

# *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.*

*Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 30, 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

**Frank Miles**  
Trustee

**Mary Murphy**  
Trustee

## **Parish Facility Closures:**

*Except for limited, public Masses as announced on our website, and office hours by appointment, 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:** Baptisms are permitted with certain restrictions, including limited attendance. All are to keep the recommended social distance. Please contact the Parish Office for more information and to make arrangements.

**Funeral Rites:** Funeral Masses are permitted with certain restrictions, including limited attendance. 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.



**Blast from the Past(or)**  
**Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**August 30, 2020**

*God forbid, Lord....*

We instinctively recoil at unpleasant news. When Jesus tells His disciples that He must go Jerusalem, suffer greatly from the elders and be killed, Thomas the protests perceived injustice. ‘God forbid, Lord, no such thing shall happen to You!’ Thomas takes this as bad news, ignoring what Jesus has been telling him all along: Christ’s Cross is His Purpose and the difficult Truth by which we are saved. In a similar way, children will often reject parental directives as bad news. I once witnessed the ignominy of a mom checking her young daughter’s cell phone. Oh, the humanity, God forbid! (I of course told the mom I affirmed her practice even as I whispered to the tearful daughter, ‘I hear you, this is so unjust. Your mom is so mean.’) As a kid, I myself experienced the paternal enforcement of a bedtime on a school night despite my protests to stay up late to watch Bob Backlund wrestle Jimmy Superfly Snuka. Now *this* was a travesty! God forbid! I wasn’t even allowed to go down the shore the weekend after the prom. Once again, I was a victim! God forbid! Yet the purpose of parents’ ‘bad news’ is to protect the little ones, that none of them will be lost. So, too, we eventually learn the value of that Cross from which we first recoiled. Our angry and divided culture thinks we can save ourselves, dismiss harsh realities and violently shout down disagreement. But as we have seen, this mentality is destructive. Amidst all the breathless and divisive hyperbole we digest each day, The Cross stands as the Truth of all humanity. Only when that temple cloth is torn in two do we say with our fellow sinners, ‘truly this Man was the Son of God.’ In that most unpleasant Friday, *we are saved*. So when you’re watching the news, do well to recall the best news of all.

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



***This Week’s Daily Mass and Adoration Schedule***

This week we will have daily Masses on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:15 am. In observance of First Friday, Adoration will also immediately follow Friday’s Mass, concluding with Benediction at Noon. Attendance will be limited to 60 people per Mass and Adoration and ***advanced registration is required***. ***For contact tracing purposes and everyone’s safety, please make sure to sign up prior to coming***. Sign-up information for Mass attendance and necessary volunteers will be sent via Flocknote and posted to our website, [www.stmnj.org](http://www.stmnj.org). **We continue to be in great need of volunteers and ask all who are able to please consider signing up to assist. Thank you!**



MASS INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK

**Monday, August 31: Saints Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus**

Carm Sautter

**Tuesday, September 1: Saint Giles**

People of the Parish

**Wednesday, September 2: Blessed John Francis Burté And Companions**

Carol Lewis

**Thursday, September 3: Saint Gregory The Great**

Rev. Patrick Rice

**Friday, September 4: Saint Rose Of Viterbo**

Carol Lewis

**Saturday, September 5: Saint Teresa Of Calcutta**

Pauline Falcone

**Sunday, September 6: Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Maryann Granello

Jane Morrison

Samuel Marino



***Mass Intentions***

Although we are not yet able to offer public Masses every day, Father Tom or Father Daniel continue to say Mass daily 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](mailto: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, Rose DeMarco, Fred Donikowski, Jim Johnson, Florence Kearney, Barbara Kline, Anne Morrison, Patty Meyers, 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](mailto:smarshall@stmnj.org).

*“Kindness and good nature unite men more effectually and with greater strength than any agreements whatsoever, since thereby the engagements of men’s hearts become stronger than the bond and obligation of words.”*

- St. Thomas More



### ***Funeral Arrangements for Pat Schell***

Pat Schell's family has confirmed that her funeral will be celebrated on Saturday, September 12 at 10 am at Saint Philip the Apostle Church, 797 Valley Road, Clifton. Attendance will be limited and social distancing and other restrictions will be in place. Please reach out to Par-Troy Funeral Home at 973-887-3234 or Saint Philip's at 973-779-6200 with any questions. We continue to keep Pat and her family in our prayers.



