

# 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](mailto: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: 7:00 pm  
Holyday: 6:45 & 9:00 am & 7:00 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  
Sister Katherine Pociеча, LSIC, Religious Education Coordinator  
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 Staff 424-3212  
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. Sister Katherine Pociеча 424-3212  
Prayer Shawls Sheila Mohan 795-6137  
Respect Life Al Mac Elrath 779-7130  
Rite of Ch. Init. Adults Sister Ann Byrnes 424-3212  
Rosary Ministry Marian Kapischke 424-2053  
Small Christian Comm. Ann Marie/Bob Lento 344-7454  
Spiritual Retreats John Galati 428-7073  
Denise Radziwill 424-0494  
St. Vincent de Paul Stan Thompson 424-3212  
Stewardship Sheila Tartamosa 424-3212  
Youth Ministry Stan Thompson 424-1120

### *Worship*

Altar Servers Sister Ann Byrnes 424-3212  
Pat Maggart 424-3212  
Ann Vigrass 428-7217  
Church Environment 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  
Ushers Frank Krenslak 309-1999  
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  
June Garafano 229-7461  
Lin Lyon 795-4396  
Career Ministry Committee 424-3212  
Funsters (over 50 club) Barbara Cerquitella 795-7323  
Parish Festival Lorraine Kennedy 489-0031  
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

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 8, 2013

### 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.

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

### CONFESSIONS DURING ADVENT

Sat., DEC. 14, 3:00-4:00 P.M.

Sat., DEC. 21, 9:00-11:30 A.M.

### REGIONAL PENITENTIAL SERVICE

(with private confession)

Monday, December 16

7:00 p.m.

Regional celebration at St. Thomas More  
Large number of Confessors present

### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE - 2013

#### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Tuesday, December 24, 2013 (Christmas Eve)

4:00 PM and 6:00 PM

Wednesday, December 25, 2013 (Christmas Day)

12:00-Midnight, 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM

#### NEW YEAR'S MASSES

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31, 2013 (Vigil) 4:30 PM

Wednesday, January 1, 2014

10:00 AM and 11:30 AM

St. Thomas More Parish Pictorial  
Directory Photography Event!!!



Additional date & time has been  
scheduled: Sat., Dec. 14 — 10:00-4:00

We need YOU to make the directory a success!!

YOU MAY SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT

NOW; go to [www.stthomasmorenj.org](http://www.stthomasmorenj.org)

and click on Lifetouch logo or You can

also sign up after Masses this weekend.

*Photography sessions will be held in Parish Hall.*

### PARISH REGISTRATION

Are you attending Mass here regularly? Are you registered? If not, please fill out information below and return to the parish office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

December 1, 2013

\$9,617.50 - 218 Envelopes

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

# The Catholic Faith In Slow Motion (no. 25)

Fr. Phillip Johnson

*A series of reflections about professing, praying, thinking, and living the Faith of the Church  
in celebration of the Year of Faith, proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI.*

## The Peace of Christ: a Brief Meditation on Palm 23:1-4

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose;  
near restful waters he leads me. He revives my soul. (vv. 1-2)*

I have read that when a flock of sheep is left alone for a long time it will wander aimlessly, until all the sheep are entirely exhausted. They cannot stop and rest, because they feel helpless against the predator. In fact, when night comes, a shepherd may have to *make* the sheep rest, gently pulling the legs from under them, so they will lay down.

The sheep cannot rest. Sound familiar? Left alone, they will always be on the move, exhausted by real and imagined dangers. Sound familiar?

Is this why Jesus, the Shepherd of our souls, *commands* us to rest, *charges* us to be at peace ( Matt. 7:25ff; 11:28ff; John 14:1ff) —the shepherd gently pulling our legs from under us, spiritually speaking?

Physical exhaustion is sometimes inevitable. A good night's sleep, a few days off can restore the body. But spiritual exhaustion cannot be banished so easily. Spiritual strength cannot be restored by physical rest alone. Spiritual exhaustion, showing itself in anxiety, impatience with others, escape into entertainment, addictions, boredom, lust, over-ambition and *trying to work one's way into favor with God*—this exhaustion gives way only to the gift of God's peace. It is a gift received by faith. “He revives my soul” only by faith.

Without faith we cannot truly rest. The spiritual logic of this truth is beautifully expressed in Psalm 46:10. “Be still and know that I am God”. It is in knowing that God alone is God (and so I am not God!) that I find spiritual stillness and quietness, as I entrust my life entirely to God.

*He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name.  
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,  
no evil will I fear, for you are with me.  
Your rod and your staff will give me comfort. (vv. 3-4)*

The Shepherd's *rod* is his weapon against the predator. With his *staff* he guides the sheep safely along the right pathway. The rod is his judgment; the staff is his promise. Which means that his Cross is at once his rod and his staff. So it is that in many artistic representations of his resurrection, Christ comes victorious from the tomb, carrying a cross in his right hand.

