

St. Thomas More Church

1439 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003
856-424-3212 • Fax: 856-424-2411

Web Site: <http://stthomasmorenj.org/> • E-mail: stthomasmore@comcast.net

Eucharistic Celebrations
Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 am
Weekdays:
Monday-Friday: 6:45 and 9:00 am
Saturday: 9:00 am
Holyday Vigil: 7:30 pm
Holyday: 6:45 & 9:00 am & 7:30 pm



Rite of Reconciliation
Saturdays: 3:00-4:00 pm
or any time by appointment

Reverend Phillip M. Johnson, Priest-in-charge
Reverend Daniel Joyce, S.J., Weekend Assistant
Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate for Life Long Faith Formation
Deacon John Harrington
Pat Maggart, Parish Catechetical Leader
Roger Pisani, Pastoral Associate for Music & Liturgy
Pat Cannon, Parish Secretary • Norma Matos, Parish Secretary
Sheila Tartamosa, Pastoral Associate for Parish Administration

DIRECTORY

Pastoral Leadership

Parish Trustees	Gary Gadren	424-3212
	Pat Lachnicht	424-3212

Christian Life/Education

Bereavement	Sheila Mohan	795-6137
Hospital Visitors	Staff & Euch. Ministers	424-3212
Intercessory Prayer	Ann Vigrass	428-7217
Knights of Columbus	Dick Spence	428-8325
Marriage Formation	Bob/Liz Scarpa	795-1160
Parish Rel. Ed. Prog.	Pat Maggart	429-6948
Pastoral Counselor	Claire Spence	428-8325
Prayer Shawls	Sheila Mohan	795-6137
Respect Life	Al Mac Elrath	779-7130

Rite of Ch. Init. Adults	Deacon John Harrington	424-3212
	Sister Ann Byrnes	424-3212

Rosary Ministry	Marian/Chuck Kapischke	424-2053
Small Christian Comm.	Ann Marie/Bob Lento	424-4759
Spiritual Direction	Deacon John Harrington	424-3212
Spiritual Retreats	John Galati	428-7073
	Denise Radziwill	424-0494

St. Vincent de Paul	Frank Nicoletti	424-3212
Stewardship	Sheila Tartamosa	424-3212
Youth Ministry	Stan Thompson	424-1120

Worship

Altar Servers	Deacon John Harrington	424-3212
Church Environment	Ann Vigrass	428-7217
	Antonina Nicdao	751-6320
Ch. Art Environment	Joyce DeMichele	424-4008
Eucharistic Ministers	Dolores Kreal	988-0271
Lectors	Pat Lachnicht	424-5636
Linen Committee	Ann Vigrass	428-7217
Sacristans	Dom Sacca	
	Tom Petrilli	751-1367
	Greta Tyrrell	428-2412
	Frank Krenslak	309-1999
Ushers	Roger Pisani, Director	609-488-0020
Music Ministry	Dolores Kreal	988-0271
	Len Kolojejchick	346-4078
	June Garafano, Youth Singers	229-7461

Social Development	Joyce DeMichele	424-4008
Bridge Groups	Barbara Cerquitella	795-7323
	Al Shaffer	609-417-6770
	June Garafano	229-7461
	Bob Lento	344-7454
	Committee	424-3212
	Eileen Withers	751-6838

Career Ministry

Funsters (over 50 club)	
Parish Festival	
Women's Club	

Administration

House of Charity	Sheila Tartamosa	424-3212
Parish Finance Council	Robert Crawford	424-3212
Parish Pastoral Council	Marie Enny	751-8893

PARISH MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

Mission (*Purpose*)

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we the Catholic Community of St. Thomas More respond to our call to holiness.

Vision (*Goals*)

Empowered by Baptism, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and formed by the Word of God and the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, we live out our Mission by working together:

- To structure prayerful, vibrant, participatory, Sunday worship experiences.
- To provide Life Long Faith formation for all age levels.
- To care for the young, the old, the sick, the hurting and the needy, both inside and outside our parish.
- To promote faith sharing, prayer, support, learning and listening to one another as a model for nourishing and sustaining our faith community.
- To welcome back, with hospitality, those who have left our faith community.

