

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 7, 2024

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 and death.

As you breathed your Spirit
on those gathered in the Upper Room,
breathe your Spirit on us so that we may
recognize your presence in our midst
and come to know you in the
breaking open of your Word.

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 was \$ 16, 671.
The budgeted amount was \$22, 000.

"I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare." C. S. Lewis

Viewing of the Film "The Letter"

On Monday April 22nd at 6:45PM in the Parish Meeting Room the Faith & Justice Team is showing the film "The Letter" which explores Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical **Laudato Si'** This film is an address to all of humanity of the threatening impact our current lifestyle poses for our planet and all those living in it. **Mark your calendar to attend!!**

Stewardship Corner: Divine Mercy Sunday Stewards of Gifts

"The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own..." - ACTS 4:32

All that we are and all that we have is a gift from God! Think of your family, your friends, your life, your talents and your money – these are all gifts from God! **We aren't really owners of anything, we are merely "Stewards" of the gifts God has blessed us with.** We are called to be grateful and generous with all of our gifts for the benefit of others.

From the Pastor's Desk

Coincidences or Signs from God?

Dear Parishioners,

For the past two years I have attended priest conferences given by the **St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology**. This year I also plan to attend. Priests gather from all parts of the country to listen to talks on the Sacred Scriptures, to pray together, to offer Mass together and to socialize at a resort in Lakeway, Texas (near Austin). We have the privilege of hearing from *Dr. Scott Hahn*, *Dr. John Bergsma*, *Dr. Edward Sri*, and others who bring great insight to the Scriptures and Catholic theology. I hope that my preaching and teaching each week has been informative and inspiring as I have attempted to apply this experience to enhance my words at the pulpit.

Coincidentally, my first full day in Texas is also the day of the total solar eclipse which will be seen in the early afternoon as the path is directly over us! Moreover, the day is also celebrated as the **Solemnity of the Annunciation of Our Lord** (transferred from March 25th because it fell in Holy Week). Let me say that it should be rather interesting to be in Texas during this time.

The Sunday after Easter (this weekend) has been designated as **Divine Mercy Sunday**.

On April 30, 2000 (*Divine Mercy Sunday* of that year), Pope St. John Paul II canonized *St. Maria Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament* and designated the Sunday after Easter as *Divine Mercy Sunday*.

According to the notebooks of Saint Faustina, Jesus made the following statements about this day:

On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. (*Diary of Saint Faustina*, 699)

Devotion to Divine Mercy is also associated with an image painted as Jesus wished, based on descriptions by Saint Faustina. The words that accompany the image are "Jesus, I trust in Thee" ("Jezu, Ufam Tobie" in Polish). The rays coming from Jesus' body represent the Blood and Water that poured forth from the wound He suffered when pierced by the lance.

The devotion is practiced by praying the *Divine Mercy Chaplet* and *Novena to the Divine Mercy*—both of which may be prayed at any time, but especially at "The Hour of Great Mercy" – 3:00 PM, the hour our Lord died, and in conjunction with *Divine Mercy Sunday*. You can find out more about these topics by going to the website for the *Marians of the Immaculate Conception* (marian.org).

I find it particularly interesting that after working to promote devotion to the Divine Mercy and even writing an encyclical about God's Mercy—*Dives in Misericordia* or *Rich in Mercy* (1980)—Pope St. John Paul II died during the vigil of *Divine Mercy Sunday* in 2005.

Was this just another *coincidence* or truly an indication of the hand of God continually at work in our world? With all that is happening in our world today, we all need to say and believe:

Jesus I trust in Thee!

Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 7, 2024

Ministry Schedule April 13/14

	Clergy	Music	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Len	Sr. Agnes	K. McFadden	
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Celine Julie	Sr. Clare	D. Mayfield	A. Bresani
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Celine/Choir Julie	J. Flynn	L. Flynn	M. & N. Flynn



Sunday of the Divine Mercy

The image of the Divine Mercy of Jesus whose heart shows two rays, one red (representing blood) and the other "pale" (symbolizing water), with the words "Jesus, I trust in you" at the bottom, is as revealed to St. Faustina by Jesus

In the year 2000, St. Pope John Paul II canonized St. Faustina, and made the second Sunday of Easter to be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday

She wrote in her diary that Jesus told her: "My child, life on earth is a struggle indeed; a great struggle for my kingdom. But fear not, because you are not alone. I am always supporting you, so lean on Me as you struggle, fearing nothing.... When you go to confession, to this fountain of My Mercy, the Blood and Water which came forth from My Heart always flows down upon your soul and ennoble it. Every time you go to confession, immerse yourself entirely in My mercy, with great trust, so that I may pour the bounty of My grace upon your soul. I am only hidden by the priest, but I Myself act in your soul".



On this Sunday of the Divine Mercy, let us renew our trust in our Lord Jesus, so that our personal experience of His great Mercy may bring many others to his Compassionate and Loving Heart

REMINDERS: April 13, Saturday, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, the 8th graders: Pilgrimage to St. John Newman and to the Cathedral of Philadelphia (Optional for parents and sponsors).

April 13, Saturday, from 10:00 to 11:30, in the Chapel: Retreat for Second Graders in preparation for their first Communion and for their Parents.



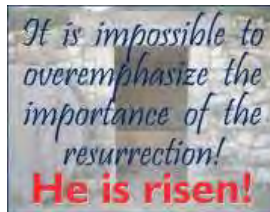
Congratulations to Katie Margiotti, Holly Van Hook, Ben Landis and Debbie Spence for reception of the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

"All Are Welcome": Dining in the Kingdom of God"
10:00 AM Wednesdays April 10th, 17th, 24th
Parish Hall

Presenter: Sr. Clare D'Auria OSF

"Blessed is anyone who will eat Bread in the Kingdom of God!" Luke 14: 15

To register: Call or email the parish office: 856-424-3212;
stthomasmore@comcast.net



Thank You!

