## 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 Church Environment	Committee	
Christian Life/Education			Ch. Art Environment	Committee	
Bereavement	Staff	856- 424-3212	Eucharistic Ministers		856-424-3212
Consolation Ministry	Ann Marie Lento	856- 344-7454	Lectors	A 77'	056 400 7017
	3	1@comcast.net	Linen Committee Sacristans	Ann Vigrass Greta Tyrrell	856-428-7217 856-428-2412
Faith & Justice Team	Chris Baeckstrom	856-912-7078	Sacristaris	Dom Sacca	030-420-2412
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Intercessory Prayer	Ann Vigrass	856-428-7217		Joe Centonze	
Knights of Columbus	John Galati	856-424-3212	Ushers Social Development	Chico Febus	
Marriage Formation	Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa	a 856-795-1160	Bridge Groups	Joyce DeMichele	856-424-4008
Order of Christian Init. Of Adults			Briage 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 856-489-0031
Rosary Ministry	Marian Kapischke	856-424-2053		Lorraine Kennedy	830-489-0031
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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 Presentation of the Lord—February 2, 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



Source of love and life, you call us to be your welcoming instruments. Give us a prophet's courage and a disciple's ability to love even when living the words and ways of Jesus are difficult. Help us remember that you are always with us so that we can do unto others as you do unto us—love without end. Amen.



The Collection for January 26, 2025

Sunday \$4700.00 E-Giving \$1835.00 Total \$6535.00

February 3 is the feast of **St. Blase**. Throats will be blessed after All Masses this 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

#### **STEWARDSHIP Corner February 2, 2025**

#### The Presentation of the Lord **Stewards Tested**

"Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested." – Hebrews 2:18

When we join a support group, there is comfort in sharing our pain with people who have experienced the same thing; they understand what we are going through. The next time you experience suffering, talk to Jesus. He has experienced more suffering than most of us, He understands. Plus, Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. Only He can fill the hole Stewards feel in their hearts.

#### From the Pastor's Desk

#### The Sacrament of Penance in a Nutshell

#### Dear Parishioners,

Having heard numerous confessions for nearly 40 years, I think that it might be helpful to give a type of *primer* or *refresher course* for using the **Sacrament of Penance**. While it may take some time to get everything covered thoroughly, here is my humble attempt to help simplify matters.

The first act important to a good confession is a thorough *Examination of Conscience*. We have to look at our lives and see what we have done that is sinful. Many people reflect on the *Ten Commandments*, the teachings of Jesus in the Gospel, the letters of St. Paul or some formulated written examination to help with the process.

Any known <u>serious sin</u> needs to be confessed *in kind* and *in number*. What this means is that I have to tell the priest *exactly what I did* and the *number of times* that I did it. I have had people come into confession and say, "Father, I did some really bad things." This really leaves the priest clueless. Bad things can run the gamut from *stealing* to *murder* to *adultery* to whatever. It is *too vague*. The reason we need to know the number of times is to give us some sense of the frequency of the problem.

<u>Serious sin</u> basically consists of the following three conditions:

- Grave Matter The nature of what was done is *serious* business
- Sufficient Reflection- The person thinks about it and realizes it is wrong to do it
- Full Consent of the Will The person *freely commits* the sin knowing it is wrong

In other words, a serious sin (sometimes called a mortal sin) is an action that I know is seriously wrong and yet I choose to do it anyway. Sins that lack one of the above conditions usually are considered venial or less-serious sins. While they do not necessarily need to be confessed in number ("I lied six times"), the gravity or nature of the sin is important. It can be the difference between lying to the telemarketer that "He is not home" to lying to your wife that "I have to work late" (because you are having an affair with your secretary). Both are forms of lies, but one certainly is more serious than the other. Usually what is best is to determine certain patterns of venial sin and to confess the patterns that you are aware of rather than try to number every single sin (which is usually only a calculated guess anyway)