VISITATION AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office, 424-3212, if a family member is seriously ill or facing/recovering from surgery and would like to see a priest or receive the Anointing of the Sick. Holy Communion is also available to those who are homebound on an ongoing basis.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please make arrangements for Baptism in advance through the parish office. Parents and godparents are required to attend a preparatory session.

MARRIAGE

Couples planning to marry will attend a marriage preparation program called Living in Love. Call office for appointment.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process of formation for full initiation into the Catholic Church. It is open to those never Baptized; those baptized in another faith; and Catholics who have not received First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

For more information, please contact Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate, 424-3212 ext. 104 or Deacon John Harrington, Moderator, at 424-3212 ext. 103.

RCIA Team: John Mohan and Irene Rellosa

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children's Liturgy of the Word – Sunday, during 10 a.m. Mass
Grades one thru four: Tuesday, 4:15 - 5:30 p.m.
Grades five thru eight: Tuesday, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

New members are welcome in our community of faith. Please call, 424-3212, or come to the parish office to register.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please submit hardcopy and/or e-mail by 4 p.m. Monday.

CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL

John Paul II Regional School - (856) 783-3088
Principal: Mrs. Helen Persing

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE - 2012

CONFESSIONS

Saturday, December 22, 2012

9:30 – 11:30 AM

3:00 – 4:00 PM

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Monday, December 24, 2012 (Christmas Eve)

4:00 PM and 6:00 PM

Tuesday, December 25, 2012 (Christmas Day)

12:00 - Midnight

10:00 AM and 11:30 AM

St. Thomas More Christmas Festival Youth Choir

Rehearsal Schedule for Christmas Eve 4 pm Mass

Sun., Dec. 16 11 am - 12 noon Classroom

Tues., Dec. 18 6 - 6:50 PM Chapel

Sun., Dec. 23 11 am - 12 noon Classroom

Mon., Dec. 24 Arrive by 3:00 Church

Students (K-High School) are invited to join the youth choir. Contact the Youth Choir Director, June Garafano, at 229-7461 or juneann@hotmail.com.



EXTRA USHERS are needed to help during Christmas Masses. The balcony will be used during this season, Masses will be crowded and visitors will need direction.

If you can volunteer to help during the Christmas Masses please call Frank Krenslak at 309-1999. Indicate at which Mass you can assist – Christmas Eve: 4 or 6 p.m. or 12 Midnight.

As many of you know, I am studying to be a deacon. I am currently in my third year process in Diaconate Formation. On December 11, I was instituted to Acolyte by Bishop Galante at the Blackwood Retreat Center.

Acolyte is the second canonical rite before ordination to the diaconate. The ministry of acolyte will involve assisting the priest and deacon at the altar as well as visiting the sick and helping to educate fellow parishioners in their understanding of the Eucharist. In the coming weeks, you will see me serving at the altar.

I know many of you have been praying for me. I appreciate your prayers and ask you to continue as I further my formation. Peace, Bob Scarpa

St. Thomas More Parish Congratulates Bob Scarpa

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

December 9, 2012

\$10,276.50 - 238 Envelopes

May the Lord bless you for your generosity to your parish.

With Mary and Joseph, Stars and Angels, Shepherds and Magi, Cows and Sheep

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is not my usual weekly teaching article. Of course, we can teach and learn and reflect on the mystery the Christ Child through the whole of our lives (and beyond!). But, as the 2012 Christ-mass approaches – my first Christmas with you – I wanted simply to express my joy in serving you and serving with you, in worshiping with you, in many shared meals and quiet conversations about the faith, and in the not-so-quiet parties. I want to thank you for a thousand words of welcome spoken or written to Janet and me since our arrival. I thank you for surviving with such grace the surprise of the arrival of an “irregular” priest, a priest who was (as St. Paul said about himself) “born out of season” (). I am grateful also for your welcome of Janet and your respect for her courage. With her, I am grateful for your concern over our material needs and comfort. And along with my thanks, I express also my hopes for each and all of you in this holy season. Here are some of the items on my Christmas hope list.

For the children and their parents . . .

In C. S. Lewis's imagined land of Narnia, before Aslan returned, it was “*always winter but never Christmas*”. A Christmas without Christ, or where the Christ Child is little more than a religious “ornament,” is a kind of spiritual winter for a child. I pray the children may hear the Story from the lips of their mothers and fathers and grandparents, that the Christmas tree may be a place of prayer as well presents. I hope that the little ones, even the newborn, will be lovingly brought to Christmas liturgies, where they see and hear more than we might think, where they *absorb* the Faith in the love of worshiping community.

