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

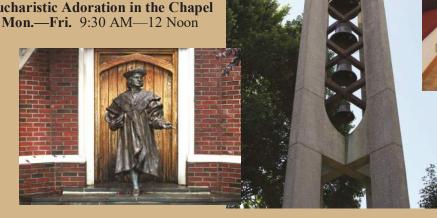
the Chapel

First Saturdays: 9:00 AM in the Chapel

Sat. 4:30 PM

Sun. 8:30 and 11:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel





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	Jeannine Mc Menamin Henry Glover		Worship Altar Servers	C '''	
Christian Life/Education	•		Church Environment Ch. Art Environment	Committee Committee	
Bereavement	Staff	856- 424-3212	Eucharistic Ministers	Committee	856-424-3212
Consolation Ministry	Ann Marie Lento	856- 344-7454	Lectors		
	Jon Lisitski jonll	@comcast.net	Linen Committee	Ann Vigrass	856-428-7217 856-428-2412
Faith & Justice Team	Chris Baeckstrom	856-912-7078	Sacristans	Greta Tyrrell Dom Sacca	630-426-2412
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Intercessory Prayer	Ann Vigrass	856-428-7217		Joe Centonze	
Knights of Columbus	John Galati	856-424-3212	Ushers	Chico Febus	
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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
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Stewardship	Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212	Parish Pastoral Council	Marie Enny	856-751-8893
Welcoming Team	Shirley Kane	856-424-8022			

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time—Jan. 26, 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



The House of God is such a special place to be. You may have heard people refer to a church congregation as "the body of Christ." This is because the bible explains us each as individual members of one whole body.



The Collection for January 19, 2025

Sunday \$4,340.00 E-Giving \$1,469.00 Total \$5,809.00

February 3 is the feast of **St. Blase**. Throats will be blessed after All Masses next weekend Feb. 1/2. Among this feast's best-known customs is the blessing of throats. St. Blase is the patron of those with throat afflictions.

"Through the intercession of Saint Blase, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Permanent Diaconate Information Session

The **Office of the Diaconate** is holding a meeting to provide information and answer questions concerning the life and ministry of a permanent deacon. If you, or someone you know, believe that Christ is calling you to serve the Church as a deacon please attend this meeting:

When: Tuesday, February 18th from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Where: The Diaconate Center (133 N. 3rd St., Hammonton) Who: Any man ages 30 – 55

Please confirm your attendance by calling the Diaconate Office (856-583-2858) or emailing Linda.decosta@camdendiocese.org.

January 26, 2025 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Live Stewardship

"Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared ..." NEHEMIAH 8:10

Ezra's instructions to the people show us that God does not forbid us from enjoying the good things in life. He wants us to be happy! However, God expects us to be grateful for all that He has given us and to generously share our blessings with those who are in need. Now here's the hard part – to share in Stewardship, without expecting anything in return.

From the Pastor's Desk

Concern for the Most Vulnerable

Dear Parishioners,

This past Wednesday, January 22nd, was the *Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children*. I wonder how many people were even aware of this?

When *Roe v. Wade* was officially overturned by the Supreme Court on June 24, 2022, I stated that the battle for the rights of unborn (or preborn) children would need to continue on the local (i.e., state) level. New Jersey and its current majority of legislators are, sadly, by no means "pro-life." Rather, the call for the protection of so-called "abortion rights" unfortunately continues. Do we ever seriously contemplate the rights of all the vulnerable children yet to be born?

In actuality, the *right to life*, *liberty and the pursuit of happiness* is clearly stated in the **U.S. Declaration of Independence**. Our founders recognized that people have a right to live in this world. Logically, if humans create a new human life, then that new person now has a right to exist. (This is abundantly clear even <u>before</u> we intensify matters by bringing any mention of God or *morality* into the picture.) From a merely human perspective, *innocent*, *vulnerable human life needs protection* in similar manner to various legislation enacted to protect the bald eagles' eggs, baby seals, elephants from being hunted for their tusks, dogs from being used in deadly dogfights, etc.

