

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: 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
 Deacon Michael Scott
 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
 Dolores Kreal 988-0271
 Ann Vigrass 428-7217
 Dom Sacca
 Pat Maggart 424-3212
 Greta Tyrrell 428-2412
 Frank Krenslak 309-1999

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 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



There is one Mass for Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, 2015 and that will be celebrated at 9:00 am in the Church. We will be taking up a collection for the Poor and Needy at this Mass.

Save the Date! St. Thomas More Movie Night



Once again, this Christmas, we will be helping Sr. Claire Sullivan in her ministry to our brothers and sisters in Camden. **Sr. Claire requests gift cards to Wal-mart, Target or Shop-Rite. Checks—made out to Sr. Claire Sullivan— are also accepted.** These can be mailed directly to:

Sr. Claire Sullivan
Annunciation BVM Convent
603 W. Browning Rd.
Bellmawr, NJ 08031

or given to Lois Udicious (795-1890).



Parish Collection for November 15, 2015 \$9,042.00 was given and 190 envelopes were used. Online donations were \$591.00 from 12 donors. As always, thank you for your generosity to our parish.

Small Christian Communities officially begin this week. There is still time to sign up! Call Sr. Ann 424-3212.

Feast of Christ the King Stewards Eternal Kingdom



“Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom does not belong to this world.’” John 18: 36a

How often do we as Christian **Stewards** put all our time and energy into building a kingdom here on earth, forgetting that life here is short? The real kingdom is in the next life. Yet, how much time and energy do we invest in working for that eternal kingdom?

To the Members and Friends of our Parish: A Thanksgiving Holiday Greeting

Dear Friends in Christ,

In his *Leisure the Basis of Culture*, the Catholic philosopher Josef Pieper reminds us that the very concept of leisure has its origins in religious festival. Holidays derive from holy days. Worship and leisure are interrelated. This truth is perfectly expressed in Psalm 45 — “Be at leisure, and know that I am God.”

Of course, work is essential, and not only for “making a living”. Human labor of the mind and the body allows us to participate in God’s creative purposes (Gen. 1). Work is an expression of human dignity (which helps explain the suffering of the unemployed). But in our increasingly secularist culture, the world of work often claims too much of us. For many, longer and longer hours are required to “get ahead”. We are driven to work not only for our basic needs but for luxuries that have become needs—success being the measure of self-worth. In a religious context, one fasts in order to prepare for the feast; one works in order to be at leisure, for the love of family and friends, for learning, for prayer, and for partying. In the secular culture of “total work,” one rests only in order to get back to work.

Certainly, the historical origins of the American Thanksgiving Holiday are explicitly religious. There is no religious timidity in the language of the several thanksgiving proclamations issued by our presidents—from George Washington's 1789 declaration to Abraham Lincoln's 1863 institution of our now familiar national holiday. That “First Thanksgiving” of 1621 is deeply set in the American memory, when 53 pilgrims, joined by 90 native Americans, celebrated a three day feast to give thanks to God for the first harvest in their new homeland.

It is a national holiday, and as such a family-and-friends holiday. It is not a Church-instituted holiday. Nevertheless, the Church joyfully joins in the celebration, approving the deeply human religious impulse to stop and give thanks. In this the Church enriches the culture of our nation, helping to sustain the sense of the divine transcendence, with the awareness of life as *gift*. Because, as we know, it is possible for a holiday to go on and on, year by year, even as the religious consciousness withers. People stop to give thanks, but with little thought of the One to whom thanksgiving is due.

The Catholic Church, with other Christian communities, gathers to *name* the Giver, the Lord of the harvest, the Giver of life itself, the Providence that governs the history of all nations. The Church professes the Name of the Giver. Not just “God” or “Supreme Being”—the terms with which our present day civic religion must make do—but God the Father with his Son Jesus Christ, dwelling eternally in the communion of the Holy Spirit. The Church is an expert in such holidays, because *eucharistia* (Greek for “thanksgiving”) is the name of the Church's chief act of gathering.

