

St. Thomas More Church

1439 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003
856-424-3212 • Fax: 856-424-2411

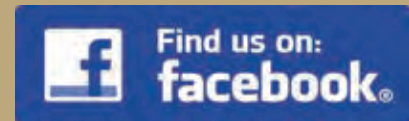
Web Site: <http://stthomasmorenj.org/> • E-mail: stthomasmore@comcast.net

Eucharistic Celebrations
Sunday: LIVE STREAM
Mass 11:00 am



Rite of Reconciliation
Saturdays
3:00—4:00 PM
Use Office Door
Please Ring Bell

Msgr. Roger McGrath, Administrator
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



DIRECTORY

Pastoral Leadership

Parish Trustees

Jeannine Mc Menamin
Henry Glover

Christian Life/Education

Bereavement	Staff	424-3212
Consolation Ministry	Ann Marie Lento	344-7454
Hospital Visitors	Staff & Euch. Ministers	424-3212
Intercessory Prayer	Ann Vigrass	428-7217
Knights of Columbus	David Galloway	609-980 6006
Marriage Formation	Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa	795-1160
Parish Rel. Ed. Prog.	Sr. Clare Sabini	424-3212
Prayer Shawls	Ann Vigrass	428-7217
Respect Life		
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	Paul Rossi	424-3212
Stewardship	Sheila Tartamosa	424-3212

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
Pat Maggart Committee	
Committee	
Sr. Ann Byrnes	424-3212
Dan Miller/ Sr. Ann Byrnes	
Ann Vigrass	428-7217
Greta Tyrrell	428-2412
Dom Sacca	
Pat Maggart	
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

The Ascension of the Lord, May 24, 2020

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Starting Fall 2020

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

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



GRATITUDE

Your Parish Community is

GRATEFUL

for your consistent contributions.



The pandemic is serious and complex. Never in our lives has it been more important to demonstrate that we are called by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue our mission in love and hope as the Body of Christ.

Sunday Mass

Not Canceled

Helping a neighbor

Not Canceled

Time in prayer/Reading your Bible

Not Canceled

Calling a Friend

Not Canceled

Time with Family

Not Canceled

Supporting our Church

Not Canceled

Stewardship Corner

"I am praying for them..." JOHN 17: 9

Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of *Stewardship*. Pray in good times and in bad. Prayer is always the first and best option in any situation, not just the last resort. Pray for friends and family and for those that don't treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you.

The Ascension of the Lord, May 24, 2020

2020 Census is here! Fill it Out! It is important to complete the Census, as getting an accurate count can help our local communities receive the necessary federal funding for education, hospitals, jobs and other services they deserve.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, The Census has moved entirely online.

Responses to #2020 Census will shape how \$45 billion+ in federal funding is distributed annually to our communities. We are proud to partner with @NJCensus2020 to make sure New Jersey gets counted! You can make a real difference in our community – Fill **out** your Census at CENSUS.NJ.GOV.



PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer request for a sick relative, friend or yourself, please email

sthomasmore@comcast.net or call the office 856-424-3212 and we will add them

Mass Intentions and Mass Cards

We continue to take your Mass Intention requests for future dates.

Please email sthomasmore@comcast.net or call the Parish office 856-424-3212 to schedule.



Urgent Request for Sewing Samaritans!

Anyone with a willing heart who knows how to sew is needed to make cloth masks for when we are able to open our church doors to welcome back our parish family and visitors for Mass.

These masks would be available for anyone who forgets to bring their own. Even if you can make only a few, what a special gesture of “love thy neighbor” your sewing efforts will be! Please indicate your willingness to be a part of this caring sewing ministry as soon as possible by contacting the parish office at (856-424-3212) or sthomasmore@comcast.net. **THANK YOU!**

Catholic Charities - Diocese of Camden bi-monthly food distribution.

CAMDEN COUNTY

When: May 26, June 9 and 23

Time: 1:30—3:30 PM

Where : 1845 Haddon Ave., Camden

**Call to Reserve your pick up time
856-342-4193**

HOPE

- we will all be together again -

When we are able to return to public Mass, how will this impact how we will celebrate Mass?

Since we are observing necessary public health protocols, we will all need to adapt ourselves to several adjustments that prior to this we would never have thought we would need to do. How we come in, where we sit, how we move about, all these and many other usual actions will be impacted by our commitments

to protect each other's well-being.

We can expect that this opening up will be done in phases with clear directives as to what must be done in each phase. We will need to maintain the protocols that will mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. This includes but is not limited to the wearing of face masks, the regular washing of hands/sanitizer, the sanitation of surfaces and the observance of a six-foot minimum of social distancing.

