

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

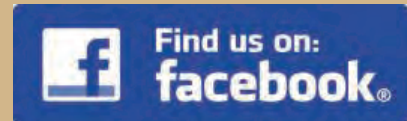
Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel
Mon.—Fri. 9:30 AM—12 Noon



Rite of Reconciliation Saturday

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

Father Edward Namiotka, 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		Joe Centonze
Rosary Ministry	Sister Ann Byrnes 856-424-3212		Chico Febus
Small Christian Comm.	Marian Kapischke 856-424-2053		
Spiritual Retreats	Sr. Ann Byrnes	Ushers	
St. Vincent de Paul	John Galati 856-428-7073	<i>Social Development</i>	
Stewardship	Chico Febus 856- 424-3212	Bridge Groups	Joyce DeMichele 856-424-4008
Welcoming Team	Sheila Tartamosa 856-424-3212	Parish Festival	Barbara Cerquitella 856-795-7323
	Shirley Kane 856-424-8022	Women's Club	Committee 856-424-3212
			Barbara Cerquitella 856-795-7323
			Lorraine Kennedy 856-489-0031
		<i>Administration</i>	
		House of Charity	Sheila Tartamosa 856-424-3212
		Parish Finance Council	Robert Crawford 856-424-3212
		Parish Pastoral Council	Marie Enny 856-751-8893

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 7, 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



Risen Christ,

You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Help us daily to be more aware of this great belief and not allow other things and persons to take priority over us.

Thank you for preparing a permanent place for us in Heaven.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ²My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁶Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.



St. Thomas More Parishioners rejoice with the following families whose children received Eucharist for the first time on April 30, 2023:

Eleanora Calvitti

Dylan Dolch

Luciana Famador

Joseph Galati

Connor Hayden

Aleah Johnson

Kacper Kalinowski

Victoria Vascisin



“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

Stewardship Corner: 5th Sunday of Easter

Stewardship Cornerstones

“The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.” 1 PETER 2:7



Every person has been given Stewardship gifts from the Holy Spirit. These are called “charisms” and they are used to build God’s kingdom of earth. While many people are able to recognize their natural talents and abilities, they may be unsure of their charisms. If you know someone who is struggling for a direction in life, give them a little encouragement. Help them discern their charisms and how God is calling them to use them. Remember - no gift is too small or insignificant in God’s salvation plan

From the Pastor's Desk

Who Can You Trust?

Dear Parishioners,

Many moons ago, I had an elderly professor in the seminary who taught us canon (church) law. He was a person who was well-seasoned from years of experience as a priest dealing with people in general, but failed *marriages* in particular. He handled the process of annulments for his diocese. Having been told by other seminarians that he would utter a particular phrase when prompted, we were all too eager to bait him frequently with a hypothetical question. *Father, do people always tell you the truth when they come to you seeking an annulment?* The bait was set. Would he take it? *Gentlemen, they lie and they lie and they lie.* Never failed; like clockwork.

I sadly think in similar manner when I look at the world around me. Who can I trust? The media? Politicians? Big pharma? Doctors? Educators? Lawyers? Lobbyists? Corrupt church officials (think *McCarrick*)? Need I go on? *They lie and they lie and they lie!*

Yes, I am cynical, at times, and skeptical quite often. Can you blame me? Look at the approval ratings for the media and politicians. If they got any lower they would actually be communicating to us or legislating on our behalf from *Hades* or *Sheol* or *Gehenna*. Speaking of such a place, need I remind you who is considered the *Father of Lies*?

Today the Gospel provides us with an alternative to all of this. *I am the way and the truth and the life* (Jn. 14:6). Very bold words indeed! Certainly you have heard of the *liar, lunatic, Lord* trilemma. Who can say such things as Jesus did? Is He a *liar*, a *lunatic* or is He *Lord*? C.S. Lewis put it so eloquently:

**I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [that is, Christ]: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.... You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. —
*Mere Christianity***

I am the Bread of Life . . .

I am the Resurrection and the Life . . .

I am the Light of the world . . .

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life . . .

I Am.

We all must make a choice. No fence-sitting. Who is Jesus?

Lord Jesus, I trust in Thee!

