

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: 7:00 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
 Intercersory 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
 Dolores Kreal 988-0271
 Pat Lachnicht 424-5636
 Ann Vigrass 428-7217
 Dom Sacca
 Tom Petrilli 751-1367
 Greta Tyrrell 428-2412
 Frank Krenslak 309-1999
 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
 Committee 424-3212
 Barbara Cerquitella 795-7323
 Lorraine Kennedy 489-0031

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.

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

Happy New Year

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

Solemnity of 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

NEW YEAR'S EVE MOVIE NIGHT THE MIGHTY MACS

Tuesday evening, December 31

6 PM Dinner - 7 PM Movie

ALL ARE WELCOME, BRING A FRIEND.

First come, first served: Space is limited!

\$15 donation - Reservation required to order food.

Sign-up sheets are in the gathering space.

Please bring a dessert or a side dish.

Contact Marianne Gorin, 346-1811,
or Joe Centonze, 751-7103, with any questions.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Stewards Share Love

"And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts."

COLOSSIANS 3:14-15A

Jesus is God's ultimate gift of love to us. The countless other blessings that God showers upon us are nothing compared to the gift of His only Son. And the only appropriate way for us to respond to such generous love is with our own generous love. When we dedicate our lives to sharing through *Stewardship* all the many gifts that God has placed within our hand, the peace of Christ truly will control our hearts. We will know Christmas joy every day.

PARISH COLLECTION

December 15, 2013

\$10,294.50 - 234 Envelopes

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

The Catholic Faith In Slow Motion (No. 27)

Fr. Phillip Johnson

A series of reflections about thinking, praying, professing and living the Faith of the Church.

“And the Word Became Flesh”

“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 that 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 baby in the manger.

“In the beginning” St. John begins his gospel with the first words of the Book of Genesis, because God's original *creating* Word (“And God *said*, 'let there be light' and there was light.”) has now entered into our world to create anew, to redeem the creation. 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 all eternity. That is, the Word, God's Son, is *co-eternal* with the Father. He is forever being begotten by the Father. God did not suddenly beget a 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 word's 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 and need, over against the immortal beings of the angels. By “flesh” St. John 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.

Two Natures, One Person. That's the theological phrase the Church gives us to chew on. 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. Not Superman but God-man. 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 Godly 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.

William Dix's gorgeous Christmas carol asks: “What Child is this who, laid to rest on Mary's lap, is sleeping?” We will never, in this life or the next, entirely comprehend the startling answer to the question. Nevertheless, meditating upon it, entering by prayer more deeply into the mystery of the Incarnation, our hearts and minds can bathe in the light of the mystery. And we can, by faith, follow the light where it leads.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Ministry Schedule for December 31, 2013 and January 4, and 5, 2014

Mass Time	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m.	Father Johnson	D Kreal B Casey	B Crawford, J Galati G Tyrrell	M Maggart	D Ha, A Rzepski B Scarpa
Mary, The Holy Mother of God 10:00 a.m.	Father O'Neill	P Kelton B Casey	D/L Lyon M Santiago	K McFadden	C/J McFadden
11:30 a.m.	Father Johnson	R Kapischke B Casey	M Ciccotta B Lento, L Levin	R Ciccotta	A/I Witting
Jan. 4 4:30 p.m.	Father	C Malatino	Sr. Zophia, I Rellosa P Rossi	D Miller	C Cepeda, B Scarpa J/P Wachman
Jan. 5 8:30 a.m.	Father	Sr. Pepita B Casey	A Del Campo-O'Brien Sr. Rosaria, B Scarpa	J Vecchiola	A Rzepski B Scarpa
10:00 a.m.	Father	Adult Choir D Kreal, B Casey	E Beckman, K Glover D Gould	D Mayfield	G/M Gray J Pol
11:30 a.m.	Father	S Caccavale B Casey	G Gadren, M Garber A Thompson	J Arnold	M/N Brown E Thompson

Women's Club News

Happy New Year

- **Board Meeting:** Wed., January 8, 2014, 7:30

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

STM youth

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January - Martin Luther King Service Project

February - Souper Bowl of Caring Project

- Ronald McDonald House Breakfast

Happy New Year from the Youth Group!



Picture of Jr & Sr Youth Group members standing behind the 1st & 2nd grade students in Camden at the 10th Annual Christmas Party.

Stan Thompson, Youth Coordinator, 424-1120

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ANY PARISHIONER wishing to donate new mittens or socks — any kind, any size, any color — may do so by hanging them directly on our Christmas Tree in the gathering space.

TIME TO CELEBRATE THE HOLY DAYS:

There will be NO Religious Education class on Tuesday, December 31.

Classes resume on Tuesday, January 7, 2014.

Hope you had a wonderful CHRISTMAS and have a blessed NEW YEAR!

The fourth Confirmation I preparatory class for all seventh grade students will be held on Sunday, January 12, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the St. Thomas More Hall. All seventh grade students are expected to attend that class as well as the 10 am Mass.

