

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
Sheila Tartamosa, Business Manager
Jennifer Flynn, PCL
Colleen Mayhew, Secretary
Julie Linn, Music Ministry



Find us on:
facebook®

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

DIRECTORY

Parish Trustees

Jeannine Mc Menamin
Henry Glover

Christian Life/Education

Bereavement

Consolation Ministry

Staff 856- 424-3212
Ann Marie Lento 856- 344-7454
Jon Lisitski jonll1@comcast.net

Faith & Justice Team

Hospital Visitors

Intercessory Prayer

Knights of Columbus

Order of Christian Init. Of Adults

Parish Rel. Ed. Prog.

Chris Baeckstrom 856-912-7078
Staff & Euch. Ministers 856-424-3212
Ann Vigrass 856-428-7217
John Galati 856-424-3212
856-424-3212
Jennifer Flynn 856-424-3212
religioused@stthomasmorenj.org

Respect Life

Rosary Ministry

Small Christian Communities

Spiritual Retreats

Spanish Ministry

St. Vincent de Paul

Stewardship

Staff 856-424-2053
Marian Kapischke 856-424-3212
John Galati 856-428-7073
Sister Rosa 856-424-3212
Chico Febus 856- 424-3212
Sheila Tartamosa 856-424-3212

Worship

Altar Servers
Church Environment
Ch. Art Environment
Eucharistic Ministers
Lectors
Linen Committee
Sacristans

Ushers

Social Development
Bridge Groups

Parish Festival
Hospitality

Administration

House of Charity
Parish Finance Council
Parish Pastoral Council

Committee Committee

856-424-3212

Liz DeYoung 856-424-3212
Greta Tyrrell 856-428-2412
Dom Sacca
Dave Bongiovanni
Joe Centonze
Chico Febus

Joyce DeMichele 856-424-4008

Committee 856-424-3212
Lorraine Kennedy 856-489-0031

Sheila Tartamosa 856-424-3212

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time—August 24, 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

Congratulations



©JPPC

Welcome our newly Baptized parishioner

Cora Marie Gedney

Child of Robert and Amanda

You are a child of God, you are wonderfully made, dearly loved and precious in his sight.

Psalm 139

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

Jubilee 2025

Walking Pilgrimage

Walking from Church to Cathedral
Saturday, September 6, 2025

3 Options
Walk
Train (PATCO)
Automobile

St. John's Church
809 Park Ave., Collingswood

3.8 Miles

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
642 Market St., Camden

START at St. John's Church
9AM- Mass
9:45AM- Depart
11:30AM- Arrive at the Cathedral
11:45AM- Tour
12:30PM- Lunch

For lunch, travel planning, and more information kindly RSVP:

Free

Phone: 856-858-0298 Email: DLim@stteresaoofcalcuttanj.org

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Stewards Accomplishments

"For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last." LUKE 13:30

Our cultural standards are different from God's standards. We often rank people by what they have, how powerful they are, or how successful they are. Jesus reminds us that God will not judge us by the same earthly standards. When God asks you, "What have you done with the gifts I have given you?" How will you respond? How have you lived **Stewardship**?



From the Pastor's Desk

The Narrow Gate

"Lord, will only a few people be saved?" [Jesus] answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough. . . ." (Lk. 13: 23-24)

Dear Parishioners,

For many years this passage from Sacred Scripture has really troubled me. What if those who find the road to (eternal) life are actually *few*? In this day and age when many (most?) people are *canonized* at a funeral, when society refuses to be told what to do because of a type of unbridled freedom (actually *license*), when the moral credibility of the Church has eroded to the point of collapse, and when the most severe sin in our culture has become *lack of tolerance*, shouldn't we be a wee bit concerned?

What exactly constitutes the *narrow gate*? Bear with me as I do a bit of soul searching. Traditionally, there have been certain sins that by their nature are considered grave matter—one of the three necessary components of mortal sin. Such sins include (but are not limited to) murder, rape, incest, adultery, perjury, blasphemy, idolatry, sacrilege, fornication, masturbation, euthanasia, abortion, apostasy, homosexual acts, prostitution, *et. al.* Realizing also that there is the necessity of sufficient reflection (knowledge) and full consent of the will, people who commit these acts risk being in a state of *mortal sin*. In other words, if they die *unrepentant* of these sins they risk eternal damnation (the fires of hell).

Now let's take a step further into other more common occurrences of potential mortal sin. The Church has traditionally declared that it is a mortal sin to intentionally miss Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. What of the approximately 80-90% of Catholics who no longer practice their faith regularly? A *wide* path?

The Catholic Church teaches that the use of artificial birth control is a mortal sin. Some contraceptives (types of the "pill") are actually *abortifacient* in nature, meaning that a fertilized egg (post-conception) is prevented from embedding itself in the mother's womb. Hence, a mini or microscopic abortion may have occurred. Nonetheless, those who use any artificial birth control risk being in mortal sin. One headline I *googled* while writing this article stated boldly: *Most Catholic Women in U.S. Use Birth Control (Reuters, 4/14/11)*. Another article by the Catholic News Agency (CNA, 5/14/24) examined: *Why do so Many Catholics Use Contraception? Experts Weigh In*. Again, a *wide* path?

What then do we do with the number of people who use sex *recreationally* and sleep with each other outside of the context of marriage, or *cohabitate* outside of marriage, or are in a second marriage "outside" of the Church (*divorce* and *re-marriage* without an annulment)? What about homosexuals who engage in sexual activity, regardless of whether or not they have some "committed" relationship? What about the rampant use of internet pornography (frequently accompanied with masturbation)? Sexually active teens? Sexually active college students? *Friends with benefits*? If all of these people are in grave (mortal) sin, again we seem to have a *wide* path here.

