

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

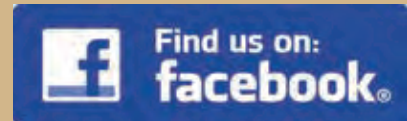
Mon.—Fri. 9:30 AM—12 Noon



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 Baekstrom 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 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



Advent is a time of waiting in darkness for the light of Christ to come to pierce the darkness.

It is a time of praying and serving as an instrument of welcoming joy as we wait for the good news of our Savior.

Ask Jesus how to help you joyfully bring His loving light to others this Advent season!



Mitten and Sock Tree: Help us keep hands warm this winter by **donating mittens, gloves and socks of any size.** We appreciate any and all donations. **Please leave them in the parish office or in the box in the Gathering Space.**

Please Note:

The 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve will be held in Church and overflow if needed in Chapel. This Mass will also be Live streamed on Facebook Live)

“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



Sundays at 11:00 AM

Stewardship Corner: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Stewards Rejoice Always

“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” – 1ST THESSALONIANS 5:16 - 18

This scripture reading sums up **Stewardship**. “Rejoice always” means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. “Pray constantly” means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. “Give thanks in all circumstances” means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

From the Pastor's Desk



Gaudete Sunday

Dear Parishioners,

The liturgical season of *Advent* originated as a fast of forty days in **preparation** for Christmas. The third Sunday of Advent is called ***Gaudete*** Sunday—from the Latin word “rejoice.” We rejoice because the Lord is near. Advent is halfway completed. Priests have the option of wearing a rose colored vestment and we light the rose candle of the advent wreath.

To me, the season of *Advent* is often treated like a *neglected step-child*. Society seems to overlook this season and move right into Christmas. Unfortunately, when the actual *Christmas season* begins with the *Mass of Christmas Eve*, many people will soon thereafter take down the decorations and the tree. Christmas seems to end all too abruptly within the actual *Christmas season*.

We are often driven by the consumer mentality as the stores will begin preparing for Valentines Day and Presidents Day, immediately following those after-Christmas sales. Does everything have to be about buying and owning many things? I once read this thought provoking saying on a t-shirt: **He who dies with the most possessions still dies.**

I believe in the importance of *person and relationship* over *thing and possessions*. Christmas-time can have some wonderful effects when families come together and people socialize with both families and friends. People can be extraordinarily generous and kind as well.

But the essential meaning of Christmas should never be lost: **God became a man**. He revealed His life to us and spent time with us. He lived with us and died for us. Many messages *distract* from this one. But the coming of **Jesus Christ** is truly the focal point of all human history. Why do even *Christians* sometimes miss or forget this truth?

What will it take to bring more people to realize the importance of **Jesus Christ**? *Dynamic preaching? Vibrant parishes? A plethora of activities? Better evangelization and outreach? A natural disaster? War? An act of terrorism like 9-11? Sickness and death?*

I think that first and foremost there has to be more of a focus on **prayer and conversion**—a ***change of heart***—within our parishes and families. The glamour of sin and the illusory happiness that it may temporarily bring has a choke hold on the world today. While many may not directly deny the existence of God, far too many live in such a way that His effect on our lives is negligible or non-existent.

Use the last two weeks of Advent in the way it was intended. Prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ. Come visit Him in the **Blessed Sacrament**.

When *Christmas actually comes*, we will be much better off spiritually.

Come, Lord Jesus!

Fr. Ed Namiotka

Pastor

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 13, 2020

Ministry Schedule for December 19/20

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Joanne/Choir Julie	E. Beckman	F. Egges
8:30AM	Fr. Namiotka	Celine Julie	K. Witts	D. Miller
11:00AM	Fr. Namiotka	Celine Julie	M. Garber	M. Dwyer



We celebrate today Gaudete Sunday. The meaning is kind of lost these days. In our liturgy it is known as “Rejoice” Sunday. This year, with all that is around us, we are invited to rejoice because in spite of it all, it is still Advent and we are still preparing for Christmas, the birthday of JESUS. We do need to keep this ahead of all our concerns, so we may indeed celebrate IT and help our children to do the same. Real JOY is missing these days, not only because of COVID19, or the social context, but because “true JOY” can be found only in FAITH and relationship with GOD. In our limited understanding, it is easy to substitute God and our FAITH with other things, which may bring happiness but fail to renew our deep inner JOY. The first reading for Mass today is from the Prophet Isaiah and it reminds each one of us that, indeed, *“The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD, and a day of vindication by our God.”* What if we reread this passage placing our name wherever the pronoun **me** is, would that help us to feel that “I am the one being addressed, I am the anointed one from Baptism and Confirmation? And I am entrusted with the mission of passing GOD’s message on to my family, would that bring JOY to my heart? Our children, teens, young adults need to see our JOY and it should be contagious enough for them to catch it. Where else are they going to go to find real and deep JOY?



ADVENT SCHEDULE

Confessions throughout Advent

Saturdays 3:00-4:00 PM

Regional Penitential Service

Monday, December 14 7:00 PM

Christ Our Light Parish

Large number of Confessors present

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM in Church and overflow if needed in Chapel (**4:00 PM Mass will also be Live streamed on Facebook Live**)

and **6:00 PM**

Christmas Day

8:30AM and 11:00 AM

NEW YEAR’S MASSES

Mary Mother of God

December 31 **4:30 PM**

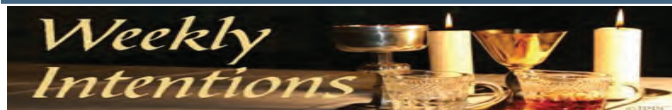
January 1 **9:00 AM**

During this Christmas season we would like to remember our brothers and sisters in Camden. We request **gift cards in any denomination for Shop-Rite, Target, or Wal-Mart.** Checks are also welcome.

