

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: 3:30-4:00 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
Career Ministry	June Garafano	229-7461
	Bob Lento	344-7454
Funsters (over 50 club)	Committee	424-3212
Parish Festival	Eileen Withers	751-6838
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

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



THANK YOU

Thank you to all who gave so generously of their time and talents to make our Christmas celebrations so joyous and memorable.

From those who provided flowers, cleaned, decorated, prepared the altar, made the music so special at all the Masses, ushered during Mass and served at the altar; Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, and Lectors.



Sister Anna's and Mrs. Pat Kirincic's second grader's re-enactment of the First Christmas for Religious Education students and their parents.

THE KNIGHTS SAY 'THANKS'

The Knights of Columbus, Cherry Hill Council, would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our members and the St. Thomas More parishioners for supporting our fall fundraiser at the Iron Hill Brewery and Restaurant.

God Bless,

Richard Spence, M.D., *Grand Knight*

PARISH COLLECTION

December 16, 2012

\$11,293.50 - 235 Envelopes

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

The Manger and The Altar (Luke 2:1-20)

Fr. Phillip Johnson

The story is very familiar to you. But the story is like a diamond. You turn it over and over, and new aspects appear. So let's look, turning over in our hearts three familiar details: the town called Bethlehem, the manger, and the inn, where there was no room for Jesus.

Bethlehem. Even at the time of Jesus, it was an ancient city associated with the great King David. This Hebrew place name "Bethlehem" means "house of bread". We will come back to that.

When the baby was born, they laid him in a *manger*. When the Angels instructed the Shepherds, they said: "You will find the child lying in a *manger*". Finally, when the Shepherds made their way into Bethlehem and found the holy family, they saw the child lying in a *manger*. Three times in St. Luke's Christmas narrative, he makes the point, as if to etch the detail on our minds.

And what is a manger? It is a feeding trough, a place where the animals go to be fed. Mary and Joseph made from the feeding trough a little make-shift crib for their newborn son. The savior was laid in a feeding trough. And the ox and the ass must have been mighty puzzled when they ambled up and sniffed, not hay or grain or wheat, but the human flesh of that little body.

Here is the third detail to ponder—the *inn*. Why were Mary, Joseph, and the baby out there in the stable rather than in a more suitable place? "*Because there was no room in the inn, they laid him a manger*". In the Gospel of Luke, this exact word, which is translated into English as "inn", occurs only one other time. In the days just before Jesus was arrested, he was in the city of Jerusalem. It was time to eat the Passover meal, and his disciples asked him where they should prepare for it. Jesus told them to go into a house and ask the housekeeper for the large guest-room. It is the exact same word: "inn" or "guest-chamber" (Lk. 22:7-13).

When Jesus was born there was no room in the Inn, so he was laid in a manger. But later, in Jerusalem on that Thursday night, on the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus himself secured the Inn for his disciples. And there was in that large upper room – no, not a manger, but a table—an eating place, not for oxen or donkeys, but for his disciples. Manger, House of Bread, Guest House. You see where all this is pointing.

Is this why St. Luke wants us to ponder the manger? Because the little body laid there is born to be the food for the multitudes, the bread of Life for the world? Is this why St. Luke wants us to remember that there was no room for Jesus in the Inn, to point us forward to that other guest chamber, where Jesus makes room for us all as our gracious host?

In the gathering space of the church, there is the beautiful crèche depicting that first Christmas night. There is the manger. But, in a sense, the real Manger is there in the Church. The altar is our feeding place. The Church is our Bethlehem. And the one for whom there is no room in this old world, becomes our host and prepares a place for us in his Father's house, in the new world to come.

How does the grain of wheat nourish the donkey and ox? It is cut and harvested; it dies (John 12:24). How does that body in the manger become the bread of life for the world? By dying. One of the most beautiful Christmas carols, "What Child is This?" boldly traces the straight line running through St. Luke's gospel, connecting the manger to the altar. Pondering the infant in the manger, we sing: "Nails, spears, shall pierce him through, the Cross be borne for me, for you." The newborn Jesus was laid in a feeding trough, because he was born to be our food, born to die for me, for you.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Ministry Schedule for December 31, 2012 and January 1, 5, and 6, 2013

Mass Time	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
Vigil 4:30 p.m.	Father Johnson	C Pisani R Pisani	R Crawford, D Kreal I Rellosa, G Tyrrell	J Mohan	E Barbera K Johnson
Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God 10:00 a.m.	Father Johnson	R Kapischke R Pisani	K Glover, N/P Kirincic J Mazzagatti	N Albone	R Caton A/T Rumell
11:30 a.m.	Father Johnson	M Kramer R Pisani	E Beckman, M Garber B/AM Lento	J Arnold	C Arnold, M Lender H Rosenblatt
Jan. 5 4:30 p.m.	Father Joyce	C Pisani R Pisani	J DeMichele, J Kenney T Petrone, I Rellosa	K Erickson	A/I Cammisa M Lender
Jan. 6 8:30 a.m.	Father Joyce	G Nacarelli R Pisani	Sr. Bozena, J/L Duffy B Scarpa	D Miller	G/M Gray B Scarpa
10:00 a.m.	Father Johnson	J Garafano R Pisani	G Gadren, D Gould M Huynh, J Mohan	F Eggles	D DeMarco C/J McFadden
11:30 a.m.	Father Johnson	Music Ministry	M Gorin, S Moore D/C Spence	R Ciccotta	M/T Ciccotta 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

HAPPY NEW YEAR from the Youth Group!

