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

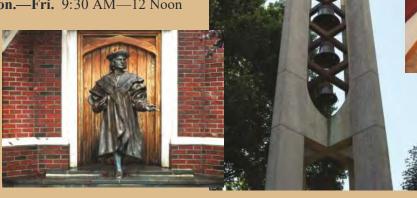
the Chapel

First Saturdays: 9:00 ÅM 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

Welcoming Team





Rite of Reconciliation **Saturday**

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

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 Marylee Garber, Parish Secretary Sheila Tartamosa, Pastoral Associate for Parish Administration

Shirley Kane



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

DIRECTORY

Parish Trustees	Jeannine Mc Menamin Henry Glover		Worship Altar Servers Church Environment	Sister Ann Byrnes Committee	856-424-3212
Christian Life/Education			Ch. Art Environment	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	l@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	Brian Haughwout	609-458-7851	Ushers	Chico Febus	
Marriage Formation	Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa	856-795-1160	Social Development	Joyce DeMichele	856-424-4008
Parish Rel. Ed. Prog.	Sr. Clare Sabini	856-424-3212	Bridge Groups	Barbara Cerquitella	856-795-7323
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Ann Vigrass	856-428-7217	Parish Festival	Committee	856-424-3212
Respect Life	Staff		Women's Club	Barbara Cerquitella	856-795-7323
Rite of Ch. Init. Adults	Sister Ann Byrnes	856-424-3212		Lorraine Kennedy	856-489-0031
Rosary Ministry	Marian Kapischke	856-424-2053	Administration		
Small Christian Comm.	Sr. Ann Byrnes		House of Charity	Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212
Spiritual Retreats	John Galati	856-428-7073	Parish Finance Council	Robert Crawford	856-424-3212
St. Vincent de Paul	Chico Febus	856-424-3212	Parish Pastoral Council	Marie Enny	856-751-8893
Stewardship	Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212			
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856-424-8022

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



Come Meet Jesus!

No matter where you come from or where you're going,

no matter what you believe or what you doubt, no matter what you feel or just don't feel today, no matter whom you love,

we extend a special welcome to you to join us.

Come meet Jesus,

Who knows you by name,
Who knows your heart, Who knows your mind,
Who wants to have a relationship with you!

Come Meet Jesus!



"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, February 5, 2023 was: \$6373.31 from 122 donations. The budgeted amount for this week was \$8500. A parish, like every family, runs on a budget.



Money coming in must be greater than money going out. It is through the consistent generosity of all of our parishioners that we are able to maintain a vibrant parish, keep up with maintenance, and plan long-term projects for the improvement of our parish buildings. *Thank You for your generosity*.

Stewardship Corner: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time True Stewards

"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." MATTHEW 5:20

The Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear. It's the love that you have in your heart, for God and others, that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules to the letter and not out of love, does not necessarily put you on the path to heaven. Attending Sunday Mass and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner in the parking lot is an example of being a modern-day Pharisee, not a true Steward.



From the Pastor's Desk Divide and Conquer

Dear Parishioners,

There is a Latin phrase *divide et impera* (*divide and conquer*) which refers to a military or political strategy used to defeat an opponent in battle. A similar principle can be used to break up and destroy an opponent, to cause division in an organization, to damage the unity of society, even to attempt to destroy a *church*.

Let's use a common example from family life. A teenager goes to her mom to get permission from her to go to the mall with her friends. Mom says "no" because she realizes that her daughter has loads of homework and she needs to finish the work first. What does the daughter do? She goes to dad to ask <u>him</u> if she can go to the mall (because she knows from past experience that she's *daddy's little girl*). Dad looks at her and says "okay" without realizing that mom has already said "no." The teenager *played dad off mom* and seems to <u>win</u> (at least for the moment).

If the parents are smart they will discuss the situation together first and stand united in their decision. Otherwise, the strategy worked. *Division* was caused and the teenager won. This can lead to an argument between the parents and further problems down the line.

Apply the principle of *divide and conquer* up the social ladder and you can see the damage that can be done. Challenge the definition of what a *marriage* or *family* is. Cause confusion as to *when human life begins* or *about someone's gender*. Openly question traditionally acceptable principles of morality and consider them *outdated*. Undermine the teaching authority of the church and encourage people *to do what feels right or good for them*.

