

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.

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - June 28, 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
tfallone@stmnj.org

Fr. Joe Davis
Weekend Assistant

Fr. Daniel Chajkowski
In Residence
lionheartdan@gmail.com

Pat Schell
Parish Secretary
secretary@stmnj.org

Frank Miles
Trustee

Mary Murphy
Trustee



Blast from the Past(or)
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 28, 2020

.....whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Well that sounds harrowing, doesn't it? And did I hear correctly that to follow Christ requires self-denial and taking up one's Cross? I don't know if I am cut out for that. I was looking for a more low-impact program, perhaps an apple cider vinegar cleanse and a sea salt scrub. Do you have something like that? Plus, Christianity opens one up to the possibility of that whole martyrdom thing, and, um, I really don't like discomfort or conflict. Doesn't Christianity have a mid-range package, with no commitments and an unlimited data plan? For hand-wringing folks like me, this Gospel is sharply plain: identifying ourselves as Christian is a declaration that our life is not about us. Rather, we are a part of something far greater than our ego and we do not follow Christ on our own terms and preferences. Instead, as Jesus' cousin said, *I must decrease and He must increase.* This is a Gospel averse to a 'selfie' culture. We post images of ourselves and our families at our best to present to others the self-image we desire, all in the hope of 'likes' and 'shares.' But in truth, Christ shares in our brokenness and we in His. Such it is to be called Christian; to take up the Cross and to follow Him. It only takes a little act of love, to give a 'cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple....' To carry your Cross is to participate in the Passion. Your image is the Imago Dei Upholding this is not easy. It will cost you your life, but you will not lose your reward.

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 29: Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul**
Milagros Hibaler
- Tuesday, June 30: First Martyrs of the Church of Rome**
Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli and Bishop-Elect Kevin J. Sweeney
- Wednesday, July 1: Saint Junipero Serra**
Joseph Murphy
- Thursday, July 2: Saint Oliver Plunkett**
Sandy Clyde
- Friday, July 3: Saint Thomas The Apostle**
Madeline McCloskey
- Saturday, July 4: Saint Elizabeth Of Portugal**
Father Francis Feenan
- Sunday, July 5: Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Bill Austin
Robert Foley



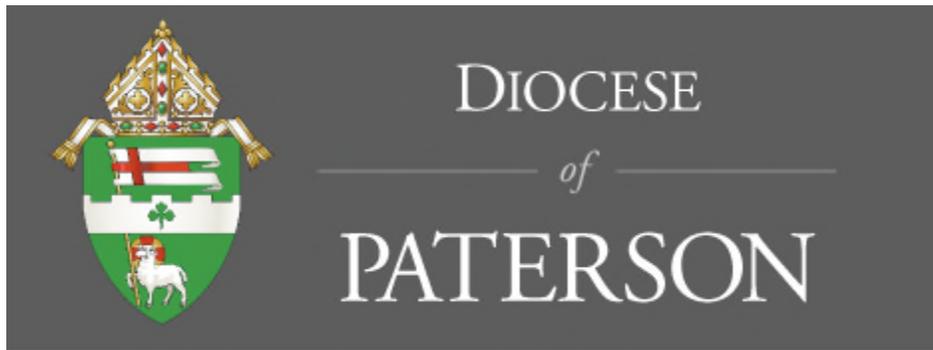
Mass Intentions

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.



Installation of the Diocese's Eighth Bishop, the Most Rev. Kevin J. Sweeney, D.D., will take place this week

Solemn Vespers will take place at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, June 30

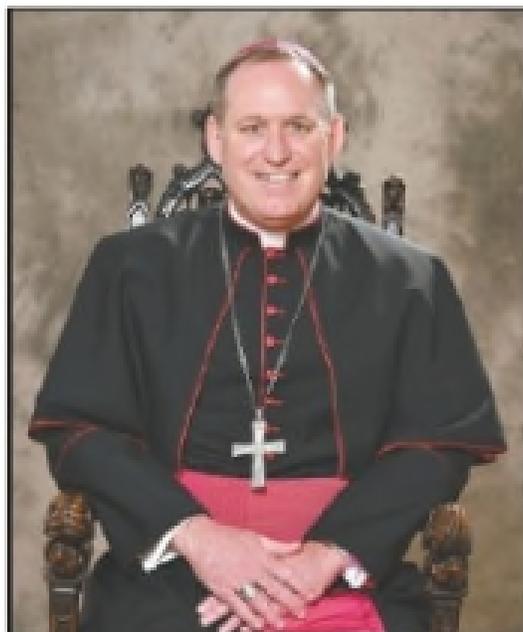
The Mass of Episcopal Ordination will take place at 1:45 pm on Wednesday, July 1

You can watch both events by livestream on the Diocese's website at www.rcdop.org.

We have also included a link to the Livestream on the St. Thomas More website.

The Mass of Episcopal Ordination will also be re-aired at 3 pm on Thursday, July 2 on EWTN.

Please join us in praying for our new Bishop, his family and our entire Diocese during this time of Apostolic transition!



MOST REV. KEVIN J. SWEENEY

As a Reminder, Here are our Weekly Mass Procedures for the Current Time:

As we continue our slow reopening, each week we will reassess what Masses and other events we will be able to hold based upon many factors, such as available resources, volunteers and attendance. We will post each week's schedule on our website, so please check back every Monday for an update.

The weekly process for Mass sign-ups will be as follows:

Wednesday: A Flocknote will be sent to registered parishioners by email requesting volunteers to be greeters, hand sanitizers and seaters at each Mass.

Thursday: A Flocknote will be sent to registered parishioners with sign-ups for that weekend's Masses. Each Mass will be limited to 60 people. Registered parishioners will have the first opportunity to sign up until a set time on Friday mentioned in the Flocknote. Any registered parishioner who does not have access to a computer, tablet or smartphone can call the office and request a reservation which will be granted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Friday: After the deadline, a Flocknote will be sent to all who have signed up for Flocknotes at St. Thomas More (both parishioners and non-parishioners) with sign-ups for the remaining spots for that weekend's Masses. Anyone not signed up for Flocknote can do so through the link on our parish website, by texting 'STMNJ' to 84576 or by visiting flocknote.com/STMNJ. A sign-up link will also be posted on our home page. Again, anyone who does not have access to a computer, tablet or smartphone can call the office and request a reservation which will be granted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Saturday Afternoon: Sign-ups will be closed so we can plan for the Masses.

Sunday: People who have not signed up may stop by but will only be admitted if there are spots remaining for that Mass. As a reminder, to be admitted, everyone must bring a mask/face covering and wear it for the entire Mass.

If you have any questions, please email Sue Marshall at smarshall@stmnj.org.

Thank you for your continued patience as we work through this new process!



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.

UPDATED 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 any ways we find 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 bring and wear a face mask that completely covers your mouth and nose. Unfortunately, Greeters are required to turn away anyone who does not have a face mask 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 our volunteers 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. 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 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 the priest will not be able to meet with anyone before or after Mass. If you would like to set up a time to speak with Father Tom or another priest, please call or email to schedule a separate appointment.

If the seating in the church reaches our 60-person capacity, the 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. 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 face mask, 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 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 or Eucharistic Ministers 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 the celebrant 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. The celebrant will announce if he will come to each pew or direct you somewhere else, depending upon the number of people present. *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 volunteer will dispense sanitizer on your hands before you approach the priest. He will hold up the Host and say through his face mask, "The Body of Christ." Please reply "Amen," and then remove your face mask. 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 the priest 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 before Mass so alternate arrangements may be made. Likewise, please notify your Seater 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. 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!

