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





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

Parish Trustees	Jeannine Mc Menamin Henry Glover		Worship Altar Servers	Sister Ann Byrnes	856-424-3212
Christian Life/Education	Ť		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	John Galati	856-424-3212	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. Rosangela Ganau,	856-424-3212	Bridge Groups	Barbara Cerquitella	856-795-7323
Respect Life	Staff		Parish Festival	Committee	856-424-3212
Rite of Ch. Init. Adults	Sister Ann Byrnes	856-424-3212	Women's Club	Barbara Cerquitella	856-795-7323
Rosary Ministry	Marian Kapischke	856-424-2053		Lorraine Kennedy	856-489-0031
Small Christian Comm.	Sr. Ann Byrnes		Administration		
Spiritual Retreats	John Galati	856-428-7073	House of Charity	Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212
St. Vincent de Paul	Chico Febus	856-424-3212	Parish Finance Council	Robert Crawford	856-424-3212
Stewardship	Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212	Parish Pastoral Council	Marie Enny	856-751-8893
Welcoming Team	Shirley Kane	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



When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost
To heal the broken
To feed the hungry
To release the captives
To rebuild nations
To bring peace among peoples
To make music in the heart



"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 Christmas 2023, at this point, is \$ 24,029 The budgeted amount was \$30,000.

We tithe to show how awesome our God is. Lord, your God, owns all—everything on Earth and beyond is holy to Him. When we tithe, we offer up to Him what is His, and show that we recognize this ownership as a constant blessing upon us all. After all, God loves a cheerful giver.

Prayer for Priestly Vocations

Lord Jesus, we ask you to bless the Diocese of Camden with an increase in vocations to the priesthood. We pray that young men from our parishes and families will hear your call and be both generous and courageous in their response. May more young men serve you as priests who teach the faith, preach the Gospel, celebrate the sacraments and make you present among us through their ministry. Encourage them to embrace the joy-filled and fulfilling life of a diocesan priest. May parents support priestly vocations in their families by prayer and good example. We entrust these prayers through Mary Immaculate, our patroness, hopeful that you will bless our diocese with more priests in the near future, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen

Stewardship Corner: Epiphany of the Lord Stewards Worship

They fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." - MATTHEW 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, as Christian Stewards, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

From the Pastor's Desk

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

Dear Parishioners,

From the time when I was young, they always seemed like strange gifts to bring a newborn baby: *gold, frankincense and myrrh*. Today we would think of things like diapers, toys, blankets, formula, socks, pajamas, etc. to bring to an infant. Obviously, there is more to the gifts of the *magi* than meets the eye.

Gold is meant as a tribute to a king. Gold as a precious, valuable metal was prized by many cultures and worn by kings, present in the worship of gods, and used as currency. Jesus is indeed a **king**—the King of the Universe.

Frankincense is offered to a deity. When we occasionally burn incense in church (and the parishioners begin to cough *automatically*) it is meant to be a symbol of our prayers rising up to God. Psalm 141: 2 states: Let my prayer be incense before you . . . and the Book of Revelation (5:8) speaks of the elders who held a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones. The Hebrews had an altar of incense where a pleasing fragrance burned before the Holy of Holies. Some other cultures, like the ancient Romans, burned incense before their various statues as a sign of divinity. Jesus is divine—the Son of God. He is also the Great High Priest who is mediator between God and man.

Myrrh has various uses in perfumes, incense and medicine. The ancient Egyptians used it for embalming of mummies. When it is presented to Jesus it can be symbolic of his healing ability or an anticipation of his death and burial. Jesus was offered myrrh mixed with wine on the wood of the cross. Nicodemus brought myrrh to the tomb for Jesus' burial.

