

St. Thomas More Church

1439 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003

856-424-3212

Web Site: <http://stthomasmorenj.org/> • E-mail: info@stthomasmorenj.org

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



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
Julie Linn, Music Ministry
Sheila Tartamosa, Business Manager



Find us on:
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Send all bulletin announcements to:
smtartamosa@comcast.net by 2:00pm Monday

DIRECTORY

Parish Trustees

Jeannine Mc Menamin
Henry Glover

Christian Life/Education

Bereavement

Staff 856- 424-3212

Consolation Ministry

Ann Marie Lento 856- 344-7454

Jon Lisitski jonl11@comcast.net

Faith & Justice Team

Chris Baeckstrom 856-912-7078

Hospital Visitors

Staff & Euch. Ministers 856-424-3212

Intercessory Prayer

Ann Vigrass 856-428-7217

Knights of Columbus

John Galati 856-424-3212

Marriage Formation

Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa 856-795-1160

Order of Christian Init. Of Adults

Parish Rel. Ed. Prog. 856-424-3212

Respect Life

Staff

Rosary Ministry

Marian Kapischke 856-424-2053

Small Christian Communities

Spiritual Retreats

John Galati 856-428-7073

St. Vincent de Paul

Chico Febus 856- 424-3212

Stewardship

Sheila Tartamosa 856-424-3212

Welcoming Team

Shirley Kane 856-424-8022

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Altar Servers

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Ch. Art Environment

Eucharistic Ministers

Lectors

Linen Committee

Sacristans

Ushers

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Bridge Groups

Parish Festival

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Greta Tyrrell

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Dave Bongiovanni

Joe Centonze

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Joyce DeMichele

856-424-4008

Barbara Cerquitella

856-795-7323

Committee

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Barbara Cerquitella

856-795-7323

Lorraine Kennedy

856-489-0031

Sheila Tartamosa

856-424-3212

Robert Crawford

856-424-3212

Marie Enny

856-751-8893

THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, November 17, 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.



Thanksgiving is coming soon, it's time to think about how we will celebrate the holiday. Family gatherings, great food and football seem to dominate the day. Isn't there something else we can do to highlight the meaning and purpose of Thanksgiving? How are you actually giving thanks to God for His blessings? Think about how you can express your thanks by helping others. Go through your closets and donate to a clothing drive. Call the food bank to see what items they need. Bring a meal to a lonely friend. Rake the leaves for an elderly neighbor. Gratitude is only an idea until you express it in loving ways!

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.

OCIA

The Order 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 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

ANGEL TREE PROGRAM collection will start the weekend of 11/23-24. This program enables parents who are incarcerated to send a Christmas Gift to their children. Next weekend we will have a Christmas Tree in the Gathering Space with tags listing the child's name and gift suggestions. All those wishing to contribute Christmas gifts are asked to take the 2024 Angel Tree Instruction Sheet and complete and leave at STM before taking their Angel tree Tag (s). This is really important in case we need to follow up and track that all gifts are received.

All **UNWRAPPED** gifts must be returned by the weekend of 11/30-12/1/24.

For more information call Chris Betson -Smith at (609) 313-0982 or stmfaithandjustice@gmail.com.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Diocese of Camden prayer cards with picture of our **Seminarians** are at the doors of the Church. Please take one and pray for them.

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Stewardship Good News

"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory." (MARK 13:26)

We will all have that day when we are standing before God and our life is played out like a movie. When this happens and God asks each of us, "What have you done with the gifts that I have given you?" How will you respond? The good news – it's never too late to start living **Stewardship** in a grateful and generous lifestyle.

From the Pastor's Desk

Thanksgiving and Advent

Dear Parishioners,

As I write this bulletin column, I anticipate enjoying the annual *Thanksgiving* dinner with various family members at my rectory. This will be the first Thanksgiving without my mom. This holiday was special to her because her birthday (November 28) fell in close proximity to it each year. This year the dates coincide. She considered Thanksgiving *her holiday* and expected everyone who could to be there.

I realize, once again, how truly blessed I am. I have three brothers and a sister and their families, who mostly live in close proximity. I am so fortunate to have a number of people gathered together to share this *family* day and traditional meal. I will do most of the cooking this year while some of the family will bring some particular specialties from their own homes to the table.

As I reflect, I pity those people who would forgo *time spent with family and friends* to begin to *camp out* or *stand in line* on Black Friday in order to be early enough to get some advertised bargain at the retail stores. Thankfully, online sales have somewhat curtailed this practice. Nevertheless, I worry whenever we start to put material things ahead of *family, friendships* and *relationships*. *People* should certainly be more important than *things*, as far as I am concerned.

