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 ÂM 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



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

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Parish Trustees

Bereavement **Consolation Ministry**

Faith & Justice Team Hospital Visitors Intercessory Prayer Knights of Columbus Marriage Formation Parish Rel. Ed. Prog. **Respect Life** Rite of Ch. Init. Adults Rosary Ministry Small Christian Comm. Spiritual Retreats St. Vincent de Paul Stewardship Welcoming Team

Henry Glover Staff 856-424-3212 Ann Marie Lento

Jeannine Mc Menamin

Staff

856- 344-7454 Jon Lisitski jonll1@comcast.net 856-912-7078 Chris Baeckstrom Staff & Euch. Ministers 856-424-3212 Ann Vigrass 856-428-7217 John Galati 856-424-3212 Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa 856-795-1160 Sr. Rosangela Ganau, 856-424-3212 Sister Ann Byrnes 856-424-3212 856-424-2053 Marian Kapischke Sr. Ann Byrnes John Galati 856-428-7073 Chico Febus 856-424-3212 Sheila Tartamosa 856-424-3212 Shirley Kane 856-424-8022

Worship Altar Servers Church Environment Ch. Art Environment **Eucharistic Ministers** Lectors Linen Committee Sacristans

Ushers Social Development Bridge Groups

Parish Festival Women's Club

Administration House of Charity Parish Finance Council Parish Pastoral Council

Sister Ann Byrnes Committee Committee	856-424-3212
Sr. Ann Byrnes	856-424-3212
Dan Miller/ Sr. Ann H	Svrnes
Ann Vigrass Greta Tyrrell Dom Sacca	856-428-7217 856-428-2412
Dave Bongiovanni Joe Centonze Chico Febus	
Joyce DeMichele	856-424-4008
Barbara Cerquitella	856-795-7323
Committee	856-424-3212
Barbara Cerquitella	856-795-7323
Lorraine Kennedy	856-489-0031
Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212
Robert Crawford	856-424-3212
Marie Enny	856-751-8893

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



Let HIS Light Shine

Nobody is a Christian for oneself alone The gift of faith is given to each of us so that by word and example, we may become welcoming witnesses before others. Allow the dazzling light and healing presence of Christ to shine brightly through your life. In that way, all those who come in contact with you will discover God's loving kindness.



"If my people, who are called by My Name, **shall humble themselves**, and **pray**, and **seek** My Face, and **tum** 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 3, 2024, was \$7406.22. The budgeted amount was \$8500.

It doesn't take a lot to remember God in your everyday activities. By setting aside a small offering, you are showing God that you understand that your wealth is all possible thanks to His grace. Even the smallest offerings honor God and show Him that you acknowledge His guidance in your day-to-day life. After all, we enjoy the fruits of the kingdom of God.

Stations of the Cross will be held in the Chapel at 7:00 PM every Friday during Lent. All are encouraged to take part in this Lenten Devotion.





Dining for Dollars at the Marlton Outback Tuesday, March 12, 2024 from 11AM—9:30 PM 15% of your check will be donated to the Knights of Columbus Cherry Hill Council 6173.

Stewardship Corner: 4th Sunday of Lent Grateful Stewards

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." - JOHN 3:16

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask us to live Stewardship being grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and develop our gifts, and in gratitude, generously give back with increase our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to support the mission and ministry of our parish and greater Church.

From the Pastor's Desk Continuing Our Lenten Journey

Dear Parishioners,

I can't tell you how many times I have said to myself (and sometimes to my parish staff): "I should have been a monk!" For years I have been going to a Trappist monastery for my annual retreat. There I can experience some profound solitude and have quality time to pray, read, write, etc. My time *in the desert*, so to speak, can also be a time to confront the devil and his temptations, just as Jesus did. However, in the end, I must return back to the parish and to my priestly duties and routine. After all, I am not a monk.

