

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

3:30—4:00 PM
In the Chapel

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



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 Reno Ciccotta 520-6777
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
Committee
Church Environment
Ch. Art Environment
Eucharistic Ministers Sr. Ann Byrnes 424-3212
Lectors Dan Miller/ Sr. Ann Byrnes
Linen Committee Ann Vigrass 428-7217
Sacristans 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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SEPTEMBER 13, 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

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



We welcome all in attendance here, those watching livestream, those who traveled far and those who live near. We bid you into the house of the Lord to exalt Him and make a joyful noise. You may sing or not today. Most of all, allow God to have His way. We hope to please you in all that we do. In the Name of Jesus, we welcome you!

GUIDELINES for Mass Attendance

Please enter only by the main doors. Exit as indicated by ushers and point persons.

Please be prompt. (Everyone should be seated at the time for Mass to begin.) There is a limited number of people allowed at any one time. **No one will be admitted once Mass starts.**

Please follow the ushers' directions for the reception of Holy Communion, approaching in single file and maintaining the 6-foot social distance. *Those desiring Communion on the tongue are to go to the end of priest's line and receive last.*

Please always maintain the 6-foot social distance, even while exiting the building and in the parking lot.

Please always wear your face covering (mask), except when receiving Holy Communion. Do not discard your disposable mask or other items on Church property. Do not leave anything in the pews.

"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: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Essence of Stewardship

"For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." –ROMANS 14:8

This is the essence of **Stewardship** – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God daily, and ask Him how He is calling you to live the life that He intended for you.



From the Pastor's Desk

Religious Education of Our Youth

Dear Parishioners,

The religious education of our children is a very important concern of mine. With *Catechetical Sunday* upon us (September 20, 2020), I think it is good to reflect on the faith of our children and young adults.

What is frustrating to religious education teachers, to priests and to others involved with the religious education of youth is the “*disconnect*” often present when it comes to formal religious instruction and to living out the faith on a daily basis. Too often, in so many of my former parishes, students were dropped off for class but were not present in church for Mass on a regular weekly basis. Let's face facts. We inevitably do not see anywhere near the same number of children at Mass as we may see registered for and coming to religious education classes. Their absence is even more apparent during times like summer vacation and especially now during this unprecedented coronavirus pandemic.

What do we do? An hour or two of religious education each week for several months each year is *not*, and *has never been*, an adequate solution. The Church has said continually that **parents are the first educators** of their children when it comes to religious faith and practice. When we bring a new life into the world we realize that we have to feed, clothe, and educate our children. We want the best for them if we love them. Hopefully, we realize that we are also responsible for an **immortal soul** and the **eternal salvation** of a person as well. We cannot leave this responsibility to chance in an often amoral--if not immoral--world.

Do I teach my children to pray and pray with them at various times daily? Do I read Bible stories to them or teach them what Jesus said and did? Do I take them to confession and show them (by my own example) that the *Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation* is important? Outside of these extenuating circumstances, do I normally take them to Mass weekly? Do my children understand that Jesus is truly present in the Most Holy Eucharist?

What has been said for students in religious education programs is also true for our students who attend a Catholic school. There must be a connection with the local parish, with weekly Mass attendance and with the everyday living out of the Catholic faith.

I have been a priest long enough (over three decades) to see the rapid decline of those who actively participate in the faith life of their parish. (I also understand there may be multiple reasons for this.) Unfortunately, however, each subsequent generation seems to know less and less about even some of the essential teachings of the Catholic faith. This should be troubling for all believers.

I always welcome your ideas and suggestions concerning how we can continue to close this gap and have our young people more active and involved in the life of the Church.

