

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 Vigil: 7:30 pm



Rite of Reconciliation
Saturdays: 3:30-4:00 pm
or any time by appointment

Reverend Monsignor Thomas J. Morgan, Pastor
Reverend George Donkor Tang, In Residence
Reverend Daniel Joyce, S.J., Weekend Assistant
Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate for Life Long Faith Formation
Deacon John Harrington
Pat Maggart, Parish Catechetical Leader
Roger Pisani, Pastoral Associate for Music & Liturgy
Pat Cannon, Parish Secretary • Norma Matos, Parish Secretary

DIRECTORY

Pastoral Leadership			Worship		
Parish Trustees	Gary Gadren	424-3212	Altar Servers	Deacon John Harrington	424-3212
	Pat Lachnicht	424-3212	Church Environment	Ann Vigrass	428-7217
Christian Life/Education			Ch. Art Environment	Antonina Nicdao	751-6320
Bereavement	Sheila Mohan	795-6137	Eucharistic Ministers	Joyce DeMichele	424-4008
Friday Adoration	Marian/Chuck Kapischke	424-2053	Lectors	Dolores Kreal	988-0271
Hospital Visitors	Staff & Euch. Ministers	424-3212	Linen Committee	Pat Lachnicht	424-5636
Intercessory Prayer	Ann Vigrass	428-7217	Sacristans	Ann Vigrass	428-7217
Knights of Columbus	Dick Haughwout	429-8598	Ushers	Tom Petrilli	751-1367
Marriage Formation	Bob/Liz Scarpa	795-1160	Music Ministry	Greta Tyrrell	428-2412
Parish Rel. Ed. Prog.	Pat Maggart	429-6948		Frank Krenslak	309-1999
Pastoral Counselor	Claire Spence	428-8325		Roger Pisani, Director	609-702-7858
Prayer Shawls	Sheila Mohan	795-6137		Dolores Kreal	988-0271
Respect Life	Al Mac Elrath	779-7130		Len Kolojechick	346-4078
Rite of Ch. Init. Adults	Deacon John Harrington	424-3212		June Garafano, Youth Singers	229-7461
	Sister Ann Byrnes	424-3212	Social Development		
Rosary Ministry	Marian/Chuck Kapischke	424-2053	Bridge Groups	Joyce DeMichele	424-4008
Small Christian Comm.	Ann Marie/Bob Lento	424-4759		Barbara Cerquitella	795-7323
Spiritual Direction	Deacon John Harrington	424-3212	Funsters (over 50 club)	Bob Lento	424-4759
Spiritual Retreats	John Galati	428-7073	Parish Festival	Committee	424-3212
	Denise Radziwill	424-0494	Women's Club	Eileen Withers	751-6838
			Administration		

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 office if you or a family member will be admitted to the hospital. Anointing of the sick is available for those who are confined to home for a period of time. For emergencies, please call the parish office any time.

BAPTISM

Arrangements for Baptism can be made in advance by calling the parish office. Parents and godparents are required to attend a class in preparation for this Sacrament.

MARRIAGE

Couples planning to marry must attend a marriage preparation program called Living in Love. One-year notification of the marriage date is recommended.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process of instruction for full initiation into the Catholic Church. It is open to those never Baptized; those baptized in another faith; and Catholics who have not completed their Sacraments. Contact Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate, 424-3212 ext. 104 or Deacon John Harrington, Moderator, at 424-3212 ext. 103.

RCIA Team: John Mohan and Irene Rellosa

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.

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.

You Can Be A Winner!
You Can Be Jumping for Joy!

Saint Thomas More Parish
2011 Fundraiser



The Last 3 Tickets Drawn

3 rd prize	\$2,000.00	6.6%
2 nd prize	\$3,000.00	10.0%
1 st prize	\$10,000.00	33.3%

If all tickets are sold

Do Not Miss this Opportunity to Participate!

Drawing: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2nd, 7:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be served.

AJ Ariani, 983-5761 - Tom Pajic, 795-7520, Chairpersons

Ticket Price: \$100.00

Run on over to the Raffle Table today after Mass or simply complete the information below and we will mail your ticket. Make Check Payable to St. Thomas More Parish.