The parish staff is diligently working on preparing the details of how we will accomplish all this effectively and with a minimum of disruption. I look forward to sharing with you these detailed directives so that we may all be prepared for when we do gather again in person.

Stay the Course

In the meantime, I encourage us all to remain diligent with our observance of the protocols as the most important thing we can do to facilitate the resumption of the public celebration of Mass. Take care of your loved ones and neighbors. Take care of yourselves. Join us, if possible, for the live streaming of Mass on Sunday mornings at 11:00. Keep close to God and pray for an end to this terrible scourge.

May God bless you and keep you safe and well!

Msgr. Roger

The Ascension of the Lord, May 24, 2020

We will continue live streaming **Mass every Sunday at 11:00 AM Via FACEBOOK live.** Please join us and invite your friends and family.

You do not need to login to Facebook to view the mass live stream.

When someone who doesn't have a Facebook account clicks on the **FB link** on our website stthomasmorenj.org they will see Log in or create BUT

It may look like you need to create an account, **but you really just need to scroll down and click on the Video.**

We sincerely **thank** everyone involved from those communicating, producing, serving at the Altar., music, decorating, and especially all of you who participated via your electronics from home. We feel your presence through mutual prayer.

We especially thank parishioner Eric Thompson for his technical expertise, time and effort.



Peace and All Good to all of US - This is a time for HOPE. We can rebuild our world, our neighborhood after this pandemic. We can create something new and wonderful "Together" with GOD, in Faith – LOVE and Hope. It is the time to roll up our sleeves and start anew. Let us not listen to those who say it is "utopia". True leaders and dreamers will never say that. JESUS did not say so when he went to the Cross. **YES, easier said than done! Let us get busy then.** We will have new schedule, new books and new excitement.

Catechists, Volunteers are needed for September.
Consider responding to God's call. NEW SCHEDULE –
Sunday morning 9:30-10:50 am.

Message from a college senior: "Being at home for more than two months, I have rediscovered slowness, the pleasure of living every moment and observing, something we are not commonly used to, especially we young people, because we live in a society in constant movement, too fast. I used to sleep a few hours per night, I ate quickly and sometimes I skipped meals, I tried to always be present for everyone, saying "yes" to everything and my agenda was constantly full, from morning to late evening. But now I gained a whole new clarity, a beautiful awareness. If I had to describe this period of time with three words, I would choose *self-love, awareness, and gratitude*. I decided to take a real break from the frenzy of my previous unsustainable daily life. I rediscovered a deeply important piece of myself and, even if I don't seem to have accomplished "much", I have learned a lot and I have understood that from now on I will no longer live a life so tied to commitments, so rapid, without even finding the time to take a walk, to stay with my loved ones, to make a phone call or answer a message. I would like to keep taking care of myself and, consequently, others." (Chiara Duchi)



Reminder—Share what we have with our global family. Rice Bowl donations will be collected through June 15, 2020.



As you are well-aware, 2020 is already starting out as a challenging year. Our members continue to go out and deliver food and emergency funds to

individuals who are now more in need than ever before. Although we would normally collect at the Masses on the third weekend of each month, we now have a donation link on the Church's website. OR You can still send checks made payable to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (St Thomas More Conference), 1439 Springdale Rd, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003.

Hopefully, this will enable you to continue to contribute. Thank you for your generosity and prayers.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul



Let us know about your 2020 Graduates and we will recognize their achievement in our Parish Bulletin.

Email - stthomasmore@comcast.net

NAME
Grade
School

The Ascension of the Lord, May 24, 2020



Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, May 23

Living and Deceased Members of St. Thomas More Parish

SUNDAY, May 24 Live Streaming 11:00 AM

Dick DeMichele r/b Charles & Barbara Cerquitella
Matthew D'Ulisse r/b Eileen Kleinz
Mother's Day Intentions

MONDAY, May 25

American Warriors r/b Teri Bones

TUESDAY, May 26

Anthony Esposito

WEDNESDAY, May 27

Mother's Day Intentions

THURSDAY, May 28

Frances DiPiero

FRIDAY, May 29

Brigitta McCarthy r/b Marguerite Dwyer

SATURDAY, May 30

Living & deceased members of St. Thomas More Parish

SUNDAY, May 31 Live Streaming 11:00 AM

Gail Lee Krenslak r/b Frank & Frances
Rita DeRose r/b Flynn Family
Mother's Day Intentions



Pray for our recently deceased and their families.

Parishioner Florianna Gilden

And

Chuck Betson, Jr.
Brother of Chris Betson Smith

May they rest in peace.

