

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



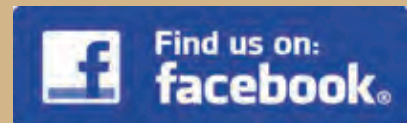
Rite of Reconciliation Saturday

3:00—4:00 PM

In the Chapel

First Fridays after the 9:00 AM Mass

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 Doug George 609-313-3321
 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
 Parish Finance Council
 Parish Pastoral Council
 Sheila Tartamosa 424-3212
 Robert Crawford 424-3212
 Marie Enny 751-8893

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, AUGUST 29, 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

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 2 p.m. Monday.

CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL

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



Prayer for a Godly Heart

Give me, O Lord, a welcoming heart,
which is humbly open to
receiving Your revelation.

Give me an unconquered heart,
which no tribulation can wear down.

Give me an upright heart,
which is merciful and charitable.

Give me a steadfast heart,
which loves you every day of my life!



Updating our Parish Records is an ongoing process. If you have changed any of your contact information please email the parish at stthomasmore@comcast.net or call the office at 856-424-3212

and confirm/update your telephone/cell phone numbers and your email address(es). Thank you for your cooperation. Thanks to those who have responded.

September 2nd—12th, 2022 Visit Prague*
Budapest* Vienna*

Passion Play of Oberammergau

Hosted by: Fr. Edward Namiotka

Cost is \$4211 per person from Philadelphia

Brochures are at the exit doors of the church.

“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: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Grateful Stewardship

“Be doers of the word and not hearers only...”
JAMES 1:22

It's easy to understand the definition of **Stewardship** – living a grateful and generous life. The hard part is doing it! How do your actions reflect God's word? Do you share your time in prayer with God? Do you use your talent to help those in need? Are you generous with your financial resources? If not, what are you waiting for?



From the Pastor

Confusion or Clarity?

Dear Parishioners,

One thing I hopefully learned through my extensive seminary training (in both philosophy and theology) was to be a more **critical thinker**. I do not usually take what is told to me as *gospel* without first dissecting it thoroughly while thinking about it over some extended time. Don't be surprised if I tend to pick apart statements and examine word usage. (Maybe, at times, I analyze some matters too much.)

Over time, I have learned to sift through arguments that were based solely on *emotion* rather than *fact*. I tend more readily to recognize *ad hominem* attacks on people which have nothing to do their actual stated beliefs. I look for theological statements to contain genuine substance and for preciseness in doctrine rather than buy into *buzz-words* and *catch-phrases*. I want consistency, **clarity** and minimal ambiguity. Maybe this is because I had to stand in front of high school students for a couple of decades trying to articulate the faith as unambiguously as possible.

So, what do I make of some of the **confusion** that currently exists in the Church? This situation definitely does not help *believers* (or even *non-believers*). What has infiltrated the Church has been referred to as a "weaponized ambiguity." *Can divorced and re-married Catholics receive Holy Communion? Can homosexual unions be sanctioned by the Church? Is abortion ever justified? Are Catholics who practice artificial contraception in the state of mortal sin?* It seems to depend with whom you speak. You can get a different answer to each of the above—sometimes with a wink and a nod—from priests, bishops, theologians, etc.

This vagueness creates havoc with our objective morality and tends to legitimize a moral relativism (situation ethics). Sin, despite its gravity, becomes a subjective opinion rather than an objective truth. The danger in all of this uncertainty and confusion is that eternal souls may be lost forever in the process. It is our obligation in the Catholic Church to lead people to Christ who is *the way, the truth and the life* and not back to one's misinformed, erroneous conscience.

As a confessor for over thirty years, people have told me stories about how *Father told me that it was not a sin* or that *Father told me just to follow my conscience*. In actuality, priests like me are not helping anyone by hiding the truth from them and leaving them in the state of sin. Making a person *feel good* about himself or herself for a time never truly addresses or remedies any immoral act and its consequences. If sin is truly bad, people don't need to be enslaved by it but rather freed from it. Sin and evil don't suddenly become something else by our willing it so, our misnaming it or our justifying it. And in order to follow our conscience, it needs to be rightly-formed.

