

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: 3:30-4:00 pm
or any time by appointment

Reverend Phillip M. Johnson, Priest-in-charge
Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate for Life Long Faith Formation
Sister Bozena, LSIC, Religious Education Coordinator
Julie Linn, Music Ministry
Kathleen Witts, Youth Coordinator
Pat Cannon, Parish Secretary • Marylee Garber, Parish Secretary
Sheila Tartamosa, Pastoral Associate for Parish Administration

DIRECTORY

Pastoral Leadership

Parish Trustees
John Mohan 424-3212
Greta Tyrrell 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 David Galloway 770-1270
Marriage Formation Bob/Liz Scarpa 795-1160
Parish Rel. Ed. Prog. Sister Bozena 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 Katie Witts 305-2914

Worship

Altar Servers Sister Ann Byrnes 424-3212
Pat Maggart 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
Pat Maggart 424-3212
Greta Tyrrell 428-2412
Frank Krenslak 309-1999

Ushers

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 Women's Club 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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 7, 2014

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.

High School Youth Group Tuesday, 7:15—8:15pm

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

Monday, December 8, 2014,
the Feast of the Immaculate Conception,
is a Holy Day of Obligation.
The Mass schedule for the Holy Day is:
6:45 am; 9:00am and 7:00pm

RETIREMENT FUND for RELIGIOUS December 13/14

Thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests have spent their lives serving others. Today, many need care. Please give generously to this second collection next weekend. Thank you.

You are encouraged to attend the
Regional Penance Service
(With private confession)

7:30 pm Monday, December 15, 2014
Christ Our Light, Cherry Hill, NJ
Many confessors will be present.

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays through Advent: 3:30—4:00 pm
Saturday, December 20: 9:30—10:30 am

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE - 2014 CHRISTMAS MASSES

Wednesday, December 24, 2014
(Christmas Eve)

4:00 PM and 6:00 PM

Thursday, December 25, 2014 (Christmas Day)

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

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Wednesday, December 31, 2014 (Vigil) 4:30 PM

Thursday, January 1, 2014

10:00 AM and 11:30 AM

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

This report is the last concerning the Increased Offering/Stewardship of Treasure Appeal now completed. Though there will be no more letters, you can always return one of the special Appeal Envelopes to make your intentions known. Even if you cannot make an increase it helps tremendously to build a budget on what are the financial intentions of our parishioners. The people of St. Thomas More Parish are to be congratulated for a truly outstanding response. We heard from 147 families and individuals and their increase totaled \$817.08. This outpouring of understanding and generosity is a great source of hope for the future of our Parish. Thank you and God bless you.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION November 30, 2014

\$8,700 - 177 Envelopes

Online giving: \$567 from 6 families

May the Lord bless you for your generosity to your parish

The Catholic Faith In Slow Motion (No. 53)

Fr. Phillip Johnson

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

The Sanctification of Time

As we experience it, not all time is the same. We all know this well enough. One hour may grind on so slowly we fear it will never end. Another hour may fly by in what seems but a moment. It depends on what fills the hour. Not all days and dates are equal in importance, which is why we celebrate anniversaries. The date “9-11” is now seared in the memories of Americans; it would seem a sacrilege to forget to mark the day. Not all days are equal. Your birthday is like no other day, and it ought to be joyfully remembered.

As the Church marks the passing of time, certain days and seasons are especially infused with meaning. All time, of course, can be made holy, as it is received as a gift from the Creator. But some days and seasons have been so filled up with God’s saving work that they are dense with holiness. Sunday, for example—the day in which time itself was redeemed by being filled with the presence of the risen Jesus.

Christians keep time sacramentally. We worship, not according to the seasons of the moon, but according to the days and events that marked the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Things are now changing in our culture. “*Anno Domini*” (A.D.) is being abandoned for “Common Era” (C.E.). Maybe our children’s children’s children will learn a calendar that no longer count years from “The Year of Our Lord.” But Christians can never forget that Christ's birth at Bethlehem was not only epoch-making, it was, as Dorothy Sayers said, “like a thunderbolt and split time into two halves.”

The Christian shares with all others the passage of time, and the passage of time leads to change and death. If we are to understand the frantic quality of modern life, we must discern the fear and dread with which human beings, caught in the race against death, fear time. In his *Mediations on Liturgy*, the Cistercian monk Thomas Merton has written about the anxiety of the “modern pagan,” the “child of technology,” who “lives not only below the level of grace, but below the level of nature—below his own humanity. . . . In such a world, a man's life is no longer even a seasonal cycle. It's a linear flight into nothingness, a flight from reality and from God, without purpose. . . except to keep moving, to keep from having to face reality” (p. 31).