To all who gave so generously of their time and talents to make our Easter celebrations so joyous and memorable. **Thank you:** for providing flowers; cleaning; decorating; preparing the Altar; making the music so special at all the Masses; ushering during Mass and serving at the altar: Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist; Lectors; and Altar Servers. Your love for and service to St. Thomas More parish is much appreciated!

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 7, 2024



SATURDAY, APRIL 6

9:00 AM Catherine Namiotka
r/b Little Servant Sisters
4:30 PM Bill Kane r/b family

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

8:30 AM Lincoln James Morehead r/b DuckWorth
11:00 AM Fr. Phillip Johnson r/b Joyce De Michele

MONDAY, APRIL 8

9:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

9:00 AM Nick Menna r/b Greta Tyrrell
9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

9:00 AM Bridget Namiotka
r/b Mickey & Theresa Colaizzo
9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of Morgan family in Ireland
9:30-Noon Adoration in the Chapel.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

9:00 AM Vincent John Tyrrell r/b family
9:30-Noon Adoration in the Chapel.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

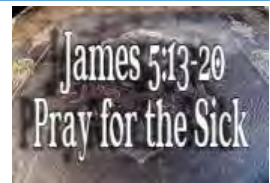
4:30 PM Jim Tobin r/b family

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

8:30 AM John Shanoskie
r/b Pauline Montes & family
11:00 AM Intentions of Nesta Luzi r/b Greta

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: *THE SICK...*

Kristina Acevedo, Caroline Bancheri, Jim Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Joe Centonze, 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, ichael 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.*

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions April 2024 For The Role Of Women

Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.



Please pray for the repose of the souls
of:
Ray Chiusano
Amelia "Mopsy" Silvestro

Eucharistic Revival quotes from

Pope Francis

"This is why the Eucharistic commemoration does us so much good: it is not an abstract, cold, and superficial memory, but a living remembrance that comforts us with God's love. A memory that is both recollection and imitation. The Eucharist is flavored with Jesus' words and deeds, the taste of His passion, the fragrance of His Spirit. When we receive it, our hearts are overcome with the certainty of Jesus' love. *Homily—June 10, 2017*



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 o with this QR code include "Council 6173" when asked and use the promo code: **BLESSEDDMCGIVENY** to join for free.**



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 7, 2024

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 Third Sunday of Easter, April 14, 24 - Luke 24:35-48

"...Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.

Commentary: In today's Gospel, Jesus appears among the disciples. Even though they have heard that he appeared to Simon and to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, they think he is a ghost. At Jesus' invitation to touch him, to look at his wounds, they are filled with joy, but they do not completely believe. Only his eating in their presence convinces them that he is indeed the risen Lord. As he had done on the road, he opens their minds to the Scriptures. After he has done this, he sends them to share the Good News with others.

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: "The fetus, though enclosed in the womb of its mother, is already a human being and it is a monstrous crime to rob it of the life which it has not yet begun to enjoy. If it seems more horrible to kill a man in his own house than in a field, because a man's house is his place of most secure refuge, it ought surely to be deemed more atrocious to destroy a fetus in the womb before it has come to light."— [John Calvin](#), French Theologian, Pastor, and Reformer

On Saturday, April 20, VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services is sponsoring [The Way of St. James on the Road of Life](#) pilgrimage walk starting at St. James Church, Ventnor from 9:00 AM—1:00PM This free event for seniors, their families and friends includes a morning prayer service, walk along the boardwalk, Mass, lunch and a t-shirt. We invite you and your parishioners to join us in this day of fellowship and prayer. Call 856-583-6121 to register.

Cherry Hill Food Pantry - 2024 Raffle Fundraiser
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 web-site cherryhillfoodpantry.org 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: jon111@comcast.net – Cell: 856-905-6162) or Elaine Beckman (Email: elainebeckman@gmail.com – Cell: 856-428-8431) or 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.

Tickets for sale in the Gathering Space
this weekend



Easter Message of Pope Francis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Just as Jesus removed the stone that sealed his tomb on the morning of the Resurrection, on Easter Christ alone "has the power to roll away the stones that block the path to life" and which trap humanity in war and injustice, Pope Francis said.

Seated on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, the pope asked the risen Christ to bring peace in Israel, Palestine and Ukraine and a host of other conflict-ridden regions in the world.

Pope Francis then appealed to the international community to ensure access of humanitarian aid to Gaza and called for the "prompt release" of hostages taken during Hamas' attack on Israel Oct. 7 as well as "an immediate cease-fire in the strip."

"War is always an absurdity, war is always a defeat," he said, asking that the "strengthening winds of war" do not reach Europe and the Mediterranean. "Let us not yield to the logic of weapons and re-arming. Peace is never made with arms, but with outstretched hands and open hearts."

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 60 people totaling \$26,025.00 which is 29.0% of our goal.



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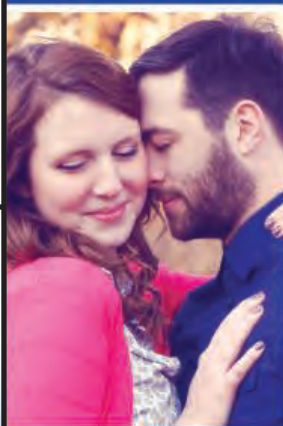
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