

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



Find us on:
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Send all bulletin announcements to:
smtartamosa@comcast.net by 2:00pm Monday

DIRECTORY

Parish Trustees

Jeannine Mc Menamin
Henry Glover

Christian Life/Education

Bereavement

Staff 856- 424-3212

Consolation Ministry

Ann Marie Lento 856- 344-7454

Jon Lisitski jonl11@comcast.net

Faith & Justice Team

Chris Baeckstrom 856-912-7078

Hospital Visitors

Staff & Euch. Ministers 856-424-3212

Intercessory Prayer

Ann Vigrass 856-428-7217

Knights of Columbus

John Galati 856-424-3212

Marriage Formation

Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa 856-795-1160

Order of Christian Init. Of Adults

Parish Rel. Ed. Prog. 856-424-3212

Respect Life

Staff

Rosary Ministry

Marian Kapischke 856-424-2053

Small Christian Communities

Spiritual Retreats

John Galati 856-428-7073

St. Vincent de Paul

Chico Febus 856- 424-3212

Stewardship

Sheila Tartamosa 856-424-3212

Welcoming Team

Shirley Kane 856-424-8022

Worship

Altar Servers

Church Environment

Ch. Art Environment

Eucharistic Ministers

Lectors

Linen Committee

Sacristans

Ushers

Social Development

Bridge Groups

Parish Festival

Women's Club

Administration

House of Charity

Parish Finance Council

Parish Pastoral Council

Committee Committee

856-424-3212

Ann Vigrass

856-428-7217

Greta Tyrrell

856-428-2412

Dom Sacca

Dave Bongiovanni

Joe Centonze

Chico Febus

Joyce DeMichele

856-424-4008

Barbara Cerquitella

856-795-7323

Committee

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Barbara Cerquitella

856-795-7323

Lorraine Kennedy

856-489-0031

Sheila Tartamosa

856-424-3212

Robert Crawford

856-424-3212

Marie Enny

856-751-8893

SECOND SUNDAY of LENT- March 16, 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



"Seek a relationship when you pray, not answers. You won't always find answers, but you will always find Jesus."Father Mike Schmitz



The Collection for March 9, 2025

Sunday	\$4,606.00
E-Giving	\$2,300.00
Total	\$6,906.00

Pilgrims of Hope 2025 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. Amen



The flowers on the Altar this week are
in memory of
Michael Vigrass
requested by his family.
Thank you.



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

2nd Sunday of Lent Grateful Stewardship

"I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession." - GENESIS 15:7

Just as the Lord gave Abraham, Moses, and the Israelites a land to possess, He has also given each of us a home. Whether your home is grand or humble, it is a gift from God. Abraham prepared a great sacrifice to the Lord in gratitude for the home God gave him. How do you show your gratitude to God for the home He has given you? Do you make a **Stewards** sacrifice of any kind? Do you return any of your finances to God, investing in your eternal home just as you invest in your earthly home?



From the Pastor's Desk

Where's the Beef?

Dear Parishioners,

When I was young my family *never* ate *meat* on Fridays in general, let alone *Fridays in Lent*. Naturally, as a young, curious boy I wanted to know “why?” We grew up with the understanding that **Friday** was the day that Jesus died on the cross and we should make some sacrifice on that day. Therefore, we didn't eat **meat**. But why *meat*? We could eat pizza and shrimp (some of my personal favorites!) and other things that I enjoyed which didn't really seem like much of a sacrifice to me. What was the big deal about *meat*? And why was that *fish symbol* on our Catholic calendars on Fridays?

That's where I had to investigate and find an answer that seemed to make sense to me. I heard that *meat* was associated with *feasting*, not fasting. We heard it stated in the Bible that we should go and kill “the fattened calf” when it was time to celebrate (cf. Luke 15: 23, 30).

Okay. That made sense. But how was *fish* supposedly different?