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

'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, includes roundtrip nonstop air from Philadelphia.

Book by Jan. 2 for early booking discount.

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



Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 28

9:00 am John Mohan, Sr. r/b John & Sheila Mohan
Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
4:30 pm Dick Schweitzer r/b Family

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 29

8:30 am Tom Wilkins r/b Mike & Pat Maggart
10:00 am Ernest Basile r/b the Balco Family
Analisa Difilippo r/b Joan & Jack Hyer
Paul Charette r/b Lynn Ellinger
11:30 am Robert Moore r/b Amy Osborn

MONDAY - DECEMBER 30

6:45 am People of the Parish
9:00 am Tom Wilkins r/b Bruno Family

TUESDAY - DECEMBER 31

No 6:45 Mass
9:00 am Mary Cinefra r/b Bob & Ann Marie Lento
4:30 pm Daniel Buckley r/b Jim & Pat Beaney
Vigil Mass

WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 1

(Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God)
10:00 am Anna Mary Wislocky r/b Wislocky
Family
11:30 am Ryan Travis r/b Mike & Helen Hawksley

THURSDAY - JANUARY 2

6:45 am People of the Parish
9:00 am Peter Yurcisin r/b Greta Tyrrell
Special Intention of Cindy r/b Rick &
Elaine

FRIDAY - JANUARY 3

6:45 am Antonio Del Vecchio & Emilio Bruno
r/b Bruno Family
9:00 am Tom Wilkins r/b Pat & Jim Beaney

SATURDAY - JANUARY 4

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

SUNDAY - JANUARY 5

8:30 am Paul Charette r/b Jim & Pat Beaney
10:00 am Tom Wilkins r/b Lynn Ellinger
Ryan Travis r/b Karen & Bruce Harrison
Virginia Foley r/b John & Rosemary Faford
11:30 am Kay Frain r/b Jack Boesch


PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

THE DECEASED... *Dionisio Culsla*, brother of parishioner Irene Rellosa.

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	
Danny Perla	Angelo DiGiacomo	Keri Fisher
Anna Bedrick	Wayne Mauri, Sr.	Helen Kane
Pat Brink	Eleanor Regan	Alfred DiFrank
Ginny Fritz	Harry Gindele	Chris Kolodzey
Mary DeVito	Deacon Jim Smith	Ethan Killeen
		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. 1st 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.

Please call the parish office, 424-3212, to retain, add or remove a person's name from the lists above.

Thank you.

Newly registered parishioners
Welcome! We're glad you're here.

Rudy & Antoinette Caraan
Antonina Bellesorte
John Brach
Harry Hill, Jr.



Could God be calling you to the priesthood?
Young Adult Priesthood Discernment Group
The Office of Vocations can help you (jr. or sr. in high school, college student or up to 39 yrs. old) discern and pray with others who are also considering the priesthood. **Meeting is Sunday, January 5, 2014 at 2:00 at Our Lady of Peace Parish, Williamstown.**

Fr. Michael Romano, 583-2858

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 5, 2014 - Mt 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?

Birthday Blessings to parishioner Henry Bourgeois, *Happy 100th!*



We pray that our once great nation may return to respect for life, which is the law of God and a truth on which this nation was founded; the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness -for the born and pre-born.

Pro-Life Corner

Al Mac Elrath, Respect Life Coordinator - 779-7130

THE PARISH REJOICES

with the families of **Maeve Elizabeth Bresani and Bennett Merrill Alber** both of whom were recently received into the Church, through the waters of Baptism.



Baptism Anniversaries

All children baptized in our parish in the last 2 years are invited to attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 12. These newer members of our Faith Community and their parents will be recognized and blessed during this Liturgy.

PARISH MINISTERS' BREAKFAST

All parish ministers are invited to attend our Annual Appreciation Breakfast. The breakfast is offered for ministers after either the 8:30 or 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 19, 2014. We hope many of you will be able to attend.

ST. THOMAS MORE PRAYER CHAIN:



Do you have a special intention for which you are praying? Have others share your need by calling the Prayer Line. All requests are kept confidential. Contact the parish office, 424-3212.

Fatima, Lourdes, and Parish Pilgrimage with Fr. Jon Thomas of Christ Our Light Parish - March 31-April 9, 2014 US passport required. Price: \$3,759 per person (includes air & ground transportation, 4-star hotels, and 2 meals per day). Fr. Jon will be the chaplain for the trip and say Mass daily. Air is on Delta/Air France from Newark airport. 1.5 days in Fatima, Portugal; 1 day in Brugos, Spain; 1.5 days in Lourdes, France; 3 days in Paris, incl. side trip to Nevers, France. Highlights include tours of Fatima & Lourdes & more. Dep. is \$400 pp, all payments must be received by Jan. 15. Please call for a flyer and more info: Mary Ann, 667-4531.