Advent begins the Sunday after Thanksgiving. I ponder once again *whether or not* this season of **preparation** for the **Birth of Christ** will actually make a difference to most people. So many people skip the intended Advent preparation and begin celebrating Christmas. When Christmas finally arrives, people are ready to move on to something else. Meanwhile, in the Church, we are just beginning the celebration.

Why did we have to come up with slogans like **Keep Christ in Christmas** in order to remind us of something that should be so very obvious? I advise that we don't waste precious time by getting caught up in all of the *materialism* that the world is concerned about and continually *sells* us. Rather, we should take time for the *spiritual life*. After all, we as humans are comprised of body and soul. We should make the time for *Jesus Christ* and prepare for Him. Personally, I find that when my spiritual priorities are in order and **Christ** is forefront in my life, everything else mysteriously seems to fall into place. I may have to learn this lesson over and over again, but someday I may finally get it right.

I attempt to do my part by keeping any Christmas preparation in proper perspective. My annual Christmas shopping remains *almost non-existent*. Unfortunately, I don't think the economy will be helped by my miniscule number of purchases. Perhaps, my **spiritual life** might be deepened instead.

I know that the anticipation of the birth of the Christ Child still brings hope to many lives. For those who truly try to pray, to spiritually prepare (especially with a sacramental confession), and even to *fast*, the joy that comes from readying our hearts for the coming of Jesus surpasses any temporary, illusory pleasures that the many TV commercials may promise.

Please do your part to ready for Christ's coming during these four weeks of **Advent** and attempt to forgo turning this preparatory season into a premature Christmas celebration.

Fr. Ed Namiotka
Pastor

THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, November 17, 2024

Ministry Schedule November 23/24

	Clergy	Music	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Coronado	Len	Sr. Sophie	K. McFadden	
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Julie	Sr. Clare	K. Kraemer	Witts
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Erin/Julie	J. Flynn	L. Flynn	N & M Flynn



Today marks a significant step in the spiritual journey of our Confirmandi. We wish them a future filled with the peace and love of God as they continue their spiritual journey.

Santiago **St. James** Andino
 Alona **Teresa** Chiaravallotti
 Rylee **Joan** Dolch
 Mason **John** Fowler
 John **St. Michael the Archangel** Galati
 Luca **Anthony** Kraemer
 Grace Elizabeth **Frances** Marsden
 Neave **Philomena** Royster
 Andrew **Francis** Witts

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" – Joshua 1:9.

We thank Sr. Clare Sabini, FMIJ, Sr. Rosangela Ganau, FMIJ, Lena Galati, Jennifer Flynn, Katie Witts and all the Catechists who guided and instructed these students over the years.



How Can We Be Better Together?

Join a Small Christian Community at our parish for **Advent!**

There is still time to sign-up to join our Small Christian Communities (SCCs) during Advent. Joining is one of the best ways to connect in faith and fellowship at Saint Thomas More parish while strengthening our relationship with God.

Here are some things to know about SCCs:

Group size: Averages 5–12 people.

Meeting frequency: Weekly during Advent and Lent; some groups meet monthly all year.

Meeting Location: Saint Thomas More Church Parish Hall or the home of a group facilitator.

Activities: Members gather to pray, read, reflect on the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday, learn how to apply the Scripture's teachings to our daily lives, and do works of charity as a group. It's not a Bible study.

Materials: Each Group Facilitator utilizes handouts that guide participants and offer a reflection on the Gospel with questions for faith-sharing during each meeting.

Purpose: Hear the Word of God through Scripture, relate it to what is happening in your life right now, and then determine what God is calling you to do or change individually and collectively.

Sign-up sheets with the various days and times of the meetings are on a table in the entryway at our church. Groups that meet for Advent start the week of November 24th.

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.



THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, NOVEMBER 17, 2024

MASS Intentions

SATURDAY, November 16

4:30 PM **Fr. Michael Rush** r/b Carol Petrone, Diane Slotkin, Nancy Tagland, John Vivone

SUNDAY, November 17

8:30 AM **Elva Clark** r/b StVdePaulSociety

11:00 AM **Catherine Namiotka**
r/b Ron & Gail Bizzoso

MONDAY, November 18

9:00 AM **People of the Parish**

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, November 19

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

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, November 20

9:00 AM **Elva Clark** r/b Tobin Family

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY, November 21

9:00 AM **ALL SOULS**

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

FRIDAY, November 22

9:00 AM **Margaret Skorup** r/b Robert Crawford

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

SATURDAY, November 23

4:30 PM **Connie Portella and Olga V. Mignone**
r/b Donald Mignone

SUNDAY, November 24

8:30 AM **Genevieve Sueck** r/b Harry & Jean McAneny

11:00 AM **Holly Kensicki-Lind** r/b Flynn Family

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions For November

For anyone who has lost a child: We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

Second Collection this weekend, Nov. 16/17 is for the
**CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN for
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.**

Your generosity toward this collection empowers those working on the margins to break the cycle of poverty. We need your help to ensure the success of this Collection.

