

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
First Saturdays: 9:00 AM in the Chapel
Sat. 4:30 PM
Sun. 8:30 and 11:00 AM

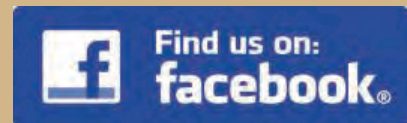
Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel
Mon.—Fri. 9:30 AM—12 Noon



Rite of Reconciliation Saturday

3:00—4:00 PM
In the Chapel
First Fridays after the 9:00 AM Mass

Father Edward 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
Marylee Garber, Parish Secretary
Sheila Tartamosa, Pastoral Associate for Parish Administration



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

DIRECTORY

Parish Trustees	Jeannine Mc Menamin Henry Glover		
<i>Christian Life/Education</i>			
Bereavement	Staff 856- 424-3212	<i>Worship</i>	
Consolation Ministry	Ann Marie Lento 856- 344-7454	Altar Servers	Sister Ann Byrnes 856-424-3212
Faith & Justice Team	Jon Lisitski jonll1@comcast.net	Church Environment	Committee
Hospital Visitors	Chris Baeckstrom 856-912-7078	Ch. Art Environment	Committee
Intercessory Prayer	Staff & Euch. Ministers 856-424-3212	Eucharistic Ministers	Sr. Ann Byrnes 856-424-3212
Knights of Columbus	Ann Vigrass 856-428-7217	Lectors	Dan Miller/ Sr. Ann Byrnes
Marriage Formation	Brian Haughwout 609-458-7851	Linen Committee	Ann Vigrass 856-428-7217
Parish Rel. Ed. Prog.	Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa 856-795-1160	Sacristans	Greta Tyrrell 856-428-2412
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Sr. Clare Sabini 856-424-3212		Dom Sacca
Respect Life	Ann Vigrass 856- 428-7217		Dave Bongiovanni
Rite of Ch. Init. Adults	Staff	Ushers	Joe Centonze
Rosary Ministry	Sister Ann Byrnes 856-424-3212	<i>Social Development</i>	Chico Febus
Small Christian Comm.	Marian Kapischke 856-424-2053	Bridge Groups	
Spiritual Retreats	Sr. Ann Byrnes		Joyce DeMichele 856-424-4008
St. Vincent de Paul	John Galati 856-428-7073	Parish Festival	Barbara Cerquitella 856-795-7323
Stewardship	Chico Febus 856- 424-3212	Women's Club	Committee 856-424-3212
Welcoming Team	Sheila Tartamosa 856-424-3212		Barbara Cerquitella 856-795-7323
	Shirley Kane 856-424-8022	<i>Administration</i>	Lorraine Kennedy 856-489-0031
		House of Charity	
		Parish Finance Council	Sheila Tartamosa 856-424-3212
		Parish Pastoral Council	Robert Crawford 856-424-3212
			Marie Enny 856-751-8893

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, JANUARY 29, 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



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Enter our
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We look forward to worshipping with you again!



“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, January 22, 2023 was: \$6524.44 from 117 donations. The budgeted amount for this week was \$8500. A parish, like every family, runs on a budget. Money coming in must be greater than money going out. It is through the generosity of all of our parishioners that we are able to maintain a vibrant parish, keep up with maintenance, and plan long-term projects for the improvement of our parish buildings. *Thank You for your generosity.*



Stewardship Corner: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Stewards Deny Self

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” MATTHEW 5:3



The phrase “poor in spirit” can be confusing. Think of it in this sense – poor in spirit means depending on God’s providence and not depending on our own self-reliance. Being detached from earthy things (power, money, and comfort) and being attached to heavenly things (charity, sacrifice, and mercy). Stewardship is denying ourselves from satisfying our desires and helping others obtain their basic needs.



From the Pastor's Desk The Beatitudes

Dear Parishioners,

*Are you truly happy? Are you **blessed**?*

Let's be brutally honest for a few minutes. The **world** (secular society) holds up certain things for us and tells us we will be happy if we have them and miserable without them: *pleasure, power, wealth and fame*. Preachers of the "prosperity gospel" tell us that we are *blessed* by God when we are showered with a type of earthly success—primarily money and health. While wanting to have a good, happy life in this world is not a bad thing in and of itself, whenever we place our desire *for things* or *on self* above our love for God, we create a type of false god. Pleasure, power, wealth and fame can all become false gods in our lives.