Please mail to:
Sr. Claire Sullivan
18 Ardmore Ave.
Runnemede, NJ 08078

Call: Lois Udicious 856-795-1890 for more information.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 13, 2020



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

9:00AM Living & deceased members of St. Thomas More Parish Intentions of Eileen Toroni
4:30PM Birthday Blessings, Lucy

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

8:30AM Margaret McAndrew r/b Henry & Kathy Glover
11:00AM Florianna Gilden r/b Gary Gadren

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

9:00AM Edythe Ryan r/b Janina Pietroniec
9:30 AM—12NOON Eucharistic Adoration in the Church

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

9:00AM Thanksgiving
9:30 AM—12NOON Eucharistic Adoration in the Church

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

9:00AM Rudy Peins r/b Dick & Claire Spence
9:30 AM—12NOON Eucharistic Adoration in the Church

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00 AM Ford Fabello r/b Librojo family
9:30 AM—12NOON Eucharistic Adoration in the Church

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:00 AM Living & Deceased member of the Parish
4:30 PM Antonio C. Vela r/b Reny P. Vela David Hill r/b Pat Garde-Hill

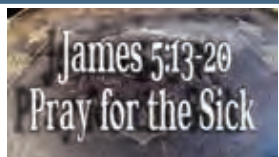
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

8:30AM Florianna Gilden r/b Henry & Kathy Glover
11:00 AM Brian Bones r/b Teri

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
Patricia McGinty (Judy Angelucci's mother)
Cecilia Marino
Deacon John Harrington
Cards may be sent to Nancy Harrington
4009 SW 26th Ave.
Cape Coral, Fl. 33914

Pope Francis' December Prayer Intention: We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

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, Bob Crawford, Catherine Diana, Chuck Goodwin, Thomas Handler, Dick Haughwout, Maureen Howe, Helen Kane, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, 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, SSgt. Kris Knaup, Lt. Christopher Mawn, SN Christian Mele, PFC Sonny Morrison, Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa, Lt. Col. James P. Tobin

- GUIDELINES for Mass Attendance**
- ⇒ Please enter only by the main doors.
 - ⇒ Please be prompt. (Everyone should be seated at the time for Mass to begin.)
 - ⇒ Please observe all directional signs and arrows.
 - ⇒ Please follow all instructions of point persons and ushers.
 - ⇒ 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.
 - ⇒ Please use hand sanitizer as entering church building.
 - ⇒ Please sit only in designated areas.
 - ⇒ Please follow the ushers' directions for the reception of Holy Communion, approaching in single file and maintaining the 6-foot social distance.
 - ⇒ Please remember that following the mitigation protocols displays a gracious love for one another and protects your health and theirs.
 - ⇒ Please rejoice in humble gratitude that we are together again! Praise be to God! Alleluia!



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 13, 2020

Small Christian Community Faith Sharing

Excerpt from the Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2020 - Luke 1:26-38

...Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of David his father, and He will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Commentary:

In today's first reading, David takes the initiative in providing God a suitable dwelling place among the chosen people. By contrast, in the Gospel, it is God who takes the initiative in establishing a divine dwelling place in Mary and among us. What humans would confine to stones and mortar, God plants in human flesh and blood.

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: We do a disservice to God and to the pro-life cause if God is never mentioned in our pro-life arguments. God is the Creator of all life and it is our responsibility to protect life at all stages.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES

are included in your December contributions envelope. Your contributions will be used for altar flowers, poinsettias for the shut-ins and church decorations. Please use this envelope to inform us who your contribution is in memory of and who it is requested by. Envelopes may be put in the collection basket. *As always, thank you for your support.*



St. Thomas More Parish Family Rejoices with the following students who have spent years preparing for the Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, December 10, 2020.



Andrew **Sebastian** Kuzinski
Aiden **Basil** Librojo
Ava **Anne** Moyer
John **Michael** Moyer
Colton **Francis** Oatway
Elena **Teresa** Rivera

Your Faith and Justice team at Work

The Faith & Justice Team, through our Parish's Society of St. Vincent de Paul ('St.VdeP'), continues to support numerous families who have been impacted by COVID-19. The Faith Justice Team has sought out families who lost a job, experienced reduced hours or are infected. St.VdeP has delivered to these families bags of food, boxes of fresh produce and Shoprite gift cards (*cards purchased through our Knights of Columbus*). **Thanks to your support of our St.VdeP this has been possible. Members of St.VdeP have personally donated Christmas gifts for the children of these families. One family recently said, "We are overwhelmed by the generosity of the Parish in our time of need."** If you would like to make a donation to our St.VdeP, you can send a check to the Parish Office noting St. V de Paul or **on the parish website: stthomasmorenj.org, click on the icon for St. Vincent de Paul— click to donate.**



Thank You St. Thomas More Parishioners from St. Vincent de Paul Society

Because of your generosity, the St. Vincent de Paul Society was able to distribute **6 Turkey & Dinner baskets through Bishop Eustace Outreach Committee and 10 Turkey & Dinner baskets to families in Sacred Heart in Camden. Thank you!**

Wills and Bequests

Please consider placing St. Thomas More in your will so that your legacy might continue through the important works and ministries of the parish. You or your estate planner can contact St. Thomas More at 856-424-3212.



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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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