



## TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, AUGUST 20, 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



Lord Jesus,  
You love all people without exception.  
You love us even when we fail You  
and show prejudice.  
If someone is excluded from our circle of love,  
help us to have a change of heart.  
Open our hearts to a spirit of welcoming  
hospitality to all people of good will.  
Make our hearts big and compassionate like yours.  
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, August 13, 2023 was \$5,446.**

**The budgeted amount was \$8500.** If you haven't the faith to believe that the tithe belongs to the Lord, neither can you have faith in Him to



meet your financial needs. Without that confidence in His supremacy, there could be no confidence in His ability to provide our needs. ***You are trusting God for your eternity, surely you can trust Him for your temporal needs!***

**St. Mary Church Filipino Apostolate  
Tagalog Mass**

**Sunday, August 27, 2023**

**3:00 PM Rosary 3:30 PM Mass in Church**

**Stewardship Corner: 20th Sunday in Ordinary  
Time—Stewardship Calling**

*“For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable.” - ROMANS 11:29*

God has a special mission in mind for each of us. He has given us the gifts we need to accomplish that mission. We are called to be good Stewards by using those gifts to do the work that He has planned for each of us. If we deny our gifts or fail to use them as God calls us to use them, then some part of His work will be left undone. Each of us has a part in God's salvation plan.

From the Pastor's Desk  
**A Parish Update**

Dear Parishioners,

Every so often, I think that it is a good practice to look objectively at our current situation here at the parish. I am reminded of a professor I had in college who would typically begin class by asking two questions: *Where are we?* and *Where are we going?* Let's look at our parish with this in mind.

I began as pastor on July 15, 2020—three years ago. The circumstances were not exactly ideal. I replaced Fr. Dabrowski who died here after only six months as pastor. I also arrived with the *pandemic* and all of its implications and difficulties. Now that matters have somewhat normalized, where do we stand as a parish?

We have three weekend Masses averaging approximately 100 people per Mass. The summer crowds are usually less since many (including myself) take their vacations at this time. The weekly collections vary, averaging somewhere between \$5000.00 and \$7000.00. Our parish staff currently has three full-time positions (pastor, business manager, director of lifelong faith formation) and various other part-time and volunteer positions. This year our income did not meet our annual expenses and approximately \$80,000.00 had to be transferred from the parish savings to pay our ordinary expenses. Needless to say, this cannot continue to happen. We necessarily need to keep a balanced budget since no parish will survive for very long by continually withdrawing from its reserves to pay its bills. (If you do not do so already, would you consider some form of electronic giving so that we can be more assured of a regular income weekly?)

The amount of children in the religious education program is approximately fifty. First Holy Communion classes have been less than ten and the number in the Confirmation class this coming year is about the same. I have not had a single wedding *of a parishioner* here since I arrived. In recent years, funerals have slightly outnumbered baptisms. Our daily Mass crowd, however, is encouraging—usually from twenty to forty. A small Latino prayer group is in its fledgling stage, being organized by **Sr. Rosa Narvaez**, FMIJ.

What is planned for the coming year is a consolidation of the position of *Pastoral Associate for Lifelong Faith Formation* with *Director of Religious Education/Catechetical Leader*. Additionally, the person hired for this new position will be in charge of *Evangelization* for the parish. The future position will be titled the **Coordinator of Catechesis, Lifelong Faith Formation and Evangelization**. In the meantime, **Sr. Rosangela Ganau**, FMIJ is temporarily assuming the former duties of **Sr. Clare Sabini**, FMIJ, until the new position is filled later this year. Sr. Clare decided that it was time for her to retire from her position as *Director of Religious Education/Catechetical Leader*. We thank her for her years of service to our parish.

I also announced at Masses last weekend that a new priest will reside at St. Thomas More rectory with primary duties as hospital chaplain and nursing home chaplain. **Fr. Victorino Coronado** will join us sometime in September (official date to be announced).

Too often people become nostalgic for what a parish used to be like without realizing the lack of personnel and finances currently available in any given parish. Only about 20% of the parishioners attend Mass weekly, and the number is even less of those willing to volunteer, to contribute financially and to be committed to a particular parish, as in days gone by.

