

# ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH

St. Thomas More Church

St. Veronica Chapel

Invite Jesus into your hearts and homes  
worship with us remotely  
[stthomasmoreri.org](http://stthomasmoreri.org)



## MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: Monday-Saturday - 9:00AM

Sunday Mass: 10:00AM

 [WATCH LIVE](#) | [ARCHIVED VIDEOS](#)

From our website homepage, click the blue bar “watch live”



[STTHOMASMORERI.ORG](http://STTHOMASMORERI.ORG) | MARCH 29, 2020

PARISH OFFICE 789.7682 | FAX 783.8646 | RELIGIOUS ED 783.2113

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. John 14:27

The Risen Jesus is here and with us. He wants to be our peace in the deepest place of our hearts. I know these are difficult times for everyone to be sure but we have the providence of God and each other.

It has been surreal to celebrate Mass in an empty church. I have to say one of the hardest parts is not seeing you and praying together physically. The gift of technology however has allowed us to pray together not just virtually, but supernaturally. The Holy Spirit is with you in your home. I experience His presence while we are praying together. Masses are being offered all over the world. While you cannot be present, the Lord continues to pour Himself out to us each day and is very present in the tabernacles of the world (five in Narragansett alone!).

If you need anything our parish can provide, please call the rectory. We will serve you faithfully and safely. If anyone in your neighborhood or family needs us to reach out to them, we are here. Catholic charities have set up a satellite office in South County for help if someone has lost their job due to Coronavirus.

I plan to hold the Triduum services as God allows in LiveStream. I would encourage you to plan accordingly for your schedule for Holy Week. I also encourage you to pray the stations, by viewing our archived videos of March 20th – “The pandemic stations”. It has helped many who are anxious to find peace as they are written for the moments in which we live.

The Pope read the Gospel in St. Peter’s Square of Jesus asleep on the cushion of the boat while a storm was raging. He said we are all on the same boat rowing. He said these days are a time to choosing. It is a time of choosing what matters and to get our lives back on track with the Lord. We must have faith. Jesus does love the most and is with us at the cross.

Let us pray fervently, be about others, and whisper in the depths of our hearts, “Jesus trust in you!”

