



# SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, JANUARY 1, 2023

## 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



## Prayer for Family Unity

Lord Jesus, with Mary and Joseph,  
you lived in a family.  
Teach me to appreciate the gift of being part of a  
family.  
Show me ever new ways  
of protecting and comforting those closest to me;  
and, each day, let me do something  
that will say 'I love you'  
without speaking those words.  
Let me never part from any of my family in anger;  
prompt me always to turn back without delay  
to forgive and to be forgiven.  
Let me see your image in my family,  
in each of them, and in my larger family too,  
knowing that, in your kingdom, we will be truly one  
family,  
united by your sacrifice on the Cross.  
Amen.



“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*

**The collection for Sunday, December 18th, 2022** was  
\$4481.00 82 donations in church  
1254.63 30 online donations  
\$5735.63 112 total donations  
The budgeted amount was \$8500.00



**Stewardship Corner:** Solemnity of Mary  
the Holy Mother of God  
Ideal Steward

“And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” LUKE 2:19

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal Steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God’s call. She heard God’s message, and immediately said “yes.” Mary teaches us to live with joy and gratitude for the many blessings God has given us. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ’s light to the world. We do this through lives of gratitude and generosity.



From the Pastor's Desk  
**A New Year Resolution: *Live Like You Were Dying***

Dear Parishioners,

There is a tradition in America to make some personal resolutions as we begin the New Year. From a Christian perspective, this attempt seems to be a bit misguided as the new “church” year actually began for believers with Advent. This season—**Advent**—would have been a more appropriate time for us to make changes to prepare for the *Coming of Christ*. I remind all of us of Advent's two-fold preparation: celebrating Christ's *First Coming* (the **Nativity**) and awaiting His *Second Coming* in glory to judge the living and the dead.

While listening to an online presentation some years ago, one of the speakers mentioned a rather intense and unique spiritual exercise. Set a **pretend** date for your own death in a month and then do **everything** necessary to prepare for that day. In other words, *what would you do if you only had a month to live and you knew you were about to meet God and face judgment—an eternal reward or punishment—in only a month?* What would you do if you knew exactly the date of your own death?

This brought to mind a song released by country singer **Tim McGraw** back in 2004: *Live Like You Were Dying*. The song tries to inspire a person to live life to the fullest in the time remaining on earth. Activities suggested included skydiving, mountain climbing, bull riding and other *bucket-list* activities. I think the song finally reached much more spiritual depth when it spoke about *loving deeper* and *giving forgiveness* that long had been denied. The dying person spoke about *becoming the husband that most of the time he wasn't* and becoming a friend that *a friend would like to have*. The song goes on to mention reading the *good book* (presumably the Bible) and ultimately facing eternity.

Well then, let me bring this to a more Catholic perspective. All of us have limited time. We have a shelf-life whose expiration date is known only to God. Even if we are given **100** years or more on earth, what is that brief time compared to **e-t-e-r-n-i-t-y**? Eternity is *forever*. Remember that. Church teaching is that we all will inevitably face **death, judgment, heaven** or **hell** at the end of our lives (the *four last things*).

What would you do if that step from eternity were only a month away? Go ahead. Set the date. **Pretend** that it was only a month away. What would you do to get your life completely in order? Would you pray and go to Mass more frequently? Begin **now**. Would you make a good, sacramental confession like never before? Start preparing **now**. Would you forgive that person who has hurt you or ask forgiveness from someone you have hurt? Make the phone call or write the letter **today**. Would you find more time for your children or grandchildren? Start **now**. Would you visit that neglected parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle or friend? **Just do it**. What in your life needs to be done so that when you meet God face to face and have to account for your life here on earth you will be ready—*completely ready*?

**Then [the king] will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’ Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’ He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’ And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life. (Mt. 25: 41-46)**

Why not give it a try? Just think of how much more spiritually mature and prepared you would be after such a month of intense preparation! It could be like a **spiritual boot camp**.

*Happy New Year!*

*Fr. Ed Namiołka*, Pastor

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, JANUARY 1, 2023

Ministry Schedule for JANUARY 7/8, 2023

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	Sr. Agnes	D. Miller	E. & E. Shim
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	K. Witts	K. Kraemer	Witts E. Bresani
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	J. De Michele	J. Johnson	S. Andino M. Marsden



Resolution:

Heavenly Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit  
 Help me to know you deeply,  
 To trust your presence in my life  
 May I have the courage to make the right choice,  
 To trust your guidance, so that I may know, love and  
 serve you in this life and be with you in heaven forever.



Resilient Grace in our Senior Years

Resilience is a grace...a gift of the Spirit that blesses our lives with insight and opportunities for deepening our relationship with ourselves, others, and God!

Resilience is part of the bedrock of “*optimal aging*” (yes, *that is a real term!*)

During our time together we will explore the role spirituality plays in promoting and sustaining our resilience during our senior years.

**Sr. Mary Garvin, RSM**  
**January 23, 2023 10AM**  
**Parish Hall**  
**Call the Parish Office to register.**  
**856-424-3212**

**Thank you for your Christmas Gifts to our Parish**

A parish, like every family, runs on a budget. Money coming in must be greater than money going out. Along with your weekly Offertory gifts, we rely a great deal on the Christmas collection to meet our budgetary needs. It is through the generosity of our parishioners that we are able to maintain a vibrant parish, keep up with maintenance, and plan long-term projects for the betterment of our parish buildings.

