

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 13, 2015

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.

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



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

12:00 midnight

10:00 am & 11:30 am

New Year's Masses-Mary, Mother of God



The flowers at the Blessed Virgin Mary Statue have been placed there this weekend in loving memory of Louise Bielli requested by grandson, Dr. John Vivone.



Parish Collection for December 6, 2015

\$9,806.00 was given and 204 envelopes were used. Online donations were \$825.00 from 14 donors. As always, thank you for your generosity.

A thank you! This year starts our 6th, yes 6th, year of making sandwiches for the Cathedral Kitchen. Thank you to the **St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Women's Club, the Sklencars, those who help set up and all the sandwich makers. You all have made this Corporal Work of Mercy (feeding the hungry) possible for our parish.**



Mark your calendars for next year's dates— always after the 9 am Mass:

Wednesday, **February 3rd**; Wednesday, **March 2nd**

Wednesday, **April 6th**; Wednesday, **August 24th**

Wednesday, **October 5th**; Wednesday, **November 2nd**

Third Sunday of Advent Stewards Share in Thanksgiving



"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Philipians 4:6

St. Paul reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give His **Stewards** all that they need. When we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to share what we have been given.



Celebrating the *Jubilee of Mercy*

“Let us be renewed by God’s Mercy” Pope Francis

As the Jubilee of Mercy opens around the world, parishes in your area are jointly hosting nights of Advent Penance Services. Please join us and open the door of your heart to the Lord’s Mercy and Forgiveness as you prepare to celebrate the Mystery of His Love at Christmas.

December 14th: The Catholic Community of Christ Our Light

402 N. Kings Highway, Cherry Hill 7:00 pm
(our Regional Penance Service)

December 15th: St. Rose of Lima– 300 Kings Highway, Haddon Heights 7:00 pm

St. Andrew the Apostle-27 Kresson Gibbsboro Rd., Gibbsboro
7:00 pm

Church of the Holy Family-226 Hurffville Rd., Sewell 7:00 pm

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton-591 New Jersey Ave, Absecon 7:00 pm

Notre Dame de la Mer/ St. Ann Church– 2901 Atlantic Ave.,
Wildwood 6:30 pm

December 16th: St. Joseph the Worker/St. Vincent Pallotti Church-901 Hopkins Rd,
Haddon Twp. 7:00 pm

Our Lady of Hope/St. Agnes Church -701 Little Gloucester Rd.,
Blackwood 7:00 pm

Mary, Mother Mercy/Church of Our Lady of Lourdes -500
Greentree Rd., Glassboro 7:00 pm

Holy Trinity Parish/ St. James Church– Ventnor & Portland Ave.,
Ventnor 7:00 pm

St. Joseph, 126 44th St. Sea Isle City, 12:15 pm

December 17th: St. Joachim—601 W. Browning Rd., Bellmawr 7:00 pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe/ St. Lawrence Church, 135 N. White
Horse Pike, Lindenwold 7:45 pm

Church of the Incarnation– 240 Main St., Mantua 7:00 pm

St. Gianna Beretta Molla/St. Bernadette Church -1421 New Rd.,
Northfield 7:00 pm

Christ the Good Shepherd/ St. Isidore Church– 1655 Magnolia Rd.,
Vineland 7:00 pm

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 13 2015

MINISTRY SCHEDULE for DEC. 19/20, 2015

Mass Time	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 p.m.	Msgr. Graham	Mena/Choir Julie	P. & N. Kirincic I. Rellosa	J. Mohan	J. & A. Moyer D. Ha
8:30 am	Father Johnson	Sr. Pepita Rich	J. Singson, B. Lento R. VanderWeilen	D. Miller	M. & G. Gray S. Russo
10:00 am	Father Johnson	Jerry Julie	J. Mazzagatti, P. Rossi D. Gould	F. Eggles	T. Kenny, C. & J. McFadden
11:30 am	Father Rossi	Dolores Julie	M. Ciccotta, G. Gadren M. Dwyer	R. Ciccotta	I. & C. Fulton M. Mueller

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

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

During the Season of Advent, the candles on the Advent Wreath at all four weekend Masses, will be lit by eighth grade candidates who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation which will be conferred on them in Spring 2016.