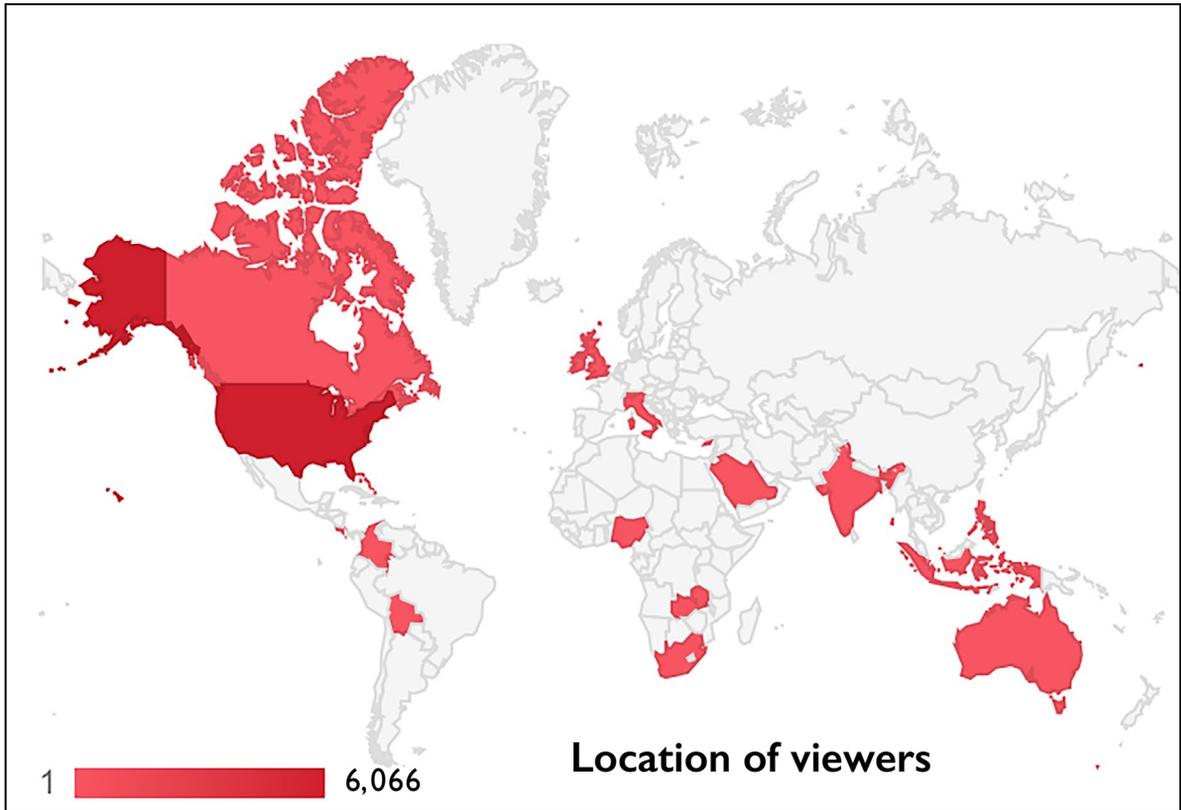
In Christ Risen,

Fr. Taillon

*Pope Francis gave a special “Urbi et Orbi” blessing from St. Peter’s Square this week. The blessing goes to the severity of the coronavirus pandemic across the world.*

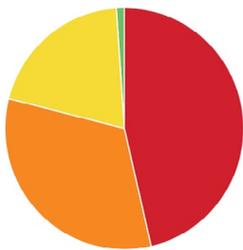


# Interesting Statistics of LiveStream Surge



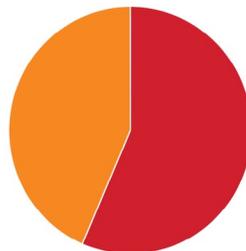
As you can imagine, our online viewing has increased dramatically since Covid-19. The above map shows the countries where viewers have tuned in to our Masses and events. In order of # of viewers, the countries are:

*United States, Ireland, Israel, Canada, Italy, United Kingdom, Bolivia, Philippines, India, Saudi Arabia, Costa Rica, Brazil, Malaysia, Paraguay, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Switzerland, Ecuador, Nigeria, Germany, South Africa.*



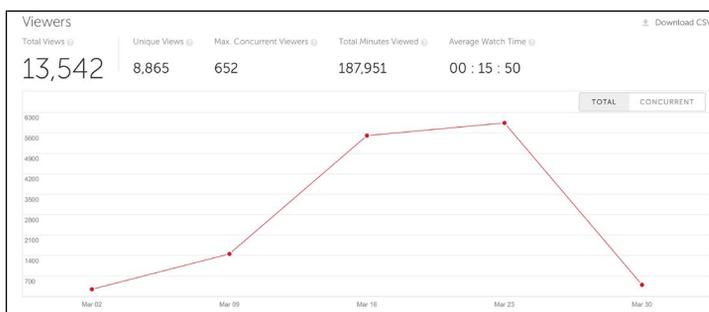
Devices	% views	Total Views
Desktop	46.4%	4,580
Mobil	32.6%	3,219
Tablet	20%	1,970
ConnectedTV	11%	106

● Desktop ● Mobile ● Tablet ● Connected TV



Media Type	% views	Total Views
Live	56.5%	5,668
Recorded	43.5%	4,366

● Live ● Recorded



The graph to the left shows how our viewership has increased beginning March 2nd to today. To date we have had 13,542 views!

Revised March 30th

# St. Thomas More Parish Holy Week Schedule

*In light of the current COVID-19 precautions, ALL of our Parish Holy Week events will be online only.  
Please login at the following times to join us for Live events as they are happening.  
If you can not be present then, please view on LiveStream,  
by selecting the archived event you missed.*

To view Mass online:

1. Go to: [stthomasmoreri.org](http://stthomasmoreri.org)
2. Scroll down - click on the blue bar "Watch Live"  

3. Click on "St. Thomas More Church-Live Mass" (top left)

**Palm Sunday Mass: April 5th - 10:00AM** - followed by a drive-by Palm branch pick up  
Fr. Taillon will distribute palms from 11:30AM-1:00PM in the St. Thomas More parking lot

**Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper - April 9th - 7:00PM**  
Celebrating the Institution of the Holy Eucharist and the Priesthood

**Good Friday: April 10th - Stations of the Cross - 3:00PM**

[View "Good Friday Pandemic Stations of the Cross" \(in LiveStream archives recorded March 20th\)](#)