*Fr. Ed Namiotka*, Pastor

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, AUGUST 20, 2023**

**Ministry Schedule for August 26/27**

	<b>Presider</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Extraordinary Minister</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Altar Server</b>
<b>4:30 PM</b>	<b>Fr. Namiotka</b>	<b>Julius Julie</b>	<b>Sr. Sophia</b>	<b>C. Betson-Smith</b>	
<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Fr. Namiotka</b>	<b>Celine Julie</b>	<b>K. Witts</b>	<b>K. Kraemer</b>	<b>Witts</b>
<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Fr. Namiotka</b>	<b>Celine Julie</b>	<b>R. Javier</b>	<b>C. Musso</b>	<b>L. &amp; G. Hutchinson</b>



**Religious Education Registration**  
Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is ongoing. Forms may be found on the Parish website: [stthomasmorenj.org](http://stthomasmorenj.org). On the left hand side, click on Religious Education Registration form.

Our 2023-2024 school year begins September 17th 9:30 AM—10:45AM . We look forward to journeying with you in the religious formation of your children.



**Eucharistic Adoration is held Monday—Friday in the Chapel after the 9:00 AM Mass. Come spend some time with your Lord.**

**Senior Wellness Tips: Dealing and Healing through Grief, Loss and Change**

We offer this guidance to help you journey with your own grief or to be mindful of when speaking to others who may be grieving:

- Acknowledge the pain grief brings.
- Remember that everyone’s grieving process is different; there is no time limit for how long a person should grieve.
- Try to spend time with someone you think may be grieving, lonely or sad.
- Take care of yourself and be kind to yourself, grief can be consuming.
- Seek out help for yourself or someone who you feel may be suffering from depression.

VITALity *Life to the Fullest* membership program informs and connects seniors to the information they need to stay safe and healthy. Membership is free to all seniors age 65 and over living in the South Jersey area. **For more information, visit [www.vitality.camdendiocese.org](http://www.vitality.camdendiocese.org) or email [christine.willard@camdendiocese.org](mailto:christine.willard@camdendiocese.org).**

**Please note: the Parish Office will be closed on Thursday, August 24th and Friday, August 25th. We will have Eucharistic Adoration until Noon on both days.**

**Save the date: October 7, 2023 St. Joseph’s House 5K Walk/Run 9:00 AM. Jack Curtis Stadium, Cooper River Park, 5300 N. Park Drive,**



**Pennsauken, NJ. Joseph’s House in Camden is raising money to end Homelessness. Register at [www.runsigroup.com/jhoc5k](http://www.runsigroup.com/jhoc5k). Must be 12 or older to compete— \$25 registration fee.**

**The St. Thomas More Consolation Ministry to the bereaved will meet on Thursday, August 31 at 1:00 PM. in the 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**



**Catholic Charities Diaper Drive August 26/27**

**St. Thomas More Faith & Justice Team is asking for parishioner support in the form of large size diapers( 4,5,6). There will be a table in the Gathering Space where the diapers will be collected. Online donations can be made at: [amzn.to/42h104V](http://amzn.to/42h104V). Your generosity is greatly appreciated.**

