

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

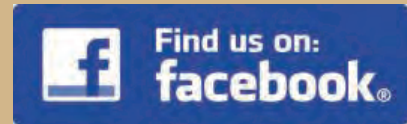
Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel
Mon.—Fri. 9:30 AM—12 Noon



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	
Consolation Ministry	Ann Marie Lento	856- 344-7454	
	Jon Lisitski	jonll1@comcast.net	
Faith & Justice Team	Chris Baeckstrom	856-912-7078	
Hospital Visitors	Staff & Euch. Ministers	856-424-3212	
Intercessory Prayer	Ann Vigrass	856-428-7217	
Knights of Columbus	Brian Haughwout	609-458-7851	
Marriage Formation	Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa	856-795-1160	
Parish Rel. Ed. Prog.	Sr. Clare Sabini	856-424-3212	
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Ann Vigrass	856- 428-7217	
Respect Life	Staff		
Rite of Ch. Init. Adults	Sister Ann Byrnes	856-424-3212	
Rosary Ministry	Marian Kapischke	856-424-2053	
Small Christian Comm.	Sr. Ann Byrnes		
Spiritual Retreats	John Galati	856-428-7073	
St. Vincent de Paul	Chico Febus	856- 424-3212	
Stewardship	Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212	
Welcoming Team	Shirley Kane	856-424-8022	
			<i>Worship</i>
			Altar Servers
			Church Environment
			Ch. Art Environment
			Eucharistic Ministers
			Lectors
			Linen Committee
			Sacristans
			<i>Ushers</i>
			<i>Social Development</i>
			Bridge Groups
			Parish Festival
			Women's Club
			<i>Administration</i>
			House of Charity
			Parish Finance Council
			Parish Pastoral Council
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			856-424-3212
			Committee
			Committee
			Sr. Ann Byrnes
			856-424-3212
			Dan Miller/ Sr. Ann Byrnes
			Ann Vigrass
			856-428-7217
			Greta Tyrrell
			856-428-2412
			Dom Sacca
			Dave Bongiovanni
			Joe Centonze
			Chico Febus
			Joyce DeMichele
			856-424-4008
			Barbara Cerquitella
			856-795-7323
			Committee
			856-424-3212
			Barbara Cerquitella
			856-795-7323
			Lorraine Kennedy
			856-489-0031
			Sheila Tartamosa
			856-424-3212
			Robert Crawford
			856-424-3212
			Marie Enny
			856-751-8893

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, JULY 16, 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



Loving God,
we thank you for sending your Son Jesus
to sow the seed of your life-giving Word in our hearts.
Help us to be “good soil.”
Open our hearts to receive this Word.
Increase our desire to live it out and
achieve your purpose in our world.
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*

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Mass Schedule for your
vacation destination?
www.masstimes.org



The collection for Sunday, July 9, 2023 was \$3847.00. The budgeted amount was \$8500. God wants us to give because it shows that we recognize he is truly the Lord of our lives. “*Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.*” *Deut. 15:10 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: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Stewardship Bears Fruit

“*The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit.*”
MATTHEW 13:22

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in earthly activities that you have no time for God? Gratitude and generosity are virtues of Stewardship that we should strive to do on a daily basis. **Every decision we make either takes us one step closer to God or one step further away.** What we receive at Mass every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week as well.

From the Pastor's Desk
Parables and the Kingdom of Heaven

Dear Parishioners,

Jesus often uses parables to get his message across. Most times I prefer someone to be clear and direct. Tell me exactly what you mean! Don't give me a song and a dance! Give it to me straight! However, Jesus frequently does not do this. He may answer a question with another question. He may remain silent. He may tell a parable.

A parable is a succinct, didactic story, in prose or verse that illustrates one or more instructive lessons or principles. It differs from a fable in that fables employ animals, plants, inanimate objects, or forces of nature as characters, whereas parables have human characters. A parable is a type of analogy.

One thing that parables should make us do is think. At times, we may come to different conclusions or even be left confused. Jesus would explain parables to his disciples privately to help them understand their meaning as he did today with the Parable of the Sower (Mt. 13: 1-23) or in the parable about the Weeds in the Field (Mt. 13: 24-43). Just because Jesus may use symbolic, poetic or a type of flowery language--make no mistake--even in the use and explanation of his parables, he could be quite forceful when speaking about certain things (like a fiery furnace and wailing and grinding of teeth!)