Jesus teaches us: "Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste, and no town or house divided against itself will stand." (Mt. 12:25) **Abraham Lincoln** used a similar phrase when referring to slavery in America: "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

Let's add to this what **St. Paul** says about the *Body of Christ—the* **Church**: ... Living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love. (Eph. 4: 15-16)

So when things happen that cause division, dissention or disunity, be on your guard. Question whether love is motivating the situation. Is unity being fostered? Or is father being pitted against mother, one family against another, one town against another, Republican against Democrat, priest against priest, parish against parish, cardinal against cardinal, bishop against bishop?

Creating dissention or disunity will ultimately lead to the downfall and destruction of us all. Something that is **diabolical** (from the *Greek*, meaning to cast apart) reveals Satan (and not God) ultimately behind the confusion and disunity.

I go back time and time again to a phrase of my patron saint, **Maximilian Kolbe**: "Only love is creative." God wants us unified under His Divine Rule. Satan wants our destruction. He wants the chaos and confusion. May we all work to bring about <u>unity</u> (not division) in the **Body of Christ**—the **Church.**

Otherwise, the consequences will be devastating for us all.

Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

Ministry Schedule for FEBRUARY 18/19, 2023

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Marta/Elena/Choir Julie	L. DiGiulio	K. McFadden	E. & E. Shim
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Julie	K. Glover	S. Oatway	T. Kenny E. Bresani
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Erin Julie	M. Garber	J. Bland- Campbell	S. Andino M. Marsden

FIND ONCOING

From the readings for the 6th Sun. in Ordinary Time, year A

"Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and has not entered the human heart, about what God has prepared for those who love him". There are many speculations on

life after physical death and some are very credible and may help us to believe that there is definitely something coming our way after our last breath. But many people don't seem to really believe or care about this whole thing, nor is there a feeling of re-energizing one's relationship within the

Church, and bring about a change of heart or a change of direction. Thus, we are invited by the readings of this Sunday to do just this ..."bring about a change of heart and redirection in our life toward GOD and our FAITH. But, as we find in the Old Testament,



people had become stiff-necked and did not want to listen even after the many wonders God had worked for them in Egypt and in the desert. Our generation seems to be just like those of the Old Testament. We have become stiff-necked and do not want to be bothered with rules or anyone telling us what to do, regardless of who they may be. Then, what is there left for those who still believe and become dis-heartened and discouraged about the current situation? Persistent prayer and good deeds, patience and good example, trust in God, who know BEST always. Life goes up and down and when down we hope and look forward to when it will go up again, in God's time and way.

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 is Ash Wednesday. The schedule for the Holy Day is: 9:00 AM Mass

Lent Begins Ash Wednesda

4:30 PM Service
7:00 PM Mass All are encouraged to attend one of these services.



The next Consolation Ministry meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23 at 1 pm in the St. Thomas More Room.



Sisters in St Thomas More Parish celebrated "World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life" on Sunday, February 5.





SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

4:30 PM Dorothy Cerone

r/b Jim & Sheila De Crescenzo

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

8:30 AM Gaetana Ramagnano

r/b Ron & Angela Panna

11:00 AM Rose & Patrick McMenamin r/b Jeannine

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

9:00AM People of the Parish

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

9:00AM Chip Tagland r/b Marie Flowers

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

9:00AM Carol Kelly r/b Greta

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

9:00 AM Vincent John Tyrrell r/b Greta

9:30 AM-12NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

9:00 AM Timothy Morrison r/b Vivian Consalvi 9:30 AM-12NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

4:30 PM Mary Bergamesco r/b Tobin family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

8:30AM Marjorie Mannix Gadren

r/b Sheila & Rob

11:00AM Rose & Patrick McMenamin

r/b Jeannine

Pope Francis' February Prayer Intentions: For parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.



SOUTH JERSEY Your gift to the Catholic **CATHOLIC** Ministries Appeal supports MINISTRIES the Deaf and Persons with **Disabilities:** This essential ministry nurtures and assists

those facing special physical challenges, which affects their access to the sacramental life of the Church and the support of our community of faith.