Name _____

Address _____

City & State _____

Phone No. _____

ATTENDING THE RAFFLE NIGHT YES NO

MUST BE 21 TO PARTICIPATE

Ongoing Devotions... (In Chapel)

Novena of the Miraculous Medal

Tuesdays after 9 a.m. Mass

Rosary

Tuesday mornings after the Novena

Wednesdays after 9 a.m. Mass

Saturdays after 9 a.m. Mass

St. Thomas More Guided Meditation

Thursdays after 9 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

Fridays, 9:30 a.m. until 12 Noon

Small Christian Community Facilitators

All SCC facilitators are invited to the 9:00 Mass next Saturday, December 3, followed by a breakfast meeting at Ponzio's Restaurant. Call Sister Ann, 424-3212 ext. 104, with any questions.

ADVENT AND WAITING FOR GOD

I learned about waiting and hoping on the family farm in Ireland. Waiting and hoping were very much part of my growing experiences. It seemed to me that my family was always waiting. Life on the farm was an endless series of having to wait for one thing after another. We always seemed to be waiting and hoping for something. Waiting and expecting were very much part of my grammar school and high school years.

The farmer was always waiting and hoping for the good weather. We got so much rain in the western part of Ireland that we spent an inordinate amount of time waiting for the fine drying day to come. We waited for the fine drying day to save the hay or cut the turf.

The farmers waited for the digging of the new potatoes or the cutting of fresh head of cabbage. They waited for the corn to ripen and for the barley to droop. They waited for the hens to lay their eggs and for the new chicks to break the eggshell. They waited for the cows to calf and the ewes to lamb and the mares to foal.

The farmers waited for the short cold days of winter to end and they longed for the long warm days of summer to come. We used these long days for working on the farm. This was the time for the drying of the fields and the sowing and reaping of the crops.

The farmers viewed the summer as a time when the grass grew and the cattle fattened. It was the time to see the young lambs mature and become ready for the market. It was the time to see the young chickens and goslings put on feathers that would keep them warm during the long cold winter months.

This waiting and hoping seemed like a waste of time and yet in truth it was not a waste of time. Waiting and hoping are so central to the life of the Spirit that is within us, and that grounds us with the whole universe. In a sense, waiting and hoping was the only way the farmer had to revitalize his body and open his heart.

The farmer found the waiting and hoping helped him connect with the inner wisdom that is always there. It helped him connect with the peace, safety, and acceptance that are always buried within. It enabled him to release the tensions and the stress that can accumulate from physical and mental activities.

The waiting and the hoping truly enabled the Irish farmer to see his place in life and in God's work of creation. The waiting and the hoping gave the farmer the time and the space to have brutal honesty in his life. Daily he risked being real and earthy.

The farmer was truly comfortable in his own body and in his own skin. He has learned to wait and hope graciously. He can recognize the blessings and good things when they come. There is a revealing, there are insights, and there are opportunities being born to the farmer on the wet day and the fine day.

The waiting and hoping seemed to create a sense of awe and wonder in the farmer's life. Even the wet days could not suck that gift of wonder and surprise from his soul. He saw the mystery of God in every sunrise and sunset over the farm. He seemed so grounded and secure.

The farmer was generally happy and healthy and lived a long life. He knew the limitations of his humanity and the feelings of his divinity. He knew his dependency on God. He knew it was God who filled the holes in his soul. At the same time, he knew, and daily never forgot, that grace and divinity never supplanted hard farm-work and self-discipline.

As I look back and attempt to reconstruct the past, it seems to me that waiting patiently in expectation was the foundation of the farming life in Ireland. In the waiting and the hoping, the farmer created a true sanctuary for his spirit and the Spirit of God that abides within all of us.

Waiting patiently and hoping for the "Coming" is the foundation and the heart of the Advent Season. This is the season to heighten our awareness of our waiting and hoping. John said, "One mightier than I is coming." (*Luke 3:18*)

Blessings,

Monsignor Thomas J. Morgan

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Women's Club News

- **General Meeting:** Wed., Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m.
- **Entertainment Book '2012':** Now available, still only \$30. Call Clare at 428-9251.

Eileen Withers, President - 751-6838

YOUTH GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sr. – High School students Jr. – 6th through 8th grades
Upcoming Event(s):

- **NEXT SUNDAY—The Cherry Hill Regional Youth Mass will be held at St. Thomas More (12/4/11 at 7 p.m.).** All youth and their family and friends are invited.

- Food & Fun to follow—"The AFTER-MASS"

- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, Immaculate Conception:** The Jr. & Sr. Youth Groups will host a Christmas party for the children of Immaculate Conception Parish in Camden.

