

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. - Sat. 9:00 AM in the Church

Sat. 4:30 PM

Sun. 8:30 and 11:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration in the Church

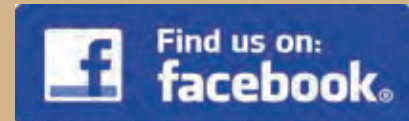
Mon.—Fri. 9:30 AM—12 Noon



Rite of Reconciliation Saturday

3:00—4:00 PM
In the Chapel

Father Edward Namioika, Pastor
Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate for Life Long Faith Formation
Sister Clare Sabini, FMIJ, Director of Religious Education
Julie Linn, Music Ministry
Pat Cannon, Parish Secretary • Marylee Garber, Parish Secretary
Sheila Tartamosa, Pastoral Associate for Parish Administration



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

DIRECTORY

Pastoral Leadership

Parish Trustees
Jeannine Mc Menamin
Henry Glover

Christian Life/Education

Bereavement Staff 424-3212
Consolation Ministry Ann Marie Lento 344-7454
Faith & Justice Team Chris Baeckstrom 912-7078
Hospital Visitors Staff & Euch. Ministers 424-3212
Intercessory Prayer Ann Vigrass 428-7217
Knights of Columbus
Marriage Formation Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa 795-1160
Parish Rel. Ed. Prog. Sr. Clare Sabini 424-3212
Prayer Shawls Ann Vigrass 428-7217
Respect Life Staff
Rite of Ch. Init. Adults Sister Ann Byrnes 424-3212
Rosary Ministry Marian Kapischke 424-2053
Small Christian Comm. Sr. Ann Byrnes
Spiritual Retreats John Galati 428-7073
St. Vincent de Paul
Stewardship Sheila Tartamosa 424-3212
Welcoming Team Shirley Kane 424-8022

Worship

Altar Servers Sister Ann Byrnes 424-3212
Pat Maggart
Church Environment
Ch. Art Environment
Eucharistic Ministers Committee
Lectors Sr. Ann Byrnes 424-3212
Linen Committee Dan Miller/ Sr. Ann Byrnes
Sacristans Ann Vigrass 428-7217
Greta Tyrrell 428-2412
Dom Sacca
Pat Maggart
Dave Bongiovanni
Joe Centonze
Chico Febus

Ushers Social Development Bridge Groups

Joyce DeMichele 424-4008
Barbara Cerquitella 795-7323
Lin Lyon 795-4396
Committee 424-3212
Barbara Cerquitella 795-7323
Lorraine Kennedy 489-0031

Administration

House of Charity Sheila Tartamosa 424-3212
Parish Finance Council Robert Crawford 424-3212
Parish Pastoral Council Marie Enny 751-8893

BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 10, 2021

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

Starting Fall 2020

Grades One through Eight - Sunday 9:30 AM—10:50 AM

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

New members are welcome in our community of faith. Please call, 424-3212, or come to the parish office to register. Registration forms are available on our Web Site.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please submit hardcopy and/or e-mail by 4 p.m. Monday.

CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL

St. John Paul II Regional School - (856) 783-3088
Principal: Mrs. Helen Persing



Journeys Ended---Journeys Begun

Whether you attend Mass in person or watch online we want you to know how welcome you are.

We pray that you will take the time to reflect on the challenges and blessings of the past year and look with hope to God's presence with us in the New Year.

Most likely you are like the rest of us here who are absolutely thrilled to say "good-bye" to a year that presented challenges we've never seen before! I have no doubt there are many things you would like to forget, but hopefully we can all give thanks to God for being our constant support and companion



*Mittens, and hats, and scarves, oh my!
Socks, and toys, and games, too!*
Once again, St. Thomas More parishioners, you have responded to our appeal so generously! Toes, hands, and necks of all sizes will stay warm thanks to your generosity.
Thank YOU!

