

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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Send all bulletin announcements to:

smtartamosa@comcast.net by 2:00pm Monday

DIRECTORY

Parish Trustees	Jeannine Mc Menamin Henry Glover		<i>Worship</i> Altar Servers Church Environment Ch. Art Environment Eucharistic Ministers Lectors Linen Committee Sacristans	Committee Committee	856-424-3212
<i>Christian Life/Education</i> Bereavement	Staff	856- 424-3212			
Consolation Ministry	Ann Marie Lento	856- 344-7454			
	Jon Lisitski	jonl11@comcast.net		Ann Vigrass	856-428-7217
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Marriage Formation	Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa	856-795-1160		Chico Febus	
Order of Christian Init. Of Adults				Joyce DeMichele	856-424-4008
Parish Rel. Ed. Prog.		856-424-3212		Barbara Cerquitella	856-795-7323
Respect Life	Staff			Committee	856-424-3212
Rosary Ministry	Marian Kapischke	856-424-2053		Barbara Cerquitella	856-795-7323
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St. Vincent de Paul	Chico Febus	856- 424-3212		<i>Administration</i> House of Charity	
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Welcoming Team	Shirley Kane	856-424-8022		Parish Pastoral Council	
				Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212
				Robert Crawford	856-424-3212
				Marie Enny	856-751-8893

Baptism of the Lord—Jan. 12, 2025

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



“Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”
(Rom 5:5)

JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our
brother,
and the flame
of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.
May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen



The Collection for
January 5, 2025

Sunday	\$5,920.00
E-Giving	\$3,007.00
Total	\$8,927.00

The Baptism of Our Lord

Baptized Stewards

“John answered them all. ‘I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming ... he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit ...’” – Luke 3:16

The Catholic Catechism states that “Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.” In other words, as baptized Catholic Stewards, there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

From the Pastor's Desk

Reflecting on Our Baptism

Dear Parishioners,

There are times when we are reminded that we are *baptized* Christians. Whenever we walk into a Catholic Church and bless ourselves with *holy water*, we should recall that we are baptized. On *Easter Sunday*, the priest will ask that we renew our baptismal promises (in place of reciting the *Nicene Creed*) and will go up and down the church sprinkling us with the newly blessed Easter water. As an option for the penitential rite at Sunday Mass, the priest may also sprinkle us with the holy water recalling our baptism. Additionally, the **Baptism of the Lord** provides an opportunity for us to reflect on our own baptism.

Baptism makes us a Christian. We are not born in union with God but alienated from Him because of *original sin*. While we did not commit this sin, all humanity was wounded or stained by the disobedience of the first humans. (See Romans 5:12-21) We are not born into Grace (God's life) but receive this life through our baptism. By baptism we are cleansed from original sin (and any personal sin if we are old enough to know and commit sin). We become adopted children of God through Christ. The Holy Spirit now dwells in us. We die with Christ in baptism so as to one day share eternal life with Him. We are welcomed into the Catholic Church and become a member awaiting full initiation (which comes with *First Holy Communion* and *Confirmation*). We need to reflect often on what baptism has done *for* and *to* us.

We remain in God's grace unless we sin *mortally*. The concept of serious or mortal sin tells us that a particular sin (a willing, thought-out choice that we make involving a grave or serious matter) can once again alienate us from God's grace. Apart from original sin which we inherit, we *choose* to sin. Fortunately, it is the *Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (confession)* that once again restores our baptismal graces and reconciles us with God and the Church. I tell people that every confession is a new beginning for us and we become a new creation because of God's abundant mercy.

The Church still advocates **infant baptism**. I recall how it was important for so many in past generations to take seriously the teaching of the Church that infants be baptized in the first weeks following birth. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: "The Church and the parents would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confer Baptism shortly after birth." (#1250) The gift of Faith is so precious that I personally cannot understand how someone would knowingly deny or unnecessarily prolong his or her child from receiving baptism.

Baptism is one of those sacraments that is never repeated—once baptized, always baptized. It imparts a permanent character on us that is not removed—even *by sin*. Sin, however, can prevent baptism from bearing the fruits of salvation. Hence, there is a need and an obligation to be reconciled of any post-baptismal sin (especially *mortal sin*) by means of the *Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation*.

