

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



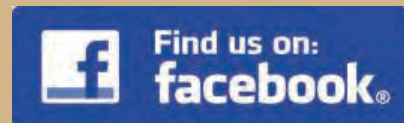
Rite of Reconciliation Saturday

3:00—4:00 PM

In the Chapel

First Fridays after the 9:00 AM Mass

Father Edward Namiotka, Pastor
Father Victorino Coronado, In Residence
Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate for Life Long Faith Formation
Sister Rosangela Ganau, FMIJ, Catechetical Leader
Julie Linn, Music Ministry
Marylee Garber, Parish Secretary
Sheila Tartamosa, Business Manager



Send all bulletin announcements to:
stmsecretary1439@gmail.com by 2:00pm Monday

DIRECTORY

Parish Trustees	Jeannine Mc Menamin Henry Glover		<i>Worship</i> Altar Servers Church Environment Ch. Art Environment Eucharistic Ministers Lectors Linen Committee Sacristans	Sister Ann Byrnes Committee Committee Sr. Ann Byrnes Dan Miller/ Sr. Ann Byrnes Ann Vigrass Greta Tyrrell Dom Sacca Dave Bongiovanni Joe Centonze Chico Febus	856-424-3212 856-424-3212 856-428-7217 856-428-2412
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SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

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



Blessed are you, God of Abraham.
You love us even more
than Abraham loved Isaac.
You cherish us as you
cherish your beloved Son.
We rejoice in your love.
Help us to trust in that love
and to find more ways
to share your love with others.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
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, February 18, 2024, was \$ 5945.00 The budgeted amount was \$8500. None of us ever do anything great on our own. It is God who gives us what we need to thrive. Without His support, we would have nothing. Remember where your wealth came from—and how important it is to thank God. By tithing, we can remember God in our weekly activities, and thus remember all He has done for us.

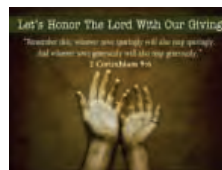
Stations of the Cross will be held in the Chapel at 7:00 PM every Friday during Lent. All are encouraged to take part in this Lenten Devotion.



Stewardship Corner: 2nd Sunday of Lent Stewards are Called

“‘Here I am!’ he answered.” - GENESIS 22:11

It is easy to say, “Here I am, Lord,” when we are kneeling in church. But how easy is it to say “Here I am, Lord,” when a neighbor needs our help, or when we are invited to join a parish ministry, or when we are asked to provide financial support? **Often times Stewards are called when it’s not convenient for us. Discipleship is not easy, most of the time it will make us uncomfortable and vulnerable.**



From the Pastor's Desk

Some Spiritual Guidance While on the Mountain

Dear Parishioners,

Have you thought about the many times a mountain is mentioned in Sacred Scripture? Often there is an encounter, in some manner, with God.

Think of Abraham and Isaac in today's first reading. The sacrifice of Isaac was about to take place on a mountain (**Mt. Moriah**) before the angel stopped it from happening. Moses received God's commandments on **Mt. Sinai (Mt. Horeb)**. The prophet Elijah challenged the false prophets of Baal on **Mt. Carmel**. Jesus gave us the *Sermon on the Mount* on the **Mount of Beatitudes** and prayed in the *Garden of Gethsemane* on the **Mount of Olives**. Jesus' disciples experience His *Transfiguration* (today's Gospel) on **Mt. Tabor**. He died for us on **Mt. Calvary** (Golgotha). In these and other situations, the mountain is the location for encountering God.

In the spiritual life, people frequently describe some intense religious event as *mountaintop experience*. Perhaps, we might identify the *Transfiguration* of Jesus as such an experience for the apostles Peter, James and John. They saw Jesus in His glory. While Moses and Elijah—both commanding respect and obedience from the Jews—are seen with Jesus, they disappear. They represented the *Law* and the *Prophets*, respectively, to the people. However, we are told, **Jesus** is the one to whom we must listen! He is the beloved Son of God! He alone!

As you progress through Lent, realize you may experience many types of situations in the spiritual life. Perhaps there will be some mountaintop days when the presence of God is powerful, real and apparent. Other times there may be aridity and dryness in your prayer, like being in the desert. There may be occasions when you can seem to be drowning like St. Peter and you need Jesus to come to the rescue. Moreover, there can be times when nothing whatsoever seems to be happening. *Is God there?*

What God seeks is our fidelity to Him at all times. **Emotions** are fleeting and circumstances can change quickly without warning. Our emotions or feelings are not necessarily the best guides for sanctity or holiness. Many saints have had days of spiritual darkness (a dark night of the soul) or a tremendous cross or suffering in their lives. The Lord may allow this for the increase of grace and holiness in us.

