

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 Vigil: 7:30 pm



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

Reverend Monsignor Thomas J. Morgan, Pastor
Reverend George Donkor Tang, In Residence
Reverend Daniel Joyce, S.J., Weekend Assistant
Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate for Life Long Faith Formation
Deacon John Harrington
Pat Maggart, Parish Catechetical Leader
Roger Pisani, Pastoral Associate for Music & Liturgy
Pat Cannon, Parish Secretary • Norma Matos, Parish Secretary

DIRECTORY

Pastoral Leadership			Worship		
Parish Trustees	Gary Gadren	424-3212	Altar Servers	Deacon John Harrington	424-3212
	Pat Lachnicht	424-3212	Church Environment	Ann Vigrass	428-7217
Christian Life/Education			Ch. Art Environment	Antonina Nicdao	751-6320
Bereavement	Sheila Mohan	795-6137	Eucharistic Ministers	Joyce DeMichele	424-4008
Friday Adoration	Marian/Chuck Kapischke	424-2053	Lectors	Dolores Kreal	988-0271
Hospital Visitors	Staff & Euch. Ministers	424-3212	Linen Committee	Pat Lachnicht	424-5636
Intercessory Prayer	Ann Vigrass	428-7217	Sacristans	Ann Vigrass	428-7217
Knights of Columbus	Dick Haughwout	429-8598	Ushers	Tom Petrilli	751-1367
Marriage Formation	Bob/Liz Scarpa	795-1160	Music Ministry	Greta Tyrrell	428-2412
Parish Rel. Ed. Prog.	Pat Maggart	429-6948		Frank Krenslak	309-1999
Pastoral Counselor	Claire Spence	428-8325		Roger Pisani, Director	609-702-7858
Prayer Shawls	Sheila Mohan	795-6137		Dolores Kreal	988-0271
Respect Life	Al Mac Elrath	779-7130		Len Kolojechick	346-4078
Rite of Ch. Init. Adults	Deacon John Harrington	424-3212	Social Development	June Garafano, Youth Singers	229-7461
	Sister Ann Byrnes	424-3212	Bridge Groups		
Rosary Ministry	Marian/Chuck Kapischke	424-2053		Joyce DeMichele	424-4008
Small Christian Comm.	Ann Marie/Bob Lento	424-4759	Funsters (over 50 club)	Barbara Cerquitella	795-7323
Spiritual Direction	Deacon John Harrington	424-3212	Parish Festival	Bob Lento	424-4759
Spiritual Retreats	John Galati	428-7073	Women's Club	Committee	424-3212
	Denise Radziwill	424-0494	Administration	Eileen Withers	751-6838

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 office if you or a family member will be admitted to the hospital. Anointing of the sick is available for those who are confined to home for a period of time. For emergencies, please call the parish office any time.

BAPTISM

Arrangements for Baptism can be made in advance by calling the parish office. Parents and godparents are required to attend a class in preparation for this Sacrament.

MARRIAGE

Couples planning to marry must attend a marriage preparation program called Living in Love. One-year notification of the marriage date is recommended.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process of instruction for full initiation into the Catholic Church. It is open to those never Baptized; those baptized in another faith; and Catholics who have not completed their Sacraments. Contact Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate, 424-3212 ext. 104 or Deacon John Harrington, Moderator, at 424-3212 ext. 103.

RCIA Team: John Mohan and Irene Rellosa

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.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

on Thursday, December 8,

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Adoration begins after the 9:00 Mass and ends before the 7:30 p.m. Mass.

'Thank you' for your time before the Lord.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO VISIT AT ANY TIME

The "sign-up" sheet is located outside the Chapel.

RETIREMENT FUND for RELIGIOUS:

Please give generously to this second collection next weekend. Thank you.

SPIRIT DAY – NOVEMBER 19, 2011

Huge Success – Big Turnout – Great Day

Thanks to the many volunteers listed below; our parish grounds are cleaner and more beautiful. Everyone worked hard all morning and enjoyed pizza and soda at noon.

STUDENTS

Ryan Anderson	Olivia Gross	Emma Parker
Sofia Benedetto	Jennifer Horton	Rachel Pierce
Jared Burmood	Jacques Liautaud	Nick Reganata
Evan Campbell	Ryan McCann	Joelle Wachman
Michael D'Auria	Nina Morice	Philip Wachman
Michael De Groot	Kevin Murphy	Samuel Wachman
Liam Egenton	Billy Neale	Philip Zimmerman
Matthew Grillo	Diana Orichowskyj	

ADULTS

Chris Baeckstrom	Marta Grillo	Janice McCann
Scott Campbell	James Gross	Rose Orichowskyj
Mike Egenton	Len Kolojchick	Carl Parker
Gary Gadren	Mike Maggart	Jackie Pierce
David Galloway	Pat Maggart	Denise Radziwill

St. Vincent de Paul thanks the Saint Thomas More parishioners for their generosity. Many people received blessings during this season of *Thanksgiving*; 125 dinners were provided for Holy Name School.