#### The Process

- Examine your conscience thoroughly. Quietly think about what you did wrong.
- Begin by making the Sign of the Cross. The traditional formula many people are accustomed to is: "Bless me (or forgive me), Father, for I have sinned. It has been (how long?) since my last confession. These are my sins.
- Confess all of the sins that you can remember. It is not necessary to worry about the number of times for venial (less serious) sins, BUT the number of times a mortal (deliberate and serious) sin is committed should be mentioned. This gives the priest an idea of the seriousness and frequency of the problem.
- If you are <u>not sure</u> if something is sinful, ask the priest to clarify it for you.
- Do not withhold any sin <u>deliberately</u>. The purpose of confession is to admit your sinfulness and to clear your conscience. To hold back sin defeats the purpose of confession. Remember that you <u>speak to God</u> through the priest. You really cannot hide anything from God. No matter how embarrassing something may be, trust that the priest will understand and is anxious to help you reconcile with God and the Church.
- Do not worry about <u>unintentionally</u> forgotten sins. It is usually a good practice to end confession in this manner: "For these and all of the sins of my past life which I cannot now remember, I am sorry."
- Remember that going to confession means that you want to change for the better. There should be a <u>purpose of amendment</u> which means that you promise to <u>try</u> not to do the same things over again. Perhaps you may fall into sin again, but it important that you resolve to <u>try</u> to do better.
- The priest will give you some penance. The completion of the penance is part of the sacrament. If you <u>do not do the penance</u>, this should be confessed in your next confession.
- Say an Act of Contrition. (Sometimes during a Communal Penance Service this may be done together.) You may use one that you know or recite a prayer of sorrow in your own words.
- The priest will give absolution and then dismiss you. You can be confident that any sin told to a priest in confession is in strict confidence. The priest can **never** reveal the content of an individual's confession so that any sin is equated to a particular person. (canon 983) [The Seal of Confession is so sacred that if the priest breaks it he can only be forgiven by the Pope himself (canon 1388) and the priest is never allowed to hear confessions again. The priest must even give up his life before breaking that seal. In addition, the priest may never use knowledge from confession against a person. (canon 984)]

#### Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

#### The Presentation of the Lord—February 2, 2025

#### Ministry Schedule February 8/9 2025

	Clergy	Music	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	Sr. Sophie	J. Bland Campbell	T. Johnson
8:30 AM	Fr. Coronado	Music Ministry	Sr. Clare	K. Kraemer	Witts
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	J. Flynn	J. Johnson	N & M Flynn



Today is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Take some time to surrender any worries you might have about the future to the Lord. Ask for the grace to focus on the responsibilities right in front of you, and trust that God will be with you, no matter what the future holds.

"Jesus, as I go about my day, I will place my trust in you."



The Knights of Columbus will sponsor coffee and donuts this Sunday after the 8:30 and 11 AM Masses. Come join us.

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.

#### 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 year's theme:

"Our Journey United in Hope," is inspired by the theme of the Jubilee Year, "Pilgrims of Hope." It reflects our collective commitment to walk on the path together with the hope Christ has

provided us.

The Appeal invites us to be renewed in hope by bringing hope to others through individual gifts. Through our various ministries across the diocese your gift is shared and brings comfort, relief, encouragement and support to many.

You should receive a mailing from Bishop Sullivan that will include the 2025 South Jersey Catholic Ministries Appeal materials. I ask that you please consider donating to this year's campaign. It is important that we come together to support our ministries. They need the resources necessary to continue serving those in need.

By supporting the Catholic Ministries Appeal, you are supporting those who comprise the programs and ministries of the Diocese of Camden. These ministries serve the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the hungry and challenged. When we support the Catholic Ministries Appeal, we can bring the light of hope to those in the Catholic community of South Jersey.

Please prayerfully consider joining us once again. Our Goal this year is \$74,300.00



National Marriage Week is observed from February 7-14. Take this opportunity to focus on the beauty of building a strong and dedicated life together.

