

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 581-4206
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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 10, 2015

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.

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 Bob Scarpa

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

St. John Paul II Regional School - (856) 783-3088

Principal: Mrs. Helen Persing



Congratulations to Deacon Bob Scarpa, ordained a Permanent Deacon Saturday, May 3, 2015. Deacon Bob's Mass of Thanksgiving will be 11:30 am May 17th. A reception with light

refreshments will be held in the St. Thomas More Hall immediately following the Mass. All are encouraged to attend the Mass and extend to Deacon Bob personal good wishes.



Parish Collection for May 3, 2015
\$10,278.00 was given and 209 envelopes were used.
Online giving: \$700.00 from 8 families..

Walk with Mary
to celebrate motherhood and the great
example of Mary
Thursdays, May 14, 21, 28
9:45am-10:45am
Rain or Shine



Join us to pray and build community. To ask our Mother Mary for love and guidance in our busy lives.

All are welcome to attend. **We especially encourage women and mothers in hopes to build a community of moms to be encouraged through Mary.**

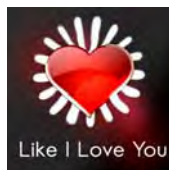
Come with or without your children, with children who can walk or be pushed in a stroller. (Katie will have her 1 and 3 year old). Bring your children, grandchildren, your friends. Meet at the Bell Tower by the front parking lot.

To RSVP or If you have any questions, please Call/Text
Katie 856-305-2914, Katie.Witts@gmail.com

Sixth Sunday of Easter—Stewards Love Jesus

"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" John 15: 12-13

Do you love Jesus? Do you consider Him your friend? Jesus says that if we love Him we should be willing to offer whatever we have to Him, not because we want praise and glory, but simply because we are His Stewards and we love Him.



The Catholic Faith In Slow Motion (no. 61)

Fr. Phillip Johnson

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

The Ascension of Our Lord

This coming Thursday the Church will celebrate the Ascension of Christ (see the liturgy schedule in this bulletin). St Luke, in the opening chapter of his Acts of the Apostles, writes this account:

He [the Risen Christ] presented himself alive to the apostles by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. . . . When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses. . . to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight (Acts 1:3, 6-9).

Forty Days . . .

One of the appearances of the risen Jesus turned out to be his last. During the forty days following his resurrection, he appeared to his disciples. He established their faith and restored them to his fellowship. He taught them to understand the Scriptures. He gave them their mission and established Peter as shepherd of his flock (John 21:15-19). He was then visibly “lifted up”, says St. Luke. Enshrouded by a cloud, he was “taken from their sight”. The Gospels speak clearly of a final “departure”. “As he blessed them, he “parted from them (literally, 'he exited') and was taken up into heaven” (Luke 24:51). They were no longer to expect his bodily appearances to continue. His presence with them would be in a new and different way.

The Man Jesus . . .

Jesus, Mary's Son, born in Bethlehem and raised in Nazareth, ascended. That is to say, the Ascension is not to be understood as a “spiritual” abandonment of his truly human existence. *The ascension is not an undoing of the Incarnation*, in which the Eternal Son of God “became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). It is in his risen humanity that he ascends to the Father's “right hand in the heavens” (Eph. 1:20). The apostles will continue to address him in prayer and praise by his human Hebrew name. He is “the one Mediator, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 2:5). And “at the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow . . . and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Phil. 2:11). Our Lord does not cease to be our brother.

Why is this truth so important? Because it is *our* humanity that he came to share. It is *our* human nature that he “takes with him” into heaven. It is a truly human “place” he is preparing for us (John 14: 2, 3). For what is heaven? Heaven is the place where God and his human creatures can dwell together.

Love Ascended: The Marks of the Cross . . .

In his appearances over forty days, the risen Jesus confirmed his identity to his disciples by showing them the signs of his suffering. It is a great blessing that, in depicting the ascension, Christian art has preserved this striking memory—that Jesus ascends still bearing the marks of his suffering. He is forever the *Crucified Christ*. His resurrection and ascension are indeed his victory over the cross, but he does not simply leave the cross behind. Rather, the signs of his suffering love are lifted up as the means of the world's salvation. In heaven he bears the title: “the lamb slain from the foundations of the world” (Rev. 13:8). And this is our salvation, that suffering love rules eternally “at the right hand of the Father”.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MINISTRY SCHEDULE for May 16/17, 2015

Mass Time	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 p.m.	Msgr. Graham	Choir/Becca Julie	K. Wislocky, S. Mohan D. Kreal	J. Mohan	J. & P. Wachman
8:30 am	Father George	Sr. Pepita Rich	Sr. Rosaria, B. Massey B. Lento	P. Lahnicht	J. Pol, A. Rzepski
10:00 am	Father Johnson	Jerry Julie	D. & L. Lyon D. Gould	K. McFadden	C. & J. McFadden
11:30 am	Father Johnson	Celine Julie	A. Thompson, L. Levin M. Garber	J. Arnold	A & I. Wittig

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

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sundays during the 10:00 am Mass will conclude for the summer with this Sunday's session. Classes will resume in September. Thank you to our Catechists who faithfully proclaimed the Gospel to our young children every Sunday: **Julianne Johnson—Coordinator; Janet Barbera, Denise Barrett, and Pamela Huynh, Clare Johnson, Natalie Frament and teenagers who helped them: Tatiana, Carrie, Jessa and Adria.**

During the month of May, the offertory gifts will be brought forward by our First Communicants.

