

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 in Lent: 3:00-4:00 pm or
 any time by appointment

Reverend Phillip M. Johnson, Pastor
 Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate for Life Long Faith Formation
 Miriam Gilbert, 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 Henry Glover 751-9360
 Marriage Formation Bob/Liz Scarpa 795-1160
 Parish Rel. Ed. Prog. Miriam Gilbert 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
 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
 Greta Tyrrell 428-2412
 Frank Krenslak 309-1999

Social Development

Bridge Groups Joyce DeMichele 424-4008
 Barbara Cerquitella 795-7323
 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

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD APRIL 9, 2017

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, 4:30 - 5:45 p.m.

Grades five thru eight: Tuesday, 6:30– 7:45 p.m.

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



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...when we bring the healing Hands of Christ to the sick and dying

Your **House of Charity** gift enables our staff of Hospital Chaplains to provide comprehensive help to those in need. They administer the Sacrament of the Sick in the many hospitals throughout our area; conduct pastoral visits with patients, families and hospital staff, help coordinate the visits of parish Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and assist in a diocesan-wide effort to teach our Catholic faithful more about the Sacrament of the Sick.

Your gift matters.

Support the 2017 House of Charity – Bishop's Annual Appeal
www.camdenocese.org/hoc

Our House of Charity-Bishop's Annual Appeal 2017 goal is \$ 117, 880. We will need the help of all parishioners to meet and exceed this goal. We have received gifts totaling **\$82,766.00 from 164 givers**. Thanks to all who have contributed.

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection will be taken up at the 3:00 pm Good Friday Service this week.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.



The collection for Sunday, March 19, 2017 was **\$10,677.00 from 203 donors**. As always, thank you for your generosity to our parish.

"... if My people, who are called by My Name, are sorry for what they have done, if they pray and obey me and stop their evil ways, I will heal their land."

2nd Chronicles 7: 14

Stewardship Reflection:

Palm Sunday

Stewards Carry His Cross

"As they were marching out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they pressed into service to carry His cross. Matthew 27: 32



The Lord calls His Stewards to love God and to love our neighbor. Every day we are presented with opportunities to love our neighbor and help him carry "his cross." These opportunities aren't usually big events, they are usually ordinary events, like helping someone carry their groceries or holding the door open for them. The key is putting the other person's needs before our own and not expecting anything in return.



Paul, writing sometime around A.D. 55, recalls the appearances of the Risen Jesus.

I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared to Peter, then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. After that, he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one born abnormally, he appeared to me. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

Once again, we approach the sacred days when the Church commemorates these foundational events of the Faith. The celebration of Holy Week and Easter is the high point of the Christian year, as Easter is “the most solemn of all feasts” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 1163). These are unique days of grace in our lives.

Holy Week begins with *Palm Sunday of the Passion of our Lord* – one of the truly beloved holy days. The week comes to a climax with what is called the Triduum – The *Mass of the Lord's Supper* on Holy Thursday, the *Celebration of the Lord's Passion* on Good Friday, and the *Great Vigil of Easter* on Saturday night (the first mass of Easter). These liturgies actually form one extended service of contemplation of the Pascal mystery. I urge you to join us for these highest holy days.

Giving thanks for our common life in Christ, I pray God's blessings upon your household, and I look forward to celebrating Holy Week and Easter with you.

Schedule for Holy Week and Easter Sunday 2017

Tuesday, April 11th

Christm Mass

4:00 pm Our Lady of Hope

Thursday, April 13th

7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday April 14th

3:00 Passion of Our Lord

Saturday, April 15th

Blessing of Food Baskets 12 noon

8:00 pm Easter Vigil

April 16th Easter Sunday

8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 am

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD APRIL 9, 2017



Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

9:00 am living & deceased members of the parish
4:30 pm **Bill Smith** r/b Carol & AJ Ariani

SUNDAY—APRIL 9

8:30 am **Kevin Lachnicht**
r/b Bill & Ann Vigrass

10:00 am **Maria Morello**
r/b Wachman family
Bill Smith r/b Joe & Toni Andraka
Eduardo Rivero
r/b Jim & Pat Beaney

11:30 am **Helen Bantivoglio** r/b children

MONDAY—APRIL 10

6:45 am **Msgr. David Budney & family**
9:00 am **Richard Mermer** r/b Mermer family

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

6:45 am **Msgr. David Budney & family**
9:00 am **Chuck Kapischke**
r/b Marian Kapischke

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

6:45 am **Msgr. David Budney & family**
9:00 am **Leaders of our nation**
r/b DeYoung family

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

7:00 pm ONLY –Mass of the Lord’s Supper

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

3:00 pm Passion of our Lord

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

8:00 pm ONLY Easter Vigil

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

8:30 am **Henry & Emily Ryszkiewicz** r/b family
10:00 am **Mena Ravena** r/b family
Florence Gaul r/b Wachman family
Maria Morello r/b John & Lena Galati
11:30 am **Fran Boesch** r/b husband, Jack

Papal Intentions for the Month of April: That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to the priesthood or the consecrated life.



