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: sthomasmore@comcast.net

Mass Schedule

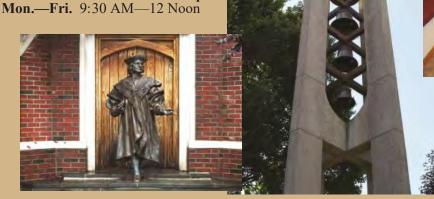
Daily Mass: Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM in

the Chapel

First Saturdays: 9:00 AM in the Chapel

Sat. 4:30 PM Sun. 8:30 and 11:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel





Rite of Reconciliation **Saturday**

3:00—4:00 PM In the Chapel First Fridays after the 9:00 AM Mass

Father Edward Namiotka, Pastor Father Victorino Coronado, In Residence Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate for Life Long Faith Formation Sister Rosangela Ganau, FMIJ, Catechetical Leader Julie Linn, Music Ministry Marylee Garber, Parish Secretary Sheila Tartamosa, Business Manager



Send all bulletin announcements to: stmsecretary1439@gmail.com by 2:00pm Monday

DIRECTORY

Parish Trustees	Jeannine Mc Menamin Henry Glover		Worship Altar Servers	Sister Ann Byrnes	856-424-3212
Christian Life/Education	•		Church Environment Ch. Art Environment	Committee Committee	
Bereavement	Staff	856- 424-3212	Eucharistic Ministers	Sr. Ann Byrnes	856-424-3212
Consolation Ministry	Ann Marie Lento	856- 344-7454	Lectors	Dan Miller/ Sr. Ann By	
	Jon Lisitski jonll	1@comcast.net	Linen Committee	Ann Vigrass	856-428-7217
Faith & Justice Team	Chris Baeckstrom	856-912-7078	Sacristans	Greta Tyrrell Dom Sacca	856-428-2412
Hospital Visitors	Staff & Euch. Ministers	856-424-3212		Dave Bongiovanni	
Intercessory Prayer	Ann Vigrass	856-428-7217		Joe Centonze	
Knights of Columbus	John Galati	856-424-3212	Ushers	Chico Febus	
Marriage Formation	Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa	856-795-1160	Social Development Bridge Groups	Joyce DeMichele	856-424-4008
Parish Rel. Ed. Prog.	Sr. Rosangela Ganau,	856-424-3212	Bridge Groups	Barbara Cerquitella	856-795-7323
Respect Life	Staff		Parish Festival	Committee	856-424-3212
Rite of Ch. Init. Adults	Sister Ann Byrnes	856-424-3212	Women's Club	Barbara Cerquitella	856-795-7323
Rosary Ministry	Marian Kapischke	856-424-2053		Lorraine Kennedy	856-489-0031
Small Christian Comm.	Sr. Ann Byrnes		Administration		
Spiritual Retreats	John Galati	856-428-7073	House of Charity	Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212
St. Vincent de Paul	Chico Febus	856-424-3212	Parish Finance Council	Robert Crawford	856-424-3212
Stewardship	Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212	Parish Pastoral Council	Marie Enny	856-751-8893
Welcoming Team	Shirley Kane	856-424-8022			

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, JANUARY 28, 2024

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades One through Eight - Sunday 9:30 AM—10:45 AM

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

New members are welcome in our community of faith. Please call, 424-3212, or come to the parish

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please submit hardcopy and/or e-mail by 2 p.m. Monday.

CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL

St. John Paul II Regional School - (856) 783-3088 Principal: Mrs. Helen Persing



Father, you have given us Jesus to show us your face in our daily lives.

Open our eyes to the familiar and surprising ways that he heals and empowers us each day.

May your Holy Spirit help us to expel all that is evil and impure in our lives, all that is opposed to you and your ways.

This we pray through Christ our Lord.

Amen



"If my people, who are called by My Name, **shall humble themselves**, and **pray**, and **seek** My Face, and **turn** from their wicked ways; **then** will I hear from heaven, and will **forgive** their sin, and I will **heal** their land." *2nd Chronicles 7:14*

The collection for Sunday, January 21, 2024, was \$7,024.00 The budgeted amount was \$8500.



