

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, AUGUST 18, 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.



"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." *John 13:34-35*

The collection for Sunday, August 11, 2024

\$3,939.00 Sunday
\$2,108.00 E-Giving
\$6,047.00 Total

THANK YOU!

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 call 856-424-3212

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

LIVING STEWARDSHIP

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." John 6:56

Jesus is really present in the bread and wine that are consecrated at Holy Mass. It is His actual body and blood that we consume. This is the greatest gift that we can receive. The Eucharist shows us how great of love that Jesus has for each of us.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

This weekend a representative from the **Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary** will speak at All Masses regarding their mission work around the world. The priests and brothers, through their training and dedication, help people face and/or overcome many different challenges while leading them to deepen their love for God.

We ask that you please be generous to their request.



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From the Pastor's Desk

The Bread of Life Discourse

Dear Parishioners,

Some of the most significant words of Jesus regarding the Holy Eucharist—found in Jesus' *Bread of Life Discourse* (John, chapter 6)—are being highlighted for these five weeks of reflection on St. John's Gospel. Let me just quote a few of the most significant lines found there:

I am the bread of life . . . I am the bread that came down from heaven . . . Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within you . . . Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day . . . My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink . . .

Bread is indeed a staple of life for many people throughout history. In Jesus' time it was part of the everyday meal as was table wine. He used both of these common elements in an extraordinary way when He was at table with his disciples before His death—the Last Supper.

Bread also had some spiritual significance throughout history for the Jewish and later Christian peoples. The Jewish people eat *unleavened* bread to commemorate their freedom from Egypt when they had to flee before they had time for the bread to rise (Ex. 34:18). When the Jews were wandering in the desert after their exodus from Egypt, God gave them *manna* to eat—mysterious “bread from heaven.” (Ex. 16) The Jews also kept *showbread* or bread of presence—twelve loaves representing the twelve tribes of Israel—before God in the sanctuary of the Temple. Later, Jesus famously multiplied the loaves and fish, to feed the hungry multitudes (Mt. 14:15-21, Mk. 6:34-42, Lk. 9:16-17, Jn. 6:9-13). The use of bread comes to a spiritual summit in Jesus' designation of it as **His body** at the Last Supper (Mt. 26: 26, Mk. 14:22, Lk. 22:19, 1 Cor. 11:23-24).

However, in the Gospel of St. John, Chapter 6, as we read what is referred to as Jesus' *Bread of Life Discourse*, Jesus makes some very profound and perhaps, disturbing, statements. Some people found His teaching hard to take and walked away from Him (see Jn. 6:66). This passage is seen as an essential commentary on the significance and value of the Most Holy Eucharist. We hear some of the most definitive statements of Jesus regarding the Holy Eucharist. The **Real Presence** of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament is one of the core teachings of the Catholic faith. We do not believe in some mere symbolic presence, but take Jesus literally—at *His word*—in our understanding of this divine mystery. Over the centuries, the term *transubstantiation*—a change in substance (but not in appearance)—has been used to explain this essential dogma.

When we approach the Most Holy Eucharist, we approach **Jesus**—our Lord, God and Savior. He deserves our love, reverence and respect. Reverence and awe cannot be overstated or over-emphasized. We also should prepare for reception of Holy Communion by examining our consciences and making sure we are first in the *state of grace* (not conscious of any grave or mortal sin not yet forgiven in confession).

Like the people in the Gospel, our attitude toward the Holy Eucharist should be one of desire, anticipation, thanksgiving and joy: “Sir, give us this bread always.” (John 6: 34) Please realize Whom it is that we are privileged to have on our altar and to receive: **Jesus, the Son of God.**

Fr. Ed Namiołka, Pastor



TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, AUGUST 18, 2024

Ministry Schedule August 24/25

| | Clergy | Music | Eucharistic Minister | Lector | Altar Server |
|----------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 4:30 PM | Fr. Namiotka | Len Kolojechick | G. Tyrrell | C. Betson Smith | T. Johnson |
| 8:30 AM | Fr. Coronado | Julie Linn | K. Witts | K. Kraemer | R. & A. Witts |
| 11:00 AM | Fr. Namiotka | Erin and Julie | J. Flynn | L. Flynn | N. & M. Flynn |

Religious Education Registration

Religious Education Registration is now open. Classes will be held on Sunday morning from 9:30 AM through 10:45 AM starting September 15, 2024. (Catechetical Sunday)

Returning families will receive an email from Parish Giving. This email will contain login in credentials for your account that was created for you. Please make any necessary changes to your information before submitting. If you do not receive this email, please check your Spam folder or call the parish office at 856-424-3212.