As Christians, we take this situation a step further by realizing that every person is created in the image and likeness of God. We believe that God elevated our human dignity by becoming one of us in the Incarnation of Jesus. We acknowledge that every born or preborn baby has both a developing body and an *immortal soul* destined for eternity. We hold to timeless precepts such as *Thou shalt not kill*. We believe that medicine and technology minimally should *do no harm* to the patient (human person), and certainly not deliberately destroy him or her in the womb.

The problem now exists where people have become much *too comfortable in their sin*. What might have seemed so obvious in the past—a grave sin or repulsive evil—is now accepted or even glorified. Sin dulls the conscience and blocks the intellect. The lies that have been uttered over and over again begin to be believed and then held as "truths" and "rights." Good becomes bad and bad becomes good. Our world winds up upside down.

Unfortunately, too many people do not want to upset the status quo. *Keep your mouth shut!* Previously, you would seriously risk being cancelled. I hope people are beginning to wake up and not fear to speak up! Free speech is something guaranteed in our Constitution—the *Bill of Rights*, to be precise.

Yes, we have a long way to go before things change for the good. However, left without resistance we see **evil** advance in (formerly, *obviously* repulsive) acts like infanticide, euthanasia, the acceptance of pedophilia or ephebophilia, a distortion of *marriage*, recognition of sodomy (and other acts) as sexual alternatives, dissatisfaction with one's gender, propagation and use of artificial contraception and various abortifacients, a flourishing pornography industry, etc. etc. This could never happen in an enlightened, civilized society, could it? Just look around you. Our societal values resemble pagan and not **Christian** cultures.

While the message of the Gospel is suppressed, minimized, mocked, and seen as outdated and irrelevant, what will it take to *bring people to their knees* and acknowledge the need for **Jesus Christ** and His true Church? I truly fear to ask this question.

Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time—Jan. 26, 2025

Ministry Schedule February 1/2 2025

	Clergy	Music	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	G. Tyrrell	J. Cepeda	T. Johnson
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	B. Massey	K. McFadden	Witts
11:00 AM	Fr. Coronado	Music Ministry	J. Galati	L. Galati	J. Hayden



Our families are one of the most effective ways we can teach others about the value of all human life. Whether we choose to be patient and loving—or the opposite—shows how important others' needs are to us. This indicates how much we value human life because our ethics necessarily originate with the persons whom we love immediately, without thinking and without question, who are supposed to protect us, guide us, and love us unconditionally. If our family members do all these things, then we learn to extend the same to those we are familiar with and eventually all of humanity, united by our Creator and our nature. If they do not, then all of society is threatened by selfishness of the most insidious variety—the kind learned from childhood and eventually ingrained in us by our first guides and protectors. We are called to be examples in how we treat our family members, especially for victims of society's dissipation, and not contributors to it.

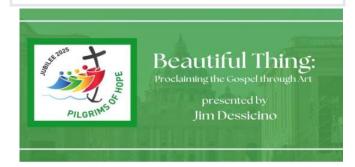
REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

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.

This weekend, Jan. 25/26 2025, there will be a special collection for the *Church in Latin America*.

Your contributions will help strengthen families, fund Catholic education, and foster priestly and religious Vocations as well as promote solidarity throughout the hemisphere by providing support for pastoral projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Jim Dessicino is the Parish Catechetical Leader at the Parish of Saint Monica, Atlantic City. He focuses on beauty as a source of catechesis in his work at the church and in his art. A revert to the faith after 20 years away as a cultural materialist, he has taken to restoring religious statuary and creating new public monuments and memorials.

In this talk, Jim will speak about a side altar at St. Nicholas of Tolentine in Atlantic City with sculptures by Joseph Sibbel, and explore the evangelizing power of beauty.

All are welcome. RSVP not required, but appreciated to 856-767-0719 or Laurie.Power@christtheredeemer.us Thursday, Jan 30, 2025 6:30pm

Christ the Redeemer Pastoral Center 318 Carl Hasselhan Dr. Atco, NJ 08004



For more information, visit: www.christtheredeemer.us/jublice2025

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.