Parish Religious Education Program registration forms for the 2015-2016 school year were mailed last week to the homes of all current students. Please complete and return them with appropriate fee as soon as possible, but no later than June 30th. Additional forms for first grade students and students who will be new to the program are available in the Gathering Space.

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



**Ascension Thursday,
May 14th,
is a Holy Day of Obligation**

**Masses for the Holy Day will be
celebrated at 6:45 and 9:00 am and
7:00 pm in the Church.**

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets
Thursday May 14th after the 9:00 am
Mass.



shutterstock - 64219393

STM YOUTH



A special Thank You to the Mothers of our church! Thank you for encouraging your children to participate and teaching them the way and the truth of Jesus!

The Challenge to Love As Jesus Loves

Scripture

John 15: 9-17: "Love One Another"

Symbol

A heart

Reflection

Today's Gospel is a love letter from God. Jesus isn't speaking to underlings or servants. We have been chosen by God. Jesus loved us so much that he laid down his life for his friends. Jesus gives us a new commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you." The love of God cannot be contained. It must be shared.

Your challenge this week

Carry your felt heart in your pocket through each day. Let it remind you to look for ways to "love one another." Make a special effort to consider those who sometimes seem unlovable to you.

Journal Questions

1. How does it make you feel when Jesus says, "I call you friends?"
 2. Why is it hard sometimes to love as Jesus asks us to love?
- Katie Witts youthgroup@stthomasmorenj.org or call 856-305-2914.

COURTYARD ROSARY To honor our
Lady **Wednesday, May 20, 7:30 pm**

ALL are invited! Please join us.

Light refreshments will be served
following the recitation of the rosary.

Sponsored by St. Thomas More Women's Club



MAY 10, 2015



Mass Intentions for the Week

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE SICK...



SATURDAY—MAY 9

9:00 am Living & deceased members of the parish
4:30 pm Bridie Sweeney r/b John & Sheila Mohan

SUNDAY—MAY 10

8:30 am Elizabeth & Buster Wilson & Madge DeMasi r/b Beverly & Vincent DeMasi
10:00 am Marie D'Ippolito r/b Radziwill family
Jerry Lachnicht r/b Dave & Lin Lyon
Helen Lamarca r/b Gary Gadren
11:30 am Helen Bantivoglio r/b children

MONDAY—MAY 11

6:45 am All mothers of the parish—living and deceased
9:00 am Frances Pisera r/b Gould family

TUESDAY—MAY 12

6:45 am Living & deceased members of the parish
9:00 am Joseph, Jr. & Lorraine Kapischke r/b Marian Kapischke

WEDNESDAY - MAY 13

6:45 am Fr. Patrick Lavin r/b a friend
9:00 am Arthur & Violet Kovera r/b Marian Kapischke

THURSDAY—MAY 14

6:45 am spec. intentions of Danuta Lachowicz
9:00 am Margaret McElrath r/b Albert McElrath
Deacon Ed Protzman r/b wife, Helen

FRIDAY—MAY 15

6:45 am Living and Deceased members of the Parish
9:00 am Frances Bretz r/b Friday Morning SCC

SATURDAY—MAY 16

9:00 am Living & deceased members of the parish
4:30 pm Gail Krenslak r/b Frank & Frances Krenslak

SUNDAY—MAY 17

8:30 am Jim Bones r/b Teri & family
10:00am Eleanor Bickel r/b Bob & Jessica Lane
Shirley Fitzpatrick r/b Teri Bones
Peter DeFalco r/b Judy Iacovelli & Henry Zappile
11:30 am Jerry Lachnicht r/b Tom & Fran LaCasse

Intentions of the Holy Father for the month of May, 2015-
That, rejecting the culture of indifference, we may care for our neighbors who suffer, especially the sick and the poor.

