

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

Ushers

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.

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

Merry Christmas!



New Year’s Masses-Mary, Mother of God

New Year’s Eve

4:30 pm

New Year’s Day

10:00 am & 11:30 am

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who gave so generously of their time and talents to make our Christmas celebrations so joyous and memorable. From those who provided flowers, cleaned, decorated, prepared the altar, made the music so special at all the Masses, ushered during Mass and served at the altar; Altar Servers, Cantors, Choir, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Lectors and Musicians.



If you look for Me at Christmas,
You won’t need a special star—
I’m no longer in Bethlehem,
I’m right where you are.
You may not be aware of Me
Amid the celebrations—
You’ll have to look beyond the stores
And all the decorations.
But if you take a moment
From your list of things to do,
And listen to your heart, you’ll find
I’m waiting there for you.
You’re the one I want to be with,
You’re the reason that I came,
And you’ll find me in the stillness as

I’m whispering your name.

Love, Jesus

Feast of the Holy Family Stewards Love Family

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” 1st John 3: 1a

During this season of giving, let us remember the most important gift we have received—being children of God. As God’s children, it’s important that as **Stewards** we express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children and other family members and friends that you love them, frequently.



Mercy at the Door

*A Reflection on the New Marian Image,
Installed and Consecrated on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 2015*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

The December 2015 issue of the National Geographic had as its cover a detail from a 15th century painting of “The Virgin Mary and the Child” by Sandro Botticelli, which currently hangs in Milan, Italy. We see the inclined head, downcast eyes, and prayerful countenance of the beautiful young Mother of God. Although we cannot see the entire painting, we know instinctively (from so many Christmas cards, prayer books, postage stamps, and music covers) that the tender, humble, and loving gaze is focused on her newborn – Jesus, Emmanuel, God “born in the likeness of men . . . being found in human form.” (Phil 2:7-8)

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Another detail of the inclined, downward-gazing head of the Virgin has recently been installed over the main door to our church. It is a reproduction of Michelangelo’s *Pieta* (translated as *Mercy, Pity, Compassion*). The marble sculpture, dated 1499, is now housed in St. Peter’s Basilica, Vatican City. The image, less familiar to some, but no less central to our faith, recalls Mary looking down in sorrow on the bruised and broken body of that same God-Son who “humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.” (Phil 2:8). This is Michelangelo’s depiction of what we often refer to as “The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Taken Down From the Cross”.

The Bible tells us nothing of what Mary the Mother of God said or thought as she stood beneath her suffering son for hours and then received his broken, lifeless body as the Sabbath approached. But she must have been flooded with memories of those joyful mysteries: The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Nativity, The Presentation, The Finding of Jesus in the Temple - - - the moments when she listened, questioned, pondered, struggled, believed, and rejoiced. And how could she have failed to recall the words of old Simeon, who lifted her beautiful newborn from her arms on their very first visit to the temple, saying, “. . . and a sword will pierce your soul also . . .” (Luke 2:35)

Mary is the Mother of God in the Manger. Mary is the Mother of God on the Cross . . . and beyond. She calls each of us, the baptized sons and daughters of God, the adopted sisters and brothers of Jesus, to accompany her in the Family of the Church as we travel toward Eternity. As we bring our infants to the font of holy baptism and our dead to the pall of Christian burial through this door of our church, Mary the Mother of God looks down on us in mercy. She knows we are blessed; she knows we suffer. She reminds us to listen, ponder, question, struggle, believe, and rejoice as we join her day by day in adoring the God-Son who was born, who died, and who lives forever.

Come, let us worship Him!

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With gratitude to Lynn Ellinger for the generous gift of art; to Joyce DeMichele for the careful installation, assisted by Gloria and Ray Desrochers; to Janet Johnson for the reflection above.

— Fr. Phillip M. Johnson

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, DECEMBER 27, 2015

MINISTRY SCHEDULE for Dec. 31, 2015/ January 1/2/3, 2016

Mass Time	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
Dec. 31 4:30 pm	Father Johnson	Jerry Len	T. Petrone, Sr. Sophia R. Crawford	M. Maggart	J. Wachman N. Ortega
Jan. 1 10:00 am	Father Johnson	Mena Julie	J. Mazzagatti, P. Rossi M. Santiago	J. Mohan	S. Russo, A. D'Auria, T. Kenny
11:30 am	Father Johnson	Dolores Julie	B. Haughwout, M. Garber P. Lavala	V. Marchesani	G. & M. Gray K. Kuzinski
Jan. 2 4:30 pm	Msgr. Graham		G. Tyrrell, B. Lento J. DeMichele	J. Cepeda	C. & R. Cepeda J. Puerschner
Jan. 3 8:30 am	Father		P. Lavala, B. Massey Sr. Rosaria	D. Miller	G. & M. Gray M. Carr
10:00am	Father		J. Galati, D. & L. Lyon	L. Galati	I. & A. Witting S. Russo
11:30am	Father Rossi		M. Ciccotta, L. Levin A. Thompson	R. Ciccotta	W. & A. Quay M. Mueller

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

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes resume on Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

The fourth **Confirmation I Preparatory Class** for all seventh grade students will be held on **Sunday, January 10th from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm** in the **St. Thomas More Hall**. All seventh grade students are expected to attend that class as well as the 10:00 am Mass. **Research questions due.**

All children who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Reconciliation on January 23rd are expected to attend the special preparation retreat on Saturday morning, **January 16th from 9:30 am—12:00 noon.**

Time to celebrate: There will be **NO Religious Education** classes on Tuesday, December 29th. Classes resume on Tuesday, January 5th, 2016.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year!
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:
St. Thomas More Youth Group Winter/Spring 2016
All 5th—12th graders are welcome and encouraged to participate in the **STM Youth Group (YG)**. Youth Group is filled with Faith, Friends and Fun! Come try it out. You do not need to attend everything to be in the Youth Group—come when you can!