For the tired, the overworked, the worried . . .

Christmas is not a day but a season, lasting from December 24 until January 13 (the Baptism of Christ our Lord). I hope for you, not one exciting, exhausting Christmas day, but for at least a taste of the “holy leisure” of Christmastide. We are often overworked by others, by our jobs, by heavy family responsibilities. But sometimes we are our own cruel taskmasters, wanting for ourselves, demanding from ourselves, too much. May we learn in this season to pray, not so much as obligation, but as gift received. May we be more truly *present* to one another. Mary and Joseph were surely exhausted as they finally settled for the night in that stable. Their worries were many. Yet their hearts surely guarded by the mysterious peace of the Christ child.

For the sick, the sorrowful, and the lonely . . .

May they be a first priority for us all during Christmastide. A phone call, a visit, a letter, an invitation, some loving attention: such gestures can shine like the Christmas Star in the dark isolation of suffering.

For us all . . .

We worship in order to truly *live*. We live in order to worship. Adoration is our true *End*. So, with Mary and Joseph, stars and angels, shepherds and magi, sheep and the cows: come, let us adore Him. And may the Peace of Christ be yours through the coming holy days.

– Fr. Phillip Johnson



To all the lucky winners of the
Saint Thomas More Parish 2012 Fundraiser

Mary Bones Ticket #52 \$10,000.00 Prize
Elaine and Rick Beckman Ticket #228 \$3,000.00
James and Connie Ulrich Ticket #277 \$2,000.00

Mike and Helen Hawksley Normandy, France Time-share (1 week stay)

Saint Thomas More Parish profoundly thanks all who participated in our 2012 Fundraiser Raffle.

Special **THANK YOU** to Outback Steakhouse (901 Route 73 South, Marlton, NJ - John and Deb Hollibaugh, Manager) for providing the delicious meal and for their courteous service.

Classic cake donated two trays of cookies

The committee members were extra faithful, enthusiastic and supportive in their efforts to make the 2012 Fundraiser Raffle beneficial and supportive of the goals of Saint Thomas More Parish.

Angelo (Chairperson) and Carol Ariani
Tom (Chairperson) and Arleen Pajic
Henry and Kathy Glover

Mike and Helen Hawksley
Jerry and Jeannine McMenamin
Myra Nicoletti

Tina and Fred Petrone
Dick and Claire Spence

YOUTH GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sr. – High School students Jr. – 6th through 8th grades

Over 30 Jr & Sr Youth Group members, 12 adult chaperones, 10 cars & mini-vans full of toys, snacks & games and put them all together and you get the Youth Group's 9th annual Christmas Party for the children of Immaculate Conception in Camden. Our YG played games, made crafts and spent time with the 1st & 2nd graders. Santa visited and over 60 children left with a new toy.

The YG would like to thank our parents and other adult chaperones for helping and our Religious Ed Students (and parents) for their generous donations.

It was a great morning for the children at Immaculate Conception and a rewarding experience for us.

Sam Wachman-YG President, Eric Thompson-YG Vice Pres.

Stan Thompson, YG Coordinator-424-1120

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The third class for Confirmation II candidates will be held this Sunday, December 16, at 11 a.m. in the St. Thomas More Parish Hall. All eighth grade students are expected to attend the 10 a.m. Mass prior to class.

The second grade students in Sister Anna's and Mrs. Kirincic's Religious Education classes will be re-enacting the Nativity Story on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 4:30 PM in the Church. Students in grades one, three and four will accompany in song. All parents and other parishioners are most welcome to attend.

The Confirmation Class Candidates and their families are lighting the Advent Wreath during our weekend Liturgies.

During the Advent Season, the children in our Parish Religious Education Program will be collecting all kinds of children's socks and mittens for our Christmas Sharing Tree. Each child is asked to donate one package of new socks or mittens – any kind, any size, any color – to be placed on our sharing tree. After Christmas, they will be sent to The Parish of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Camden to be distributed to the children in their Religious Education Program.

