

St. Thomas More Church

1439 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003

856-424-3212

Web Site: <http://stthomasmorenj.org/> • E-mail: info@stthomasmorenj.org

Mass Schedule

Daily Mass: Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM in the Chapel

First Saturdays: 9:00 AM in the Chapel

Sat. 4:30 PM

Sun. 8:30 and 11:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel

Mon.—Fri. 9:30 AM—12 Noon



Rite of Reconciliation Saturday

3:00—4:00 PM

In the Chapel

First Fridays after the 9:00 AM Mass

Father Edward Namiotka, Pastor
Father Victorino Coronado, In Residence
Julie Linn, Music Ministry
Sheila Tartamosa, Business Manager



Find us on:
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Send all bulletin announcements to:

smtartamosa@comcast.net by 2:00pm Monday

DIRECTORY

Parish Trustees

Jeannine Mc Menamin
Henry Glover

Christian Life/Education

Bereavement

Staff 856- 424-3212

Consolation Ministry

Ann Marie Lento 856- 344-7454

Jon Lisitski jonl11@comcast.net

Faith & Justice Team

Chris Baeckstrom 856-912-7078

Hospital Visitors

Staff & Euch. Ministers 856-424-3212

Intercessory Prayer

Ann Vigrass 856-428-7217

Knights of Columbus

John Galati 856-424-3212

Marriage Formation

Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa 856-795-1160

Order of Christian Init. Of Adults

Parish Rel. Ed. Prog. 856-424-3212

Respect Life

Staff 856-424-2053

Rosary Ministry

Marian Kapischke 856-424-2053

Small Christian Communities

Spiritual Retreats

John Galati 856-428-7073

St. Vincent de Paul

Chico Febus 856- 424-3212

Stewardship

Sheila Tartamosa 856-424-3212

Welcoming Team

Shirley Kane 856-424-8022

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Altar Servers

Church Environment

Ch. Art Environment

Eucharistic Ministers

Lectors

Linen Committee

Sacristans

Ushers

Social Development

Bridge Groups

Parish Festival

Women's Club

Administration

House of Charity

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Parish Pastoral Council

Committee Committee

856-424-3212

Ann Vigrass

856-428-7217

Greta Tyrrell

856-428-2412

Dom Sacca

Dave Bongiovanni

Joe Centonze

Chico Febus

Joyce DeMichele

856-424-4008

Barbara Cerquitella

856-795-7323

Committee

856-424-3212

Barbara Cerquitella

856-795-7323

Lorraine Kennedy

856-489-0031

Sheila Tartamosa

856-424-3212

Robert Crawford

856-424-3212

Marie Enny

856-751-8893

First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024

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.

OCIA

The Order 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 call 424-3212

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades One through Eight - Sunday 9:30 AM—10:45 AM

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

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

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please submit hardcopy and/or e-mail by 2 p.m. Monday.

CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL

St. John Paul II Regional School - (856) 783-3088
Principal: Mrs. Helen Persing



On the occasion of the First Sunday of Advent, we wish you a heart full of joy, and a life blessed with peace....

Advent should be a time of joy and hope, but also one of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, in preparation for the great feast of Christmas.



**Holy Day of Obligation—
The Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated
on Monday, December 9, 2024.**

All are obliged to participate in Mass.

Our Mass schedule is

9:00 AM and 7:00 PM in the Church.

Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious December 7/8

Aging religious need your help. “Your support acknowledges that we continue the mission of Christ even in our retirement,” says Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart Sister Celeste Burgos. Donations provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service.

Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

ATTENTION LECTORS—The 2025 **Lector Workbooks** are available. Please pick-up your copy in the Parish Office. Year C starts with the First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024.

1st Sunday of Advent

Stewards Prepare

“But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” (LUKE 21:28)

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation for the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await His second coming. What will you do differently this Advent season to grow in friendship and love with Jesus? How will you inspire others to do the same?

Start by living **Stewardship** and sharing your God story with others, especially those that are closest to you. Invite and accompany them on their faith journey this Advent.

From the Pastor's Desk

"¡Viva Cristo Rey!"

Dear Parishioners,

(With the **Solemnity of Christ the King** last week, I thought this would still be appropriate as we begin **Advent**.)

Dear Parishioners:

I watch various videos primarily on **YouTube**, **Rumble**, **X** (formerly *Twitter*), and **Facebook**. (I have not entered the world of other platforms such as *Instagram*, *TikTok*, *Snapchat*, *Reddit*, etc. because of the element of time and certain priorities in my life currently.) Some of the videos have illustrated how certain high profile people recently became Catholics such as *Candice Owens*, *Russell Brand*, *J.D. Vance*, *Shia LaBeouf*, and *Rob Schneider*, to name a few. While this is not meant to be an endorsement of any of these people in particular, it was the **Candice Owens** story that caught my attention. She got in trouble on social media for acknowledging **Christ the King** publicly and has not backed down from her position.