The season of Lent is an occasion for all of us to *go into that spiritual desert* to deepen our relationship with God, repent of our sins and to confront the evil (the demons) in our lives. This time should not be business as usual, if we want to grow in holiness and the love of God. *Prayer, fasting and almsgiving* are not just suggestions, but necessary requirements for penance and our spiritual growth.

Many of us start out with good intentions at the beginning of Lent, and then weaken our resolutions and grow less zealous as we move through those long forty days. Let me act as a spiritual coach: *Don't give up! Keep going!* The **Stations of the Cross** can certainly be comforting to us, especially when we realize that Jesus fell (at least) three times and still got up and kept going on the road to Calvary. Follow His example.

The 4th Sunday of Lent (*Laetare* Sunday) is named for its entrance antiphon reflecting on *Isaiah* 66: 10-11: "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exalt and be satisfied at her consoling breast." *Laetare* means "rejoice" and like its counterpart in Advent, *Gaudete* Sunday, the priest has the option of wearing rose-colored vestments instead of violet. The change of color is to indicate a sense of hope and joy—anticipation of Easter—during the penitential season. We are now only 21 days away from Easter Sunday!

I have been encouraged by the good number of people who have taken advantage of the **Sacrament** of **Penance and Reconciliation** (a.k.a., confession) during this time. If you have not, I implore you to seek out the healing power and mercy of Christ waiting there for the repentant sinner. Too often people carry sins around for months, years or even decades (for various reasons) not realizing that Christ came *to reconcile us* (see 2 Cor. 5: 18-19) with the Father and not condemn us. Yes, we first need to repent and change our sinful ways. But Christ offers us forgiveness and mercy when we do.

Holy Week and Easter focus on the most profound mysteries of our faith: *the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord*. Please plan to participate in the Masses and services at this sacred time. **Holy Thursday** emphasizes the institution of the Holy Eucharist and the Ministerial Priesthood. **Good Friday** recalls Jesus' Passion and Death on the Cross for our sins. The celebration of **Easter** proclaims Christ's Resurrection from the dead and new life for us all!

If we take *Lent* seriously, if we take our *Catholic faith* seriously, we are in the best position to deal with the ever-growing hostilities that are present toward Jesus and His Church. He warned us that if they persecuted Him they will persecute us also (see Jn. 15:20). They mocked, rejected, tortured, and killed Jesus even though He came to save us and lead us to His Heavenly Father. Don't ever think that the path ahead will be easy and without a cross. *We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You, for by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.*

Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

Ministry Sch	edule March	16/17,	2024
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	Clergy	Music	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server	
4:30 PM	Fr. Coronado	Florence	R. Javier	J. Bland-Campbell		
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Becca Julie	Sr. Clare	S. Oatway	E. Bresani Witts	
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Becca/Choir Julie	J. Flynn	L. Flynn	N. Flynn L. Vascisin	



4th Sunday of Lent: *Laetare*" Sunday In the middle of our Lenten Journey,

we have <u>"Laetare" Sunday</u>, a Sunday when we are called to "**rejoice**" in the Lord, in His "Good News": "For God

so loved the world (you..., me...) that he gave His only Son, so that everyone (you..., me...) who believes in Him... may have Eternal Life (Eternal Joy!). (John 3:16)

'To believe' is a freely given gift from God that invites us to put a complete trust and confidence in Him, in His loving project for us. *The more we try to live in this abandon in His hands, the more He gives us a deeper faith. With this comes the anticipation of the joy of Jesus' Resurrection, with the love and the desire to share it with others in our "pilgrimage" toward*



Easter, toward the 'Eternal Life", towards the Eternal Joy promised by Him. This experience a young Italian soccer player, Gianluca Fioretti, has shared, with much serenity, to his brother, before dying at 21: "... after all, we are made for Heaven. Forever. For eternity...". May our Blessed Mother Mary teach us to live with a

deeper trust and confidence and joy in God as She did.

