

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 12, 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



Jesus,
Blessed are you,
the Living Water that brings us here today.
We praise you for pouring the living waters
of faith, new life and love into us at Baptism.
Help us to have such strong love and faith
in you that we yearn to share it with others,
especially during this Lenten season.
Amen

Lenten Parish Mission

St. Thomas More Church

March 13th—15th 7PM

Mission Theme: *“The Journey To
Belong in Jesus”*

Mission Director: *Fr. John Petrikovic,
OFM Cap*

Come, make this journey with us!



“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, March 5, 2023 was: \$9323.00 from 127 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 consistent 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: 3rd Sunday of Lent Joyful Stewardship

“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.” JOHN 4:13



Jesus reminds his Stewards that material things, even something as basic as water, **can never satisfy us over the long run.** When we build our lives around material possessions we will always want more and no amount will ever satisfy our desire. **True joy and peace only come when we follow Jesus - when we become more “God-centered” and less “self-centered.”**



From the Pastor's Desk Lessons from the "Woman at the Well"

Dear Parishioners,

In this Sunday's Gospel, we have the story of the Samaritan woman at the well (Jn. 4: 5-42). Certainly, there are multiple lessons to be learned from this passage. I focus here on three.

Living Water. Jesus is thirsty and asks the woman for a drink. Their conversation then progresses to Jesus inviting the woman to ask Him for living water instead. As is typical in St. John's gospel, there are varying levels of understanding present in the dialogue [see also the conversation with Nicodemus, (Jn. 3: 1-21)]. The woman is thinking about water to quench thirst while Jesus is offering something more. Ultimately, I suggest Jesus is inviting us (through her) to BAPTISM. Jesus is the source or fountain of living water (grace, the Holy Spirit) which we initially receive through the sacrament of baptism.

It is no secret that I am very frustrated when people do not see an urgency to get baptized themselves or to have their children baptized. According to the **Code of Canon Law: Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptized in the first few weeks** (canon 867). Instead they may wait years or decide to let the children "choose for themselves" when they get older. When baptism is delayed, sanctifying grace (God's life) is not present in a person's life. Remember, we are not born in a relationship with God, but rather separated because of original sin. Baptism washes away original sin (and actual sin, if one has reached the age of reason), makes one an adopted child of God and allows sanctifying grace to enter a person's life. Do I not want this for myself and/or my children? Is there no sense of urgency?

I Do Not Have a Husband. While the woman denies that she has a husband, Jesus reminds her she has had five. As one of my seminary professors once put it: "She was the Elizabeth Taylor of her time." This part of the dialogue reminded me about the importance of Catholics rectifying any marriage situation that is not seen as valid in the eyes of the Church. People in the congregation are sometimes married, divorced and then remarried outside the Catholic Church. Or they were never married in the Catholic Church in the first place. Unless the proper permissions were sought out and granted, these marriages may be invalid according to Church law. The longstanding Catholic teaching is that one should not receive Holy Communion, (or be a godparent or sponsor, or be an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, etc.), until such a situation is rectified. An annulment may be needed. Or a convalidation of the marriage may be necessary. Or the couple may be required to live in a brother/sister relationship, if nothing else can be done. It is best to set up an appointment with a priest to help discern what may be possible or necessary.

I am He, the One Speaking with You. As their dialogue continues, Jesus reveals his identity as the long-expected messiah. It is of utmost importance that we all realize the implications of this reality. Jesus is the messiah. He is also God's only-begotten Son. Salvation comes through Him and on His terms, not ours. *I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me* (Jn. 14: 6). The Samaritan woman believed in Him. She also witnessed to others about Jesus. She led others to believe in Jesus. Similarly, if we acknowledge Jesus as our Lord, God, and Savior, then we must also bring others to Him. Go and make disciples (Mt. 28: 19). Start in your family. Witness to your friends. Tell the whole world what God has done for you!

Jesus continually uses unlikely people to be His disciples and his missionaries: fishermen, tax collectors, Samaritan women, you and me.

Let's not waste any more time getting started or continuing to make excuses!

