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 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		Worship		
	Henry Glover		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	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



Good morning and welcome to St. Thomas More. Let us reflect on this day and give thanks to the Lord our God with the passage:

Psalm 100:4-5, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His court with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations."

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide praying the annual **9 Days for Life novena**, **January 19th—27th.** Sign up today at 9daysforlife.com!





"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 8, 2023 was: \$8893.00 from 126 donors. 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 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 betterment of our parish buildings.

Thank You for your generosity and for your faithfulness throughout the whole year.

Stewardship Corner: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Stewardship Gifts

"Now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb..." ISAIAH 49:5

God have given each of us different gifts. In order for God's plan to work, Stewards have to do what God is calling them to do and I also have to do what God is calling me to do. And guess what? God has given each of us a different plan! So, stop comparing yourself to others. Don't let envy and jealousy enter your life. Be thankful for the gifts God has given you and become the saint that God is calling you to be.



From the Pastor's Desk The Battle is Far from Over!

Dear Parishioners,

When *Roe v. Wade* was officially overturned by the Supreme Court on June 24, 2022, I stated that the battle for the rights of unborn (or preborn) children would need to continue on the local (i.e., state) level. New Jersey and its current majority of legislators are, sadly, by no means "pro-life." Rather, the call for the protection of so-called "abortion rights" unfortunately continues. What about the rights of all the vulnerable children yet to be born?

In actuality, the *right to life*, *liberty and the pursuit of happiness* is clearly stated in the **U.S. Declaration of Independence**. Our founders recognized that people have a right to live in this world. Logically, if humans create a new human life, then that new person now has a right to exist. (This is abundantly clear even <u>before</u> we intensify matters by bringing any mention of God or *morality* into the picture.) From a merely human perspective, *innocent*, *vulnerable human life* needs protection in similar manner to various legislation enacted to protect the bald eagles' eggs, baby seals, elephants from being hunted for their tusks, dogs from being used in deadly dogfights, etc.

As Christians, we take this situation a step further by realizing that every person is created in the image and likeness of God. We believe that God elevated our human dignity by becoming one of us in the Incarnation of Jesus. We acknowledge that every born or preborn baby has both a developing body and an immortal soul destined for eternity. We hold to timeless precepts such as *Thou shalt not kill*. We believe that medicine and technology minimally should *do no harm* to the patient (human person), and certainly not deliberately destroy him or her in the womb.

The problem now exists where people have become too comfortable in their sin. What might have seemed so obvious in the past—a grave sin or repulsive evil—is now accepted or even glorified. Sin dulls the conscience and blocks the intellect. The lies that have been uttered over and over again begin to be believed and then held as "truths" and "rights." Good becomes bad and bad becomes good. Our world winds up upside down.

Unfortunately, too many people do not want to upset the status quo. *Don't rock the boat! Keep your mouth shut!* Otherwise, you will be cancelled. So much for the right to **free speech**. That is something also guaranteed in our Constitution—the *Bill of Rights*, to be precise. Thank you Elon Musk for allowing some truth to shine out of the darkness.

Yes, we have a long way to go before things change for the good. However, left without resistance we see **evil** advance in (formerly, *obviously* repulsive) acts like infanticide, euthanasia, the acceptance of pedophilia or ephebophilia, a distortion of *marriage*, recognition of sodomy (and other acts) as sexual alternatives, dissatisfaction with one's gender, propagation and use of artificial contraception and various abortifacients, a flourishing pornography industry, etc. etc. This could never happen in an enlightened, civilized society, could it? Just look around you.

While the message of the Gospel is suppressed, minimized, mocked, and seen as outdated and irrelevant, what will it take to *bring people to their knees* and acknowledge the need for **Jesus Christ** and His true Church?

I fear to ask this question.

Fr. Ed Namiotka

Ministry Schedule for JANUARY 21/22, 2023

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Mena/Choir Julie	R. Javier	D. Miller	E. & E. Shim
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Julie	B. Massey	D. Mayfield	T. Kenny E. Bresani
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Erin Julie	J. De Michele	J. Johnson	S. Andino M. Marsden

AND ONE COLOR

In reference to the celebration of the Epiphany, Pope Benedict XVI told us that we ourselves are to become like the star which draws the Magi to the manger.

In the <u>first homily</u> he preached January 18, 2013, as the Vicar of Christ, <u>Pope Benedict</u>

XVI said, "The purpose of our lives is to reveal God to people. And only where God is seen does life truly begin. Only when we meet the living God in Christ do we know what life is." This is the heart of the feast of the Epiphany—a mystery dear to the heart of the late Pope Benedict XVI ... and dear to all of us who dearly want to know what life is all about.

Pope Francis in **Exult and Rejoice**, an encyclical letter written in 2018:

"I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile. In their daily perseverance I see the holiness of the Church militant. Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbors, those who, living in our midst,

reflect God's presence. We might call them "the middle class of holiness". In these two paragraphs, respectively from Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis, we detect a strong

invitation to be



HOLY today, in this world we live and in the present moment of our lives. Holiness is for all of us, it is possible, but not without effort and willingness to be what JESUS asks us, which is not the impossible but the heroic.

Resilient Grace in our Senior Years

Resilience is a grace...a gift of the Spirit that blesses our lives with insight and opportunities for deepening our relationship with ourselves, others, and God!

