

St. Thomas More Catholic Parish



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.

July 15, 2018 • Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Blast from the Past(or)

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'Travel light....' Jesus' millennia-old exhortation to His disciples was as prescient as it is timely. As He sends the Twelve out for their eternal Mission, Jesus limits their baggage, not even allowing them to take money, or a carry-on or even less-than 3 ounces of clear liquid. Nope, all they're allowed is a walking stick and sandals (I am sure Jesus knows full-well that the walking stick would not get through TSA, at Newark, anyway). Is this Mission even practical? Yet if we breathe in this Gospel, we note that Jesus' instructions get to the heart of Christianity. Our life project is to get rid of that 'stuff' we don't need; the 'stuff' that keeps us from the refreshing freedom of Divine Life. Sadly, many of us use our time for hoarding and accumulating 'stuff' in our lives. Like my mom's Hummel collection or her massive stack of meticulously catalogued and dog-eared Country Living magazines dating from the early 1990's. In light of the Gospel, I put Mom's magazines out to recycling while she was in Florida. Shhhhhhh....Don't tell her. I want her to be surprised. She doesn't have to thank me; it's just what an awesome son does (of course, someone pointed out the fact that I have to take care of the plank in my own eye first....nah, me?) But I digress. It seems the focal point of our relationship with Jesus Christ is not about hoarding. Instead, like Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, our life is about losing that which weighs us down. Christianity is less about finding as it is being found. But Christian discipleship involves not just purging old magazines, or food or 'second tunics' for that matter. It can also require getting rid of the debilitating guilt of things long confessed, the family resentments, the grudges, the shames, the sins or the regrets that weigh us down. We won't need them for this Journey. They will only slow us. We purge in order that we decrease and He increases in us. The disciples took the road less traveled and they took nothing for the Journey. And that, with apologies to Frost, has made all the difference. May we as Christians do well to be vulnerable in our weightlessness and completely dependent on Christ alone. Purge well, my friends.

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

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Jeremiah 23: 1-6

The prophet Jeremiah preached some 500 years before Christ, at a time when unworthy kings ruled the Jewish people. He looked to the day when God would raise up a good shepherd from the House of David. Later, the Gospel writers emphasized that Jesus was born of the House of David, and Christians have seen him as the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2: 13-18

Our second reading will be from the letter to the Ephesians. Ephesus was a community made up of Jewish people who had become Christian and Gentiles who had become Christian. In this part of the letter, the author is addressing Gentiles-- people who were once "far off" from the true God, but have "come near." As a result, both Jews and Gentiles are together as one "new person," namely, the Body of Christ which is the Church.

This Week's Questions

For Adults: What might Jesus be calling you to let go of in your life to help bring you closer to Him?

For Children: What's one thing you can do this week to let people know that Jesus loves them?

Parish Staff

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Mark Davis
Music - Organist

Frank Miles
Trustee

Mary Murphy
Trustee

Want to join the St. Thomas More family?

New parishioners can register at any time! Please call or stop by the Parish Office between 9 am - 2 pm, Monday through Wednesday, or send an email to info@stmnj.org. We'd love to welcome you!

Weekly Mass Intentions:

Monday, July 16: Our Lady of Mount Carmel
8:15 am - Mary Makein

Tuesday, July 17: Saint Francis Solano
8:15 am - Fr. Patrick Rice

Wednesday, July 18: Saint Camillus De Lellis
8:15 am - Special Intention for Fr. Joe Farias

Thursday, July 19: Saint Mary MacKillop
8:15 am - Special Intention

Friday, July 20: Saint Apollinaris
8:15 am - Carm and Bud Sautter

Saturday, July 21: Saint Lawrence Of Brindisi
5:00 pm - People of the Parish

Sunday, July 22: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 am - Duncan Sinclair
11:00 am - Frank Carlone
7:00 pm - Kay Brewer

Mass Cards:

Having a Mass offered is a wonderful way to remember a deceased loved one, celebrate a birthday or anniversary or for any other special intention. To obtain a Mass Card, please visit the Parish Office any time between 9:00 AM and 2:00PM Monday through Wednesday.

Thank You for Your Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure!

Weekly Collection for 7/7-7/8/18: \$6,859.75
Cool Air Fund Collection for 7/7-7/8/18: \$500.00



Weekly Eucharists

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday, 9 am, 11 am, 7 pm

(Note: 7pm Mass will not be held on holiday weekends)

Monday – Friday: 8:15 am

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30 pm or by appt.

Holy Days

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

www.stmnj.org

Mail: P.O. Box 286

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973-267-5330

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday

9:00 am–2 pm

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