

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
	Joyce DeMichele	424-4008
Ch. Art Environment	Dolores Kreal	988-0271
Eucharistic Ministers	Pat Lachnicht	424-5636
Lectors	Ann Vigrass	428-7217
Linen Committee	Dom Sacca	
Sacristans	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

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

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

Merry Christmas



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE - 2012

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

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Monday, December 31, 2012 (Vigil) 4:30 PM

Tuesday, January 1, 2013
10:00 AM and 11:30 AM

**St. Thomas More
NEW YEAR'S EVE MOVIE NIGHT**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

**Food & Fellowship begins
at 6:00 PM.**

Movie begins at 7 PM in St. Thomas More Hall

Honor begins at home
COURAGEOUS

ALL ARE WEL-
COME, BRING A FRIEND.

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

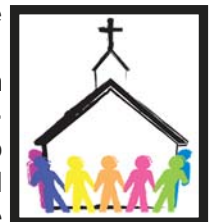
SIGN-UP sheets are in the gathering space.

\$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.

Small Christian Community Participants:

Our parish is blessed to have had over 150 parishioners participating in Small Christian Communities this Advent Season. We thank all those who shared their presence, time, and Faith in their small groups. We are grateful to our facilitators who provided a safe place for people to gather and pray.



The Catholic Faith in Slow Motion (No. 5)

Fr. Phillip Johnson

The fifth in a series of reflections about thinking, praying, and professing the Faith of the Church in celebration of the Year of Faith, proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI.

“WHAT CHILD IS THIS?”

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made.... And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father” (John 1:1-3, 14).

We cannot fully explain the Christmas mystery. But we can at least *profess* it knowingly; we can know what it is the Faith professes, even as our minds are forever *startled* at what we are professing. Here is a brief, blunt statement of the identity of the babe in the manger.

“In the beginning.” St. John begins his gospel with the first words of the Book of Genesis, because the Word by which God first created (“And God *said*, ‘let there be light’ and there was light.”) has now entered into our world to create anew. As St. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians: “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation”.

“The Word was with God and the Word was God.” This is the Trinitarian “background” to the Christmas mystery. God’s Word is not something apart from God. God’s Word is God’s Self. Even with human beings, to “give your word” is to give yourself. God’s Word is God’s Son – one like the Father, begotten of the Father, from eternity. The Word, God’s Son is *co-eternal* with the Father. He is forever being begotten by the Father. God did not suddenly beget his Son in the womb of Mary. Rather, the eternal only begotten Son came to us in time and space through Mary.

“The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us.” Incarnation. In words like “carnal” and “carnivore”, we recognize the startling earthiness of this claim. In the Bible, “flesh” means the human being seen in his utter vulnerability, in his need, over against the immortal beings of the angels. “Flesh” means the human condition. The eternal Word of God, without ceasing to be the eternal Word/Son of God, took to himself our human condition.

The “*Two Natures of Christ*”. . . . Jesus was, at one and the same time, fully God and fully human: not part God and part man, not a divine mind in a human body, not God sometimes and man sometimes. His divinity never spoke or acted apart from his humanity; his humanity never spoke or acted apart from his divinity. His humanity is at the perfect disposal of his divinity, and vice versa. He is truly God living a truly human life. His humanity is the revealing of his divinity. Which is why he can enable you to live your truly human life in a Godlike manner. He has shown us that *our* humanity is capable of eternal fellowship with God.

The Gift Never Taken Back . . . The Incarnation is not undone by the resurrection and ascension of Christ. The Eternal Word has taken human form for *all eternity*. In heaven, the Eternally begotten Son answers to the name Jesus. His *human* presence will be our joy in heaven.

“What Child is this?” We will never, in this life or the next, comprehend the startling answer to the question. Nevertheless, we can meditate upon it, we can bathe in the light of this mystery as it shines upon our lives, and we can follow the mystery where it leads.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Ministry Schedule for December 24, 25, 29, and 30, 2012

Mass Time	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
Vigil of Christmas 4:00 p.m.	Father Joyce	Children Choir J Garafano	Sr. Ann, J Galati, M Huynh T Petrone, I Rellosa	M Maggart	J/P/S Wachman
6:00 p.m.	Father Joyce	R Kapischke P Pisani	E Beckman, R Crawford J DeMichele, B Massey	P Lachnicht	J Cole, R Nicklous A Rzepski
Christmas 12:00 Midnight	Father Johnson	Adult Choir R Pisani	A Del Campo-O'Brien J Mohan, M Santiago B Scarpa	D Miller	B Scarpa
10:00 a.m.	Father Johnson	C & R Pisani Ensemble	G Gadren, K Glover D Gould, J Mazzagatti	K McFadden	C/J McFadden E Thompson
11:30 a.m.	Father Johnson	D Kreal B Casey	M Garber, S Kane D/C Spence	R Ciccotta	M/T Ciccotta
Dec. 29 4:30 p.m.	Father Johnson	R & C Pisani	R Crawford, J DeMichele T Petrone, G Tyrrell	D Mayfield	A/K/W Quay
Dec. 30 8:30 a.m.	Father Johnson	M Kramer R Pisani	Sr. Bozena, J/L Duffy A Del Campo-O'Brien	P Lachnicht	L Smith A/J Zieba
10:00 a.m.	Father Joyce	G Naccarelli E Zerone	J Galati, M Garber D Gould, J Kenney	V Marchesani	M/N Brown M Ronan
11:30 a.m.	Father Joyce	Adult Choir	B Haughwout S Kane, D/C Spence	D Haughwout	G/M Gray I Witting

YOUTH GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Upcoming Event(s):

- January - Martin Luther King Service Project
- February - Souper Bowl of Caring Project
- Ronald McDonald House Breakfast
- March - Skating Party



Picture of Jr & Sr Youth Group members at the 9th Annual Christmas Party for 1st & 2nd graders at Immaculate Conception in Camden.

