



## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time—February 16, 2025

### 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.



How poorly I understand, Lord!  
You work wonders in my life  
You bless me in so many ways,  
Yet I can be self-centered and unwelcoming.  
Thank You, Jesus, for loving me, forgiving me  
And offering me more opportunities!



The Collection for  
February 9, 2025

Sunday	\$3,800.00
E-Giving	\$2,484.00
Total	\$6,284.00

### 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



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

As Catholics we believe that when we pray before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament (Jesus in the Tabernacle or the Monstrance), the fullness of His life, power and love are present. Jesus is here with you right now!

Come Pray with Him.

The arts at Camden Catholic High School  
Presents *Tuck Everlasting*

Based on the novel by Natalie Babbitt

March 7, 8, 14, 15 at 7:30 PM

March 9 and 16 at 2:00 PM

For ticket information or sponsor support  
go to [www.cchsp Performingarts.com](http://www.cchsp Performingarts.com)

### STEWARDSHIP Corner

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

#### Stewards Proclaim

*"Blessed are you when people hate you...exclude and insult you, and denounce your name...on account of the Son of Man." - LUKE 6:22*

All of us have been in situations when someone has made a negative comment or joke about God or our Catholic faith. How did you respond? Did you stay silent or pretend to go along with the crowd because you didn't want to cause waves and then, later, you felt bad? Know that God is with you all the time; the Holy Spirit will put the right words in your mouth. Pray for the strength and courage to live **Stewardship**. Proclaim our faith to others, especially during uncomfortable situations.

## From the Pastor's Desk

### Have I Told You Lately that I Love You?

Dear Parishioners,

I have been involved with *Worldwide Marriage Encounter* for over 30 years. (To see exactly how a *celibate priest* fits into this community, you will just have to make a *Marriage Encounter* weekend!) The *Marriage Encounter* community has shaped me as a person and has helped to direct my priesthood and the ministry flowing from it. I have learned (and am *still learning*) many valuable lessons to apply to myself and my relationship with others as a result of my many years of participation.

For example, one simple lesson is as follows: We can sometimes take people for granted. Those around us every day—whether they are family, co-workers or friends—can, unfortunately, get lost in the busyness or shuffle of everyday living. We can occasionally assume that others know how we feel about them. We neglect to tell them that we “*love*” them, that we *care for them* or that we *appreciate them*. As a consequence, people can get hurt—albeit sometimes unintentionally.

What can we do to try to avoid this from happening? Take the time to tell your **husband** or **wife** that you love him or her. Embrace your **children** and let them see how much you love them by *spending time with them* and by telling them that *they mean the world to you*. Compliment a **co-worker**. Call a **friend** and tell him or her how much you appreciate his or her friendship. *Don't take people, especially your spouse, for granted!*

We can apply this thinking also to our relationship with God: tell **Jesus** how much you love **Him**, His **Father** and their **Holy Spirit**. We should try never to let a day pass where we fail to acknowledge the presence of God in our lives!

On another important note, the second Sunday of February is designated as **World Marriage Day** (having been established by *Worldwide Marriage Encounter*). In 1983, this day was “designated as a day to honor the husband and wife as head of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life.”

As the traditional definition of *marriage* is challenged in contemporary culture, and there are increasing attempts to *redefine* it, I suggest that we go back to the teaching of Jesus in the Sacred Scriptures as our point of reference:

**Jesus said . . . “Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate. (Mt. 19: 4-6)**

Marriage is sacred. It is one of the seven sacraments of our Catholic Church. As something *divinely* instituted, it certainly needs to be respected and defended.

Finally, since *theologically*, I share the same **bride** as **Christ** as His priest (i.e., the **Church**), I want to make sure that I heed my own advice and not neglect *my spouse*! I hope that I never forget to tell *you* this: I love **you**, *my parishioners, my spouse*! I really do! I also hope that I never neglect you or take you for granted!

*Fr. Ed Namiołka*

Pastor

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time—February 16, 2025**

**Ministry Schedule February 22/23 2025**

	Clergy	Music	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Msgr. McGrath	Len	Sr. Agnes	J. Bland Campbell	
8:30 AM	Fr. Norris	Celine/Julie	Sr. Clare	S. Oatway	A. Bresani
11:00 AM	Fr. Norris	Celine/Choir	J. Flynn	L. Flynn	N & M Flynn



Religious Education Classes will not be held February 16th in honor of President's Day. Classes will resume on Feb. 23rd.

All are welcome to Celebrate Black History Month Mass sponsored by the Black Catholic Ministry Commission on Sunday, February 23 at 2:00 PM St. Bridget University Parish 127 Church St., Glassboro, NJ Bishop Joseph Williams will be the celebrant and homilist.



**St. Vincent de Paul Society** members will be at the doors of the Church **this weekend**, Feb. 15/16 accepting your donations for those in need. Thank you for your generosity,

They will sponsor our coffee and donut hospitality after the 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM Masses.



**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.



This year's theme: **"Our Journey United in Hope,"** is inspired by the theme of the Jubilee Year, "Pilgrims of Hope." It reflects our collective commitment to walk on the path together with the hope Christ has provided us.