Support the 2023 South Jersey Catholic Ministries

Appeal. www.camdendiocese.org **St. Thomas More goal: \$89, 700** We need your help to meet this goal.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE

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, Fr. George Donfurtang, Elizabeth Garber, Eileen Gerie, Eileen Goodwin, Marjorie Graham, Maureen Howe, Helen Kane, Marion Kapischke, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, John Lane, Bob Lento, Marie Manalo, Tina Petrone, Helen Protzman, John Ravena, Jacob Rivera, Jaxson Rivera, Eleanor Rizzo, Dom Sacca, Carlos Santiago, Teddy Shaffer, Jean Smyth, Claire Spence, Dick Spence, Dale Strack, Stacia Strack, Michael Suralik, Pat Suralik, Roy Targonski, 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, Sisi Tyrrell, USMC, SPC Nicole Williams, and all those serving our country.

Knights of Columbus Nativity Council 6173 Dining for Dollars Feb. 28, 2023 11:00 AM—9:30 PM **Outback Steak House** Marlton, NJ



Spring Benefit Dinner Dance 3-7PM Sunday, March 5, 2023 **Sponsored by FMIJ Sisters** Auletto's Caterers.

1849 Cooper Street, Almonesson

Music provided by The Juliano Brothers Band Tickets: \$75 per person—This is a No Smoking Event

For tickets, please contact Sr. Maria at: 856-283-5554 or fmijmdr@vahoo.com **Checks payable to FMIJ Sisters**

2022 Contribution statements for income tax may be obtained by calling the office (856-424-3212).

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 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 19, 2023 - Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples: "When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go for two miles." "You have heard it said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brother only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same?"

<u>Commentary:</u>

Jesus asks his followers to live by a higher law than the Mosaic code, replacing strict justice with deep concern for the welfare of others. Christians must rise above an ordinary human standard that says we love those who love us in return. Christianity challenges us to love our enemies. Jesus calls us to follow his example. His life mirrors God's love for all creation. We are to love not because others deserve love but because as Christians—followers of Christ, sons and daughters of God—it's our nature to love.

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?



Pro-Life Corner: What to do if you have an unplanned pregnancy -7 coping strategies (from Psych Central).

"5. Consider support options. Now may be a good time for you to figure who you can

lean on for support. Your partner? Close friends? Family members? Or maybe you feel better speaking to a counselor about what you're thinking and feeling. No matter who you lean on, support should be unbiased and nonjudgmental. You deserve that. No one should judge you, your feelings, ... You may also consider seeking a doula or midwife near that can help you during this time.

6. Visualize your options. As you process your emotions, you may find really considering your options beneficial. You car try to visualize the following: what will life with a new baby at home be like, changes to routine, and so on, acknowledging both the good and bad; what will the adoption process be like should you decide to go down that path,..."

Join Bishop Sullivan and Fr. Hughes in Greece—October 20th—30th-\$4499ppdo (single supplement +\$949) from PHL. For more information or to register visit www.pilgrimages.com/frhughes

Lenten Small Christian Communities: All parishioners are invited and encouraged to sign up for one of the SCC that will be meeting during the 6 weeks of Lent. The small groups meet once a week for little over an hour. The members pray and reflect on the upcoming Sunday Gospel. Sign up sheets are in the Gathering Space. Joining an SCC is a spiritually enriching opportunity especially during the Lenten Season. Hope to see you there!



Native American People
In the U.S., there are approximately 6.79 million
Native American people—about 2% of the total. US
Census Bureau

33% of Native Americans live on reservations, with another 26% living in counties surrounding tribal areas. US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

The vast majority of land on reservations is held communally. This means residents can't get clear title to the land where their home sits and one reason for the abundance of mobile homes on reservations. This makes it hard for native Americans to establish credit and borrow money to improve their homes because they can't use the land as collateral. Forbes Native Americans have the highest poverty rate among all minority groups. The national poverty rate for Native Americans is 25.4%. US Census Bureau The unemployment rate for Native Americans is 6.1%, whereas the national unemployment rate is 3.5%. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The *median income of American Indian and Alaskan Native households is \$43, 825*— substantially lower that average of US household income of \$87, 864. *World Population Review*

Home ownership rates for Native Americans is 50.8%- substantially lower that the US rate of 66%. US Census Bureau

26.4% of Native people live without health insurance coverage, compared to 8.6% for all Americans. Center for Disease Control

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