- Meet at St. Thomas More at 8:15 a.m. (leaving at 8:30)
- Set-up & Party until 11 a.m.
- Return to St. Thomas More around 12:30



- Service Hours Opportunity; Opportunity to bring a smile to a child's face!
- Parents, we could use your assistance driving and as chaperones.

Contact Stan Thompson (424-1120). **Forms with more details are in the gathering space.**

Stan Thompson, YG Coordinator - 424-1120

ST. THOMAS MORE PRAYER CHAIN:

Do you have a special intention for which you are praying? Have others share your need by calling the Prayer Line.

All requests are kept confidential.

Contact the parish office, 424-3212.



House of Charity – Bishop's Annual Appeal

Please remember...if you do participate, the House of Charity is a qualified non-member Donor Option Agency. **PLEASE USE SPECIFIC CODE (designating House of Charity, Diocese of Camden/St. Thomas More Parish) that can be found on the Employee Giving Poster located in the gathering space.** Please feel free to take an informational card which will assist you in completing your form. Thank you.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The third class for Confirmation I candidates will be held next Sunday, December 4, at 11 a.m. in the St. Thomas More Parish Hall. All seventh grade students are expected to attend the 10 a.m. Mass prior to class.

At the four weekend Masses during the Season of Advent, the candles on the Advent Wreath are being lit by those eighth grade candidates who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, which will be conferred on them in May, 2012.

Pat Maggart, PCL, 424-3212 - ext. 106

ANYONE interested in being on a rotating schedule to help serve at the Cathedral Kitchen please contact Marianne Wilkins at 428-4924.



FACTS TO CONSIDER:

When we go: 2nd Wednesday of month

Time: Carpool leaves St. Thomas More parking lot at 2:50 p.m., we return at approximately 6 p.m.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES



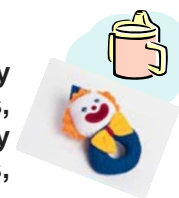
are included in your December contribution envelope package. Your contributions will be used for altar flowers, poinsettias for the shut-ins and church decorations. Please use this envelope to inform us who your contribution is in memory of and who it is requested by. Envelopes may be put in the collection basket. As always, thank you for your support.

OPTIONS for Women PREGNANCY CENTER

We are collecting baby items for 'Options,' the weekend of Dec. 3/4, please drop items in the box in the gathering space.

ITEMS NEEDED:

sippy cups, baby wash, soft infant toys, nail clippers, baby brushes, crib sheets, diapers (sizes 1 & 2).



Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK 

SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 26

9:00 am All Souls
Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
4:30 pm Bob & Rob Moore r/b Sheila Moore

SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 27

8:30 am John Walsh r/b the Walsh Family
10:00 am Florence Rutigliano r/b Fitzpatrick Family
Pilar Castillo r/b Small Christian
Community Group
11:30 am Marie Read r/b Cortese Family

MONDAY - NOVEMBER 28

6:45 am Paul Marshall r/b daughter, Sister Mary
Ann Marshall
9:00 am Barbara Hedges r/b Nick & Pat Kirincic

TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 29

6:45 am Sr. Feliksa Taraszczuk r/b Sr. Mary Ann
Marshall
9:00 am Frances Pisera r/b Gould Family

WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 30

6:45 am All Souls
9:00 am Robert Radula r/b Joan Radula

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 1

6:45 am John Ford r/b Marie Flowers
9:00 am Special Intention of Christina Kim r/b
Mom & Dad

FRIDAY - DECEMBER 2

6:45 am Sharon Higgins r/b Franciscan Missionary
Sisters of the Infant Jesus
9:00 am Special Intention of Donna Rule r/b
Chuck & Marian Kapischke

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 3

9:00 am Michael Vigrass r/b Family
Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
4:30 pm Barbieri, Orlando & DeVito Families r/b
Anthony & Marianne Orlando


SUNDAY - DECEMBER 4

8:30 am Fred & Genevieve Pfeiffer r/b the Walsh
Family
10:00 am Richard Burke r/b Family
Joseph LaRosa r/b Helen LaRosa &
Family
Concetta Scotto r/b her daughter, Agatha
Scotto
11:30 am Kathleen Frain r/b Jack Boesch


