

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 Church

Sat. 4:30 PM

Sun. 8:30 and 11:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration in the Church

Mon.—Fri. 9:30 AM—12 Noon



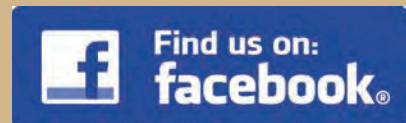
Rite of Reconciliation Saturday

3:00—4:00 PM

In the Chapel

First Fridays after the 9:00 AM Mass

Father Edward Namiotka, 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
Jon Llisitski jonll1@comcast.net

Faith & Justice Team Chris Bäckstrom 912-7078

Hospital Visitors Staff & Euch. Ministers 424-3212

Intercessory Prayer Ann Vigrass 428-7217

Knights of Columbus Doug George 609-313-3321

Marriage Formation Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa 795-1160

Parish Rel. Ed. Prog. Sr. Clare Sabini 424-3212

Prayer Shawl Ministry 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 Staff

Stewardship Sheila Tartamosa 424-3212

Welcoming Team Shirley Kane 424-8022

Worship

Altar Servers
Church Environment
Ch. Art Environment
Eucharistic Ministers
Lectors
Linen Committee
Sacristans

Ushers

Social Development
Bridge Groups

Funsters (over 50 club)

Parish Festival
Women's Club

Administration

House of Charity
Parish Finance Council
Parish Pastoral Council

Sister Ann Byrnes 424-3212
Committee

Committee

Sr. Ann Byrnes 424-3212

Dan Miller/ Sr. Ann Byrnes

Ann Vigrass 428-7217

Greta Tyrrell 428-2412

Dom Sacca

Dave Bongiovanni

Joe Centonze

Chico Febus

Joyce DeMichele 424-4008

Barbara Cerquitella 795-7323

Lin Lyon 795-4396

Committee 424-3212

Barbara Cerquitella 795-7323

Lorraine Kennedy 489-0031

Sheila Tartamosa 424-3212

Robert Crawford 424-3212

Marie Enny 751-8893

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 27, 2022

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



God of compassion,
we rejoice in your holy Word, Jesus,
who again and again offers us mercy for our sins,
helps us to forgive and love one another.
As we continue our journey to Easter,
may heaven grant us the courage
to change what needs to be changed in our lives.
Fill us with the joy that comes from experiencing you
as a God of mercy.
Make us welcoming ambassadors,
able to embody your love.
This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Sunday collection for March 20, 2022
was: **\$8859 from 95 envelopes, checks, cash**
1799.85 32 online donations
\$10,658.85 127 total donations
Thank you for your donations to our parish.

“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*



Stations of the Cross will be held in the Chapel at 7:00 pm on Fridays in Lent.

Stewardship Corner: 4th Sunday of Lent Stewardship Provisions

“No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.” (JOSHUA 5:12)

Over the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land, the manna ceased. Likewise, **God’s blessings to us may change over the years, but it is important to trust that God will always provide His Stewards with all that we need.**



From the Pastor's Desk Spiritual Warfare

Dear Parishioners,

Did you notice how each year the Scripture readings for the **1st Sunday of Lent** emphasized the temptations of Jesus by Satan? These temptations should help us to understand that there is indeed **spiritual warfare** taking place for our immortal souls. Jesus was not the only one directly involved in this battle. Everyone who earnestly desires holiness of life and makes a commitment to follow Jesus will, at one time or another, experience some type of temptation and be urged to sin. Why?

We need to understand and to believe that the devil is very real—a fallen angel. We must also realize that he and the other fallen angels (demons) hate humanity and desire our ultimate destruction, person by person. In God's permissive will, we are allowed to be tempted by them, presumably to strengthen and perfect our resolve to follow Jesus and His commands. Similar to an athlete who never realizes his/her full potential until he/she engages in rigorous competition, a Christian who never has to defend or struggle with **faith** may never grow strong in it and may collapse under tribulation, pressure, ridicule, etc. Mysteriously, God allows Satan or one of the other demons to tempt us.

