

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
 Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm
 Sunday: 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 am
 Weekdays:
 Monday-Friday: 6:45 and 9:00 am
 Saturday: 9:00 am
 Holyday: 6:45 & 9:00 am & 7:00 pm



Rite of Reconciliation
 Saturdays: 3:30-4:00 pm
 or any time by appointment

Reverend Phillip M. Johnson, Priest-in-charge
 Deacon Michael Scott
 Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate for Life Long Faith Formation
 Sister Bozena, LSIC, Religious Education Coordinator
 Julie Linn, Music Ministry
 Kathleen Witts, Youth Coordinator
 Pat Cannon, Parish Secretary • Marylee Garber, Parish Secretary
 Sheila Tartamosa, Pastoral Associate for Parish Administration

DIRECTORY

Pastoral Leadership

Parish Trustees
 John Mohan 424-3212
 Greta Tyrrell 424-3212

Christian Life/Education

Bereavement Staff 424-3212
 Hospital Visitors Staff & Euch. Ministers 424-3212
 Intercessory Prayer Ann Vigrass 428-7217
 Knights of Columbus David Galloway 770-1270
 Marriage Formation Bob/Liz Scarpa 795-1160
 Parish Rel. Ed. Prog. Sister Bozena 424-3212
 Prayer Shawls Sheila Mohan 795-6137
 Respect Life Al Mac Elrath 779-7130
 Rite of Ch. Init. Adults Sister Ann Byrnes 424-3212
 Rosary Ministry Marian Kapischke 424-2053
 Small Christian Comm. Ann Marie/Bob Lento 344-7454
 Spiritual Retreats John Galati 428-7073
 Denise Radziwill 424-0494
 St. Vincent de Paul Stan Thompson 424-3212
 Stewardship Sheila Tartamosa 424-3212
 Youth Ministry Katie Witts 305-2914

Worship

Altar Servers Sister Ann Byrnes 424-3212
 Pat Maggart 424-3212
 Church Environment Ann Vigrass 428-7217
 Antonina Nicdao 751-6320
 Joyce DeMichele 424-4008
 Dolores Kreal 988-0271
 Ann Vigrass 428-7217
 Dom Sacca
 Pat Maggart 424-3212
 Greta Tyrrell 428-2412
 Frank Krenslak 309-1999

Social Development

Bridge Groups Joyce DeMichele 424-4008
 Barbara Cerquitella 795-7323
 June Garafano 229-7461
 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

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.



Saint Thomas More Parish Raffle Fundraiser
St. Thomas More Parish thanks you profoundly for your support and generosity to our Annual Raffle Fundraiser.

Congratulations to the Winners:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Eileen Gerie | 1st Prize |
| William Schetter | 2nd Prize |
| Hope Lee | 3rd Prize |
| Chip & Linda Dombrowski | 4th Prize |

A special *thank you* to the committee for their dedication and efforts to support our parish: AJ & Carol Ariani; Jerry & Jeannine McMenamin; Henry & Kathy Glover; Bill & Mary Ellen Carrozza; Mike & Helen Hawksley; Fred & Tina Petrone; Joe & Chris Torello; Tom & Arlene Pajic

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.

RCIA Team: John Mohan and Bob Scarpa

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children's Liturgy of the Word – Sunday, during 10 a.m. Mass

Grades one thru four: Tuesday, 4:15 - 5:30 p.m.

Grades five thru eight: Tuesday, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

High School Youth Group Tuesday 7:15—8:15 pm

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

New members are welcome in our community of faith. Please call, 424-3212, or come to the parish office to register.

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

Tuesday, December 8, 2015




Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Is a Holy Day of Obligation

Mass schedule for the Holy Day is:
6:45 am & 9:00 am
7:00 pm.

RETIREMENT FUND for RELIGIOUS December 12/13

Thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests have spent their lives serving others. Today, many need care. Please give generously to this collection.

Parish Collection for November 29, 2015

 **\$8, 654.00 was given and 186 envelopes were used. Online donations were \$466.00 from 11 donors.** As always, thank you for your generosity

There is NO Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting in December or January. **The next meeting is in February, 2016.**



Second Sunday of Advent

Stewardship Holiday Values

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value...” Philippians 1: 9-10a

Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our **Stewardship** values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that are in need.



The Catholic Faith In Slow Motion (no. 71)

Fr. Phillip Johnson

A series of reflections about thinking, praying, and professing the Faith of the Church

The Immaculate Conception: Faith's Perfection

The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God, and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin (Pope Pius IX, Ineffabilis Deus,).

