

St. Thomas More Church

1439 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003

856-424-3212 • Fax: 856-424-2411

Web Site: <http://stthomasmorenj.org/> • E-mail: stthomasmore@comcast.net

Mass Schedule

Daily **Mass**: Mon. - Fri. 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 Namioika, Pastor
Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate for Life Long Faith Formation
Sister Clare Sabini, FMIJ, Director of Religious Education
Julie Linn, Music Ministry
Pat Cannon, Parish Secretary • Marylee Garber, Parish Secretary
Sheila Tartamosa, Pastoral Associate for Parish Administration



Send all bulletin announcements to:
stmsecretary1439@gmail.com by 2:00pm Monday

DIRECTORY

Pastoral Leadership

Parish Trustees
Jeannine Mc Menamin
Henry Glover

Christian Life/Education

Bereavement Staff 424-3212
Consolation Ministry Ann Marie Lento 344-7454
Jon Llisitski jonll1@comcast.net
Faith & Justice Team Chris Baeckstrom 912-7078
Hospital Visitors Staff & Euch. Ministers 424-3212
Intercessory Prayer Ann Vigrass 428-7217
Knights of Columbus Doug George 609-313-3321
Marriage Formation Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa 795-1160
Parish Rel. Ed. Prog. Sr. Clare Sabini 424-3212
Prayer Shawl Ministry Ann Vigrass 428-7217
Respect Life Staff
Rite of Ch. Init. Adults Sister Ann Byrnes 424-3212
Rosary Ministry Marian Kapischke 424-2053
Small Christian Comm. Sr. Ann Byrnes
Spiritual Retreats John Galati 428-7073
St. Vincent de Paul
Stewardship Sheila Tartamosa 424-3212
Welcoming Team Shirley Kane 424-8022

Worship

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

Ushers

Social Development
Bridge Groups

Funsters (over 50 club)
Parish Festival
Women's Club

Administration

House of Charity
Parish Finance Council
Parish Pastoral Council

Sister Ann Byrnes 424-3212
Committee
Committee
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Dan Miller/ Sr. Ann Byrnes
Ann Vigrass 428-7217
Greta Tyrrell 428-2412
Dom Sacca
Dave Bongiovanni
Joe Centonze
Chico Febus
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Barbara Cerquitella 795-7323
Lin Lyon 795-4396
Committee 424-3212
Barbara Cerquitella 795-7323
Lorraine Kennedy 489-0031
Sheila Tartamosa 424-3212
Robert Crawford 424-3212
Marie Enny 751-8893

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 1, 2022

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.

RCIA

The Rite 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 contact Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate, 424-3212 ext. 104.

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



Risen Christ,

We rejoice in your presence and in your offer of new life.

Renew our missionary zeal.

May we never be afraid to speak in Your name.
Guide us toward feeding all those who are hungry for Your Word.

Make us welcoming witnesses full of love, strength and faith for Your glory and for the salvation of the world.

Amen



Your Tithes and Offerings

The Collection for Easter Sunday,

April 17, 2022 was \$16, 306.00

The collection for April 24, 2022

was \$3,712.00 -77 donations

1, 822.57 - online 33 donations

\$ 5, 532.57

Your consistent generosity to our parish enables us to maintain and improve our parish programs and buildings. Thank you.



"If my people, who are called by My Name, **shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My Face, and turn** from their wicked ways; **then** will I hear from heaven, and will **forgive** their sin, and I will **heal** their land." *2nd Chronicles 7:14*



Stewardship Corner: 3rd Sunday of Easter Stewardship Love

"...Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, 'Do you love me?' and he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'" (JOHN 21:17)

How often do you actually say the words "I love you" to Jesus, to family members, or to friends? We are made to be in relationship with God and each other. Sincerely telling someone that you love them is the best gift you can give them because it comes from your heart. You are giving them the gift of yourself. We all crave love. **Live your Stewardship by telling someone you love them every day.**



