

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



**Second Saturdays
Heart of Camden**

If you are looking for a **family service project** to start the new Year, why not consider **Second Saturdays Heart of Camden**? Men, women, families, teens, all are welcome to help with this ministry. We will be **leaving St. Thomas More parking lot at 8:30 am; returning 12 noon. The dates for this year are: Jan. 9; Feb. 13th; Mar. 12; Apr. 9; May 14.** Call Katie 424-3212 for more information or to sign up.

Paul VI Slam Dunk Tours: Please join us for a special pre-game tour of our school, followed by a home basketball game: **Paul VI Girls v. Timber Creek, Saturday Jan. 9. Tours at noon; game at 1 pm. Paul VI Girls v. Cherokee, Thursday, January tours at 6pm; game at 7pm.**

Reservations appreciated; please visit paulvihs.org for more information or to make a reservation. Students must be accompanied by an adult; accompanying adult will receive complimentary game pass.

Questions? Email Mrs. Kathleen Stewart at

kstewart@pvihs.org.

**Stewardship Reflection– Epiphany of the Lord
Stewards Offer Their Treasures**

“They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” Matthew 2:11b

Notice the order of events in the Magi’s visit. First, as good **stewards**, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know



what God may be asking us to share

A Pastor's Christmastide Litany of Gratitude

Fr. Phillip M. Johnson

I know a man whose way of expressing his gratitude to others is to say, "Thank you, and *thank God for you*". The following litany of Gratitude is offered to you, and especially in thanksgiving *for you*.

For the gifts of time, talent, and treasure,
offered by the faithful of our parish,
in adoration of the Christ Child—
I thank you and praise you, O Lord.

For the singers and musicians, the old and young,
who led us in Your praise—
I thank you and praise you, O Lord.

For Advent Lessons and Carols,
the planners and choirs, the servers and hosts, the music and food —
I thank you and praise you, O Lord.

For the Knights of Columbus who helped us "Keep Christ in Christmas"
and sang His carols in nursing homes—
I thank and praise you, O Lord.

For mothers and fathers and grandparents, for catechists and teachers,
who prepared our children for the Christmas celebrations—
I thank and praise you, O Lord.

For crèches and candles, for flowers and wreaths, and evergreen all around
for those who adorned our church with the beauty of holiness;
for Holy Mary at the Door—
I thank and praise you, O Lord.

For our staff, and all who clean, fix, plan, organize, and maintain,
that others can pray and worship with ease—
I thank and praise you, O Lord.

For all who, by giving or doing, remembered those in need at Christmas;
for the SVDP Society, the Women's Club, the K.O.C. the Youth Group, with all who supported them,
I thank and praise you, O Lord.

For readers proclaiming God's Word, for servers at Christ's Altar,
for sacristans and ushers, for ministers of Holy Communion, for counters of money,
with all the faithful gathered
at the Lord's Altar on the Lord's Day—
I thank and praise you, O Lord.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, JANUARY 3, 2016

MINISTRY SCHEDULE for January 9/10, 2016

Mass Time	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30pm	Father	Becca Rich	T. Petrone, Sr. Sophia K. Wislocky	K. Wislocky	J. Wachman M. Widmer
8:30 am	Father Rossi	Sr. Pepita Rich	J. Singson, B. Lento R. VanderWeilen	M. Maggart	J. & A. Zieba M. Carr
10:00 am	Father Rossi	Celine/Choir Julie	M. Santiago, K. Glover J. Mazzagatti	K. McFadden	C. & J. McFadden J. & A. Moyer
11:30 am	Father Rossi	Celine Julie	J. Kuchler, G. Gadren M. Gorin	J. Arnold	E. W. & K. Quay C. Oatway

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

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

On the threshold of the New Year, 2016, I wish you the grace and blessings of God in good health and joy.

Classes resume on Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

The fourth **Confirmation I Preparatory Class** for all seventh grade students will be held on **Sunday, January 10th from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm in the St. Thomas More Hall**. All seventh grade students are expected to attend that class as well as the 10:00 am Mass. **Research questions due.**

All children who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Reconciliation on January 23rd are expected to attend the special preparation retreat on Saturday morning, January 16th from 9:30 am—12:00 noon.

Have a blessed week!

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

STM YOUTH

All 5th—12th graders are welcome and encouraged to participate in the **STM Youth Group (YG)**. Youth Group is filled with Faith, Friends and Fun! Come try it out. You do not need to attend everything to be in the Youth Group— Come when you can.

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

Second Saturdays Service Days at the Heart of Camden:

Jan 9 Feb. 13 Mar 12 Apr 9 May 14
*2/13 we will be going to Ronald McDonald House to serve breakfast.

Service Hour before Religious Education 6 —7pm:

Jan. 12, 19, 26 Feb. 2, 16, 23 Mar 8, 15

Youth Group Events

Tentative Schedule— Events might be added or removed

Email youthgroup@stthomasmorenj.org to be added to the distribution list.