**Campaign Prayer**

**Heavenly Father,  
In this time of planning and service, we ask that you bring us hope. Hope that will renew us in this journey to build up the Church in South Jersey. Accept and use our Stewardship to the South Jersey Catholic Ministries Appeal in the same way you Multiplied the loaves and fishes to feed a multitude. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and Reigns One God forever and ever. Amen.**

You should have received a mailing from Bishop Sullivan for the 2025 *South Jersey Catholic Ministries Appeal*. If not, there are pledge cards at the doors of the Church. I ask that you please consider donating to this year's campaign. It is important that we come together to support our ministries. They need the resources necessary to continue serving those in need.

By supporting the *Catholic Ministries Appeal*, you are supporting those who comprise the programs and ministries of the Diocese of Camden. These ministries serve the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the hungry and challenged. Help us bring the light of **hope** to those in the Catholic community of South Jersey.

**Please prayerfully consider joining us once again.  
Our Goal this year is \$74,300.00**

# MASS Intentions

## Saturday, Feb. 15

4:30 PM May and Fred Spohn r/b Sons

## Sunday, Feb. 16

8:30 AM Intentions of Terri Bones 95th Birthday  
r/b Belinda Bones

11:00 AM Zorka Garbin  
r/b Roseann and Robert Luther

## MONDAY, Feb. 17

9:00 AM People of the Parish

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

## TUESDAY, Feb. 18

9:00 AM Giulio Fondacaro  
r/b Jack and Erin Fondacaro

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

## WEDNESDAY, Feb. 19

9:00 AM Amelia Silvestro  
r/b Jack and Erin Fondacaro

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

## THURSDAY, Feb. 20

9:00 AM Marie Regalbuto  
r/b Kathy and Mike Mensinger

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

## FRIDAY, Feb. 21

9:00 AM Danilo Kochoa r/b Family

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

## Saturday, Feb. 22

4:30 PM Ellen Burke r/b Pat and Nick Kirincic

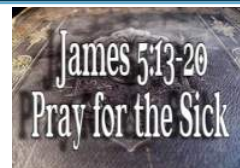
## Sunday, Feb. 23

8:30 AM Int. of Sr. Roseangela Ganau r/b FMIJ

11:00 AM Marisa Galloway  
r/b STM Consolation Ministry

## 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, Cecilia Sim, Barbara Cremean.



## 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.*



Join us for Coffee and Treats on Thursday, Feb. 20th after the 9:00 AM Mass in the Gathering Space.

## Pope Francis Prayer Intention for February For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

## Spanish Ministry Prayer Group St. Thomas More Parish Meeting Dates

Friday: Feb. 21, 28, 2025

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



The St. Thomas More **Consolation Ministry to the bereaved** will be meeting on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 1 pm in the St. Thomas More 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 856-905-6162, Marian Kapischke 856-424-2053

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time—February 16, 2025

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 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 23– Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples: "To you who hear Me say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back.

**Commentary:** Today's reading from Luke's "Sermon on the Plain", a parallel of Matthew's Sermon on the Mount, contains the revolutionary command: Love your enemies. Reacting with violence only breeds more violence. The Christian way rises above getting even: "Do good to those who hate you...Do to others what you would have them do to you." Love of enemies makes people truly Godlike! Luke's Jesus tells his listeners to be compassionate as God is compassionate. God has already withheld judgment from us. The reward for our compassion will be beyond all measure!

### 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?

ST THOMAS MORE Parish presents  
AFTERNOON 2:00 MOVIE SHOW, February 28, 2025  
ST. THOMAS MORE ROOM

### The Ultimate Gift

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DESSERTS/SNACKS WELCOMED

Sign-up in the Gathering Space



The Franciscan Sisters are thankful to the St. Thomas More community for the new bench that they received. This was due to over 1,000 pounds of plastic collected at St. Thomas More as part of the NexTrex Recycling Program which turns plastic waste into eco-friendly benches.

We are now collecting for the Sacred Heart Residence for Retired Priests so please continue to bring your plastic waste to St. Thomas More.

The 10th anniversary of Laudato Si is soon. According to the encyclical, "the Earth, our home, seems to turn more and more into a huge garbage dump", So it's important to recycle, but even more important for us to reduce consumption.

**Let the office know if you're interested in helping about once a month, taking plastic to the collection bin at Sprouts. 856-424-3212**



Catholic Church of St. Mary  
2001 Springdale Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

**Parish Hall**



**BLOOD DRIVE**  
Be a Hero.  
Give Blood.

**Thursday, March 20, 2025**  
**9:30am-7:30pm**



Register at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).  
Use Sponsor Code: Saint Mary RCC  
or use QR code on your smartphone.



"Man's life comes from God; it is his gift, his image and imprint, a sharing in his breath of life. God therefore is the sole Lord of this life: man cannot do with it as he wills." – From *Evangelium* (March, 1995).

South Jersey Catholic Cemeteries offers a interactive, online guide . **A Planning Guide for A Catholic Funeral.** We encourage you to visit <https://southjerseycatholiccemeteries.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/SJCC-Planning-Guide-for-Catholic-Funeral-Interactive-Sept-2024.pdf> and look over the guide.

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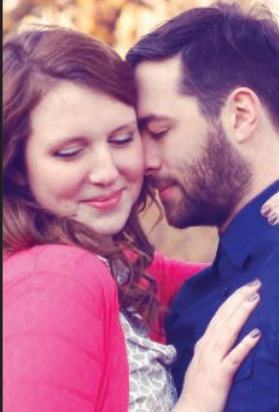
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