Fr. Ed Namiootka, Pastor

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 12, 2023

Ministry Schedule for March 18/19

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Erin/Choir Julie	G. Tyrrell	K. McFadden	E. & E. Shim
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Julie	K. Witts	K. Kraemer	Witts
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Marta/Elena Julie	M. Garber	J. Johnson	S. Andino M. Marsden



Within the Catholic Church and other faiths as well, there is the obvious phenomenon that many people live disconnected from any religion or belief. Our USA Bishops are very much aware of the fact that many Catholics no

longer feel their faith is of primary importance. They no longer see Jesus Christ's presence in the Eucharist as the source and summit of our Faith and Christian Life. *The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement here in the United States, to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery here by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. The Eucharistic Revival invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist.* There is a great effort on the part of the Bishops, dioceses, parishes to inform the parishioners, to animate and interest them to take this movement seriously and to become involved in one's own faith again. God as a Father is waiting with open arms for us to "come HOME to Him, not just on our own, but with the Faith Worshipping Community we call parish. The parish is GOD's family, the family of the Eucharist, where we come, pray, worship and receive JESUS in the Eucharist and are continually being refreshed, taught and strengthened in our Faith by HIM. *The invitation is there for every single one of us, but it is up to each of us to respond to the invitation to return to Mass and to worship with the parish community.* We need to teach our children this important aspect of our FAITH, to be part of a worshipping community as one family. In God as Father. Some very important events are coming up this month of March to invite all of us practicing and non practicing Catholics to participate and to allow the LOVE of JESUS in the Eucharist and the flame of the Holy Spirit to touch our heart in a tangible way, credible to our own emotional and spiritual life. **Are we even willing and eager to allow God to touch us?** Without HIS personal touch we will simply remain in our status quo and this would constitute a tragedy for us and for our Children whatever their age. CHECK THE BULLETIN FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL.



The Camden Diocese will be holding their annual FaithFULL Food Drive the weekend of March 25th & 26th. Parishioners are asked to pick up bags on the weekend of 19th & 20th and return filled with any non-perishable food items the next weekend. The list on the bags are just suggestions, parishioners are free to buy what they want. **All food collected here will be distributed to those in need.**



ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP?

A long time parishioner needs assistance caring for her husband. She is seeking help for 6 hours a week. Call Geri at 856-424-0727 for more information.

Cherry Hill Food Pantry 2023 Raffle Fundraiser Donation \$10.00 per ticket

Tickets may be purchased online at CherryHillFoodPantry.org.

If you want to pay by cash or check, call: Elaine Beckman 856-287-9128; elainebeckman@gmail.com or Jon Lisitski 856-905-6162; jonll1@comcast.net. Tickets will be sold after all Masses next weekend.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 12, 2023

Weekly Intentions



SATURDAY, MARCH 11

4:30 PM Kathleen Centonze r/b brother, Joe

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

8:30 AM Agnes (Billie) Brazill
r/b Bob & Jessica Lane

11:00 AM Joseph Bendinger
r/b Bill & Ann Vigrass

MONDAY, MARCH 13

9:00AM People of the Parish

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

9:00AM Gaye Pino r/b Marian Kapischke

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

9:00AM Living and deceased Morgans in Ireland

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

9:00 AM Emilia Marchesani r/b Marian Kapischke

9:30 AM-12NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

9:00 AM Joe Ryan r/b Vince Marchesani

9:30 AM-12NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

4:30 PM Veronica Buhe Kim
r/b daughter, Jiwook Shim

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

8:30AM Agnes (Billie) Brazill
r/b Bob & Jessica Lane

11:00AM Jerald Noto r/b Lisa Mele & Eleanor Rizzo

Pope Francis' March Prayer intentions *For victims of abuse*

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

American Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Mary Church

Thursday, March 23, 2023 (Parish Hall) 9:30am-7:30pm

Donors urgently needed! Be a hero! Give blood!

You can self register at RedCrossBlood.org using the Sponsor code: "Saint Mary RCC".

No internet access? Please call Tom Wakeley at (856) 424-2085.