From the Pastor's Desk

Why Catholics Continue to Have Hope

Dear Parishioners,

As a Catholic priest I am charged with preaching the Gospel—the *Good News*. I can certainly point out all the things that are confusing or even scandalous in the Catholic Church. However, there are important reasons why true Catholics do not give up *hope* despite the many obstacles we face. We do not flee when the wolf attacks the sheep. We do not deny Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We remain faithful even if everyone calls us ridiculous, stupid, or out of touch. Remember in the *Beatitudes* we are told that we are actually *blessed* when we are unjustly persecuted.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Mt. 5: 11-12)

Opposition and persecution have been present from the beginning of the Church and continue to this day. Let me reflect with you on some of my reasons for ongoing *hope* within the Catholic Church:

- **Jesus is victorious over sin and death.** Jesus' suffering and death on the cross, rather than being a defeat, was a victory. Jesus rose from the dead. Death has no more power over Him. His Resurrection gives every Christian the hope of eternal life. While we have not yet seen the culmination of all of God's plans, we know *Who* has already won the victory. *Christus Vincit!*
- **Jesus promised to remain with His Church.** "***And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.***" (Mt. 28: 20) First, Jesus remains with us in the *Holy Eucharist*. We believe in His Real Presence on our altars and in our tabernacles. We also have the *Sacred Scriptures* to guide and inspire us. Through the ministerial *priesthood* Christ still acts in each sacrament. Christ remains with His Church whenever we gather in His name, but most especially at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.
- **Jesus told us that evil will not prevail.** "***And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.***" (Mt. 16: 18) Through the centuries, there have been bitter battles for the soul of the Church. We have seen many martyrs. We have had bad popes, bishops, priests, etc. Attempts have been made to destroy the Church from within and from without. Despite all such attempts, the Church remains. And it will remain.
- **Our Lady continues to intercede for us, her children.** Devotion to Our Blessed Mother is a *sine qua non* for any believing Catholic. I have been especially devoted to the apparitions of Fatima (Portugal) and to the other approved apparitions like Lourdes (France), Guadalupe (Mexico), etc. According to the seer Sr. Lucia, the message given at Fatima from Our Lady was "In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph." When we pray the *Hail Mary*, we ask for Our Lady's intercession *now and at the hour of our death*. She was given to us at the foot of the cross to be our **spiritual mother**. She continues to intercede for her children and to care about their eternal salvation as any good mother would.

I continue to have hope. What is going on in the Church still concerns me tremendously. Yet, we need to remain faithful to the Lord as He is always faithful to us. If you have any doubts, look at the crucifix.

Fr. Ed Namiootka, Pastor

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 1, 2022

Ministry Schedule for May 7/8

| | Presider | Music | Extraordinary Minister | Lector | Altar Server |
|----------|--------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| 4:30 PM | Fr. Namiotka | Music Ministry | G. Tyrrell | C. Betson Smith | E. & E. Shim |
| 8:30 AM | Fr. Namiotka | Music Ministry | B. Massey | D. Miller | T. Kenny E. Bresani |
| 11:00 AM | Fr. Namiotka | Music Ministry | J. Flynn | L. Flynn | |



Those of us of a certain age have great memories of our month of May dedicated to Mary. We remember the processions, the May crowning, the shrines in the streets or villages. Today, the misunderstandings, the distraction of technology, media, etc. have assaulted us Catholics in those wonderful celebrations which strengthen our faith. The sad thing is that little has been done to replace them. The efforts of parishes and groups have drawn little attention from families, parents. The truth is that the games and the sports have taken the place of those devotions that brought heaven a bit closer to us and made it feel more real. We can make an effort to bring some of those traditions back, such as praying the Rosary as a family, decorate a shrine with images of Mary in our home, sing hymns, use technology to find beautiful music, songs, devotions, and participate in whatever the parish is offering. Let us use technology to help us rather than allow it to take control of us and our time. In Mary we can find our place in the Church and in the world, to be humble, obedient to God, available for kindness, and honor JESUS in our own personhood and everyone created by God in his image and likeness. Here are a few words from Thomas Merton to reflect upon:

“ In all the great mystery of Mary, one thing remains most clear: that of herself she is nothing, and that God has for our sakes delighted to manifest His glory and His love in her. It is because she is, of all the saints, the most perfectly poor and the most perfectly hidden, the one who has absolutely nothing whatever that she attempts to possess as her own, that she can most fully communicate to the rest of us the grace of the infinitely selfless God.



