

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, Pastor
 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
 Ch. Art Environment Ann Vigrass 428-7217
 Eucharistic Ministers Dom Sacca
 Lectors Pat Maggart 424-3212
 Linen Committee Greta Tyrrell 428-2412
 Sacristans 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 Lorraine Kennedy 489-0031
 Women's Club

Administration

House of Charity Sheila Tartamosa 424-3212
 Parish Finance Council Robert Crawford 424-3212
 Parish Pastoral Council Marie Enny 751-8893

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 10, 2016

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: Sister Ann Byrnes and John Mohan

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

Bible Study



Monday

Morning

Scripture Class:

The Acts of the Apostles

7 week class begins **January 18th after the 9:00 am Mass.**

Call Parish Office (424-3212) by
January 13, 2016 to
register.

Save the Date:
April 17, 2016
St. Thomas More
Progressive Dinner



Parish Collection for January 3, 2016 was \$8920.00 and 184 envelopes were used. Online donations were \$800.00 from 15 donors.

As always, thank you for your generosity to our parish.

Stewardship Reflection— Baptized Stewards



“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water; but He who is mightier than I is coming...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...’” (Luke 3: 16a)

The Catholic Catechism states that: Jesus' immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will." In other words, as baptized **Stewards** there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus—the gift of ourselves. Once we surrender ourselves to God, we will know in our hearts what God calls us to do.

The Catholic Faith In Slow Motion (no.73)

Fr. Phillip M. Johnson

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

God in the Womb

As we bid farewell to the Christmas Season, we carry with us the Christmas *ethic*. Christian morality flows directly from Christian faith. And if we lose the interconnections that unite faith and morals, we have lost the Catholic moral vision. This concern comes to mind especially now as we anticipate the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade and the ethical confusions and contradictions that flow from it.

I have a vivid memory of being with my mother in the final month of her life. During this time I would sometimes read to her from the Holy Scriptures. One Psalm in particular she asked to hear again and again. Psalm 139 is a long and lyrical meditation on the gift of life given and sustained by the Creator. The psalmist celebrates mysteries of God's deep involvement with the human person from the first moment of being.

You formed my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works! My very self you knew.... Your eyes foresaw my actions; in your book all are written down; my days were shaped before one came to be (verses 13-14, 16)

"*You knit me together in my mother's womb.*" The words make a good introduction to the way Holy Scripture envisions human life in the womb. "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you," God revealed to the prophet Jeremiah, "before you were born I consecrated you" (Jer. 1:5) St. Paul likewise remembers his conversion on the Damascus road, "when God, *who from my mother's womb* set me apart and called me through his grace..." (Gal. 1:15) In the story of the Virgin Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth—both women being pregnant—St. Luke's gospel tells us that "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant (in her womb) leaped for joy" (Lk. 1:41). These passages in their own contexts do not specifically address the moral question of abortion. Their vision of the free and loving personal *gift* of life sows the seeds of radical reverence for human life.

Faith in the Creator: that is where the pro-life vision emerges. However, it is the mystery of Christ's coming that enlarges and perfects this vision. Only the coming of Christ explains the new reverence for life in the womb that marked the Christian ethic from the beginning. "the practice of abortion was one to which few persons in antiquity attached any deep feelings of condemnation." But, "the language of the Christians from the very beginning was widely different. With unwavering consistency and with the strongest emphasis, they denounced the practice..." W. E. H. Lecky, *History of European Morals*, 1911, vol. 2, pp. 20, 22.) What makes abortion unthinkable for the Church is that Christ has redeemed every moment of human life from conception to death. By his incarnation in Mary's womb and his sacrificial death, Jesus "has been with us in the darkness of the womb as he will be in the darkness of the tomb." (Gilbert C. Meilander, *Bioethics: A Primer for Christians*, 1996, p. 27).

From the womb to the tomb, as the psalmist reflects:

If I ascend to the heavens, you are there. If I lie down in the grave, you are there too...If I say, "Surely darkness will hide me, and night shall be my dwelling place, darkness is not dark for you, and night shines as the day. (Ps. 139: 8, 11-12)

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 10, 2016

MINISTRY SCHEDULE for January 16/17, 2016

Mass Time	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30pm	Father Johnson	Mena/Choir Julie	P. & N. Kirincic D. Kreal	J. Mohan	D. Ha, H. Kodluk
8:30 am	Father Johnson	Rob Rich	Sr. Rosaria, J. Singson B. Massey	J. Vecchiola	S. Russo, T. Kenny
10:00 am	Father Johnson	Becca Julie	D. & ML Thomas M. Huynh	D. Mayfield	Z. & L. Smith M. Carr
11:30 am	Father Rossi	Becca Julie	A. Thompson, M. Dwyer M. Ciccotta	R. Ciccotta	K. & K. Johnson A. Kuzinski

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

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The fourth **Confirmation I Preparatory Class** for all seventh grade students will be held this **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.**

The fifth **Confirmation II preparatory class** for all eighth grade students will be held on **Sunday, January 17, from 11:00am—12:30 pm** in the St. Thomas More Hall. All eighth grade students are expected to attend that class as well as the 10:00 am Mass. **Candidate letter to Bishop due.**

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

Have a blessed week!

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



Women's Club News

St. Thomas More Book Club meeting:
1:00 pm, January 12, 2016
Mary Lou Thomas' house.