This Thanksgiving Day, may God grant peace to your gathering of loved ones. May the Great Giver bless the sharing and feasting, the laughter, the rest and the play. Most especially, may he fill your homes and your hearts with the spirit of prayerful *thanksgiving*.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Phillip M. Johnson

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

MINISTRY SCHEDULE for November 28/29, 2015

Mass Time	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 p.m.	Msgr. Graham	Carmen Len	I. Rellosa, T. Petrone	J. Mohan	D. Ha, J. Puerschner
8:30 am	Father Rossi	Rob Rich	J. & L. Duffy B. Lento	J. Vecchiola	M. & G. Gray
10:00 am	Father Rossi	Celine/Choir Julie	K. Glover, D. Gould M. Santiago	F. Eggles	I. & A. Witting
11:30 am	Father Johnson	Celine Julie	B. Haughwout, M. Dwyer M. Gorin	V. Marchesani	S. Russo, M. Carr M. Mueller

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

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Please join us for the **Thanksgiving Family Mass** for the Religious Education Program that will take place on the **Tuesday, November 24th at 7:00 pm** in the Church. There will be NO Religious Education classes at 4:15 pm and 7:00 pm, although **all students and their families are cordially invited and expected to come to this celebration as we offer our thanksgiving to God for His goodness to us and our nation.** Please make every effort for you and your children to attend this Mass.

Liturgy of the Word for children—This program is offered **at the 10:00 am Mass.** All children **ages 4 through first grade** are welcome. No registration is needed.

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 confirmed on them in Spring 2016.

The **Food Collection for the Poor** will be held on **Tuesday, November 24th in the gathering space** and them will be presented with the gifts during our Thanksgiving Mass.

Have a blessed week!
Sr. Bozena, PCL, 424-3212 ext. 106

Lector Workbooks are ready to be picked up in the parish office.



STM YOUTH

Please let Katie (youthgroup@stthomasmorenj.org) know if you will attend or help with the following activities:

Family Mass of Thanksgiving—Tuesday, November 24 at 7 pm
Collection for Camden after all Masses Sunday 12/6 and 12/13

Second Saturdays Heart of Camden Saturday 12/12 8:30—noon

Christmas Party for the children at Immaculate Conception, Camden Sunday, Dec. 20 8:30—noon

Youth SCC will meet Sundays 11/29—12/20 at 11:15 am in Room 8. Please take time to deepen your faith and appreciate what the season of Advent is really about!

Happy Thanksgiving! Enjoy the time with family and friends. Thank God for the many blessings in your life. This year on Thanksgiving, maybe you can lead your family in prayer.....

Thanksgiving Table Prayer

O, Gracious God, we give you thanks for your overflowing generosity to us. Thank you for the blessings of the food we eat and especially for this feast today. Thank you for our home and family and friends, especially the presence of those gathered here. Thank you for our health, our work and our play. Please send help to those who are hungry, alone, sick and suffering war and violence. Open our hearts to your love. We ask your blessing through Christ your Son. Amen.

If you are not receiving weekly email reminders, please email youthoup@stthomasmorenj.org



Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY—NOVEMBER 21

9:00 am Living & deceased members of the parish

4:30 pm John Walsh r/b wife, Charlene

SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 22

8:30 am Pat Lachnicht
r/b St. Thomas More Women's Club

10:00 am Frank Cappetta.
r/b Sheila & John Mohan
Rose Hudson r/b Agata Scotto
Robert Mishak r/b Pat & Paul Daly

11:30 am Kimberly M. Hardenbergh
r/b Joseph Kuchler

MONDAY—NOVEMBER 23

6:45 am intentions of Sr. Theresa Colbert
r/b Franciscan Sisters of the Infant Jesus

9:00 am people of the parish

TUESDAY—NOVEMBER 24

6:45 am Julian Kulese r/b St. Thomas More
Religious Education Teachers
& Students