"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



Stewardship Corner: Baptism of the Lord

Steward Discipleship

"And a voice came from the heavens, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" - MARK 1:11

Through our baptism, **Stewards** are daughters and sons of God. We are disciples of Jesus. As true disciples we are called to actively participate in our Catholic faith, not just be mere bystanders. This means working in collaboration with the Holy Spirit and discerning how we are being asked to use our gifts. Using our gifts for the benefit of others and not just for our own interests and comfort.

From the Pastor's Desk



Some Thoughts About Baptism

Dear Parishioners,

We celebrate the feast of the **Baptism of the Lord** this Sunday (January 10, 2021). Thankfully, there is an opportunity to preach and to reflect during the Sunday homily not only on *Jesus' Baptism* but on our own individual baptism and its importance.

Over the past 30+ years of baptizing infants, children and adults, I have had many occasions to inform parents, godparents, and sometimes even the persons being baptized (if they are old enough) just what Baptism means. Obviously, the outward sign of pouring of water signifies a cleansing. By Baptism, we are freed from **original sin** and (if having reached the age of reason) any personal or actual sin.

Baptism is our entry into the Catholic Church—we become a *Christian*. Baptism is also the doorway to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we become part of the Mystical Body of Christ as well as an **adopted child of God** with the privilege of calling God *our Father*. We are filled with God's **sanctifying grace** and with the Holy Spirit. We also share in the *priesthood of Christ*—the priesthood of all believers.

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: “Baptism seals the Christian with the indelible spiritual mark (character) of his belonging to Christ. No sin can erase this mark, even if sin prevents Baptism from bearing the fruits of salvation. Given once for all, Baptism cannot be repeated.” (1272)

So much happens *spiritually* through the immersion in or the pouring (on the forehead) of water with an invocation of the Most Holy Trinity: ***I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!***

While infant Baptism is part of an ancient tradition dating back to the 2nd century, we still have some parents who, on occasion, tell us that they are going to “let their children decide for themselves (about Baptism) when they get old enough.” I question the logic in this practice. Don't parents usually want the best for their children in so many ways? They want them to go to the best schools, to eat good healthy foods, to wear nice looking clothes, to associate with polite, well-behaved friends, to be successful in life. Yet, when it comes to a matter like ***eternal life through Christ***, they somehow do not seem to think that ***faith in Christ*** is something worth sharing and giving to their children! *I'm certainly confused here!*

Although there are currently restrictions (?) on the use of **holy water fonts** in many churches, there is nothing prohibiting you from coming to church with a container of water to have the priest bless some water for use in your home. *Holy Water* is a sacramental *reminding you of your Baptism*. Its use helps us to recall how essential Baptism is for the believing, practicing Christian and allows us to renew our own baptismal commitment to Jesus Christ and rejection of Satan in our lives.

St. Paul tells us:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6: 3-4)

Fr. Ed Namiotka

Pastor

BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 10, 2021

Ministry Schedule for JANUARY 16/17

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Mena/Choir Julie	E. Beckman	F. Egges
8:30AM	Fr. Namiotka	Becca Julie	K. Witts	M. Maggart
11:00AM	Fr. Namiotka	Becca Julie	M. Garber	C. Musso



We just began a new year and all our resolutions, desires, and hopes are still before us. Let us see what our Pope Francis is saying regarding this new beginning. “What does the word ‘conversion’ mean? In the Bible it means first and foremost, to change direction and orientation; and thus, also to change one’s way of thinking. In the moral and spiritual life, to convert means to turn oneself from evil to good, from sin to love of God. Conversion involves suffering for sins committed, the desire to be free from them and the intention to exclude them from one’s own life forever. It does not pay to continually postpone a serious evaluation of one’s own life, taking advantage of the Lord’s patience. He is patient and he waits for us... We may be able to deceive people, but not God. He knows our hearts better than we do ourselves. Let us take advantage of the present moment! Yes, let us seize the moment, the day, to say “no” to sin and “yes” to God, to open oneself to HIS grace, to once and for all stop falling back on ourselves, dragging ourselves into hypocrisy, and to face our own reality as we are – to recognize that we haven’t loved God and neighbor as we should, and confess it.” (Taken from Pope Francis’ daily reflections of Dec. 17 and 21, 2020.)

