

# St. Thomas More Church

1439 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003  
856-424-3212

Web Site: <http://stthomasmorenj.org/> • E-mail: [info@stthomasmorenj.org](mailto:info@stthomasmorenj.org)

## 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  
Julie Linn, Music Ministry  
Sheila Tartamosa, Business Manager



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[smtartamosa@comcast.net](mailto:smtartamosa@comcast.net) by 2:00pm Monday

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				Robert Crawford
				856-424-3212
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				856-751-8893

## Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 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.

### OCIA

*The Order 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 call 424-3212

### 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



### CHRISTMAS MASSES

#### Masses for Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 PM and 6:00 PM

#### Masses for Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25

8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

### NEW YEAR'S MASSES

(Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

Tuesday, December 31 4:30 PM

Wednesday, January 1 9:00 AM

\*No 9:00 AM Mass or Eucharistic Adoration on Dec. 24th.



The Collection for  
Sunday December 15, 2024

Sunday	\$3449.00
E-Giving	\$1431.00
Total	\$4880.00



### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

#### **Stewards Grow**

*"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy."*

(LUKE 1:44)

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing as a Christian **Steward** to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

From the Pastor's Desk  
A Christmas Message for 2024

Dear Parishioners,

***"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord."***  
(Luke 2: 10-11)

I wish you and your families a happy and holy Christmas season. Although the commercial celebration of Christmas started well before Thanksgiving, the Christmas season for the Church extends until **January 12, 2025** with the **Baptism of the Lord**.

Don't be in a hurry to take down the Christmas decorations too soon—especially *during* the actual Christmas season!

Despite some difficult moments like the loss of my mom, there have also been so many blessings for which I thank God. Most especially I thank God for the prayers, support, genuine love and concern of so many faithful parishioners. I am edified by the prayerful fidelity of so many! May God bless you for your goodness!

I try to live by a philosophy (and truly believe) that **God is ultimately in charge** of every situation. I pray constantly that *His will be done*. I do not claim that I know each and every detail of His plan and what lies ahead. But, in imitation of the example of the **Blessed Virgin Mary**, I attempt *imperfectly* to echo her profound trust and consent to the will of God: *"May it be done to me according to your word."* (Luke 1:38)

I thank all who work so hard in the parish and continue to strengthen our Christian community. Christianity is never a "spectator sport" in which we simply sit back, watch and cheer. Rather, it involves *active participation* and a *life-commitment*: daily prayer, attendance at Mass *weekly*, a sacramental life including regular confession of sins, Christian service, love (even of *enemies*), forgiveness, Christian charity, conversion, repentance, etc.

As we adore the Christ Child in the manger at Christmas, may we be moved by the great love and humility that God showed to us in the birth of His Son! God emptied Himself and became one of us. Our faith also professes that He will come again.

*O come let us adore Him!*

Be assured of my daily prayers and a remembrance in my Masses for all of you. May I ask a small remembrance in your prayers and Masses as well?

On behalf of Fr. Victorino and all our parish staff, have a blessed and peace-filled Christmas and a holy New Year! I do not know what will be in store for us in 2025, but I trust that God knows what is truly best for us all. I leave things in His merciful hands.

*Fr. Ed Namiotka*  
Pastor

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2024**

**Ministry Schedule December 24/25 and Dec. 28/29 2024**

	Clergy	Music	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server
12/ 24 4:00 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Julie	K. Witts, G. Tyrrell	K. Kramer	Witts Boys
12/24 6:00 PM	Fr. Coronado	Julie/Marta/Choir	R. Javier	J. Bland Campbell	S. Andino
12/25 8:30 AM	Fr. Coronado	Celine/Joe	B. Massey	K. McFadden	M. Marsden
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Celine/Joe	T. Librojo, D. Staton	B. Haughwout	
12/28/29 4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Len	Sr. Sophie	C. Betson Smith	T. Johnson
8:30 AM	Fr. Coronado	Erin/Florence	B. Massey	D. Mayfield	A. Bresani
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka		M. Garber	B. Haughwout	L. Vascisin, S. Andino



There will be no Religious Education Classes on Dec. 22 or 29. Classes will resume on January 5, 2025.

The use of a **Christmas Tree** is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays that depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle that symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world. According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this **tree**. May the light and cheer it gives us be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
AMEN



Love: Once the fourth week is here, only a few days remain until the Messiah is with us. Remember that God became Man because of His love for us. You can respond to this love by preparing a hospitable, loving place for Him in your soul.

**2025** Calendars are available  
at the Church entrances.  
Please take one after Mass.



The St. Vincent de Paul Society members will sponsor coffee and donut hospitality after the Masses on Sunday, Dec. 22. They appreciate your donations for the needy this past year.

