## 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

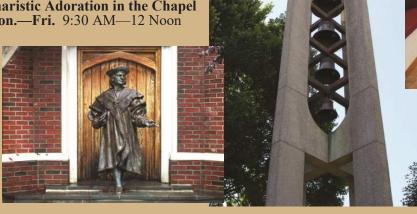
the Chapel

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



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

#### DIRECTORY

Parish Trustees  Christian Life/Education	Jeannine Mc Menamin Henry Glover		Worship Altar Servers Church Environment Ch. Art Environment	Committee Committee	
Bereavement	Staff	856- 424-3212	Eucharistic Ministers		856-424-3212
Consolation Ministry  Faith & Justice Team	Ann Marie Lento Jon Lisitski jonll1 Chris Baeckstrom	856- 344-7454 @comcast.net 856-912-7078	Lectors Linen Committee Sacristans	Ann Vigrass Greta Tyrrell	856-428-7217 856-428-2412
Hospital Visitors	Staff & Euch. Ministers			Dom Sacca Dave Bongiovanni	
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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
Order of Christian Init. Of Adults			Bridge Groups	Barbara Cerquitella	856-795-7323
Parish Rel. Ed. Prog.		856-424-3212	Parish Festival	Committee	856-424-3212
Respect Life	Staff		Women's Club	Barbara Cerquitella	856-795-7323
Rosary Ministry	Marian Kapischke	856-424-2053		Lorraine Kennedy	856-489-0031
Small Christian Communitie	es		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			

#### The Holy Family, December 29, 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.

#### **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

#### **NEW YEAR'S MASSES**



(Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) Holy Day of Obligation Tuesday, December 31 4:30 PM Wednesday, January 1 9:00 AM



Throughout the world, the Opening of Jubilee Year 2025 begins on the feast of the Holy Family, Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024. Bishop Dennis Sullivan will celebrate a Jubilee 2025 Opening Mass on the feast of the Epiphany, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025 at 2 p.m. in the

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 642 Market St., Camden. All are welcome.

#### REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE

An independent, toll-free number has been established by the Diocese of Camden to help callers report cases of sexual abuse by priests, deacons, religious, employees and/or volunteers. Calls are handled by a licensed clinical social worker. In accord with state law, cases of child sexual abuse are reported to the NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency and law enforcement.

For information or to inquire about counseling and support services, call 1-800-964-6588

#### The Holy Family



#### Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Stewardship Family

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 Jонх 3:1)

During this <u>Stewardship</u> season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God's children, it's in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

#### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Holy Family vs. Modern Family

Dear Parishioners,

As believing Christians, we are called to look at the **Sacred Scriptures** for valuable lessons in living our lives. What do we see in the pages of the Bible when we examine the lives of those comprising the **Holy Family**—Jesus, Mary and Joseph?

First, we see two particularly faith-filled people more than willing to do God's Will. We hear Mary's often-quoted response to the angel Gabriel: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."(Lk. 1:38) We also see Joseph's obedient reaction to angel of the Lord telling him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife into his home: "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." (Mt. 1: 24) Joseph was also *obedient* in relocating Mary and Jesus to Egypt (Mt. 2:13-14) and in returning them once again to Israel. (Mt. 2: 19-21) As we look further, we see the many difficulties that this couple had to face: pregnancy outside of wedlock (albeit, a miraculous pregnancy without marital relations) (Lk. 1:26 ff), no dignified place to give birth or to live (Lk. 2:7), a threat to the life of the child (Mt. 2:13 ff), substantial distances to travel (Mt. 2:13 & 2:20), and the scare and worry over a lost child (Mt. 2:41 ff). Later, Mary was witness to the brutal torture and death of her Son on the cross (John 19: 25-27). These were not the easiest life experiences to have to face, if you ask me!

Although most details are absent, we can surmise that this family prayed together, went to the synagogue regularly, worked hard and faced the various concerns that go with raising a child in Israel at that particular time.