The mystery of the Immaculate Conception is about how God prepared the way beforehand for the Incarnation of the Eternal Word, making ready a human “vessel” to be the Mother of the Son of God. After many generations in which Christians pondered the mystery of Mary's unique vocation, the Church’s faith on this matter was officially promulgated in the pope's words above.

What the Church calls a “dogma” is not exactly an explanation. It is a profession of saving *mystery*, allowing our minds to see *through faith* into the Divine plan, even if we will never entirely comprehend. Let’s ponder this profession. (1) Mary, like the rest of us, was redeemed by her Savior Jesus Christ. She was saved by grace. But she was redeemed ahead of time, at the moment she was conceived. (2) This “singular grace and privilege” was for the sake of her *singular vocation*. Only one among all the human race is the Mother of the Savior of the world, the Mother of God. After all, how could the Eternal Word come into the world through a human vessel tarnished by sin? How could Mary help to form the human life of the Eternal Word-made-flesh if she were not uniquely “full of grace”? (3) Christ alone is perfect with the perfection of his eternal procession from the Father.. Mary was made perfect by the merits of Jesus Christ – with the perfection of the human creature perfectly redeemed. You and I will one day, by God’s infinite mercy, be “perfectly redeemed” from sin. But our redemption is a process of repentance and conversion, starting with our baptism. Mary was redeemed in the first moment of her being.

We have no experience of sinlessness, so we do not yet know what perfection is. Holy Scripture tells us that, in sharing our humanity, Jesus knew severe temptation. Yet he remained sinless (Hebrews 4:15). But what does that mean? We think of sin in moral or ethical terms – sin as an immoral act. True enough. But in Holy Scripture, sin is first of all a *relational* concept. Sin is whatever distances us from God. Sin is a sign of failure in our love of God. “Perfection” means, first of all, *right relationship with God*. The source of the perfection of Jesus is his personal union with his eternal Father – his complete abandonment to the Father’s will (Mark 14:36). *The opposite of sin is faith*, utter trust in God (Romans 14:23).

This thought opens the door to contemplating Mary’s “perfection” in the perfection of her *fiat*: “*Here am I, the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your Word*” (Luke 1:38). She hears the promise, and in the moment of hearing she believes. *In that moment*, the Catechism says, the eternal word was conceived in her body and in her heart.

Does this mean that Mary’s perfection was “easy” or “automatic”? In fact, the gospels make clear that Mary’s vocation (like that of her Son’s) involved questioning (“How can this be?”), spiritual struggle, temptation, and hardship. As Pope John Paul II taught (in his Encyclical *Mother of the Redeemer*), Mary had to slowly grow into her vocation, finally giving up her natural maternal claims in order to receive the fullness of her spiritual motherhood. But spiritual struggle is not sin. Her struggle was but the unfolding of her perfect act of faith: “Let it be done to me according to your Word.”

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 6, 2015

MINISTRY SCHEDULE for DEC. 12/13,

| Mass Time | Presider | Music | Extraordinary Minister | Lector | Altar Server |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 4:30 p.m. | Msgr. Graham | Carmen Rich | D. Kreal, K. Wislocky R. Crawford | K. Wislocky | L. & Z. Smith J. Puerschner |
| 8:30 am | Father Rossi | Sr. Pepita Rich | J. & L. Duffy J. Singson | J. Vecchiola | J. & A. Zieba M. Widmer |
| 10:00 am | Father Johnson | Becca/ Choir Julie | J. Mazzagatti, P. Rossi J. Galati | L. Galati | M. & T. Dautle, H. Kodluk |
| 11:30 am | Father Johnson | Becca Julie | A. Thompson, M. Garber P. Lavala | J. Arnold | A. & I. Witting M. Carr |

The Ministry Schedule can be found at the St. Thomas More website: <http://stthomasmorenj.org/>.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The third **Confirmation I preparatory class** for all **seventh grade students** will be held on **Sunday, December 13th at 11 am in the St. Thomas More Hall**. All seventh grade students are expected to attend.

Christmas Party for the Children at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will take place December 20th from 8:30—12 noon. **Confirmation II Preparation class will be held at the Immaculate Conception**. Parents are needed to drive and welcome to attend.

Tuesday, December 22nd, we will have special **Christmas Prayer services for Religious education students and families at 4:15 pm and 7:00 pm in the church**. The **Fourth Grade children will enact the first Christmas during the afternoon service**. The evening prayer service will be led by **Fr. Johnson**. Light refreshments will be served after both services.

