## 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
Hospital Visitors	Staff & Euch. Ministers	856-424-3212		Dave Bongiovanni	
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
Small Christian Communities			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			

#### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time—February 9, 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.



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 Collection for February 2, 2025

Sunday \$5,637.00 E-Giving \$4,133.00 Total \$9,770.00

#### **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.

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

#### STEWARDSHIP Corner February 9, 2025

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

#### **Stewards Minister**

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?' 'Here I am,' I said, 'send me!'" - ISAIAH 6.8

Every day, in little ways and in big ways, God asks, "Whom shall I send?" Whether it is someone to take on a new **Stewardship** ministry, to give a friendly smile to a stranger or to say a word of encouragement to a friend, God constantly provides opportunities to help someone in need. God is always talking to us; we just need to pay more attention. When you hear God calling have the courage to walk through the door and say, "Here I am, Lord."

#### From the Pastor's Desk

#### **More about the Sacrament of Penance (Confession)**

Dear Parishioners,

Continuing with the topic of the Sacrament of Penance (Confession), I have some questions frequently asked of me and some personal observations for you to ponder this week.

#### When is it necessary to go to confession prior to receiving Holy Communion?

Whenever one is conscious of any serious (mortal) sin, confession should ordinarily occur first. Unfortunately there are some occasions when *many* people do not think that this rule applies. Let me take the topic of missing Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation. When people do not go to Mass regularly (each week) without a legitimate reason (for example, serious illness, the need to care for an infant or someone who needs continuous attention, etc.), they really should go to confession prior to receiving Holy Communion.

#### • How often should I go to confession?

As often as necessary, but certainly whenever there is serious sin. Church law still requires us to make an **Easter Duty** which obliges Catholics (who are lawfully permitted) to receive Holy Communion at least once a year during Easter time. This means that first we should be in the *state of grace* (not conscious of any serious sin). Therefore, confession is usually part of this routine. A good spiritual practice has always been monthly confession.

#### • Does it matter whether I go behind the screen or face to face?

No. One should go wherever he or she can be completely honest and open about his or her sinfulness and actions. Sometimes anonymity helps various penitents with the process.

#### • What happens if I deliberately withhold a sin in confession?

Sins <u>deliberately</u> withheld are technically not presented to the priest (who acts *in persona Christi*) for forgiveness in the sacrament. Usually this case involves an **embarrassing situation** (a sexual sin, an abortion, etc.) – something that the penitent thinks that *they could never tell anyone about*. From my personal experience, often there is more joy over the forgiveness brought to the repentant person than embarrassment from the sin itself. There are those times when a penitent tries to sneak things in through the back door: "Father, I am sorry for all of my sins." or "Father, I have broken every commandment." Still on other occasions people have told me that they do not feel sorry for what they did (and therefore feel no need to confess the sin) although the Church teaches that is it wrong. What I have often found is that people who do not make an integral confession usually wind up carrying the guilt around (perhaps denying it or suppressing it) until they get up enough courage to confess the sin(s) at some later point in time through the grace of God. My advice when using the Sacrament of Penance: put all the cards on the table, get everything out, hide nothing and you will experience a peace like never before! Yes, it involves a great deal of trust and a confessor who you can talk to and to whom you can open up your soul. If you find a good confessor, you have found a priceless gift!

#### • Some personal observations:

A person should go to confession to talk about <u>his or her own</u> sinfulness. Sometimes people want to discuss someone in their family who has problems or even that other person's sins. This might be something to consider in *spiritual direction* or *counseling*, but it is not really what *confession* is supposed to entail. Confession is about a person looking deep within oneself and honestly admitting before God what he or she has done wrong. The Sacrament of Penance is here for our benefit. It is meant to reconcile us to God and to the Church. It is here so that we can experience the love, mercy and forgiveness of God in this world. Please differentiate **confession** from *spiritual direction*, *counseling* or some opportunity to talk to the priest. *Remember others may be waiting in line behind you*.