In our human weakness, we are unfortunately inclined to sin because of the effects of original sin (concupiscence). We do not see spiritual matters clearly, settle for immediate gratification rather than seek eternal happiness, and even retain a certain pride, erroneously thinking that we know more than or are somehow better than God. We suffer from an often debilitating spiritual weakness of will. Satan can then readily seduce us as he successfully seduced Adam and Eve and as he also attempted, unsuccessfully, to do so with Jesus.

Pursue the spiritual life long enough and you will find that times with a great possibility for holiness will also potentially be times of great spiritual tribulation and temptation. Ever have a nasty fight with your spouse right before some important family event? Ever want to *kill* your kids (figuratively, of course) at a time when there is something holy or spiritual going on? Ever have a wicked temptation of impurity during Mass or a time of prayer? Ever been tempted to pornography when alone or to stray from the marriage vows when away from home on business? When these or similar temptations continue to happen like clockwork, you might begin to wonder if something *demonic* might be at work. Trust me, there are evil, spiritual forces **always** at work.

The gateway to allowing evil into our lives can be subtle or not so subtle. Most especially, stay away from the occult, from witchcraft and "new-age" religions or spirituality, from pornography, from the abuse of alcohol and drugs, and from sexual promiscuity in any form. These and similar matters can all be openings which permit Satan to wreak havoc in our lives. Moreover, with a lifestyle that neglects prayer and the worship that is due to God (going to Mass each week), that becomes too materialistic or worldly, or where one lives as if God does not exist or does not have any real effect/relationship to our lives or actions, Satan can use such circumstances gradually to infiltrate and destroy us as well.

I see the current attack on *traditional marriage*, on the *sacred priesthood* and on various longstanding Church teachings just more tactics used by Satan to annihilate the Catholic Church. He is going to keep trying (unsuccessfully) until the end of time when Jesus Christ will ultimately be victorious accompanied by those who persevere with Him. Don't give up. Stay faithful to Christ and to the Church He established.

But be prepared continually ***to do battle!***

Fr. Ed Namiotka

Pastor

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 27, 2022

Ministry Schedule for April 2/3

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	Sr. Sophia	J. Cepeda	R. Cepeda
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	K. Glover	D. Mayfield	T. Kenny
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	J. De Michele	C. Musso	D. Russo



The Scripture readings of this week bring us to reflect on the **“unthinkable”**. Jesse was glad to show his handsome sons, looking strong, brave, making a good appearance. Yet, God rejected all of them and had His eyes on the one who wasn’t even there. Jesse thought David was only a child and did



not invite him....to the show. “The **“unthinkable”**, God fooled Jesse”. In the second reading we are told that darkness is very much a part of our surroundings, (that is sin) but so is the light. JESUS is LIGHT and shows us the way. *“Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness.” (Eph. 8;10)* Yet, the **“unthinkable”** is so easy for us, poor humans, to second guess JESUS and make our own choices. Consider the gospel..... The so called “religious leaders” could not accept JESUS as the “promised one” as the “anointed one”. They second guessed him too. How could he be from God if he did not follow their rules? They discredited all the GOOD he did. As we look at the world today, we see how some people cannot see the light. They choose darkness, and don’t even allow others to see the light. They rather stay in the dark tunnel and drag other along. What a serious and deep examination of conscience for us this Lenten season. What is the **“unthinkable”** reality in our life? We have been saved by JESUS, he died for us, rose for us and has prepared a place for us in heaven. *Does our life match up to his sacrifice? Do we choose complete faith or do we just pick and choose our own strategies? When all is said and done, what example do we present to our children?*

Lent 2022

Our Lenten disciplines in action are sacramental signs; their function is to point the way toward God’s reign. Lent is a season of growth. In fact, the word, Lent, comes from “lencten”, the Anglo-Saxon word for springtime, Just as sunlight, water, and fertile soil foster growth in our gardens, so we can foster spiritual growth in ourselves and our families through fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. Making time for family prayer keeps our relationships rooted in God’s love.