So I ask that you think about your own baptism and all of its implications. Parents who have not yet presented your children for baptism are reminded to take this obligation very seriously. If you bring a child into this world, you are responsible for his or her upbringing, physical and material needs, love and emotional needs, as well as his or her *eternal salvation*. We are saved only through **Christ Jesus**. There is no other way to the Father except through Him. (See Jn. 14:6) Baptism is the way to eternal life because it is the means by which we allow Christ to be truly Lord of our life.

Fr. Ed Namiołka
Pastor

Baptism of the Lord—Jan. 12, 2025

Ministry Schedule January 18/19

	Clergy	Music	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Coronado	Florence	Sr. Agnes	J. Cepeda	
8:30 AM	Fr. Perreault	Celine/Julie	Sr. Clare	D. Mayfield	A. Bresani
11:00 AM	Fr. Perreault	Celine/Choir	M. Garber	K. McFadden	M. Marsden L. Vascisin



Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

After His baptism and while He was praying, heaven opened up. This followed John the Baptist's preaching about the "mightier One" coming.

With the coming of Christ into our world some 2,000 plus years ago, we got the best answers

possible to our most serious questions. Of course, we need His very help, with trusting faith, to realize that.

REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille. If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program will be held February 14 - 16, 2025 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, Pa. www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.



St. Vincent de Paul Society members will be at the doors of the Church **next weekend**, Jan. 18/19 accepting your donations for those in need.

They will sponsor our coffee and donut hospitality after the 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM Masses.

Thank you for your generosity.



The Consolation Ministry of St. Thomas More Parish will meet on Thurs., Jan. 23, 2025 at 1:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

The mission of St. Thomas More ministry to the bereaved is to be a source of love, comfort, and support to those who grieve a 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.

When you lose someone you love, you lose part of yourself. And that can hurt—deeply. Grief is normal, natural, and necessary, so let yourself grieve.

We hope you will allow us to walk alongside you through your grief journey as a companion who has seen much of the same terrain.

Please contact one of the following for more information.

Ann Marie Lento 856-344-7454; rlento05@comcast.net

Marian Kapischke: 856-424-2053; helloducks@verizon.net

Jon Lisitski: 856-210-6466; jonl11@comcast.net



Please join us on the third **Thursday** of every month for coffee and hospitality **after the 9:00 AM Mass**. (This month it will be on **January 16th**.)

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.



Baptism of the Lord—Jan. 12, 2025

MASS Intentions

SATURDAY, Jan. 11

4:30 PM **Elizabeth Kerr** r/b Monica Kennedy

SUNDAY, Jan. 12

8:30 AM **Sr. Febronia Jarosz** LSIC
r/b FMIJ

11:00 AM **David and Gloria DeTato**
r/b Jeannine

MONDAY, Jan. 13

9:00 AM **Eric Joseph Lee** r/b Esther Kang

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, Jan. 14

9:00 AM **Bob Weinberger** r/b Harry and Mary Frett

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 15

9:00 AM **Philip Coyle**
r/b Sharon and Jack Weinberg

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY, Jan. 16

9:00 AM **Marisa Galloway** r/b Marian Kapischke

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

FRIDAY, Jan. 17

9:00 AM **Tom Pajic** r/b Fitzpatrick Family

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

Saturday, January 18

4:30 PM **Intentions of Lori and Brandon Tyrrell**

Sunday, January 19

8:30 AM **Francesco Morello, Jr.**
r/b Henry and Kathy Glover

11:00 AM **Nella Ferraro**
r/b Carabasi Cousins

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.