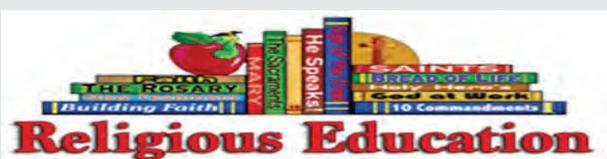
Fr. Ed Namiotka

Pastor

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Ministry Schedule for September 19/20

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Mena/Choir Julie	Sr. Agnes	K. Febus
8:30AM	Fr. Namiotka	Becca Julie	L. Duffy	M. Maggart
11:00AM	Fr. Namiotka	Becca Julie	J. Flynn	Sr. Ann



For several decades we have been speaking about the “Right to Life”. Its basic meaning is that all human beings have the “right to life” Life is a great gift. At religious education/formation, we teach our children that GOD’s breath is the ultimate life-giving power which we receive at conception. Every life is GOD’s gift and belongs to HIM. Our duty as human beings is to protect,

promote, preserve all of human life, and it is our own individual responsibility to improve the quality of life for ourselves and for others. It is not only about the body or physical life, but also the emotional and spiritual life. It is an awesome responsibility each human being has before the whole of humanity and God.



We teach our children that each human being is a TABERNACLE where JESUS lives. Each of us is inhabited by the HOLY TRINITY. Humanity cannot be different or change unless we acknowledge these values. They can be our spring board that launches us to the new ERA we are entering with COVID. Embracing these principles will make all the difference.

We are still accepting registrations for the 2020-2021 Religious Education Year. Classes start with Remote Learning and you will be informed when they will be held in person.



What does it mean to form my conscience?

Catholics have a long tradition of engagement in the public square. Sometimes that engagement requires making difficult moral decisions that impact our lives and those of others. Our conscience can help guide the decisions we make. The Second Vatican Council guides us: “Always summoning [one] to love good and avoid evil, the voice of conscience can, when necessary, speak to [one’s] heart more specifically: do this, shun that.” (Gaudium st Spes 16) However, our conscience doesn’t just come to us when we are born. We must work throughout our lives to form it through prayer, learning and conversation.

Next week, we will address “How do I form my conscience?”

Celebrate the 2020 Camden Diocesan Blue Mass

Bishop Dennis Sullivan will celebrate the **2020 Camden Diocesan Blue Mass via Live Stream on Tuesday, September 29 at 10:30 am.** Please join in with the celebration for the sacrifice and dedication of the law enforcement and first responders in the Camden Diocese.

[https://www.youtube.com/user/CamdenDiocese;](https://www.youtube.com/user/CamdenDiocese)

[https://www.facebook.com/DioceseOfCamden;](https://www.facebook.com/DioceseOfCamden)

or <https://twitter.com/camdendiocese>

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

9:00AM Living & deceased members of St. Thomas More Parish
Jerry McMEnamin r/b Jeannine
4:30PM Kyle Haughwout r/b family

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

8:30AM Marilyn Hagner r/b Bill & Ann Vigrass
11:00AM Jerry McMEnamin r/b family

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

9:00AM Frances Roznan
9:30 AM—12NOON Eucharistic Adoration in the Church.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

9:00AM Joseph Basari r/b Gary Gadren
9:30 AM—12NOON Eucharistic Adoration in the Church.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9:00AM Rosario Bonavoglia
r/b Ann Marie & Bob Lento
9:30 AM—12NOON Eucharistic Adoration in the Church.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

9:00AM Dolores Papotto r/b Josie, Dee & Gino
9:30 AM—12NOON Eucharistic Adoration in the Church.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

9:00 AM Jim Bones r/b Teri
9:30 AM—12NOON Eucharistic Adoration in the Church

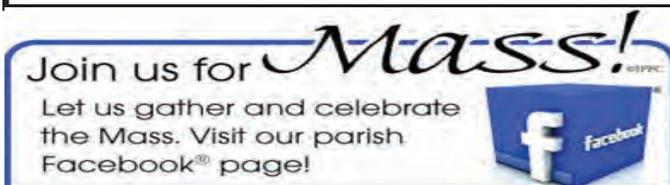
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

9:00 AM Living & Deceased member of the Parish
4:30 PM Florianna Gilden r/b Marie Flowers

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

8:30AM Dudley Thomas r/b Ann & Bill Vigrass
11:00AM 2nd anniversary Edythe Ryan
r/b Ryan family
Gayle Beaney Clower r/b family

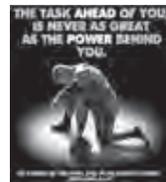
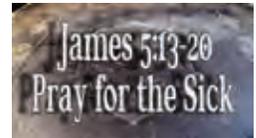
Pope Francis' September Prayer Intention: We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.



