

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.

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time - June 21, 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

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Weekend Assistant

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Mary Murphy
Trustee



Blast from the Past(or)
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 21, 2020

Fear no one...

Well, that's easy for Jesus to say. Because it seems that we have a lot to fear, Lord. We have deeply painful, divisive and even violent disagreements in our Country. We live in the fear of the ubiquitous threat of virus and existential uncertainties. In fact, we are often reticent to share our own thoughts with each other out of fear of being ostracized in shame. Fears abound, like the Impossible Whopper from Burger King, or Cardi B., or having Canadian people living in your rectory. Navigating a Cheesecake Factory menu can be absolutely terrifying. Have you ever tried to do the 'Cotton-Eyed Joe' dance at a wedding? It's frightful. These things and persons inculcate terror (well, okay, maybe that last one was just me, but I needed to come clean). What of the fears we have? Today, as in the days of Jeremiah, we *'hear the whisperings of many: 'terror on every side,'* with fear in fact sometimes peddled as a commodity for different interests. But the power of Christ compels us to fear nothing. Such were the first words of the first Polish Pope, Saint John Paul II: *be not afraid.* This is our sorely needed lesson for today. We're called from the fear of Eden to the confidence of God: fear no one. If you're like me, I sometimes project my frailty on God. This is incapacitating. Though the 'whispers' are very loud today, Christ encourages you, 'fear not, little flock for it is in your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom' (Lk. 12: 32). Obviously, Jesus is our beacon in these fearful times. But our friend Emily Dickinson offers some good advice as well: *'to fight aloud is very brave, but gallanter, I know, who charge within the bosom, the cavalry of woe....'* Hang in there. Say your prayers. Fear not.

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.



- Monday, June 22: Saint Thomas More**
Alice Gallagher and Peter McQuaid
- Tuesday, June 23: Saint John Fisher**
Michael Murphy
- Wednesday, June 24: Nativity Of Saint John The Baptist**
Rosemarie Raiola
- Thursday, June 25: Blessed Jutta Of Thuringia**
Maureen Brodeur
- Friday, June 26: Blessed Raymond Lull**
Leonard Bendzin
- Saturday, June 27: Saint Cyril Of Alexandria**
Michael Kane
- Sunday, June 28: Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Pauline Falcone
Duncan Sinclair



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.



A Father's Day Reflection

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the incredible gift of our fathers who have watched over and protected us from the days before they'd ever seen the first hint of our smiles to the times when we thought we were too “grown up” to need them but they knew better and secretly watched over us anyway ...

Thank you for the gentle guidance our fathers have given and the countless sacrifices they've made without hesitation, for the joy they've brought with jokes we dismissed as corny but laughed at when they weren't looking, and for every moment we've been blessed to spend in their strong embrace that left no doubt of how much we were loved...

Thank you for all of our grandfathers, Godfathers, stepfathers and all others who have shown us a father's strength, love and protection and never asked for a single thing in return...

Thank you for all fathers-to-be and those hoping to someday be fathers. May they be guided and strengthened along their journey and blessed with happy, healthy children that will remind them by their presence each day what a precious gift life is and how very lucky we are just to be a part of it...

We also ask Your special blessing upon all of those for whom today is a difficult day—those whose fathers are no longer with them, fathers who have suffered the heartbreaking loss of a child, those who want so much to be parents but for whom parenthood may not be part of Your plan. May they know and feel Your comfort this day and may their hurting hearts be healed.

And we thank you especially for always and ever being the ultimate example to us of a Father's love. May we never cease appreciating such an incredible miracle or striving each day to find new ways to share it with those around us.

Amen.

Wishing a Blessed Father's Day to All!!



FEAST OF SAINT THOMAS MORE

The Feast Day of our great patron, Saint Thomas More, is this Monday, June 22. A beautiful way to honor him and seek his continued intercession is by praying one of the many Novenas to Saint Thomas More that are available. One such example is below. Happy Feast Day!

