

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
 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 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 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 14, 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—8:15 pm

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

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

Confessions

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

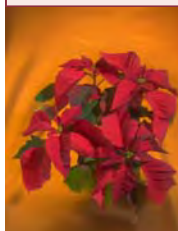
NEW YEAR'S MASSES

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



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 Vivone

Will Our Children have Faith?

Presenters: Fr. Phillip Johnson
& Janet R. Johnson



Parental, educational, pastoral, and practical reflections on the spiritual lives of children and how we can help to nourish their faith. This workshop is for parents of young children (infants through 6th graders).

Date: Saturday January 10, 2015—9:30AM to 12

Time: 9:30AM Registration & Coffee
10AM—12Noon Presentation & Sharing

Place: St. Thomas More Parish
Springdale Road, Cherry Hill
Child Care Provided

Call the Parish Office to Register
(856-424-3212)

Stewardship Talk---Shirley Kane---November 16, 2014



This parish has been my home in faith for many decades, dating back to when Mass was celebrated in the chapel of St. Mary's Nursing home.

I cherish my involvement as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister and Co-facilitator of a Small Christian Community Group. I served as a catechist for 10 years. I've also been involved with many special projects for the benefit of our parish family. When Father Johnson asked me to speak to you about my personal stewardship of time, talent, and treasure, I immediately reflected on the motivating impact of my parents' example. My parents instilled in me that God comes first.

The gift of Jesus Christ is immeasurable; He personifies Love. To love is to give. Attending mass each Sunday and praying regularly were top priorities in our home. While balancing all the responsibilities of raising 4 children, I witnessed their sacrificial offerings to the campaign that financed the construction of this church, then later the chapel. They significantly contributed their time toward many programs.

To Love is to give – those are the seeds my parents planted. After graduating from college, when I obtained my first career opportunity, I moved back home to build up capital and get ahead on paying off my student loan. From the time I received my first pay check, a financial priority of mine was giving a contribution to our parish collection each week. I don't remember how much it was, but I felt happily fulfilled to give as much as I could.

Fast forward in time, my husband, Bill, and I became registered parishioners shortly after we were married here. An immediate priority with our budget planning was to make consistent weekly donations to our parish. As our income increased, so did our contributions. After the birth of our daughter, Laura, our miracle, we gratefully made time to also give of our service while balancing full-time careers. Bill and Laura, who is a senior away at college, have each given of their time and talents in so many ways, too. I'm especially proud of Laura's service as an Altar Server through her senior year in high school. During the past year, Bill and I must attend different mass times because of our care-giving role to his ailing mother. Stewardship has become a way of life for us no matter what challenges we face.

Before I end my talk with you, I will share that one of those challenges in our household were periods of unemployment. They were humbling experiences. It hurt. Priorities became clearer in terms of what we need versus what we want. Our commitment to consistently support this, our home in faith, during those financially uncertain times, never wavered. We made sacrifices in other areas in order to maintain our pre-unemployment weekly contribution. By giving as we have, we have tried to place material things and money in their proper perspective. Back in June, it felt wonderful to be able to increase our weekly offering. **In the second letter to Corinthians, Chapter 9, verse 7 states we should give because we want to, "without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." There are always challenges on our time, talent and treasure, but it gets easier when you cheerfully accept God's call to generosity in your heart. To Love is to Give. God Bless all of you. Thank you.**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Ministry Schedule for December 20, and 21, 2014

Mass Time	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 p.m.	Father	Choir/Alyssa Julie	J/L Duffy D. Kreal	J. Mohan	J. Pol, D. Ha B. Scarpa
8:30 a.m.	Father Johnson	Rob Julie	B. Lento, Sr. Rosaria, R. Vaaderwlelen	D. Miller	B. Scarpa, A. Rzepski
10:00 a.m.	Father Rossi	Celline Julie	M. Santiago, M. Huynh, D. Staton	F. Egges	A & A Cammisa N. Brown
11:30 a.m.	Father Rossi	Carmen Betty	J. Kuchler, M. Garber, L. Levin	S. Kane	M, W, K, Quay

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

STM youth

Sr. - High School students

Jr. - 5th through 8th grades

Thank You for all the donations for the 1st and 2nd graders at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception! STM Youth are looking forward to a fun morning with the children on Dec. 14th.

THANK YOU

High School Youth Group Christmas Party
Dec. 16th 7pm

STM youth

All 5th—12th graders welcome!
Save the date!

