

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



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smtartamosa@comcast.net by 2:00pm Monday

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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

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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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Ch. Art Environment

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Lectors

Linen Committee

Sacristans

Ushers

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Chico Febus

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

Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 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.



The third Sunday of Advent we are invited to reflect on the joy we have access to because of our faith in Jesus. One of the defining characteristics of Christ-followers is their *joyful demeanor*. Let's not allow the struggles of this year steal from the great joy we have because of Jesus.



The Collection for Sunday December 8, 2024

Sunday	\$5003.00
E-Giving	\$2175.00
Total	\$7178.00

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

Women and men religious offer gratitude. Sincere thanks to the donors of the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your gift impacts over 24,000 senior women and men religious, providing them dignified retirement.

Please remember in your prayers our dear parishioner Joseph Sklencar who died recently.

May he rest in peace.



Recently my friend Thomas Ranizewski and I wrote a Christmas song entitled "The Carpenter's Son." It is sung by Drew Seigla. The format used for distribution these days is *online streaming*. Below is the link to get the song online. Thanks for listening!

Fr. Ed

The link <https://distrokid.com/hyper.../drewseigla/the-carpenters-son>

You can also find the link on our Parish web site

3rd Sunday of Advent

Stewards Share

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." (PHILIPPIANS 4:6)

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God – He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God's image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous **Stewards** sharing all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.

From the Pastor's Desk

The 3rd Sunday of Advent—*Gaudete Sunday*

Dear Parishioners,

The liturgical season of *Advent* originated as a **fast** of forty days in **preparation** for Christmas. It was sometimes called *Little Lent* or ***St. Martin's Lent*** because it began on the feast of *St. Martin of Tours* (November 11). The third Sunday of Advent is called ***Gaudete*** Sunday—from the Latin word “rejoice.” We rejoice because the Lord is near. Advent is halfway completed. Priests have the option of wearing a rose colored vestment and we light the rose candle of the advent wreath.

Society seems completely to overlook this minor penitential season and move right into Christmas. There is no fasting, sacrifice or spiritual preparation but Christmas parties, holiday shopping and increased celebration. Unfortunately, when the actual *Christmas season* begins with the *Mass of Christmas Eve*, many people will soon thereafter take down the decorations and the tree. The time for celebrating is over and we move on to the next thing. Christmas tragically ends all too abruptly within the actual *Christmas season* for many.

How often we are driven by the consumer mentality as the stores will begin preparing for *Valentine's Day* and *Presidents Day*, immediately following those after-Christmas sales. Why everything have to be about buying and owning many things? I again emphasize the importance of ***person and relationship over things and possessions***. Christmas-time can have some wonderful effects when families come together and people socialize with both families and friends. People can be extraordinarily generous and kind as well.

Yet, the essential meaning of Christmas should never be lost: **God became a man**. He revealed His inner life to us and spent time with us. He lived with us and died for us. Many messages *distract* from this one. However, the coming of **Jesus Christ** is truly the focal point of all human history. Why do even *Christians* sometimes miss or forget this truth?

First and foremost for all of us there has to be more of a focus on **prayer and conversion—a *change of heart***—within our parishes and families. The glamour of sin and the illusory happiness that it may temporarily bring has a choke hold on the world today. While many may not directly deny the existence of God, far too many live in such a way that His effect on our lives is negligible or non-existent.

Use the remaining time of Advent in the way it was intended. Prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ. Go to confession (the *Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation*). Pray, fast, read Sacred Scripture, be charitable. Come visit Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Just take some time to be quiet and to reflect. Slow down!

When ***Christmas*** *actually arrives* (Christmas eve), we all will be much better off spiritually.
Come, Lord Jesus!

Fr. Ed Namiołka
Pastor

Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2024

Ministry Schedule December 21/22 2024

	Clergy	Music	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Coronado	Len	Sr. Agnes	C. Betson-Smith	
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Becca/Julie	K. Witts	S. Oatway	D & A Witts
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Becca/Julie	J. Galati	L. Galati	S. Andino, M. Marsden



We congratulate all the students who participated as ministers at the 11:00 AM Mass today and the Nativity pageant. We sincerely thank the catechists, parents and all those who assisted them.

There will be no Religious Education Classes on Dec. 22 or 29. Classes will resume on January 5, 2025.

Blessing of Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene

In its present form, the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas creche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or family member.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to Him, who is God-with-us and Savior to all. AMEN



Jesus is the reason for the season



Flowers
Donation
Thank You!



Christmas Flower donation envelopes are included in your envelope mailing packet and are also available at the doors of the Church. Please note who the flowers are in memory of on the envelope.

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT JOY



Joy: While Advent and Lent share the violet vestments, the sacrificial practices, and the spirit of penance, Advent looks forward to the incredible joy of our Savior's birth. We have been waiting for this moment for Millenia, and now it is near at hand. What could bring us more happiness than the arrival of God's greatest gift to us?