**Good Friday: Service of the Lord's Passion/Veneration of the Cross - April 10th - 7:00PM**

**Easter Vigil in the Holy Night - Saturday, April 11th - 7:30PM**

**Easter Mass: The Day of the Lord's Resurrection - Sunday, April 12th - 10AM**

**ALL EVENTS ONLINE ONLY - [stthomasmoreri.org](http://stthomasmoreri.org)**

**We realize that these are difficult days for our parishioners.  
St. Thomas More Parish is happy to assist, we're here to serve you.  
Here are some of the ways we can help:**

- + Deliver prescriptions and food to your home
  - + Masses offered for your intentions, announced or unannounced
  - + Confessions by appointment with Fr. Taillon or Fr. Jose
  - + Talk with Fr. Taillon on the phone or FaceTime
- or...if you have any other needs, please ask.

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**For assistance with any of the above,  
please call the parish office at 789-7682**

# Boxed Lunch Program for Seniors

## South Kingstown/Narragansett Senior Congregate Meal Program Modified to Boxed Lunch Program for Pick-up or Delivery

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Narragansett Community Center and South Kingstown Senior Center and dining room are closed to the public. The Title III C senior congregate meal program operated at the South Kingstown Senior Center has been adjusted to provide box lunches which are available for pick up or delivery to those without transportation.

Senior residents of either town, age 60 or older are eligible to receive a daily boxed lunch. If you are not already registered with the South Kingstown Senior Center Congregate Meal Program, please call the Center at 401-789-0268 to register. Both Narragansett and South Kingstown will be delivering to any senior resident wishing to participate and unable to pick up their meal (delivery starting in Narragansett as of March 23, 2020.)

For any other information Narragansett residents can contact Karen Flint at the Narragansett Community Center at 401-782-0675 or by email @ [kflint@narragansettri.gov](mailto:kflint@narragansettri.gov); South Kingstown senior residents can contact the Center at 401-789-0268.

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## FOOD & CLOTHING DONATIONS APPRECIATED

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who are delivering food to the Jonnycake Center. We are continuing to accept donations, please drop off in foyer at the side entrance of St. Thomas More Church.

### ALSO...

This is a good time to clean your closets. Any donations will be gladly accepted. You can drop off clothes to the St. Vincent de Paul bins located in the back of the church parking lot.

# Please Consider Making a Donation Today for a Local Mother

A.M. is in need of a liver transplant and will need many units of blood. The recent blood drive for the young mother of two was canceled due to the school closure at Prout.

If you're able to donate, please contact the RI Blood Center to schedule an appointment. When donating, please reference the donation on behalf of The Prout School - A.M. Finlay (Sponsor Code 0531).

**THANK YOU!**



**BLOOD  
DONATIONS  
NEEDED**

 **Rhode Island  
Blood Center**

14 Woodruff Avenue  
Narragansett, RI 02882  
Phone: 401-453-8383

<https://donate.ribc.org/donor/schedules/centers>

*Construction update:  
Photos from Parish Hall  
kitchen expansion*



**YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED**



**FAITH DIRECT®**  
*inspiring secure giving®*

**FAITHDIRECT.NET | USE PARISH CODE : RI147**

DONATIONS CAN BE ONE-TIME OR WEEKLY & ARE EASILY MONITORED ANY TIME

St. Thomas More Parish counts on your prayers and support and we truly appreciate your continued generosity during this difficult time.

**Giving is easy:**

**To Donate online:**

1. Go to: [FaithDirect.net](http://FaithDirect.net). - click box “Give Now”
2. Enter our Church Code: RI147 - click “Give Now”
3. Enroll in Recurring eGiving or make a One-Time Gift



**To Donate via Text-to-Give:**

1. From your phone or tablet, text “enroll” to 401-205-3711
2. You will receive a text link to set-up a new account or sign into an existing

Your donations can be one-time, weekly or monthly and can be easily monitored by you at [faithdirect.net](http://faithdirect.net).