NOVENA TO ST. THOMAS MORE

composed by Anita Moore, Esq., OPL

First Day

Dear St. Thomas More, in your earthly life, you were a model of prudence. You never thrust yourself rashly into any serious undertaking; instead, you tested the strength of your powers and waited on God's will in prayer and penance, then boldly carried it out without hesitation. Through your prayers and intercession, obtain for me the virtues of patience, prudence, wisdom and courage. Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Glorious St. Thomas More, I beg you to take up my cause, confident that you will advocate for me before God's Throne with the same zeal and diligence that marked your career on earth. If it be in accord with God's will, obtain for me the favor I seek, namely _____.

V. Pray for us, O Blessed St. Thomas More.

R. That we may faithfully follow you on the hard road that leads to the narrow gate of eternal life.

Second Day

Dear St. Thomas More, in your earthly life, you were a model of diligence. You shunned procrastination, applied yourself with fervor to your studies, and spared no effort in achieving mastery in any skill. Through your prayers and intercession, obtain for me the virtue of diligence and persistence in my preparations for all undertakings. Our Father...

Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Glorious St. Thomas More...

Third Day

Dear St. Thomas More, in your earthly life, you were a model of industriousness. You threw yourself wholeheartedly into everything you did, and you found enjoyment even in the most serious things. Through your prayers and intercession, obtain for me the grace of always having suitable employment, the grace to find interest in everything fitting, and the fortitude always to pursue excellence in whatever task God gives me to do. Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Glorious St. Thomas More...

Fourth Day

Dear St. Thomas More, in your earthly life, you were a brilliant lawyer and a just and compassionate judge. You attended to the smallest details of your legal duties with the greatest care, and you were unflagging in your pursuit of justice tempered by mercy. Through your prayers and intercession, obtain for me the grace to overcome every temptation to laxity, arrogance, and rash judgment in my (legal) duties. Our Father...

Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Glorious St. Thomas More...

Fifth Day

Dear St. Thomas More, in your earthly life, you were a model of humility. You never allowed pride to lead you to take on enterprises beyond your abilities; even in the midst of earthly wealth and honor, you never forgot your total dependence on your Heavenly Father. Through your prayers and intercession, obtain for me the grace of an increase in humility, and the wisdom not to overestimate my own powers. Our Father... Hail

Mary... Glory Be...

Glorious St. Thomas More...

Sixth Day

Dear St. Thomas More, in your earthly life, you were a model husband and father. You were loving and faithful to both of your wives, and a diligent provider and example of virtue for your children. Through your prayers and intercession, obtain for me the grace of a happy home, peace in my family, and the strength to persevere in chastity according to my state of life. Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Glorious St. Thomas More...

Seventh Day

Dear St. Thomas More, in your earthly life, you were a model of Christian fortitude. You suffered bereavement, disgrace, poverty, imprisonment and a violent death; yet you bore all with the strength and good cheer for which you were known throughout your life. Through your prayers and intercession, obtain for me the grace to bear all the crosses that God sends me with patience and joy. Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...
Glorious St. Thomas More...

Eighth Day

Dear St. Thomas More, in your earthly life, you were a loyal child of God and a steadfast son of the Church, never taking your eyes off the crown for which you strove. Even in the face of death, you trusted in God to give you the victory, and He rewarded you with the palm of martyrdom. Through your prayers and intercession, obtain for me and mine the grace of final perseverance and protection from sudden and unprovided death, so that we may one day enjoy the Beatific Vision in your glorious company. Our Father...
Hail Mary... Glory Be...
Glorious St. Thomas More...

Ninth Day

Dear St. Thomas More, you spent your whole earthly life preparing for the life to come. Everything you endured prepared you not only for the glory God wished to bestow upon you in heaven, but for your work as the patron of lawyers, judges and statesmen, and steadfast friend to all who call upon you. Through your prayers and intercession, obtain for us aid in all our necessities, both corporal and spiritual, and the grace to follow in your footsteps, until at last we are safely home with you in the mansions our Father has prepared for us in heaven. Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...
Glorious St. Thomas More...

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!

