

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time—August 10, 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 KN through Eight - Sunday 9:30 AM—10:45 AM
September through May

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



Lord, I praise you as my constant helper. And I call you as my loving protector. I want to do what you ask of me, in the way you ask, for as long as you ask, because you ask it. Let me love you, Lord, as my God, and see myself as I really am: a pilgrim in this world; a Christian called to respect and love all those lives I touch.

	The Collection for August 3, 2025	
	Sunday	\$7,512.00
	E-Giving	\$1,800.00
	Total	\$9,312.00
Includes a half year donation.		

JOIN US ON

Thurs., Aug. 14 at 1:00 PM

St. Thomas More Parish Hall

“Conversation of Your Life”

Presenter: Michelle Gentek-Mayer from the Camden County Surrogates Court.

The surrogate educates the community on the need for advanced planning. She will discuss the importance of wills, living will, funeral agent, power of attorney and personal records.

We will also have information regarding **Catholic Funeral** guidance.

REGISTRATION is REQUIRED. We need to know how many people to plan for.

Call the Parish Office at 856-424-3212 to register or sign up after all Masses in the Gathering Space.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER **19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Stewards Let Go

“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” LUKE 12:34

Jesus encourages us to build up our treasure in heaven. The world encourages us to build up our treasure in real estate, investments, and material goods. How much time are you investing in building up a worldly treasure? How much time are you investing in building up a heavenly treasure? **Stewards** invest more in the things of heaven. You must let go of some of the things of this world.



From the Pastor's Desk

The Assumption and the Wedding of the Sea

Dear Parishioners,

There is a **Holy Day of Obligation** coming up next week: the **Assumption** of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven. Catholics are obligated to attend Mass this day just as they are every Sunday (Saturday).

The **Assumption** celebrates the *Blessed Virgin Mary*, after her earthly life was complete, *being taken up body and soul into Heaven*. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)*:

“Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death.” The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians. . . . (CCC, #966)

Growing up in Wildwood, NJ leaves me with many fond memories. One of these was the celebration of the vigil of the *Assumption* at St. Ann's Church each August 14th. When I was young, the Vigil Mass was usually packed (*standing room only*). St. Ann's could hold approximately 3000 people and I can recall seeing it year after year *wall to wall* with people. Unlike the famous celebration in Atlantic City which took place during the day on August 15th, the Wildwood tradition was a vigil Mass followed by a candlelight procession down Glenwood Avenue to the beach for the *Wedding of the Sea* ceremony. For many years, Bishop Sullivan would preside during this ceremony in both locations. This will be the first time for Bishop Williams, as the Ordinary of our diocese, to officiate at these festivities.

At many seashore towns, the *Assumption* has become somehow tied into the *Wedding of the Sea* ceremony which had an entirely different history and origin. Apparently the custom found its way here from a couple of Venetian historical commemorations and a ceremony in which the *Doge* (chief magistrate) of Venice would "marry" the sea each year, and throw a blessed ring into the lagoon as a sign of eternal fidelity. (Interestingly, the original Venetian ceremony apparently took place in conjunction with the celebration of the **Ascension** of Our Lord rather than the **Assumption**).

The *Press of Atlantic City* reported a variation of the origin of the custom:

According to tradition, the ceremony commemorates an event in the life of the Bishop of Cervia in Italy, Paul Barbo who later became Pope Paul II. The Bishop is said to have been returning by ship from Venice on the Feast of the Assumption in 1445 when he was caught in a storm. The Bishop, it is said, calmed the storm by prayer and throwing his pastoral ring into the sea. (6/16/10)

Throughout history, it was not unusual that Christians would attempt to “Christianize” various secular customs and traditions. No matter what the exact origin of the *Wedding of the Sea* is, as we celebrate the **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven**, it is more important to recall the honored place that Mary, the Mother of God, has in salvation history and that her life on earth was worthy of an eternal reward in Heaven. Where Mary has gone, we hope to follow!

