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: stmsecretary1439@gmail.com 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
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Small Christian Comm.	Sr. Ann Byrnes		House of Charity	Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212
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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





Risen Christ, we gather in your name to celebrate your victory over sin, evil and death.

As you breathed your Holy Spirit on those gathered in the Upper Room, breathe your Holy Spirit on us so that we may live our lives more like you and be filled with your peace, joy and mercy.

Amen



"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 Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023, was \$ 17064.60, from 136 donations. The budgeted amount for Easter Sunday was \$ 22, 000.



God wants us to give because it shows that we recognize he is truly the Lord of our lives. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17, NIV) Everything we own and everything we have comes from God. So, when we give, we simply offer him a small portion of the abundance he has already given to us.

Stewardship Corner: Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday Stewards Listen

"Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'" JOHN 20:19

Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, like a new neighbor, a new work colleague or a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. We are made for relationships — with God and each other. When you see yourself as a beloved son or daughter of God, you tend to see others the same way, too — just as God, Our Father, sees us.

From the Pastor's Desk

Divine Coincidence?

Dear Parishioners,

When Pope St. John Paul II died, the manner and timing of his death struck me as much more than coincidental.

Let me set the scene:

Pope John Paul was a proponent of God's *Divine Mercy*. In 1980 he wrote the encyclical *Dives in Misericordia* (*Rich in Mercy*). He declared the Sunday within the octave of Easter as **Divine Mercy Sunday**.

The day on which there was an assassination attempt made on his life was May 13th—the *Feast of Our Lady of Fatima*. Pope John Paul credited Our Blessed Lady with saving his life. He even had the bullet removed from his body placed in the crown of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal. It was from Fatima, the First Saturday devotions came about (as a request for reparation for sins against the Immaculate Heart of Mary).

John Paul's life was consecrated to Our Blessed Lady as evidenced by his coat of arms with the motto *Totus Tuus* (Totally Yours) and an M (for Mary) on the right side at the foot of a golden cross.

John Paul decried the *culture of death* that seemed to permeate our society. He held that every life was sacred: the unborn, the handicapped, the elderly, and the infirm. He died elderly, suffering from Parkinson's disease, *in the public eye* as a witness to the value of every life.

The miracle leading up to the beatification was a cure from <u>Parkinson's disease</u> of a sister (whose name happened to be <u>Sister Marie Simon-Pierre</u> of the <u>Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Catholic Maternity Wards</u>).

When did Blessed John Paul II leave this earth? Saturday, April 2, 2005. It was the Vigil of **Divine Mercy Sunday** and the **First Saturday** (Fatima devotion) of the month.

Pope Benedict XVI called our attention to some of these facts in his homily during the Beatification Mass:

Today is the Second Sunday of Easter, which Blessed John Paul II entitled Divine Mercy Sunday. The date was chosen for today's celebration because, in God's providence, my predecessor died on the vigil of this feast. Today is also the first day of May, Mary's month, and the liturgical memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker. All these elements serve to enrich our prayer, they help us in our pilgrimage through time and space; but in heaven a very different celebration is taking place among the angels and saints!

I believe that spiritual signs and wonders are all around us calling our attention to God's Providence *ever-present* in our lives. With the secular, materialistic, skeptical and unbelieving world in which we live, one might just write off all of this as mere <u>coincidence</u>, if any attention is paid to it at all.

Yet, seeing things with the eyes of faith, I wonder what God has in store for us in the days ahead!

Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

Ministry Schedule for April 22/23

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Len	Sr. Agnes	C. Betson-Smith	Volunteer needed
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Julie	K. Witts	K. Kraemer	A. Witts T. Johnson
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Marta/Elena/Choir Julie	J. Flynn	L. Flynn	N. Flynn M. Marsden



With Easter and Jesus' Resurrection, we are at a new beginning in the world, **and** in our life. Unfortunately, it is hard to fathom the event of JESUS' passion, death

and resurrection. We may not even intuit the importance of JESUS' resurrection is for us. We think it is only for religious people, but JESUS died and rose for all humanity and is

So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

knocking at our heart, regardless of who we think we are. He is inviting us to take a step or two towards HIM and begin anew living a virtuous life.

Our religious education/formation year is almost over. Time went so fast. But we still have some major event coming up this month of April.

Confirmation has been postponed to the fall of 2023. April 22 – 8th grade Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. John Neumann. This is part of the Confirmation Preparation.

April 29 – Confirmation retreat for the 8th graders at the Franciscan Center on Kresson Road, presented by the Echo group from Notre Dame University.

April 30 – First Holy Communion for our second graders at the 11:00 AM MASS

These are just some of the things but there are many others to be completed in April and beginning of May. We'll be busy but all will be also enjoyable and may all be done for God's Glory.