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

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.

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.

Liturgy of the Word for children—This program is offered at the 10:00 am Mass. All children ages 4 through first grade are welcome. No registration is needed.

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:

Service before Religious Education Classes Dec. 15th 6-7pm

Collection for Camden after all Masses this weekend. We are still in need of \$5 gifts for second grade boys and girls and snack items for the party.

Christmas Party for the Children at Immaculate Conception, Camden Sunday, Dec. 20 8:30 am—noon.

Family Movie Morning—Dec. 31st at 10 am
7th—12th graders are needed to help set-up, serve snacks and clean up!

Third Sunday of Advent

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudette Sunday*. *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning “rejoice.” This Sunday is so named because “Rejoice” is the first word of the entrance antiphon for today’s Mass, taken from Philippians 4: 4,5. “Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.” Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice! The Lord is near.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 13, 2015



Mass Intentions for the Week

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

MONDAY—DECEMBER 14

- 6:45 am intentions of Marie Sacca
9:00 am Antonio Villaseran r/b Alvarez family

TUESDAY—DECEMBER 15

- 6:45 am Louise & Donato Bielli r/b Dr. John Vivone
9:00 am Pat Lachnicht r/b Tuesday Morning SCC

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 6:45 am Barbara Jane Baldwin
9:00 am Pat Lachnicht r/b Jim & Pat Beaney

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 6:45 am intentions of Sr. Pepita Ontong r/b Franciscan Sisters of the Infant Jesus
9:00 am Jim Bones r/b Teri & family Joseph Falco r/b Greta Tyrrell

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 6:45 am people of the parish
9:00 am Frank Cappetta r/b Jim & Pat Beaney

SATURDAY—DECEMBER 19

- 9:00 am Living & deceased members of the parish
4:30 pm Mary DeVito r/b Marianne & Tony Orlando

SUNDAY—DECEMBER 20

- 8:30 am Pat Lachnicht r/b Ann & Bill Vigrass
10:00 am Rose Hudson r/b Helene Friedman Dolores Papotto r/b Darlene, Michael & Josephine Welsh Hilda Pelleritio r/b Christopher & Lisa Mele
11:30 am Frank Cappetta r/b Bill & Mary Ellen Carrozza

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, John Ravena, Mena Ravena, Ed Rivero, Pauline Rosberg, Barbara Salpas, Carlos Santiago, Yun Yun Shen, Teddy Shaffer, Frank Sines, Claire Spence, Dick Spence, 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

**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.

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

The Apostle Peter and the Last Supper
**Sign up sheets available in the Gathering Space.
Reservations requested for meal planning purposes.**

St. Vincent de Paul Society

As we prepare for Christmas, let us ask for the grace to help others know the love of the Lord. **Christmas is a time of love and gift giving.** Please share your abundance by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

Calendars for 2016 are available at the entrances to the Church. Please help yourself to a calendar.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 13, 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2015 – Luke 1:39-45

Mary traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Commentary:

The prime example of preferring God's will to our own plans is Mary of Nazareth. A young girl with her whole life ahead of her, a teenager with dreams like any other, Mary found her personal plans in disarray the moment the angel showed up in her chamber. Yet Mary trusted God's plan over her own, and when she flew to the side of her older cousin, she greeted another woman who had done the same. The image of these two women falling into each other's arms is celebrated as the perfect response of joy between true believers. Many will attend church this holiday season, but few will give their lives over to the will of God as Mary and Elizabeth did. But if you and I choose to become such people, we will share in the dance of these two cousins and know their joy.

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-choice. I've never heard anyone defend a pro-choice position with regard to bank robbery. The only time this expression is used with reference to what we're pro-choice about is when the most innocent and helpless human being is at stake. Pre-choice is synonymous with pro-abortion because no one speaks of pro-choice in any other context. Pro-choice is an euphemism that causes us to forget the baby. "*The Dictatorship of Relativism*," Most Rev. Robert C. Morlino, National Catholic Prayer Breakfast, 4/2006
Al Mac Elrath, Respect Life Coordinator - 779-7130



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 second collection this weekend. Thank you.

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.



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

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



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.