Jan. 10th Service Event—Babysitting
Jan. 18th MLK Service Day
Jan. 23rd Open Gym Night

Tuesday Night High School Youth Group Meetings 7:15 – 8:15 pm!

Games Faith Discussions*
Games* Bring Friends!



We are looking to develop a Teen Choir and a Teen Bible Study!

Email youthgroup@stthomasmorenj.org to receive reminders and updates!

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

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

During the Advent Season, the children in our Parish Religious Education Program will be collecting mittens, gloves and socks for our Christmas Mitten Tree. 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. After Christmas, they will all be sent to the Immaculate Conception Parish in Camden to be distributed to the needy children.

The third Confirmation II preparatory class for eighth grade students will be held Sunday, December 14th from 8:15 am to 12 noon at Immaculate Conception.

On Tuesday, December 16th, we will have special Christmas Prayer Services for children attending our Religious Education Program and their families at 4:15 pm and 7:00 pm. They will be held in the church. Light refreshments will be provided after each service. Similar to previous years, the second grade 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.

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 April, 2015.

Sr. Bozena Tyborowska, 424-3212 - ext. 106

December 7, 2014 Collection

\$13,048

240 Envelopes

\$240 online giving

May the Lord bless you for your generosity to your parish

Please help yourself to a 2015 calendar, they are available at the entrances of the Church.

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 jocent4@gmail.com.

ALL ARE WELCOME, BRING A FRIEND.



Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY—DECEMBER 13

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

MONDAY - DECEMBER 15

6:45 am Maria Ricardina Ramos r/b Ertha Torres & family

9:00 am Dee Stoerlein r/b Bill & Ann Vigrass

TUESDAY - DECEMBER 16

6:45 am Special Intentions of Sr. Rosaria Sillitti r/b Franciscan Sisters

9:00 am Robert J. Pearse r/b his son, Robert Pearse

WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 17

6:45 am Marie Piatkowski r/b Colon family

9:00 am Jim Bones r/b Teri & family

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 18

6:45 am Elizabeth Ford r/b Michael Curtis

9:00 am Minnie Rulis r/b Marie Budroe

FRIDAY - DECEMBER 19

6:45 am Angeline Buonano r/b Marchese family

9:00 am Todd Rohrbach r/b Thomas & Judith Budroe

SATURDAY—DECEMBER 20

9:00 am Living & Deceased members of the Parish

4:30 pm Mary De Vito r/b daughter, Marianne & Tony Orlando

SUNDAY—DECEMBER 21

8:30 am Brian Deutsch r/b Kenny & Bailey families

10:00 am Marie Mazzagatti r/b Gullo family
Dudley Cannon r/b Dave & Lin Lyon
Maureen & Jim Dignan r/b Joe & Grace Sklenkar
John Papotto r/b wife & children

11:30 am Deceased members of St. Thomas More St. Vincent de Paul Society

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
Sue Hagan	Mary Ellen Lepre
Anna Bedrick	Pat Suralik
Pat Brink	Marian Kapischke
Julia Lepre	Donna Gould
Ann Vigrass	Martha Whiting
Ted Uhlman	Thomas Houston
Rick Linn	Mena Ravena



Carlos Santiago
Barbara Salpas
Michael Suralik
Bill O'Donnell
Frank Sines
Teddy Shaffer
Ethan Killeen
Bill Botensten
Chase Lupica
Frank Cappetta
Harry Gindele
Eleanor Regan
Elva Clark
Bryan Dietrich
Vince DeMasi
GeorgeGadren

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2014- Luke 1:26-38

...Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Commentary:

In today's first reading, David takes the initiative in providing God a suitable dwelling place among the chosen people. By contrast, in the gospel, it is God who takes the initiative in establishing a divine dwelling place in Mary and among us. What humans would confine to stones and mortar, God plants in human flesh and blood.

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?



Sarah Smith is a young woman from California who survived an abortion after her twin brother was aborted. She now speaks publicly for the pro-life cause, and declares, "My mother's 'choice' was my death sentence." Sarah helps us put a face on the abortion issue. It's not about abstract concepts; it's about real people being destroyed.

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.**

St. Vincent de Paul Society

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." As we prepare for Christmas, let us ask for the grace to help others know the love of the Lord.

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please share your abundance by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.



Stewards—Rejoice

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ."

This scripture reading sums up stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances: means even in bad