Resilience is part of the bedrock of "optimal aging" (yes, that is a real term!) During our time together we will explore the role spirituality plays in promoting and sustaining our resilience during our senior years.

Sr. Mary Garvin, RSM January 23, 2023 10AM Parish Hall Call the Parish Office to register.

Join Bishop Sullivan and Fr. Hughes in Greece—October 20th—30th-\$4499ppdo (single supplement +\$949) from PHL. For eleven days you will follow the footsteps of St. Paul and experience beautiful sites throughout Greece. Visit Philippi where Paul the Apostle delivered his first sermon and established the first Church in Europe, Mars Hill in Athens where he spoke to the Athenians, Corinth and the site of St. Paul's trials by Gallio, and more! You will even visit the house of the Virgin Mary in Ephesus in Turkey where she lived until her Assumption, according to Catholic doctrine. And much more. For more information or to register visit www.pilgrimages.com/frhughes

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 10 - 12, 2023 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.



SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

4:30 PM Brooke Alexander Campbell r/b Chris Betson Smith

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

8:30 AM Mary Lou Thomas

r/b Dave & Ellie Mayfield

11:00 AM Sheila Mohan r/b Bill & Ann Vigrass

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

9:00AM Dick De Michele r/b Joyce & family

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

9:00AM Josephine McCaffrey

r/b Russell Stevens, IV

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

9:00AM Mary Lou & Dudley Thomas

r/b St. Vincent de Paul Society

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

9:00 AM Ron & Bobbie Reichmann

& Ella Rose Reichmann

r/b Gail & Ron Bizzoso

9:30 AM-12NOON Eucharistic Adoration—Chapel

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

9:00 AM Helen M. Yeager

r/b Sharon & Jack Weinbberg

9:30 AM-12NOON Eucharistic Adoration—Chapel

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

4:30 PM Intentions of Marie Budroe

r/b Greta Tyrrell

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

8:30AM William Mayer r/b Pat Luchtman **11:00AM** Sheila Mohan r/b Rodie Boyle

Pope Francis' January Prayer Intentions: For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.



Cherry Hill Food Pantry Volunteer
Dates for St. Thomas More
Call Elaine at 856-428-8421.
Tuesday, January 17th: 5:30—7:30
PM; Thursday, January 19th:

<u>10:30AM to 1:30 PM.</u> Help is mainly needed in packing groceries in bags. *Thank you to everyone who can assist on such short notice*.

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, 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, 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, Sisi Tyrrell, USMC, SPC Nicole Williams, and *all those serving our country*.

Second Collection NEXT weekend

"The Collection for the Church in Latin America is about changing lives – sometimes saving lives – and bringing people to Jesus. Your gift, no matter how large or small, will join with those of other Catholics to make a multimillion-dollar impact in places where people are praying for



miracles," said Bishop Octavio Cisneros, auxiliary bishop emeritus of Brooklyn and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America.

'They' are at it again

Please be aware that neither Fr. Ed nor any of the Parish staff will contact you by email or text requesting monetary assistance or gift cards for personal use.

If you receive such a notification, please call the Parish 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 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 22, 2023 - Matt. 4:12-23

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

Commentary:

Imagine the scene in your neighborhood. Jesus walks down the street, calling all who hear his voice to follow him. And there go your neighbors one by one, abandoning their computers and television sets, gardening tools and supper preparations, cell phones and homework, to fall in behind a virtual stranger. Why do they do it? Some go because they hate what they were doing and are looking for any excuse to shirk their responsibilities. Some go out of curiosity because they are bored and yearn for something interesting to happen. Some go because they have felt neglected or ignored and are grateful to be asked. Some even go because they were startled by the call they heard, by the insistence in the voice that roused them to feelings they can scarcely name. For the best reasons and for the worst, lots of people leave everything behind and follow Jesus. And you know what? All of them are better off than the ones who never even looked up to see who just passed by.

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).

"Maybe it's bad timing. Or maybe you were done having kids or weren't ready to consider becoming a parent. Take a deep breath. Then consider trying to figure out how you're going to move forward... And consider navigating the changes to your relationships or emotional challenges."

"The Eucharist, A Call to Evangelization, Discipleship, and Works of Mercy" to be presented on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 7:00 PM by Fr. John Picnic Call Christ Our Light for more information or to register. 1-856-667-2440



Sanctity of Life Mass for New and Expectant Mothers 12:15pm, Monday, January 23/2023 St. Mary Parish Hall All are welcome to attend.





Migration and Refugee Services(USCCB)

The Old and New Testaments tell compelling stories of refugees forced to flee because of **oppression**. Exodus tells the story of the Chosen People, Israel, who were victims of bitter slavery in Egypt. For forty years they lived as wanderers with no homeland of their own. Finally, God fulfilled his ancient promise and settled them on the land that they could finally call home.

Will you help those in Need Today?

Donate by going to the National Catholic Fund for Migration and Refugee Services.

The next **Consolation** Ministry meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 26 at 1 pm in the St. Thomas More Room.





St. Vincent de Paul Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society are at the doors of the church this weekend to receive your donations of Neighbors helping neighbors non-perishable food items or monetary donations to assist

them in their mission to feed the hungry.

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