# 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
Sat. 4:30 PM
Sun. 8:30 and 11:00 AM
Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel Mon.-Fri. 9:30 AM—12 Noon

Father Edward Namiotka, Pastor
Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate for Life Long Faith Formation
Sister Clare Sabini, FMIJ, Director of Religious Education Julie Linn, Music Ministry
Pat Cannon, Parish Secretary • Marylee Garber, Parish Secretary Sheila Tartamosa, Pastoral Associate for Parish Administration

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

## DIRECTORY

| Pastoral Leadership |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Parish Trustees | Jeannine Mc Menamin Henry Glover |  |
| Christian Life/Education |  |  |
| Bereavement | Staff | 424-3212 |
| Consolation Ministry | Ann Marie Lento | 344-7454 |
|  | Jon Llisitski jon | onll1 @ comcast.net |
| Faith \& Justice Team | Chris Baeckstrom | 912-7078 |
| Hospital Visitors | Staff \& Euch. Ministers | rs 424-3212 |
| Intercessory Prayer | Ann Vigrass | 428-7217 |
| Knights of Columbus | Brian Haughwout | 609-458-7851 |
| Marriage Formation | Bob \& Elizabeth Scarpa | pa 795-1160 |
| Parish Rel. Ed. Prog. | Sr. Clare Sabini | 424-3212 |
| Prayer Shawl Ministry | Ann Vigrass | 428-7217 |
| Respect Life | Staff |  |
| Rite of Ch. Init. Adults | Sister Ann Byrnes | 424-3212 |
| Rosary Ministry | Marian Kapischke | 424-2053 |
| Small Christian Comm. | Sr. Ann Byrnes |  |
| Spiritual Retreats | John Galati | 428-7073 |
| St. Vincent de Paul |  |  |
| Stewardship | Sheila Tartamosa | 424-3212 |
| Welcoming Team | Shirley Kane | 424-8022 |


| Sister Ann Byrnes | $424-3212$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| Committee |  |
| Committee | $424-3212$ |
| Sr. Ann Byrnes | $428-7217$ |
| Dan Miller/ Sr. Ann Byrnes |  |
| Ann Vigrass | $428-2412$ |
| Greta Tyrrell |  |
| Dom Sacca |  |
| Dave Bongiovanni |  |
| Joe Centonze |  |
| Chico Febus |  |
| Joyce DeMichele | $424-4008$ |
| Barbara Cerquitella | $795-7323$ |
| Lin Lyon | $795-4396$ |
| Committee | $424-3212$ |
| Barbara Cerquitella | $795-7323$ |
| Lorraine Kennedy | $489-0031$ |
|  |  |
| Sheila Tartamosa | $424-3212$ |
| Robert Crawford | $424-3212$ |
| Marie Enny | $751-8893$ |

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    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.
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## 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

## THelcome

Jesus,
May we always be willing to follow You along the path of sacrificial love.

Teach us what we need to know to gain entry through the narrow gate, to reach your kingdom.
Let us welcome your call to work with you to bring about the kingdom in our world. Give us the dedication to persevere in this goal.

Amen

The Religious Education Program is updating our technology for the children and is in need of 8 Smart TVs, one for each classroom. We would appreciate donations to purchase these TVs which would
 benefit the children. PLEASE HELP


The collection for Sunday, August 14, 2022 was:
\$3279. 70 donations in church 1740.8431 donations online $\$ 5019.84$ 101total donations
 Thank you for your continuing generosity.

"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

## Stewardship Corner: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Stewardship Living

"For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last." LUKE 13:30
Our cultural standards are different from God's standards. We often rank people by what they have, how powerful they are, or how successful they are. Jesus reminds us that God will not judge us by the same earthly standards. When God asks you: How have you lived Stewardship? What have you done with the gifts I have given you? How will you respond?


## From the Pastor's Desk

## The Narrow Gate

"Lord, will only a few people be saved?" He answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough. . . ." (Lk. 13: 23-24)
Dear Parishioners,
For many years this passage from Sacred Scripture has really troubled me. What if those who find the road to (eternal) life are actually few? In this day and age when many (most?) people are canonized at a funeral, when society refuses to be told what to do because of a type of unbridled freedom (actually license), when the moral credibility of the Church has eroded to the point of collapse, and when the most severe sin in our culture has become lack of tolerance, shouldn't we be a wee bit concerned?
What exactly constitutes the narrow gate? Bear with me as I do a bit of soul searching. Traditionally, there have been certain sins that by their nature are considered grave matter-one of the three necessary components of mortal sin. Such sins include (but are not limited to) murder, rape, incest, adultery, perjury, blasphemy, idolatry, sacrilege, fornication, masturbation, euthanasia, abortion, apostasy, homosexual acts, prostitution, et. al. Realizing also that there is the necessity of sufficient reflection (knowledge) and full consent of the will, people who commit these acts risk being in a state of mortal sin. In other words, if they die unrepentant of these sins they risk eternal damnation (the fires of hell).