What does Jesus teach us in the Sacred Scriptures? Let's begin with a very difficult statement about the **cross** in our lives: Then Jesus said to his disciples, "**Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.**" (Mt. 16: 24-25)

Moreover, the *Beatitudes* (Mt. 5: 3-12) seem to contradict what the world touts as essential for happiness. *Blessed are the **poor** in spirit* seems to rail against a call to accumulate material **wealth**. *Blessed are the **meek*** seems to undermine those seeking to obtain **power** over others. *Blessed are they who **mourn*** seems far removed from those who seek **pleasure** as their motivation. And *blessed are you when they **insult** you and **persecute** you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me* doesn't seem to command the respect and **honor** craved for by so many. In fact, Jesus points out that those persons are *blessed*, when the direct opposite of what the world propagates is practiced and lived.

Why is this? First, worldly vision is shortsighted. Eternity and even God are seen as some pie in the sky ideas and we are told that we must live *for this world* only. *Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die!* I remind everyone that heaven and hell are eternal, not this world. In addition, Jesus demonstrated for us a sacrificial love (picking up the **cross**) which, unfortunately, requires some degree of pain and suffering. A cross was a means of public execution and the early Christians needed no reminder of its brutality. Yet, God freely chose it as a means of our redemption. Jesus accepted His cross.

The ultimate decision which we all must make is whether we choose to live for this world with its temporary pleasures and sorrows **or** to live for eternity and to desire union with God. It requires a modicum of *faith* to see things with the proper perspective. It also requires the support of a Church and its sacraments to strengthen our resolve and keep us on the right path. God's grace is available, if we chose to accept it.

It has always intrigued me how many accounts of the martyrs tell how they sang, prayed and bore final witness even when facing brutal torture and death. Self-giving, sacrificial love can be contagious when we witness it. "**This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.**" (Jn. 15: 12-13)

I dare say that too few of us have come to such a realization in our lives.

Fr. Ed Namiootka, Pastor

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, JANUARY 29, 2023

Ministry Schedule for FEBRUARY 5, 2023

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	Sr. Agnes	J. Cepeda	E. & E. Shim
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	K. Witts	K. Kraemer	Witts
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	D. Staton	C. Musso	S. Andino M. Marsdan



Now we have it. There can be no excuses, though we still find lots of them. Jesus has instructed us. He has shown us the Way. He has worked hard. He has told us much. He has gone out of His way to make it clear to us. He has offered us His hand. He left His cherished

place at the right hand of God. He sacrificed it all for us. He suffered terribly to make God's intentions known to us. He did it all in the hopes of bringing us to the Father. He died for us and rose again. He paid the price for us and faithfully gives us the Words God wants us to hear. He offers us

this chance to participate in our own recovery. He has gone to the Father to work with Him on our behalf. He is still interceding there for those who would come. *So what is our part? What are we doing? Are we sitting back*



comfortably? Have we had all our work done for us? Is this all there is? Are we already walking a high road of spiritual awareness? Is the Light of God illuminating all that we see and do? Is His power demonstrating itself mightily in our lives? Or is there still some ground to gain? If there is, what is our excuse for not taking those extra steps and get it right with our FAITH? What excuses may we offer to our children?

**Second Collection NEXT weekend
Black and Native Americans**

The Black and Native American Mission Office is comprised of **three distinct but inter-related organizations, each with its own purpose and history, but all seeking to fulfill the one Mission to the Missions. Founded by the Catholic bishops of the United States, each organization cooperates with local diocesan communities to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and respond to real and pressing needs on the ground.** The three organizations of the Black and Indian Mission Office seek to "insist on that same respect" for African American, Native American, and Alaska Natives through advocacy on the national scene. **This collection will be taken up next weekend.**



Sister Mary Pat Garvin, RSM presented "The Grace of Resilience in our Senior Years" on January 23rd at St Thomas More.



Sacred Heart Residence for Priests, on St. Mary Drive, is in need of a cook. This is a paid position. Please call 856-751-2010 for more information.