My hope as a pastor is that more people will begin to take advantage of this sacrament on a regular basis. Honestly, I do not usually let a week or two go by without seeking out the opportunity to experience the grace of this sacrament for myself.

#### Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

#### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time—February 9, 2025

#### Ministry Schedule February 15/16 2025

	Clergy	Music	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Coronado	Florence	E. Beckman	K. McFadden	
8:30 AM	Fr. Norris	Becca/Julie	K. Witts	K. Kraemer	D. & C. Witts
11:00 AM	Fr. Norris	Becca/Choir	J. Galati	L. Galati	M. Marsden, L. Vascisin



Religious Education Classes will not be held next Sunday, February 16th in honor of President's Day.

I said a Valentine prayer for you and asked the Lord above to fill your heart and bless your soul with the precious gift of love.



I asked Him for sincere love. The kind that's meant to stay. Just like the generous love You give to those you touch each day.

I prayed for love from family and from every cherished friend. Then I asked the Lord to give you His love that knows no end.



St. Vincent de Paul Society members will be at the doors of the Church next weekend, Feb. 15/16 accepting your donations for those in need. Thank you for your generosity,

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

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="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.



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. 8

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

#### Sunday, Feb. 9

8:30 AM Edna Mae Newton

r/b Maxine Charles and Family

11:00 AM Geraldine Nagle

r/b Carl and Pat Luchtman

#### MONDAY, Feb. 10

9:00 AM People of the Parish

**9:30—Noon** Adoration in the Chapel

#### TUESDAY, Feb. 11

9:00 AM Sister Rose Marie r/b Greg Tyrrell

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

#### WEDNESDAY, Feb. 12

9:00 AM Rose and Patrick McMenamin

r/b Jeannine

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

#### THURSDAY, Feb. 13

9:00 AM Danilo Kochoa

r/b Family

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

#### FRIDAY, Feb. 14

9:00 AM Marie Phips r/b Greta Tyrrell

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

Saturday, Feb. 15

4:30 PM May and Fred Spohn r/b Sons

Sunday, Feb. 16

8:30 AM Intentions of Terri Bones 95th Birthday

r/b Belinda Bones

11:00 AM Zorka Garbin

r/b Roseann and Robert Luther

### 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.

#### Spanish Ministry Prayer Group St. Thomas More Parish Meeting Dates

Friday: Feb. 14/28, 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 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*.



#### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time—February 9, 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 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 16, 2025 – Luke 6:17, 20-26

"...And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way."

#### **Commentary:**

The "beatitudes" and "woes" in today's Gospel should be looked at together because they balance one another. The poor should not be too easily identified with a social class, for the poor are not just the economically poor, but also the lowly and oppressed who seek God's will. On the other hand, the rich are not condemned just because they are rich. But their riches can easily make them independent, not needing God or others. And they can begin to believe that they have a right to what they own, that they don't have to notice the poor around them. We are promised happiness and fullness, but we are challenged to keep ourselves humble and our lives simple. Jesus preaches poverty because poverty forces us to trust totally in God. We have to realize that the Kingdom holds the ultimate value.

#### **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?



The US Conference of Catholic Bishops describe two different, but complementary, ways that we can walk the path of love, or caritas called the "Two Feet of Love in Action," based on Pope Benedict XVI's reflections in Deus Caritas Est (God is Love) and Caritas in Veritate (Charity in Truth).





We all understand Charitable Works. The Faith & Justice Team tries to always look at both feet with everything we do. One important way to look at the Social Justice foot is through advocacy. There are many easy ways to do this, such as:

• US Conference of Catholic Bishops - <u>www.usccb.org/take-action</u> Catholic Relief Services - <u>www.crs.org/get-involved/advocate-poor</u> Sisters of Mercy - <u>sistersofmercy.org/mercy-for-justice/action-alerts/</u>

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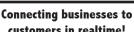
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In Remembrance of Samantha Iosephson



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