Gift-giving has become such a part of the Christmas season, often overshadowing the true spiritual meaning of the *Incarnation*. What is so astounding is that *God became man!* Our Creator became a *creature*. God in all His power became a *powerless*, vulnerable infant who needed his mother and foster-father to feed, clothe and provide for Him. Timelessness entered into *time*, the Immortal, Eternal One became subject to *death*, and the All-Knowing God had to grow in "wisdom, age and favor." (Lk. 2:52)

When we celebrate the **Epiphany** (manifestation or showing) of the Lord to the magi (astrologers representative of non-Jews or gentiles) we realize that salvation is open to all peoples and we are directed to **Christ** as the one and only Messiah and Savior of the World.

Our fitting gift to Jesus should be a *humble and contrite heart*, as the psalm relates. (See Ps. 51:19) He does not need material "things" to make Him happy. Instead He desires *us* and our willingness to do His will. He desires obedience to His commands.

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul.

The decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart.

The command of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eye.

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.

The statutes of the LORD are true, all of them just;

More desirable than gold, than a hoard of purest gold,

Sweeter also than honey or drippings from the comb.

By them your servant is warned; obeying them brings much reward.

(Ps. 19: 8-12)

Fr. Ed Namíotka

Pastor

Jan. 13/14

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Coronado	Len	Sr. Agnes	K. McFadden	
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Becca Julie	B. Massey	D. Mayfield	E. Bresani
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Becca/ Choir Julie	J. Galati	L. Galati	M. Marsdan S. Andino



Religious Education

The Feast of the Epiphany

commemorates principally the Visit of the Magi to the Christ Child, and thus, Jesus Christ's physical manifestation to the "Gentiles", to

the "non-Jew" people, to the whole humanity. This Feast is sometimes called "Three Kings Day", and in some traditions it is celebrated as Little Christmas.

Following the Star, the Magi arrived to Bethlehem and, what a great joy comes over them, in the presence of the little-great Infant, Jesus, God and King. Kneeling before Him, they understand that HE is the God who, with his love and wisdom, guides the course of the stars the course of history, of our history.

The Magi teach us that people, all of us, can come to Christ by a very long route, and like them, only thirsting for the infinite, for the Truth!

A blessed Journey and encounter with our little-great Lord Jesus who is longing to see us and stay with us!

January 7: Regular SESSION (USA Saints)

January 14: Martin Luther King – NO SESSION

January 20: Saturday, First Penance Retreat with children, Parents, and Sponsors. Meeting in the Parish Hall

January 21: Meeting #2 for 8th grade children and parents

January 28: Meeting for 7th grade children and parents

Perfect Light of revelation,

as you shone in the life of Jesus, whose epiphany we celebrate, so shine in us and through us,

that we may become beacons of truth and compassion, enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy.

Amen.





Camden Catholic Admissions Information Session February 1

Thursday, February 1 at 7 p.m. Whether you are an 8th grader still making your decision about high school, or a 6th or 7th grader planning for your future, please join us to learn more about the admissions process, curriculum, arts and athletics at Camden Catholic High School. This is a general information session in which you will have the opportunity to meet our students, faculty and administration, tour our campus, and have your questions answered.



SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

9:00 AM Sara Centonze & Anthony Appalucci r/b Joe Centonze

4:30 PM Pat Cannon r/b Terri Conway

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

8:30 AM Intentions of Rose Kenerly r/b Mary Von Lintig 11:00 AM Emma Lloret r/b Leonila Lloret

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

9:00 AM people of the parish
9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

9:00 AM Intentions of Mary Mermer r/b Greta 9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

9:00 AM Living and deceased members of Morgan family in Ireland

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

9:00 AM David & Gloria De Tato r/b Jeannine 9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

9:00 AM Martin Egizi r/b Dom & Marie Sacca 9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

4:30 PM Jim Tobin r/b family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

8:30 AM Sherri Gardler r/b Hilda & Martin Block

11:00 AM Larry Lambert r/b Bill & Ann Vigrass & family



Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Maureen Reidy

Maria Elena Lyons

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions January 2024 For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE

SICK... Kristina Acevedo, Caroline Bancheri, Jim Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Pat Beaney, Joe