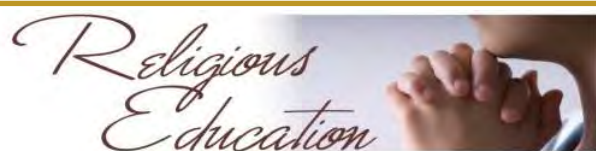
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time—August 10, 2025

Ministry Schedule August 16/17

Mass Time	Clergy Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Florence	Sr. Agnes	J. Cepeda	Please Serve if you are available
8:30 AM	Fr. Coronado	Julie	Sr. Diana	T. Smith	A. Bresani
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Marta/Julie	J. Galati	L. Galati	S. Andino, J. Hayden



Religious Education Registration is now open.
Register before August 15th to avoid late fees.

Returning Families:

will register via ParishGiving.org
Families must use the same login information that was created last registration period. Parish Giving will send a welcome email with your login credentials and instructions on how to register. If you have any questions regarding "login", please call 866-307-7140.

New Families: Use the QR code.

Once the form is complete, please follow the prompts from the "Parish Giving" emails.



Class begins on Sunday, September 21st 2025. Stay tuned for "special first day" details. Classes are held Sunday mornings from 9:30am - 10:45am.

If you have any questions, please reach out to:

Parish Office: 856-424-3212

Jennifer Flynn: 310-740-0629 -

religioused@stthomasmorenj.org

Visit our website: stthomasmorenj.com



"Our Journey United in Hope," **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.

Thank you to all who already made a gift!

If you have not, pledge cards are at the doors of the Church.

Our Church's Jubilee celebration calls us to be pilgrims of Hope to those who find themselves in need: the poor, the elderly, the sick, the imprisoned, the young and many others.

Please prayerfully consider donating. We are getting close to our goal. In the spirit of the *JUBILEE* Year, 100% of what we realize over goal will remain with the parish.

Our Goal this year is \$74,300.00

To date we have reached \$50,990.00



Next weekend, Aug. 16/17
Society of St. Vincent de Paul collection

We ask that you bring some of the below non-perishable food items to restock our pantry. These items support the food insecure in our area.

Canned vegetables—Pasta—Pasta Sauce—Peanut Butter—Jelly—Canned Fruit—Soups—Canned Tuna—Cereal.

Going on Vacation?
Need Mass Schedules?
Download **MASS-TIMES.org**





SATURDAY, August 9

4:30 PM Marisa Schuenemann r/b Carolyn Erickson And Family

SUNDAY, August 10

8:30 AM Rajesh Vangala r/b Vangala Family

11:00 AM Walter Johnson
r/b Ann and Bill Vigrass and Family

MONDAY, August 11

9:00 AM People of the Parish

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, August 12

9:00 AM Marie Claire Charles r/b Her Family

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, August 13

9:00 AM Intentions of Juli Ahn r/b Clara

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY, August 14

9:00 AM Intentions of Greta Tyrrell r/b Pat Byrnes

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

FRIDAY, August 15 ASSUMPTION of Mary

9:00 AM Intentions of Greta Tyrrell

r/b Charlotte Centonze

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Church

7:00 PM Susana Chung r/b Clara

SATURDAY, August 16

4:30 PM Bill Kane and Rudy Peins

r/b Shirley Kane

SUNDAY, August 17

8:30 AM Intentions of Ann Marie Lento

r/b Marguerite Dwyer

11:00 AM Christine Korson r/b Flynn Family

August Prayer Intention

For mutual coexistence Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

Spanish Ministry Prayer Group

Meeting Dates: **Friday, August 8, 22, 29**

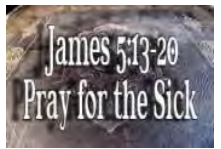
Join us as we Pray the Rosary, Lectio Divina, and reflect on themes of faith.



For children awaiting adoption, may the Lord inspire loving families to welcome and nurture them.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE SICK...

Kristina Acevedo, Caroline Bancheri, Joe Centonze, Grace Cobin, Joseph Console, Mary Cowan, Catherine Diana, Linda Di Giulio, Fr. George Donfurtang, Elizabeth Garber, Eileen Gerie, Marjorie Graham, Marion Kapischke, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, Bob and AnnMarie Lento, Marie Manalo, Kelly Moore, Carter Oakley, Tina Petrone, Dom Sacca, Teddy Shaffer, Grace Sklenecar, 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, Jon Lisitski, Eileen Demcsak, Bryn Large.