Article from the South County Independent from March 26th

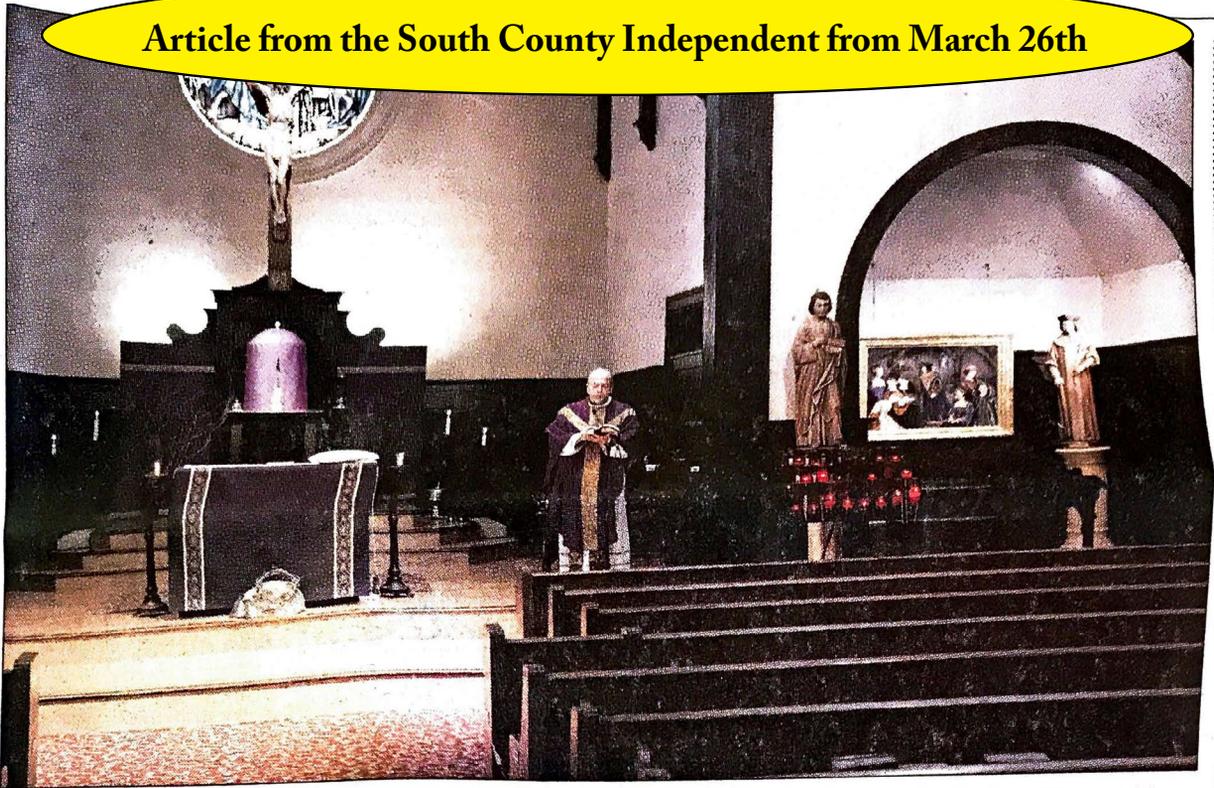


PHOTO: MICHAEL DERR

Rev. Marcel Taillon, pastor of St. Thomas More Church in Narragansett, holds Mass in the empty church Saturday morning. The service was live streamed due to coronavirus restrictions.

# YOU'RE NOT ALONE

With public gatherings prohibited, local churches turn to the internet to bring messages of hope, perseverance to the faithful

By **Bill Seymour**  
Special to the Independent

Anne Salvadore, 93, lives in Narragansett, and is a practicing Catholic who raised eight children and has followed in her mother's tradition of attending daily Mass.

Now that ritual has a significant limitation — she can't go to church for Mass due to church officials suspending public Masses due to the Coronavirus. However, this has not stopped Rev. Marcel Taillon from livestreaming it every day from an empty house of worship.

"It's so nice to hear it and feel peace. I always felt good going to church and getting a sense of peace," said Salvadore, a Bonnet Shores resident and member

of St. Thomas More and St. Veronica's Chapel for decades.

Not far away in South Kingstown is Joanne Haynes, 74, and a member of Peace Dale Congregational Church. She's active in many of the charitable activities in this centerpiece of the Village of Peace Dale.

She is helping Rev. Fred Evenson, the newly appointed pastor, approach his challenge of keeping Sunday services available — through video recordings online — for the followers.

"Because I am helping work on the editing of the service that he gives and that we tape, I don't feel the real loss yet and that's good," she said.

Churches, synagogues and other houses of worship are using

technological advances — that were just imaginary parts of science fiction movies only recently — to make up for that loss of personal connection in a time when sharing faith and hope is most important.

In addition, when there is a call for the very sick and dying they will still bring bedside comfort, when permissible, and provide some form of funeral services as they deliver a message of hope to anchor their faith's believers confronting a world reshaped by the Coronavirus.