Next, there is this concept of the Kingdom of Heaven. Living in a nation that does not have a king and even established its unique identity by declaring independence from a king, the idea of kingship may be foreign to many and perhaps, repugnant. I vote! I pay taxes! No one is going to tell me what to do!

Be careful, however, when we refer to God. We are creatures; God is Creator. God is absolutely sovereign. We were brought into being by God's great love and given intelligence and free will, noting how we were created in His image and likeness. Respect for God (fear of the Lord) and all that God is (omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, all-holy, all-merciful, all-loving, transcendent, eternal, etc., etc.) gets lost in a secular society. We suffer from shortsightedness, a desire for pleasure and immediate gratification and an ever-increasing absence and possible disdain for any matters considered religious, sacred or holy. Even the absolute sacredness of human life itself has dramatically and horrendously diminished.

When Pope St. John Paul II gave to us the Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary for meditation and reflection, I initially thought that the third mystery was somewhat ambiguous. Why was the Proclamation of the Kingdom (and the Call to Conversion) so important? With time, I have personally realized a deeper appreciation of this mystery. Allow me to share this descriptive synopsis of the mystery:

The preaching by which Jesus proclaims the coming of the Kingdom of God, calls to conversion (cf. Mk. 1:15) and forgives the sins of all who draw near to him in humble trust (cf. Mk 2:3-13; Lk. 7:47- 48): the inauguration of that ministry of mercy which he continues to exercise until the end of the world, particularly through the Sacrament of Reconciliation which he has entrusted to his Church (cf. Jn. 20:22-23).

Jesus ushered in the Kingdom of God and through His Incarnation Heaven and Earth were united.

May we do our part to build up His Kingdom here on Earth!

Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, JULY 16, 2023

Ministry Schedule for July 22/23

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Marta Julie	R. Javier	K. McFadden	T. Johnson
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Becca Julie	K. Witts	K. Kraemer	Witts
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Becca Julie	M. Garber	B. Haughwout	S. Andino M. Marsden

Pope Francis has a prayer intention for each month of the year. For this July his prayer intention is: “We pray that Catholics make place of the celebration of the Eucharist at the center of their life, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters”. We who are the living Church are called to look to Mary as Model and to imitate her in her relationship with her own Son JESUS. “Every time we receive Jesus in Holy Communion, isn’t JESUS present in us similar to how he was present in Mary’s womb? Does not the “AMEN” which each believer says when receiving JESUS in Holy Communion ECHO the FIAT Mary said before the angel of the Annunciation? Above all, was not Mary the first



tabernacle in history as Jesus dwelled within her and aren’t we also a tabernacle when we receive JESUS in Holy Communion? May our STREETS be the streets of JESUS, may our HOMES be homes for HIM, may our LIFE every day be penetrated by His guidance.” (Pope Benedict}” How amazing it is to be aware of what happens when we receive Holy Communion, knowing that JESUS wishes to transform us in



Image courtesy of ©John Burch Co., Inc.

HIMSELF not holding on to HIM for ourselves, but, like Mary, bring HIM to others.

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year has begun. Registration forms have been emailed to all returning students. **Forms may be found on the Parish website: stthomasmorenj.org.** On the left hand side, click on Religious Education Registration form.



Parishioners celebrate Fr. Ed’s birthday after the 9:00 AM Mass Monday morning. Happy Birthday, Fr. Ed!



The flowers on the altar LAST week were placed there in loving memory of Jerry McMenamain requested by Jeannine.



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, JULY 16, 2023

Weekly Intentions



SATURDAY, JULY 15

4:30 PM Daniel A. Maher r/b Fitzpatrick family

SUNDAY, JULY 16

8:30 AM Carlos Barrientos r/b family

11:00 AM Lucien Picard r/b Benedict's Place SCC

MONDAY, JULY 17

9:00 AM people of the parish

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, JULY 18

9:00 AM Julie Fields r/b Brian Haughwout

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

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

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY, JULY 20

9:00 AM Kerry McCabe r/b Tobin family

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

FRIDAY, JULY 21

9:00 AM Pete Yurcisin r/b Greta
Intentions of Geoffrey Tyrrell r/b Greta

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

SATURDAY, JULY 22

4:30 PM Lucien Picard r/b June Kelly, Anne Joy and Fran Schuda

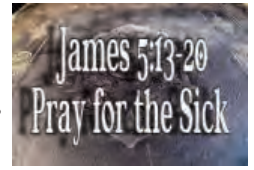
SUNDAY, JULY 23

8:30 AM Erika Belli Trudeau
r/b Erika & Joe Gilson

11:00 AM Jerry McMenamin r/b Jeannine

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE SICK...

