# 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

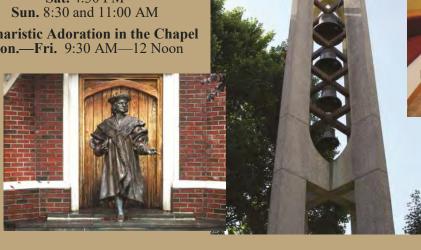
Daily Mass: Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM in

the Chapel

First Saturdays: 9:00 ÅM in the Chapel

**Sat.** 4:30 PM

**Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel 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 Sheila Tartamosa, Business Manager Jennifer Flynn, PCL Colleen Mayhew, Secretary Julie Linn, Music Ministry



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

#### **DIRECTORY**

Parish Trustees	Jeannine Mc Menamin Henry Glover		Worship Altar Servers	C :**	
Christian Life/Education	·		Church Environment Ch. Art Environment	Committee Committee	
Bereavement	Staff	856- 424-3212	Eucharistic Ministers		856-424-3212
Consolation Ministry	Ann Marie Lento	856- 344-7454	Lectors	I. D. II	056 404 0010
	Jon Lisitski jonll	1@comcast.net	Linen Committee Sacristans	Liz DeYoung Greta Tyrrell	856-424-3212 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	
Order of Christian Init. Of Adults		856-424-3212	Social Development Bridge Groups	Joyce DeMichele	856-424-4008
Parish Rel. Ed. Prog.	Jennifer Flynn	856-424-3212	Dridge Groups	Joyce Delvilencie	030 121 1000
religioused@stthomasmore		orenj.org			856-424-3212
Respect Life	Staff		Hospitality	Lorraine Kennedy	856-489-0031
Rosary Ministry	Marian Kapischke	856-424-2053	Administration		
Small Christian Communities		856-424-3212	House of Charity	Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212
Spiritual Retreats	John Galati	856-428-7073	Parish Finance Čouncil		
Spanish Ministry	Sister Rosa	856-424-3212	Parish Pastoral Council		
St. Vincent de Paul	Chico Febus	856–424-3212			
Stewardship	Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212			

#### 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



Jesus, even though you come to bring peace on earth, open the hearts of those who do not welcome you to place trust in you. May your Holy Spirit purify minds and hearts of anything that hinders people from hearing the message you want us to hear. Do not let us grow weary and lose heart, but set our spirits afire with your life-giving Spirit. Amen



### The Collection for August 10, 2025

Sunday \$3,413.00 E-Giving \$3,500.00 Total \$6,913.00



#### 40 DAYS for LIFE

September 24 through November 2, 2025 You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion.

WWW.40daysforlife.com/cherryhill



#### STEWARDSHIP CORNER 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### **Stewardship Truth**

"Do you think I have come to give you peace on Earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." Luke Many of us like to play it safe, not cause waves with our family and friends, especially when it comes to politics and religion. We don't want to cause any turmoil. However, many times this is at the expense of the truth. The truth being Jesus Christ. Too many people are misguided because they rely on their own limited human ability to reason and are not allowing faith in God to guide them.



#### From the Pastor's Desk

"I Have Come to Cast Fire upon the Earth"

Dear Parishioners,

The Gospel reading for this Sunday (Lk. 12: 49-53) might make a person very uncomfortable or even troubled. If you have been fed a type of *sugar-sweet* Jesus most of your life—being presented <u>only</u> with an ultra-compassionate, always-forgiving, never-judgmental savior—then you could seriously doubt that Jesus would ever say such things. One reaction to this Gospel might be to gloss over it quickly. Let's pretend that it does not exist. *This is not the Jesus I know*. He is merciful, forgiving, and patient. He prays in St. John's Gospel (17:21) "that they all may be one. . . ." He would never want any division among us.

There's a problem when we do not see the more complete picture of Jesus as presented in the Gospels. Jesus is the one who called the scribes and Pharisees a *brood of vipers* (Mt. 12:34), *hypocrites* and *white-washed tombs* (Mt. 23: 27). He told us to *pluck out our eyes* and to *cut off our hands* (Mt. 5: 29-30) to avoid sin. He made a whip out of cords and overturned the money changers tables in the temple (Jn. 2: 13-16). He called Peter, his close friend, "Satan" and told him to get behind Him (Mt. 16:23). In the Gospel this Sunday, He speaks about casting fire on the earth and creating division—even within families. What gives?