Jan. 17 following the 11:30 Mass— MLK Service Day

Feb. 6 Franklin Institute with CH Parishes (\$25)

Feb. 7 Souper Bowl of Caring

Feb. 13 Ronald McDonald House Breakfast

March 4 Bowling Night

March 13 Youth Congress

April 22-23 Overnight Retreat

May 15 Six Flags Great Adventure



**Women's Club News
St. Thomas More Book Club
meeting:**

**1:00 pm, January 12, 2016
Mary Lou Thomas' house.**

We are reading
***The Invention of Wings*
By Sue Monk Kidd**

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, JANUARY 3, 2016



Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY—JANUARY 2

- 9:00 am Living & deceased members of the parish
4:30 pm **Jean DeCandia**
r/b Carol & AJ Ariani

SUNDAY—JANUARY 3

- 8:30 am **Bob Moore** r/b Sheila
10:00 am **Ugo DiLullo** r/b Teri Bones
Emilio Bruno & Antonio DelVecchio
r/b DelVecchio & Bruno family
Elizabeth Bobrownicki
r/b Phyllis Kolecki & family
11:30 am **John & Helen Bantivoglio**
r/b children

MONDAY—JANUARY 4

- 6:45 am COMMUNION SERVICE
9:00 am **Edward J. Murray**
r/b Cecilia T. Murray

TUESDAY—JANUARY 5

- 6:45 am COMMUNION SERVICE
9:00 am **Tony Serra**
r/b Nick & Pat Kirincic

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

- 6:45 am **JoAnn Gadren** r/b Gary & family
9:00 am **Joe Kenney** r/b Ron & Gail Bizzoso

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

- 6:45 am COMMUNION SERVICE
9:00 am **Brian Deutsch**
r/b Fran & Mary Kenny

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

- 6:45 am COMMUNION SERVICE
9:00 am intentions of **Deacon Bob Scarpa**
r/b Ken & Kin Wislocky

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

- 9:00 am Living & deceased members of the parish
4:30 pm **Frank Shicatano**
r/b daughter, Marie Glaviano

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

- 8:30 am **Pat Lachnicht**
r/b Beverly & Vincent DeMasi
10:00 am **Sally Benson** r/b Pat & Paul Daly
Anna Wislocky r/b Wislocky family
Richard Schweitzer r/b Sally & family
11:30 am **Carrie Long** r/b Don & Dolores Kreal

Papal Intentions for the month of January: That sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: *THE SICK...*



Pat Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Anna Bedrick, Pat Brink, Francesca Capra, 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, 1Lt. Col. Ryan Orfe, and Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa

Good Counsel is a family for those in need, serving God, who is the father of the orphan, defender of the widow and who gives the lonely a home to live in. Our Lord's call to serve the disadvantaged compels us to offer love, shelter and the opportunity to grow in self respect and independence. **We invoke the patronage of Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel,** to help us protect mothers in need and to love their children from the moment of conception. **Good Counsel began Lumina, a healing outreach and referral service for those who, in any way, are suffering from the effects of abortion.** For information on retreats, healing services and coping with the post traumatic effects of an abortion experience, call 877-586-4621 or email Lumina@PostAbortionHelp.org.

Clean Your Closets to Support Options For Women



Options is collecting all men's, women's & children's wearable clothing (no tears or stains), shoes, handbags and backpacks as a year-round fundraising effort.

Please bring your bagged donations to Options' clothing bin (located in the corner of our rear parking lot), Monday—Thursday, 9am—4pm. Options is located at 1500 N. Kings Highway, suite 11—at the corner of Ormond Ave., Cherry Hill. (Look for DiGulio's shoes). A receipt will be available for you take at the time of your donation.

Thank you for your continuing donations!

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, JANUARY 3, 2016

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 Baptism of the Lord, January 10, 2016 – Luke 3:15-16

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Commentary:

The Gospel speaks to us about allowing God to be God and remembering that we are here to discern God's Will in our lives. Jesus comes to John the Baptist and asks for Baptism. John is worried that he is not worthy to baptize Jesus. This concern of John's is holding up the revelation God wants to make! Jesus tells John to "allow it" – to let God be God for now. Once John gets out of the way, the voice from heaven can be heard plainly.

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?

Every pregnancy regardless of the circumstances is part of God's divine plan. In order to do His will, that pregnancy needs to be lovingly allowed to come to full term. Abortion is saying no to God.



Al Mac Elrath, Respect Life Coordinator - 779-7130

2015 Generation Faith Essay Contest

High school and college students interested in reflecting on the joys and challenges that come with living out (or struggling with) one's faith in the midst of real life are encouraged to write true personal essays, between 800—1,200 words. The essays should feature strong narratives and real-life examples from the writer's experience as a young person in the church today. Writers should think creatively and broadly about their faith experience. The **winning entry will be awarded \$1000 and will be published in *America* and *The Jesuit Post*** Additional entries may be chosen for publication in *America*. **To be eligible, you must be enrolled as a full-time high school or college student at the time of the contest deadline. Your submission must be previously unpublished (including on personal websites) and must be original work. All entries must be submitted by 11:59 pm on January 10, 2016.**

<https://americamedia.submittalbe.com/submit/48329>

The Retrouvaille Marriage Program offers help for struggling marriages. Tens of thousands of couples have successfully saved their marriages by attending a Retrouvaille weekend and the 6 sessions that follow it. **The next program begins on the weekend of February 12, 2016 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA.** For more information or to register for the upcoming weekend, visit the website at: www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

WELCOME!

Saint Thomas More Parish Welcomes All

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 _____