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: wwme-southjersey.org or call 609-741-8012



2023 APPEAL: "For the Life of the World"

St. Thomas More Parish Goal: \$89,700

Total to Date: \$25,140 28% of

of Donors 58 (out of over 700 Families)

In every way, the work of our ministries emanates from the Eucharist. As Saint John Paul II said, "The Eucharist is the heart of the Church. Where Eucharistic life flourishes, there the life of the church will blossom." The Eucharist is the true presence of Jesus Christ, it is the spiritual food that gives us strength to carry out His work each day and everything we do as Catholics emanates from that.

The theme of this year's campaign, "For the Life of the World," reminds us that our spiritual sustenance and community are rooted in the Eucharist, in Christ. Your individual gift to this Appeal will become one of many that unites and builds up the one Body of Christ. Through our various ministries across the diocese your gift is shared and brings comfort, relief, encouragement and support to many.

We ask that you please consider donating to this year's campaign. It is important that we come together to support our ministries. They need the resources necessary to continue serving those in need

By supporting the Catholic Ministries Appeal, you are supporting those who comprise the programs and ministries of the Diocese of Camden. These ministries serve the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the hungry and challenged. When we support the Catholic Ministries Appeal, we can bring the light of hope to those in the Catholic community of South Jersey.



SATURDAY, APRIL 15

4:30 PM Bill Kane r/b family

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

8:30AM Phyllis Kolecki

r/b Spence & Curry family

11:00AM Intentions of Richard Tyrrell r/b family

MONDAY, APRIL 17

9:00AM People of the Parish

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

9:00AM Daniel A. Maher r/b Tobin family

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

9:00AM Nesta Luzi r/b Greta

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

9:00 AM Don Kreal r/b Dolores & family

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

9:00 AM Daniel A. Maher

r/b James & Jennifer Tobin

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

SATURDAYAPRIL 22

4:30 PM Elizabeth Davish Betson

r/b daughters & granddaughters

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

8:30 AM Intentions of Aleena Margaret Tristan

St. Theresa r/b Christina Castillo

11:00 AM Lorraine Tarsiewicz

r/b Joanne Wachman

Pope Francis' April Prayer Intentions

For a culture of peace and non-violence We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
Fr. Brian O'Neill and
Charles Walters, Jr.

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*.

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.

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

Sunday, April 16, 2023 - Prayer Service begins 3pm St. Mary Church (2001 Springdale Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ Confessions and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 2:00pm, Questions? Call (856) 424-1454, ext. 102



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 of Easter, April 23, 2023 – Luke 24: 13-35

(The scene - Easter evening - two followers of Jesus are walking away from Jerusalem toward Emmaus. A man (Jesus) joins them on the road and speaks to them. The men do not recognize Jesus - they are too upset about what happened over the last three days. Jesus asks them what things happened in Jerusalem. The men are astounded that this stranger seems to be the only one who doesn't know what has happened). The followers of Jesus say, "Some women from our group have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive." (Jesus is invited to stay with the men and have supper.) "And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight...So the two set out at once and returned to Jerusalem." (Here, they reported what had taken place.)

Commentary:

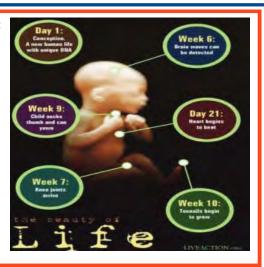
The travelers on the road to Emmaus had not gone to the tomb themselves. They heard many rumors about the empty tomb, but, no one reported actually seeing Jesus. But then, these two traveling in the wrong direction, away from Jerusalem and the community of faith, had their eyes opened in a simple act of breaking bread. They had been prepared to give up the cause and go home to their old lives. They had decided the disappearance of Jesus' body was the last straw. When the shared bread was put into their hands again, they saw what they had been missing. They saw Jesus in the stranger. They wouldn't lose sight of him again. In fact, they immediately left home and began the trip back to Jerusalem and to the community of faith.

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?

Pro-Life Corner:





Altar Servers Needed for the 4:30 AM Mass We need YOUR help.

If you are an Altar Server and able to serve the 4:30 PM Mass, please call the Parish Office (856-424-3212) . We will be happy to put you on the schedule.





USCCB Statement on "Doctrine of Discovery"

The Statement from the USCCB is yet another step in expressing concern and pastoral solicitude for Native and Indigenous peoples who have experienced tremendous suffering because of the legacy of a colonizing mentality. There were times when Christians, including ecclesiastical authorities, failed to fully oppose destructive and immoral actions of the competing colonial powers.

In this regard, we too express deep sorrow and regret. In recent years here in the United States, dialogues among Catholic bishops and Tribal leaders have illuminated more aspects of this painful history, and, with humility, we wish to offer our continuing solidarity and support, as well as a further willingness to listen and learn.

To that end, the USCCB and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops are exploring how they may support an academic symposium.

May God bless with healing all those who continue to suffer the legacy of colonialism, and may we all offer true aid and support.

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