New Families ONLY go to our Parish web site stthomasmorenj.org and look for the **Religious Education link to the New Family Registration form**. You will receive an automated email from Parish Giving with login credentials for an account that was created for you. Sign into your account to complete the registration process.

Please register now so we can prepare and plan properly for your children.

A Late fee of \$50.00 will be applied after August 15, 2024.



Have you completed the survey?

Complete the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey today. The survey assesses our unique strengths and opportunities. Share your perspective now to help strengthen St. Thomas More and better prepare us for the future!

For the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey link, please visit our web site at stthomasmorenj.org and follow the instructions.

If you prefer a **paper copy**, you may pick up your survey in the Parish Office during the week. Complete and return to the office by **September 9, 2024** to allow time for data entry.

The Wild Goose

Discovering a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit
Inspiring video series by Fr. Dave Pivonka
President of the Franciscan University of Steubenville

St. Rose of Lima Parish Lounge, Haddon Hts., NJ
6:30 pm—8:00 pm

Sunday Evenings September 15-October 27, 2024
No registration needed and no cost!

What's "The Wild Goose? See trailer at wildgoose.tv
For more information, contact Sue: 856-745-1550

Thank you!

Your support of the

South Jersey Catholic Ministries Appeal

ensures the vitality of essential Diocesan ministries and programs that sustain the healing, teaching and redemptive Presence of Jesus Christ throughout Southern New Jersey.

Support the South Jersey Catholic Ministries Appeal
www.camdendiocese.org/sjcma

WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING DONATIONS TO THE 2024 SJCMA CAMPAIGN!

St. Thomas More's Goal is \$89,700.

The **Consolation Ministry to the bereaved** of St. Thomas More Parish will meet on **Thurs., Aug. 29 at 1:00 PM** in the Parish Hall. Our mission is to be a source of love, comfort, and support to those who experience loss through death. We work to reach out to those who experience loss, so they will feel the healing comfort of God through this faith community.

We hope you will allow us to walk alongside you through your grief journey as a companion who has seen the same terrain. Join us or call for more information.

AnnMarie Lento 856-344-7454,
Jon Lisitski 856-210-6466
Marian Kapischke 856-424-2053

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, AUGUST 18, 2024



SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

4:30 PM Bill Kane & Rudy Peins r/b family

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

8:30 AM Pat Beaney r/b Lorraine Kennedy

11:00 AM Leonard Bouman r/b Bill & Ann Vigrass

MONDAY, AUGUST 19

9:00 AM People of the Parish

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

9:00 AM Intentions of Dom Sacca r/b Greta

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

9:00 AM Pat Beaney r/b Claire Spence & family

THURSDAY AUGUST 22

9:00 AM Catherine Namiotka

r/b Claire Spence & family

9:30-Noon Adoration in the Chapel.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

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

9:30-Noon Adoration in the Chapel.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

4:30 PM Catherine Namiotka r/b Tobin family

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

8:30 AM Pat Beaney

r/b St. Thomas More Women's Club

11:00 AM Fred R. Petrone r/b Tina

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions For AUGUST 2024 For Political Leaders

Let us pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking care of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poor.



Spanish Ministry Prayer Group St. Thomas More Parish Hall

**Friday: August 23
at 10:00 A.M.**

Join us as we Pray the Rosary, Lectio Divina, and reflect on themes of faith.



St. Vincent de Paul Society
members will be at the doors of the Church this weekend Aug. 17/18 accepting your donations for those in need.