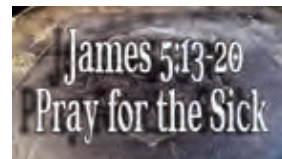
Pope Francis' May Intention

We pray that Deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

Today, do one little thing to take better care of yourself

...then repeat tomorrow

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE SICK... Kristina Acevedo, Jim Beaney, Jr., Pat Beaney, Ray Chuisano, Elva Clark, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, Geralyn Coticone, John Coticone, Mary Cowan, Margaret Crawford, Catherine Diana, Angelo DiGiacomo, Chuck Goodwin, Thomas Handler, Dick Haughwout, Raffelina Iannelli, Helen Kane, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, Ron Kramer, Don Kreal, Marie Manalo, John Minot, Arleen Pajic, Tom Pajic, Fred Petrone, Tina Petrone, 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, Kathryn Wolfe, Maureen Howe, Olga Erlam, Jim Beaney.



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, Senior Airman Kris Knaup, 1st Lt. Christopher M. Mawn, SN Christian Mele, PFC Sonny Morrison, Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa, Lt. Col. James P. Tobin



HOUSE OF CHARITY BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

'Who is My Neighbor?'

Support the 2020 House of Charity Bishop's Annual Appeal

Donations can be mailed to the Parish Office www.camdendiocese.org/hoc

We help our neighbors...

When we share our blessings with those in need. Your House of Charity 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, and housing assistance.

Your gift matters to your neighbor.

St. Thomas More Parish Goal : \$120,247.00

To date we have received \$64,793.00 from 130 pledges and donations.

Your Neighbors THANK YOU!

The Ascension of the Lord, May 24, 2020

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 Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020 - John 20:19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Commentary:

Imagine that you're home at night, the door locked, the day's responsibilities safely tucked away until tomorrow. Into the room walks Jesus. You don't know how he got there, but you know it's he. "Peace be with you," he says. As well he might, since you're about ready to jump out of your skin. Then he delivers these not entirely-comforting operating instructions: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." That's sort of what you were afraid he'd say, to be honest. You've read the book so you already know where the Father sent him. And yes, the book has a happy ending or you wouldn't be standing here having this conversation with the Risen Lord. Do you have enough trust to put your hand in the hand of a man marked deep with sacred wounds? He's waiting for your answer.

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:

You must remember that some things legally right are not morally right. Abortion and euthanasia are prime examples of this statement. Work and pray to end these atrocities.



Meditation on Creation

Find a comfortable position/place

Breath: Take three deep breaths, filling your lungs thoroughly, holding your breath momentarily and exhaling through your mouth.

Heart: Quiet your inner self – embracing the gift of life with each breath and heartbeat.

Let yourself reflect on these words of St. Hildegard of Bingen:

"Human beings are the thinking heart, called to be co-creators with God in shaping the world."

Express your gratitude for the wonders of creation's rhythm of interconnection.

Reflect: How do you feel that this most beautiful place, Earth, is threatened by destruction due to our own actions and neglect?

Ponder the call to be co-creators and not dominators and oppressors of this web of life for now and future generations.

Resolution: Come in touch with the passion/energy you feel to protect this most beautiful place, Earth. In what way(s) might you help sustain Earth's life?

(Adapted and used with permission by the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Written by Sister Barbara Sheehan and Providence Associate Gene Majewski.)

DIOCESE OF CAMDEN

Prayer for Spiritual Communion
BY SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

MY JESUS,

I BELIEVE YOU ARE PRESENT IN THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT.

I LOVE YOU ABOVE ALL THINGS AND I DESIRE TO RECEIVE YOU INTO MY SOUL.

SINCE I CANNOT NOW RECEIVE YOU SACRAMENTALLY,

COME AT LEAST SPIRITUALLY INTO MY HEART.

I EMBRACE YOU AS IF YOU WERE ALREADY THERE, AND UNITE MYSELF WHOLLY TO YOU.

NEVER PERMIT ME TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU.

AMEN.



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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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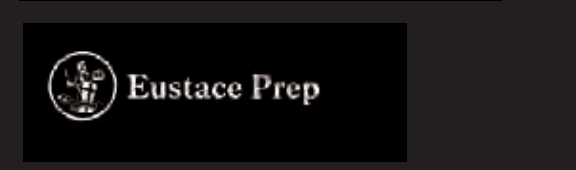
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Bookbinder Law, LLC values our clients well-being as our highest priority. In light of the CDC directives to safeguard one another and our ongoing mission to protect seniors and those with reduced immunity, our firm is currently offering phone and video conferences and accommodations for document signing appointments.



Dana E. Bookbinder

Certified Elder Law Attorney

by the ABA-Approved National Elder Law Foundation

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