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

Denise Daniels	Helen Copperthwaite	
George Sweeten	Bob & Claire Boylan	
Chris Kolodzey	Naomi Willingmyre	
Maria Storms	Joseph Console	
Mae Rose	Frank Cappetta	
Ron Massey	Margaret MacElrath	
Olga Mignone	Andrea Buonincontro	
Frank Colbert	Michael Kapischke	
Mary Cowan	Betty O'Donnell	
Yolanda Burke	Marie Mazzagatti	
Jean Colbert	Stanley Kochanek	Owen Smith
Dorothy Brink	Pauline Rosberg	Leona Novak
Catherine Zee	William Mitchell	Danny Perla
Pat Barton	Geralyn Coticone	Anna McMullen
Ethan Killeen	Jerry McMenamin	Don Kreal
James Louzon	Joe Pottackal, Sr.	Joanne James
Grayson Caruso	Chuck Kapischke	JoAnn Gadren
Chase Lupica	Pasquale DiFronzo	Gloria Daniels
Carlos Santiago	Fr. Joseph Aboagye-Tawiah	Mary Flacco
Betty Brennan	Sharon Bushelli	Alfred DiFrank
		Ed Rivero
		Marie DiFrank
		Avery Caruso
		Leila Lore

THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...

 Lt. Col. Allison Agar, Lance Corporal Sean Bilson, Lt. Cdr. Richard P. Byrnes, Jr., Pvt. 1st Class Mario Centofanti, Sr. Airman Alyssa Cosentino, Staff Sergeant Anthony R. Cosentino, Capt. Anthony T. DeMarco, Sr. Airman John P. DeYoung, Lt. Nicholas G. Iannuzzi, PFC Sonny Morrison, Major Ryan Orfe, Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa, SSgt Arturo Rivero, Jr., Lt. Col. Karl Rohr, USN SR Lindsay Schaffer, Major James P. Tobin, SPC Giselle M. Torres and Cpl. Michael Willingmyre.

REGIONAL PENANCE SERVICE
(with private confession)
Monday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.
here at St. Thomas More Parish
Large number of confessors present.

 **THANK YOU** to all the regulars, the 'newbies' (2 men of the parish), and the Wednesday morning Small Christian Community group who helped make 360 sandwiches and between 400-500 utensil packages for the Cathedral Kitchen on Wed., Nov. 16. You're the greatest!!!
Note: Save the date for the next sandwich making on Wed., Feb. 15, 2012 after the 9:00 Mass.
Marianne Wilkins, Coordinator—428-4924
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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 of Advent, December 4, 2011 - Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins...This is what John proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Commentary:

Like John we must be voices crying out to prepare the way of the Lord. Salvation is already upon us. What we are doing now is critical, as critical as what John the Baptist was doing to announce Jesus' first coming. The way we live our lives makes a difference, not only for our own salvation but also because - since we have been baptized in the Holy Spirit and already share in God's divine life - we are to announce God's reign to others. The role of John the Baptist is transferred to us: what John was to Christ's first coming we are to be to Christ's Second Coming. And we prepare for this Second Coming by living our lives in such a way that we are "without spot or blemish before him, at peace" (second reading).

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?



We urge our fellow citizens to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest.

Priests for Life, Living the Gospel of Life

Al Mac Elrath, Respect Life Coordinator - 779-7130

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Stewardship Clay

"Yet, O Lord, you are our father; we are clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands." (Isaiah 64:7)

When we realize that it is God who formed and blessed us, we must also realize that we have a *Stewardship* obligation to share our blessings as God intended when He created us. It is not a matter of pointing fingers and asking what others are doing. We need to search our own hearts and ask what we are doing to fulfill God's plan for us.

The Diocese of Camden sexual abuse toll-free number for information about counseling and support services is 1-800-964-6588.

'FUNSTER NEWS'



FUNSTERS MTG: THIS MONDAY, Nov. 28 at 1:00 in the Saint Thomas More Room. All attending **Tomasello Winery Gala** and those interested in 2012 trips should attend. Representative from Collette Vacations will give a slide presentation of Mackinac Island, Michigan and Rose Parade & New Year's Eve Party in Pasadena, CA. Questions, call Bob Lento; 344-7454.

Mentoring Program

Catholic Partnership Schools-Camden

Why Mentor? Mentor because you:

- Are passionate about youth development.
 - Want to provide hope in the life of a child.
 - Believe it is an opportunity to change a child's life.
- Get information from Chris Baeckstrom at 424-7816.

"A Holy Hour to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life"

Holy Hour will be on **First Thursdays** every month at a different deanery. Our deanery's will be on December 1 at St. Peter Church, Merchantville beginning at 7 p.m. "Pray...pray...pray to the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." Please come — your presence and your prayers are most important to this cause as we all work together in the work of vocations.

*Rev. Michael Romano,
Director of Vocations, Diocese of Camden*
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