Question for reflection and discussion: *How has your faith in God and in Jesus helped you through the times of darkness in your relationships with others?*

“Praying For the people of Ukraine and for World Peace”



Taize is a prayer service designed to achieve a contemplative state through music, scripture readings, and silence. It

is an enriching experience for the Lenten Season. This Lent we pray especially for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, those who have died, those injured, and the millions that are left homeless.

Monday, March 28, 2022 Parish Chapel 7:00 PM



**Regional Penance Service
Holy Eucharist Church**

**Monday, April 4, 2022
7:00 PM**

Many confessors will be present for the Sacrament. All are invited.

**Cherry Hill Food Pantry 2022 Raffle Fundraiser
Tickets \$10 apiece
Drawing April 30, 2022 at 6:00 PM
More details to come.**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 27, 2022



SATURDAY, MARCH 26

4:30 PM **Richard Duggan** r/b Fitzpatrick family

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

8:30 AM **Gary Scarpa** r/b Greta Tyrrell

11:00 AM **Kenneth Gillespie** r/b Flynn family

MONDAY, MARCH 28

9:00AM **Joel Martinez** r/b Emma Avila

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

9:00AM **Edward Boyle** r/b Gerri Boyle

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

9:00AM **Craig Hawksley** r/b Hawksley family

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

9:00 AM **Albert Jones** r/b Bob Sorrentino

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

9:00 AM **Patrocinio de Guzman**
r/b Tess Librojo & family

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

4:30 PM **Joseph Gatti** r/b Carolyn McHale

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

8:30AM **Ray Dinicola** r/b Mary Von Lintig

11:00AM **Lee O'Connor** r/b Flynn family

Please note: **Daily Mass and Adoration are once again being held in the Chapel.**

Pope Francis' MARCH Prayer Intentions
For a Christian response to bioethical challenges
"We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action."



Please pray for the repose of the soul of:
Sr. Carol Jander, OSF Mary Immaculate
(Steve & Marsha Jander's sister)
Dick Haughwout

faithFULL Food Drive— March 27, 2022

All items collected here will go to the Cherry Hill Food Pantry.

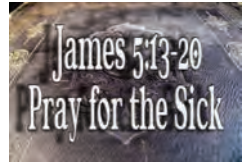
Suggested Items:

Pancake Mix and Syrup; Shampoo; Deodorant; Bar Soap; Laundry detergent; Canned Spaghetti Sauce; Dried Pasta and rice; Peanut butter and Jelly; Canned Beans, etc.

Thank you for your help!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE SICK...

Kristina Acevedo, Caroline Bancheri, Jim Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Pat Beaney, Ray Chuisano, Elva Clark, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, Mary Cowan, Catherine Diana, Elizabeth Garber, Marjorie Graham, Eileen Goodwin, Dick Haughwout, Jean Haines, Maureen Howe, Helen Kane, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, Marie Manalo, Tina Petrone, Helen Protzman, John Ravena, Joseph Ryan, Carlos Santiago, Yun-Yun Shen, Teddy Shaffer, Claire Spence, Dick Spence, Dale Strack, Stacia Strack, Michael Suralik, Pat Suralik, Ann Vigrass, Sarah Warner.



PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...

SPC Jordan Beckman, Captain Patrick J. Bones, USMC, Major Anthony R. Cosentino, USAF, SSgt John P. DeYoung, Lt. Nicholas G. Iannuzzi, SSgt. Kris Knaup, Lt. Christopher Mawn, SN Christian Mele, PFC Sonny Morrison, Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa, Sgt. 1st Class Mark Rimbaugh, Lt. Col. James P. Tobin, SPC Nicole Williams, and *all those serving our country in the armed forces.*

House of Charity 2022 "From Many...One Body"

Your gift to the House of Charity provides: Incentives for Parish Initiatives:

When our parish collects its goal amount, up to 10% is returned to our parish for our local charitable needs. Additionally, 75% of all funds received above our parish goal will also be returned to our local parish to foster our charitable and ministerial work.