**MOTHER’S DAY CARDS
& REMEMBRANCES**

During the month of May the parish will remember all the mothers and grandmothers, living and deceased, of our parishioners. If you would like your mother or grandmother remembered in this special manner, please return a Mother’s Day envelope sent along with your weekly collection envelopes. Extra envelopes are available in the gathering space or parish office. *Mother’s Day cards are also available at the exit doors* which can be sent to your mother telling her that she will be remembered at the Masses at St. Thomas More for the month of May.



Third Sunday of Easter

Each moment of the day we make a choice: between people and things. Things, of course, are usually easier to deal with. Things don’t require emotional engagement, We don’t have to make eye contact with them. We don’t have to care about them or concern ourselves with how they feel. When it comes to things, we can disengage any time, walk away, have a cup of coffee, even forget them entirely.

But when it comes to people, that’s a different story. Engaging with people usually takes more time than we anticipate. We have to slow down, or speed up, to meet their pace. We have to listen, which means we must empty ourselves of our agenda, and be willing to be present for theirs.

People require our patience, our tenderness, and our compassion. When dealing with tasks or things, we can throw a tool across the room, if frustration gets the better of us. We can’t do that with a frustrating person. Not without facing a lawsuit...

...People or things? You and I are always tempted to push away the child, friend or coworker who’s asking for our time. We want to favor the task, whether it’s making supper, or making a deadline. **Jesus asks us to put people first. Because that big wide world out there could use a rescue. One precious person at a time.**

(excerpted from Catholic Voices– Alice Camille)

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 1, 2022

Weekly Intentions



SATURDAY, APRIL 30

4:30 PM Stanislaus Szczepek

SUNDAY, MAY 1

8:30AM Anne Gehring
r/b Beverly DeMasi & Barbara Cerquitella
11:00AM Patrick Kurlej r/b Joyce DeMichele

MONDAY, MAY 2

9:00AM Yaroslaw Kosmyrna r/b Hanna Pastula
9:30 AM—12NOON Eucharistic Adoration
in the Chapel

TUESDAY, MAY 3

9:00AM William Michael r/b Tobin family
9:30 AM—12NOON Eucharistic Adoration
in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

9:00AM Dr. Ricardo Baldonado
r/b Ruben & Dippon Alvarez
9:30 AM—12NOON Eucharistic Adoration
in the Chapel

THURSDAY, MAY 5

9:00 AM Richard Martin
r/b Dave & Ellie Mayfield
9:30 AM—12NOON Eucharistic Adoration
in the Chapel

FRIDAY, MAY 6

9:00 AM William Salsbery r/b Joseph Marsden
9:30 AM—12NOON Eucharistic Adoration
in the Chapel

SATURDAY, MAY 7

4:30 PM Jim Tobin r/b Jim Tobin

SUNDAY, MAY 8

8:30 AM Mothers Day Intentions
11:00 AM Mothers Day Intentions

**PLEASE REMEMBER
IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

THE SICK... Kristina Acevedo, Caroline Bancheri, Jim Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Pat Beaney, Ray Chuisano, Elva Clark, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, Mary Cowan, Catherine Diana, Elizabeth Garber, Eileen Goodwin, Marjorie Graham, Jean Haines, Maureen Howe, Audrey Johnson, Helen Kane, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, Marie Manalo, Tina Petrone, Helen Protzman, John Ravena, Carlos Santiago, Yun-Yun Shen, Teddy Shaffer, Claire Spence, Dick Spence, Dale Strack, Stacia Strack, Michael Suralik, Pat Suralik, Ann Vigrass, Sarah Warner.



PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...