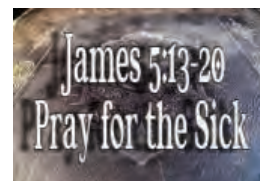
Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

Sunday, April 16, 2023 - Prayer Service begins 3pm

St. Mary Church (2001 Springdale Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ)
Confessions and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
2:00pm, Questions? Call (856) 424-1454, ext. 102

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, 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, Carter Oakley, 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, Roy Targonski, 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. 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.*

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

Support the 2023 South Jersey Catholic Ministries Appeal.

www.camdendiocese.org



Your Catholic Ministries Appeal gift helps our Catholic Schools give our children gifts for life, including a strong faith foundation, academic excellence, an understanding of what it truly means to serve others, a sense of self-respect, values that build great leaders, educators who celebrate each and every unique child of God, and a supportive, caring community of parents, students, faculty, administrators and staff as they grow and learn.

****St. Thomas More goal: \$89, 700****
We need your help to meet this goal.

Pilgrimage to Poland, October 5th—15th, 2023
Join Fr. Edward Kennedy & Fr. Joseph Szolack and travel to the homeland of John Paul, II and others. Enjoy the culture of the Polish people. For more information or to register, [email: travels@stclarenj.org](mailto:travels@stclarenj.org) or call 856-467-0037

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 12, 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 Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 19, 2023 - John 9:1-41


Jesus said to the man once blind, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The man answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?: Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." The man said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshipped him. Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see, might see, and those who do see, might become blind."

Commentary:

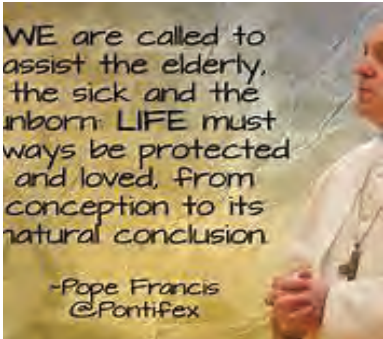
It's no crime to wake up one day and realize you've been oblivious to a great truth about yourself. What IS a crime is never to wake up and make that discovery. The wise folks we know got that way by walking a while on the path of humility, encountering brutal truths about themselves all along the way. They've confronted their own blindness many times, and surrendered to the sometimes-painful procedure of having their sight restored again and again. Being human implies a limited perspective. We don't see perfectly, and we have to keep working at clarifying our vision. Honest relationships assist that process naturally. So does surrendering to the words of Scripture and the sacraments most deliberately. Confession helps. The only thing that harms us, frankly, is refusing to see.

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:





WE are called to assist the elderly, the sick and the unborn. LIFE must ways be protected and loved, from conception to its natural conclusion

-Pope Francis @Pontifex



Diocesan Eucharistic Congress, Saturday, March 25, 2023 9:00 AM—3:00 PM. Doors open at 8:00 AM. Freedom Mortgage Pavilion, 1 Harbour Blvd., Camden, NJ Free Admission and Parking. Free Will Offering of non-perishable food items to support the FaithFULL Food Drive is appreciated. For more information: eucharisticrevivalsouthjersey.org

Diocese of Camden Eucharistic Congress Youth & Family Night
St. Anthony of Padua Church, St. Mary of Mount Carmel Parish, Hammonton, NJ March 23, 2023 6:30 PM
Free registration. For more information or to register:
Jose.Rodriguez@camdendiocese.org



As Catholics, we are called to:

- uphold life and the dignity of each human person
- support families and future generations
- love the poor and vulnerable
- advocate for basic rights and a just economy
- be in solidarity with all, as one human family
- care for all of God's creation

Grounded in our Catholic Tradition, now is the time to protect the earth for our children and grandchildren.


PRAY to hear God's call to live our faith for the common good, knowing that everything is interconnected.

LEARN how the climate crisis is a profound moral issue greatly affecting the poor and vulnerable.

TELL your local and national leaders to protect creation.

Praise be to you, our Lord, God of all Creation!

Learn more!
uscce.org/environment
wearesaltandlight.org/cst101
catholicclimatecovenant.org



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