ALSO, occasionally a priest may need a ride to the Doctor. **Volunteers** are needed. Call 856-751-2010 to get on the list.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, JANUARY 29, 2023

Weekly Intentions



SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

4:30 PM Dorothy Cerone
r/b Bob & Toni Pellegrino

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

8:30 AM Sheila Mohan
r/b Dave & Ellie Mayfield

11:00 AM Chip Tagland r/b Mark & Liz DeYoung

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

9:00AM People of the Parish

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

9:00AM Bishop Robert McGinnis
r/b Vince Marchesani

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

9:00AM Emilia & Gennaro D'Alessandro
r/b Franciscan Missionary Sisters

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

9:00 AM living & deceased members of Morgan family in Ireland
r/b St. Vincent de Paul Society

9:30 AM-12NOON Eucharistic Adoration—Chapel

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

9:00 AM Peter A. Buttacavoli
r/b Tina Petrone

9:30 AM-12NOON Eucharistic Adoration—Chapel

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

9:00 AM Intentions of Royden Targonski

4:30 PM Dorothy Cerone
r/b John & Rosemary Faford

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

8:30AM David & Mildred Royster r/b Barry & Phil Royster

11:00AM Mae & Joseph Centola

Pope Francis' February Prayer Intentions:
For parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

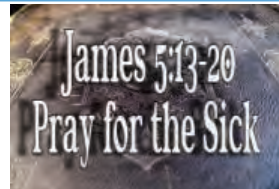


Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Phyllis Kolecki
Mary Ellen Lepre
Jacqueline Wankner

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE SICK...

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, Fr. George Donfurtang, Elizabeth Garber, Eileen Gerie, Eileen Goodwin, Marjorie Graham, Maureen Howe, Helen Kane, Marion Kapischke, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, John Lane, Bob Lento, Marie Manalo, Tina Petrone, Helen Protzman, John Ravena, Jacob Rivera, Jaxson Rivera, Eleanor Rizzo, Dom Sacca, Carlos Santiago, Teddy Shaffer, Jean Smyth, 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, Sisi Tyrrell, USMC, SPC Nicole Williams, and *all those serving our country.*

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Rimbaugh has retired. Thank you for your service.

'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.**

Save the Date:

Spring Benefit Dinner Dance
3-7PM Sunday, March 5, 2023
Sponsored by FMIJ Sisters

Auletto's Caterers,
1849 Cooper Street, Almonesson

Music provided by *The Juliano Brothers Band*
Tickets: \$75 per person— This is a No Smoking Event

For tickets, please contact
Sr. Maria at: 856-283-5554 or
fmijmdr@yahoo.com



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

The Gospel for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 5, 2023 - Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

Commentary:

Jesus used the image of a lamp to describe how his disciples are to live in the light of his truth and love. Just as natural light illumines the darkness and enables one to see visually, so the light of Christ shines in the hearts of believers and enables us to see the heavenly reality of God's kingdom. *Our mission is to be light-bearers of Christ so that others may see the truth of the gospel. Likewise, we are called to be a city set on a hill that should be elevated and easily visible. We should give hope and direction to weary pilgrims as they travel the journey of life.*

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: What to do if you have an unplanned pregnancy -7 coping strategies (from Psych Central).

"There are several strategies available that may help you feel calm in the face of uncertainty, stress, and anxiety.

1. **Get confirmation.** It may not hurt to confirm you're pregnant with a doctor. While home pregnancy tests are generally a very reliable Trusted Source, a doctor can confirm the pregnancy with a blood test and do an ultrasound to see how far along the pregnancy is. Seeing a doctor may also help you feel a bit more at ease.
2. **Acknowledge you are in shock.** It's OK to be in shock. Shock can happen with any sudden, traumatic changes that may affect your life, like an unplanned pregnancy. You can—and probably should- give yourself some time to process before figuring out how you want to respond.

Camden Catholic Admissions Information Session

Thursday, February 2 at 7 p.m. Whether you are an 8th grader still making your decision about high school, or a 6th or 7th grader planning for your future, please join us to learn more about the admissions process, curriculum, arts and athletics at Camden Catholic High School. This is a general information session in which you will have the opportunity to meet our students, faculty and administration, tour our campus, and have your questions answered. RSVP admissions@camdenatholic.org or call 856-663-2247 ext. 137.



America's gun violence epidemic

"Just two days after a gunman killed 11 people at a Los Angeles-area dance studio, seven more victims were shot dead in an agricultural area near San Francisco"

For many years, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops have supported a number of reasonable measures to address the problem of gun violence:

- 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.
- We ask that Congress pass a federal law to criminalize gun trafficking.
- the USCCB also supports setting a more appropriate minimum age for gun ownership, and to ban 'bump stocks.'

Join Bishop Sullivan and Fr. Hughes in Greece—October 20th—30th- \$4499ppdo (single supplement +\$949) from PHL. For more information or to register visit www.pilgrimages.com/frhughes

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