Most of the answers that I found seemed rather *legalistic* in the sense that there was some hair splitting about what *could* and *could not* be eaten. Seemed almost like old time *Pharisaical Judaism* to me. According to some interpretations, we could eat *lobster*, *shrimp* and *crab* but we needed to stay away from *hot dogs*, *bologna* and even **Spam**! (To be honest, I'm really not quite sure how much real *meat* is in these products anyway!)

That's where I think that Jesus' condemnation of the Pharisees and their legalism seemed to make sense. He would tell them that they insisted on keeping the **letter** of the law rather than the **spirit** of the law in many instances. (cf. Matthew 12 or 15). Unfortunately, they never really *got it*!

What then *is* appropriate for Lent? Why not try a *simple, meatless meal*! How profound. Vegetable soup, salad and bread seem appropriate. A grilled cheese sandwich with some tomato soup also appears to keep the spirit of penance. Ethnic meals like *polenta*, potato *pierogi* or rice and beans also seem to fit the bill.

I would definitely avoid the broiled seafood combination and the lobster tail with drawn butter or any kind of extravagant seafood buffet.

Perhaps those things are a bit **excessive** in the spirit of Lenten *penance* and even if they are not technically *meat*!

Besides, too much shellfish can sometimes give you *gout*.

Fr. Ed Namiołka
Pastor

SECOND SUNDAY of LENT- March 16, 2025

Ministry Schedule March 22/23 2025

	Clergy	Music	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Florence	R. Javier	K. McFadden	
8:30 AM	Fr. Coronado	Becca/Julie	B. Massey	D. Mayfield	A. Bresani
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Becca/Julie	T. Librojo	B. Haughwout	J. Hayden S. Andino



Lent is a special time before Easter...a time to pray, a time for forgiveness, a time for giving.

What can we do?

Sock Drive for St Joseph's House: Please bring in new adult men and women's sock to class by March 30th.

Rice Bowl to be returned to class by April 6, 2025.

Why do you think Jesus showed His glory to Peter, James and John on the mountain.

Mark 9:2-10

Join us on these dates for

Hospitality and Fellowship

Stop by after all Masses on **Sunday, March 16** for coffee and donuts sponsored by StVdP.



Wed., March 19th St. Joseph Feast Day Refreshments after the 9:00 AM Mass.

HELP us, St. Joseph, in our earthly strife, ever to lead a pure and blameless life.

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.



"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.

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.

Testimonial – Hospital Chaplaincy | VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services

I was visiting the ICU in Stratford and one of my patients was a woman in her early forties fully intubated and in isolation, as this was during the height of the pandemic. I said the prayer for the sick and offered a blessing outside her room. This went on for several weeks. I fully expected she would pass, but on one visit, she was no longer on a respirator, and I was able to visit her. I told her how happy I was that I was finally able to speak with her. She was in recovery for a few more weeks, but ultimately ended up going home fully recovered. She even sent me a Thank You card! There is no doubt that the power of prayer was at hand.

Deacon Joseph Janocha, Director of Hospital Chaplaincy



Thank you to ALL the volunteers who helped make our **Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience** on Thursday, March 13th a prayerful experience that transported us to the Grotto in Lourdes through interactive imagery. We hope all the participants experienced peace and healing through this experience.

Thank you also to those who prepared the meal and the set up and clean up that goes along with it. Your efforts are appreciated.

MASS Intentions

Saturday, March 15

4:30 PM Dee Curns r/b Pat & Nick Kirincic

Sunday, March 16

8:30 AM Dolly Staton r/b Joanne Wachman

11:00 AM Michael Vigrass r/b Family

MONDAY, March 17

9:00 AM People of the Parish

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, March 18

9:00 AM Rosemary S. and Harry A. Nagle, Jr,
r/b Rosemarie Colon

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, March 19

9:00 AM Joseph Sklencar r/b Dom and Marie Sacca

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY, March 20

9:00 AM Eugene Connelly r/b Ken Stagliano

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

FRIDAY, March 21

9:00 AM Joe Sklencar r/b Marian Kapischke

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

Saturday, March 22

4:30 PM Robert Alvarez r/b Pauline Montes

Sunday, March 23

8:30 AM Teri Bones r/b Gasparre Family

11:00 AM Dick and Kathy Haughwout
r/b Brian Haughwout

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 21, 28 2025

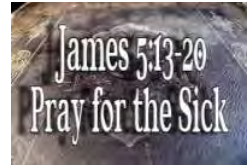
Join us as we Pray the Rosary, Lectio Divina, and reflect on themes of faith.