### ***First Friday Eucharistic Adoration***

This Friday, September 4 we will be having Eucharistic Adoration beginning with Exposition at 8:30 am and concluding with Benediction at Noon. ***Please remember advance registration is required and attendance is limited.*** You can sign up online at [www.stmnj.org](http://www.stmnj.org), through the Flocknote invitation, by emailing [info@stmnj.org](mailto:info@stmnj.org) or by leaving a message at 973-267-5330.



### ***Parish Office***

As a reminder, due to the pandemic, we do not have regular parish office hours at this time but are instead open by appointment. Please send an email to [info@stmnj.org](mailto:info@stmnj.org) or leave a message at 973-267-5330 and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank 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](http://flocknote.com/STMNJ). If you have any issues accessing or updating your profile, please reach out to Sue Marshall at [smarshall@stmnj.org](mailto:smarshall@stmnj.org). As a reminder, Flocknotes with the sign-ups for Sunday Masses are only being sent to registered parishioners (i.e. those registered with the parish, not just with Flocknotes). The sign-up link will be posted for all on our website each Friday.



## ***THANK YOU!!***

We wanted to take a moment to thank all who have continued to so generously contribute to St. Thomas More during these difficult times. We know many are facing job losses, furloughs or salary cuts, as well as increased costs in childcare and other strains on their finances. We truly appreciate your continued support of your parish and hope you know you all remain in our prayers. For those looking for a way to provide financial support, you can contribute through the following channels:

- Collections can be dropped in the basket at each Sunday Mass.
- You can mail your contribution to the parish office, at St. Thomas More Parish, 4 Convent Road, Morristown, New Jersey 07960 \*\* Please note the change in address—we are no longer using the PO Box \*\*
- You can quickly set up a one-time or recurring donation online by going to: <https://stthommore.weshareonline.org/>
- You can set up a contribution online through the Diocese's site, at [helpmyparish.thankyou4caring.org](http://helpmyparish.thankyou4caring.org). There, select "St. Thomas More Church - Convent Station" and make either a one-time gift or a weekly recurring donation.

*We give thanks to God  
always for all of you,  
remembering you in  
our prayers,  
unceasingly.*

*- 1 Thessalonians 1:2*



*Have you noticed our Diocese's new symbol?*  
**BISHOP SWEENEY'S COAT OF ARMS EXPLAINED**



The personal coat of arms assumed by Bishop Sweeney combines symbols that are meaningful to him reflecting his spiritual life and priestly ministry.

The terms dexter (right) and sinister (left) must be understood as being from the perspective of one holding the shield from behind. Therefore, to those viewing it from the front those terms are reversed.

On the left from the viewer's perspective is the coat of arms of the Diocese of Paterson. The main charge, the Paschal Lamb holding the banner of victory, is the symbol for St. John the Baptist, the titular of the Cathedral. It was John who said: "Behold the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:12). The trefoil, more commonly called a shamrock, is a symbol of St. Patrick.

The silver (white) division line with a crenelated upper edge represents the Lord's protection of the city (and diocese). On the right from the viewer's perspective is the coat of arms assumed by Bishop Sweeney upon being named a bishop. It is joined (impaled) on the same shield with those of the diocese to indicate that Bishop Sweeney possesses jurisdiction over the diocese and that he is symbolically "married" to it. This manner of combining two coats of arms on the same shield is the method of marshaling that has been used for centuries by two armigerous people who get married.

The two main colors of the coat of arms are blue and gold (yellow) borrowing from the coat of arms of St. John Paul II whose life and pontificate greatly influenced the vocation and ministry of Bishop Sweeney. The main charge on the lower gold (yellow) field is a red scallop shell. This is a symbol of St. James, the titular of the Cathedral-Basilica in Brooklyn, and is borrowed from the coat of arms of the Diocese of Brooklyn where Bishop Sweeney was born and raised, educated and ordained a priest prior to becoming a bishop. There are three blue drops of water falling below the shell, which make the shell also a symbol of St. John, the Baptist, the titular of the cathedral in Paterson.

In addition, this charge emphasizes the importance of Baptism as our incorporation into the Body of Christ and the call to holiness that is received by all followers of Jesus.