This is why St. Paul speaks of the “peace of God that passes all understanding”. For it is a peace that does not abandon us even when circumstances are bad, even when we must travel through the “valley of the shadow of death”.

+ + +

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Ministry Schedule for December 14, and 15, 2013

Mass Time	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
<b>4:30 p.m.</b>	Father O'Neill	C Malatino	Sr. Zophia S Mohan, G Tyrrell	J Mohan	J/P Wachman B Scarpa
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	Father Joyce	J Garafano B Casey	A Del Campo-O'Brien Sr. Rosaria, B Scarpa	P Lachnicht	M/N Ronan B Scarpa
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	Father Johnson	Adult Choir D Kreal, B Casey	D Gould D/L Lyon	F Eggles	A/I Cammissa C Cepeda
<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	Father Joyce	M Kramer B Casey	M Garber, S Moore A Thompson	D Haughwout	E Thompson A/J Zieba

**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.

### Women's Club News

- **Book Club:** Tues., Dec. 10 - we are reading "Claude and Camille" by Stephanie Cowell. Meet at Ellie Mayfield's at 1:30 p.m. Anyone interested in joining the book group, please call Clare DiGiacomo at 428-9251.

*Barbara Cerquitella, 795-7323 &  
Lorraine Kennedy, 489-0031, Co-Presidents*

## STM youth

- Sr. - High School students      Jr. - 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades
- This Sunday the Jr. & Sr. Youth Groups are hosting a Christmas party for the children of Immaculate Conception in Camden. **THANK YOU** to all of the Religious Education students and parents whose donations of food and toys made this event possible.

*Stan Thompson, Youth Coordinator, 424-1120*

### Recruiting Volunteers

#### St. Mary's Catholic Home

Companionship, Serve Coffee, Serve Lunch, Escort Residents, Paint Nails, Play Bingo  
For more info or to set up orientation contact Allison Burton, Director of Activities, 874-5308.

## PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

I'd like to give SPECIAL THANKS to Gary Gadren and all students and parents who participated in our Spirit Day. Thank you for all your hard work!

During the Season of Advent the candles on the Advent Wreath, at all four weekend Masses, will be lit by eighth grade candidates who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation which will be conferred on them in May, 2014.

The third Confirmation II preparatory class for all eighth grade students will be held next Sunday, December 15, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the St. Thomas More Hall. All eighth grade students are expected to attend that class as well as the 10 am Mass.

During the Advent Season, the children in our Parish Religious Education Program will be collecting mittens, gloves and socks for our Christmas Mitten Tree. Each child is asked to donate one package of new mittens or socks — any kind, any size, any color — to be placed on our Christmas Tree. After Christmas, they will be sent to the Immaculate Conception Parish in Camden to be distributed to the needy children.

On Tuesday, December 17, we will have special Christmas Prayer Services (held in the Church) for children attending our Religious Education Program and their families at 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided after both services. Similar to the previous years, the second grade children will enact the First Christmas Story during the afternoon service. The evening Prayer Service for grades 5-8 and their parents will be led by Father Johnson.

Like our [Facebook Page](#)  
[www.facebook.com/stm.rep](http://www.facebook.com/stm.rep)

*Sr. Katherine Pociecha, REC, 424-3212 - ext. 106*



## Mass Intentions for the Week

### SATURDAY - DECEMBER 7

9:00 am Living & Deceased Members of the Parish  
 4:30 pm Mary T. DiPaul r/b daughter, Mary Ellen Carozza

### SUNDAY - DECEMBER 8

8:30 am Thomas Wilkins r/b Lorraine Caruso  
 10:00 am Dennis Fortuna r/b Deacon Mike & Josie Welsh  
 Kathleen Haughwout r/b Dick & Sons  
 Tom Wilkins r/b St. Thomas More Women's Club  
 11:30 am Jenny Barber r/b Jim & Pat Beaney

### MONDAY - DECEMBER 9

6:45 am Tom Wilkins r/b Thursday SCC Group  
 9:00 am Dominic Marchesani, Sr. r/b Vince & Emilia Marchesani  
 7:00 pm William Flowers r/b Tobin Family

### TUESDAY - DECEMBER 10

6:45 am Craig Ruggles r/b Dom & Marie Sacca  
 9:00 am Ginger Walsh r/b Ann & Bill Vigrass

### WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 11

6:45 am Tom Wilkins r/b Angelucci Family  
 9:00 am Marie DiFrank r/b the Kane Family

### THURSDAY - DECEMBER 12

6:45 am People of the Parish  
 9:00 am Bob Boylan r/b Ann & Bill Vigrass  
 Paul Charette r/b Joyce & Dick DeMichele  
 Ryan Travis r/b Bob & Ann Marie Lento