Pat Maggart, PCL, 424-3212 - ext. 106



**Our Newest
Altar Servers:**
Ryan Caton,
Ian Fulton,
Caitlin Cepeda
and
Tiernan Dautle
(left to right)

CONFESSIONS ON SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 22: 9:30-11:30 AM and 3 - 4 PM.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES

Extra envelopes are available in the gathering space. Your contributions will be used for altar flowers, poinsettias for the shut-ins and church decorations. As always, thank you for your support.

**MASS INTENTIONS
FOR THE WEEK**



SATURDAY - DECEMBER 15

9:00 am Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
4:30 pm Deceased Members of St. Thomas More Parish r/b St. Vincent de Paul Society

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 16

8:30 am Genevieve & Frederick Pfeiffer r/b Walsh Family
10:00 am Carolyn Rehrig r/b the Balco Family
Joseph LaRosa r/b Wife & Family
Jerry O'Neill r/b Chris & Lisa Mele
11:30 am Joe Turiano r/b Kay & Family

MONDAY - DECEMBER 17

6:45 am Patricia Tonelli r/b Sheila Moore
9:00 am Jim Bones r/b Teri & Family

TUESDAY - DECEMBER 18

6:45 am Floyd Schlueter r/b Michael Curtis
9:00 am Bill Koelsch r/b Family

WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 19

6:45 am William Hanak r/b Michael Curtis
9:00 am George & Frances Pisera r/b Gould Family

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 20

6:45 am People of the Parish
9:00 am Peggy O'Malley r/b Martin O'Malley
Viola Angelozzi r/b SCC Thurs. AM Group

FRIDAY - DECEMBER 21

6:45 am William Savin r/b Michael Curtis
9:00 am Deceased Members of the Ibay & Dizon Families r/b the Ibay Family

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 22

9:00 am Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
4:30 pm Rose & Anthony Camma and Lillian Iannuzzi r/b Family

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 23

8:30 am Emily & Henry Ryszkiewicz r/b Alice Rydzynski
10:00 am Special Intention of Leona Novak r/b Cindy Evelyn Gratzik r/b daughter, Marie Thomas L. Angelucci, Sr. r/b Gladys Mary Alice Fry r/b the Glover Family Mildred Brugh r/b the Glover Family
11:30 am Bienvenido Cobin r/b Cobin Family

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:
THE SICK...**

Don Kreal
Maria Storms
Owen Smith
Mary Flacco
Ron Massey

Bob & Claire Boylan
Marc Bourgeois
Naomi Willingmyre
George Sweeten
Frank Cappetta
Danny Perla



Olga Mignone
Frank Colbert
Mary Cowan
Shirley Birch
Jean Colbert
Dorothy Brink
Pat Barton
Leila Lore
Chase Lupica
Pat Beaney
YunYun Shen
Virginia Foley
Fran Swider
Rose Hession
Sara Centonze

Michael Kapischke
Betty O'Donnell
Marie Mazzagatti
Stanley Kochanek
Pauline Rosberg
Joseph Console
Geraldyn Coticone
Jerry McMenamin
Chuck Kapischke
Pasquale DiFronzo
Dorothy Wolenter
Teddy Shaffer
Virginia Gormley
Angelo DiGiacomo
Wayne Mauri, Sr.

Joanne James
Alfred DiFrank
Denise Daniels
Chris Kolodzey
Marie DiFrank
Ethan Killeen
Carlos Santiago
Betty Brennan
Sharon Bushelli
Michael Suralik
Bill O'Donnell
Mary Branciforte
Bill Botensten
Ed Rivero
Paul Charette

THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...



Lt. Col. Allison Agar, Lance Corporal Sean Bilson, Lt. Cdr. Richard P. Byrnes, Jr., Pvt. 1st Class Mario Centofanti, Lt. Anthony R. Cosentino, Capt. Anthony T. DeMarco, Sr. Airman John P. DeYoung, Lt. Nicholas G. Iannuzzi, PFC Sonny Morrison, Major Ryan Orfe, Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa, SSgt Arturo Rivero, Jr., Lt. Col. Karl Rohr, SPC Giselle M. Torres and Cpl. Michael Willingmyre.

**St. Thomas More
NEW YEAR'S EVE MOVIE NIGHT
MONDAY, DECEMBER 31**

**Food & Fellowship immediately following the 4:30 PM Mass.
Movie begins at 7 PM - St. Thomas More Hall**

Honor begins at home
COURAGEOUS

ALL ARE WELCOME, BRING A FRIEND.

