

# 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](mailto: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  
 Parish Festival 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



**Christmas Masses**

**Christmas Eve**

4:00 pm and 6:00 pm

**Christmas Day**

12:00 midnight

10:00 am & 11:30 am

**New Year's Masses-Mary, Mother of God**

**New Year's Eve**

4:30 pm

**New Year's Day**

10:00 am & 11:30 am



**Attention Sandwich Makers!**

Mark your calendars for **next year's dates— always after the 9 am Mass:**

Wednesday, **February 3rd**; Wednesday, **March 2nd**; Wednesday, **April 6th**; Wednesday, **August 24th**; Wednesday, **October 5th**; and Wednesday, **November 2nd**.



**Poland, World Youth Day 2016!** A pilgrimage for those ages **18—39 from July 22—August 1, 2016** to Krakow, Poland. This 11 day life-changing journey of faith will include praying with the Holy Father and millions of youth/young adults from around the world, as well as breathtaking trips to Auschwitz, Mass at Czestochowa, Divine Mercy Sanctuary and Zakopane, plus pre/post pilgrimage experiences at home. Call the parish office at 424-3212 if interested. **\$3,399 pp.**



The flowers at the Blessed Mother statue are placed there in loving memory of Fran Boesch by her husband, Jack.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent Stewards Prepare for Joy**

*“For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.” Luke 1:44*

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading each Sunday, do you “leap for joy”? If not, don't blame the lector or cleric, rather look inside yourself. Do you prepare for Mass each week as a **Christian Steward** or do you just show up and expect to be entertained?



# The Catholic Faith In Slow Motion (no.72)

Fr. Phillip M. Johnson

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

## The Jubilee Year of Mercy

Having begun on December 8 (Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception) this “Holy Year of Mercy” will conclude on Sunday, 20 November 2016 (the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe). Pope Francis announced the Jubilee Year last March 13, during the season of Lent. The following words are taken from that announcement.

“Dear brothers and sisters, I have often thought of how the Church may render more clear her mission to be a witness to mercy; and we have to make this journey. It is a journey which begins with spiritual conversion. Therefore, I have decided to announce an *Extraordinary Jubilee* which has at its center the mercy of God. It will be a *Holy Year of Mercy*. We want to live in the light of the word of the Lord: “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (cf. Luke 6:36). And this especially applies to confessors! So much mercy! . . .

I am confident that the whole Church, which is in such need of mercy for we are sinners, will be able to find in this Jubilee the joy of rediscovering and rendering fruitful God’s mercy, with which we are all called to give comfort to every man and every woman of our time. Do not forget that God *forgives all*, and God *forgives always*. Let us never tire of asking forgiveness. Let us henceforth entrust this Year to the Mother of Mercy, that she turn her gaze upon us and watch over our journey: our penitential journey, our year-long journey with an open heart, to receive the indulgence of God, to receive the mercy of God. . . .”

The pope’s words bring together a double perspective. He speaks of the mercy of God that each of us so desperately needs; and he speaks of the mercy that we are called upon to lavishly render to others. “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful”. The receiving and the giving inevitably go together. The mercy we show to another is not *my* mercy but *God’s* mercy, which we have received and which flows through us to others.

Here and elsewhere, the pope’s words in praise of the mercy of God inevitably shine a light on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The whole of the Christian life is a constant receiving of forgiveness. All the sacraments are signs and bestowals of God’s mercy. But in the confessional, God’s mercy takes on a personal sacramental intimacy all its own. Because in the confessional *the personal act of confessing our sins with honesty, in a state of spiritual nakedness before God, is met by the direct and personal Word of God’s forgiveness through the human voice of the priest*. But the pope says it so much better.

“The transformation of the heart that leads us to confess our sins is a “gift from God”. We cannot do it alone. The power to confess our sins is a gift from God, it is a gift, it is “his work” (cf. Eph 2:8-10). Being touched with tenderness by his hand and molded by his grace allows us to draw near to the priest without fear for our sins, but with the certainty that we will be accepted by him in the name of God, and understood despite our wretchedness; and even to approach without a defense attorney: we have the One who alone gave his life for our sins! It is He who always defends us before the Father, He always defends us. As we exit the confessional, we will feel his strength which gives new life and restores ardor to the faith. After confession we are reborn.”

The Christmas season is now upon us. This is not Lent! But of course, that baby in the manger is the incarnation of the Divine Mercy, the coming-down of mercy to us in the flesh. He will grow up to die for our sins. What better time that the Christmas season to return to the confessional.

+ + +

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 20, 2015**

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE for DEC. 24/25/26/27, 2015**

<b>Mass Time</b>	<b>Presider</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Extraordinary Minister</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Altar Server</b>
Dec. 24 4:00 p.m.	Father Rossi	Children Julie	J. Galati, P. & N. Kirincic Sr. Bozena, Deacon Scott	L. Galati	I. & C. Fulton C. Oatway
6:00pm	Father Johnson	Mena/Choir Julie	J. DeMichele, B. Massey, B. Lento, Deacon Scott	M. Maggart	K, E, A, & W Quay
Dec. 25 12 midnight	Father Johnson	Rob Budesa Rich	M. Ciccotta, Deacon Scott	D. Miller	
10:00 am	Father Fritz	Celine Brass quartet Julie	T. Petrone, K. Glover E. Beckman, D. Gould	K. McFadden	C. & J. McFadden
11:30am	Father Johnson	Celine Brass quartet Julie	J. Kuchler, M. Gorin P. Lavala, L. Levin	J. Kuchler	M. Widmer A. & J. Zieba
Dec. 26 4:30pm	Father Johnson	Carmen Rich	G. Tyrrell, B. Lento J. DeMichele	T. Andraka	J. Puerschner D. Ha, S. Russo
Dec. 27 8:30am	Father Johnson	Rob Rich	B. Lento., B. Massey Sr. Rosaria	J. Vecchiola	M. & G. Gray M. Widmer
10:00am	Father Johnson	Becca Julie	K. Glover, D. Staton E. Beckman	K. McFadden	C. & J. McFadden M. Carr
11:30am	Msgr. Graham	Dolores Julie	M. Garber, L. Levin A. Thompson	J. Kuchler	A. & I. Witting M. Mueller

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

**PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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 size, any kind, any color— to be placed on our tree. After Christmas, they will be sent to Immaculate Conception Parish to be distributed to needy children.