Centonze, Ray Chuisano, Elva Clark, Grace Cobin, Alex Colon, Tammy Colon, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, Mary Cowan, Catherine Diana, Fr. George Donfurtang, Elizabeth Garber, Eileen Gerie, Eileen Godwin, Marjorie Graham, Helen Kane, Marion Kapischke, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, John Lane, Bob Lento, Marie Manalo, Felix Mele, Carter Oakley, Tina Petrone, Helen Protzman, Dom Sacca, Carlos Santiago, Teddy Shaffer, Grace Sklencar, Joe Sklencar, Claire Spence, Dick 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

"Jesus, Bread of Eternal Life, came down from heaven and was made flesh thanks to the faith of Mary Most Holy.

After having borne him with ineffable love in herself, she followed him faithfully unto the Cross and to the resurrection. Let us ask Our Lady to help us rediscover the beauty of the Eucharist, to make it the center of our life, especially at Sunday Mass and in Adoration."

Mall Walk for the Homeless
Sunday, February 25, 2024
Voorhees Town Center
Fun Activities begin at 1:30 PM
Walk starts at 2:30 PM Rain, Snow, or Shine
Registration is online at www.ihocsnj.org
Registration fee is \$25 and includes a mall Walk
T-shirt



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 Epiphany of the Lord, January 7, 2024- Matthew 2:1-12

(Magi from the east heard of the birth of the King of the Jews (Jesus). They came to Jerusalem in search of this King. Herod heard about this and was anxious to know about this newborn king - for reasons different from the Magi. Herod investigates. The king is in Bethlehem, Herod is told. Herod plots...) "Go and search diligently for the child," Herod says. "When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king, they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was... They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

Commentary:

The Magi find Jesus because they are open to being led by God who uses a star and a dream. Herod never finds Jesus - his desire is to satisfy his own needs. The astounding events portrayed in this gospel (a star leading strangers from the east, Herod's hypocrisy, warning dreams) indicate to us that God's offer of salvation will be extended to all people and will not be thwarted. The gospel presents a choice to us: do we want to be like Herod or like the Magi? **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: "The pro-life cause is the preeminent cause of our time, and this struggle between the gospel of life and the culture of death will determine the destiny of mankind."— Peter Garrett, Member of the

Australian House of Representatives

Stewardship Breakfast– Sunday, January 21, 2024 after the 11:00M Mass

We come together to thank those good stewards of the various established ministries in St. Thomas More Parish. A nutritious breakfast will be served followed by Fr. Jon Thomas speaking about Parish Stewardship. Invitations will be sent by email. Please RSVP by Sunday, January 14th. 856-424-3212 /or email: sthomasmore@comcast.net

Parish Giving announces that contributions statements for the calendar year 2023 will be emailed to those participating in online giving. Look for your statement to appear in your inbox this month.

Thank you for the reverence you show in God's house

Thank you for not bringing drinks (other than water, if necessary) food, or chewing gum into church. Thank you for keeping your phone silent and put away during Mass.

Thank you for maintaining a respectful silence in church so as not to disturb those who are praying. Thank you for staying until after the final blessing of Mass.

Your prayerful respect is deeply appreciated.



2023 Hottest Year on Record

Scientists just confirmed that 2023 will officially be the hottest year on record.

Every month since June has been the hottest such month on record, and November piled on. The month was roughly 1.75 degrees warmer than pre-industrial levels, and two days soared beyond 2 degrees, worrying scientists about what this means for the planet in the coming years.

Wealthy and high-emitting countries, have contributed the most to this record-breaking year. They have a greater responsibility to make a fair, fast and funded phase out of fossil fuels to help limit the increasing extreme weather and climate change impacts.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

GIVE YOUR SPOUSE A SPECIAL GIFT:

Sign up now for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend and receive the gift of a great marriage. Making a weekend will help you put a little Christmas in your marriage every day!

The next weekend date is March 15-17, 2024. Call 609-741-8012 for information or

email <u>applications@wwme-southjersey.org</u>. Visit our website: <u>wwme-southjersey.org</u>.

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