Work to create and fortify virtues (good habits) in your life. Virtue involves discipline and a regular routine in your spiritual life. Otherwise, we can develop vices (bad habits) when we fail to pray, fail to go to Mass and receive Holy Communion weekly, fail to frequent the Sacrament of Penance, etc. When we find a fault or weakness in our lives that leads to sin (for example, selfishness), we should attempt to cultivate the opposite virtue (charity, generosity).

As you read the Scriptures, we see Jesus had to teach, guide, reprimand and instruct his chosen disciples. They did not necessarily understand Him or comprehend His motives. However, He did perform miracles in their presence and even allowed some of his closest followers to accompany Him up the mountain where they experienced His glory. Nonetheless, He gave them all what they needed to know so that they would find eternal life and salvation in Him. I suspect He will do the same for you and me in whatever way He sees fit. Trust Him and be faithful to Him, no matter what.

Our journey may not necessarily involve some fantastic mountaintop experience, but it will be whatever God determines is for our ultimate spiritual good.

Fr. Ed Namiołka, Pastor

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Ministry Schedule March 2/3, 2024

	Clergy	Music	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	R. Javier	J. Cepeda	
8:30 AM	Fr. Coronado	Music Ministry	K. Witts	K. Kraemer	A., C., R. Witts
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	J. De Michele	B. Haughwout	T. Johnson L. Vascisin



From Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, Jesus himself becomes our companion in our journey as he did with his beloved disciples: "... six days after predicting His Death and Resurrection, Jesus shows His Glory to

Peter, James and John (Mark 8,31...). He wanted to accompany them as He was going to die for them, for us all, but... Jesus' disciples did not fully grasp their mountaintop vision. **In His Transfiguration Jesus was giving them a gift, (a grace) to sustain them for the Day of His Crucifixion.** They needed a Heavenly perspective- and so do we. That is why **Jesus invites us to go up to the mountain (of prayer) every day for a glimpse of His Glory: to see HIM, the Son of God, who will be with us always, to the end of time"** (from The WORD Among Us - Lent 2024 -).



REMINDER:

February 24 (Saturday): Celebration of the First Penance in the Chapel - Time 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM (for the second graders) with light refreshments afterwards.

Parish Mission

A Parish Mission is a time of personal and communal renewal for all of us at St. Thomas More. We are pleased to have **Fr. Caparas as our Mission Presenter for 3 evenings during the Lenten Season.**



**Mission times and dates:
7:00 PM February 26th—28th, 2024
St. Thomas More Church.
All are encouraged to attend.**

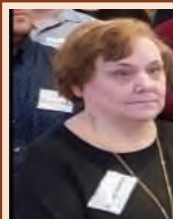


Your gift to the Catholic Ministries Appeal supports the Deaf and Persons with Disabilities: This essential ministry nurtures and assists those facing special physical

challenges, which affect their access to the sacramental life of the Church and the support of our community of faith.

Support the South Jersey Catholic Ministries Appeal

www.camdendiocese.org/sjcma



Debbie Spence, St Thomas More parishioner, participated in the Rite of Election with Bishop Sullivan February 18th at Our Lady of Hope Parish. Catechumens from all over the Diocese attended with their Godparents.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Weekly Intentions



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

4:30 PM **Hector Montes**
r/b Pauline & family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

8:30 AM **Intentions of Fr. Ed Namiotka & Intentions of Sr. Ann Byrnes**
r/b Carlos & Daisy Santiago

11:00 AM **Intentions of Sisi Tyrrell** r/b Greta

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

9:00 AM **Patricia Richardson**
r/b Tomas & Marie Manalo
9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

9:00 AM **Living and deceased members of Morgan family in Ireland**
9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

9:00 AM **Ann & Joe Primwhere** r/b Jeannine
9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

9:00 AM **Gary Scarpa** r/b Greta
9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel
7:00 PM **Stations of the Cross in the Chapel**

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

9:00 AM **Clara Lee** r/b Gregory
4:30 PM **Rev. Phillip Johnson** r/b Pat Byrnes

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

8:30 AM **Intentions of Fr. Ed Namiotka & Intentions of Sr. Ann Byrnes** r/b Carlos & Daisy Santiago
11:00 AM **Fr. Phillip Johnson** r/b Claire Spence

Please pray for the repose of the souls of
Catherine Namiotka
Pat Beaney
Louis Lista

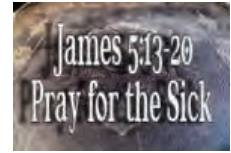


Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions February 2024
For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE SICK...