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, AUGUST 20, 2023**

*Weekly Intentions*



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19**

**4:30 PM Bill Kane & Rudy Peins** r/b family

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20**

**8:30 AM Victor Vergara** r/b Juanita Vasayllaje

**11:00 AM Maria Deras** r/b family

**MONDAY, AUGUST 21**

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

**9:30—12noon** Adoration in the Chapel

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 22**

**9:00 AM Chip Tagland** r/b Jan Moore

**9:30—12noon** Adoration in the Chapel

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23**

**9:00 AM Hilario Crisostomo**

r/b John & Letty Duffy

**9:30—12noon** Adoration in the Chapel

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 24**

**9:00 AM Greg Magpantay** r/b John & Letty Duffy

**9:30—12noon** Adoration in the Chapel

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 25**

**9:00 AM Virgilio R. Bansil** r/b Librojo family

**9:30—12noon** Adoration in the Chapel

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26**

**4:30 PM Ronald Kramer (3rd anniversary)**

r/b Gerri Boyle

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27**

**8:30 AM Intentions of Timothy Cyberey**

r/b Greta & family

**11:00 AM Fred Petrone** r/b Tina Petrone

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: *THE SICK...***

Kristina Acevedo, Caroline Bancheri, Jim Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Pat Beaney, Joe Centonze, 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, Dom Sacca, Carlos Santiago, Teddy Shaffer, Grace Sklencar, Joe Sklencar, 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, TSgt. John P. DeYoung, Sam Houston, USN, Lt. Nicholas G. Iannuzzi, SSgt. Kris Knaup, Lt. Christopher Mawn, Lt. Jacqueline A. McCabe, PFC Sonny Morrison, Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa, Sisi Tyrrell, USMC, SPC Nicole Williams, and *all those serving our country.*



**Hispanic Prayer Group –Every Friday from 10:00 AM—12 Noon: St. Thomas More dates: September 8,th 15th & 22nd ; October 13th , 20th, 27th. Mother Mary Joseph Franciscan Spirituality Center August 25th; September 1st & 29th; October 6th.**

**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 August.**

For World Youth Day  
We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives

**2023 APPEAL: "For the Life of the World"  
St. Thomas More Parish  
Goal: \$89,700  
Total to Date: \$43,995.00 —49%**



**Eucharistic Revival (Quotes from Pope Francis)**

“ In the Eucharist the Lord makes us walk on his road, that of service, of sharing, of giving; and if it is shared, that little we have, that little we are, becomes richer for the power of God—which is the power of love—comes down into our poverty to transform it. “ *Homily May 30, 2013*

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, AUGUST 20, 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 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 27, 2023 - Matt. 16:13-20

Jesus said to his disciples, "but who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it..."

#### Commentary:

The Children can be solidly built only on the person of Jesus. The Church can stand firmly only by faith in Jesus. The Church is a community of disciples which acknowledges that Jesus is "the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the living God." Peter's recognition of Jesus is a revelation from God. Thus, the Church comes into being through divine revelation. The builder of the Church is Jesus himself and the Church is his: "I will build my church" (16:18). The Church is unintelligible apart from the revelation of God and the work of Jesus. These divine origins account for the Church's ability to withstand the power of the netherworld and death (16:18).

#### 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: Healing after abortion** (Sisters of Life- 866-575-0075)

"God's love and mercy are for you. A new beginning: The love God has for you is greater than any and every sin, Abortion is a deep wound. However, with God, there is always hope- so much hope. This means you no longer need to be alone with the shame, fear, anger, guilt, or pain. Jesus awaits you with infinite mercy and desires to be invited into your darkest places so that He can be with you there, with His redeeming love. If you have suffered the experience of abortion, we invite you to open the door to the healing power of Jesus' love."



#### **CELEBRATE GRANDPARENTS' DAY! Sunday, September 10, 2023 11:00 AM Mass Reception follows in the Church Hall**

Grandparents play a special role in the life of the family.

They model for their grandchildren a life of Faith. Love and Service. All grandparents are invited to the 11:00 AM Mass, Sunday, September 10, 2023 to receive a special blessing. Grandchildren are invited if they can attend. **Call or email the Parish Office if you plan to attend: 856-424-3212 or [stthomasmore@comcast.net](mailto:stthomasmore@comcast.net).**



#### **Environmental Facts**

The last 8 years were the warmest on record. Melting of glaciers and sea level rise—again reached record levels in 2022. Antarctic sea ice fell to its lowest extent on record, and the melting of some European glaciers was off the charts.  
*United Nations Climate Report*

The average global air temperature recorded above the Earth's surface was 62.02 degrees F. on July 4th, —the highest that has ever been recorded.  
*New Scientist*

"I renew my appeal to world leaders to do something more concrete to limit polluting emissions. These emissions are an urgent challenge, it cannot be postponed, it concerns everyone. Let us protect our common home."  
*Pope Francis, August, 2023.*



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