There are about 2000 years of Catholic Church teaching we are able to reference to find what various saints, councils, pontiffs, etc. have articulated through the years. While our understanding of Church doctrine may mature with time, no officially defined dogma or traditionally held teaching can be radically changed or suddenly eliminated. Be a **critical thinker** and especially take the time to investigate anything that seems strange or contrary to any long-standing doctrine or moral teaching. It is much better to be safe than *eternally* sorry.

Fr. Ed Namiotka

Pastor

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, AUGUST 29, 2021

Ministry Schedule for September 4/5

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	G. Tyrrell	J. Cepeda	R. & C. Cepeda
8:30AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	B. Massey	F. Eggles	
11:00AM	Fr. Namiotka	Music Ministry	M. Garber	B. Haughwout	



Registration for 2021-22 has begun. The schedule of sessions for next year is Sundays –9:30 to 10:45 AM.

The Religious Education Registration Form is on the Parish website: stthomasmorenj.org. Complete the form and return .

Healing after Abortion: Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats, hosted by the Archdiocese of Newark Respect Life Office, will be held **Sept. 10-12 (in English) and Oct. 22-24 (in Spanish) at the Archdiocesan Retreat Center, 499 Belgrove Drive, Kearny, NJ 07032**. Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats offer a supportive and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release, and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal, and healing.

**HOUSE of CHARITY
FACES of HOPE**

Thank you to everyone who donated to the House of Charity Appeal. To date we have raised **\$83,150/92.7%** of our Goal. If you have not made your contribution, please prayerfully consider donating today so we can reach our goal.

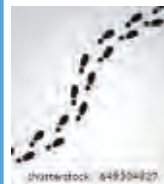
***We are so close.
We need your help.***

How does my Parish benefit?

Parishes are direct recipients of the ministries and services supported by the House of Charity. **In addition, any money received and exceeding the parish assigned goal of \$89,700 is returned through a rebate to our parish to use for charitable and ministerial work.**

Cards are at the doors of the church.

- Mail your gift to the Parish Office.
- Drop your gift in the collection basket (marked House of Charity)
- Drop off at the Parish Office during business hours.
- Give online- allows parishioners to send their gifts directly and securely to the House of Charity. The link to House of Charity online giving platform is: <https://bit.ly/HoC-Online>



**“Taking Steps to
End Homelessness”**

St. Joseph House, Camden, is sponsoring this **5K Walk at Cooper River Park, 9:00 AM Saturday, September 18th, 2021**. Registration is required. Register online at www.jhoc.org. Bring a friend or family member and support the caring work of Joseph’s House.

RCIA: ARE YOU SOMEONE OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...

- *Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- *Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?
- *Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

RCIA is an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. There are separate sessions for children or youth. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm accepting setting. For information please contact Sr. Ann at 856-424-3212.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, AUGUST 29, 2021



SATURDAY, AUGUST 28

9:00 AM Living & Deceased members of the Parish

4:30 PM Rev. Msgr. Patrick A. McCabe
Edward O'Brien
r/b Mark & Liz DeYoung

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

8:30AM Intentions of Mrs. Pat Chapman
r/b Joseph Kuchler & family

11:00 AM Dorothy Dalsey r/b Faith Zborover

MONDAY, AUGUST 30

9:00AM Mary & Andrew Pilipchuk
r/b Franciscan Sisters

NO ADORATION

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31

9:00AM Gloria & Louis Levari
r/b Franciscan Sisters

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

9:00AM Gary Scarpa r/b Thursday SCC Group

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

9:00 AM Margaret Boyle r/b Gerri Boyle

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

9:00 AM Intentions of Joe Centonze
r/b Marguerite Dwyer

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of the parish

4:30 PM Jim Tobin r/b Pat & Nick Kirincic

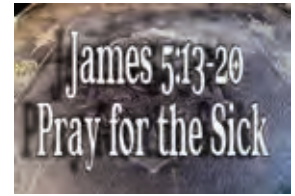
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