Like prayer, tithing is a

kind of communication with the Lord, your God. It's a way for you to show that you know the value of your church; that through giving, you are remaining close to God and His teachings.



Do you need a ride to Mass? Are you willing and able to pick up a parishioner for Mass? St. Thomas More Parish is taking names for a new ministry. Please call the

Parish Office if you need a ride. Please call the Parish Office if you are willing to pick someone up. for Mass. 856-424-3212.

Stewardship Corner: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Stewards Pray

"Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties." - 1 CORINTHIANS 7:32

How much anxiety do we bring upon ourselves by constantly worrying about not having enough or attaining more things? God won't necessarily give you everything you want, but He will provide everything you need. Try this – use the word "pray" instead of the word "worry" in the future. Then, in Stewardship spend your time praying instead of worrying.

From the Pastor's Desk Moral Correctness vs. Political Correctness

Dear Parishioners,

Unfortunately, we live in a *politically correct* world. The legacy news media and advertising often drives it. We have become so cautious not to offend anyone. We do not want to be *cancelled*. As a result, we may wind up compromising what we truly believe in the name of *tolerance*. There are rumblings among the *populus*, however, and ever-more people are becoming fed-up with what is going on.

What if the early Christians acted in the same manner? Would they have been so cautious not to proclaim **Jesus is Lord** in the face of torture and death? I think about how the early Apostles were willing to die rather than compromise their beliefs. How easy it would have been to acknowledge that Caesar was *divine* (as was demanded at the time), and go on living. Couldn't Jesus just be acknowledged as one *god* among many other gods? After all, the Greeks and Romans were polytheistic cultures and would more than likely tolerate one more god. It would be the *politically correct* thing to do at that time. Instead, the early Christians bravely faced torture and death in their unwavering proclamation that **Jesus is the Risen Son of God**. For them, there was no other option.

Today, we may not say certain things are **objectively wrong** for fear of offending someone:

Abortion is not killing an innocent human being—dare I say murder?—but a woman's choice.

Marriage (the *permanent*, *exclusive*, *open-to children* union between a *man and a woman*) is redefined <u>not</u> according to timeless, divine principles but as we enlightened humans currently see fit.

We don't call co-habitation *fornication*, but a *trial-marriage*.

Euthanasia (killing the elderly) is *mercy-killing*.

Adulterers are swingers.

The difference between *partial-birth abortion* and *Infanticide* is negligible.

Homosexual acts fall into the category of an alternate lifestyle.

Artificial contraception is never wrong or sinful in many people's mind.

There is no longer a proper understanding that we have a moral obligation *to God* to attend Mass weekly.

Wrong becomes right. Right is no longer right. The world is horribly confused. And this confusion does have serious, eternal consequences.

God in timeless wisdom and with apparently incredible patience looks at us and, I suspect, desires that we would listen and obey. There is a law written in your hearts. I sent you the prophets. I even gave you my only **Son** as my definitive **Word**. You have centuries of saints and martyrs witnessing to the truth by their lives. My gift of the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church. Please listen. Don't delay.

I trust that God is *all-merciful*. There is frequently an emphasis on His mercy. I also believe that God is *all-just*. God's justice is tempered by His mercy. (See James 2: 12-13) Mercy is offered to us so that we admit our sinfulness, desire to change our erring ways and completely conform our lives to the teachings of Christ. Mercy is not like a *get out of jail free* card. We can't just continue with our sinful ways assuming God to be some pushover—some *lenient parent*—who will continually let us do whatever we want without consequences. We are all going to Heaven despite what we do here on earth. Not really. Why would Jesus have suffered and died in such a horrible manner if we all just go to Heaven no matter what we think, say or do? No, if we refuse mercy, if we refuse to listen, if we fail to change, then God remains *all-just*. We will get what we actually deserve. And it wasn't because God did not try to get through to us time and time again.