Contrast this situation with the many bizarre concepts that we have been subjected to in TV sit-coms like Modern Family, Family Guy, The Simpsons or All In the Family, to name just a few. A tagline for Modern Family gives enough information to let us know that we are not dealing with anything resembling a Leave It to Beaver family: "One big (straight, gay, multi-cultural, traditional) happy family." The Simpsons deals with a "dysfunctional family" headed by Homer, the "oafish, unhealthy, beer-loving father" and including Bart "the ten year old underachiever (and proud of it)." One only has to have a brief glimpse of the irreverent humor of creator and comedian Seth MacFarlane, to know that the content of Family Guy is going to be Offensive—with a capital O. Finally, most people see Archie Bunker (of All In the Family) as an icon for the bigoted, questionably-educated, pseudo-conservative male. Not the best examples of *family life* to be found anywhere around here, unfortunately.

I close with words from a man much holier and more intelligent than I will ever be, Saint John Paul II:

I wish to invoke the protection of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Through God's mysterious design, it was in that family that the Son of God spent long years of a hidden life. It is therefore the prototype and example for all Christian families. It was unique in the world. Its life was passed in anonymity and silence in a little town in Palestine. It underwent trials of poverty, persecution and exile. It glorified God in an incomparably exalted and pure way. And it will not fail to help Christian families—indeed, all the families in the world—to be faithful to their day-to-day duties, to bear the cares and tribulations of life, to be open and generous to the needs of others, and to fulfill with joy the plan of God in

St. Joseph was "a just man," a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families.

May the Virgin Mary, who is the Mother of the Church, also be the Mother of "the Church of the home." Thanks to her motherly aid, may each Christian family really become a "little Church" in which the mystery of the Church of Christ is mirrored and given new life. May she, the Handmaid of the Lord, be an example of humble and generous acceptance of the will of God. May she, the Sorrowful Mother at the foot of the Cross, comfort the sufferings and dry the tears of those in distress because of the difficulties of their

families. (Familiaris Consortio, #86)

Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

#### The Holy Family, December 29, 2024

#### Ministry Schedule January 1 and 4/5

	Clergy	Music	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server
12/31 4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Len	E. Beckman	J. Cepeda	L. Vascisin
1/1 9:00	Fr. Coronado	Music Ministry	T. Librojo	K. McFAdden	
Jan. 4/5 4:30 PM 8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Fr. Coronado Fr. Namiotka Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry Music Ministry Music Ministry	Sr. Sophia K. Witts J. Flynn	C. Betson Smith K. Kramer L. Flynn	T. Johnson R & A Witts M & N Flynn



There will be no Religious Education Classes on Dec. 29. Classes will resume on January 5, 2025. Look forward to seeing all the students return to the classroom then.

Friday Afternoon Movie Matinee



#### "CABRINI"

Jan. 10, 2025 1:00 PM St. Thomas More Room All Are invited.

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

### An Invitation to join NEW LIFE CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Every Sunday Evening After January 5, 2025 6:30pm - 8:00pm St Rose of Lima Chapel Green Street Haddon Heights, NJ 08035



Do you desire to sing God's praises?

Do you want to thank God for his many blessings?

Would you like to be part of a Christian community centered in worship?

Do you wish to share what God is doing in your life?

And hear how He's working with others?

Then this is the group for you!

For more information, call or text Laura: 856-473-5169



For all you do throughout the Christmas Season and the **entire year**, we say *THANK YOU!* 

To everyone who helped make our Advent and Christmas Season spiritually enriching. Our Small Christian Community facilitators and those who participated. The Faith and Justice Committee for their efforts with the Angel Giving Tree and Christmas Around the World. St. Vincent de Paul Society for helping those in need. Our Religious Education Catechists and aids and all who helped and participated in the Christmas program. Our Altar Servers, Altar Linen Committee, Church Decorators, Consolation Ministry, Counters, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Gardeners/Flowers, Greeters, Knights of Columbus, Lectors, Music Ministry, Prayer Chain, Sacristans, and Ushers. Those who visit and take Holy Communion to the homebound. Those who drive parishioners to Mass.

We thank everyone who donated for the poinsettias. You and the names you listed will be remembered in prayer at Mass.

And All who participate at Mass on a regular basis.

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 <a href="https://www.kofc.org/joinus">www.kofc.org/joinus</a> with



this QR code include "Council 6173" when asked and use the promo code: BLESSEDDMCGIVNEY to join for free.

