

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

Eucharistic Adoration
 9:30 am—12noon
 Fridays in the Chapel

Reverend Phillip M. Johnson, Pastor
 Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate for Life Long Faith Formation
 Sister Clare Sabini, FMIJ, Director of Religious Education
 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. Sr. Clare Sabini 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
 St. Vincent de Paul Paul Rossi 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
 Ch. Art Environment Joyce DeMichele 424-4008
 Eucharistic Ministers Dolores Kreal 988-0271
 Lectors Dan Miller/ Sr. Ann Byrnes
 Linen Committee Ann Vigrass 428-7217
 Sacristans Greta Tyrrell 428-2412
 Dom Sacca
 Pat Maggart
 Dave Bongiovanni
 Joe Centonze

Ushers

Social Development
 Bridge Groups Joyce DeMichele 424-4008
 Barbara Cerquitella 795-7323
 Lin Lyon 795-4396
 Funsters (over 50 club)
 Parish Festival Committee 424-3212
 Women's Club 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 24, 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

DECEMBER 24th MASSES

Sunday Obligation

4:30 PM; 8:30 and 10:00 AM

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM and 6:00 PM

Christmas Day

10:00 AM and 11:30 AM

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

Mary Mother of God

Sunday, 4:30 PM

Monday, 10:00 AM



“... 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-Fourth Sunday in Advent

“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you...” Luke 1:28



Faith is a gift from God. Take time in silence to thank Him for all the gifts that He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God's mercy. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's forgiveness and mercy first before we can give it to others.

The Catholic Faith In Slow Motion

Fr. Phillip Johnson

Reflections about professing, praying, thinking, and living the Faith of the Church

Christmas In Slow Motion

Christmas is not a day but a season. The season encompasses the birth in the stable, the manger bed, the adoration of Mary and Joseph, the animals looking on in serenity, the songs of the angels, the visit of the worshiping shepherds, the long journey of the Magi (Epiphany). Christmas reveals the joy of old Simeon and Anna at the presentation of baby Jesus in the Temple, as well as the horror of King Herod's violence against the Holy Innocents, the refugee flight of the Holy Family into Egypt. The season gives us a glimpse of the boy Jesus at 12 years old, growing "in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God..." (Lk. 2:52). Christmas time will end as the Church celebrates the Baptism of our Lord (January 9).

For the children and their parents

In C. S. Lewis's imagined land of Narnia, before Aslan the Lion King returned, it was "always winter but never Christmas". A Christmas without Christ, or where the Christ Child is little more than a religious "ornament," is a kind of spiritual winter for a child. I pray the children may hear the Christmas stories from the lips of their mothers and fathers and grandparents; may the Christmas tree be a place of prayer as well presents. I hope that the little ones, even the newborn, will be lovingly brought to the Christmas Liturgies, where they see and hear more than we might think, where they *absorb* the Faith in the love of worshiping community.

For the tired, the overworked, the worried . . .

Christmas is not a day but a season, and thankfully so. I hope for you, not one exciting, exhausting Christmas day, but an enjoyment of the "holy leisure" of Christmastide. We are often overworked by others, by our jobs, by heavy family responsibilities. But sometimes we are our own cruel taskmasters, wanting for ourselves, demanding from ourselves, too much. May we learn in this season to pray, not so much as obligation, but as God's gift received. May we be more truly *present* to one another. Mary and Joseph were surely exhausted as they finally settled for the night in that stable. Their worries were many. Yet their hearts were surely guarded by the mysterious peace of the Christ child.

For the sick, the sorrowful, and the lonely . . .

May they be a first priority for us all during Christmastide. A phone call, a visit, a letter, an invitation, some loving attention: such gestures can shine like the Christmas Star in the dark isolation of suffering.

For us all . . .

We worship in order to truly *live*. We live in order to worship. Adoration is our true *End*. O come let us adore Him.

+ + +

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 24, 2017

MINISTRY SCHEDULE for DECEMBER 30/31/JANUARY 1

Mass Time	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 pm	Father Johnson	Carmen Joe	B. Crawford, K. Wislocky G. Tyrrell	K. Wislocky	I. & C. Fulton K. Wieland
8:30 am	Father Johnson	Andy Len	B. Massey, P. Lavala	M. Maggart	S. Russo C. Oatway
10:00 am	Father Johnson	Becca Julie	J. De Michele, K. Glover E. Beckman	F. Egges	M.Carr T. Kenny
11:30 am	Father Rossi	Becca Julie	A. Thompson, M. Garber M. Dwyer	J. Arnold	K. Johnson D. Ha, M. Mueller
Mary Mother of God Dec. 31 4:30	Father Johnson	Carmen Eugene	G. Tyrrell B. Massey	M. Maggart	M. Carr A. Librojo
Jan. 1 10:00am	Father Johnson	Christy Julie	D. Staton M. Santiago	K. McFadden	T. Kenny S. Russo

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

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM



**BLESSED, JOY-FILLED CHRISTMAS
TO OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAMILIES
OUR CHILDREN AND VOLUNTEERS**

Sr. Clare Sabini 424-3212 ext. 106

STM Youth

Glory to God in the Highest and Peace to his people on earth...May you and your family remember why we celebrate Christmas. Let Jesus be born into your heart and live each day for the Glory of God!