9:00 am Jack Kelly

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

6:45 am Michael Roy Manzi
r/b McGeady family

9:00 am Pilar Castillo r/b Christina Castillo

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

9:00 am Mass of Thanksgiving
Robert Moore r/b Sheila Moore
Jack Ryan r/b Ryan family

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

9:00 am Anna Krenslak
r/b Frank & Frances Krenslak

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

9:00 am Living & deceased members of the parish
Alfred & Marie Di Frank
r/b Marianne & Stacey

4:30 pm Raymond White r/b Wislocky family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

8:30 am Pat Lachnicht r/b Tobin family
10:00 am Helen Lamarca r/b SCC family
Lena F. Ferrarese r/b Joan Hyer
Cecily Iris Groh r/b Kics Eggleston
11:30 am Patrick Matucci, Esq.
r/b Joseph Kuchler

Papal Intentions for the month of November: .That we may be open to personal encounter and dialogue with all, even those whose convictions differ from ours.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

THE SICK...

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



THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...

SSgt Samuel Brough, Lt. Anthony R. Cosentino, Spc. Peter DeCrescenzo, SSgt John P. DeYoung, Lt. Nicholas G. Iannuzzi, PFC Sonny Morrison, 1Lt. Col. Ryan Orfe, and Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Edwin Fabricius



Knights of Columbus Council #6173 of Cherry Hill will be praying the rosary on the 5th Sunday of each month until May 29, 2016 to foster greater devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary and to strengthen the faith of members, their families and others in the parish community. It will be prayed in the **St. Thomas More Chapel** after the 11:30 am Mass. **Save these dates: November 29, 2015, January 31, 2016, May 29, 2016.**



Festival of Lessons & Carols

St. Thomas More Parish is hosting a "Festival of Lessons and Carols" on Sunday, December 6th at 3:00 pm in the Church. This is a service of Scripture and Song that dates to the late 19th century. Come, enjoy and be inspired by Area Choirs singing musical pieces proclaiming Christ's coming!

**Area Choirs: Merion Mercy Academy Chorale
Christ Our Light Choir
Bishop Eustace Select Choir
Saint Josephine Bikhita Gospel Choir
Saint Thomas More Choir**

All parishioners and friends are invited to attend!

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, NOVEMBER 22, 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 the First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2015 – Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves...Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."

Commentary:

A supervisor in an office checked the contents of all the employee's desktop computers. Some people on the floor were panicked, since they had a lot of activity on their computers that was not exactly work-related. But some folks in the office were relatively serene in the face of the unexpected inspection. They had nothing to fear. They used their workplaces to do their work and gave their employers a just day of labor. In the season of Advent, the gospels have a lot to say about the coming day of justice, when "people will die of fright" because of what they've done and failed to do. We don't have to be in the number. All we have to do is live thoughtfully, intentionally, and vigilantly, as if every day could be the day of our reckoning.

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?



What can I do to help stop abortion? Pray daily. Read! Be more informed about abortion. Wear the precious feet pins, use pro-life stickers and decals, use stickers on envelopes, wear pro-life t-shirts, take part in Life Chains, conduct prayer vigils, distribute pro-life literature in church and elsewhere.

Al Mac Elrath, Respect Life Coordinator - 779-7130

Happy Thanksgiving from the members of the Women's Club.

Women's Club Board Meeting, Wednesday, December 2nd at 1 pm, Classroom #1.



Congratulations New Altar Servers !



On December 20, *STMYouth* will be going to Camden to host a Christmas Party for 1st & 2nd graders at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. They will take toys, food, crafts and lots of love and happiness to the children. They would appreciate and donations of food, toys or crafts to help make this a very special party for the children. Email [Katie youthgroup@stthomasmorenj.org](mailto:katie.youthgroup@stthomasmorenj.org). Thank you for your generosity, support and prayers for STM Youth.



Saint Thomas More Parish is on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/StThomasMoreCH>
Please like and follow us!