

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

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

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, 2015
10:00 AM and 11:30 AM

Small Christian Community Participants:



Our parish is blessed to have had over 180 parishioners participating in Small Christian Communities this Advent Season. We thank all those who shared their presence, time, and Faith in their small groups. We are grateful to our facilitators who provided a safe place for people to share their Faith stories.



The flowers at the Blessed Virgin Mary Statue have been placed there, this weekend, in loving memory of Fran Boesch, requested by her husband, Jack.

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—12 Noon Presentation & Sharing**

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

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

The Catholic Faith In Slow Motion (No. 54)

Fr. Phillip Johnson

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

The Mystery of the Incarnation

“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).

In everyday English the word “mystery” often refers to a “whodunit” story (real or fictional) in which an investigator figures out and brings to light the person who committed a crime. The sleuth “solves the mystery”. Or “mystery” often speaks of some situation or phenomenon we simply cannot understand. In the Christian vocabulary, the word has neither of those meanings. “Mystery”—a word used often in the texts of the Liturgy — designates the creating and saving work of God which is beyond our *full* comprehension but, at the same time, reveals God to us. Such mysteries are not to be solved, they are to be *entered into by faith*. As we enter the mystery we do indeed gain understanding. At the same time, the longer we ponder, the deeper we penetrate the mystery, the more mysterious it shows itself to be. I forget who it was that likened our meditating on such mysteries to the peeling of an onion layer by layer and never getting to the center.

So it is with the Christmas mystery, the Mystery of the Incarnation. It's comprehension is beyond us. But in meditating upon the words of Holy Scripture such as St. John's words above, the Church has learned, not so much to explain, but to knowingly profess the mystery.

“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. “In him was life, and the life was the light of men.” (Jn. 1:4). 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” speaks of the human being (along with the lower creatures) in its 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.

One person in two natures. Jesus was 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. + + +

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Ministry Schedule for December 24, 25, 27,28, 2014

Mass Time	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
Vigil of Christmas 4:00 p.m.	Father Joyce	Children Julie	P/N Kirincic, J. Galati, Sr. Bozena, Sr. Ann	L. Galati	C & I Fulton A. Rzepski
6:00 p.m.	Father Joyce	Choir/Christy Julie	J DeMichele, B. Lento B Massey, M. Santiago	P Lachnicht	K, E, A, W Quay
Christmas Day Midnight	Father Yetman	Sr. Pepita Betty	M. Ciccotta B. Scarpa	D Miller	T Ciccotta B Scarpa
10:00 a.m.	Father Johnson	Celline, Matt, Eli Julie	J. Slingson, D. Gould, K. Glover, E. Beckman	J Mohan	T. Kenney J Pol
11:30 a.m.	Father Johnson	Dolores, Matt, Eli & Julie	J. Kuchler, M. Dwyer K. Wislocky, S. Moore	K. Wislocky	A. & I. Wittig
Dec. 27 4:30 p.m.	Msgr. Graham	Becca Julie	I. Rellosa, T. Petrone, Sr. Sophia	T Andraka	L. & Z. Smith B. Scarpa
Dec. 28 8:30 a.m.	Father Rossi	Sr. Pepita Julie	J. Kenney, Sr. Rosaria R Vanderwielen	M. Maggart	M. & T. Dautle B Scarpa
10:00 a.m.	Father Rossi	Choir/ Mena Julie	P. Rossi, M. Santiago, D. Staton	D. Mayfield	M/N Ronan S. Russo
11:30 a.m.	Father Johnson	Dolores Betty	M Gorin, B Haughwout M. Ciccotta	R. Ciccotta	N. Brown A. & J. Zieba

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



Thank You for helping to make the Christmas Party for the 1st and 2nd

graders at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception a huge Success! Stay tuned for Pictures!

STM Youth would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas! We hope this Advent Season has helped you to make room in your heart for Jesus. Enjoy the time with your loved ones-- the greatest present is your presence!

Jan 10 Service Event - Babysitting

Jan 18 MLK Service Day

Jan 23 Open Gym Night

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

*Games *Faith Discussions *Games *Bring Friends!
We are looking to develop a Teen Choir and Teen Bible Study!

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

Call Katie 8563052914 with questions

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, deacons, 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**.

Saint Thomas More Parish is pleased to offer
“Enhancing Stewardship through Electronic Fund Transfer”

Prayerfully planned Offertory Giving

Automated, confidential & Secure

To get started log on to:

<http://www.stthomasmorenj.org/>

And click on the **Parish Giving Logo**

Follow the easy registration steps

Thank you for your generosity



Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY—DECEMBER 20

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 Sklencar
 John Papotto r/b wife & children
 11:30 am Deceased members of St. Thomas More
 St. Vincent de Paul Society

MONDAY - DECEMBER 22

6:45 am Elizabeth Ford r/b Michael Curtis
 9:00 am Bill Koelsch r/b family

TUESDAY - DECEMBER 23

6:45 am Elizabeth Ford r/b Michael Curtis
 9:00 am Peggy O'Malley r/b Martin

WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 24

4:00 pm Special Intentions
 6:00 pm Emily & Henry Ryszkiewicz r/b family

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 25

12 midnight Special Intentions
 10:00 am Joseph Zielinski r/b Cindy & family
 11:30 am D'Ippolito family r/b Radziwill family

FRIDAY - DECEMBER 26

9:00 am Dudley Cannon r/b Sheila & John Mohan

SATURDAY—DECEMBER 27

9:00 am Living & deceased members of the parish
 4:30 pm Frank Scott r/b Buzz Cirillo

SUNDAY—DECEMBER 28

8:30 am Elizabeth Wilson r/b DeMasi family
 10:00 am Joseph DiPhillipo r/b daughter, Marie
 John Ryan r/b family
 Anna DiPrimio & Analisa DiFilippo
 r/b Joan & Jack Hyer

INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER

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

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.

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.

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
 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.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

During the Season of Advent the candles on the Advent Wreath at all four weekend Masses, are being lit by eighth grade candidates who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation which will be conferred on them in April, 2015.

During the Advent Season, the children in our Parish Religious 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.

TIME TO CELEBRATE THE HOLY DAYS: There will be **NO Religious Education classes on Tuesday, December 23rd and Tuesday, December 30th.** Classes resume on Tuesday, January 6th, 2015. **Have a wonderful CHRISTMAS and a blessed NEW YEAR!**

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 21, 2014

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 28, 2014– Luke 2: 22-40

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people in Israel.”

Reflection:

The Gospel reading begins with the simple scene of a devout Jewish family obeying the Law. The holy man Simeon meets them and says that this child will fulfill the hopes of Israel. Not only that, he will be a “revealing light to the Gentiles.” One of Luke's dominant themes is salvation for everyone, Gentiles as well as Jews. This simple and strong description of the Holy Family concludes with their return home to ordinary life in a small village.

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?



Children long for somebody to accept them, to love them, to praise them. Let us bring the child back to the center of our care and concern. This is the only way the world can survive because our children are the only hope of the future. *Mother Teresa*

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—Receive God's Grace

“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!”



Faith is a gift from God. During this Christmas season take time in silence and pray to God. Thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Stewards, try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God's grace.