MASSIntentions

Saturday, January 25

4:30 PM Richard Klug r/b Nick and Pat Kirincic Sunday, January 26

8:30 AM Intentions of Susanna Park r/b Family **11:00 AM Marlene Reardon** r/b Brian Haughwout **MONDAY, Jan. 27**

9:00 AM Marie Budroe r/b Greta **9:30—Noon** Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, Jan. 28

9:00 AM People of the Parish9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 29

9:00 AM Edward Zirpoli r/b Fitzpatrick Family **9:30—Noon** Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY, Jan. 30

9:00 AM Angelina A. Morano

r/b Dominic J. Morano, Jr.

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

FRIDAY, Jan. 31

9:00 AM Peter A. Buttacavoli

r/b Tina Petrone

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

Saturday, Feb. 1 (First Saturday)

*9:00 AM Betty Butera r/ Josephine Welsh 4:30 PM Betty Luchtman r/b Carl and Pat Luchtman

Sunday, Feb. 2

8:30 AM Jose Dorotan r/b Evelyn Dorotan **11:00 AM Sonya Owens**

r/b Joyce DeMichele

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.

*First Saturday—February 1, 2025

The First Saturday Devotion is another way to devote yourself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and honor our Holy Mother.

On the first Saturday of every month, the faithful should go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, say the Rosary, and meditate on the Mysteries of the Rosary for fifteen minutes.

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, 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*.

Spanish Ministry Prayer Group St. Thomas More Parish Meeting Dates

Friday: Jan. 31, Feb. 7/14/28, 2025

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



VITALITY Catholic Health Care Services.

Protect yourself from social isolation this winter. Schedule time each day to stay in touch with family, friends, and neighbors either in person, email or telephone calls.

Research senior social programs and activities in your community.

Practice good self-care. Exercise, eat healthy meals, get a good night's sleep.

Join Vitality *Life to the Fullest Membership Program* that connects seniors to the information they need to stay safe and healthy. Membership is free for all seniors age 65 and over.

Contact a Vitality Care Coordinator at 888-268-4825.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time—Jan. 26, 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 Presentation of the Lord, February 2,2025 - Luke 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*.

Commentary:

Mary and Joseph fulfill the Law of Purification for all new mothers, not because they needed to be cleansed, but because they wanted to avoid giving others scandal. The elderly Simeon calls the Child "the light to all nations."

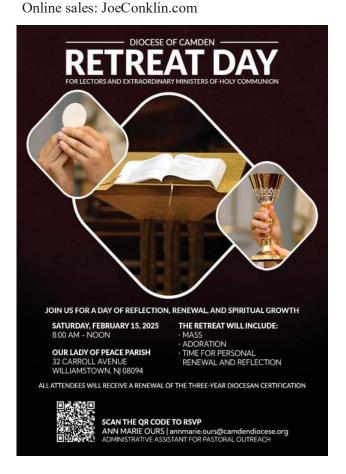
Questions for Reflection and Sharing:

- 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

Thank you to all who purchased a piece of art from the Holy Land. Your vital support for this Christian Tradition and in protecting this very important culture and industry is appreciated.

Catholic Church of St. Mary's , Cherry Hill Presents Joe Conklin Comedy Show On Sat., Feb. 8, 2025 Doors open at 6:00 PM - Showtime 7:00 PM \$50.00 per person Call 856-424-1454 or





The Faith and Justice Team would like to ask for your financial support of our Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The Society represents our parish community by doing some of the Faith and Justice Team's works (care for our neighbor - Immigrants and those experiencing food insecurity).

Monetary donations can be left in the parish office or given to a St. Vincent de Paul member after Mass on the 3rd weekend of the month. Thank you!

Here is the latest update from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and their support for new refugee families.

An Afghan family of 10 no longer needs assistance. The father is working three jobs and some of the children are working. The Society is providing food assistance to other two Afghan families. One now has US documents for work and is looking for employment. The other is still working on obtaining their documentation.



"Lord fill our hearts with awe and wonder at your gift of life.

Protect all children and lead them to you."



Please remove everything you brought with you and any literature you may have picked up while here.



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St. Thomas More

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> In Remembrance of Samantha Iosephson

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