First come, first served: Space is limited! Reply ASAP!

SIGN-UP sheets are in the gathering space.

\$10 donation reservation requested to order food.

Contact Marianne Gorin with any questions at 346-1811 or email Joe Centonze at joecent4@gmail.com.

Any proceeds benefit a Charitable Outreach program.

Office of Family Life-Diocese of Camden

Courage: The Catholic support group for men and women with same-sex attraction. **CONFIDENTIALITY ASSURED.** For more info: www.couragec.org or (856) 365-1570. Pg. 5 - 632



Rachel's Vineyard: Need healing from the emotional or spiritual pain of an abortion? 24-hour Nationwide toll-free #: 888-456-HOPE(4673) and Local contact is Margarita Moran at 701-5515.

Al Mac Elrath, Respect Life Coordinator - 779-7130

Small Christian Community Faith Sharing

Please note that we put the following week's Gospel passage in this space so you can prepare all week for proclamation of the Gospel the following Sunday. Faith Sharing helps ordinary people connect their faith with everyday life experiences.

Excerpt from the Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23, 2012 – Luke 1:39-45

Mary traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Commentary:

The prime example of preferring God's will to our own plans is Mary of Nazareth. A young girl with her whole life ahead of her, a teenager with dreams like any other, Mary found her personal plans in disarray the moment the angel showed up in her chamber. Yet Mary trusted God's plan over her own, and when she flew to the side of her older cousin, she greeted another woman who had done the same. The image of these two women falling into each other's arms is celebrated as the perfect response of joy between true believers. Many will attend church this holiday season, but few will give their lives over to the will of God as Mary and Elizabeth did. But if you and I choose to become such people, we will share in the dance of these two cousins and know their joy. Merry Christmas!

Questions for Reflection and Sharing:

1. What is God saying to me in this Gospel passage?
2. What word or phrase in this Gospel speaks to me?
3. What word or phrase in the Reflection resonates with me?

SPIRIT DAY – DECEMBER 1, 2012

Huge Success – Big Turnout – Great Day
Thanks to the many volunteers listed below.

STUDENTS

Evan Campbell	David Ha	Allyson Quay
Ryan Caton	Jake Horton	Kathryn Quay
Michael D'Auria	Andrew Lochbihler	Nick Reganata
Liam Egenton	Ryan McCann	Alex Rodriguez
Alex Erlam, Jr.	Kevin Murphy	Amanda Summers
Courtney Finnegan	Billy Neale	Zach Young
Georgia Gray	Rachel Pierce	Joelle Wachman
Chris Witting	Isabella Zebrowski	

ADULTS

Scott Campbell	Father Johnson	Robert Tartamosa
Chris Caton	Christina Lee	Sheila Tartamosa
Jeff D'Auria	Mike Maggart	Joanne Wachman
Alex Erlam, Sr.	Pat Maggart	Philip Wachman
David Galloway	Andy Rodriguez	Sam Wachman
Jeanne Gray	Kevin Summers	Greg Young
Arnaud Zimmerman	Stephen Zimmerman	



The flowers at the Blessed Virgin Mary Statue have been placed there, this weekend, in loving memory of Fran Boesch, requested by her husband, Jack.

'FUNSTER NEWS'



Upcoming Funster Trips - 2013

Funster Trips are open to all Parishioners & Friends

Sunday, April 28: BUS TRIP TO NYC to see "Nice Work if you Can Get it" with Matthew Broderick. Trip includes bus from St. Thomas More, lunch in NY at Le Rivage, orchestra seats for 3 p.m. performance. \$189 per person, deposit of \$95 to hold space (only few seats remaining).

Tuesday, May 21: BUS TRIP TO LANCASTER to see "Noah" at the Sight n Sound Theater. Trip includes bus transportation, lunch, and tickets to 4:15 p.m. performance. \$99 per person.

July 5-12: Northern National Parks featuring Yellowstone & Grand Tetons

Air/land pkg includes roundtrip air & transfers to Phila. airport, hotel transfers, breakfast daily, 4 dinners and staying 2 nights Salt Lake City, 4 nights Jackson Hole, Wyoming & 1 night Park City, Utah. \$1999 per person double occupancy. Book by **December 30** to hold space at this rate! **Limited availability.**

Detailed itinerary available by request - call Lin Lyon at 795-4396.