Thank you for you generosity.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE

SICK... Kristina Acevedo, Caroline Bancheri, Jim Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Joe Centonze, Grace Cobin, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, Mary Cowan, Catherine Diana, Linda Di Giulio, Fr. George Donfurtang, Elizabeth Garber, Eileen Gerie, Eileen Goodwin, Marjorie Graham, Marion Kapischke, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, John Lane, Bob Lento, Marie Manalo, Kelly Moore, Carter Oakley, Tina Petrone, Dom Sacca, Carlos Santiago, Teddy Shaffer, Grace Sklencar, Joe Sklencar, Claire Spence, Stacia Strack, Michael Suralik, Pat Suralik, Ed Targonski, Sr., Ann Vigrass, Joanne Wachman, Sarah Warner Mason Roberson.



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 Special Forces, , 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.*

**An invitation to men of the parish
from the Cherry Hill Council 6173
Knights of Columbus: If you want
more information or to join**

**us, you can do so today at
www.kofc.org/joinus with this QR
code include "Council 6173" when asked and use the
promo code: BLESSEDDMCGIVNEY to join for
free.**



Eucharistic Revival quotes from Pope Francis

"Each time we receive the Bread of Life, Jesus comes to give new meaning to our fragilities. He reminds us that in his eyes we are more precious that we think. He tells us he is pleased if we share our fragilities with him. He repeats to us that his mercy is not afraid of our miseries. The mercy of Jesus is not afraid of our miseries. And above all he heals us from those fragilities that we cannot heal on our own, with love." Angelus—June 6, 2021

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, AUGUST 18, 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 the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 25, 2024 - John 6:60-69

Jesus said, "No one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

Commentary:

A lot of would-be disciples of Jesus never made it all the way to the triumph of Easter morning. Somewhere along the way, they were offended by what Jesus taught or did or didn't do. Maybe they felt his forgiveness came too easily for a certain kind of sinner they'd personally rather see punished. Or they took offense when his disciples didn't fast or wash their hands in the ritual ways of the Pharisees. For many, Jesus simply became unbelievable. But for Simon Peter, Jesus remained the Master no matter what. In utter honesty, Peter doesn't know where else to go to get the truth. No matter how hard following Jesus may be, the alternatives are much bleaker. There's Jesus, and there's the hypocritical, superficial, unforgiving world beyond. For Peter, the choice was clear.

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 medical profession has a special responsibility to protect and preserve human life from the moment of conception. This responsibility arises not only from our scientific knowledge but also from our commitment to the sanctity of life."— Dr. John C. Willke, physician, author, and anti-abortion activist.



Going on vacation? Need to find a church and mass times at your destination?

www.Masstimes.org can help with that!

Input your destination and/or zip code to find the church closest to you.



STMFAITHANDJUSTICE@GMAIL.COM

We are close to our Goal of 1,000 lb for our **TREX Recycling Challenge**. Thank you for your donations.

Come see the screening of "COOKED: Survival by Zip Code" on Tues., Aug. 27th from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

A Free will offering to support the St. Vincent DePaul Society is appreciated.

Look for the Flyer in today's Bulletin for more info.

Diocese of Camden Marian Pilgrimage Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC Saturday, October 26, 2024

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 7:00/7:15 AM | Bus Departs Holy Eucharist Parking Lot 344 Kresson Road, Cherry Hill |
| 9:30—11:30 AM | Arrive at the Basilica, Confession, Explore the Shrine, Prayer time |
| 11:00 AM | Official Welcome. Concert of Sacred Music |
| Noon | Lunch on your own. Suggest bring lunch as cafeteria is very busy. |
| 1:30 PM | Procession of Parishes with Banner. Rosary and Crowning of the BVM. |
| 3:00 PM | Mass with Bishop Sullivan in the Great Upper Church. Departure following Mass |
| 7:30 PM | Bus arrives at Holy Eucharist parking lot |

Cost per person \$35.00 Space is limited

Call Sheila at the Parish Office to register. 856-424-3212

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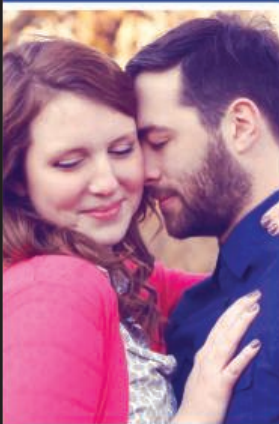


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