How we react to Jesus' teaching might just depend on how we are living our lives. Jesus sometimes has to jolt people out of complacency or erroneous thinking: "You are thinking not as God does but as human beings do." (Mt. 16:23) He requires a radical change in our way of living when we are headed to eternal destruction: "Go [and] from now on do not sin any more." (Jn. 8: 11) He demands things from us that are not appealing: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and pick up his cross daily and follow me." (Lk. 9:23) One thing that can be determined upon thorough investigation: Jesus was not some *pushover* and his teaching inevitably made an impact on people. "... For he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes." (Mt. 7: 29)

Jesus' chosen path to freeing us from sin and eternal damnation was through the **cross**. It involved suffering and a sacrificial love. It involved the Son of God being put to death by His creatures. His life and teaching cast a fire upon the earth. He jolted those who were complacent in their sin. He upset the *status quo* and the religious leaders of His time. And some totally resented Him. Some wanted to see Him dead. *Crucify Him! Crucify Him!* 

The reaction today to Jesus' teaching and to his actions can and does create division in families, in communities, and in nations throughout the world. The call to conversion and repentance does not necessarily bring peace to those resistant to change. People can become very, very comfortable in their sin. *Nobody is going to tell me what to do*. Some might follow Him, while others reject Him. His moral requirements **require** a decision from us. If one tries to straddle the fence, it promises not to go well. "I know your works; I know that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth." (Rev. 3: 15-16)

Does Jesus' teaching upset you? Is it hard to take? Will you *resist* His challenges **or** *acknowledge* them and be willing to *change*?

Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

#### Ministry Schedule August 23/24

Mass Time	Clergy Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Coronato	Len	E. Beckman	J. Bland - Campbell	T. Johnson
8:30 AM	Fr. Coronado	Becca/Julie	B. Massey	S. Oatway	A. Bresani
11:00 AM	Fr. Fritz	Becca/Julie	T. Librojo	J. Johnson	L. Vascisin



**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 emailwith 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



#### This 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.



### "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 \$51,990.00

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





#### 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 MONDAY, August 18

9:00 AM Mae and William Smegler r/b Daughter 9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

#### **TUESDAY**, August 19

9:00 AM People of the Parish

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

#### WEDNESDAY, August 20

9:00 AM Living and Deceased Members of the Morgan Family

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

#### THURSDAY, August 21

9:00 AM Intentions of Amir r/b Greta Tyrrell

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

#### FRIDAY, August 22

9:00 AM Ernesto Idos

r/b Priscella and Miguel Torio

**9:30—Noon** Adoration in the Chapel

#### SATURDAY, August 23

**4:30 PM Bob Sorrentino** r/b Marguerite Dwyer

#### SUNDAY, August 24

8:30 AM **Intentions of Sr. Gloria Louise Levari** r/b FMSIJ

11:00 AM Gerri Kurlei

r/b Ann and Bill Vigrass

#### **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 22, 29

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, 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 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, Jon Lisitski, Eileen Demcsak, Bryn Large.

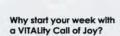


#### PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...

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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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 Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 24, 2025 Luke 13:22-30

Someone asked Jesus: "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" He answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough. After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us.' He will say to you in reply, 'I do not know where you are from.' And you will say, 'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.' Then he will say to you, 'I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evil doers!...And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will reclining at table in the kingdom of God. For, behold, some are last who will be first, and some who are first will be last."'

Commentary:

To assure our eternal salvation, many of us like religious systems that are clean and simple. Ten Commandments to obey. Sacraments to receive. Rules to follow. Authorities to trust. However, when asked about the most important commandment, Jesus talks about love, which is notoriously hard to pin down. When you ask Jesus to take a stand—God or Caesar? - Jesus simply says it depends on the situation. Here, someone asks Jesus to elaborate on the salvation issue. Jesus simply says choose the hard way. If you have to ask, do more. Live out the image of God in you, and God will recognize you when it is your turn to knock on the door

- 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 Commentary resonates with me?



St. Thomas More Parish is scheduled to provide **volunteers** for the

**Cherry Hill Food Pantry** on the following days.

Tuesday, August 19 -5 pm to 7:30 pm

Thursday, August 21 - 10 am to 1pm

Tuesday, August 26 - 5 pm to 7:30 pm

Thursday, August 28 - 10 am to 1 pm

Please notify Elaine Beckman if you can help. elainevbeckman@gmail.com

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). 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 begins the weekend of October 3 - 5 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit <a href="www.HelpOurMarriage.org">www.HelpOurMarriage.org</a> or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

#### "Helping Others Say Yes to Jesus"

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

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.



#### Pope Leo XIV's Prayer for August

Jesus, Lord of our history,
Faithful companion and living presence,
You who never tire of coming to meet us,
Here we are, in need of your peace.
We live in times of fear and division.
Sometimes we act as if we were alone,
Building walls that separate us from one another,
Forgetting that we are brothers and sisters.
Send us your Spirit, Lord,
To rekindle within us

The desire to understand one another, to listen, To live together with respect and compassion. Give us the courage to seek paths of dialogue, To respond to conflict with gestures of fraternity, To open our hearts to others without fear of differences.

Make us builders of bridges,

Able to overcome borders and ideologies,
Able to see others through the eyes of the heart,
Recognizing in every person an inviolable dignity.
Help us create spaces where hope can flourish,
Where diversity is not a threat

But a richness that makes us more human. Amen.



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.

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