8:30AM Joe Smith r/b Greta Tyrrell

11:00AM Gayle Beaney Clower r/b family

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, GERALYN Coticone, John Coticone, Mary Cowan, Catherine Diana, Elizabeth Garber, Marjorie Graham, Chuck Goodwin, Dick Haughwout, Maureen Howe, Helen Kane, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, Don Kreal, Marie Manalo, Fred Petrone, Tina Petrone, Helen Protzman, John Ravena, Joseph Ryan, Carlos Santiago, Yun-Yun Shen, Teddy Shaffer, Claire Spence, Dick Spence, Stacia Strack, Michael Suralik, Pat Suralik, Ann Vigrass, Sarah Warner.



PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES... Captain Patrick J. Bones, USMC, Captain Anthony R. Cosentino, 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, and *all those serving our country in the armed forces.*

Anointing of the Sick, Saturday, September 18, 2021 9:00 AM Mass in the Church. Call the Parish Office at 424-3212 to register.



Names of those receiving the sacrament need to be recorded. Who can be anointed? Those with a chronic illness; the infirm, elderly and homebound; those preparing for surgery; those suffering from psychological/emotional issues, depression, or addiction.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of : Irma Bland

Pope Francis' SEPTEMBER prayer intention: An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.



From Sacred Heart School to the parishioners of St. Thomas More:

Thank you for "the most generous donation of school supplies..." "School supplies are always needed and will certainly be put to very good use.

With gratitude, Theresa Banfad and all at SHS.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, AUGUST 29, 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 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sept. 5, 2021- Mark 7:31-37

People brought Jesus a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. Jesus took him off by himself. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!" that is, "Be opened!" - And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.

Commentary:

The cure of the deaf-mute in today's Gospel points to a deeper reality. We are told that Jesus returned "into the district of the ten cities." This was Gentile country. The deaf-mute symbolizes the Gentiles who had to have their ears opened to God's word before they could proclaim it. For Mark's community, which was mostly Gentile, the man's cure dramatized their hearing the Good News. God draws near to all, Jews and Gentiles alike.

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?

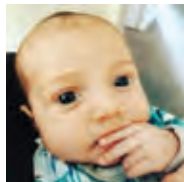


PRO-LIFE CORNER:

The reason abortion and euthanasia have gone unchecked is because many of today's religious and political leaders do not obey natural law and God's law. Bishop Sheen stated "Civilization is always in danger when those who have never learned to obey are given the right to command."

Pondering an idea for a different gift for a special occasion, birthday, anniversary, memorial remembrance?

Fresh flowers for the altar can be given to honor living and deceased family members. You order the flowers from the florist of your choice, have them delivered to the church on Friday and put in place for the weekend Masses, where they will remain for the week. Your contribution will be mentioned in the Parish bulletin on the date requested. time. Call the Parish Office (856-424-3212) to see if the date of your choice is available. All requests scheduled in order received.



Homebound? Not feeling well?

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



Sundays at 11:00 AM



The Poor and Excluded

Pope Francis denounced "the globalization of indifference" and said "a painful truth" is that "our world is more and more elitist, more cruel towards the excluded." *World Day of Migrants and Refugees*

"Closeness to the poor, the refugee, the immigrant, the sick, the exploited, the elderly living alone, prisoners, and all God's other poor, will teach us a different way of resting one which is more Christian and generous."

Catholic Charities Pilgrimage to U.S. -Mexico Border October 20th—24th, 2021

Information packets are available up for all those interested. Please call Sr. Ann at 856-424-3212. **Registration and forms must be picked up by September 1, 2021 and returned promptly.**

Second Collection next weekend Haiti Earthquake Relief

Responding as a Unified Church we are taking up a special collection next weekend, September 4/5, for the humanitarian, long-term recovery, and significant Church needs arising from the recent natural disasters in the past few weeks.

We ask that you be generous to this collection.



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Church Member Discounts

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

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...and your Church!

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