In the Christian liturgical cycle, we are taken up into a new rhythm of life in which time is no longer the enemy. Christ has “tamed” time in his conquest of human death. In Christ, time is no longer simply a passing; it is filled with the spirit of pilgrimage. Time is no longer the thief that steals away our happiness; it is a herald announcing the approach of a destination. “Jesus has made this ebb and flow of light and darkness, activity and rest, birth and death, the sign of a higher life, a life which we live in him, a life which knows no decline, and a day which does not fall into darkness” (Merton, p. 29).

As we have entered the holy season of Advent, let's not allow the Advent days to fly by unclaimed. As sacramental time-keepers, “you know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the days is at hand. Let us throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves as properly, as in the day” (Rom. 13:11-14).

+ + +

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Ministry Schedule for December 13, and 14, 2014

Mass Time	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 p.m.	Father Johnson	Alyssa Julie	J. Mohan, R. Crawford, S. Mohan	D. Miller	L. & Z. Smith. B. Scarpa
8:30 a.m.	Father Rossi	Sr. Pepita Len	B. Lento, B. Massey, J. Kenney	M. Maggart	B. Scarpa, A. Rzepski
10:00 a.m.	Father Rossi	Choir/Becca Julie	E. Beckman, K. Glover, D. Gould	K. McFadden	J. & C. McFadden
11:30 a.m.	Father Johnson	Dolores Betty	B. Haughwout, M. Dwyer, M. Gorlin	D. Haughwout	A. & I. Witting, S. Russo

The Ministry Schedule can be found at the St. Thomas More website: <http://stthomasmorenj.org/>.



St. Thomas More Parish
NEW YEAR'S EVE MOVIE NIGHT
"Heaven is for Real"

BASED ON AN INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Wed., Dec. 31 - 7 PM

In the 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.
Bring a dessert or appetizer to share.



Sr. - High School students Jr. - 5th through 8th grades
Sun., Dec. 7 - Toy, Food, etc. Collection for Children in Camden after all Masses
Tues., Dec. 9 - Wrapping gifts for children in Camden
Sun., Dec. 14 - Christmas Party for Children in Camden
Tues., Dec. 16 - Sr. High Gathering, Christmas Party

Any questions or ideas for the youth group call **Katie Witts, YG Coordinator**, at 305-2914.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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 April 20, 2015.

The third class for Confirmation I candidates will be held this Sunday, December 7, from 11:00 am—12:30 pm in the St. Thomas More Hall. All seventh grade students are expected to attend that class as well as the 10 a.m. 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.

The Christmas Party for the children at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Camden will take place on December 14th from 8:15 am to 12 noon. Confirmation II preparatory class scheduled for December 14th, will be held at the Immaculate Conception. Parents are needed to drive, welcome and attend. We will give the children snacks, make a craft with them, play games and give gifts. We will bring lots of love and happiness to the children. STM youth are also invited to attend 4:30 pm Mass on Saturday, December 13th, followed by a wrapping and pizza party.

On Tuesday, December 16th, we will have a special Christmas Prayer Service for the children attending our Religious education Program and their families at 4:15pm and 7:00pm. They will be held in the church. Light refreshments will be provided after each of the services. Similar to 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 Fr. Johnson.



Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 6

4:30 pm Mary T. DiPaul r/b daughter,
Mary Ellen Carrozza

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 7

8:30 am Jenny Barber r/b Jim & Pat Beaney
10:00 am Joseph Flacco, III r/b Galati, Flacco &
Inverso Families
Dudley Cannon r/b Annette & Stan
Thompson
Helen Dombrowski r/b Dick & Claire
Spence
11:30 am Kay Frain r/b Jack Boesch

MONDAY - DECEMBER 8

6:45 am Kathleen Haughwout r/b family
9:00 am Russ DeMarco r/b Teri Bones
7:00 pm Dudley B. Cannon r/b Hu family

TUESDAY - DECEMBER 9

6:45 am Marie Sergi r/b John Sacca
9:00 am Robert J. Pearse r/b Spencer Mermer

WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 10

6:45 am Raymond Bushelli r/b Scott Bushelli
9:00 am Jim Novak r/b Cindy Zielinski

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 11

6:45 am Clara Bushelli r/b Scott Bushelli
9:00 am Larry Cotilla r/b wife, Betty
Monica Maggi r/b Lloyd &
Dolores Humphrey

FRIDAY - DECEMBER 12

6:45 am Pilar Castillo r/b Castillo family
9:00 am Special Intentions of Gary Scarpa
r/b Marie Budroe

SATURDAY—DECEMBER 13

9:00 am Living & Deceased members of
the Parish
Doros Modos r/b Scott Bushelli
4:30 pm Mary DeVito r/b AJ & Carol Ariani

SUNDAY—DECEMBER 14

8:30 am Veronica Lachnicht r/b Jerry
& Pat Lachnicht
10:00 am Mary Sobieski r/b Rossi family
John & Agnes Walsh r/b family
Genevieve & Fred Pfeiffer r/b
Walsh family
Bill Ellinger r/b wife, Lynn
11:30 am Joe & Kay Turiano r/b family

INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER

DECEMBER - That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.