If *political correctness* blurs our *moral correctness* then I would suggest that we make the necessary adjustments to our thinking and acting. We need to realize that the truth—the objective moral teachings given by Jesus Christ and faithfully proclaimed by His Church—are the means given us for our *eternal salvation*.

And eternal does mean forever.

Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, JANUARY 28, 2024

Feb/ 3/4 2024

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	G. Tyrrell	J. Cepeda	T. Johnson
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	B. Massey	S. Oatway	E. Bresani
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	J. Galati	L. Galati	S. Andino L. Vascisin

IF TODAY YOU HEAR GOD'S VOICE, HARDEN NOT YOUR HEART (Psalm 95)

It's the Third consecutive Sunday that the Lord is inviting us to a deeper

relationship with Him with the Call of Samuel first, then the Call of his First Disciples and, on this Sunday, with the Psalm 95: "If Today You Hear God's voice, Harden Not Your Heart"!

Our Loving Lord never stops speaking to us wherever we are. He thirsts for us, for me! Let's listen to his strong appeal for friendship and for my personal love. Maybe I do want to be open to Him, but I do not know how. How to address Him. We may try by asking His help, by expressing our desire of him and telling Him our helplessness. This desire is already a gift to Him, it is already an answer to His appeal for my friendship with Him.

With patience and a constant listening to His Word, in all the different ways he tries to get in touch with us, we will find Him, His love, and the true joy we are looking for, and..., we will make Him happy too!!!!

REMINDERS:

January 27, February 10 and March 9:
Confirmation Preparation Class for grades 7 and 8, taught by Fr. Ed our Pastor. Time 9:30 to 12:30.

January 27: First Penance Retreat in preparation for the second graders and their parents, 10:00-11:30.

January 28: 7th grade Confirmation I: Parents-Children Meeting #2, in the Chapel, 9:30-10:45

February 24: Celebration of First Penance - Time 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM for the second graders.

Events around the Area:

Holocaust Remembrance Day Program

at Christ our Light Parish 7:00 PM Tuesday, January 30, 2024 in the Gym

M. Roger Holland in Concert for Black History Month

7:00 PM Saturday, February 3, 2024 Mass at 10:30 AM Sunday February 2024 Christ Our Light.

Divine Mercy Healing Retreat

February 23rd & 24th, 2024 St. John Paul, II Retreat Center, Vineland. Registration limited to 200. www.CamdenDioceseCatholicRenewal.org

Volunteers Needed! Cherry Hill Food Pantry Dates:

Tues. February 6 --5:00 pm to 7:30

Thursday February 8 —10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tuesday, February 13 — 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm **Thursday, February 15** — 10:00 am to 1:00 pm If you can help, please call Elaine: 856-428-8431



The flowers placed at the Blessed Mother's statue this week (January 28th—February 3rd) are placed there in loving memory of Peter A. Buttacavoli requested by Tina Petrone.

Thank YOU from the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Center in Camden!

To all St. Thomas More Parishioners who participated in our Mitten, Sock and Hat Tree. Thank you for your generous donations to our Center. We will include your gifts of warmth to the needy families who attend our Food Distribution as long as supplies last.



SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

4:30 PM Marie Budroe r/b Greta

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

8:30 AM Intentions of Sr. Clare Sabini, FMIJ r/b STM Religious Education 11:00 AM Gary Khul r/b Josephine Welsh

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

9:00 AM people of the parish 9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

9:00 AM Souls in Purgatory
r/b Michael Calingasan
9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

9:00 AM Living and deceased members of Morgan family in Ireland
9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

9:00 AM Peter A. Buttacavoli r/b Tina Petrone 9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

9:00 AM John Ravena r/b Bob & Ann Marie Lento 9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

4:30 PM Dang Nhat Anh Thu r/b Matilde Estevez

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

8:30 AM Intentions of Sr. Clare Sabini, FMIJ r/b St. Thomas More Parish 11:00 AM John & Xenia Mitchell r/b Greta



Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

Irene Rellosa

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions January 2024 For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE

SICK... Kristina Acevedo, Caroline Bancheri, Jim Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Pat Beaney, Joe



Centonze, Ray Chuisano, Elva Clark, Grace Cobin, Alex Colon, Tammy Colon, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, Mary Cowan, Catherine Diana, Fr. George Donfurtang, Elizabeth Garber, Eileen Gerie, Eileen Goodwin, Marjorie Graham, Helen Kane, Marion Kapischke, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, John Lane, Bob Lento, Marie Manalo, Carter Oakley, Tina Petrone, Helen Protzman, Dom Sacca, Carlos Santiago, Teddy Shaffer, Grace Sklencar, Joe Sklencar, Claire Spence, Dick Spence, Dale Strack, Stacia Strack, Michael Suralik, Pat Suralik, Ed Targonski, Sr., Roy Targonski, Ann Vigrass, Joanne Wachman, Sarah Warner, and Nicholas.



PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES... SPC

Jordan Beckman, Captain Patrick J. Bones, USMC, Major Anthony R. Cosentino, USAF, TSgt.John P.

DeYoung, Sam Houston, USN, Lt. Nicholas G. Iannuzzi, SSgt. Kris Knaup, Capt. Jennifer LaSalce, US Army, Capt. Christopher Mawn, Lt. Jacqueline A. McCabe, PFC Sonny Morrison, Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa, Sisi Tyrrell, USMC, SPC Nicole Williams, and *all those serving our country*.

Eucharistic Revival Quotes from Pope Francis

"Sharing the word and celebrating Eucharist together fosters fraternity and makes us a holy and missionary community. It also gives rise to authentic and shared mystical experiences." (Gaudete et Exsultate, 142)

Mall Walk for the Homeless
Sunday, February 25, 2024
Voorhees Town Center
Fun Activities begin at 1:30 PM
Walk starts at 2:30 PM Rain, Snow, or Shine
Registration is online at www.ihocsnj.org
Registration fee is \$25 and includes a mall Walk
T-shirt



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, JANUARY 28, 2024

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 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 4, 2024- Mark 1:29-39

Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever... approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them...He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons...Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed..."Let us go to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come."

Commentary:

Jesus' ministry cannot be contained. The healing that begins with one woman expands to "all who were ill"; what begins in one home reaches out to the "whole town" and indeed, to "the whole of Galilee." The ministry and preaching of Jesus continues to expand through the proclamation of the gospel, the ministry of the disciples, and the work of the Church. As members of Christ's body (the Church), therefore, it is also our work to preach the gospel and reach out to all those who need healing.

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?



Pro-Life Corner: "I tried to get my mind around the arguments from the so-called 'pro-choice' position. Most of them could seem very defensible from the surface. But when

you dig just a little below the surface, you see how ridiculous these claims become. Taking a person's life is not 'health care.'"– Randy Smith, Pastor, and Founder of Christian Travel Study Programs

Worldwide Marriage Encounter parish experience Sunday and Wednesday evenings beginning February 18 and concluding March 10 at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Williamstown. For more information contact: 609-741-8012 or www.esouthjersey.org

Contribution statements for calendar year 2023 taxes will be emailed upon request. Please call the Parish Office (856-424-3212) if you would like your year end statement.



Urge Legislators to Expand Child Tax Credits

Last week Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO) announced a deal to expand Child Tax Credits as part of a legislative package that also includes business tax breaks. The bipartisan proposal would lift an estimated 400,000 children out of poverty.

Please contact your representative to urge them to support The Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024.

Call Representative Donald Norcross (202) 225-6501) OR Email at norcross.house.gov/email-me



Sixty participants were enriched by the presentation by Father Jon Thomas at our Stewardship Breakfast. And special thanks to Tom & Junnie Griffiths for preparing a delicious breakfast/ brunch for all to enjoy!!!



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