I conclude this reflection with the scene of the final judgment in St. Matthew's gospel (Mt. 25:31-46). Read it when you get a chance. In essence, the separation of the *sheep* from the *goats* involves a condemnation to eternal punishment for *failing to do good* to/for others. There is no mention here of *any* of the grave sins listed above. Rather there is damnation for what someone *fails to do*. Another *wide* path?

I suggest we all be a little more hesitant before we assume that somehow we all *automatically* go to heaven. There is a reason that Jesus called for repentance and conversion. And this message is meant for all of us!

Enter through the *narrow* gate . . .

Fr. Ed Namiołka, Pastor

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time—August 24, 2025

Ministry Schedule August 30/31

Mass Time	Clergy Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Coronato	Florence	Sr. Agnes	C. Betson-Smith	T. & A. Johnson
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Celine/Julie	B. Massey	S. Oatway	
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Celine/Julie	J. Galati	L. Galati	S. Andino, J. Galati



Religious Education Registration

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 at 8:30 AM Mass followed by parent meeting.

Parish Office: 856-424-3212
 Jennifer Flynn: 310-740-0629 - religioused@stthomasmorenj.org
 Visit our website: stthomasmorenj.com



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

Cherry Hill Pantry on the following days.

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.
elainebeckman@gmail.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 \$51,990.00

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





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 Kurlej
r/b Ann and Bill Vigrass

MONDAY, August 25

9:00 AM People of the Parish

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, August 26

9:00 AM Intentions of Tim Cyberey r/b Greta Tyrrell

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, August 27

9:00 AM Fred R. Petrone r/b Tina Petrone

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY, August 28

9:00 AM Marisa Schuenemann r/b Janet Johnson

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

FRIDAY, August 29

9:00 AM Intentions of Greta Tyrrell
r/b Dom and Marie Sacca

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

SATURDAY, August 30

4:30 PM Regina “Jean” Flueher
r/b Chris Betson-Smith

SUNDAY, August 31

8:30 AM Rafael Serrano
r/b Son, Ralph

11:00 AM David Thompson
r/b Pat and Carl Luchtman

Spanish Ministry Prayer Group

Meeting Dates: **Friday, August 29**

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



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.

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 Targon-ski, 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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VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services
631 Market Street, Camden, NJ 08102
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Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time—August 24, 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.

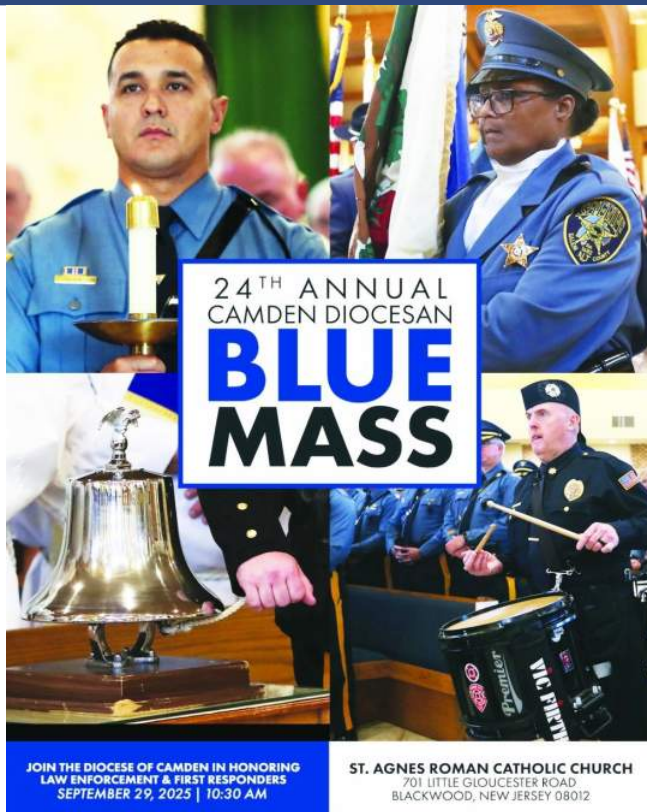
Excerpt from the Gospel for the Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 31, 2025 Luke 14: 1, 7 –14

Jesus said, "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted. Then he said to the host who invited him, "When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed you will be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

Commentary:

Everything we know now will be different in terms of the kingdom. So if we seek wealth, we should make friends with the poor, and if we want happiness, we ought to comfort the sorrowing. Whatever our ultimate goals are, we ought to aim in the direction of their opposites. This makes humility an all-purpose virtue. **To get to the top, aim low. But humility can never be a ruse: you have to take delight in being little and unimportant.** Francis of Assisi and Therese of Lisieux each understood this perfectly. **It might take a bit of practice to get this right. Our society, after all, is set up in the opposite direction.**

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?



faith  justice

Save the Date - October 1, 7 pm

Brother Mickey O'Neill McGrath, OSFS, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales, is an award-winning artist, author, and storyteller, based in Camden. He is a popular presenter and frequent keynote speaker at conferences, parishes, and retreat centers throughout the United States and Canada. Using his own paintings and the stories which inspired them, Bro. Mickey makes deep and often humorous connections between art, social justice, and religious faith around a wide variety of themes and subjects.

We are so happy to have him come to St. Thomas More. His talk is titled "Migrants as Missionaries of Hope".



The Knights of Columbus will pray the Rosary after the 11:00 AM Mass on Sunday, August 31st. (5th Sunday)

All are invited to participate.

"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 include "Council 6173" when asked and use the promo code: BLESSEDDMCGIVNEY to join.



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& Arlington & Bethel Cemeteries

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