

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 30, 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



Thank you, Jesus, for being our Good Shepherd.
Attune our minds to the sound of your voice.
Help us to make good use of the pastures you have given us.
May we recognize the strength of your welcoming outstretched arm,
and enjoy the light of your presence forever.
Amen

The St. Thomas More Music Ministry is in need of choir members and cantors. Please contact Julie Linn for more information.

julie@trinityint.com. 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

The collection for Sunday, April 23, 2023, was \$5,966. The budgeted amount was \$8500.00. 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: Fourth Sunday of Easter Stewards Repent

“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ...’” *ACTS 2:38*

The word “repent” means to turn from sin - to change our thoughts, words and actions. Change that is permanent comes from within – a transformation or conversion of heart. This requires prayer, discipline and perseverance. Change is hard. The first step is recognizing that we are broken and that we need God’s help. The good news - we are not alone in our journey. Ask Jesus daily for guidance and patiently listen for his response.

From the Pastor's Desk

A "Diabolical Disorientation"

Dear Parishioners,

It was Sr. Lucia, the last living seer of **Fatima**, who was reported to have used the phrase "diabolical disorientation" between 1969 and 1971 concerning the chaotic situation in society (and the Church). Things were not headed in the right direction for decades, and she understood that there were/are certain diabolical forces behind it all. I certainly agree. As it has played out over time in various cultures worldwide, the following are some of the ways I contend humanity/society has become ever-more *disoriented*:

- The denial of God to varying degrees (atheism, agnosticism, etc.)
- The ongoing acceptance of *socialism* (communism) as a viable political option
- The emphasis on individual conscience (moral relativism) without understanding the necessity of the conscience being *rightly formed*
- Sexual freedom and license outside of the context of traditional marriage, fostered by a *contraceptive* mentality
- The ready acceptance of divorce and remarriage
- Abortion accepted and seen as a "woman's right"
- The transgender movement
- The deteriorating respect for human life at all stages as evidenced by abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia, etc.
- The cry for "gay rights" and so-called "gay marriage"

Cultures fueled by addictions at staggering levels: alcohol, drugs, sexual (pornography), gambling, etc.

Moreover, Pope St. Paul VI wrote the following in 1972 regarding the **Catholic Church** itself: **“. . . We would say that, through some mysterious crack—no, it's not mysterious; through some crack, the smoke of Satan has entered the Church of God. There is doubt, uncertainty, problems, unrest, dissatisfaction, confrontation.”** I argue that this *smoke of Satan* is manifested in the following ways:

- The delusion of universal salvation without the necessity of lifestyle change/conversion (Somehow *everybody* goes to heaven)
- Downplaying or denying the necessity of the Catholic Church and baptism for salvation (religious relativism/indifferentism)
- Mass apostasy
- Ever-decreasing Mass attendance
- Ongoing abuses in the liturgy
- Loss of respect for and understanding of the *Real Presence* of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament
- Priest sex scandals
- Lack of clarity in Church teaching and a departure from traditional dogma
- Confusing or weak/scandalous leadership
- The ongoing cry for *women* priests and abolition of celibacy

We, as a society and as a Church, have been headed over the cliff and into the abyss for some time now. However, I have never been without **hope**. God does indeed exist and there is always hope because of Him. ***And behold, I am with you always until the end of the age*** (Mt. 28: 20). I also believe we are in need of some type of Divine Adjustment to counter the chaotic situation we are encountering. I claim no supernatural insight into the manner of God's acting. Rather, I *trust* and continually work on my own *conversion*. ***Repent, and believe in the Gospel.*** I acknowledge the absolute necessity of trying to live and remain in the **state of grace**. My best advice is for everyone to strive untiringly to do the same.

Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 30, 2023

Ministry Schedule for May 6/7

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	L. DiGiulio	J. Cepeda	Volunteer needed
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	K. Glover	S. Oatway	E. Bresani T. Kenny
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	J. Centonze	J. Bland-Campbell	S. Andino M. Marsden L. Vascisin



Holy Scripture that we read at Mass is based on facts that happened a long time ago. The writers had all these facts in their memory and wrote them down for all of us to be inspired. They are not merely ideas or stories, but events that happened.

Our memory is a great gift. It preserves countless events or episodes that are stored or filed orderly in our mind's file. It is a fact that we adults rely much on our memory's library and recall many wonderful spiritual episodes, sometimes short and sometimes just a glimpse, yet powerful to have an effect in the present moment of our life.

In the Religious Education/Formation of our children, we try to bank in events that they may file in their faith memory. We don't have enough of them but the weekly Mass, the reception of Communion, reception of Sacraments, videos, conversations, all become part of the memory.

