# 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

Welcoming Team

**Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel Mon.**—Fri. 9:30 AM—12 Noon





#### 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: <a href="mailto:stmsecretary1439@gmail.com">stmsecretary1439@gmail.com</a> by 2:00pm Monday

#### **DIRECTORY**

Parish Trustees  Christian Life/Education	Jeannine Mc Menamin Henry Glover		Worship Altar Servers Church Environment Ch. Art Environment	Sister Ann Byrnes Committee Committee	856-424-3212
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 Bridge Groups	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			

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



"Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

Jesus, you are the resurrection and the life!
As we seek to always welcome you in our hearts
and live in a loving friendship with you in this world,
draw us away from sin and anything

draw us away from sin and anything that hinders us from hearing and responding to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.



"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, March 19, 2023 was: \$7760.06 from 113 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: Fifth Sunday of Lent Grateful Stewardship

"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" JOHN 11:40

Many of us say that we believe in God. We attend Sunday Mass and participate in parish events. But when life gets hard and the pressure is on, when things aren't going our way, do we really believe? Do we really put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, recognizing all that we have been given, we really live Stewardship by seeing that God is providing for our needs. Living a grateful and generous life allows us to see God's active presence in our daily lives and we become "partakers of the divine nature."

#### From the Pastor's Desk

#### The Annunciation

Dear Parishioners,

Around **March 25**<sup>th</sup> each year, I anxiously await what most people receive at *Christmas*—an annual card from a friend. Fr. Tom has chosen to send out **Annunciation** Day cards instead of the normal Christmas cards. The bottom of his card this year (2023) reads:

As long as our country treats the fruit of the womb as a disposable item in a subhuman culture, I will send my Christmas cards nine months early to proclaim to the world that the child in the womb is sacred.

In the past, his cards have given recipients other reminders:

And finally after nine months they give birth to humans who are our sons and daughters. They do not grow pre-human life forms that become human once they leave a woman. What an insult to women. That to live inside of our mother is to forfeit human dignity.

Jesus entered our world as a child in the womb of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary. He revealed to us His Father in Heaven. May we recognize Him in the least among us, even our unborn sons and daughters as we seek the Face of God together.

I wrote the following poem many years ago when reflecting on the sacredness and value of each human life:

#### I Cried

I cried—no one heard me Yet I cried— For I was inside Of my mother's womb.

I longed to be held in her arms,
To be fondled and caressed,
To take milk from my mother's breast
And to laugh.

Such beauty and warmth of life I could enjoy, Play with my first toy And begin to love.

I could leave my print on the world:
Wisdom to span the ages,
As the knowledge of sages
Of years past.

Still, more than this all, I long for life
—That gift God-given—
And the chance to live in
His created world.

I cried—and no one heard me
For I was inside of my mother's womb.
Little did I know it would be my tomb.
I cried.

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#### Ministry Schedule for April 1/2

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	Sr. Sophia	C BetsonSmith L K McFadden V	
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	K. Glover	D. Miller L S. Oatway V	T. Kenny
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	J. Galati	L. Galati L J BlandCampbell V	L.& G. Hutchinson



It is important to connect our children with the Gospel we hear at Sunday Mass. In other words, we need to teach our children that there are both obvious and hidden messages in the Gospel that apply to our existence on earth and the future

on in heaven. The priest in the homily, tries to teach about the Gospel lessons, but then we need to look at ourselves and see how all of it applies to ME personally. In the Gospel of this Sunday, the obvious lesson is that Jesus is God and he resurrected people from the dead.

He performed many miracles just as astonishing as this

one. The hidden messages we can gather from the story is that, like Lazarus, there are parts in us that are not living and fruitful. These are parts of us that JESUS wants to rise from the dead An examination of conscience can help: what is dry in us that needs to be revitalized or restored. Perhaps our faith in GOD, our TRUST IN



Are Christians nutty for having a relationship with their invisible God?

JESUS, or respect for parents, teachers, authority figures around us. Perhaps our kindness toward others as gowns dull, especially toward people we don't like. We use forms of bullying that may not appear as such but do cut others down. Yes, everyone has areas in our subconscious that have become dull, dry or even dead. JESUS can raise them up again in full bloom and life, if we open our whole being and life to HIM.

#### Live Your Best Life In LOVE!

Restore, Rekindle and Renew your relationship this Easter season!

Register For A **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Parish Experience.** Sunday and Wednesday Evenings beginning April 16 and concluding May 10. Saints Peter and Paul Parish 362 Ganttown Road Turnersville, NJ 08012 For more information: <a href="https://www.wwme-southjersey.org">wwme-southjersey.org</a> or call 609-741-8012



Father John Petrakovic led the Lenten Parish Mission at St Thomas More the week of March 13<sup>th</sup>. Parishioners enjoyed lite refreshments at the conclusion of the Mission.



#### Taize Prayer

A Taize Prayer involves sung and chanted prayers, meditation, scripture readings, periods of silence and icons. Taize prayer is a quieting, mystical experience. Be still and know God! Monday, March 27, 2023 7:00 PM in the Chapel.