### FRIDAY - DECEMBER 13

6:45 am People of the Parish  
 9:00 am Chuck Kapischke r/b the Kane Family

### SATURDAY - DECEMBER 14

9:00 am Living & Deceased Members of the Parish  
 4:30 pm Mary Sobieski r/b Rossi Family

### SUNDAY - DECEMBER 15

8:30 am Veronica Lachnicht r/b Jerry & Pat Lachnicht  
 10:00 am Genevieve & Fred Pfeiffer r/b the Walsh Family  
 Bill Ellinger r/b his wife, Lynn  
 Paul Charette r/b Dudley & Mary Lou Thomas  
 11:30 am Deceased Members of St. Thomas More Parish r/b St. Vincent de Paul Society

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

**THE DECEASED... SSgt Arturo Rivero, Jr.**

### **THE SICK...**

Don Kreal	Claire Boylan	
Maria Storms	Naomi Willingmyre	
Phyllis Schadt	George Sweeten	
Ron Massey	John B. Kennedy	
Olga Mignone	Michael Kapischke	
Frank Colbert	Betty O'Donnell	
Mary Cowan	Henry Bourgeois	
Shirley Birch	Stanley Kochanek	
Jean Colbert	Pauline Rosberg	
Pat Barton	Joseph Console	
Leila Lore	Geralyn Coticone	
Ed Rivero	Jerry McMenamin	
Pat Beaney	Pasquale DiFronzo	
YunYun Shen	Dorothy Wolenter	
Fran Swider	Mary Branciforte	
Rose Hession	Virginia Gormley	Keri Fisher
Danny Perla	Angelo DiGiacomo	Helen Kane
Anna Bedrick	Wayne Mauri, Sr.	Alfred DiFrank
Pat Brink	Eleanor Regan	Chris Kolodzey
Ginny Fritz	Harry Gindele	Ethan Killeen
Mary DeVito	Deacon Jim Smith	Carlos Santiago
		Betty Brennan
		Barbara Salpas
		Michael Suralik
		Bill O'Donnell
		Teddy Shaffer
		Bill Botensten
		Chase Lupica
		Frank Cappetta
		Francesca Capra
		Sue Hagan
		Julia Lepre
		Ann Marie Lento

### **THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...**



Lt. Col. Allison Agar, Pvt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mario Centofanti, Lt. Anthony R. Cosentino, Capt. Anthony T. DeMarco, Sr. Airman John P. DeYoung, Lt. Nicholas G. Iannuzzi, AFMajor Elizabeth Michael (Tobin), PFC Sonny Morrison, Major Ryan Orfe, Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa, Lt. Col. Karl Rohr, Air Force Major James P. Tobin, SPC Giselle M. Torres and Sgt. Michael Willingmyre.

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

### **THE MIGHTY MACS AN INSPIRING TRUE STORY**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Tues., Dec. 31 — 7 PM**

**St. Thomas More Hall**

**\$15 donation**

Reservation required to order food.

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

**ALL ARE WELCOME, BRING A FRIEND.**



Masses for Feast Day of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated on **MONDAY, Dec. 9** at 6:45 & 9:00 a.m. and at 7:00 pm.

### 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 Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2013 - Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

#### Commentary:

From the dark of prison and on the brink of death. John asks an urgent question: "Are you the one...or should we look for another?" Jesus honors the question by providing an answer; moreover, his answer is specific and concrete - the blind see, the lame walk, etc. John's question must become our own: Is Jesus the One for us, or are we really looking for another?

#### 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?



### CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES



are included in your December contribution envelope. Your contributions will be used for altar flowers, poinsettias for the shut-ins and church decorations. Please use this envelope to inform us who your contribution is in memory of and who it is requested by. Envelopes may be put in the collection basket. Extra envelopes are available in the gathering space. As always, thank you for your support.

### 'FUNSTER NEWS'



Funster Trips are open to all Parishioners & Friends  
**TRIP for 2014:**

- **July 11-19, 2014**—**Trains of the Colorado Rockies** featuring rides on 4 different trains. Also visiting Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, Colorado Nat'l Monument, Mesa Verde Nat'l Park and Garden of the Gods and Pike's Peak in Colorado Springs. Includes roundtrip nonstop air from Phila. **Book by Jan. 2 for early booking discount.**

Call Lin, 795-4396, for more information and detailed itineraries.



The flowers at the Blessed Virgin Mary Statue have been placed there, this weekend, in loving memory of Louise Bielli, requested by grandson, Dr. John A. Vivone.

### St. Thomas More St. Vincent de Paul Society

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." This is what Advent is all about, for we are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

**Together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas. The Society be collecting food or funds to purchase food, next weekend after all Masses. Merry Christmas and thank you for your generous donations.**

*Stan Thompson, President*



Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his/her existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person — among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life.

*Pro-Life Corner*

*Al Mac Elrath, Respect Life Coordinator - 779-7130*

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Please Note: No meeting in December.**

*Sheila Mohan, Chair*