

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



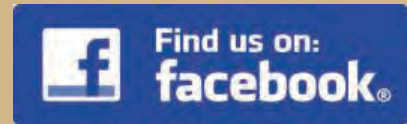
Rite of Reconciliation Saturday

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	Joyce DeMichele 856-424-4008
St. Vincent de Paul	John Galati 856-428-7073	<i>Social Development</i>	Barbara Cerquitella 856-795-7323
Stewardship	Chico Febus 856- 424-3212	Bridge Groups	Committee 856-424-3212
Welcoming Team	Sheila Tartamosa 856-424-3212	Parish Festival	Barbara Cerquitella 856-795-7323
	Shirley Kane 856-424-8022	Women's Club	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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, MAY 21, 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



Welcome, everyone to St. Thomas More Church
We are so glad you are with us today as we worship the Lord together in the House of God!

Let us all praise God as we “*enter His gates with thanksgiving and his court with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.*” Psalm 100.

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,

Visit our parish website to sign up for online giving with Parish Giving™.



Father Ed commissions three new parish altar servers:
Congratulations to our new servers!

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 Reves-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

From the Pastor's Desk

The Ascension of Our Lord (or the Holy Day formerly known as "Ascension Thursday")

Dear Parishioners,

When it was decided that the celebration of the Solemnity of the **Ascension of Our Lord** into Heaven would now be moved to a Sunday in the dioceses of New Jersey, I was certainly disappointed. I perceived this change as another *pastoral* move conceding the Church's sad defeat when dealing with contemporary society. Shouldn't the Church be attempting to re-Christianize and boldly influence a post-Christian modern world? Yes, there may be less priests to offer Masses, and many people, in general, do not really consider Holy Days of *Obligation* that important. However, are there really too few churches within driving distance *in New Jersey* for modern man to get to Mass? Does the tradition and theology of **40 days** after Easter no longer have relevance (hence, *Ascension Thursday*)? The world (secular culture) apparently has a stronger say in the decision making process than does holding to Church tradition. Chalk another one up for the world.

That being said, we should look at the feast we now celebrate this weekend. Christ appeared to His chosen disciples after His Resurrection, but there came the day when His Resurrected Body physically left this earth to return to the Father. We no longer see Him walking this earth.

However, Jesus did not abandon us. He left us His Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist. He remains in His words and teaching in the Sacred Scriptures. The ordained priest acts in His very person (*in persona Christi*) in the sacraments of the Church. He is present where two or three gather in His Name—community prayer, liturgy and worship, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. And, as God-Man, He continues to intercede for us at the right hand of the Father.

Our humanity is now elevated in Jesus' glorious Body and has entered Heaven. The fall and exile of Adam (original sin) is now reversed through the saving action of Christ, the new Adam. Heaven is open to us through Him. As He told us, *no one comes to the Father except through Him* (Jn. 14:6).

In the year 2000, I visited the Holy Land with my mother. One of our stops was a place revered as a possible sight of Jesus' Ascension into Heaven. We gathered there to pray with our guide who read a Scripture passage about the Ascension and led us in a hymn. As I stood there reflecting, I wondered what the disciples possibly thought at the time. *What do we do now? The Master just told us to go and baptize all nations. WE have work to do.* (See Mt. 28: 16-20 and Acts 1: 1-11)

Jesus' instruction to His disciples—to *make disciples of all the nations*—has to continue with us. **WE** should start with our family, friends and those within our circle of influence. We are not called to be passive and timid regarding our faith, but *to make disciples*.

Additionally, we should pray for and anticipate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The power of the Holy Spirit fortified cowardly disciples into bold witness of Jesus and His Resurrection. Many disciples witnessed in the face of persecution and unto death on His behalf. Never underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit acting in our lives if we allow Him.

Thank God, there will be no changing of the celebration of Pentecost **Sunday**. (I hope.)

Fr. Ed Namiołka, Pastor

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, MAY 21, 2023

Ministry Schedule for May 27/28

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	L. DiGiulio	C. Betson-Smith	Volunteer needed
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	K. Glover	T. Smith	T. Kenny T. Johnson
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	T. Librojo	J. Johnson	LM. Marsden N. Flynn



Our Religious Education/Formation sessions for 2022-23 have been completed as of last week.

Now it is the time to practice what you learned with the help of your parents and families.

Sessions will resume in September – registration forms are sent via email

to the families directly. **For new families**, it may be obtained by calling the office and request one: 856-424-3212, ext. 6. Use the same phone for all other questions. We will be glad to accommodate you as much as we can, according to our possibilities. We are not miracle workers, but working together does make a difference.

This is the month of May. The Blessed Mother, in her appearances, has asked that we **pray the Rosary**. It is something that can be done at any time of the day, in most places.

It is a way of getting the family to stay and pray together for at least 15 minutes.

Let us be kind and respectful to everyone, for we are all made by God in God's own image and likeness. Treat others as we wish to be treated. Charity and kindness go a long way

MAY WE ALL HAVE A BLESSED, SAFE, ENRICHING SUMMER AND REGAIN NEW ENERGY, VIGOR THAT WILL HELP WHEN THE TIME COMES TO RETURN TO THE NORMAL ROUTINE.

See you at Mass.



Victoria Vascisin crowned the Blessed Mother on Sunday May 7th at our parish May Procession. Kacper Kalinowski assisted as crown bearer.