REMINDERS:

March 16 (Saturday): 7th grade Pilgrimage to the Cathedral of the "Immaculate Conception", Camden, N.J. We will leave the parking lot at St. Thomas More by 9:30 AM and be back by 12:30 PM at St. Thomas. March 17 (Sunday): Confirmation Meeting #3 for 8th grade students and parents, 9:30 to 10:45 am, in the Chapel.



All food collected at St. Thomas More will be donated to the Cherry Hill Food Pantry. **The Pantry is asking for donations of: coffee; detergent; toothpaste; cake mix; pasta sauce; and canned fruit cocktail**. Thank you. *Remember to pick up your bag in the Gathering Space on your way out of Mass!*



Your *Catholic Ministries Appeal* gift helps our young men and our seminarians to become "men of prayer", helps guide them as they discern if they are called and then

helps prepare them to stand "in the person of Christ" and serve their bride, the Church, through their preaching and teaching and most of all by celebrating the Sacraments. Support the **South Jersey Catholic Ministries Appeal**

What did Father say? Can you hear him? Hearing devices are available for use in church. Please return to an usher at the end of the Mass. All units are sterilized after each use. For more information.



call Dom at the Parish Office (856-424-3212).

St. Vincent de Paul

Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be at the doors of the church NEXT weekend accepting your donations of non-perishable food or money to purchase food. They are

asking for: asking for canned vegetables, fruits and, soups; cereals, pasta and tomato sauce; peanut butter and jelly. Thank you for supporting the SVDP in their mission to 'feed the hungry.'



SATURDAY, MARCH 9 4:30 PM Brian Deutsch r/b Mom **SUNDAY, MARCH 10** 8:30 AM Intentions of STM prayer partners r/b Thankful recipient 11:00 AM Fr. Phillip Johnson r/b Barbara & Walt Johnson MONDAY, MARCH 11 9:00 AM people of the parish 9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel **TUESDAY, MARCH 12** 9:00 AM Kathleen Centonze r/b Joe 9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13 9:00 AM Living and deceased members of Morgan family in Ireland 9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel THURSDAY, MARCH 14 9:00 AM Fr. Phillip Johnson r/b Ron & Gail Bizzoso 9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel FRIDAY, MARCH 15 9:00 AM Nicholas Menna r/b Ron & Gail Bizzoso 9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross in the Chapel **SATURDAY, MARCH 16 4:30 PM** Nick Menna r/b Marie Fitzpatrick SUNDAY, MARCH 17 8:30 AM Intentions of Fr. Ed Namiotka & Intentions of Sr. Ann Byrnes r/b Carlos & Daisy Santiago

11:00 AM Michael Vigrass r/b family

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions March 2024 For the new martyrs

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.



An invitation to men of the parish from the Cherry Hill Council 6173 Knights of Columbus: The Knights of Columbus has been a brotherhood of Catholic men devoted to Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

The Cherry Hill Council is devoted to this work locally: helping the mentally challenged, funding local pro-life centers, aiding our seminarians, and

supporting the parishes of St. Mary, St. Thomas More, and Christ our Light. If you want more information or to join us, you can do so today at www.kofc.org/joinus or with this QR code include "Council 6273" when asked and use the promo code **BLESSEDDMCGIVENEY** to join for free.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE SICK ...

Kristina Acevedo, Caroline Bancheri, Jim Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Joe Centonze, Ray Chuisano,



Elva Clark, Grace Cobin, Tammy Colon, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, Mary Cowan, Catherine Diana, Linda Di Giulio, 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, Kelly Moore, Carter Oakley, Tina Petrone, Helen Protzman, Dom Sacca, Carlos Santiago, Teddy Shaffer, Grace Sklencar, Joe Sklencar, Claire 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

"We don't ever thank the Lord enough for the gift he has given us in the Eucharist! It is a very great gift. That is why it is so important to go to Mass on Sunday. Go to