There will be a **MOMENT of PRAYER for MEN In Spanish** on Friday, March 21st from 6:00-8:00 PM At the Franciscan Hospitality Center
1215 Kresson Rd. Cherry Hill, NJ 856-428-8834



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, Marion 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, 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.*



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

Diocesan Faithful Food Drive donations can be dropped off this weekend March 15/16. Items will be donated to the Cherry Hill Food Pantry as well as our StVdP Society.
Thank you for your generosity

The Cherry Hill Food Pantry 2025 Fundraiser tickets will be on sale after all Masses on the weekend of March 22 and 23rd. Tickets are \$10.00 each. 15 Prizes will be awarded on April 6, 2025 at 6:00 PM drawing. See the flyers at the doors of the church.



"Jesus, teach me how to give to others as you have given to me-and as St. Patrick gave to the people of Ireland."

SECOND SUNDAY of LENT- March 16, 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 Third Sunday of Lent, March 23, 2025 – Luke 13:1-9

Jesus told this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?' He said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not, you can cut it down.'"

Commentary: Another name for God is Compassion. It's a word that means "to suffer with," and in the life of Jesus, we see how God came to reveal that name to us. In the story of the orchard, we often think God is represented by the impatient owner who wants the fruitless tree cut down. Since we've been taught to think of God as the great Judge in the sky, this identification makes sense. But in the story, Jesus takes the role of the gardener who desires to rescue the tree from imminent destruction. One more year, he begs, and I shall try again to coax this barren tree into life. That second chance is offered to each of us from the God of Second Chances, the God who cares about flailing humanity unable to pull its act together despite a long history of knowing better. Each Lent is that second chance, another season that comes to us like a gift and an opportunity to turn the page and the corner on where we've been headed.

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

Daily Mass is celebrated Monday through Friday at 9:00 AM in the Chapel.

Rite of Reconciliation

Confessions are heard every Saturday from 3:00-4:00 PM as well as First Friday and First Saturday after the 9:00 AM Mass. Make plans to receive the Sacrament of Penance during Lent.



Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent 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.

Prayerfully discern ways that you can give to others by sharing your time, treasure, and talent.



The St. Thomas More **Consolation Ministry** to the bereaved will be holding its next meeting on **Friday, March 28, 2025, at 1 pm** in the St. Thomas More Hall.

We hope you will allow us to walk alongside you through your grief journey as a companion who has seen

the same terrain.

Join us or call for more information.

AnnMarie Lento 856-344-7454

Jon Lisitski 856-905-6162

Marian Kapischke 856-424-2053

Encountering Jesus in the Marginalized

An Evening with Bishop Joseph Williams

Thursday
March 20
7:00 p.m

Location:
Christ Our Light Church 402 N Kings Hwy, Cherry Hill, NJ

Bishop Williams will share his past ministry experiences in advocating for immigrant communities in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis.

All Are Welcome!

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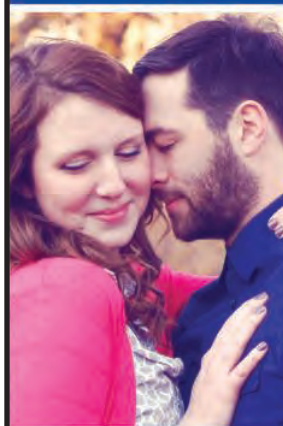


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