The children in our **Parish Religious Education Program will be collecting mittens, gloves and socks for our Christmas Mitten Tree**. Each child is asked to donate one package of new mittens or socks -any size, any kind, any color—to be placed on our tree. After Christmas, they will be sent to Immaculate Conception Parish to be distributed to needy children.

Have a blessed week!
Sr. Bozena, PCL, 424-3212 ext. 106

STM YOUTH

Please let Katie (youthgroup@stthomasmorenj.org) know if you will attend or help with the following activities:

YOUTH SCC will meet Sundays 11/29—12/20 at 11:15 am in Room 8. Please take time to deepen your faith and appreciate what the season of Advent is really about!
Collection for Camden— after all Masses Sunday 12/6 and 12/13

Christmas Party for the Children at Immaculate Conception, Camden Sunday, Dec. 20 8:30 am—noon.
Second Sunday of Advent! Preparing our Hearts—We prepare this week by stepping up the longing. We move through this week by naming deeper and more specific desires. The grace we desire for this week is to be able to hear the promise and to invite our God to come into those real places of our lives that dearly need God’s coming.
Come, Lord Jesus. Come and visit Your people. We await Your coming. Come, O Lord.

**Advent and Christmas Schedule
Confessions through Advent:**

Saturdays through Advent 3:30—4:00 pm
Saturday, December 19th: 9:30 –10:30 am
Regional Penance Service: 7:00 pm Christ Our Light
Monday, December 14th



Christmas Masses
Christmas Eve
4:00 pm and 6:00 pm
Christmas Day

SECOND SATURDAYS— December 12th
Leave STM at 8:30 am; Return at noon
A Service Project for Everyone
STM Youth is looking for Families, Men, Women, Teens to help at Heart of Camden the **SECOND SATURDAY** of every month. Questions—Call, text or Email Katie 856-305-2914 or youthgroup@stthomasmorenj.org



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 6, 2015



Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY—DECEMBER 5

- 9:00 am** Living & deceased members of the parish
4:30 pm **Mary T. Di Paul**
r/b Mary Ellen Carrozza

SUNDAY—DECEMBER 6

- 8:30 am** **Pat Lachnicht**
r/b Barbara Cerquitella
10:00 am **Frank Cappetta**
r/b Joanne Wachman
Nick Ferri
r/b Dick & Joyce Di Michele
11:30 am **Kay Frain** r/b Jack Boesch

MONDAY—DECEMBER 7

- 6:45 am** **James Shields**
9:00 am **Antoinette Cerquitella**
r/b Will & Carol Shubert

TUESDAY—DECEMBER 8

- 6:45 am** **Concetta Scotto**
r/b daughter, Agata Scotto
9:00 am **Kathleen Haughwout**
r/b Haughwout family
7:00 pm **Jenny Barber** r/b Jim & Pat Beaney

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 6:45 am** **Eleanor Robinson**
9:00 am **Lawrence Cotilla**
r/b Renee & Steve Floyd

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 6:45 am** **Luigi Tafuri**
9:00 am intentions of Sr. Ann Byrnes
r/b Wislocky family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 6:45 am** intentions of Sr. Maristella Lastra
r/b Franciscan Sisters of the Infant Jesus
9:00 am **Max Johnson** r/b Wislocky family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 9:00 am** Living & deceased members of the parish
4:30 pm **Genevieve & Fred Pfeiffer**
& **Agnes & John Walsh** r/b family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 8:30 am** **Veronica Lachnicht** r/b Lachnicht family
10:00 am **Bill Ellinger** r/b wife, Lynn
Antoinette Cerquitella
r/b MaryLou & Dudley Thomas
Elise Richards r/b Sylvia Pierce
11:30 am **Don Mattingly, Jr.** r/b Joseph Kuchler

Papal Intentions for the month of December: That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus, a sign of certain hope.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:
THE SICK...**



Pat Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Anna Bedrick, Pat Brink, Francesca Capra, Sean Colbert, Elva Clark, Frank Colbert, Sean Colbert, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, GERALYN Coticone, Mary Cowan, Margaret Crawford, Bryan Dietrich, Pasquale DiFronzo, Angelo DiGiacomo, Santino Fiorelli, George Gadren, Harry Gindele, Sue Hagan, Thomas Houston, Helen Kane, Michael Kapischke, John P. Kennedy, Peggy Kiefner, Stan Kochanek, Don Kreal, Julia Lepre, Mary Ellen Lepre, Leila Lore, Chase Lupica, Joan Maguire, Marie Manalo, Ron Massey, Wayne Mauri, Sr., Jerry McMenamin, Nick Mitidieri, Hilda K Pellerito, John Ravena, Mena Ravena, Ed Rivero, Pauline Rosberg, Barbara Salpas, Carlos Santiago, Yun Yun Shen, Teddy Shaffer, Frank Sines, Maria Storms, Samuel Stafford, Michael Suralik, Pat Suralik, George Sweeten, Ted Uhlman, Ann Vigrass.