Catholic Schools Week Open House

St. John Paul II School

55 Warwick Rd. Stratford, NJ

Sunday, Jan. 31st 12:30—2:00 PM



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.

5th—8th - -The Junior YG is designed to enhance the formal Religious Education.

9th—12th - -the Senior YG gives you opportunity to continue to learn your faith and LIVE your faith through Service, Social and Spiritual Activities.

Why do we do Service Hours? Service Hours for Confirmation Preparation are not just a box to be checked off, but a way for you to learn what gifts and talents God has given you; gifts to share and help others. Service Hours are to teach you how to live a life of service. It is our hope that when you find the gifts God has given you, that you will continue to use them throughout your lifetime for the Glory of God. Service hours are to prepare you for a lifetime of service and giving back. By sharing your gifts and talents with others, you are sharing Jesus with others.

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@stthomasmore.org to be added to the distribution list.

Jan. 17 following the 11:30 Mass— MLK Service Day
10:30 am—12:30 pm St. Mary's Home

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

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 10, 2016



Mass Intentions for the Week

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

MONDAY—JANUARY 11

- 6:45 am** COMMUNION SERVICE
9:00 am Joe Kenney r/b Joe Ryan & family

TUESDAY—JANUARY 12

- 6:45 am** COMMUNION SERVICE
9:00 am Joe Kenney
r/b Ann Marie & Bob Lento

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

- 6:45 am** COMMUNION SERVICE
9:00 am Nancy Sullivan
r/b Lorraine Kennedy

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

- 6:45 am** Stephanie Venezia r/b Gary Gadren
9:00 am Edward J. Murray r/b Cecilia T. Murray

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

- 6:45 am** Kriss Crichton
9:00 am Joe Kenney r/b M/M Charles W. Heu-
ler

SATURDAY—JANUARY 16

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

SUNDAY—JANUARY 17

- 8:30 am** Jim Bones r/b Teri Bones
10:00 am Pat & Jerry Lachnicht
r/b Kay & Ted Uhlman
Antoinette Cerquitella
r/b M/M James Kennedy
Joe Kenney
r/b Dudley & MaryLou Thomas
11:30 am Kay Frain r/b Jack Boesch

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, Florianna Gilden, Harry Gindele, Sue Hagan, Thomas Houston, Helen Kane, Michael Kapischke, John B. 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, Phyllis Schadt, Yun Yun Shen, Teddy Shaffer, Frank Sines, Claire Spence, Dick Spence, Maria Storms, Samuel Stafford, Michael Suralik, Pat Suralik, George Sweeten, Marcy Toub, 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

Mercy Works is a project that invites us to observe the Jubilee Year of Mercy by deepening our commitment to working for peace and justice in our own region and beyond.

Corporal Works of Mercy:

January: Welcome the Stranger
February: Care for the Sick
March: Feed the Hungry
April: Give Drink to the Thirsty
May: Shelter the Homeless
June: Visit the Imprisoned
October: Clothe the Naked
November: Bury the Dead

Young Adults Retreat Weekend

Marianist Family Retreat Center
417 Yale Ave. Cape May Point, NJ
Feb. 5-7, 2016

Come, Pray, Reflect & Laugh!

This Retreat Weekend is intended for Young Adults (22-35, married or single) who want to examine their personal faith, in relation to God, self, co-workers and others. There will be time for Eucharist, prayer experiences, reflection, faith sharing and social interaction.

Schedule: Friday Dinner (6:30 PM) to Sunday (no later than 2:00 PM) Cost: \$125 per person

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 10, 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 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 17, 2016 – John 2:1-11

When the wine ran short at the wedding, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ...Jesus' mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water. Draw some out and take it to the headwaiter." ...The headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

Commentary:

This sign Jesus performed at the wedding feast at Cana inaugurates Jesus' public ministry—an entire life spent meeting the needs of people. This is his true glory and his whole ministry: not only turning water into wine but giving himself for others. His total attentiveness and response to others is the model for our own self-giving and is the promise of our own glory.

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?

Although life is a continuous process, fertilization is a critical landmark because, under ordinary circumstances, a new genetically distinct human organism is thereby formed...The combination of 23 chromosomes present in each pro-nucleus results in 46 chromosomes in the zygote. Thus the diploid number is restored and the embryonic genome is formed. The embryo now exists as a genetic unity.

Human Embryology & Technology, 2nd Edition.

Al Mac Elrath, Respect Life Coordinator - 779-7130



Retreat Day (Spiritual Formation)

Through Him and With Him and In Him
(Liturgy of the Hours)

9:00 am—2:30 pm Saturday, January 23rd, 2016

Presenter: Msgr. John Burton

Sacred Heart High School, 15 N. East Ave. Vineland

Fee: \$20; bring a lunch.

Relationship Skills Workshop (Human Formation)

Boundaries: Safeguarding Life and Ministry

9:00 am—2:30 pm February 6, 2016

Presenter: Dr. Adrienne Gullotta-Gsell, CLEM

Holy Angels Parish Worship Site

96 Green Ave., Woodbury

Fee: \$20; bring a lunch

For more information, or to register contact JoLynn

Krempecki at 856-583-2905 ;

or JoLynnKrempecki@camdendiocese.org

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 _____