection basket will be placed close to the entrance before and after Mass for your convenience. If you have not already, we strongly encourage you to set up your donations through online giving. Online giving is dependable, safe and of course much lower risk for possible transmission of COVID-19. You can sign up for online giving here: <https://stthommore.weshareonline.org/>.

We have been informed that singing expels significantly more droplets into the air and therefore increases the risk of spreading COVID-19. In response, the Diocese has determined that it is best to temporarily suspend congregational singing. Additionally, per Diocesan directives, Altar Servers will not assist at the Altar until a later date when the risk of contagion is further ameliorated. There will also be no lectors until further notice.

There should be no physical contact between different households before, during or after Mass. There will be no sign of peace, and we ask that you do not hold hands with anyone outside of your household during the Our Father. During the Communion Rite of the Mass, only Father Tom will receive Communion.

However, Holy Communion will be distributed immediately following the final blessing, as described below.

Reception of Holy Communion:

Please note the distribution of the Precious Blood remains discontinued for the foreseeable future. The Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ is received under either species. If you would like to receive Holy Communion, after the final blessing and dismissal please remain in your seat and kneel or be seated. Father Tom will approach each pew individually. *Please do not approach for Holy Communion until you are directed to do so.*

Reception of Holy Communion will take place in this way: A Seater/Greeter will dispense sanitizer on your hands before you approach Father Tom. Father Tom will hold up the Host and say through his facemask, "The Body of Christ." Please reply "Amen," and then remove your facemask. Extend your hands at a distance with one hand flat and the other underneath it. Please do not wear gloves as they are unbecoming of the Blessed Sacrament. Receive Communion. Then please depart immediately.

If Father Tom has touched the hand of a communicant, he will re-sanitize his hands before distributing to the next communicant.

The Diocese has indicated that Communion should be received on the hand during this time. If that is not possible for you, please indicate this to your Seater/Greeter before Mass so alternate arrangements may be made. Likewise, please notify your Seater/Greeter before Mass if you require a Low Gluten Host so those arrangements can be made as well.

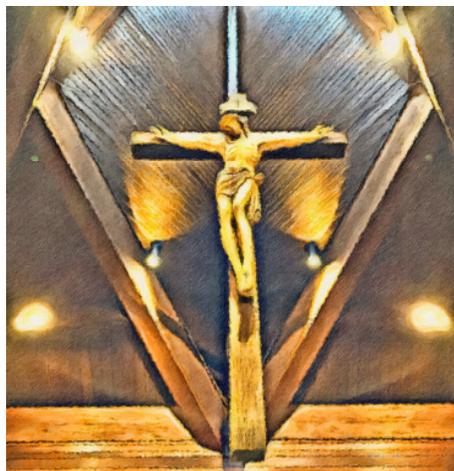
Departure:

Please do not linger in or outside the church or in the parking lot. We know everyone is excited to be back and see each other, but we need to continue our social distancing efforts as we slowly re-open. As mentioned, while Father Tom will be unable to greet anyone before or after Mass, please feel free to email or call for an appointment if you'd like to meet with him. There will be no hard copy bulletins at this time or collection envelopes in the vestibule. Bulletins will continue to be available online.

Let us continue to pray for one another in preparation for the day when COVID-19 is far less of a threat and all of us can be reunited (physically) in prayer and worship.

We are greatly looking forward to seeing you again!

Praise be Jesus Christ now and forever!





Ways to Stay Spiritually Connected When not Attending Mass in Person

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.catholictv.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/UCijy_J5ozpFLoxo4vZARRYA.

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.