This past Saturday, April 22, we took our 8th graders preparing for Confirmation to the Shrine of St. John Neumann and St. Katharine Drexel, two saints from Philadelphia who walked the streets and lived there in their lifetime. Both lived amazing lives and accomplished what was theirs to do. I caught one similarity among many between them. Bishop John Neumann had a great need of sisters to staff his many schools. So, while in Rome, he asked the pope to please send sisters to his diocese of Philadelphia to staff the many schools he was opening. The Pope told him: "I don't have Sisters.....but you can start your own congregation" So Bishop Neumann returned to Philadelphia and started the congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Philadelphia known as Glenn Riddle Franciscans who today have Neumann University.

St. Katharine Drexel asked the Pope to send sisters to serve the Indians and black children. The Pope answered that he did not have sisters, but that she should found her own Congregation, which she did, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament to serve the Indian and black children who lived isolated and were not being fairly treated and educated. The great message is that **God asks all of us to do things to make a difference.** No one else will do what we are given to do. And so, let us pray and inspire others with our personal mandate and draw others to JESUS, especially our children.



The Most Reverend Dennis J. Sullivan, D.D. announces that he intends to ordain Mr. Ricardo Lozano Cruz to the Sacred Order of Deacon on Saturday, the 20th of May, 2023 at St. Damien Parish in Ocean City, New Jersey.

The faithful of the Diocese of Camden are asked to pray for Ricardo. At the same time, the faithful are obliged to reveal impediments to sacred orders, if they know of any, by contacting their pastor before the ordination in accord with the norms of cc.1043 and 105.1 of the Code of Canon Law.

Mary Immaculate, Patroness of the Diocese of Camden, intercede for Ricardo and for an increase of vocations to the priesthood here in South Jersey.

Prayer for Priestly Vocations

Lord Jesus, we ask you to bless the Diocese of Camden with an increase in vocations to the priesthood. We pray that young men from our parishes and families will hear your call and be both generous and courageous in their response. May more young men serve you as priests who teach the faith, preach the Gospel, celebrate the sacraments and make you present among us through their ministry. Encourage them to embrace the joy-filled and fulfilling life of a diocesan priest. May parents support priestly vocations in their families by prayer and good example. We entrust these prayers through Mary Immaculate, our patroness, hopeful that you will bless our diocese with more priests in the near future, who live and reign forever and ever.

Amen

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 30, 2023



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

MONDAY, MAY 1

9:00AM People of the Parish

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

TUESDAY, MAY 2

9:00AM living & deceased Morgans in Ireland

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

9:00AM living & deceased Morgans in Ireland

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

THURSDAY, MAY 4

9:00 AM Mary Ellen Lepre

r/b Elsie Roxas & Joe Grusemeyer

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

FRIDAY, MAY 5

9:00 AM John & Sheila Mohan r/b Wilkins family

9:30AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

SATURDAY, MAY 6

9:00 AM Intentions of Sisi Tyrrell r/b Greta

4:30 PM Fred Petrone r/b Vince Marchesani

SUNDAY, MAY 7

8:30 AM Gaye Pino r/b Lorraine Kennedy

11:00 AM Anne Gehring r/b Rodie Boyle

Pope Francis' May Prayer Intentions:

For Church movements and groups

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.”

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



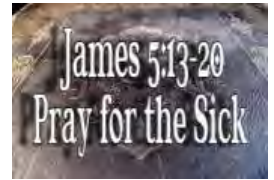
Upcoming Dates for the Hispanic Prayer Group Meetings:

May 12th & 19th

June 9th, 16th, & 23rd. All meetings are held at 10:00 AM in Classroom #1.

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

[or call 856-424-3212](tel:856-424-3212)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 30, 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 Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 7, 2023 - John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life."

Commentary:

Many of us are really like Thomas. He's the apostle who always says what's on everyone else's mind, the frank stuff the rest of them are too polite or too scared to say. Thomas wants the facts, the evidence and the touch test. And Jesus, for His part, never yells at Thomas. He just gives him what he needs to come to faith. So, at the Last Supper, when Jesus is talking about taking a little trip and meeting up with His friends later, Thomas bluntly asks for a road map and some specifics. He didn't sign up for the Magical Mystery Tour, he wants directions! So Jesus gives him, and us, the best map of all. "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." Stick with me, Jesus says, and you will always know who you are and where you are. Better yet, you'll always know where you're going! No one following Jesus ever gets lost.

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

"Some symptoms of depression, including changes in sleep, energy level, appetite and libido, are similar to symptoms of pregnancy. As a result you, or your healthcare provider might attribute these symptoms to your pregnancy, rather than depression. Women might also be reluctant to talk to their healthcare providers about changes in mood during pregnancy, due to the stigma associated with depression. There's also a tendency to focus more on women's physical health during pregnancy, rather than mental health."

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. All returned envelopes will be placed on the altar during May. *Mother's Day cards are also available in the gathering space* which can be sent to your mother telling her that she will be remembered at all of the Masses at St. Thomas More.