Pat Beaney	Anna Bedrick	Pat Brink
Maria Bruga	Francesca Capra	Frank Cappetta
Elva Clark	Frank Colbert	Sean Colbert
Joseph Console	Marie Corcoran	Geralyn Coticone
Mary Cowan	Margaret Crawford	Vince DeMasi
Bryan Dietrich	Pasquale DiFronzo	Angelo Di Giacomo
Santino Fiorelli	George Gadren	Harry Gindele
Sue Hagan	Thomas Houston	Helen Kane
Michael Kapischke	John Kehr	John B. Kennedy
Peggy Kiefner	Stan Kochanek	Don Kreal
Julia Lepre	Mary Ellen Lepre	Leila Lore
Chase Lupica	Joan Maguire	Marie Manalo
Wayne Mauri, Sr.	Jerry McMenamin	Nick Mitidieri
Mena Ravena	Ed Rivero	Pauline Rosberg
Barbara Salpas	Carlos Santiago	Yun Yun Shen
Teddy Shaffer	Frank Sines	Maria Storms
Michael Suralik	Pat Suralik	George Sweeten
Ted Uhlman	Ann Vigrass	



THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...

SSgt Samuel Brough, Lt. Anthony R. Cosentino, 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.

Second Collection next week:

Catholic Communications Campaign.

Pope Francis has reminded us that “communication is ultimately a human rather than technological achievement: **Through the CCC, we can “encounter others in the light of the Gospel.”** Your generosity to this collection is a direct act of witness in itself, as you facilitate the communication of the Gospel message. Please be as generous to this collection as your means allow.

“The Wisdom Years— A Spirituality of Aging”

Wednesdays June 3rd and June 10th

7:00 pm Parish Hall

Presenter: Sister Mary Ann Nolan, RSM

In these presentations, we will be reflecting on the value and meaning of our later years as God’s gift to us. Foundational to our discussion will be our faith in God and the wealth of living that each of us has accumulated over the years. We will take into account the challenges of our later years with regard to physical diminishment and loss. The presentation will be led by Sister Mary Anne Nolan, RSM. A Sister of Mercy for over fifty years, Sister has ministered to the spiritual needs of adults for more than twenty years. A spiritual director and professor at Gwynedd Mercy University, Sister is presently Co-Director of Mercy Spiritual Ministries, a mobile industry engaging individuals and groups in prayer, reflection and ongoing spiritual development

Call the Parish Office to register: 856-424-3212

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER– MAY 10, 2015

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 Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 17, 2015 - John 17:11-19

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed, saying: "Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are one. When I was with them I protected them...but now I am coming to you. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth."

Commentary:

As Jesus prepares to return to the Father, he consecrates the disciples (and us) to be his continuing presence in the world. Even though we are consecrated, we cannot avoid the tension between belonging to Christ and belonging to the world: we will be at odds with the world, but one with each other; we will be confronted with the evil one, but be protected from the evil one. In the midst of this tension we are assured of Jesus' love, prayer, and protection.

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?



Motherhood: It is a power, a glory and a privilege beyond measure. More importantly, it is a gift from God. Pray that all pregnant women will bring God's gift within them to full term.
Al Mac Elrath, Respect Life Coordinator - 779-7130

The Inaugural Msgr. Bob McDermott Golf Outing will be held on Monday, May 18th at Woodcrest Country Club.

For more information and a registration form, visit www.sjscamden.org or call/email Rich Kochanski at 856-966-8177; rkochanski@sjscamden.org. Help us honor the man who founded the St. Joseph's Carpenter Society in 1985. Since that time it has provided over 950 units of housing for the residents of East Camden. **All proceeds will benefit St. Joseph's Carpenter Society.**

House of Charity– Bishop's Annual Appeal continues. We are still working to make our goal of \$112,000. It is not too late for you to make your contribution to this appeal. We thank you for your generosity and our prayer is that with God's help and your generous sacrificial gift we will make and exceed our parish goal. **Pledge cards are at all entrances to the Church for your convenience.**

****If you made your contribution online or directly to the Diocese of Camden, please notify the St. Thomas More Office so we can adjust our accounting to reflect your donation****

Sandwich Makers: the next date is May 20th in St. Thomas More Hall **after the 9:00 am Mass.**

All are welcome to attend.
Marianne Wilkins 428-4924.



World Meeting of Families Prayer

(Join together with families from around the world in prayer. Pray the World Meeting of Families Prayer each day with your family for the success of the event and for your family's personal intentions.)

**God and Father of us all,
In Jesus, your Son and our Savior,
You have made us
Your sons and daughters in the family of the Church.**

**May your grace and love
Help our families
In every part of the world be united to one another
In fidelity to the Gospel.**

**May the example of the Holy Family,
With the aid of your Holy Spirit,
Guide all families, especially those most troubled,
To be homes of communion and prayer
And to always seek your truth and live in your love.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us.

World Meeting of Families– Philadelphia 2015

For more information on activities concerning the World Meeting of Families, check out the link on the St. Thomas More webpage: stthomamorenj.org.

Special Collection for Nepal

Bishop Dennis Sullivan is requesting that all the parishes in the diocese take up a special collection to aid the earthquake victims in Nepal. **This collection will betaken up this weekend.** The funds will be used to respond to immediate emergency needs for such necessities as water, food, shelter and medical care, as well as the long-term needs.