SPC Jordan Beckman, Captain Patrick J. Bones, USMC, Major Anthony R. Cosentino, USAF, SSgt John P. DeYoung, Lt. Nicholas G. Iannuzzi, SSgt. Kris Knaup, Lt. Christopher Mawn, Lt. (j.g.) Jacqueline A. McCabe, SN Christian Mele, PFC Sonny Morrison, Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa, Sgt. 1st Class Mark Rimbaugh, Lt. Col. James P. Tobin, SPC Nicole Williams, and *all those serving our country in the armed forces.*

**House of Charity 2022
"From Many...One Body"**

When our parish collects its goal amount, up to 10% is returned to our parish for our local charitable needs. Additionally, 75% of all funds received above our parish goal will also be returned to our local parish to foster our charitable and ministerial work. This year **St. Thomas More Parish goal is \$89, 700. To date we have raised \$48, 896 which is 52.3% of our goal.** Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of your contribution for this year.

Pope Francis' MAY Prayer Intentions

For faith-filled young people

We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

**St. Thomas More Consolation Ministry
"Journeying Through Grief"**

Contact: Contact Ann Marie Lento 856-344-7454 ;rlento05@comcast.net or Jon Lisitski 856-210-6466 jonll1@comcast.net for more information.

Upcoming meetings scheduled for: **May 26 at 1:00 PM in the Parish Hall.** *By embracing the pain, by looking into it and beyond it, I have come to see God's presence even in the worst situations. Joseph, Cardinal, Bernardin*

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 1, 2022

Small Christian Community Faith Sharing

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 Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 8, 2022 – John 10: 27-30

Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Commentary:

Consider the folks who have led you to become who you are today: family members and first teachers, mentors and heroes, friends, and maybe a few enemies along the way. You may have followed the inspiration of an idea or a dream, or received your greatest encouragement from people you only met in books or learned about from history. In ways we may scarcely be aware of, we have also been led by the small, still voice of our Creator, calling us to a greater and fuller life. If we have been raised in the Christian tradition, we also have been listening to the good news of Jesus Christ down through the years. Though we may stray after our demons from time to time, we can always find our way back to the center if we listen for the voice of Jesus. He calls us to our most authentic selves and tells us who we really are. Even when we are out finding ourselves, we are already found in his hands.

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 Commentary resonates with me?



Pro-Life Corner: At 8 weeks, the baby is capable of feeling pain: all body systems are present; sucks thumbs; wakes and sleeps. This is the time when most abortions are performed. "The greatest gift of

God, I would think, is the gift of life. The greatest sin of humans, it would seem, would be to return the gift ungratefully and unopened." *John Powell. S. J.*

Would you like to have a part in decorating the Sanctuary for Sundays and holidays? Do you find joy in a beautiful environment? The **Art & Environment Committee is looking for volunteers.** The two major decorating responsibilities occur at Christmas and Easter. **All those interested are asked to call the Parish Office (424-3212).**



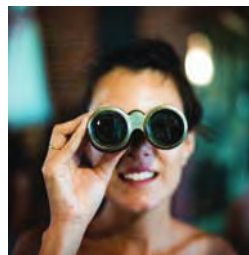
Christ Our Light Young Adult Ministry Summer Kickoff Event, May 14 from 5:30-7:00 PM at the Parish Center. Anyone aged 21-39 is invited to join this evening of food, prayer, and fellowship. Please. No need to bring anything, just yourself! RSVP to Cheyenne Schuster at cshuster@christourlight.net by May 6th to help plan for food.



Environmental Tips from Catholic Climate Covenant

Are you ever amazed by the amount of water you go through trying to keep your lawn green and flowers perky? This year invest in a rain barrel to collect water from your downspout, hook it to a hose, and water away! Save money, save water and keep your lawn and gardens healthy

Let your grass go brown this spring/summer. Water is a precious resource, particularly when it's dry. Grass will naturally go dormant until the rains return, and if you plant clover seed your lawn will generally stay greener.



Searching for a way to help out in the Parish, behind the scenes? Something that does not require a huge time commitment? **The Altar Linen Ministry is looking for volunteers. Call the Parish Office 856-424-3212.**



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