After Stations of the Cross and Reflection, our Altar Servers share what being an Altar Server means to them.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

THE SICK... Pat Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Anna Bedrick, Francesca Capra, Elva Clark, Frank Colbert, Sean Colbert, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, GERALYN Coticone, Mary Cowan, Margaret Crawford, Pasquale DiFronzo, Angelo DiGiacomo, Harry Gindele, Sue Hagan, Joseph Hale, Thomas Houston, Helen Kane, Michael Kapischke, Stephen Kaye, John B. Kennedy, Peggy Kiefner, Stan Kochanek, Don Kreal, Julia Lepre, Mary Ellen Lepre, Marie Manalo, Vince Marchesani, Wayne Mauri, Sr., Jerry McMenamin, Youngmork Park, Hilda K Pellerito, Fred Petrone, John Ravena, Amelia Rivero, Pauline Rosberg, Joseph Ryan, Joseph Ryan, Jr., 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, Christopher Tama, Stephanie Tama, Marcy Toub, Ted Uhlman, Kathryn Wolfe, Ann Vigrass.



THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...

2nd Lieutenant Patrick J. Bones, USMC, Captain Anthony R. Cosentino, Spc. Peter DeCrescenzo, SSgt John P. DeYoung, Lt. Nicholas G. Iannuzzi, 2nd Lt. Christopher M. Mawn, PFC Sonny Morrison, 1Lt. Col. Ryan Orfe, and Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa.

There is NO Prayer Shawl meeting this month! The next Prayer Shawl meeting is May 11th at 9:30 am.



Progressive Dinner Sunday, April 23, 2017

5:30 –9:30 pm Caffe Aldo Lamberti

Cost: \$49 per person

Reservation Forms with menu selections are available in the Parish Office. Space is limited. **Reservation deadline April 13th!! Tickets on sale after all Masses this weekend.**



ALL St. Thomas More Youth and Families are invited to Annual New Jersey Catholic Youth Rally @ Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson, NJ Sunday, May 21, 2017; \$50 per person

Hold your spot! \$20 deposit due April 18

Final Payment Due April 29.

Lunch Buffet and return ticket to Holiday in the Park are included in the price! (children under 2 are free)

A carpool will leave St. Thomas More Sunday, May 20th 9am and returns before 9 pm.

Families may also pick up your parking pass and tickets from Katie and go on your own. 8th—12th grade may attend without a parent. 7th grade and younger must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Any questions Contact Katie: Call 856-305-2914 or email youthgroup@stthomasmorenj.org

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 Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017 - John 20:1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.” So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in...and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

Commentary:

Easter is not just a day on the church calendar. It’s a season that lasts seven weeks. It’s also a way of life for Christians, since every Sunday is considered a “little Easter” when Christ is present in the community once more. Our faith in the events of Easter Sunday make the difference between the gospel as the story of a hero long ago, and the story of salvation alive and well in our assembly today. So what will we do this Easter Sunday? Approach the tomb in the dark and see the stone removed, like Mary Magdalene? Will we enter the empty space, like Peter and the other disciple, and not understand what’s happened? Will we find the tomb open and believe without seeing? And what will our faith prompt us to do next?

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 Commentary resonates with me?



What an irony that a society confronted with plastic bags filled with the remains of aborted babies should be more concerned about the problem of recycling the plastic. Lord, give us a contrite heart and the grace to fight euthanasia and abortion.
Al MacElrath, Respect Life Coordinator 779-7130



Soup and Scripture
Many thanks to all who attended, prayed and cooked for our Lenten Series “Soup and



Scripture”. This was a wonderful, relaxing way to meet parishioners we might have not known before, pray as a group and draw closer to our Lord.

Legacy Treatment Services’ Clothing Drive
May 13/14, 2017. Donate new and gently used: clothes, shoes, books, toys, games, working electronics, housewares, seasonal/holiday items, small furniture, jewelry. You will receive a receipt for tax purposes. **Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. Thrift Shop is located at 696 Main Street, Lumberton, NJ**



April is Autism Awareness Month
There will be a **Diocesan Eucharistic Celebration 2:00 pm Sunday, April 23, 2017 at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Church of the Holy Saviour,**

50 Emerald Ave., Haddon Twp.

The Mass will be adapted to meet the needs of the folks joining us for the celebration. A reception with light refreshments will follow the celebration Holy Saviour Church & McDaid Hall are fully accessible. **To RSVP and to volunteer contact: Karen Fisher 856-583-6123 or email Karen.fisher@camdendiocese.org.**



Attention Sandwich Makers: we are meeting April 19 at 9:30 am in the St. Thomas More Hall.

Chrism Mass at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at St. Agnes Church/Our Lady of Hope Parish, Blackwood.

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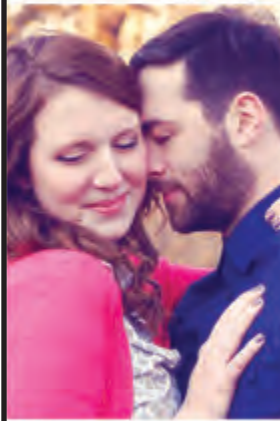


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