Spanish Ministry Prayer Group St. Thomas More Parish Friday: Nov. 22

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE

SICK... Kristina Acevedo, Caroline Bancheri, Jim Beaney, 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, Baby Finley, Arlene Pajic, Tim Fitzgerald, Jose Dorotan, Hilda Maldonado.



PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...

Sgt. 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, Sgt. Nicole Williams, and *all those serving our country.*

VITALITY Catholic Healthcare Services

Join our Life to the Fullest Membership Program that informs and connects seniors to the information they need to stay safe and healthy. Membership is free to all seniors 65 and over living in the South Jersey area.

For more information, visit
www.vitality.camdendiocese.org or email
Christine.willard@camdendiocese.org

Gratitude is an important component to healthy aging, Practicing and nurturing an “*attitude of gratitude*” helps us focus on *what is* rather than *what is not*.



St. Vincent de Paul Society

members will be at the doors of the Church this weekend, Nov. 16/17 accepting your donations for those in need.

Thank you for your generosity.

Coffee and Donut hospitality will be available after Sunday Masses.

THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, November 17, 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 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, November 24, 2024 – John 18:33-37 Pilate said to Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?" Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Commentary:

To-day's Gospel is all about the world not recognizing Jesus. Neither the Roman world nor the Jewish religious community recognized who Jesus really was. They call Jesus "king" but they do not realize the truth of what they say. In John's Gospel Jesus is in control of the situation. He is already the victor. He walks the way of the cross like a king to his throne and he rules from the cross. Jesus' power is the truth he has and the truth he is. His kingdom is not of this world, but his kingdom is very much coming into this world of ours. That kingdom calls into question the way things are done by the rulers of this world.

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?

CHERRY HILL FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Clients who receive food assistance from the Cherry Hill Food Pantry will once again be able to shop for their own groceries rather than receive prepackaged bags. This provides greater dignity to those who come to us in need.

This change will require many more volunteers than our previous drive through method for receiving assistance.

St. Thomas More's volunteer times are

Tuesday, November 19 and

Thursday November 21.

Tuesdays 5:30 PM -7:45 PM and

Thursdays 10:30 AM to 1:15 PM.

Volunteers will guide and help our shoppers. We have many elderly and disabled clients who need extra assistance. Volunteers in the past have found this to be a very rewarding and fulfilling experience and our clients enjoy forming personal relationships. Please consider volunteering for this vital parish ministry at St. Thomas More. Thank you.

**Contact Elaine Beckman at 856-428-8431 or
email elainebeckman@gmail.com**



**Christmas and Food From Around the World -
December 7, after 4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas
More Parish Hall.**

Would you like to provide an hors d'oeuvres or dessert that is part of your Christmas Celebration? Contact us by email stmfaithandjustice@gmail.com or call 856-424-3212 or sign-up in the Gathering space.

We are looking for volunteers to deliver **Angel Tree Christmas gifts** to families residing in Camden, Cherry Hill, Pennsauken and Mt. Laurel before 12/20/24.

If you are able to help us, please call Chris Betson-Smith at (609) 313-0982 or sign up in the Gathering Space. email stmfaithandjustice@gmail.com.

**Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus
Advent Retreat: Sat and Sun. Dec. 7-8, 2024
At Mother Mary Joseph Center of Hospitality
1215 Kresson Road, Cherry Hill, NJ
Call 856-428-8834 for details.**



Eucharistic Adoration is held in the Chapel Monday through Friday after the 9:00 AM Mass until Noon.

As Catholics we believe that when we pray before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament (Jesus in the Tabernacle or the Monstrance), the fullness of His life, power and love are present. Jesus is here with you right now!

Come Pray with Him.



Pro-Life Corner:

O God, our Creator, all life is in your hands from conception until death. Help us to

reverence the awesome privilege of our share in creation. May all people live and die in dignity and love. Bless all those who defend life in all of its forms. Enlighten and be merciful toward those who fail to love, and give them peace.

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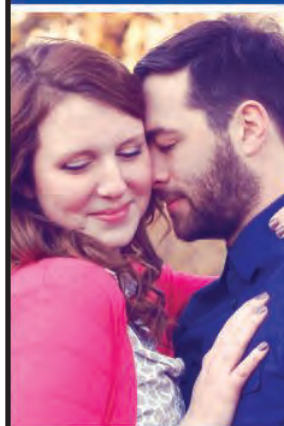


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