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, US Army and Brendan Marcy, Ens., USCG and *all those serving our country.*

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Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time—August 10, 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.

Excerpt from the Gospel for the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 17, 2025 - Luke 12:49—53

Jesus said: "Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter—in law."

Commentary:

Jesus shocked his disciples when he declared that he would cast fire and cause division rather than peace upon the earth. What kind of fire did Jesus have in mind? God's fire both purifies and cleanses, and it inspires a reverent fear of God and of his word in us. Jesus regarded the coming of the kingdom of God as a time of judgment. His word of judgment was meant to help people take seriously the consequences of their choices—either for or against God. The essence of Christianity is loyalty to Jesus Christ, a loyalty that takes precedence over every other relationship. The love of God compels us to choose who will be first in our lives. To place any relationship (or anything else) above God is a form of idolatry. Jesus insists that his disciples give him the loyalty which is only due to God, a loyalty which is higher than spouse or kin. Does the love of Jesus Christ compel you to put God first in all you do?

1. What is God saying to me in this Gospel passage? 2. What word or phrase in this Gospel speaks to me?



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Holy Day of Obligation
Friday, August 15, 2025

MASS Schedule: 9:00 AM
7:00 PM

Masses will be celebrated in the
CHURCH.

Eucharistic Adoration will also be held in
the Church on Friday.

MANUP South Jersey Sat., Nov. 8, 2025
Paul VI Conference Center, Haddonfield NJ
7:30 AM—3:30 PM

"We are called to be men of faith and pilgrims of hope"
Tickets and info: manupsouthjersey.com
Breakfast and lunch provided.

"Helping Others Say Yes to Jesus"

Evangelization Workshop

St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Haddon Township
Saturday, September 27th, 10am - 12pm

All are invited to a special workshop - Improving and
Emphasizing our Missionary Focus", presented by the
Diocese of Camden Office of Evangelization.

A continental breakfast will be served.

Seating is limited - please register - contact
Sue at 856-745-1550 / cswheeler45@gmail.com or Louise
at 856-354-8139 / louise.reino@gmail.com.



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 in-
clude "Council 6173" when asked and use the
promo code: BLESSEDDMCGIVNEY to join.



Faith & Justice - Who Should Get the Next Bench?

We will soon meet the goal for plastic collection
for the bench for the Retired Priests thanks to the
support of parishioners bringing plastic each week.
Before this, we delivered a bench to the Franciscan
Sisters and here at St. Thomas More.

We thought we would ask you for your ideas for
the next recipient. We are looking for a local
Catholic facility.

Let us know by August 18, either to the office or
email stmfaithandjustice@gmail.com.

VIRTUS courses: Protecting God's Children

All adults - volunteers and employees - who are in regular contact with minors
in the Diocese of Camden must complete an in-person safe environment
training program. Adults must be recertified in this program, VIRTUS
Protecting God's Children, after five years. The next courses are below; contact
the parish or school to register.

Protecting God's Children for Adults • Holy Eucharist Parish (Cherry Hill) • 7/22/2025
6 p.m. • Deacon Thomas Jennings & Clare McNamee (Instructors) • 50 person maximum
Call: 856-429-1330

Protecting God's Children for Adults • Christ The King Parish (Haddonfield) • 8/13/2025
6 p.m. • Dolores Mozzillo (Instructor) • 75 person maximum • Call: 856-429-1600

* Protecting God's Children for Adults • St. Vincent de Paul School (Mays Landing)
8/21/2025 • 9 a.m. • Robin Strough (Instructor) • 100 person maximum
Call: 609-625-2124

* For new teachers/employees

For more information or questions, contact Robin Strough, director of
the Office of Child and Youth Protection for the Diocese of Camden, at
Robin.Strough@camdendiocese.org or 856-583-6114.

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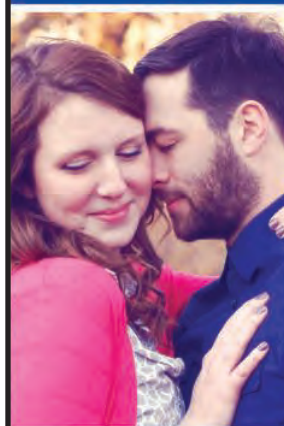


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