#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 25**

**4:30 PM Jim Tobin** r/b family

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 26**

**8:30 AM** Patricia Cusumano r/b Beverly DeMasi **11:00 AM** Ottavio Martines r/b Franciscan Sisters

#### **MONDAY, MARCH 27**

9:00AM Sue Novotny Tyrrell r/b Greta

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

#### **TUESDAY, MARCH 28**

9:00AM Gaye Pino r/b Mike & Helen Hawksley 9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

#### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29**

9:00AM Living and deceased Morgans in Ireland People of the Parish

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 30

9:00 AM Gaye Pino r/b Marilyn Kelleher

9:30 AM-12NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

#### **FRIDAY, MARCH 31**

9:00 AM Phyllis Kolecki r/b Ron & Gail Bizzoso 9:30 AM-12NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

#### SATURDAY, APRIL1

9:00 AM Intentions of Fr. Ed r/b Mary & Jimmy
4:30 PM Deceased members of Camma family
r/b Beckman family

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 2**

**8:30AM** Daniel A. Maher r/b Kathleen McCabe **11:00AM** Bridget Namiotka r/b family

#### Pope Francis' March Prayer intentions For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

Mark Blumberg

#### Simple Living –God's Vision of Abundant Life Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Parish Meeting Room

#### Call the Parish Office 856-424-3212 to Register

St. Thomas More Parish will host an interactive event where you will learn and discuss with other parishioners about what Simple Living is and how it is an integral part of our faith. In this one-hour session you will be able to understand how we can begin the process of simplifying our lifestyle, while enriching our spiritual lives.

### 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, Carter Oakley, 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. 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*.

#### Support the 2023 South Jersey Catholic Ministries Appeal. www.camdendiocese.org



Your Catholic Ministries Appeal gift promotes discipleship among the enables our staff of Hospital Chaplains to provide comprehensive help to those in need. They administer the Sacrament of the Sick in the many hospitals throughout our area, conduct pastoral visits with patients, families, and hospital staff, help coordinate visits of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, and assist in a diocesan-wide effort to teach our Catholic faithful more about the Sacrament of the Sick.

\*\*St. Thomas More goal: \$89, 700\*\* We need your help to meet this goal. To date we have received \$15,325 from 38 donors. Thank you to all who have already contributed.

Sunday, April 30, 2023, Cooper River Park (Jack Curtis Stadium | 5300 North Park Drive Pennsauken) for the annual iRace4Vocations. Bishop Sullivan will celebrate a Mass for Vocations at 1 p.m. followed by a 5K run/1 mile family walk. For more information and to register for the event, visit camdenpriest.org/irace4vocations.

#### 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 Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, April 2, 2023- Matthew 26:14-27:66

Jesus cried out in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit. And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, "Truly, this was the Son of God."

#### **Commentary:**

Only in the Passion according to Matthew do we hear the story of the raising of the saints. The details of the splitting of the temple sanctuary veil, the earthquake, and the tombs releasing their hold on the saints are unique to this gospel. What is the evangelist trying to tell us? The temple veil covered the Holy of Holies-that part of the sanctuary where the Ark of the Covenant was once kept. This was God's special dwelling place in Israel, and God was not to be revealed indiscriminately to all. With the tearing of the veil, the divine presence is no longer concealed. God is "loose" in Jerusalem! And in the same hour, death itself loses its mystery as its hidden captives are set free from the bonds of their shrouds. Resurrection means the mystery's out: Jesus Christ is Lord!

#### **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:** Abortion has become a slippery slope from which infanticide and euthanasia are snowballing. The gift of life itself is now unimportant; it's the 'quality' of life that counts in this way of thinking. It's a

way of legally getting rid of alleged 'social problems' such as the aged or retarded. We must not allow this to continue in our country.

#### **EASTER SCHEDULE - 2023**

Sacrament of Reconciliation Every Saturday 3-4 PM (Not on Holy Saturday)

Passion (Palm) Sunday Masses

Saturday - 4:30 PM Sunday - 8:30 and 11:00 AM

#### SACRED TRIDUUM

**Holy Thursday** 

"Mass of the Lord's Supper" – 7:00 PM Adoration at the Repository in the Chapel until 10 PM Good Friday

(A day of fast and abstinence)
Celebration of the Lord's Passion – 3PM
Stations of the Cross – 7:00 PM

**Holy Saturday** 

Blessing of Easter Food Baskets – 12 noon Easter Vigil 8:00 PM

**Easter Sunday** 

Masses 8:30 and 11:00 AM

Chrism Mass 3:30PM Tuesday, April 4th at St. Agnes Church (Our Lady of Hope Parish), Blackwood.



#### from Laudato Si'

Pope Francis focuses on the connections that all people share with one another and the natural world in his encyclical, "Laudato Si': Care for Our Common Home". Here is a selection of quotes:

\*"When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a person with disabilities—to offer just a few examples—it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected. (#117)

\*"All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience or talents." (#14)

\*"Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another." (#42)

\*"A Christian's responsibility within creation, and their duty toward nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith."(64)

\* "Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains everything is, it was, a caress of God." (#84)

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