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

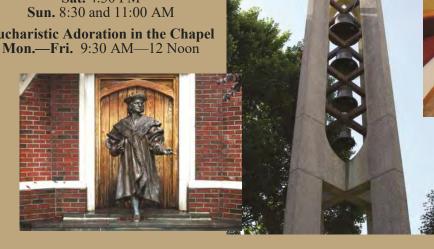
Daily Mass: Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM in

the Chapel

First Saturdays: 9:00 ÅM in the Chapel

Sat. 4:30 PM

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 \$7°	056 400 7017
	3	l@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	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			

EIGHTH Sunday in Ordinary Time March 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



Let the message of God's radical, life-giving love for you fill you with awe and wonder and gratitude.



The Collection for February 23, 2025

Sunday \$4942.00 E-Giving \$1814.00 Total \$6756.00

Lenten Regulations

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday's are days of Fast and Abstinence from meat.

There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive.

All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence from meat. All who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain from meat.

Easter Duty Obligation:

Catholics are obligated to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept should be fulfilled during the Easter Season. Catholics are also bound to confess serious sins at least once a year, but this is not limited to the Lenten/Easter Season.



Here's how to take part in

40 Days for Life

in our Community from March 5-April 13 Vigil Location: Outside Cherry Hill Women's Center on Kings Hwy.

Vigil Hours can be scheduled from 7 AM-7 PM Tues.-Sat.

Our local Contact is Claire Howson Claire@helpersnj.org 856-313-986

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

8th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Steward Uniqueness

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit." - LUKE 6:43

Are you using your gifts in the way God intended? Have you asked God how He would like you to use them? Do you compare yourself to others and complain about what you don't have instead of being thankful for what you do have? God gives each of us unique gifts and a unique plan. Listen to how God has called you to **Stewardship** to use your gifts, to bear good fruit, for the glory of His name.



From the Pastor's Desk Ash Wednesday

Dear Parishioners,

I am glad that **Lent** is here. It officially begins on **Wednesday**, **March 5**, **2025** with *Ash Wednesday*. I *personally* need to practice a bit more penance in my life and to focus more on the suffering and death of Jesus. I can take too much for granted—even the mercy of God that has been shown to me! I need to find additional time for *prayer*, *fasting* and *almsgiving* as the Gospel reminds all of us. If used the way it is intended, this Lenten season can be a period of personal spiritual growth and allows for proper preparation for **Holy Week** and **Easter**.

Speaking with brutal honesty, however, there is one thing that really annoys me. It is those multiple phone calls that come to most parishes on **Ash Wednesday** asking: "Father, what time are **ashes**?" Why is there a tremendous preoccupation with **ashes**? Why can't the question be: "What time is **Mass**?" or "When can I receive **Holy Communion**?" What is it about those **ashes**?

Ashes, after all, are a reminder of our mortality: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. They also tell us of our need to do penance: Repent, and believe in the Gospel.

It is my hope that people do not see *ashes* (burnt palm) as something that they "need to get," above and beyond the desire *to attend Mass* and *to receive Holy Communion* on Ash Wednesday (or on any given Sunday for that matter). That is the reason why I actually prefer not to have only a *Liturgy of the Word* service with the distribution of ashes. My thought process is this: some burnt palm on the forehead (a sacramental) is significantly less important than receiving **Jesus, the Bread of Life**, in **Holy Communion**.

Masses (with the distribution of ashes) on Ash Wednesday are at **9 AM** and **4:30 PM**. Also, please remember that **Ash Wednesday** is a day of <u>fasting</u> (one full meal) <u>and abstinence</u> from eating meat. With **Good Friday**, these are the only <u>two</u> days that we are required by the Church to fast during <u>the entire year!</u> As Catholics, unfortunately, I think we have lost the concept of what it means to do <u>serious</u> penance for our sins. Many of us tend to do only that which is minimally required, at best.

You have heard me preach time and again that we need to take advantage of the opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance (confession) on a regular basis. My recommendation is monthly confession. If you can go an entire month without sinning—and that includes "in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and what I have failed to do"—I want you for my spiritual director! I want your advice and counsel because I can't seem to achieve this!

With the world in the condition that it is in and the vast majority of Catholics lukewarm in the practice of the faith, we need to take seriously the call to turn away from sin, to repent and to follow the Gospel. Ash Wednesday and Lent are a great time to start!

Fr. Ed Namiotka Pastor

EIGHTH Sunday in Ordinary Time March 2, 2025

Ministry Schedule March 8/9 2025

	Clergy	Music	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Florence	Sr. Agnes	J. Cepeda	T. Johnson
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Julie	K. Witts	S. Oatway	D & A Witts
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Marta/Julie	J. Galati	L. Galati	J. Hayden



The Religious Education students are busy preparing for the Lenten Season. Students will participate in the Stations of the Cross.

The second grade students will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on March 8th. Let us keep them in our prayers.

The Confirmation students will be performing works of mercy by preparing and serving a meal for the Ronald McDonald House residents. Visiting and helping the residents of St. Mary's Nursing Home and outreach at the St. Joseph House.

The students will also visit and tour the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Camden.