**An invitation to men of the parish from the Cherry Hill Council 6173 Knights of Columbus: If you want more information or to join us, you can do so today at**

**[www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus) with this QR code include "Council 6173" when asked and use the promo code: BLESSEDDMCGIVNEY to join for free.**



Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2024

# MASS Intentions

**Saturday, December 21**

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

**Sunday, December 22**

8:30 AM **Helen Protzman** r/b Janet Johnson

11:00 AM **Bienvenido Cobin** r/b Grace Cobin & Children

**MONDAY, December 23**

9:00 AM **People of the Parish**

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

**TUESDAY, December 24 Christmas Eve**

No 9:00 AM Mass

4:00 PM **People of the Parish**

6:00 PM **Jerry McMEnamin** r/b wife Jeannine

**WEDNESDAY, December 25 Christmas**

8:30 AM **Sara Centonze** r/b Son, Joe

11:00 AM **Dec'd members of Protzman-Mahoney Families** r/b Family

**THURSDAY, December 26**

9:00 AM **Living and Deceased Members of the Morgan Family**

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

**FRIDAY, December 27**

9:00 AM **Rita Cruz** r/b Abe and Jenny Margallo

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

**SATURDAY, December 28**

4:30 PM **Helen Protzman** r/b Greta Tyrrell

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

8:30 AM **Helen Protzman** r/b Mike and Helen Hawksley

11:00 AM **Fr. Michael Rush** r/b Ann and Bill Vigrass

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for December  
Pilgrims of HOPE

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us recognize the Risen Christ in our lives and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

**Spanish Ministry Prayer Group**  
**St. Thomas More Parish**

**Friday: Jan. 3 and 25, 2025**

Join us as we Pray the Rosary, Lectio Divina, and reflect on themes of faith.



**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE SICK...** Kristina Acevedo, Caroline Bancheri, Jim Beaney, Joe Centonze, Grace Cobin, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, Mary Cowan, Catherine Diana, Linda Di Giulio, Fr. George Donfurtang, Elizabeth Garber, Eileen Gerie, Eileen Goodwin, Marjorie Graham, Marion Kapischke, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, John Lane, Bob Lento, Marie Manalo, Kelly Moore, Carter Oakley, Tina Petrone, Dom Sacca, Carlos Santiago, Teddy Shaffer, Grace Sklencar, Claire Spence, Stacia Strack, Michael Suralik, Pat Suralik, Ed Targonski, Sr., Ann Vigrass, Joanne Wachman, Sarah Warner, Baby Finley, Arlene Pajic, Tim Fitzgerald, Jose Dorotan, Hilda Maldonado, Cecilia Sim.



**PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...**  
Sgt. Jordan Beckman, Captain Patrick J. Bones, USMC, Major Anthony R. Cosentino, USAF, TSgt. John P. DeYoung, Sam Houston, USN Special Forces, 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, Sgt. Nicole Williams, PFC Timothy Kenny, U.S. Army and *all those serving our country.*

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## Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Dec. 29

“An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.’ Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, Out of Egypt I called my son.”

### Commentary:

Joseph couldn't be expected to raise his child and tend his family in an environment of danger and hostility like the one Herod's reign created. A good family must be nurtured and sustained in an atmosphere of love and security. If that meant becoming refugees in a foreign land, so be it. Today, millions of families around the world have been forced to make the same choice because of hostile governments, crumbling economies, and the lack of freedom to pursue their own beliefs and values. In this land of freedom and opportunity, we have the chance to welcome these families or to share our goods and support with them as they make their way to a better future. It would have been tragic if Joseph had taken his family all the way to Egypt, only to find the doors barred against him.

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.



I arise today present with the Holy One, In the embrace of love, in the hope of renewal, In the joy of belonging to the great I AM.

I arise today in the life of the Creator, in the image of the Eternal One.

I choose to live today in the Name of the Caring One, Compassion in my heart, Gratitude in my thoughts, Generosity in my deeds, Justice as my passion.

I choose to live today in the light of Christ.



**Eucharistic Adoration** is held in the Chapel Monday through Friday after the 9:00 AM Mass until Noon.

COME PRAY WITH HIM

Recently my friend Thomas Ranizewski and I wrote a Christmas song entitled “The Carpenter’s Son.” It is sung by Drew Seigla. The format used for distribution these days is *online streaming*. Below is the link to get the song online. Thanks for listening!

Fr. Ed

The link <https://distrokid.com/hyper.../drewseigla/the-carpenters-son>

You can also find the link on our Parish web site



The Faith & Justice Team thanks you for your support this year in our Mission is to raise awareness of justice issues and live the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching by advocating for justice for all, and empowering the poor and vulnerable.

O God, bless us as we join together at Christmas to celebrate and to share food and fellowship.

Thank you for this meal and the hands that made it; for the life you have given us to share with others; and for the meaningful work we accomplish together.

We ask for the grace to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.

As we complete the waiting season of Advent and move toward the glory of his birth, we pray in the name of Jesus, your son, our Lord.

May the spirit of giving go on through the year, Bringing love, laughter, hope, and good cheer.

Amen.



### *Pro-Life Corner*

We have a choice: We can throw in the towel or we can use it to wipe the sweat off our face and work hard to end abortion and euthanasia.

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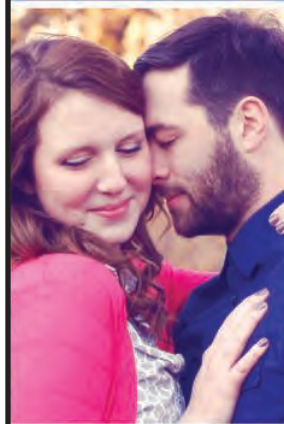


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