***Thank You for your Christmas generosity and for your faithfulness throughout the whole year.***

**‘They’ are at it again**

Please be aware that neither Fr. Ed nor any of the Parish staff will contact you by email or text requesting monetary assistance or gift cards for personal use.

**If you receive such a notification, please call the Parish office. 856-424-3212.**

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, JANUARY 1, 2023

*Weekly Intentions*



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31**

4:30 PM Sheila Mohan r/b Tobin family

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1**

8:30 AM Vincenzo & Assunta Di Russo  
r/b Franciscan Sisters

11:00 AM Dick Haughwout r/b Greta Tyrrell

**MONDAY, JANUARY 2**

9:00AM People of the Parish

NO Adoration today

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 3**

9:00AM Bridget Namiotka r/b family

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4**

9:00AM Living and deceased members of Morgan family in Ireland

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 5**

9:00 AM Sara Centonze & Happy Appalucci r/b Joe Centonze

9:30 AM-12NOON Eucharistic Adoration—Chapel

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 6**

9:00 AM Chip Tagland r/b Dr. John A. Vivone

9:30 AM-12NOON Eucharistic Adoration—Chapel

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 7**

4:00 PM Sheila Mohan r/b Dave & Lin Lyon

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8**

8:30AM Thomasine Madgey r/b daughter Maureen

11:00AM Sheila Mohan r/b St. Thomas More Prayer Shawl Society

**Pope Francis' January Prayer Intentions:  
For educators**

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.



**PLEASE REMEMBER  
IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**THE SICK...** Kristina

Acevedo, Caroline

Bancheri, Jim Beaney, Jim

Beaney, Jr., Pat Beaney,

Ray Chuisano, Elva Clark,

Grace Cobin, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, Mary

Cowan, Catherine Diana, Elizabeth Garber, Eileen

Goodwin, Marjorie Graham, Maureen Howe, Helen

Kane, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, Bob

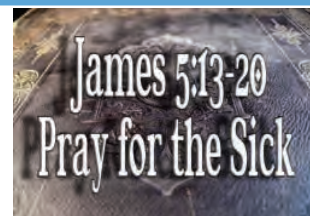
Lento, Marie Manalo, Tina Petrone, Helen Protzman,

John Ravena, Jacob Rivera, Jaxson Rivera, Eleanor

Rizzo, Carlos Santiago, 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, Sisi

Tyrrell, USMC, SPC Nicole Williams, and *all*

*those serving our country in the armed forces.*

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**(pronounced Retro-vi).** 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 February 10-12,**

**2023 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit:**

**[www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.**



## SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, JANUARY 1, 2023

### 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 Epiphany of the Lord, January 8, 2023 - Matthew 2:1-12

“And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the Child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the Child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.”

#### Commentary:

All of us are following one star or another across our lives. Maybe it's a dream of the person we want to be. Maybe it's the fantasy of a person who will love us the way we are. The star we follow may be fame and fortune, or peace and security. Chances are, we will find the star we are looking for but in many cases, it won't be what we thought it was and the results may be disappointing. The one star that did not disappoint is the one that led the magi to Jesus. Like most of us traveling in the dark, these men had no idea where their journey would take them or what it might cost once they arrived at their destination. They were prepared to sacrifice wealth, time, and their comfortable security, nonetheless. And when they found their hearts' desire, they were overjoyed at the discovery. Like Moses, they too became radiant at what they saw. We can imagine they took that radiance home with them, so that everyone who saw them wondered at the change.

#### 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?



#### Pro-Life Corner: Pregnancy Help Centers

Pregnancy Help centers are local clinics that provide just that— help with your pregnancy. That may include prenatal care, parenting education, adoption assistance and guidance to local resources and programs, such as food banks. **Call 1-800-672-2296 for a center and support near you.**

“The Eucharist, A Call to Evangelization, Discipleship, and Works of Mercy” to be presented on **Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 7:00 PM** by Fr. John Picnic  
Call Christ Our Light for more information or to register.  
**1-856-667-2440**



#### A Prayer for the New Year

Dear God, Thank You for new beginnings. What an incredible day this is with a fresh year's potential stretched out before me. I want to be found faithful this year in each and every opportunity You bring to me. Thank You, Lord, for new beginnings. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen. - [Pastor David McGee](#)



#### THE FEDERAL ASSAULT WEAPON BAN OF 1994

We know that assault weapon bans work because data proves it. For the decade that the federal assault weapons ban was in effect from 1994 to 2004, 89 people died in 12 massacres. But in the decade after the ban expired from 2004 to 2014, over 300 people were shot and killed in 34 mass shootings. That's a staggering 183 percent increase in massacres and a 239 percent increase in fatalities. **(BradyUnited)**

*“We support a total ban on assault weapons and limitations on civilian access to high-capacity weapons and ammunition magazines. We also support measures that control the sale and use of firearms, such as universal background checks for all gun purchases”*

**United States Conference of Bishops June 2022**

**Mitten and Sock Tree:** We are still collecting mittens, hats, scarves, socks to keep little (or big) people warm this winter. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

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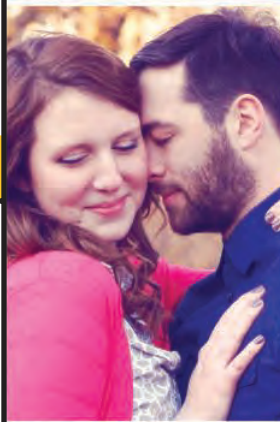
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