# 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: sthomasmore@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 Settinger



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

#### DIRECTORY

Parish Trustees	Jeannine Mc Menamin		Worship Altar Servers	Sister Ann Byrnes	856-424-3212
Christian Life/Education	Henry Glover		Church Environment	Committee	
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Consolation Winners		1@comcast.net	Linen Committee	Ann Vigrass	856-428-7217
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Parish Rel. Ed. Prog.	Sr. Rosangela Ganau,	856-424-3212	Bridge Groups	Barbara Cerquitella	856-795-7323
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St. Vincent de Paul	Chico Febus	856–424-3212	Parish Finance Council Parish Pastoral Council	Robert Crawford	856-424-3212 856-751-8893
Stewardship	Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212	Farish Fastoral Council	Marie Enny	030-731-0093
Welcoming Team	Shirley Kane	856-424-8022			

#### 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 cleansed the Temple so that it would be dedicated to worship. You showed us our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.

Guide us on how we need to grow in respect for our bodies.

Cleanse our hearts so that we might be more dedicated to you.

We ask this of you who live and reign with the Father and the Spirit forever.

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 25, 2024, was \$7058.91.00. The budgeted amount was \$8500. When it comes down to it, we must remember that we reap what we sow—and so we must sow goodness and generosity wherever we can. Consider what you hope to get out of Mass. Do you leave with full hearts? Do you leave with something to consider, something to mull over? What value do you find in attending Mass? Just like your blessings, you reap what you sow when attending Mass. You will get out of it whatever you put into it in terms of effort, care, and attention.

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: 3rd Sunday of Lent Stewardship Virtues

"You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything..." - EXODUS 20:4

How many "gods" do you put before God? "Idols" do not always take the shape of physical things, things we can touch and feel. Those are easy to recognize. Many times, they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot like pride, power, ego, time, comfort or health. Pray for God's help to prune our vices and to grow in virtue in Stewardship.

### From the Pastor's Desk An Explanation of Some Lenten Practices

Dear Parishioners,

Depending on your parish, diocese, country or liturgical rite, there may be certain customs during **Lent** that do <u>not</u> occur universally. Certainly the blessing and distribution of ashes is universal in the Catholic Church, but what about the *covering of statues/crucifixes* or the *removal of holy water* in some parishes?

Catholic author Philip Kosloski gives one helpful explanation regarding the veiling of statues:

It seems strange that during the most sacred time of year we cover everything that is beautiful in our churches, even the crucifix. Shouldn't we be looking at the painful scene at Calvary while we listen to the Passion narrative on Palm Sunday? While it may appear counterintuitive to veil statues and images during the final weeks of Lent, the Church recommends this practice to heighten our senses and build within us a longing for Easter Sunday . . . . The rubrics can guide us. In the Roman Missal we find the instruction, "In the Dioceses of the United States, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from [the fifth] Sunday [of Lent] may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil." This is the current practice of the Church, but veiling from the Fifth Sunday of Lent onward is miniscule compared to what was once practiced. For example, in Germany there was a tradition to veil the altar from view throughout all of Lent . . . . The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a "veiled" world, in exile from our true home. But why go through such lengths to cover up images that are designed to raise our hearts and minds toward heaven? First of all, we use veils to alert us of the special time that we are in. When we walk into church and notice everything is covered, we immediately know that something is different. These last two weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred Triduum and these veils are a forceful reminder to get ready. Secondly, the veils focus our attention on the words being said at Mass. When we listen to the Passion narrative, our senses are allowed to focus on the striking words from the Gospel and truly enter into the scene.

Third, the Church uses veils to produce a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday. This is further actualized when you attend daily Mass and see the veils each day. You don't want them to be there because they are hiding some very beautiful images. And therein lies the whole point: the veils are not meant to be there forever. The images need to be unveiled; it is unnatural for them to be covered. The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a "veiled" world, in exile from our true home. It is only through our own death that the veil is lifted and we are finally able to see the beauty of everything in our lives.

In our parish the statues and crucifixes were covered <u>at the beginning of Lent</u> (rather than the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday) for *merely practical purposes*. When the purple background drapes were put up in the main church sanctuary for Lent, the statues and crucifix were also covered. Maybe, I should have actually waited a while longer. *Mea culpa*.

Regarding those parishes (not ours) that *remove holy water* from the fonts during Lent, I refer you to the following response from the *Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments* (2004):

This Dicastery is able to respond that the removing of Holy Water from the fonts during the season of Lent is not permitted, in particular, for two reasons:

- 1. The liturgical legislation in force does not foresee this innovation, which in addition to being 'praeter legem' is contrary to a balanced understanding of the season of Lent, which though truly being a season of penance, is also a season rich in the symbolism of water and baptism, constantly evoked in liturgical texts.
- 2. The encouragement of the Church that the faithful avail themselves frequently of the sacraments is to be understood to apply also to the season of Lent. The 'fast' and 'abstinence' which the faithful embrace in this season does not extend to abstaining from the sacraments or sacramentals of the Church.

The practice of the Church has been to empty the Holy Water fonts on the days of the Sacred Triduum in preparation of the blessing of the water at the Easter Vigil, and it corresponds to those days on which the Eucharist is not celebrated (i.e., Good Friday and Holy Saturday).

I realize that customs sometimes vary in different parishes, so I have tried to explain the reasons why I am incorporating or not incorporating certain practices for Lent in **St. Thomas More Parish**.

Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

#### Ministry Schedule March 9/10/2024

	Clergy	Music	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	Sr. Agnes	K. McFadden	
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	B. Massey	D. Mayfield	E. Bresani
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	J. Galati	L. Galati	M. Marsden S. Andino



#### WE ARE GOD'S TEMPLE

The Temple was a building that stood on a Hill in Jerusalem where God's people could be in His presence. Jesus, in today's Gospel, tells us that **He, His body, is the true Temple that** 

will be destroyed, but rebuilt in threes days. We know that at Jesus' Crucifixion the curtains of the temple that protected the inner room were ripped apart from the top. With His death and Resurrection Jesus becomes the new Temple, present in His people. In Him, we too become God's Temple, as St. Paul tells us: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Cor. 3:16); As we know, this happens because, since from the beginning, in Jesus, God chose to become the Emmanuel, God-with-us: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). If we identify ourselves as a Jesus follower today, we, our

body, is a temple – God's Temple. How do we live this beautiful gift to be this little Temple today, wherever we are, to manifest His glory, His Presence, His great love to each and every person we



encounter? May our Blessed Mother Mary, the first Temple and Jesus' first Tabernacle teach us the way, His way!

#### **REMINDERS:**

March 9(Saturday) at 9:00 am to 12:00 pm: 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation Preparation Classes taught by Fr. Ed our Pastor (bring with you the book "Decision Point").

<u>March 16</u> (Saturday): 7<sup>th</sup> grade Pilgrimage to the Cathedral of the "Immaculate Conception", Camden, N.J.

March 17 (Sunday): Confirmation Meeting #3 for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents, 9:30 to 10:45 am



All food collected at St. Thomas More will be donated to the Cherry Hill Food Pantry. The Pantry is asking for donations of: coffee; detergent; toothpaste; cake mix; pasta sauce; and canned fruit cocktail. Thank you.



Your *Catholic Ministries Appeal* gift enables Catholic Charities offices in each of our 6 counties to provide a range of vital social services to people in need, for

example, through food pantry, clothing, furniture warehouse, housing assistance and county sites. Support the South Jersey Catholic Ministries Appeal www.camdendiocese.org/sjcma

Sexual abuse is a crime that must be reported, investigated, and responded to so that victims are protected and those who commit abuse are removed from ministry. A special toll-free number has been established to help callers report cases of sexual abuse by priests, deacons, religious employees and/or volunteers. In accord with state law, cases of child sexual abuse are reported to the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency. For information or to inquire about counseling and support services, contact the Victims Assistance Coordinator at 1-800-964-6588



#### 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

#### **MONDAY, MARCH 4**

9:00 AM people of the parish

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

#### **TUESDAY, MARCH 5**

9:00 AM Intentions of Sr. Angela D'Alessandro, FMIJ r/b Franciscan Sisters

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

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

9:00 AM Living and deceased members of Morgan family in Ireland

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

#### **THURSDAY, MARCH 7**

9:00 AM Geraldine Bones r/b Jim Bones

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 8

9:00 AM Fr. Phillip Johnson r/b Gary Gadren

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

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross in the Chapel

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 9**

4:30 PM Brian Deutsch r/b Mom

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 10**

8:30 AM Intentions of STM prayer partners

r/b Thankful recipient

11:00 AM Fr. Phillip Johnson

r/b Barbara & Walt Johnson



Please pray for the repose of the souls of Sally Anne Schweitzer Elina Gomes

#### Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions March 2024 For the new martyrs

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

## 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.



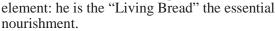
## PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES... SPC

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**

"All we have in the world does not satisfy our infinite hunger. We need Jesus, to be with him, to be nourished at his table, on his words of eternal life! Believing in Jesus means making him the center, the meaning of our life. Christ is not an optional



Binding oneself to him, in a true relationship of faith and love does not mean being tied down, but being profoundly free, always on the journey."

Angelus—August 23, 2015



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.

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 Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 10, 2024 - John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life..." Everyone who lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

#### **Commentary:**

This gospel sets forth the tensions of Christian life in a series of contrasts: believe-not believe, light-darkness, and live in truth because God has loved us and sent his Son to show us the way that we might not perish but have eternal life.

#### **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:** "Abortion is a profoundly immoral and unjust act: the taking of an innocent human life at its most defenseless. As Christians committed to justice and righteousness, we cannot stand

by and just let that happen."— **Dr. James Anderson**, Author

## 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 21 people totaling \$9915.00 which is 11.1% of our total goal. Thank you for your donations.



TREX Recycling Plastic Challenge——We have the opportunity to receive outdoor benches for St. Thomas More with the collection of 1,000 pounds of plastic in one year. That's a lot, but Christ our Light has done the challenge and has volunteered to donate plastic on behalf of us. Many plastic items that are not recyclable can be collected, including grocery bags, bread bags, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, produce bags, cereal bags, paper towel/toilet paper overwrap, Ziploc or food storage bags.

In order to do this, we need some volunteers to help deliver it from STM to a local drop off. Let Sr. Ann or Chris Baeckstrom know by March 17. Or email stmfaithandjustice@gmail.com.



Dining for Dollars at the Marlton Tuesday, March 12, 2024 from 11AM—9:30 PM 15% of your check will be donated to the Knights of Columbus Cherry Hill Council 6173



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