Spanish Ministry Prayer Group St. Thomas More Parish

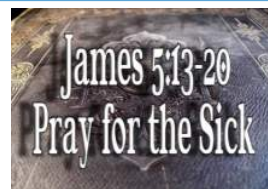
Friday: Jan. 24 and 31 2025

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



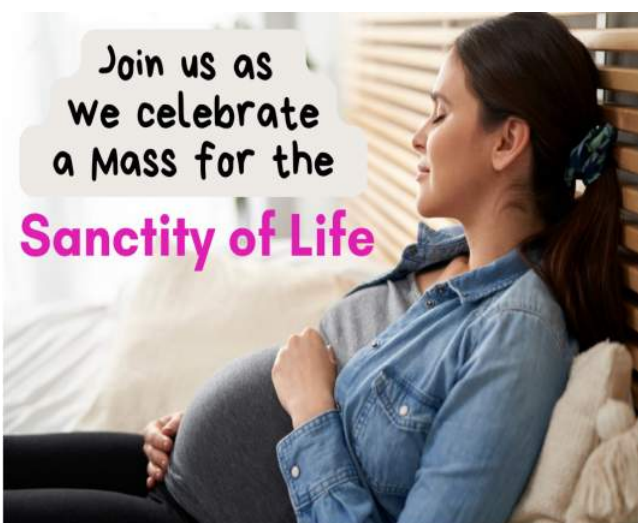
PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE

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, Claire Spence, Stacia Strack, Michael Suralik, Pat Suralik, Ed Targonski, Sr., Ann Vigrass, Joanne Wachman, Sarah Warner, Baby Finley, Arlene Pajic, Jose Dorotan, Cecilia Sim, Barbara Cremean.



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.*



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025 AT 12:15PM (CHAPEL)

**Are you a new or expectant mother?
Please come to Mass to receive a special
blessing! All are welcome!**



Catholic Church of St. Mary
2001 Springdale Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

Baptism of the Lord—Jan. 12, 2025

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 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 19, 2025 - John 2:1-11 When the wine ran short at the wedding, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."Jesus' mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water. Draw some out and take it to the headwaiter." ...The headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

Commentary:

This sign Jesus performed at the wedding feast at Cana inaugurates Jesus' public ministry—an entire life spent meeting the needs of people. This is his true glory and his whole ministry: not only turning water into wine but giving himself for others. His total attentiveness and response to others is the model for our own self-giving and is the promise of our own glory.

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?

Holy Land Christian Art

Olive-wood Handcrafted from the Holy Land will be on display for sale after All Masses on **January 18/19 2025.**

A Traditional Art and Livelihood for Holy Land Christians. Many families are facing critical situations. Without income, artisans leave their tradition art and trade and emigrate with their families to find relief from the difficult conditions of their homeland.

The loss of Christians in the Land of Christianity's birth will represent a tragedy of immeasurable proportions for all Christians worldwide.

Thank you for your vital support for Christian Tradition and in protecting this very important culture and industry.



March for Life - JANUARY 24, 2025
IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The right to life is a human right. Our defense of that right is a joyful witness to the beauty and dignity of every human person.

The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country. Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall and march on Capitol Hill on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states. It's the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. But this is not just a protest... **TOGETHER, WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE LIFE.** We celebrate each and every life, from the moment of conception. We envision a world where every life is celebrated, valued, and protected.



As Pope Francis stated when announcing the Jubilee 2025: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire..."

Plastic Recycling Challenge - We did it again!

St. Thomas More collected over 1,000 pounds of thin-film plastic in about 4 months. That's faster than last time. This means that TREX will send another beautiful plastic bench, like the one we have at our entrance, and this time it will go to the Franciscan Sisters on Kresson Road. We have responded to the Church's call for the care for creation.

We will continue to collect plastic and recycle it, so please keep bringing it in. We have a possible next step. We'll let you know.

Thanks to our small team that has been collecting the last 8 months. We love what we do but we would love to have some more parishioners join our plastic recycling team. It's easy. The bags weigh about 5-10 pounds. You would only be helping about once a month or less, taking the plastic from STM to Sprouts on Route 73. If you're interested in finding out more, call the office or send an email to us at stmfaithandjustice@gmail.com.

The Faith & Justice team is looking forward to 2025 as we continue our Mission to raise awareness of justice issues and live the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching.

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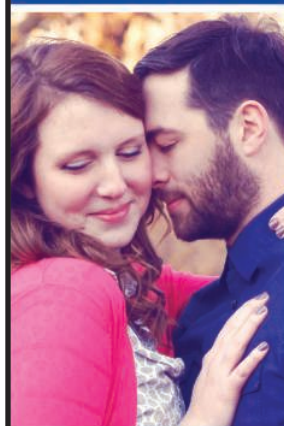


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