

St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

Convent Station, NJ

973-267-5330 • www.stmnj.org



As a faith community, we keep in mind who have asked us to pray for them, that they may experience the healing power of our gracious God. Special requests for prayers at liturgy and donations made in honor of loved ones. These intentions and names of our sick are noted on the Table in the Remembrance Book and on the Weekly Sheet.

August 20, 2017 • Day of the Lord

Affordable Housing—Habitat

Morris Habitat is looking for qualified applicants to own affordable homes through our program. Pass this along to anyone who could use this information. Register online at Morris Habitat Homeownership Download Document Morris Habitat for Humanity, 274 So. Salem St, Randolph, NJ 07869. Flyer on bulletin board.

Religious Education

It's time to prepare for Rel. Education for next year. Please register your children by clicking on the link on the front of the parish website.

We are also looking for volunteers in the parish to help with coordinating or teaching in the program.

Preparing for the Future

With housing on Park Avenue expanding by Danforth Road and Columbia Tpke, we need to prepare. We should be contacting realtors and design marketing materials. For this reason we would like to put together a group to investigate the best way to market ourselves for new residents and to welcome them when they arrive. Help us prepare.

Pizza Night for Women

Mon. Sept. 25, 7–9 pm at Pope John XXIII HS- "Pizza Night for Women" with Bishop Serratelli. Open to high school and college aged women discerning their vocation. For details, please contact the office of the Delegate for Religious at 973-777-8818 ext. 207, or kerry@patersondiocese.org.

Caregiver Cafe

The Caregivers Coalition of Morris County will sponsor Caregiver Cafe Sept. 5, a social evening of Family Caregivers to spend time away from their caregiving activities with others who understand their issues. It is not a support group or presentation but resources are available. Light supper. Visiting Nurse Association of Northern NJ. 175 South Street, Morristown, 6-7:30 pm. RSVP: 973-993-1160, x534.

Scriptures during the Week

Meditate on the scriptures during the week. **Take Five for Faith** is located on the website. Pull down "Faith Formation" and find it at the bottom.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23

Eight centuries before Christ, God spoke through Isaiah who is told to address a problem. The "master of the palace," equivalent of secretary of state was named Shelma. God says he is to be demoted because he used his office for his own advantage. We hear a description of the investiture of Shebna's successor, Eliakim.

Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36

Today concludes a part of Paul's letter to the Romans in which he agonizes over the fate of Jewish people who have not accepted Christ. He leaves the matter in God's hands, and closes with a hymn on the mysterious ways of Divine Providence. Notice that the ending of this hymn is similar to the way we end every Eucharistic prayer.

This Week's Question

For Adults:

The woman in this story was persistent in prayer. For what do you pray insistently?

For Children:

For what do you ask God to give you most often?

The Altar — Symbol of Christ

At the beginning of mass, the priest kisses the altar. This highlights the significance of the altar as a central symbol of worship.

The altar's changed location, from the back wall, into the midst of the assembly was an obvious effect of Vatican II. This change allowed people to gather more easily around the altar. Because communion should be given from the sacrifice just enacted on the altar, the tabernacle was removed from this altar and maintains the integrity of both altar and tabernacle as sites of Christ's presence in the church.

The altar is a symbol of Christ in the midst of the assembly of believers, a table dedicated for both the sacrifice and the paschal banquet. As a sacred symbol, the altar should be free of clutter, such as candles, pamphlets, statues, etc. It is not a shelf but the "Table of the Lord" reserved only for the bread and wine, the altar cloth and of necessity, the missal.

The altar was a simple free-standing table for the first few centuries of Christian worship. Later church architecture style and a changing theology of worship placed the altar on the rear wall, removing it as the table of the assembly. It became a resting place for the bread and wine for eucharist, the missal, candles, prayer cards, flowers and, later, the tabernacle.

Vatican II revised the norms relating to the altar and used the earliest tradition of the church as its guide. The US Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy wrote: "The altar, the holy table, should be the most noble, the most beautifully designed and constructed table the community can provide. It is the common table of the assembly, a symbol of the Lord.... standing free, approachable from every side."

What's Happening This Week?

Every Sunday
Pound A Week



Stewardship of Treasure

Last week's
Collection:
\$ 5922
Monthly
Collection:
\$ 2532



Sign up Today
for electronic giving
stthommore.weshareonline.org



From Bishop Serratelli — "For a number of years, people have been gathering at a shrine erected in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Hope and Madison Avenues in Passaic. The belief of some in an alleged apparition of Mary in a tree stump led them to turn the site into a place of popular piety. It is not a place of devotion officially recognized or sanctioned by the Diocese of Paterson. Furthermore, the alleged apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe at this site has never been confirmed by any Church investigation or approved by the bishop of the diocese. Also, the collection of monies at this site has been done without the involvement of the diocese. In order to avoid all confusion and misunderstanding of authentic Marian piety, I hereby encourage all the faithful to participate in the devotions and pious practices in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe within any one of our parishes and not at the site of an alleged apparition of Our Blessed Mother nor in conjunction with the a tree stump in which Mary is said to have appeared. Please know that this alleged apparition has none of the consistent characteristics of Marian apparitions approved by the Church."

"You aspire to great things? Begin with little ones."

— St. Augustine

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Weekly Eucharists

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday, 9 am, 11 am, 7 pm

Monday – Saturday: 8:15 am

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30 pm or by appt.

Holy Days

8:15 am, 12:10 pm, 7 pm

Parish Office Hours

Mon. - Wed, 9:30–2 pm

*Other times & days,
call to see if office
is open.*

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