Now let's take a step further into other more common occurrences of potential mortal sin. The Church has traditionally declared that it is a mortal sin to intentionally miss Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. What of the approximately $80 \%$ of Catholics who no longer practice their faith regularly? The wide gate?

The Catholic Church teaches that the use of artificial birth control is a mortal sin. Some contraceptives (types of the "pill") are actually abortifacient in nature, meaning that a fertilized egg (post-conception) is prevented from embedding itself in the mother's womb. Hence, a mini or microscopic abortion may have occurred. Nonetheless, those who use any artificial birth control risk being in mortal sin. One headline I googled while writing this article stated boldly: Most Catholic Women in U.S. Use Birth Control. Again, the wide gate?

What then do we do with the number of people who use sex recreationally and sleep with each other outside of the context of marriage, or cohabitate outside of marriage, or are in a second marriage "outside" of the Church (divorce and re-marriage without an annulment)? What about homosexuals who engage in sexual activity, regardless of whether or not they have some "committed" relationship? What about the rampant use of internet pornography (frequently accompanied with masturbation)? Sexually active teens? Sexually active college students? Friends with benefits? If all of these people are in grave (mortal) sin, again we seem to have a wide gate here.
I conclude this reflection with the scene of the final judgment in St. Matthew's gospel (Mt. 25:3146). Read it when you get a chance. In essence, the separation of the sheep from the goats involves a condemnation to eternal punishment for failing to do good to/for others. There is no mention here of any of the grave sins listed above. Rather there is damnation for what someone fails to do. Another wide gate?
I suggest we all be a little more hesitant before we assume that somehow we all automatically go to heaven. There is a reason that Jesus called for repentance and conversion. And this message is meant for all of us!
Enter through the narrow gate . . .
Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, AUGUST 21, 2022

Ministry Schedule for August 27/28

|  | Presider | Music | Extraordinary Minister | Lector | Altar Server |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4:30 PM | Fr. <br> Namiotka | Len | E. Beckman | K. McFadden |  |
| 8:30 AM | Fr. <br> Namiotka | Becca <br> Julie | K. Witts | K. Kraemer | A. \&C. Witts <br> L. \& G. Hutchinson |
| 11:00 AM | Fr. <br> Namiotka | Becca <br> Julie | D. Staton | B. Haughwout | M. Marsden |



In pp. no. 27 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we read that "The desire for God (and the spiritual realm) is written in the human heart, because the human person is created by God and for God, and God never ceases to draw US to himself. Only in God will we find the truth and happiness we never stop searching for. The dignity of the human person rests above all on the fact that WE are called to communion with God. This invitation to converse with God is addressed to US as soon as we came into being. For, if WE exist, it is because GOD has created US through love, and through love continues to hold US in existence. WE cannot live fully according to truth unless WE freely acknowledge that love, and entrust ourselves to OUR Creator." The parental task and that of the parish catechesis is to prepare the heart of our children to hear, listen and be touched by GOD's presence, by JESUS' intimate love for each person. Children are able to perceive this and many of US have experienced it ourselves. When we fail in this duty toward our children, we contribute to the actual state of our church
 these days. Poor catechesis, in the home or parish contributes to children who sooner or later cease to believe and to remain in our FAITH. Parental influence in the faith calls them to responsibility for communicating the faith to their children. This task should be second to none other. All our excuses are unjustifiable before our eternal destiny.

We need two assistants for grades 2 and 4. Please call 424-3212, or email srclarefmij.stmc@gmail.com

Have you registered yet for the 2022-2023 year? We need to know who is coming so we can order the proper amount of supplies.


Celebrating 25, 50, 60 0r 70 or more years of marriage in 2022? Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass Sunday, September 25, 2022 3:00 PM St. Gianna Beretta Molla Parish 1417 New Road Northfield, NJ 08225 (A light reception will follow in the parish hall.) Registration forms are available in STM parish office. Deadline to register is September 9, 2022. For more information call St. Thomas More Parish Office: 856-424-3212

> Annual Filipino 'Tagalog" Mass Sunday, August 28, 2022 at 2:00pm
> Catholic Church of St. Mary 2001 Springdale Rd, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003 Please invite your family and friends as we $\quad$ celebrate our Filipino culture and community. Questions? Please call (856) 424-1454, ext. 102.

The $50^{\text {th }}$ St. Joan of Arc Church Carnival is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 22, to Saturday, Aug. 27, on the church grounds at Evans and Willow Bend roads in Marlton. Ride, food and games begin at 6 p.m. Nightly entertainment. There will be a 50/50 (last winner took home over $\$ 26,000$ ), hourly raffles and "Tree of Gift Cards" raffle. Alumni Night/Throwback Tuesday: \$1 hot dogs \& $1^{\text {st }} 100$ alumni receive a free $T$-shirt. Wednesday Night Pig Roast. Beer Garden. Panzerottis. Corn Hole Tournament. All-access ride bracelets which can be used any night of the carnival can be purchased in advance for the special price of $\$ 30$ at ShopRite of Marlton, in the church vestibule after all weekend masses, or at the rectory Mon-Thurs 9:30-12:30 and 2-5. Cost at the carnival will be $\$ 40$ per bracelet. All proceeds benefit St. Joan of Arc School. For more information, visit www.stioans.org/ carnival, email carnival@stioans.org or call 856-9830077. See you on the midway!