Last week's collection

November 27, 2011

\$9,211.50

242 Envelopes

May the Lord bless you for your generosity to your parish.

CHANGE and WAITING

Advent is about waiting and changing. The Sacred Scriptures of this holy season have a loud clamor to wait and to change. And without a doubt, all of us want to change. We know that it is only by embracing change can we touch the center of the Advent season. At the same time, deep-down, inside, the challenge is: *'how much are we really willing to fundamentally change?'*

The clients who come to my office for spiritual direction or for therapy say they want to change. But they just don't know how to change. They are often afraid to change. They feel stuck. They feel stagnant. Change is threatening for them. They feel impotent to change. They don't feel strong enough to embrace and sustain innovations in their lifestyles.

Some think it is better to sit tight than try to improve their relationship with God or with themselves and others. They feel impossibly mired in a chronic condition of addiction or some other chronic repetitive self-defeating pattern.

These clients feel so stuck and trapped in their patterns that they don't believe they can change. They don't believe that profound change is even possible. They fear that even if somehow they manage to change it cannot be sustained.

At the same time, deep down in their souls they know that some reorganization or transformation must take place at the core of their beings. On the one hand they want to change, but then on the other hand they wonder why they have to change. So, for many, anchoring real change seems as illusive as running the Philadelphia marathon.

Advent is very much about letting go of bad habits. It is about letting go of our negative beliefs. It is about letting go of our frozen emotional patterns. Are we willing to be liberated from our chronic patterns of warped thinking, feeling, acting and interacting?

Unless we change our distorted beliefs, we are powerless to full blown change. We need to unleash the self-defeating beliefs. We can benefit from dislodging the beliefs that are woven into the bedrock of our conditioning that probably began in childhood.

Advent says loudly to us that stagnation is not an option. The luxury of being fearful and stuck is over. Embrace the opportunity to be born anew. There is no choice but to change. Neither can the ego be smugly satisfied with superficial change.

The higher self, or the spiritual self, requires that we change anything that interferes with our ability to reflect on His first coming in the flesh; our ability to reflect on His second coming at the end of time; and our ability to reflect on His daily coming into our lives.

Advent is centered on the moment we issue an intention to change. That is when the Divine energy is set in motion to bring about transformational change in our lives. Surely, persisting and attending to the call to change is at the core of the Advent season.

Change is what the spiritual life is about. Changing often is at the heart of the spiritual path. We cannot change other people. But we can work with the Divine to change ourselves. With our cooperation, change will come to us with grace and with discipline.

It is then that we realize that Advent says Christ is coming to us each day. *Christ is coming to us here and now. Christ is coming to us on the job. Christ is coming to us at school. Christ is coming to us in the midst of our dealings with the people we like and dislike. Christ is coming to the poor, the rich, the old and the lonely.*

We believe that God is at work in us. We are in the hands of God. God is shaping us. That requires our response and our willingness to constant change. We are called to remain open to God's grace and energy. Then, with our change of heart, we can grow. Our hearts can enlarge and stretch. Our vision can expand and swell. *We can say, 'Come, Lord Jesus!'*

Blessings,
Monsignor Morgan

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Ministry Schedule for December 7, 8, 10 and 11, 2011

Mass Time	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
7:30 p.m. Vigil Mass	Monsignor Morgan	M Kramer, R Pisanl L Kolojchick	K Glover, J Kenney	B Scarpa	G/M Gray
Immaculate Conception of BVM 7:30 p.m.	Monsignor Morgan	R Pisanl	J/S Mohan	K McFadden	C/J McFadden
4:30 p.m.	Monsignor Morgan	C/R Pisanl	E Kleinz, N/P Klrncic T Petrone	K Erickson	L Smith M Dautle
8:30 a.m.	Father Maher	M Kramer L Kolojchick	A Del Campo-O'Brlen, Sr. Dianna, B Scarpa G Tyrrell	D Miller	A/T Rumell
10:00 a.m.	Monsignor Morgan	Adult Choir, D Kreal A Rivero	G Gadren, D Gould D/L Lyon	F Eggles	N Brown H Rosenblatt
11:30 a.m.	Monsignor Morgan	C/R Pisanl	E Beckman, S Kane B Massey, N Pro	R Ciccotta	M/T Ciccotta

Women's Club News

- Cookie Exchange: Wed. afternoon, December 7, at 1:30.
- Entertainment Book '2012': Now available, still only \$30. Call Clare at 428-9251.