Mass not just to pray, but to receive Communion, the bread that is the Body of Jesus Christ, who saves us, forgives us, unites us to the Father. It is a beautiful thing to do! And we go to Mass every Sunday because that is the Resurrection day of the Lord. That is why Sunday is so important to us." General Audience February 5, 2014

Lent Retreat for Youth and Young Adults (ages 17-33) Saturday, March 16, 2024.10:00 AM-5:00 PM Franciscan Sisters of the Infant Jesus Mother Mary Conference Center of Hospitality 1215 Kresson Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 856-428-8834 or fmijcomeandseeyahoo.com

Main topic: St. Francis of Assisi and San Damiano Cross The Love of God at Easter Experience a "pilgrimage" in the passion of Jesus Eucharistic Celebration of the 5th Sunday of Lent.

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 of Lent, March 17, 2024 - John 12:20-30

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me."

Commentary:

In today's Gospel Jesus speaks of real resurrection. And he tells his followers that the only way to come to this life of glory is by dying. The image of the grain of wheat offers a powerful example of this reality. A single seed is limited and alone. But if the seed dies to its present state, it will grow into a stalk filled with seeds. The message for us is that the present is good, but because Christ has brought an end to death through his own death and resurrection, we can look forward to a future that will be far more than our limited lives here and now.

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: "Thirty-eight states treat the killing of an unborn child as a form of homicide. They have what are called "fetal homicide laws." It is illegal to take the life of the unborn if the mother wants the baby, but it

is legal to take the life of the unborn if she doesn't. We reject this right to define personhood in the case of Nazi anti-Semitism. Confederate race-based slavery, and Soviet Gulags. When we define the humanness of the unborn by the will of the powerful, we know what we are doing."- John Piper, Theologian, Author, Pastor and Chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary

SJCM A 2024 APPEAL: "THROUGH HIM AND FOR HIM" **St. Thomas More's Goal is \$89, 700. We will need the help of every parishioner to meet this goal.



Thank you for prayerfully considering your donation. ****** To date we have received gifts from 32 people totaling \$16,15.00 which is 17.9% of our total goal. Thank you for your donations.



Urge Your U.S. Senator to Pass Bipartisan Anti-Trafficking Legislation

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration formally endorsed the bill stating at the time that "this legislation is critical for continuing and bolstering our nation's efforts to eradicate human trafficking and assist human trafficking survivors. Message to Congress: Senator Robert Menendez: (973) 645-3030 Senator Corv Booker: (202) 224-3224

As a Catholic and your constituent, I urge you to take up and support the House-passed Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2023 (H.R. 5856), an important. bipartisan bill that will help combat the evil of human trafficking. It is critical that our country continues to combat what Pope Francis has referred to as a "crime against humanity."

Cherry Hill Food Pantry - 2024 Raffle Fundraiser

How would you like to have a chance to win \$2,000 dollars, a pair of Eagles Tickets or a Chef and Staff private dinner party for 10 in your home and at the same time help feed over 600 families who come to our pantry every month? You can do that by supporting the pantry fundraiser. This is a great opportunity to make a positive impact in our world and add this to your Lenten prayers and sacrifices.

Tickets are only \$10. We're hoping that raffle entrants will buy multiple tickets so we can achieve this year's goal of \$40,000.

It's easy to enter. Go to our website: <u>cherryhillfoodpantry.org</u> and buy your tickets and you will automatically be entered in the drawing. If you want to pay by cash or check, you can get tickets from Jon Lisitski (Email: jonll1@comcast.net – Cell: 856-905-6162) or Elaine Beckman (Email: elainevbeckman@gmail.com – Cell: 856-428-8431) https://voutu.be/ hxA41cTI7NY?si=V5kiwrz9tx_90PHZor at the Pantry.

> To be drawn Sunday April 14, 2024 at 6:00 PM At Cherry Hill Food Pantry on Facebook Live -Need not be present to win



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