Pope Francis' AUGUST intentions:
For small business
We pray for small and medium sized businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating, and serving their communities.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN

 YOUR PRAYERS: $T H E$SICK...Kristina Acevedo, Caroline Bancheri, Jim Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Pat Beaney, Ray Chuisano, Elva
 Clark, Grace Cobin, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, Mary Cowan, Catherine Diana, Elizabeth Garber, Eileen Goodwin, Marjorie Graham, Jean Haines, Maureen Howe, Audrey Johnson, Helen Kane, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, Bob Lento, Marie Manalo, Tina Petrone, Helen Protzman, John Ravena, Jacob Rivers, Jasxon Rivera, Carlos Santiago, Yun-Yun Shen, Teddy Shaffer, Claire Spence, Dick Spence, Dale Strack, Stacia Strack, Michael Suralik, Pat Suralik, Ann Vigrass, Sarah Warner.


## PRAY FOR THOSE IN

 THE ARMED SERVICES... SPC Jordan Beckman, Captain Patrick J. Bones, USMC, Major Anthony R. Cosentino, USAF, SSgt John P. DeYoung, Lt. Nicholas G. Iannuzzi, SSgt. Kris Knaup, Lt. Christopher Mawn, Lt. (j.g.) Jacqueline A. McCabe, SN Christian Mele, PFC Sonny Morrison, Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa, Sgt. 1st Class Mark Rimbaugh, Lt. Col. James P. Tobin, Sisi Tyrrell, USMC, SPC Nicole Williams, and all those serving our country in the armed forces.House of Charity 2022 "From Many...One Body" When our parish collects its goal amount, up to $10 \%$ is returned to our parish for our local charitable needs. Additionally, $75 \%$ of all funds received above our parish goal will also be returned to our local parish to foster our charitable and ministerial work. This year, St. Thomas More Parish goal is $\$ 89,700$. To date, we have collected over $\$ 59,916$. We are making progress and still need your help!

Thanks to all who have already contributed.


On Saturday, October 29 ${ }^{\text {th }}, 2022$, the faithful of the Diocese of Camden are invited to participate in their pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Most Rev. Dennis J. Sullivan, Bishop of Camden, will be the principal celebrant of the Pilgrimage Mass.
More details to follow.

## 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.
experiences.
Excerpt from the Gospel for the Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 28, 2022 Luke 14: 1, 7 -14 Jesus said, "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted. Then he said to the host who invited him, "When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed you will be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

## Commentary:

Everything we know now will be different in terms of the kingdom. So if we seek wealth, we should make friends with the poor, and if we want happiness, we ought to comfort the sorrowing. Whatever our ultimate goals are, we ought to aim in the direction of their opposites. This makes humility an all-purpose virtue. To get to the top, aim low. But humility can never be a ruse: you have to take delight in being little and unimportant. Francis of Assisi and Therese of Lisieux each understood this perfectly. It might take a bit of practice to get this right. Our society, after all, is set up in the opposite direction.
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?


Going on vacation? Need to find a church? For nationwide Mass times and locations: www.masstimes.org


SVDP Fundraiser: Krispy Kreme Donuts "Digital Dozens" running now through December 31, 2022.


In order to purchase food for the needy, SVDP is sponsoring a Krispy Kreme fundraiser and your participation is greatly appreciated. Contact Paul Rossi (601-283-3685) or: prossi3753@yahoo for more information.


Racism: An Attitude of Superiority Racism can often be found in our hearts-in many cases placed there unwillingly or unknowingly by our upbringing and culture. As such, it can lead to thoughts and actions that we do not even see as racist, but nonetheless flow from the same prejudicial root.

Consciously or subconsciously, this attitude of superiority can be seen in how certain groups of people are vilified, called criminals, or are perceived as being unable to contribute to society, even unworthy of its benefits. Racism can also be institutional. The cumulative effects of personal sins of racism have led to social structures of injustice and violence that makes us all accomplices in racism. Open Wide Our Hearts USCCB

Volunteers Needed for Children's Liturgy of the Word. On Sunday, October 2nd, Children's Liturgy of the Word will begin at the 11:00 AM Mass. Lynda Chiaravallotti will coordinate this program for children 3-6 years old. Lynda needs other parents to assist her with this important ministry to our youngest children. Please email Lynda (lyndaahuynh@gmail.com) or call 469-867-0442 if you are able to assist her or need more information about this program.


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| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| B0 <br> 1300 North Kings | CCO <br> Joseph C. Boc cholas Joseph L <br> Hwy. Cherry Hil <br> WWW. | AL HOME <br> Lic. No. 3323 <br> r, N.J. Lic. No. 5119 <br> (856) 795-5991 <br> home.com |

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