**Christmas Party for the Children at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception** will take place December 20th from 8:30am —12 noon. **Confirmation II Preparation class will be held at the Immaculate Conception.** Parents are needed to drive and welcome to attend.

**Tuesday, December 22nd,** we will have special **Christmas Prayer Services for Religious Education students and families at 4:15 pm and 7:00 pm in the church.** The **Fourth Grade children will enact the first Christmas during the afternoon service.** The **Evening Prayer Service will be led by Fr. Johnson.** Light refreshments will be served after both services.

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

**STM YOUTH**

Please check your email for more information and dates for January! If you do not receive email updates, please email Katie— [youthgroup@stthomasmore.org](mailto:youthgroup@stthomasmore.org).

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before His birth. It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church.

*May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.*



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 20, 2015**



**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**SATURDAY—DECEMBER 19**

- 9:00 am** Living & deceased members of the parish  
**4:30 pm** **Mary DeVito**  
 r/b Marianne & Tony Orlando

**SUNDAY—DECEMBER 20**

- 8:30 am** **Pat Lachnicht**  
 r/b Ann & Bill Vigrass  
**10:00 am** **Rose Hudson** r/b Helene Friedman  
**Dolores Papotto** r/b Darlene, Michael & Josephine Welsh  
**Hilda Pellerito** r/b Chris & Lisa Mele  
**11:30 am** **Frank Cappetta**  
 r/b Bill & Mary Ellen Carrozza

**MONDAY—DECEMBER 21**

- 6:45 am** intentions of the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception  
**9:00 am** **John & Dolores Papotto** r/b children

**TUESDAY—DECEMBER 22**

- 6:45 am** intentions of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus  
**9:00 am** **Bill Koelsch** r/b Carol & family

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23**

- 6:45 am** intentions of the Sisters of Mercy Mid-Atlantic Community  
**9:00 am** **Max Johnson** r/b Sheila & John Mohan

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24**

- 4:00 pm** People of the Parish  
**6:00 pm** **Pat & Jerry Lachnicht**  
 r/b John & Sheila Mohan

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25**

- Midnight** **Frank Cappetta** r/b Kathleen & Family  
**10:00 am** **Joe Zielinski** r/b Cindy & family  
**11:30 am** **Sarah Centonze** r/b son, Joe

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26**

- 9:00 am** Living & deceased members of the parish  
**4:30 pm** **Pat Lachnicht**  
 r/b Bill & Mary Ellen Carrozza

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27**

- 8:30 am** **DeMasi & Wilson family**  
 r/b Beverly & Vincent DeMasi  
**10:00 am** **D'Ippolito family** r/b Radziwill family  
**Anna DiPrimio** r/b Jack & Joan Hyer  
**Annalisa DiFilippo** r/b Jack & Joan Hyer  
**11:30 am** **Frank Cappetta.** r/b Sheila Moore

**Papal Intentions for the month of December:** That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus, a sign of certain hope.

**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, GERALYN 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, Claire Spence, Dick Spence, 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,

**Family Movie Morning— New Year's Eve Day  
 10 am December 31, 2015**

**Movie to Be Announced**



**All Families are welcome to attend!** Popcorn, pretzels, water and juice will be served. Please bring a blanket to sit on and a snack to share.

**\* \*New Year's Eve Dinner & Movie Night \* \*  
 6:30 pm Dinner, Movie to Follow  
 December 31, 2015**

*The Apostle Peter and the Last Supper*  
**Sign up sheets available in the Gathering Space.**  
**Reservations requested for meal planning purposes.**

**Calendars for 2016** are available at the entrances to the Church. Please **help yourself to a calendar.**

**A big thank you to all Small Christian Community Participants:**

Our parish is blessed to have had 150 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.



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 20, 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2015 – Luke 1:39-45

Mary traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

#### Commentary:

The prime example of preferring God's will to our own plans is Mary of Nazareth. A young girl with her whole life ahead of her, a teenager with dreams like any other, Mary found her personal plans in disarray the moment the angel showed up in her chamber. Yet Mary trusted God's plan over her own, and when she flew to the side of her older cousin, she greeted another woman who had done the same. The image of these two women falling into each other's arms is celebrated as the perfect response of joy between true believers. Many will attend church this holiday season, but few will give their lives over to the will of God as Mary and Elizabeth did. But if you and I choose to become such people, we will share in the dance of these two cousins and know their joy.

#### 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?



As far as abortion is concerned, it is part of the fifth, not the sixth, commandment. "You shall not kill!" We have to presume this is obvious and always stress that the human person begins in the mother's womb and remains a human person until his or her last breath. The human person must always be respected as a human person.

*Pope Benedict XVI, August 13, 2006*

*Al Mac Elrath, Respect Life Coordinator - 779-7130*

**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 is on Facebook!  
<https://www.facebook.com/StThomasMoreCH>  
Please like and follow us!

#### **WELCOME!**

##### *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.

##### **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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_