US Bishops on Gun Violence Prevention

"The Bishops of our Conference have historically supported common sense measures of gun policy to address the violence, including:"

- A ban on assault weapons;
- Universal background checks;
- A federal gun trafficking bill;
- Regulation on sales of handguns;
- Improved mental health interventions;
- An honest assessment of violent images and experiences in our society.

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



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

YOUR Catholic Cemetery

JESUS, BREAD OF LIFE Cemetery & Mausoleum

A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

HEATED & AIRCONDITIONED



A Ministry of Hope in Eternal Life

CONSECRATED Holy & Sacred Place

St. Thomas More Parishioner Discount



Crypts * Marble Niches * Plots * Glass Niches * Columbariums - Professionally Landscaped

PRE-PLANNING OPTIONS AVAILABLE: 0%/24 MONTHS MILITARY/KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 1ST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT

1.5 MILES FROM ROUTE 295 | 3055 FOSTERTOWN ROAD, MOUNT LAUREL NEW JERSEY | (856) 317-6400 | WWW.CATHOLICCEMETERIESSOUTHJERSEY.ORG



\$350 Off
Any New Stairlift With This Ad

- FREE in home evaluations
- Family owned & operated for more than 20 years

1.888.900.8883
www.Tri-StateStairlifts.com

tri-state **STAIRLIFTS**



Our advertisers make us look good!

thank you

Thank an advertiser!
Let them know you saw their ad in the weekly church bulletin!

Morgan basement waterproofing

In Our 4th Decade of Quality Service

**French Drains
Foundation Repair
Mold Remediation**

All Work Guaranteed

877-401-4777

www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com

RIDESHARE ZONE

Stop
Ask
Match
Inform

#WHATSMYNAME



American Red Cross

Make a Difference in Your Community

VOLUNTEER

with the American Red Cross

Join today at redcross.org/Volunteer

OUR SPONSORS & OUR COMMUNITY



Sponsors can offer promotions, discounts and/or up-to-date contact information to the **ENTIRE** community



ANYONE in the community, not only Parishioners, can access realtime offers from their favorite sponsors to save, share & support





BRADLEY FUNERAL HOME




"Celebrating 50 Years of Commitment to Community"

Jill Bradley Ingram, Mgr., N.J. Lic. No. 4226 • Wilson R. Bradley, N.J. Lic. No. 2917 • Patrick P. Smarrito, N.J. Lic. No. 3571
Brian J. Barnett, N.J. Lic. No. 3909 • Kevin T. Comber, N.J. Lic. No. 4660

One Location ~ Serving Your Family Since 1968 | www.BradleyFHMarlton.com | 856-983-1005

McNulty Roofing
 **ROOFING** 
SIDING & WINDOWS
 DONE THE WAY THINGS USED
 TO BE DONE, WITH PRIDE.
 In Cherry Hill
 Over 30 Years
856-667-4545
www.mcnultyroofingandsidingco.com


Susan Ringenary
 REALTOR
 c 609-206-1767
 o 609-386-0066
Weichert
 REALTORS
 2313 Burlington-Mount Holly Rd.
 Burlington, NJ 08016
ring4njhomes@gmail.com
<https://susan-ringenary.weichert.com>

DOUGLAS A. FENDRICK, ESQUIRE
 ELDER LAW
 ESTATE PLANNING
 SPECIAL NEEDS PLANNING
 LIFE CARE PLANNING

 1950 Route 70 East
 Suite 200
 Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
(856) 489-8388
 LIFE REQUIRES PLANNING www.fendrickmorganlaw.com

BOCCO FUNERAL HOME

Joseph C. Bocco, Jr., Manager, N.J. Lic. No. 3323

Nicholas Joseph Lukaszewicz, Director, N.J. Lic. No. 5119

1300 North Kings Hwy. • Cherry Hill

(856) 795-5991

www.boccofuneralhome.com

Mallory's Army Foundation

United Together In The Fight Against Bullying...
Don't Just Teach Kindness... BE KINDNESS!



www.MallorysArmy.com
(973) 440-8657
info@mallorysarmy.org

It's easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email address by text message:

Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.



Message and data rates may apply.

catholicmatch*
New Jersey



CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ

Family Owned and Operated Since 1987

FREE INSPECTION
Licensed & Insured



RIGHTWAY WATERPROOFING CO.

BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
MOLD REMEDIATION
FOUNDATION REPAIR



856-317-1111



www.RightwayWaterproofing.com

SCHETTER FUNERAL HOME

304 W. Route 70 • Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
www.schetterfh.com • 856-429-8545

William A. Schetter III, Manager, Lic. # 4826 • William A. Schetter, Jr. Director, Lic. # 3393
Edmund J. Putnick, Director, Lic. # 3949 • Justin M. Megaro, Director, Lic. # 4958