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

Maria Storms	Betty O'Donnell	
Helen Kane	John B. Kennedy	
Phyllis Schadt	Michael Kapischke	
Ron Massey	Pauline Rosberg	
Mary Cowan	Stanley Kochanek	
Claire Boylan	Jerry McMenamin	
Frank Colbert	Joseph Console	
Don Kreal	Geralyn Coticone	
Jean Colbert	George Sweeten	
Pat Barton	Pasquale DiFronzo	
Leila Lore	Angelo DiGiacomo	
Ed Rivero	Wayne Mauri, Sr.	
Pat Beaney	Francesca Capra	
YunYun Shen	Deacon Jim Smith	
Rose Hession	Margaret Crawford	Carlos Santiago
Sue Hagan	Mary Ellen Lepre	Barbara Salpas
Anna Bedrick	Nicholas DiPaolo	Michael Suralik
Pat Brink	Marian Kapischke	Bill O'Donnell
Julia Lepre	Donna Gould	Frank Sines
Ann Vigrass	Martha Whiting	Teddy Shaffer
Ted Uhlman	Thomas Houston	Ethan Killeen
Rick Linn	Mena Ravena	Bill Botensten
		Chase Lupica
		Frank Cappetta
		Harry Gindele
		Eleanor Regan
		Pat Suralik
		Bryan Dietrich
		Vince DeMasi
		GeorgeGadren
		Elva Clark

THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...



SSgt Samuel Brough, Lt. Anthony R. Cosentino, Capt. Anthony T. DeMarco, SSgt John P. DeYoung, Lt. Nicholas G. Iannuzzi, PFC Sonny Morrison, 1Lt. Col. Ryan Orfe, Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa, and Lt. Col. Karl Rohr.



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.

Saint Thomas More Parish Welcomes All

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church; no matter what your current family or marital situation; no matter what your past or present religious affiliation; no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, etc; you are **Invited, Welcomed, Accepted, Loved** and **Respected** at Saint Thomas More Parish.

WELCOME!

New Parishioner Registration

(Are you attending Mass here regularly? Are you registered? If not, please fill out information below and return to the parish office. The parish office will contact you for further information. Please drop this form in the collection basket.)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

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 14, 2014 - John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light...When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" he admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ."..."I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord, as Isaiah the prophet said." "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

Commentary:

This reading tells the same story as the last two Sundays. Last week, we got the story of John the Baptist's ministry from Mark, and this week's passage is from the gospel of John. If you compare the two stories, you'll immediately see the parallels and also be conscious of the differences. In the distinctions, we often find the reason why the second story is told. Mark, who was writing a generation after the time of Jesus, was anxious to introduce us to the character of John, his ministry and who he was as a pivotal figure in salvation history. But in John's gospel, written in the second or third generation after Jesus, it was more important to tell who John the Baptist was not, for those who might experience some confusion on the subject. Most of the followers of John remained faithful to him even after Jesus appeared on the scene, and we know John's sect stayed active long after his death. For those who didn't understand that John willingly "decreased" so that Jesus could "increase," this story sets the record straight."

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?



Life is a gift that God has given us. That life is present in the pre-born; no human hand should ever end that life. Surely the cries of the babies whose lives have been extinguished before their birth reach the ears of God.

Pro-Life Corner
Al Mac Elrath, Respect Life Coordinator - 779-7130

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES



are included with your December contribution envelopes. 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. As always, thank you for your support.



'FUNSTER NEWS'



Funster Trips are open to ALL Parishioners & Friends
We have 8 spaces left for our spring bus trip (Kinky Boots at Forrest Theater) on Wed., May 6, 2015 - note date change.

2015 lineup is almost complete: Baja, CA Cruise (Feb. 19/20 to Feb. 27) then Paddlewheel Riverboat Cruise from Memphis to St. Louis (June 28-July 5) with fireworks display over St. Louis Arch – **Early booking discount of \$250 off per person available if booked & paid in full by Dec. 23. Call Lin, 795-4396, for prices/details.**

Stewards—Holy Life *"Prepare the way of the Lord..."*



We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a Stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts does just that—it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too.