Kristina Acevedo, Caroline Bancheri, Jim Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Joe Centonze, Ray Chuisano, Elva Clark, Grace Cobin, Alex Colon, Tammy Colon, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, Mary Cowan, Catherine Diana, Linda Di Giulio, 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, Kelly Moore, Carter Oakley, Tina Petrone, Helen Protzman, Dom Sacca, Carlos Santiago, Teddy Shaffer, Grace Sklencar, Joe Sklencar, Claire Spence, Dale Strack, Stacia Strack, Michael Suralik, Pat Suralik, Ed Targonski, Sr., Roy Targonski, Ann Vigrass, Joanne Wachman, Sarah Warner, and Nicholas.



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, Capt. Jennifer LaSalce, US Army, Capt. 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.*

Eucharistic Revival Quotes from Pope Francis

"It is Jesus; it is Jesus who saved me; it is Jesus who comes to give me the strength to live. It is Jesus, the living Jesus. But we must not become accustomed: [receive] each time as if it were the first Communion." *Angelus—June 23, 2019*



St. Thomas More Consolation Ministry meeting:
1:00 PM February 29, 2024 in the Hall. Join us or call for more information: Ann Marie Lento 856-344-7454; Jon Lisitski 856-210-6466; Marian Kapischke 856-424-2053



Are you able to help?
Some parishioners from St. Mary's Village, (right behind us) need rides to Mass. Please call the Parish Office (856-424-3212) if you can help fill this need.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

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 Third Sunday of Lent, March 3, 2024 - John 2:13-25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture; Zeal for your house will consume me.

Commentary:

The dramatic action of Jesus—driving out the merchants and money changers—is not the most shocking feature of this Sunday's gospel. Not only does Jesus cleanse the Temple, he replaces it. The place of God's presence among people is no longer a building but the "temple of his body." In Jesus we encounter the living God.

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: "If the unborn is not a human person, no justification for abortion is necessary. However, if the unborn is a human person, no justification for abortion is adequate."— [Greg Koukl](#), Christian

Apologist and Founder of Stand to Reason



Help Stop Illegal Deforestation

Nearly 100 faith-based organizations have signed a [letter supporting the FOREST ACT](#) that was delivered in early February to legislators on key congressional committees.

The FOREST Act is a bipartisan bill that aims to prohibit importing products into the U.S. sourced through illegal deforestation. The bill will promote government and business collaboration in countries suffering from illegal deforestation by improving laws, monitoring, assistance, and enforcement. **The focus is on agricultural products such as cattle, cocoa, palm oil and soy.** Urge your representative and U.S. senators to co-sponsor the bill.

Donald Norcross 202-225-6501

Senator Cory Booker 202-224-3224

2024 APPEAL: "THROUGH HIM AND FOR HIM" CAMPAIGN PRAYER



Heavenly Father,

From the depth of your riches, you gave us your Son.

In the Eucharist, we have our spiritual sustenance and our focus.

Sustain us, guide us, and bless us as we carry out our work, always mindful of our purpose.

For from him, and through him and for him are all things.

To him be glory forever.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns one God forever and ever.

Amen.

****St. Thomas More's Goal is \$89,700. We will need the help of every parishioner to meet this goal.**

Thank you for prayerfully considering your donation. ** To date we have received gifts from 12 people totaling \$4,740 of 5.3% of our total goal. Thank you for your donations.

A prayer for the Transfiguration

Holy God, mighty and immortal,
you are beyond our knowing,

yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ,
whose compassion illumines the world.

Transform us into the likeness of the love of Christ,
who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his
divinity,

the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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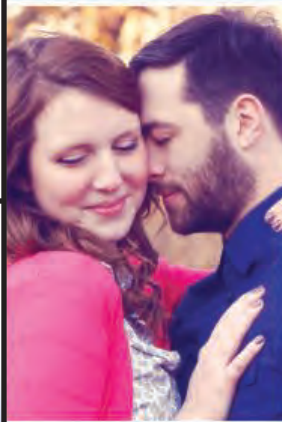
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