What if each of us would make one resolution: to start making a difference in ourselves, our families, our work place, our parish, our neighborhood? What if I started believing and acting as a saint would? What if I am asked to be the one catalyst for change? What if I took steps as did St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. John Neumann to make the difference?

Video on St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPfelwZgGE8>
 Video on St. John Neumann
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CEbPb-Y0gs>

Join us for *Mass!*

Let us gather and celebrate the Mass. Visit our parish Facebook® page!

Sundays at 11:00 AM

“Journeying Through Grief”

St. Thomas More Ministry of Consolation we are continuing our meetings via Zoom with telephone call-ins as an option. **Contact Ann Marie Lento: 856-344-7454; Marian Kapischke: 856-424-2053 helloducks@verizon.net; Jon Lisitski: 856:210-6466.**

9 Days for Life Novena
Thursday, January 21st—Friday, January 29, 2021
8:50 AM before the 9:00 AM Mass
St. Thomas More Church
 The Faith and Justice Team

Psalm 69:13– 17

But I pray to you, LORD, in the time of your favor; in your great love, O God, answer me with your sure salvation. ¹⁴Rescue me from the mire, do not let me sink; deliver me from those who hate me, from the deep waters. ¹⁵Do not let the floodwaters engulf me or the depths swallow me up or the pit close its mouth over me. ¹⁶Answer me, LORD, out of the goodness of your love; in your great mercy turn to me. ¹⁷Do not hide your face from your servant; answer me quickly, for I am in trouble.

If prayer was your job, would you still be employed?



BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 10, 2021



SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

9:00 AM Living & Deceased member of the Parish

4:30PM Margaret Crawford
r/b Frances & Jim Crawford & family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

8:30AM Dr. Richard Simmers
r/b Janet & Bill Thornton

11:00AM Ron Kramer
r/b Stan & Annette Thompson

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

9:00AM Intentions of TJ Sharpe r/b parents
Rev. Msgr. Patrick A. McCabe

9:30 AM—12NOON Eucharistic Adoration
in the Church

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

9:00AM Joe Ryan, Jr. r/b Joe Ryan & family

9:30 AM—12NOON Eucharistic Adoration
in the Church

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

9:00AM intentions of Bobbie Bradley
r/b Helen Protzman

9:30 AM—12NOON Eucharistic Adoration
in the Church

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

9:00AM Special Intentions r/b Jean Ho

9:30 AM—12 NOON Eucharistic Adoration
in the Church

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

8:30 AM Anthony “Buzz” & Loretta Cirillo
r/b Joan Lukens

9:30 AM—12Noon Eucharistic Adoration
in the Church

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

9:00 AM Living & Deceased member of the Parish

4:30 PM George Thomas Mac Michael
r/b Robert & Margaret Van Brunt & family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

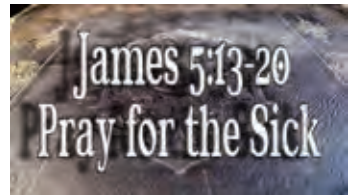
8:30AM Angelo DiGiacomo
r/b Pat & Mike Maggart

11:00 AM Dr. Richard Simmers
r/b Dr. & Mrs. Paul Schneider



Pope Francis’ January Prayer Intention:
May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

**PLEASE REMEMBER
IN YOUR PRAYERS:**
THE SICK... Kristina
Acevedo, Jim Beaney, Jim
Beaney, Jr., Pat Beaney,
Ray Chuisano, Elva Clark,
Joseph Console, Marie



Corcoran, GERALYN Coticone, John Coticone, Mary
Cowan, Catherine Diana, Chuck Goodwin, Thomas
Handler, Dick Haughwout, Maureen Howe, Helen
Kane, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, Don
Kreal, Marie Manalo, Mary Rita Merlino, Arleen Pajic,
Tom Pajic, Fred Petrone, Tina Petrone, Helen
Protzman, John Ravena, Joseph Ryan, Frank Sabatino,
Carlos Santiago, Yun-Yun Shen, Teddy Shaffer, Claire
Spence, Dick Spence, Michael Suralik, Pat Suralik, Jim
Tobin, Ann Vigrass, Sarah Warner.



**PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE
ARMED SERVICES...** 2nd
Lieutenant Patrick J. Bones, USMC,
Captain Anthony R. Cosentino, SSgt
John P. DeYoung, Lily Hutchinson,
USN, Petty Officer 3rd class; Lt.
Nicholas G. Iannuzzi, SSgt. Kris
Knaup, Lt. Christopher Mawn, SN
Christian Mele, PFC Sonny Morrison, Lt. Col.
Louis J. Papa, Lt. Col. James P. Tobin

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Spend time with your spouse strengthening your relationship from the comfort of your home with a **WWME Virtual Experience**.

Upcoming 2021 WWME Virtual Experiences include:

Virtual Restore, Rekindle, Renew Experience (3RE)- Jan. 20, 2021 thru Feb. 14, 2021—
Sessions on Sunday and Wednesday evenings starting at 7:00 PM EST

Virtual Weekend Experience—Feb. 12-14, 2021— Starting Friday evening and ending Sunday afternoon.

Virtual Restore, Rekindle, Renew Experience (3RE)- Mar. 1, 2021 thru Mar. 25, 2021—
Sessions on Monday and Thursday evenings starting at 7:00 PM EST

For additional information or to register, visit wwme.org.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 10, 2021

Small Christian Community Faith Sharing

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 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 17, 2021 - John 1:35-42

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus.

Commentary:

It seems that the disciples' decision to turn from following John, to following Jesus, was easy, instantaneous and without hesitation. If this is so, the disciples must have known all along that they were preparing, with John, for the One who was to come. John's proclamation: "Behold, the Lamb of God," led to their next new moment, the natural progression for their spiritual lives. We, as followers of Jesus, are continually invited to recognize, yes, **behold** [that is, see, feel, take in, be moved by, appreciate], the presence of Jesus as he walks by in our lives: in the people, events, and heartfelt moments, and follow his lead as the disciples did.

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: "When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share his love with others. Our lives are often changed by the witness of others; so too, others' lives may be changed by our witness and authentic friendship with them." *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "How to Build a Culture of Life" (respectlife.org/culture-of-life)*

Centering Prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us. **Sister Marcy will assist participants in experiencing this form of prayer.** This **ZOOM presentation will take place Tuesday, January 12th & 19th at 9:45 AM.** Please call (424-3212) or email (sthomasmore@comcast.net) the **Parish Office to register** for this Adult Faith Formation Program. We will need your phone number and email address at the time of registration.

Rosary for Life Rally on Public Square 12 noon, January 23, 2021. We will stand in front of the Women's Center on Kings Highway, close to Christ Our Light Catholic Church. All are invited to attend and support this Rally.



9 Days for Life Novena

January 21—29, 2021

The "9 Days for Life" Novena will be prayed in our parish each **morning before the 9:00AM Mass at 8:50AM, January 21st - 29th, 2021.** Please come and join in prayer with us!

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life Novena, **9 Days for Life, Thursday, January 21—Friday, January 29, 2021.**

Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Sign up at 9daysforlife.com.



Thank you to all who donated to the Christmas Flower fund. Your donations helped us to make our Christmas celebrations as beautiful as they

are joyful!

Please be reminded that **all intentions listed on your donation envelope have been prayed for at Mass.** Thank you, again.



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Message and data rates may apply.

What's My Name?

The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

#WHATSMYNAME

In Remembrance of Samantha Josephson

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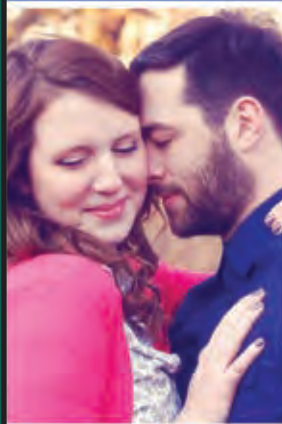
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