Sundays at 11:00 AM

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, Margaret Crawford, Catherine Diana, Angelo DiGiacomo, Olga Erlam, Chuck Goodwin, Thomas Handler, Dick Haughwout, Maureen Howe, Helen Kane, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, Ron Kramer, Don Kreal, Marie Manalo, Arleen Pajic, Tom Pajic, Fred Petrone, Tina Petrone, Helen Protzman, 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.



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, SN Christian Mele, PFC Sonny Morrison, Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa, Lt. Col. James P. Tobin

We came

We saw

We contributed

When the Pandemic hit our area, the **Faith and Justice Team** reached out to local ministries who knew where the needs were the greatest. These ministries identified families who were impacted by COVID-19, either by being infected with the virus or with lost income because of it. Those families' needs were shared with **our Parish's Society of St. Vincent de Paul**. With the support of our St. Vincent de Paul, we delivered food to over a dozen families, providing them with nearly \$7,000 in Shoprite gift cards (purchased from **our Knights of Columbus**), 40 bags of food and numerous boxes of fresh produce. When this story was shared with other **Diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Conferences**, they donated nearly \$4,000 toward our efforts. Half of the families no longer need support because they either recovered and/or returned to work. Some families asked that we provide their donations to another family who was worse off. **This is a great example of our Parish coming together and reaching out to the Community to find and assist those in need.**

Small Christian Community Faith Sharing

Excerpt from the Gospel for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sept. 20, 2020 - Matt. 20:1-16a

Jesus told his disciples this parable:... When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, "Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first. Each received the usual daily wage. When the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them got the same wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.' 'My friend I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?... What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?... Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Commentary:

We all put off to the eleventh hour some piece of work that we have to do with respect with God or each other (e.g. prayer, forgiveness, charity, justice, etc.). If this parable teaches us something about how great God is and how generous, then we are called to this same greatness and generosity. Wouldn't nations be different if debts could be forgiven and those who have were generous to those who have not? Wouldn't families be different if hurtful behavior ceased and was forgiven generously? Wouldn't individuals be different if we measured another only by his or her goodness? God gives generously beyond what we deserve. God gives salvation.

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: Approximately over 4,000 babies **today** will be denied the gift of life because their mothers chose abortion.

This loss of life is like having a 9/11 terrorist attack in America every day, year in and year out.



Faithful Citizenship

Some question whether it is appropriate for the Church to play a role in political life. However, the obligation to teach the moral truths that should shape our lives, including our public lives, is central to the mission given to the Church by Jesus Christ. Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions and concerns into public life. Indeed, our Church's teaching is in accord with the foundational values that have shaped our nation's history: "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Faithful Citizenship—US Bishops



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

If you made a gift directly to the House of Charity Office or United Way, please let the Office know so we can be sure your donation is recorded on our records.

St. Thomas More Parish Goal : \$120,247.00
We have received \$77, 893.00 in donations and pledges, which is 66.3% of our goal.

Yoga Meditation in Person and on Zoom

"Resting in the Loving Arms of God"

We were created for relationship with God, and He longs to hold us. Resting in God will be woven into this sacred time of praying with our bodies. This seated yoga practice will be both in person and on Zoom. It will include gentle stretching and breathing, scripture passages and song.

Tuesday September 22nd & 29th, 2020

10:00 AM Parish Hall & Zoom

Let us know if you will be in person or Zoom.

Michelle Carlino

Donations will be appreciated.

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Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.

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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Dana E. Bookbinder

Certified Elder Law Attorney

by the ABA-Approved National Elder Law Foundation

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