This year **St. Thomas More Parish goal is \$89,700.**

We will need the help of all of our parishioners to meet this goal. Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of your contribution for this year.

Campaign Prayer

*Heavenly Father,
You called us to be one body: your Church.
You blessed us so we may be good servants.
Help us to serve those in need.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord,
Who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns
One God forever and ever. Amen.*

Sunday, April 3, 2022, at Cooper River Park (Jack Curtis Stadium | 5300 North Park Drive | Pennsauken) for our annual iRace4Vocations. For more information and to register for the event, visit: camdenpriest.org/irace4vocations

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 Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 3, 2022 – John 8:1-11

The scribes and Pharisees attempt to trick Jesus by bringing to him a woman caught in adultery. The law says that such women should be stoned to death. What would Jesus say?

“Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, Jesus straightened up and said to them, ‘Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.’ Again, Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one...When Jesus saw that no one condemned the woman he said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.”

Commentary:

This Gospel is centered not so much on the woman or her sin of adultery as it is on a personal encounter with Jesus. Encountering Jesus always exposes the truth - both the woman and the crowd learn the truth about their own sin. They and we are not that different. We are all sinners who need to encounter Jesus, ask the truth about ourselves, and receive Jesus' mercy.

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 Commentary resonates with me?



Pro-Life Corner: “All the wars ever fought, all the holocausts ever perpetrated, all the plagues that ever raged, all the bombs that ever dropped, all the families that ever laid waste to the land, put together, have not killed the number of human beings wiped out by abortion.” Fr. Frank Pavone

The Little Servant Sisters are asking for YOUR HELP!

The Little Servant Sisters are asking for donations which will be conveyed across the border to our Sisters in Ukraine, and funds will be also used for our Sisters emergency relief work among the refugees in Poland. The Sisters and the refugees will most certainly need the funds to be used solely for them. **Send checks to Little Servant Sisters, 1000 Cropwell Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003 (Ukraine & Refugees) or donations:** www.lsic.us/online-giving/.

St. Thomas More Consolation Ministry *“Journeying Through Grief”*

Guided by Kenneth C. Haugh's series: A Time to Grieve; Experiencing Grief; Finding Hope and Healing; and Rebuilding and Remembering.

**Contact: Contact Ann Marie Lento 856-344-7454 rlen-
to05@comcast.net or Jon Lisitski 856-210-6466
jonll1@comcast.net**

**Next meeting is Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 1:00 PM
in the Hall.**

“Perhaps the most important truth I have learned is that healing in grief is heart-based, not head-based.” Alan Wolfelt
Understanding your grief.



Whether Christians do right by the environment depends on whether we see the Earth as a megastore where we can ‘shop’ for whatever we want or as a garden that needs careful tending.



If you receive an email which is seemingly being sent by a priest or staff member requesting financial assistance of any kind, please report it to the parish office immediately.

The official email address for St. Thomas More parish is stthomasmore@comcast.net.



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I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD
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LAYS DOWN HIS
LIFE FOR
THE SHEEP.
JOHN 10:11

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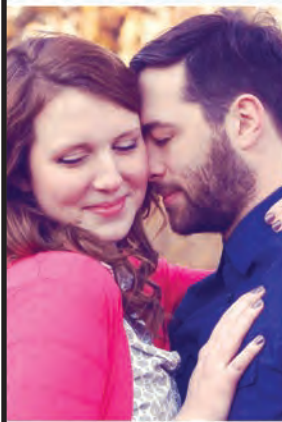


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