The upper part of the shield is colored blue and contains two silver (white) horizontal lines as well as a golden rose. The white lines against the blue background allude to the distinctive blue and white habit worn by St. Teresa of Calcutta, the founder of the Missionaries of Charity. This saintly

woman also had a profound influence on Bishop Sweeney and he wished to commemorate her as a saint to whom he looks for inspiration in his priestly and episcopal ministry. The golden rose is a symbol of Our Lady. The gold (yellow) rose alludes to Our Lady of Knock in particular and by this the bishop honors his Irish heritage. However, the rose also has a double symbolism in that it is an allusion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron of the Americas. In connection with the appearance of Our Lady to Juan Diego a miraculous blooming of roses in December occurred so this flower, regardless of its color, is associated with Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The motto below the shield, in English and in Spanish, is, "God Is Love – Dios Es Amor."

The shield is also ensigned with those external ornaments that indicate the bearer is a bishop. The gold (yellow) cross is placed vertically behind and extending above and below the shield. This is often mistakenly thought to be a processional cross like those used in liturgical processions. In former times archbishops, and later all bishops, had a cross mounted on a staff carried immediately in front of them on all solemn occasions. This cross was a symbol of their rank as bishop. While such an episcopal cross is no longer used practically it has been retained heraldically. In fact, there are other clerics who make use of the ecclesiastical hat with its many tassels but the one true heraldic emblem of a bishop, and the only essential one, is the episcopal cross-placed behind the shield.

Above the shield is the ecclesiastical hat, called a galero, which, in heraldry, replaces the martial helmet, mantling and crest. "The hat with six pendant tassels (green, purple or black) on each side is universally considered in heraldry as the sign of prelacy. It, therefore, pertains to all who are actually prelates." (Heim, Bruno B., *Heraldry in the Catholic Church* 1978, page 114) The galero is green with green cords pendant from it and twelve green tassels arranged in a pyramid shape on either side of the shield. At one time in history bishops and archbishops wore green before adopting the more Roman purple we see today. In heraldry the green hat and tassels was retained for prelates with the rank of bishop according to the Instruction of the Secretariat of State, "Ut Sive" of March 1969.

*[The armorial bearings of Bishop Sweeney were designed, blazoned and rendered by the Rev. Guy Selvester, a priest of the Diocese of Metuchen.]*

Source: <https://rcdop.org/news/god-is-love>



## We need your Help!

We know how much everyone missed being able to come together to celebrate during the pandemic closures earlier this year, so as we continue to do our best to offer as many public Masses as possible, we are asking for your help...

- **PLEASE, PLEASE BE SURE TO SIGN UP IN ADVANCE FOR EACH MASS, DAILY OR SUNDAY, PRIOR TO COMING.** This not only helps us manage attendance but also enables us to have the proper resources in place and to engage in contact tracing if needed. Sign up via Flocknote, by calling the office or by emailing Sue Marshall at [smarshall@stmnj.org](mailto:smarshall@stmnj.org). As a reminder, due to the limited number of spots available, we are unfortunately unable to reserve any spots on an ongoing basis, and you will need to sign up each week.

- **PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING TO ASSIST AT MASS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.** Each Mass requires a number of people to help— as greeters, hand sanitizers, seaters and, for daily Masses, cleaners. The same few people have been helping each week; we really would appreciate additional hands to give them a break. The more help we have, the more quickly we will be able to offer more Masses. People have asked how they can help; truly this is our greatest need for volunteers. Given all of the protocols to be followed, each Mass takes a great deal of effort to coordinate. Any additional assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please sign up on the weekly volunteer lists via Flocknote or feel free to email Sue Marshall at [smarshall@stmnj.org](mailto:smarshall@stmnj.org) to either sign up or to request more information.

*Thank you to all for your stewardship of your parish and helping to support it during these challenging times!*



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**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:**

**Daily Masses:**

A Flocknote will be sent over the weekend (or early in the week) to all registered for St. Thomas More Flocknotes with the sign-up links for each daily Mass and also to volunteer to assist at each Mass.

**Sunday Masses:**

**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 link will be posted on our home page ([www.stmnj.org](http://www.stmnj.org)) to the sign-ups for the remaining spots for that weekend's Masses. 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, 2 pm:** 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](mailto:smarshall@stmnj.org).

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

# 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](http://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 Sweeney 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!

**Praised be Jesus Christ now and forever!**