Eileen Withers, President - 751-6838



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The third class for Confirmation I candidates will be held this Sunday, December 4, at 11 a.m. in the St. Thomas More Parish Hall. All seventh grade students are expected to attend the 10 a.m. Mass prior to class.

At the four weekend Masses during the Season of Advent, the candles on the Advent Wreath are being lit by those eighth grade candidates who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, which will be conferred on them in May, 2012.

Pat Maggart, PCL, 424-3212 - ext. 106

YOUTH GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sr. - High School students Jr. - 6th through 8th grades
Upcoming Event(s):

• **THIS SUNDAY**—The Cherry Hill Regional Youth Mass will be held at St. Thomas More (12/4/11 at 7 p.m.). All youth and their family and friends are invited.

• Food & Fun to follow—"The AFTER-MASS"

• **NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, Immaculate Conception Party**: The Jr. & Sr. Youth Groups will host a Christmas party for the children of Immaculate Conception Parish in Camden.

- Meet at St. Thomas More at 8:15 a.m. (leaving at 8:30)
- Set-up & Party until 11 a.m.
- Return to St. Thomas More around 12:30



- **Service Hours Opportunity; Opportunity to bring a smile to a child's face!**

- Parents, we could use your assistance driving and as chaperones.

Contact Stan Thompson (424-1120). **Forms with more details are in the gathering space.**

Stan Thompson, YG Coordinator - 424-1120

The Knights of Columbus is an organization fortified by its past and driven by its goals for the future. It's through 5 areas of service... faith, community, family, youth and fellowship that the Knights of Columbus truly make a difference. Knights are Catholic men, 18 years of age and older, who are committed to making their community a better place, while supporting their Church. Being a Knight is more than camaraderie; it is being involved with your community and supporting St. Thomas More Parish while enhancing your own faith and protecting and enhancing your own family life.



Dick Haughwout, Grand Knight - 429-8598
Pg. 4 - 632

Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK 

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 3

9:00 am Michael Vigrass r/b Family
Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
4:30 pm Barbieri, Orlando & DeVito Families r/b
Anthony & Marianne Orlando

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 4

8:30 am Fred & Genevieve Pfeiffer r/b Walsh Family
10:00 am Richard Burke r/b Family
Joseph LaRosa r/b Helen LaRosa & Family
Concetta Scotto r/b daughter, Agatha Scotto
Pilar Castillo r/b Family
11:30 am Kathleen Frain r/b Jack Boesch

MONDAY - DECEMBER 5

6:45 am Matthew Renk r/b McGeady Family
9:00 am Barbara Hedges r/b Sheila Moore

TUESDAY - DECEMBER 6

6:45 am Jacob Einstein r/b Franciscan Sisters of the
Infant Jesus
9:00 am Dick Smith r/b Tuesday Morning Small
Christian Community

WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 7

6:45 am Sr. Margaret Mary Schmicker, OSF r/b
Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus
9:00 am Juan & Rosa Irizarry, Melquiades Irizarry
r/b Marta Santiago & Family
7:30 pm Jenny Barber r/b Jim & Pat Beaney
Vigil Mass

**THURSDAY - DECEMBER 8, The Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

6:45 am Pilar Castillo r/b Dom & Marie Sacca
9:00 am Kathy Haughwout r/b Family
Special Intentions of Bob & Ann Marie Lento
Michael Mahon r/b Norma
7:30 pm Ann Coleman r/b Family

FRIDAY - DECEMBER 9

6:45 am William McBlain r/b Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa
9:00 am Pilar Castillo r/b Greta Tyrrell

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 10

9:00 am Jack & Barbara Esposito, 50th Wedding
Anniversary r/b Marylee Garber
Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
4:30 pm Bob Miller r/b Amy Osborn

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 11

8:30 am Veronica Lachnicht r/b Jerry & Pat Lachnicht
10:00 am Deceased Members of Leber Family r/b Mildred
Richard Smith r/b John & Sheila Mohan
Marie Venutti r/b Amy Osborn
Thomas J. Cairns r/b Connie Cairns
11:30 am Joe Turiano r/b Kay & Family

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:
THE DECEASED... Tom Cairns and Evelyn Gerla.
THE SICK...**