Join us on these dates for

Hospitality and Fellowship

Stop by after all Masses this **Sunday** for coffee and donuts sponsored by the K of C.

Stop by on **Shrove Tues**., March 4th after the 9:00 AM Mass for coffee and refreshments.

March 13th Virtual Journey to Lourdes France. Sign up required.

March 19th St. Joseph Feast Day refreshments after the 9:00 AM Mass.

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, www.kofc.org/joinus with this QR code include "Council 6173" when asked and use the promo code: BLESSEDDMCGIVNEY to join.



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.

Campaign Prayer

Heavenly Father,

In this time of planning and service, we ask that you bring us hope. Hope that will renew us in this journey to build up the Church in South Jersey.

Accept and use our Stewardship to the South Jersey Catholic Ministries Appeal in the same way you Multiplied the loaves and fishes to feed a multitude.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and Reigns One God forever and ever. Amen.

You should have received a mailing from Bishop Sullivan for the 2025 *South Jersey Catholic Ministries Appeal*. If not, there are pledge cards at the doors of the Church. 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. Help us 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

Intentions

Saturday, March 1

4:30 PM Gary Scarpa and Bobby Scarpa

r/b Greta

Sunday, March 2

8:30 AM Ronald A. Belonia r/b John and Letty Duffy

11:00 AM Ann and Joe Primwhere r/b Jeannine

MONDAY, March 3

9:00 AM People of the Parish

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, March 4

9:00 AM Steven Ricci r/b Pat and Carl Luchtman

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, March 5 Ash Wednesday

9:00 AM Joseph Sklencar r/b Jeannine McMenamin

4:30 PM Albert Pirollo

r/b Dr. Patrick and Mrs. Janet Houston

9:30—Noon Adoration

THURSDAY, March 6

9:00 AM Evelyn Evangilist Belfield

r/b Cherry Tiu

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

FRIDAY, March 7 First Friday

9:00 AM Catherine Maher r/b Fitzpatrick Family

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

Saturday, March 8

4:30 PM Int of Reo Vazquez and Michael Buck

r/b Swartz Family

Sunday, March 9

8:30 AM Dolly Staton

r/b St. Thomas More Women's Club

11:00 AM Nella Ferraro r/b Carabasi Cousins

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for March For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

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

Friday: March 7, 14, 21, 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, Mary Cowan,



Catherine Diana, Linda Di Giulio, Fr. George Donfurtang, Elizabeth Garber, Eileen Gerie, Eileen Goodwin, Marjorie Graham, Marjon Kapischke, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, 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, Mark DeYoung, Teri Bones, Felician Lopez.



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.

Diocesan Faithful Food Drive will be the weekend of March 15/16. Items will be donated to the Cherry Hill Food Pantry as well as our StVdP Society. Donation bags with suggested items are available at the doors of the Church.





EIGHTH Sunday in Ordinary Time March 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 First Sunday of Lent, March 9, 2025 – Luke 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, One does not live on bread alone." (Two more times, Jesus was tempted. Each time, He rejected the temptation.) When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time.

Commentary:

Jesus struggled with the difficult possibilities open to him in carrying out his mission. This struggle lasted right up to the agony in the garden where He is tempted to reject the suffering He is about to undergo. As a human being, Jesus was always free to choose his path. But Jesus was also conscious of his loyalty and relationship with God. Nothing will deter Jesus from establishing the Kingdom of God.

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?

LENT SCHEDULE



ASH WEDNESDAY

Day of Fast and Abstinence

Mass Schedule

March 5—9:00 AM and 4:30 PM There will be a special collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

What better time to join a **Small Christian Community** at our parish for Lent.



Joining is one of the best ways to connect in faith and fellowship at Saint Thomas More parish while strengthening our relationship with God.



Starting March 7th, Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday at 7:00 PM in the Chapel. Come join us.

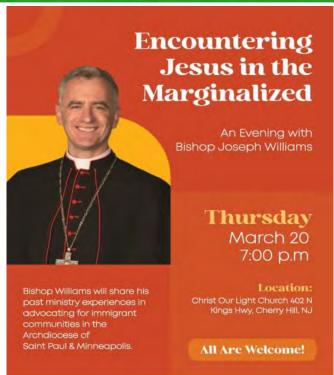
Eucharistic Adoration is held in the Chapel Monday through Friday after the 9:00 AM Mass until Noon.

Virtual Pilgrimage Experience that follows a typical day in Lourdes, France will be held on

Thursday, March 13th.

We will bring Our Lady of Lourdes to those who are not able to make the journey. Light supper will be provided in the Parish Hall at 5:00 PM. The "*Pilgrimage*" will begin at 6:00 PM in the Chapel. Registration is **required** and space is limited. Sign-up in the Gathering Space or call the office at 856-424-3212.











The flowers on the Altar this week are in memory of Ann and Joe Primwhere requested by Jeannine McMenamin.



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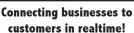
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In Remembrance of Samantha Josephson

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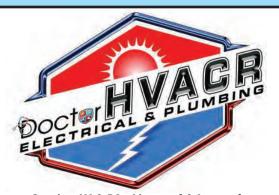
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