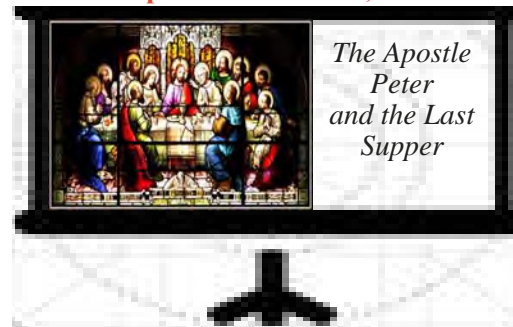
THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...

SSgt Samuel Brough, Lt. Anthony R. Cosentino, Spc. Peter DeCrescenzo, SSgt John P. DeYoung, Lt. Nicholas G. Iannuzzi, PFC Sonny Morrison, 1Lt. Col. Ryan Orfe, and Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa

St. Thomas More Parish is hosting a "Festival of Lessons and Carols" this Sunday, December 6th at 3:00 pm in the Church. This is a service of Scripture and Song that dates to the late 19th century. Come, enjoy and be inspired by Area Choirs singing musical pieces proclaiming Christ's coming!
**Area Choirs: Merion Mercy Academy Chorale
Christ Our Light Choir
Bishop Eustace Select Choir
Saint Josephine Bikhita Gospel Choir
Saint Thomas More Choir**

All parishioners and friends are invited to attend!

**New Year's Eve Dinner & Movie Night
6:30 pm December 31, 2015**



**Family Movie Morning—New Year's Eve Day
10 am December 31, 2015
Movie to Be Announced**

All Families are welcome to attend!
Popcorn, pretzels, water and juice will be served. Please bring a blanket to sit on and a snack to share.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 6, 2015

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 Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2015 – Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" John said to them, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" John answered, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." All were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Commentary:

John's brand of advice may not have sounded like good news to those who asked for it. He urged the crowds to give away what they had in surplus to those who were in need. John basically told people to be generous and just, to clean up their acts, and to wait for the One who was coming just behind him. This is still good advice.

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?

The attack on Pearl harbor is often referred to as a "Day of Infamy". The terrorism attack on 9/11/01 is also referred to as a day of infamy. The worst day of infamy was January 22, 1973. Since the infamous Roe v. Wade decision way over 52,000,000 babies have died from



surgical abortions and the numbers increase every day. This is truly our nation's most sorrowful day of infamy.
Al Mac Elrath, Respect Life Coordinator - 779-7130

Saint Thomas More Parish is on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/StThomasMoreCH>

EXTRA USHERS are needed to help during Christmas Masses.

The balcony will be used during this season, Masses will be crowded and visitors will need direction.

If you can volunteer to help during the Christmas Masses please call

Frank Krenslak at 309-1999. Indicate at which Mass you can assist – Christmas Eve: 4 or 6 p.m. or 12 Midnight.



Once again, this Christmas, we will be helping Sr. Claire Sullivan in her ministry to our brothers and sisters in Camden. **Sr. Claire requests gift cards to Wal-mart, Target or Shop-Rite. Checks—made out to Sr. Claire Sullivan—are also accepted.** These can be mailed directly to: Sr. Claire Sullivan

Annunciation BVM Convent
603 W. Browning Rd.
Bellmawr, NJ 08031

or given to Lois Udicious (795-1890).

You are encouraged to attend the
Regional Penance Service
(With private confession)
7:00 pm Monday, December 14, 2015
Christ Our Light, Cherry Hill, NJ
Many confessors will be present.

CONFESSIONS at St. Thomas More
Saturdays through Advent: 3:30—4:00 pm
Saturday, December 19: 9:30—10:30 am

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES



are included in your December contribution 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.



The Knights of Columbus Cherry Hill Council extends our heartfelt gratitude to our parish friends and council members for supporting our recent Dining for Dollars night at Carrabba's Restaurant in Marlton. We had a great turnout, the food was superb, everyone enjoyed the evening. Your generous support helps us to maintain our charitable works, such as supporting seminarians and helping to feed the poor.
David Galloway—Grand Knight
Gerald McMenamin—Event Coordinator