The flowers at the Blessed Mother statue this week have been placed there in loving memory of Louise Bielli, requested by grandson, Dr. John Vivone.

2025 Calendars are available
at the Church entrances.
Please take one after Mass.

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.



Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2024

MASS Intentions

SATURDAY, December 14

4:30 PM **Elva Clark** r/b Pat & Nick Kirincic

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

8:30 AM **Rita Cruz** r/b Grace Cobin

11:00 AM **Bernard & Nina McTamney**
r/b Flynn Family

MONDAY, December 16

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

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, December 17

9:00 AM **Dave Aaron** r/b Harry & Jean McAneny

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, December 18

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

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY, December 19

9:00 AM **RJ and Mary Nell Richardson**
r/b Janet Johnson

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

FRIDAY, December 20

9:00 AM **Mary Jane DeBenedictus** r/b Tobin Family

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

Saturday, December 21

4:30 PM **Jim Tobin** r/b Tobin Family

Sunday, December 22

8:30 AM **Helen Protzman** r/b Janet Johnson

11:00 AM **Bienvenido Cobin** r/b Grace Cobin &
Children

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for December
Pilgrims of HOPE

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith,
helping us recognize the Risen Christ in our lives and
that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Spanish Ministry Prayer Group
St. Thomas More Parish

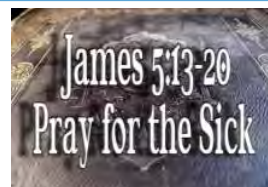
Friday: Dec. 20, 2024

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 Corco-
ran, 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, 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, Cecilia Sim



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, PFC Timothy Kenny,
U.S. Army and *all those serving our country.*



CHRISTMAS MASSES

Masses for Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 PM and 6:00 PM

Masses for Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25

8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

(Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

Tuesday, December 31 4:30 PM

Wednesday, January 1 9:00 AM

*No 9:00 AM Mass or Eucharistic Adoration on Dec. 24th.

Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22 – Luke 1:39-45

Mary traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Commentary:

The prime example of preferring God's will to our own plans is Mary of Nazareth. A young girl with her whole life ahead of her, a teenager with dreams like any other, Mary found her personal plans in disarray the moment the angel showed up in her chamber. Yet Mary trusted God's plan over her own, and when she flew to the side of her older cousin, she greeted another woman who had done the same. The image of these two women falling into each other's arms is celebrated as the perfect response of joy between true believers. Many will attend church this holiday season, but few will give their lives over to the will of God as Mary and Elizabeth did. But if you and I choose to become such people, we will share in the dance of these two cousins and know their joy.

The **Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus** present a ***First Night of Christmas Novena*** on Mon., Dec. 16th at the Mary Mother Joseph Hospitality Center, 1215 Kresson Rd., Cherry Hill. 7:00 PM Prayer Service 8:00 PM Social
Advent is a time of expectation and hope. St. Francis of Assisi asked the Lord for the gift of certain hope. We know what we are waiting for. Let's pause and pray together, so that our hearts may become a field in which the seed of hope may be planted.
All are welcome.

"For you a sign" (Lk 2,12)



St. Vincent de Paul Society members will be at the doors of the Church this weekend Dec. 14/15 accepting your donations for those in need. Thank you for your generosity.

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

COME PRAY WITH HIM



"Not only is the fact of the destruction of so many human lives still to be born or in their final stage extremely grave and disturbing, but no less grave and disturbing is the fact that conscience itself, darkened as it were by such widespread conditioning, is finding it increasingly difficult to distinguish between good and evil in what concerns the basic value of human life."

(Evangelium Vitae)



We want to **thank** all who so generously donated gifts and their time and talent to our 3rd Annual STM Angel Tree. It was our most successful campaign and the children and their caregivers were truly overjoyed by your support and generosity. You were an essential part of a beautiful corporal act of mercy this Advent and we are so very grateful!

Last Saturday after Mass, the St. Thomas More community celebrated **Christmas Food from Around the World**. Thanks to the 24 chefs who brought in wonderful food from all corners of the globe and to the volunteers who made it such a joyous experience. Everyone had an opportunity to try delicious food, some familiar and some that they had never seen before. And also learn about each other's culture and how it is part of their Christmas celebration.



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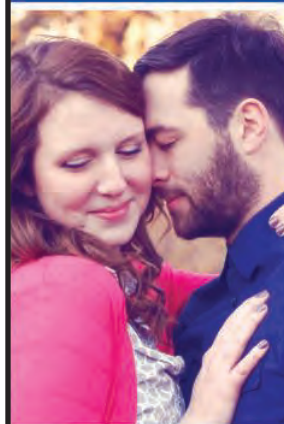


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