The theme for this year is: Marriage: source of Hope, Spring of Renewal. Pursue Lasting Love!

# MASS Intentions

#### Saturday, Feb. 1

**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

#### MONDAY, Feb. 3

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

#### TUESDAY, Feb. 4

9:00 AM Theresa VanLeer r/b Kathy and Mike Mensinger

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

#### WEDNESDAY, Feb. 5

9:00 AM Xenia, John and Paul Mitchell r/b Greta

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

#### THURSDAY, Feb. 6

9:00 AM Carol Kelly

r/b Greta and Family

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

#### FRIDAY, Feb. 7- First Friday\*

9:00 AM Mary Joanne Haves

r/b Carl and Pat Luchtman

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

Saturday, Feb. 8

**4:30 PM** Intentions of Joe, Jim, Jack and Janci r/b Tom Ganley

#### Sunday, Feb. 9

8:30 AM Edna May Newton

r/b Maxine Charles and Family

11:00 AM Geraldine Nagle

r/b Carl and Pat Luchtman

## Pope Francis Prayer Intention for February For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



The Flowers on the Altar this week are in memory of Dick DeMichele requested by his family. May he rest in peace.

## 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: Feb. 7/14/28, 2025

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



Let us congratulate and keep this ministry in our prayers as they celebrate the **second Anniversary of their formation.** 

#### VITALITY Catholic Health Care Services.

February is *Low Vision Awareness Month*. Low vision is a vision impairment that cannot be corrected with glasses, contacts, medicine or surgery. This impairment affects some individuals as they age and makes it difficult to do everyday activities.

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.

#### The Presentation of the Lord—February 2, 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 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 9, 2025 - Luke 5:1-11

(Jesus was preaching to a large crowd. He saw a boat nearby and got into the boat to preach. The boat happened to belong to Simon.) "After Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.' Simon said in reply, 'Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.' When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, 'Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.' Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.' When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus."

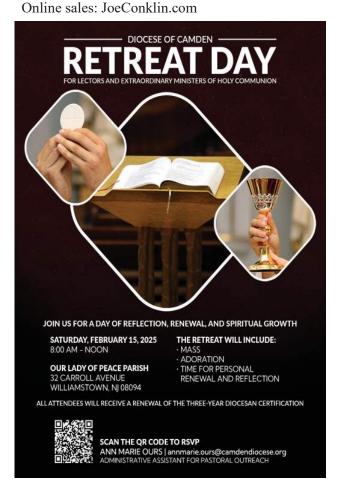
#### Commentary:

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus calling the first disciples. Jesus calls unlikely, even unworthy people to follow him, but in response to his assurance of forgiveness, we see a generous response to the call. Even Peter, first among the apostles, is first astonished at the power of Jesus and then overcome by a sense of his own sinfulness. But Jesus overlooks Peter's protests that he is unworthy and calls him beyond that to reach out to others.

#### **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?

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





Prayer for Immigrants.

As reported in the Catholic Star Herald, Bishop Sullivan and Coadjutor Bishop Williams joined more than 35 religious leaders from various faiths for an open discussion on immigration.

Bishop Sullivan: "We prayed that justice and compassion prevail in dealing with the complex reality of immigration." Cardinal Tobin: We're deeply concerned about the potential impact of mass deportation on children and families. Within the Catholic tradition and other faith expressions represented here today, we're able to see the humanity in everyone. We care for the most vulnerable - children, the poor, the orphans, and yes, the immigrants."



"Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person – among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life." Catechism of the Catholic Church 2270

The arts at Camden Catholic High School Presents *Tuck Everlasting*Based on the novel by Natalie Babbitt March 7, 8, 14, 15 at 7:30 PM
March 9 and 16 at 2:00 PM
For ticket information or sponsor support go to www.cchsperformingarts.com

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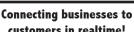
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