If you are interested in serving others, learning about our faith and making friends.... Email Katie to learn more about STM.....St Thomas More Youth Ministry!

Any questions about the Youth Group, Please contact Katie Witts
youthgroup@stthomasmorenj.org



Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

Only ONE Mass today

4:30 pm **Carolyn Panna**
r/b Ron & Angela Panna

SUNDAY—DECEMBER 24

Only Two Masses for the Sunday intention

8:30 am **Jean Reinert**
r/b St. Thomas More Linen Committee

10:00 am **Peter Gillcrist** r/b Teri Bones
Irving Ocher r/b Joseph Kuchler

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00pm intentions of the children of the parish

6:00pm **Jim & Brian Bones, Peter Gillcrist & Fay McNulty** r/b Teri Bones

MONDAY—DECEMBER 25

10:00 am **D'Ippolito & Radziwill families**
r/b Radziwill family

11:30 am **Joe Zielinski** r/b Cindy & family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

One Mass only today

9:00 am **Buzz Cirillo** r/b Jim & Pat Beaney

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

6:45 am **Gain Family** r/b Sheila Moore

9:00 am **Liz Valusek** r/b Jim & Pat Beaney

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

6:45 am **Msgr. Dsvud Budney & family**

9:00 am **John Mohan, Sr.**
r/b John & Sheila Mohan
John Ryan r/b Ryan family
Dick Schweitzer (12th anniversary)
r/b family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

6:45 am **Msgr. David Budney & family**

9:00 am **Frances Hawksley**
r/b Jim & Pat Beaney

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

4:30 pm **John A. Vivone, Sr.** r/b family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:30 am **Shirley Marinelli** r/b Agata Scotto

10:00 am **Janet O'Connor** r/b Joseph Kuchler
Richard J. Berube, Sr.
r/b Wachman family

11:30 am **Dan Buckley** r/b Jim & Pat Beaney

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

4:30 pm **People of the Parish**

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

One mass only today

10:00 am **Phil Petrone** r/b Eileen Kleinz

Papal Intentions for the Month of December: That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming new generations.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:



THE SICK...

Pat Beaney, Anna Bedrick, Francesca Capra, Ray Chiusano, Elva Clark, Frank Colbert, Sean Colbert, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, GERALYN Coticone, Mary Cowan, Margaret Crawford, Pasquale DiFronzo, Angelo DiGiacomo, Carol Erlam, Harry Gindele, Sue Hagan, Thomas Houston, Helen Kane, Michael Kapischke, Stephen Kaye, John B. Kennedy, Peggy Kiefner, Maureen Kochanek, Stan Kochanek, Don Kreal, Mildred Leber, Mary Ellen Lepre, Al MacElrath, Marie Manalo, Vince Marchesani, Wayne Mauri, Sr., Joe Mazzagatti, Jerry McMenamin, Youngmork Park, Hilda K. Pellerito, Eleanor & Chick Perrotta, Fred Petrone, Tina Petrone, Pauline Rosberg, Joseph Ryan, John S., 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, Lt. Col. James P. Tobin

We welcome the following newly registered members to our Parish:

Anthony & Deanna D'Auria; Gina, Chris & Christopher DeColli; Larry, Concetta & Mary Offenback; Nicholas Tosciano





**St. Thomas More
New Year's Eve Movie
Night presents**

The Cardinal, the story of a young American's rise to prince of the Church.

Nominated for 6 Academy Awards in 1963.
Reservations are required; donation \$15.
Contact Marianne Gorin 856-346-1811;
Joe Centonze 856-424-3809; JoeCent4@gmail.com

*Desserts or appetizers welcomed.
All are invited!*



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 24, 2017

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 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Dec. 31, 2017 – Lk:2-22-40


When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

Commentary:

The Gospel reading begins with the simple scene of a devout Jewish family obeying the Law. The holy man Simeon then meets them and says that this child will fulfill the hopes of Israel. Not only that, he will be a “revealing light to the Gentiles.” One of Luke’s dominant themes is salvation for everyone, Gentiles as well as Jews. This simple and strong description of the Holy Family concludes with their return to ordinary life in a small village.

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?



Lord, you formed my inner most being; you knit me in my mother’s womb. I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works! Abortion destroys God’s creation. Choose life today.
Al MacElrath– Pro-Life Coordinator 779-7130

St. Thomas More Parish
“Israel: A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land”
March 21 to March 29, 2018.
Contact Lin (856) 795-4396 for more information

A prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent 2017:

“Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord, Your grace into our hearts that we, to whom the Incarnation of Your Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever.”



The Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching
Sr. Diane Guerin, RSM will engage participants as we study together all Seven Justice Principles. Sr. Diane has served as Justice Minister for the Sisters of Mercy for the last 5 years. **Her presentations will be given on Monday mornings January 8, 22 & 29 at 9:45 AM in the Parish Hall. Please call the parish office (424-3212) to register.**

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. Registration forms are also available on the parish website: stthomasmorenj.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

email _____

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