Fr. Ed Namiołka, Pastor

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 7, 2023

Ministry Schedule for May 13/14

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	R. Javier	K. McFadden	Volunteer needed
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	K. Witts	K. Kraemer	Witts
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	J. Galati	L. Galati	L. & G. Hutchinson



This past weekend was a busy one for us in Religious Education/Formation. On Saturday, April 29, we had the Confirmation Retreat and on Sunday, April 30, we had our First Holy Communion. Both of these events

will be added to our children's memory and experiences. A retreat whether it is a day or a week, it is always an opportunity to draw us out of our regular surroundings, into the sphere of the SPIRIT. The more we do this in our daily life, the more we experience this transition from worldliness to the realm of the spirit, the more we seek it. The opposite is true that the less we engage in our spiritual relationship with JESUS and the spiritual realm, the less we find it necessary. Good memories many times draw us back to moment of peace when we did feel the presence of the Divine. This is a very important task of parenting, to explore and venture with their family. With the summer coming up soon, it would be a good thing if parents planned, not only days at the beach or sport games, or Disney, but also plan some spiritual experiences such as visiting different churches in cities across the country and the world, to admire the beauty and take time to pray together.

Visiting shrines of saints who accomplished great things for the human family. Nature walks together as family admiring God's creation, or contemplating the ocean, the sunrise and sunset, and of course, weekly Mass and Communion... these are all ways to be in touch with JESUS, with the inner side of us, that is always trying to connect with God, who is always present and waiting. It is Catholic parent's responsibility to help nurture the spiritual side and needs of their children and help create memories on which children can fall back and REMEMBER. Holy memories do save us and them.



2023 APPEAL: "For the Life of the World"

St. Thomas More Parish
Goal: \$89,700
Total to Date: 26,185.00
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.



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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 7, 2023

Weekly Intentions



SATURDAY, MAY 6

9:00 AM Intentions of Sisi Tyrrell r/b Greta
4:30 PM Fred Petrone r/b Vince Maarchesani

SUNDAY, MAY 7

8:30 AM Gaye Pino r/b Lorraine Kennedy
11:00 AM Anne Gehring r/b Rodie Boyle

MONDAY, MAY 8

9:00 AM people of the parish
9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, MAY 9

9:00 AM Bridget Namiotka r/b family
9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

9:00 AM living & deceased members of Morgan family in Ireland
9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY, MAY 11

9:00 AM Mary Ellen Lepre
r/b Rick & Julia Linn & family
9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

FRIDAY, MAY 12

9:00 AM Mildred Crum r/b Dr. John Vivone
9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

SATURDAY, MAY 13

4:30 PM Mother's Day Intentions

SUNDAY, MAY 14

8:30 AM Mother's Day Intentions
11:00 AM Mother's Day Intentions

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

We need YOUR help.

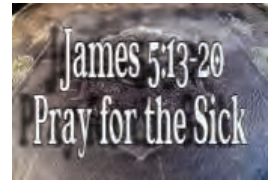
Share your talents with your Parish Family to enhance our liturgies.

Consider joining the **Choir** or being a Cantor at Mass

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.

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)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 7, 2023

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 Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 14, 2023 - John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

Commentary:

In today's Gospel, Jesus assures his disciples that he will not leave them abandoned, defenseless orphans. He will continue to be with them but in a new way, namely, through the presence of the Holy Spirit. The faithful, those with eyes enlightened by faith, will be deeply aware that he is there with them. He will be not only "with" them, but "within" them, a source of inner strength and confidence. Christians are caught up into the very life of God! For us, this means the Spirit will enable us to find Christ in ourselves and each other.

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 risk factors for depression during pregnancy include: anxiety; life stress; history of depression; unintended pregnancy; intimate partner violence. The signs and symptoms of

depression during pregnancy are the same as those that occur with depression in the general population. However, additional clues that might include depression during pregnancy include: excessive anxiety about your baby; low self-esteem, such as feelings of inadequacy about parenthood; the inability to experience pleasure from activities usually found enjoyable; poor response to reassurance; poor adherence to prenatal care; smoking. Drinking alcohol. Or using illicit drugs; poor weight gain due to a decreased or inadequate diet; thoughts of suicide.'



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.

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 during the month of May.



Looking for the perfect gift for your wife this Mother's Day?

Give your wife the gift of your time and your love by taking her on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Upcoming weekend dates: Sep 29-Oct 1 and Dec. 1-3, 2023. Questions? Need more information? Call our Application Couple at 609-741-8012 or email applications@wwme-southjersey.org



Visit our website wwme-southjersey.org

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