Kristina Acevedo, Caroline Bancheri, Jim Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Pat Beaney, Ray Chuisano, Elva Clark, Grace Cobin, Tammy Colon, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, Mary Cowan, Catherine Diana, Fr. George Donfurtang, Elizabeth Garber, Eileen Gerie, Eileen Goodwin, Marjorie Graham, 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, Ed Targonski, Sr., 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.*

Looking Ahead!
Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass, September 24, 2023.
3:00PM Mass St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Absecon.



If in the year 2023 you are celebrating a milestone anniversary of 25, 50, 60 or 70 years or more, you are invited! Registration forms are available in the Parish Office.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for July For a Eucharistic life

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.



2023 APPEAL: "For the Life of the World"
St. Thomas More Parish
Goal: \$89,700
Total to Date: \$41,445.00 - 46.2%



Eucharistic Revival (Quotes from Pope Francis)

"We all go to Mass because we love Jesus and we want to share, through the Eucharist, in his passion and his resurrection. But do we love as Jesus wishes, those brothers and sisters who are most needy? ...I wonder, and each one of us should wonder: I who go to Mass, how do I live this? Do I try to help, to approach and pray for those in difficulty? Or am I a little indifferent? .."
(General Audience— February 12, 2014)

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, JULY 16, 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

Small Christian Community Faith Sharing

Excerpt from the Gospel for the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 23, 2023 - Matt. 13:24-30

The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.... The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull up the weeds?' No, let both grow together until the harvest.

Commentary:

Weeds apparently resemble wheat in the early stages of growth and, entwined with the wheat, make it difficult to distinguish. As the parable states it is better to wait until harvest time and then separate the two. Since this is a parable about the Kingdom of heaven, there is an important lesson for us to glean from this story. The Kingdom of heaven is here already, planted like a seed in the hearts of those who believe. When we feed the hungry, forgive those who hurt us, act justly, practice charity, we make the kingdom evident. But within all of us, weeds grow. Weeds that produce dissent, alienation, anger and brokenness. God doesn't write us off because of these weeds but gives us ample time to work through them so that hopefully, by the end of our lives, we will have surrendered to the power of grace, expressed our contrition and turned our weeds into a bountiful field of wheat.

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:

"It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish.

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Wedding of the Sea– August 15, 2023

Tuesday, August 15th, 2023 the Wedding of the Sea Mass will be held at the Hard Rock Casino, Atlantic City, Etes Avenue at 12 Noon with the doors opening at 11 AM.

Following the Mass, the Blessed Mother Statue will process from the Hard Rock on Pennsylvania Avenue to the Boardwalk. The wreath will be tossed by the Bishop on the beach at Pennsylvania Avenue at approximately 1:15 PM.

For more information: weddingofthesea.org.



Summer Vacations are here!



While enjoying the summer sun and activity, remember your home parish, St. Thomas More. Our bills continue and we need your help to meet them. If you cannot contribute regularly while on vacation, may we suggest keeping the unused envelopes on hand and bringing your contribution up-to-date when you return? Or

consider **Parish Giving, an online contribution program, information available at our website:** stthomasmorenj.org. Enjoy your vacation and we will see you when you return!



Mourning the "silent massacres"

Pope Francis went to the Italian Island of Lampedusa last week to join in prayer and mourn the lives lost. This is where innocent people have died while crossing the Mediterranean Sea seeking a better life. This Island has for decades been a major destination point for migrants from Africa, the Middle East and Asia seeking a new life in Europe..

At least 2,000 people are believed to have lost their lives in 2022 and again in 2021 while crossing the Mediterranean.

"The occurrence of such inhuman disasters must utterly shake our consciences," Pope Francis wrote. "We must change our attitude. We are all called to a renewed and profound sense of responsibility, showing solidarity and sharing."

Report sexual abuse

An independent, toll-free number has been established by the Diocese of Camden, to help callers report cases of sexual abuse by priests, deacons, religious, employees and/or volunteers. Calls are handled by a licensed clinical social worker. In accord with state law, cases of child sexual abuse are reported to the NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency and law enforcement. For information or to inquire about counseling and support services, call 1-800-964-6588.

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