5th—8th—the Junior YG is designed to enhance the formal Religious education.

9th—12th—the Senior YG gives you the opportunity to continue to learn your faith and **LIVE** your faith through Service, Social and Spiritual Activities.

Second Saturdays Service Days at the Heart of Camden:
Jan. 9; Feb. 13th; Mar. 12th; April 9th; May 14th. (2/13 we will be serving breakfast at the Ronald McDonald House).
Service Hour before Religious Education 6-7pm: Jan. 12; Feb. 2nd; 16, 23, Mar. 8, 15.

Family Movie Morning— 10 am New Year's Eve Day
Inside Out

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 December 31, 2015
The Apostle Peter and the Last Supper
Reservations requested for meal planning purposes

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH DECEMBER 27, 2015



Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:00 am Living & deceased members of the parish
4:30 pm **Pat Lachnicht**
 r/b Bill & Mary Ellen Carrozza

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

8:30 am **DeMasi & Wilson family**
 r/b Beverly & Vincent DeMasi
10:00 am **D'Ippolito family** r/b Radziwill family
Anna DiPrimio r/b Jack & Joan Hyer
Annalisa DiFilippo r/b Jack & Joan Hy-

er
11:30 am **Frank Cappetta.** r/b Sheila Moore

MONDAY—DECEMBER 28

6:45 am **James Higgins**
 r/b Franciscan Sisters of the Infant Jesus
9:00 am **John Mohan, Sr.**
 r/b John & Sheila Mohan

TUESDAY—DECEMBER 29

6:45 am intentions of Sr. **Jerilyn Einstein**
 r/b Franciscan sisters of the Infant Jesus
9:00 am **Special Intentions of Marian Kapischke**
 r/b Thursday SCC group

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

6:45 am people of the parish
9:00 am **James Guoida** r/b Colon family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

9:00 am **Margaret Goodenow**
 r/b Ann & Bill Vigrass
4:30 pm **Daniel Buckley**
 r/b Jim & Pat Beaney

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

10:00 am **Joe Kenney**
 r/b Monday Morning Scripture Class

11:30 am **William Benson**

SATURDAY—JANUARY 2

9:00 am Living & deceased members of the parish
4:30 pm **Jean DeCandia** r/b Carol & AJ Ariani

SUNDAY—JANUARY 3

8:30 am **Bob Moore** r/b Sheila
10:00 am **Ugo DiLullo** r/b Teri Bones
Emilio Bruno & Antonio DelVecchio
 r/b DelVecchio & Bruno family
Elizabeth Bobrownicki
 r/b Phyllis Kolecki & family
11:30 am **John & Helen Bantivoglio**
 r/b children

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE SICK...



Pat Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Anna Bedrick, Pat Brink, Francesca Capra, 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, 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

Report sexual abuse

An independent, toll-free number has been established by the Diocese of Camden to help callers report cases of sexual abuse by priests, deacons, religious, employees and/or volunteers. Calls are handled by a licensed clinical social worker. In accord with state law, cases of child sexual abuse are reported to the NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency and law enforcement. For information or to inquire about counseling and support services, call 1-800-964-6588

Festival of Lessons and Carols



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joe Kenney.

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, DECEMBER 27, 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 Epiphany of the Lord, January 3, 2016 – Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." ...After their audience with Herod, they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was....They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Commentary:

Epiphany means "manifestation," a revelation of Jesus as truly God. Matthew and Luke show this child to be divine through stories of "signs and wonders" when Jesus was an infant. Matthew's account of the visit of the three magi also shows the Church's mission to the Gentiles. Matthew's audience, largely Jewish Christians, was struggling to accept the presence of Gentile Christians in their community. Matthew shows in this Gospel passage that the salvation of Gentiles (symbolized by the foreign Magi) as well as Jews was indeed God's plan.

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?

Every pregnancy regardless of the circumstances is part of God's divine plan. In order to do His will, that pregnancy needs to be lovingly allowed to come to full term. Abortion is saying no to God.
Al Mac Elrath, Respect Life Coordinator - 779-7130



2015 Generation Faith Essay Contest

High school and college students interested in reflecting on the joys and challenges that come with living out (or struggling with) one's faith in the midst of real life are encouraged to write true personal essays, between 800—1,200 words.

The essays should feature strong narratives and real-life examples from the writer's experience as a young person in the church today. Writers should think creatively and broadly about their faith experience.

The winning entry will be awarded \$1000 and will be published in *America* and *The Jesuit Post*. Additional entries may be chosen for publication in *America*.

To be eligible, you must be enrolled as a full-time high school or college student at the time of the contest deadline. Your submission must be previously unpublished (including on personal websites) and must be original work. All entries must be submitted by 11:59 pm on January 10, 2016.

<https://americamedia.submittalbe.com/submit/48329>

New Diocesan Home Healthcare

VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services

A Healthcare Ministry of the Camden Diocese
Services are provided at no cost and are funded through the House of Charity and the Healthcare Foundation of the Camden Diocese.

The VITALity Help Line: provides information and access to medical, community and diocesan health services; arranges for care coordinators (registered nurses and social workers to visit you at your home or your parish: coordinators will assess your healthcare needs, help identify health risks, provide valuable health education and connect you with the medical and community services you need.

Visit us at: vitality.camdendiocese.org

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 give to Lois Udicious (795-1890).