

**St. Thomas More Parish  
Cherry Hill, New Jersey  
Case for Support**



**Our History**

St. Thomas More Parish was formed on October 29, 1968. For the first twenty months of the parish's existence, Sunday Masses were held in the chapel at St. Mary's Home and in the auditorium at Cherry Hill East High School. In June, 1970, the parish paid to have the chapel air conditioned and all Sunday Masses were now held there, and continued to be held there until March, 1974 when the Parish Center was completed. The original chapel to the immediate right of the foyer was replaced with a larger chapel, when the facility was expanded in 1989.

The Church was dedicated on October 13, 1974 by Bishop Guilfoyle. In September 24, 1984 the dedication of the chapel and Blessing of the Classrooms took place. Blessing of the Courtyard and St. Thomas More Statue occurred on November 3, 1991.

St. Thomas More Parish celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1993. Events that took place to celebrate this milestone were first Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Parish Family Picnic, a Cocktail Party, St. Thomas More Parish Dinner Dance, as well as a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass.

Major church renovations were completed in 2004. The Baptismal font, pews, ceiling, flooring, lighting, and gathering space were updated during this process. In 2011 St. Thomas More Parish made necessary renovations to the Parish Hall.

As many of you know, we are celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our dedication, and much has been done to make our parish the flourishing community it is today. Thank you for all that you have done! It is now time for our parish to prepare for the next 50 years.

**Our Plan**

The Catholic Community of South Jersey has evolved tremendously over the course of its 80 year existence. Now, the time has come for this generation of Catholics to contribute to the great history of

our diocese. We must invest in evangelization programs, lay faith formation, and professional development for parish staff and ministers.

As vital and active members of the Diocese of Camden wishing to make our contribution, we are beginning the **Catholic Strong** Campaign to provide the resources needed to ensure our parishes are financially stable, strengthen Catholic education, expand our outreach capabilities, and enhance our evangelization efforts. A successful campaign will ensure the vitality of our faith communities and ultimately meet the evolving needs of our diocese.

Our parish target is to raise a minimum of \$730,000, of which we will receive 70% (or a minimum of \$511,000) that will go toward parish needs. Additionally, we will receive 80% of all funds raised over our parish target. We will use our share to address the following needs, which will be addressed according to need and actual funds collected.

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| ❖ <b>Building/Physical Plan Needs</b>   | \$300,000* |
| → Paint all areas of our parish buildings (church, chapel, gathering space, classrooms, offices, hall, bathrooms, hallways) |            |
| → Update parking lot (blacktop, bumpers, line stripping)  |            |
| → Replace flooring in all eight religious education classrooms  |            |
| → Replace room divider in two religious education classrooms  |            |
| → Update parish grounds signage (update directional, church, chapel, and hall signage)                                      |            |
| → Address drainage issues in parking lot  |            |
| → Reserve monies for HVAC, septic system and roofing  |            |
| ❖ <b>Liturgical Updates</b>   | \$100,000* |
| → Realign sanctuary space for statue area   |            |
| → Replace altar   |            |
| → Replace altar server albs and crosses   |            |
| ❖ <b>Technology</b>   | \$60,000*  |
| → Enhance building security   |            |
| → Purchase smart television for faith formation sessions and special programs   |            |
| → Cable upgrades (move equipment separate church/rectory)   |            |
| → Upgrade phone system  |            |
| ❖ <b>Faith Formation</b>  | \$51,000*  |
| → Provide materials and staffing for Summer Vacation Bible School for students  |            |
| → Subsidize the Youth Catholic Christian Camp and funds for parish pilgrimage   |            |
| → Fund guest speakers and programs for Adult Religious Education  |            |

*\*Above costs are projections and require diocesan consultation and approval. Additionally, all projects are considered pending until successful completion of parish campaign goals.*

While our needs are significant, we are confident that our parish family is prepared to lend generous support. The **Catholic Strong Campaign** will enable our parish to complete the visions set forth by past generations and ensure the church's presence in the lives of our children and grandchildren. As we have been blessed, let us act as stewards by supporting the campaign. Your prayers, generosity, and sacrifice will ensure our success.