# Intentions

#### SATURDAY, December 28

4:30 PM Helen Protzman r/b Greta Tyrrell

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

8:30 AM Helen Protzman

r/b Mike and Helen Hawksley

11:00 AM **Fr. Michael Rush** r/b Ann and Bill Vigrass

#### MONDAY, December 30

9:00 AM People of the Parish

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

#### **TUESDAY**, December 31

9:00 AM Living and Deceased Members of the Morgan Family

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

**4:30 PM People of the Parish** (Holy Day Vigil)

#### WEDNESDAY, January 1 Solemnity of Mary

9:00 AM Int of Cecilia Sim r/b Clara Lee No Adoration

#### THURSDAY, January 2

9:00 AM Intentions of Mary Mermer r/b Greta

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

#### FRIDAY, January 3 (First Friday)

9:00 AM Intentions of Ed Ganley r/b Tom Ganley 9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

#### Saturday, January 4

9:00 AM First Saturday

4:30 PM Elva Clark r/b Bill and Ann Vigrass

#### Sunday, January 5

8:30 AM Sara Centonze and Anthony Appalucci r/b Joe Centonze

#### 11:00 AM Margaret Tandourjian

r/b Gladys Angelucci

#### Pope Francis Prayer Intention for January

For the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.



Jan 3 and Jan 4, 2025 9:00 AM

\*Devotion to the First Fridays and First Saturdays incorporates devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary into our monthly routines.

#### 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.





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#### The Holy Family, December 29, 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 Epiphany of the Lord, January 5, 2025 - Matthew 2:1-12

"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 were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the Child with Mary his mother. 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:** 

All of us are following one star or another across our lives. Maybe it's a dream of the person we want to be. Maybe it's the fantasy of a person who will love us the way we are. The star we follow may be fame and fortune, or peace and security. Chances are, we will find the star we are looking for but, in many cases, it won't be what we thought it was and the results may be disappointing. The one star that did not disappoint is the one that led the magi to Jesus. Like most of us traveling in the dark, these men had no idea where their journey would take them or what it might cost once they arrived at their destination. They were prepared to sacrifice wealth, time, and their comfortable security, nonetheless. And when they found their hearts' desire, they were overjoyed at the discovery. Like Moses, they too became radiant at what they saw. We can imagine they took that radiance home with them, so that everyone who saw them wondered at the change.

#### **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?



#### **EMMANUEL**

You have come into our world to make God's presence known as love divine!

Alleluia!

Make my life a sign of the power of your love.

Teach me to welcome all as you should be welcomed.

help me to see everyone as "God is with us!"



#### Pro-Life Corner

The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these too are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing

genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts." Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, *Gaudium et Spes, The Church and the Modern World*.

Spanish Ministry Prayer Group St. Thomas More Parish Friday: Jan. 3, 24 and 31, 2025

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



# faith justice

Thanks for your support all year. Here are some highlights:

Plastic Recycling - since May, nearly 2,000 pounds of plastic has not gone into landfills, but been recycled. STM received a free beautiful bench at the church entrance and the Franciscan Sisters will soon receive a bench.

Angel Tree - Christmas gifts to 19 children who have an incarcerated parent plus gift cards to their caregivers.

Christmas Food from Around the World - 24 chefs treated us with delicious food while we learned about the culture and tradition of others' Christmas celebrations.

Refugees & Immigrants - This year our Society of St. Vincent de Paul, through parishioner generosity, assisted 10 refugee or asylum-seeking families with over \$4,000 of food related items.

Catholic Charities - the new Executive Director visited St. Thomas More and presented an overview of Catholic Charities' programs and services and how they serve the vulnerable in South Jersey and opportunities for volunteers to get involved.

Homeless - \$620 to support Joseph's House in Camden and their fight to end homelessness, tee shirts to St. Francis Ministries in Kensington for the homeless. Environment & Social Justice - two movie screenings. We learned how to use the leaves from our property to be an environmentally friendly and cost effective mulching solution.

Thanks to Sister Ann who founded Faith & Justice five years ago. We wish her the best in her retirement.



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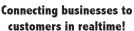
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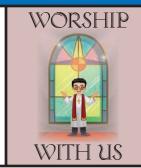
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