The [Ascension of Our Lord](#), which occurred **40 days after Jesus Christ rose from the dead on Easter**, is the **final act of our redemption that Christ began on Good Friday**. On this day, the risen Christ, in the sight of His apostles, ascended bodily into Heaven. We must, for this reason, with even greater deliberation *seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God*. Simply, this means that we live our lives with a view to Heaven and the transcendent purpose of our lives.



Stewardship Corner: The Ascension of the Lord

Stewardship Prayer Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation - not just our last resort. Pray for friends and family, and especially for those that don't treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank, and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you. Teach others how to pray. It has been said that teaching someone how to pray is the best gift you can give someone..

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, MAY 21, 2023

Weekly Intentions



SATURDAY, MAY 20

4:30 PM **Jim Tobin** r/b family

SUNDAY, MAY 21

8:30 AM **Joseph & Marie Spatera**
r/b daughter, Amelia

11:00 AM **Marjorie Mannix Gadren**
r/b St. Vincent de Paul

MONDAY, MAY 22

9:00 AM **people of the parish**

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, MAY 23

9:00 AM **Maraiusz Suwaj and special intention** r/b Hanna

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

9:00 AM **Adoracion Regoso**

r/b John & Letty Duffy

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY, MAY 25

9:00 AM **living & deceased members of Morgan family in Ireland**

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

FRIDAY, MAY 26

9:00 AM **Jason McCauley** r/b Tobin family

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

SATURDAY, MAY 27

4:30 PM **Chip Tagland** r/b Pat Byrnes

SUNDAY, MAY 28

8:30 AM **Grace McGinn**

r/b Barbara & Michael Wintjen

11:00 AM **Carl Dombrowski** r/b Fulton family

Pope Francis' May Prayer Intentions

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."

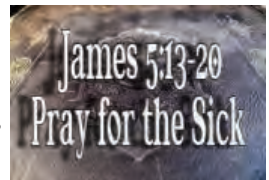
The **Consolation Ministry to the bereaved** of St. Thomas More Parish will meet on **Thurs., May 25th at 1:00 PM** in the Parish Hall. Our mission is to be a source of love, comfort, and support to those who experience loss through death. We work to reach out to those who experience loss, so they will feel the healing comfort of God through this faith community.

We hope you will allow us to walk alongside you through your grief journey as a companion who has seen the same terrain. Join us or call for more information.

AnnMarie Lento 856-344-7454, Jon Lisitski 856-210-6466
Marian Kapischke 856-424-2053

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, Carter Oakley, Tina Petrone, Helen Protzman, John Ravena, Jacob Rivera, Jaxson Rivera, Eleanor Rizzo, Dom Sacca, Carlos Santiago, Teddy Shaffer, 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.*

Members of the **St. Vincent de Paul Society** will be at the doors of the Church **this weekend to receive your donations of food or money** to assist them in their ministry to "feed the hungry". We thank you in advance for your support of this vital program



Join us for Hospitality after all Sunday Masses this Sunday sponsored by StVdP.

PHANS FEEDING FAMILIES!

Join us for a day of fun at Citizens Bank Park as we join the **PHILLIES** in the fight against Hunger!

All families are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item.

PHILLIES VS METS Sat., June 24, 2023

4:00 PM Tickets \$40.00

To purchase tickets or for more information:

Jose.rodriquez@camdendiocese.org or 856-583-2908

We pray for long time parishioner Marie Budroe who died recently. May she rest in peace.



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, MAY 21, 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 Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023 - John 20:19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Commentary:

Imagine that you're home at night, the door locked, the day's responsibilities safely tucked away until tomorrow. Into the room walks Jesus. You don't know how he got there, but you know it's he. "Peace be with you," he says. As well he might, since you're about ready to jump out of your skin. Then he delivers these not entirely-comforting operating instructions: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." That's sort of what you were afraid he'd say, to be honest. You've read the book so you already know where the Father sent him. And yes, the book has a happy ending or you wouldn't be standing here having this conversation with the Risen Lord. Do you have enough trust to put your hand in the hand of a man marked deep with sacred wounds? He's waiting for your answer.

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**

"There is limited evidence that screening to identify and treat depression during pregnancy improves outcomes. This might be due to variations in access to resources and appropriate treatment once depression has been diagnosed. However, screening for depression during pregnancy might provide some self-awareness of your risk of depression and anxiety.

If you think you might have depression during pregnancy, don't wait for a screening. Talk to your health care provider about how you're feeling and work with him or her to determine the next steps."

Project Andrew Dinner is an opportunity for young men (high school and college aged men) to learn more about the priesthood. Join Bishop Sullivan and other priests from the Camden Diocese for an evening of prayer, dinner and conversation.

Thursday, May 25 at 5:00 PM

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish
27 Kresson Gibbsboro Rd Gibbsboro NJ

To register RSVP Fr. Joshua Nevitt by May 22nd
Joshua.Nevitt@camdenDiocese.org 856-583-2875

"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



Religious Persecution in Nicaragua

The Nicaraguan Government has continued to target the Catholic Church in Nicaragua with abusive and obstructive surveillance, bans of public expressions of faith, and even expulsions from the country.

"We reaffirm our unwavering solidarity with the bishops, priests, faithful, and all men and women of good will in Nicaragua, who are suffering an intensification of the Nicaraguan Government's religious persecution. We call on the United States Government and the entire international community to continue to work for the release of Bishop Alvarez, and for a restoration of peace and the rule of law in Nicaragua".

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
April 2023



The St. Thomas More Music Ministry invites you to become a choir member and/or cantor. Please contact Julie Linn for more information:
julie@trinityint.com.
Thank you

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