The Youth Group appreciates all of your

MERRY CHRISTMAS

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At the four weekend Masses during the Season of Advent, the candles on the Advent Wreath are being lit by those eighth grade candidates who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, which will be conferred on them in May, 2013.

ANY PARISHIONER WISHING TO DONATE SOCKS OR MITTENS PLEASE DO SO BY HANGING THEM DIRECTLY ON THE MITTEN TREE IN THE GATHERING SPACE. **THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR ADULT MEN'S GLOVES AND SOCKS!** Thank you!

There will be NO Religious Education classes on Tuesday, December 25 and Tuesday, January 1 in celebration of the Christmas holy days. Classes resume on Tuesday, January 8.

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

Women's Club News



from the Women's Club

Eileen Withers, President - 751-6838

**MASS INTENTIONS
FOR THE WEEK**



SATURDAY - DECEMBER 22

9:00 am Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
4:30 pm Rose & Anthony Camma & 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 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

MONDAY - DECEMBER 24, Vigil of Christmas

4:00 pm Lena & Martin Cullen r/b Kathleen &
Frank Cappetta
6:00 pm Intentions of Joyce Family

**TUESDAY - DECEMBER 25, The Nativity of the
Lord (Christmas)**

12:00 Intentions of Johnson Family
Midnight
10:00 am Joseph Zielinski r/b Cindy & Family
11:30 am D'Ippolito Family r/b Radziwill Family

WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 26

6:45 am Earl Smith r/b Michael Curtis
9:00 am Special Intention of Monsignor Morgan
r/b Wed. SCC Group

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 27

6:45 am People of the Parish
9:00 am Marciano Dizon, Jr. r/b Grace Cobin
Elizabeth Wilson r/b Children

FRIDAY - DECEMBER 28

6:45 am Dick Schweitzer r/b His Family
9:00 am John Mohan, Sr. r/b John & Sheila Mohan

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 29

9:00 am Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
4:30 pm Mary Farley r/b Kathryn Eclar

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 30

8:30 am Robert Middleton r/b Nancy Tagland &
Family
10:00 am Deceased Members of Zielinski Family
r/b Cindy
11:30 am Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary of
Don & Dolores Kreal

**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	Michael Kapischke	Joanne James
Frank Colbert	Betty O'Donnell	Alfred DiFrank
Mary Cowan	Marie Mazzagatti	Denise Daniels
Shirley Birch	Stanley Kochanek	Chris Kolodzey
Jean Colbert	Pauline Rosberg	Marie DiFrank
Dorothy Brink	Joseph Console	Ethan Killeen
Pat Barton	Geralyn Coticone	Carlos Santiago
Leila Lore	Jerry McMenamin	Betty Brennan
Chase Lupica	Chuck Kapischke	Sharon Bushelli
Pat Beaney	Pasquale DiFronzo	Michael Suralik
YunYun Shen	Dorothy Wolenter	Bill O'Donnell
Virginia Foley	Teddy Shaffer	Mary Branciforte
Fran Swider	Virginia Gormley	Bill Botensten
Rose Hession	Angelo DiGiacomo	Ed Rivero
Sara Centonze	Wayne Mauri, Sr.	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 Christmas Festival Youth Choir

Rehearsal Schedule for Christmas Eve 4 pm Mass
Sun., Dec. 23 11 am-12 noon Classroom
Mon., Dec. 24 Arrive by 3:00 Church

June Garafano, Youth Choir Director
229-7461 or juneannng@hotmail.com.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel." (Micah 5:1)

We may think that the gifts we have to offer may be too small or too inconsequential to give to God. Today we are reminded that God brought forth His greatest gift to mankind, His own Son, through the humble town of Bethlehem. He can also accomplish great things through us if we generously offer our gifts to Him.

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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, December 30, 2012 – Luke 2:41-52

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when Jesus was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it...After three days they found Jesus in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, ...Mary said, "Son, why have you done this to us? ...Jesus said, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ...Jesus went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.

Commentary:

The Passover journey of the Holy Family involved more than a trip to Jerusalem for a religious festival: they "pass over" to new ways of understanding one another. While Jesus was (and would always be) the son of Mary and his foster father Joseph, he was most profoundly the Son of God who "must be in his Father's house." So too, our Christian journey continually invites us to "pass over" to a deeper understanding of who we are: "God's children" called to "love one another" as members of God's family.

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?



Mary knew the trials and tribulations of an unplanned pregnancy, but she also knew that the baby growing inside her was a gift from God. All pregnancies are gifts from God that should never be returned unopened.

Right to Life Committee

Al Mac Elrath, Respect Life Coordinator - 779-7130

Catholic Young Adults Today: Seeking, Searching, Serving and Striving to be Disciples

Welcome Young Adults, single or married in their 20's and 30's

Tuesday, January 15, 2013 7 - 9:15 PM

Dubh Linn Square, 482 Evesham Rd, Cherry Hill

Guest Presenter: Fr. Rocco Danzi, SJ
Saint Peter's University, NJ

No cost to attend

Participants are welcome to purchase food and beverages

For more information: 856-583-6122

'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

Be Patient with Our Ushers - The Ushers have been asked to refrain from seating latecomers *during* the Reading of the Scriptures. Please be patient with them, this helps us avoid distracting others.