Denise Daniels	Helen Copperthwaite	
George Sweeten	Bob & Claire Boylan	
Chris Kolodzey	Naomi Willingmyre	
Maria Storms	Joseph Console	
Mae Rose	Frank Cappetta	
Ron Massey	Margaret MacElrath	
Olga Mignone	Andrea Buonincontro	
Frank Colbert	Michael Kapischke	
Mary Cowan	Betty O'Donnell	
Yolanda Burke	Marie Mazzagatti	
Jean Colbert	Stanley Kochanek	Owen Smith
Dorothy Brink	Pauline Rosberg	Leona Novak
Catherine Zee	Alfred DiFrank	Danny Perla
Pat Barton	Geralyn Coticone	Anna McMullen
Ethan Killeen	Jerry McMenamin	Don Kreal
James Louzon	Joe Pottackal, Sr.	Joanne James
Grayson Caruso	Chuck Kapischke	JoAnn Gadren
Chase Lupica	Pasquale DiFronzo	Gloria Daniels
Carlos Santiago	Fr. Joseph Aboagyie-Tawiah	Mary Flacco
Sharon Bushelli		Ed Rivero
		Marie DiFrank
		Avery Caruso
		Leila Lore
		Betty Brennan

THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...



Lt. Col. Allison Agar, Lance Corporal Sean Bilson, Lt. Cdr. Richard P. Byrnes, Jr., Pvt. 1st Class Mario Centofanti, Sr. Airman Alyssa Cosentino, Staff Sergeant Anthony R. Cosentino, Capt. Anthony T. DeMarco, Sr. Airman John P. DeYoung, Lt. Nicholas G. Iannuzzi, PFC Sonny Morrison, Major Ryan Orfe, Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa, SSgt Arturo Rivero, Jr., Lt. Col. Karl Rohr, USN SR Lindsay Schaffer, Major James P. Tobin, SPC Giselle M. Torres and Cpl. Michael Willingmyre.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,
DECEMBER 8, is a Holy Day of Obligation.
Masses for the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m. and on Thursday, December 8, at 6:45 & 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

REGIONAL PENANCE SERVICE
(with private confession)
Monday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.
here at St. Thomas More Parish
Large number of confessors present.

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 11, 2011 - John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light...When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" he admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ."..."I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord, as Isaiah the prophet said." "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

Commentary:

This reading tells the same story as the last two Sundays. Last week, we got the story of John the Baptist's ministry from Mark, and this week's passage is from the gospel of John. If you compare the two stories, you'll immediately see the parallels and also be conscious of the differences. In the distinctions, we often find the reason why the second story is told. Mark, who was writing a generation after the time of Jesus, was anxious to introduce us to the character of John, his ministry and who he was as a pivotal figure in salvation history. But in John's gospel, written in the second or third generation after Jesus, it was more important to tell who John the Baptist was not, for those who might experience some confusion on the subject. Most of the followers of John remained faithful to him even after Jesus appeared on the scene, and we know John's sect stayed active long after his death. For those who didn't understand that John willingly "decreased" so that Jesus could "increase," this story sets the record straight."

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?



CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES



are included in your December contribution envelope package. Envelopes may be put in the collection basket. As always, thank you for your support.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



We are meeting this Thursday, Dec. 8, after the 9 a.m. Mass in the St. Thomas More Hall.

St. Thomas More MOVIE NIGHT
Saturday, December 31
6:30 PM – Food & Fellowship
7 PM – MOVIE

The Ultimate Gift

Life is how you live it...not how you spend it.

Sign up this weekend after Mass.

Reservation requested to order food.

Committee: Marianne Gorin, Joe Centonze, Bob Lento, Gary Scarpa & Greta Tyrrell

Contact Marianne with any questions at 346-1811 or email Joe Centonze at joecent4@gmail.com.

ALL ARE INVITED!

Next Sunday, December 11 - 1:00

African/Ghanaian Mass - Fr. George, Celebrant

South Jersey Club Mentoring Program

You can change the life of a child mentoring students in 6th-8th grade. The program was kicked off with Club members at our adopted parish, St. Anthony's. We are now looking to expand the number of mentors from both within and outside the Club. This way we can also expand the number of students who can receive the mentoring which is so important in a young person's life. If you're interested in learning more and receiving the Mentoring Guide, email Chris Baeckstrom, cbaeckstrom@yahoo.com. The Guide will explain the requirements and commitments as well as provide lots of information on what it's like to be a mentor.

ATTENTION ALTAR SERVERS

If you are able to serve at Midnight Mass please call the parish office at 424-3212 to let us know.

The Career Transitions Partnership can help with your job search. Saint Thomas More Parish is partnering with The Career Transition Partnership ministry that has developed a full curriculum of free training programs to assist job seekers. (Check out their web site www.ctpnj.org)

On December 14, 2011, the CTP will present a training program on "*Job Search and Networking Strategies.*" Training is conducted at Saint Isaac Jogues Church, Parish Hall, Evesboro Road and Elmwood Road, Marlton NJ at 7:00 PM. Pre-Registration is required.

For more information contact Al Shaffer at 609-417-6770 or email al.shaffer@comcast.net.