Stan Thompson, YG Coordinator-424-1120

HIGH SCHOOL MALES Come Join Us!

Prayer, Faith, Food, Recreation

SUSCIPE SATURDAYS...

Invites young men in high school to cultivate a deeper prayer life and relationship with Christ in order to better discern God's call for their lives.

Meeting is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Peter's Parish, Merchantville on Sat., January 12.

Contact Fr. Michael Romano with any questions by email, michael.romano@camdendiocese.org., or call Father at 583-2858.



Women's Club News

HAPPY NEW YEAR from the Women's Club

Board Meeting: Wed., Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Eileen Withers, President - 751-6838

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There will be NO Religious Education classes on Tuesday, January 1 in celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Classes resume next Tuesday, January 8.

The children's Christmas Sharing Tree has been decorated with over 200 pairs of socks, hats, and mittens collected and donated by the students in our Religious Education program and other parishioners. They will be delivered to The Parish of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Camden to be distributed to the children in their Religious Education Program and homeless adults.

The fourth Confirmation I class will be held next Sunday, January 6, at 11 a.m. in the St. Thomas More Parish Hall. All seventh grade students are expected to attend the 10:00 Mass prior to class.

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

**MASS INTENTIONS
FOR THE WEEK**



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

MONDAY - DECEMBER 31

9:00 am Daniel Buckley r/b Jim & Pat Beaney
4:30 pm Richard Byrnes r/b Tobin Family
(Vigil)

TUESDAY - JANUARY 1, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

10:00 am Emily & Leonard Antonacci r/b Grace & Joseph Sklencar
11:30 am Lillian Iannuzzi r/b Beckman Family

WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 2

6:45 am J. Russel Gough r/b Michael Curtis
9:00 am Janet Garrity r/b Ray & Gloria Desrochers

THURSDAY - JANUARY 3

6:45 am People of the Parish
9:00 am Richard Byrnes r/b Gail & Ron Bizzoso
Eleanor Scarpa r/b husband, Gary

FRIDAY - JANUARY 4

6:45 am Richard Blair r/b Michael Curtis
9:00 am Joan Radula r/b Richard & Elaine Beckman

SATURDAY - JANUARY 5

9:00 am Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
4:30 pm Frank Shicatano r/b daughter, Marie Glaviano

SUNDAY - JANUARY 6

8:30 am Frank Visceglia r/b Pedone Family
10:00 am Joe Turiano r/b Kay & Family
Arnold Clark r/b Ron & Gail Bizzoso
11:30 am Kathleen Frain r/b Jack Boesch

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Please Note: No meeting in January

Please help yourself to a 2013 calendar, they are available at the entrances of the Church.

**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
Cindy Zielinski		

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.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

“Beloved, see what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.”
(1 John 3:1)

During this season of giving, let's also remember the gifts that God has given to us, including the gift of making us His children. Are we as grateful for that wonderful gift as we are for all the material gifts we have received? How do we show our gratitude to God for the gifts He gives to us all year?

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

No cost to attend
Participants are welcome to purchase food & beverages.
For more information: 856-583-6122

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 Epiphany of the Lord, January 6, 2013 – Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." ...After their audience with Herod, they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. ...They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Commentary:

Epiphany means "manifestation," a revelation of Jesus as truly God. Matthew and Luke show this child to be divine through stories of "signs and wonders" when Jesus was an infant. Matthew's account of the visit of the three magi also shows the Church's mission to the Gentiles. Matthew's audience, largely Jewish Christians, was struggling to accept the presence of Gentile Christians in their community. Matthew shows in this Gospel passage that the salvation of Gentiles (symbolized by the foreign Magi) as well as Jews was indeed God's plan.

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?

'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.



Leticia Velasquez, author of, ***A Special Mother is Born*** writes of mothering a child with special needs: "We see beauty in bodies and minds which are less than perfect because we see through them to the purity of our children's souls. They show us glimpses of heaven, where we all will be whole, and bring a bit of heaven to earth in their whole-hearted love. They are our means to sanctify, and we are grateful to God for them."

*National Right to Life Committee, Washington, DC
Al Mac Elrath, Respect Life Coordinator - 779-7130*

REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE

An independent, toll-free number has been established by the Diocese of Camden to help callers report cases of sexual abuse by priests, religious, employees and/or volunteers. Calls are handled by a licensed clinical social worker. In accord with state law, cases of child sexual abuse are reported to the N.J. Division of Youth and Family Services and law enforcement.

For information or to inquire about counseling and support services, call 1-800-964-6588.