

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

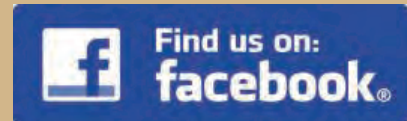
Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel
Mon.—Fri. 9:30 AM—12 Noon



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 23, 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, as you joined the two disciples on their journey, so do you always accompany us in our walk with you.

Make our hearts yearn to welcome your Holy Spirit. Open our eyes to see your glorious presence and hear your Word.

Help us to be zealous messengers of your love and mercy.

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, April 16, 2023, was \$5,644.15 from 102 donations. The budgeted amount for Sunday was \$8500. God wants us to give because it shows that we recognize he is truly the Lord of our lives. *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17, [NIV](#)* Everything we own and everything we have comes from God. So, when we give, we simply offer him a small portion of the abundance he has already given to us.



Stewardship Corner: 3rd Sunday of Easter Stewards Listen

“Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the scriptures?”
LUKE 24:32

How often do you take the time to discern what Jesus is calling you to do with your life? Are your prayers always petitions, asking Jesus to do things for you? If so, that's a one-sided relationship. Living our faith means developing a personal relationship with Jesus. Just like any friendship, there is give and take, each side listening to each other and helping each other out. Take time, in silence, to listen to what Jesus is asking of you today.

From the Pastor's Desk
Being "Spiritual" Without the *Catholic Church*

Dear Parishioners,

All too present in society, and especially among those referred to as *millennials* and subsequent generations, is an attitude where a person no longer sees the need to be associated with a *church* or organized religion. "I am spiritual but not necessarily religious" can sum up the general attitude. Being spiritual can mean just about anything today from doing yoga, smoking pot, burning incense or wearing a crystal pendant or medallion, etc.

Granted, there have been far too many reasons why people get disillusioned with organized religion including (but not limited to) *appalling scandals*; an over-emphasis on *hell, fire and damnation* or *requests for money*; *watered-down* or *unclear theological content*; *poor preaching* or *liturgy*; *hypocritical leadership*; *unfriendly* or *unwelcoming congregations*; etc. Additionally, there are those who have been seriously hurt by insensitive church leaders and / or members of the congregation.

With all of that being said, why should we be part of a *church*—specifically the **Catholic Church**? Let me look at this from the viewpoint of one having lived **alone** at various times in my life. While it may not be as difficult for an introvert like me, it can still get old quickly not to have anyone around with whom to share a meal, to pray with, to watch TV or a movie in the evening, or something so simple as to go out for ice cream together. Human beings need some form of companionship or community. We are not meant to be always alone. "It is not good for the man to be alone . . ." Gn. 2:18

It is similar with faith in God. We are not meant *to go it alone*. Jesus Christ established a *church* founded on Peter and the apostles. ". . . You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church . . ." Mt. 16:18 The Catholic Church is an *apostolic* church. It is this church—a congregation comprised of disciples of Jesus—that is meant to accompany us on our life's journey. It is a people with a rich history of 2000 years of saints and sinners; timeless theological truths; rich moral guidance; distinctive liturgy, art, music and church architecture; notable institutions (schools, hospitals, orphanages) etc., *and*, most importantly, the abiding presence of Jesus Christ in the **Holy Eucharist**.

Our coming together weekly centers on a family *sacrificial-meal*—the **Eucharist**—where we commemorate what the Lord Jesus has done for us. Without the church (and her priests), there is really no Eucharist. Sad to say, participation in the Eucharist seems to be evermore insignificant—even to baptized/confirmed Catholics. "Do this in memory of me" appears to include *when I find it convenient* **OR** *perhaps, at a later time* **OR** *I'd rather not*. We are losing the sense of what we truly have in the **Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist**. We are forgetting who we are as a people and the price that was paid on our behalf—the death of Jesus on the cross. We are a people with an identity-crisis of faith.

To me, life without the Catholic Church would be empty and meaningless. I know her faults *all too well!* Yet, I somehow realize we are an *imperfect* church comprised of *sinners* with Jesus as our only *perfect* leader. He is Lord, God and Savior; we are not. We need conversion, healing, forgiveness and God's unconditional love. We do not save ourselves.