## Meeting Challenges

The most significant challenge, say most local religious leaders interviewed,

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Lighting the way

# I SOUTH COUNTY

@IndependentRI



PHOTOS: MICHAEL DERR

**A sign in front of the First Baptist Church of Narragansett alerts parishioners that services will be streamed on Facebook Live.**

— that anyone access and play again and again.

In this time of the church being shuttered, these give a particular sense of purpose to this priest who unabashedly embraces technology for his ministry, which once included being chaplain to high school students.

## The Emotional Side

“So when I have Mass, I lock the doors of the church. When I’m done, I unlock the doors of the church. People can come in one at a time and pray during the day. It’s sort of inside out,” he said.

That is hard part number one for him. But there’s more.

“I got emotional. As a priest I never thought in my life I couldn’t give people the body of Christ,” he said about the communion observance that is part of every Mass and at the core of his religious ministry.

That’s hard part number two. Yet, there’s still more.

“It’s very difficult for priests. It’s spiritually sad. We understand we need to do that (close churches) to protect. But, picture yourself a dad and that you’ve got four kids and you provide food. But for them to live, you cannot go into their room, you cannot give them the food they really need,” he said.

A long silence filled the empty line of the phone interview that showed no face and betrayed no other reaction in these days of social distancing. He knows the bridge he needs to build virtually so people see and hear him.

At the First Baptist Church in Wickford, Rev. Virginia Alvarez wrote to her congregants a message echoing this theme.

“This is a time to exercise our faith muscles. We have trusted in a living

Savior, Jesus Christ, we can rely on his word, ‘Fear not for I am with you.’ We will get through this. In the words of A.W. Tozer, ‘A sacred world needs a fearless church.’ Let us practice being that strong and fearless church,” she said in her message.

Clergy have also historically been an important person in the hours of desperation faced by the sick and the dying — the ironic features causing the limitations they all now face in helping anyone, especially those in their own houses of worship.

All have said, however, that this sickness and disease are second to first being there for someone during emergencies.

Alvarez wrote to her congregation, “I will not be making routine home visits but will keep in touch by phone. You can call me at any time day or night. I will go to emergency calls.”

Evenson said, that if called, whether to a private home or any facility allowing visits from clergy he would go in a time of urgency.

“I am the spiritual leader of the church and I try to lead by example by social distancing, but at the same time, how do you turn away a dying person’s request? You don’t. I would probably fashion some sort of mask,” he said.

Taillon said that he is still hearing private confessions because of the emotional needs of Catholics seeking the comfort of forgiveness and giving last rites in person when possible.

“People want to be in a state of grace. If something happens, they want to be fresh. They’re not coming out (to confession) of nervousness, but everyone realizes they are mortal all of a sudden,” he said.

## A Beacon of Hope

In these times of uncertainty, clergy



**A camera for live streaming church services sits above the Third Station of the Cross at St. Thomas More Church in Narragansett.**

are beacons of hope by offering absolution for the troubled mind, a listening ear and sense of optimism, history has shown about the role of clergy in crisis and war.

“Some people are feeling a fair amount of anxiety,” said Evenson, “and that is understandable and they just need to talk to somebody. I think that will be the next phase of our ministry.”

“We need to look at how we can reach out not just to our congregation, but to the large community and be a listening ear. I think people are just hungry for a human connection at this point,” he said.

The virtual religious services provide that connection and help restore and support a sense of hope, said Dr. Anthony Salvadore, son of Narragansett’s Anne Salvadore of St. Thomas More and St. Veronica parishes. An anesthesiologist in Florida, he watches the same recorded services by Taillon as his mother does.

“I am managing this crisis on the front line of health care, and the hope that our faith provides us is empowering,” he said in an email interview. “As for the streaming (video of Catholic services) now for my mom, it is the highlight of her days of Corona quarantine. She is so thankful to have it.”

His mother agreed.

“I feel just as good,” she said the 93-year-old whose son has warned her to keep indoors. “I get up, I say a Rosary and a few prayers, I get out of my pajamas and I’m ready to go to watch Mass. I get just as much out of it,” said Anne who would brave the elements to attend Mass daily if she could.

The same inspiration shines at Peace Dale Congregational Church, too, said Joanne Haynes

“I feel like in this situation my faith is giving me hope and we’re going to get through it and I’m not going to become a victim of it,” she said.