Having recently celebrated the most sacred events of Holy Week and Easter, I am sad for those who may have missed the beauty and spiritual splendor present in the **sacred liturgies**. They may not have been as flashy as a show on *Broadway* or a movie in *3-D*. They were certainly more *personal* and *uplifting* than a *tweet*, *instant message* or post on *Facebook* or *Instagram*. What the Mass offers to all is a foretaste of the eternal Banquet of Heaven, where I pray the mercy of God leads me, a poor sinner, someday.

Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 23, 2023

Ministry Schedule for April 29/30

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Len	Sr. Sophia	K. McFadden	Volunteer needed
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Julie	Sr. Diana	T. Smith	Witts
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Erin Julie	T. Librojo	L. Galati	L. & G. Hutchinson



The Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Easter presents to us the story of the Two Disciples of Emmaus. They were friends of JESUS but not part of the disciples group. They, however, knew JESUS very well and were his

followers. As followers they had heard all that had happened to him Good Friday to Sunday. They were in disbelief and had no idea what to believe... now that they heard JESUS had risen from the dead.

But JESUS came and walked with them and even sat and ate with them. Then the two disciples, recognized HIM in the way HE broke the bread. He vanished before their eyes and was gone. Then they connected all the dots.

Jesus caught up with them on the road, listening to them shared the outcome of HIS story. They reached home and Jesus accepted the invitation to stay and shared a meal with them. Then he vanished from their sight. We need to take this story in small portions because each one is filled with inside meaning and deep significance for us.

Our life is our Emmaus journey. **JESUS does meet us on the road every day. He blesses and offers the bread of the Eucharist continually, but we are oblivious to it all. It isn't JESUS' fault. It is our fault for not taking the time or giving JESUS our time to show himself to us. He is present to us but we are not present to HIM.**

This is the issue. We are distracted by so many things that take us away from our "inner center", we don't even know who we are.

JESUS is so close to us in our inner tabernacle, and yet we are so far from HIM. But he will always remain close to us as he lives in us. Prayer is the only way to remedy the situation.

We need to talk to our children of any age to remind them that JESUS is waiting for them for a conversation, to join them in the Eucharist and to take time where he left off in the preaching, teaching and healing. We are now Jesus' feet, hands, heart, mouth and HE is always with us wanting us to be always with him in our daily and eternal life. **LONG LIVE JESUS!**



2023 APPEAL: "For the Life of the World"

St. Thomas More Parish

Goal: \$89,700

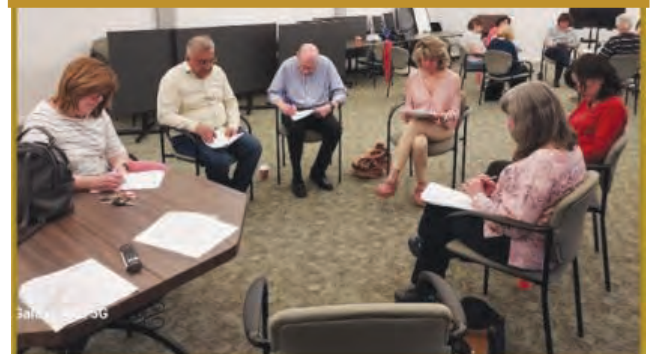
Total to Date: \$26,185

of Donors 64 (out of over 700 Families)

Please prayerfully consider donating. If you have sent your donation direct to the Diocese, please let us know so we can record accordingly.



Chris Baeckstrom, Faith & Justice Team, leads discussion April 13th on "Simple Living: God's Vision of Abundant Life".



TIHIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 23, 2023

Weekly Intentions



SATURDAY APRIL 22

4:30 PM Elizabeth Davish Betson
r/b daughters & granddaughters

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

8:30 AM Intentions of Aleena Margaret Tristan
St. Theresa r/b Christina Castillo

11:00 AM Lorraine Tarsiewicz
r/b Joanne Wachman

MONDAY, APRIL 24

9:00AM People of the Parish
9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

9:00AM Mary Ellen Lepre
r/b Mike & Kathy Jacobs
9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

9:00AM living & deceased Morgans in Ireland
9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

9:00 AM Daniel A. Maher
r/b Sue & Tony Santomo
9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

9:00 AM John Long r/b Erika & Joe Gilson
9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

4:30 PM Jim Tobin r/b family

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

8:30AM Ed & Dolores Whitbeck r/b Pat Byrnes
11:00AM Gaye Pino
r/b Gladys Angelucci & family

Pope Francis' April Prayer Intentions

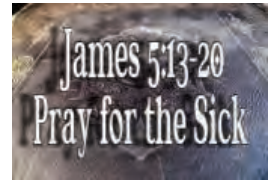
For a culture of peace and non-violence We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

NJ Catholic Youth Rally– Six Flags Great Adventure
Sunday, May 21, 2023
9:00AM —Closing

\$65 per person– parking, admission, meal voucher
\$30 per person– meal voucher for Season Pass Holders
To purchase tickets or for more information:
Jose.rodriguez@camdendiocese.org or 856-583-2908

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.*

Gun Violence Prevention for Faith Based Communities.

This Faith & Justice presentation is Monday May 22nd at 7:00PM in the parish hall. In this gathering our presenters will share gun violence statistics, and speak about the human cost of gun violence, and **what we as individuals and a community can do to prevent gun violence.**

Carla Reyes- Miller---Carla is a gun violence survivor. On June 8, 2011, someone made a senseless decision to take her 19-year-old son's life. Carla shares her personal story.

Lisa Winkler —She is the Events Co-Lead for the South Jersey Group of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and strives to one day end gun violence.

To Register: sthomasmore@comcast.net; 856-424-3212



There is a second collection next week for Catholic Home Missions.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 23, 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 Easter, April 30, 2023 - John 10:1-10)

The sheep hear the voice of the shepherd as he calls his sheep by name and leads them out of the sheepfold. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.

Commentary:

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, which is also World Day of Prayer for Vocations. It's a good day to reflect on what religious leadership is and what it should be for the future. What makes a leader someone who gets your attention, respect, and cooperation? How many such leaders do you know? And most of all, if good leadership seems rare to you, what are you prepared to do to fill the gap? Many people are ready to complain about poor leadership in government, church, and family life, but if we are not prepared to exercise better leadership right where we are, in the context of our present relationships, then our criticism begins to sound a little hollow. Pray for the gift of strong and wise leaders. Pray for the grace to discern who they are. And pray most of all this day to grow into the role of leadership already assigned to you where you live, work, and pray.

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: Healthy Lifestyle "Pregnancy week by week" -Mayo Clinic

"If you're pregnant, chances are you've heard about postpartum depression. But did you know that many women also experience depression during pregnancy?"

Here's what you need to know about pregnancy and depression.

Pregnancy can be a time of joy—and stress. Research suggests that about 7% of pregnant women experience depression during pregnancy. Rates may be higher in low and middle income countries.

Depression—a mood disorder that causes a persistent feeling of sadness and loss of interest, is the most common mood disorder in the general population. The condition occurs twice as often in women as men, and the initial onset of depression peaks during a women's reproductive years."



U.S. Bishops' Pro-Life Chairman on Chemical Abortion Drug Ruling by Circuit Court

"The 5th Circuit was right to recognize the dangers of unrestricted chemical abortion to women's health and safety. We are grateful for the restoration of protections, and any limitation on the use of these lethal drugs. We hope that the final ruling will result in removal of chemical abortion from the market altogether. Abortion is never the right choice for a difficult or unexpected pregnancy, as it always ends one life and risks another. We pray ardently that our nation will authentically support and accompany women, so that ending the lives of their children alone in their own homes will be unthinkable." USCCB Committee on Pro Life Activities—April 14, 2023



Altar Servers Needed for the 4:30 AM Mass We need YOUR help.

If you are an Altar Server and able to serve the 4:30 PM Mass, please call the Parish Office (856-424-3212). We will be happy to put you on the schedule.

Consolation Ministry Meeting will be held Thursday, April 27th at 1:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

For information regarding volunteering at Virtua Voorhees as Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, contact Chaplain Marge McGinley, 609-914-6365 or email: mmcginley@virtua.org

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