This then brought to mind the phrase used by the **Cristeros** in Mexico. When I heard about the sacrifices that the **Cristeros** made and the tortures that they endured for their Catholic faith, I was speechless with a pain deep in my heart. During a three year period (1926-1929) in Mexico's history, approximately 90,000 people died in what was called the **Cristero War**. In an [interview](#) with Ruben Quezada in 2012, the author of **For Greater Glory: The True Story of Cristiada**, he explains the background to the war:

When Plutarco Calles took over as president of Mexico, he did not want the church to be part of any moral teachings to its citizens. He did not want God to be a part of anyone's life. After the Mexican Revolution the two presidents that followed (Venustiano Carranza and Alvaro Obregon) abused their power to wage their personal attacks against the Catholic Church as well. There were similar persecution incidents and abuses towards the clergy and Catholics alike, and we have a few Mexican Martyrs from those persecutions who were not part of the **Cristero War**. When President Calles came into power, he wanted to bring Mexico's population to belong to a Socialist state. He would insist that the Church was poisoning the minds of the people and that its teachings were a threat to the Revolutionary mentality which it stood for. Calles wanted to ensure that all citizens were going to be educated under the government's dictatorship and secular mindset. He wanted to ensure that only the government would have the freedom to form the minds of its citizens and insisted that the church was poisoning the minds of the people. In order to enforce this new law it was necessary to expel all clergy, except for a few priests who would oversee the spiritual needs of the people and with the supervision of the state authorities. This led to various states of Mexico going without a single Mass being celebrated for a long time.

A total of 35 martyrs have been canonized and fifteen were beatified as a result of this persecution. The motto of the **Cristeros** was **"¡Viva Cristo Rey!"** ("Long Live Christ the King!") which so many refused to denounce even when facing torture and death. With some subsequent thought, the following questions keep haunting me:

What sacrifices would I make in order to offer the Mass or to practice my Catholic faith freely?

What suffering would I be willing to endure for my Catholic faith?

Would I be able to hold fast to my Catholic faith in the face of torture or a threat of death?

How much do I value religious freedom?

Would I have the courage to proclaim: **"¡Viva Cristo Rey!"** like the **Cristeros**?

A special recognition needs to be given to the **Knights of Columbus** who helped the Mexican people during this war. Again, according to Quezada:

In August 1926, just days after the Calles Law took effect, the U.S. Knights passed a resolution to support the Church in Mexico. They established a fund that raised over a million dollars to offer relief services for those exiled from Mexico, to provide for exiled seminarians to continue their priestly formation, and to educate the American public about the true situation. The Order printed and distributed five million pamphlets about the **Cristiada** and two million copies of the Pastoral Letter of the Catholic Episcopate of the United States on the Religious Situation in Mexico. The U.S. Knights also sponsored over 700 free lectures and reached millions by radio.

The film **A Greater Glory: The True Story of the Cristiada**, which only had only a very limited theater run in most areas, is a story of fidelity to the Catholic faith in the face of torture and persecution. It illustrates what people are willing to sacrifice to preserve their religious freedom. I certainly recommend viewing this film. (Beware, however, of the intense violence at times—the reason it received an "R" rating.) **Long Live Christ the King!**

Fr. Ed Namiołka, Pastor

First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024

Ministry Schedule December 7/8 2024

	Clergy	Music	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr.	Florence	Sr. Agnes	J. Bland Campbell	
8:30 AM	Fr.	Celine/Julie	Sr. Clare	S. Oatway	A. Bresani
11:00 AM	Fr.	Celine/Julie	T. Librogo	J. Johnson	L. Vascisin, S. Andino



During the **Season of Advent**, our Gospel readings ask us to consider what is most important to us as we prepare for Jesus' coming, at his birth and at the end of time.

In today's Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples against the fatigue that can emerge if one becomes consumed by the anxieties of daily life. Many families are too familiar with the kind of fatigue Jesus refers to here.

We may be concerned about a family member's health, our job security, our children's education, or any number of other concerns.

All these are important matters. Jesus does not promise an end to daily worries and fears, but he does teach his disciples that they will have the strength to withstand anxiety if they stay focused on him, remaining vigilant for his return and praying for strength to endure all tribulations.

Through prayer, God helps us stay focused on that which is most important in our lives.

family what "Advent resolutions" your family might make to help you stay focused so that you will be prepared to receive the salvation we celebrate at Jesus' birth and anticipate at Jesus' second coming. Pray together for God's help in following through on these resolutions.

From the Sunday Connection at Loyola Press

SAVE the DATE—Sunday Dec. 15th the students will participate as *ministers* at the 11:00 AM Mass. Directly after Mass the students will put on a Nativity Pageant followed by refreshments in the Hall. All are invited.



Hope: The first week marks the beginning of the new liturgical year. The tale of our salvation has circled back to its starting point: the expectation of the Messiah. This week intensifies our hope in the coming of a Savior Who will free us from the chains of sin and become our Way and our Light.

The Flowers on the Altar this week are in memory of Michael Vigrass requested by his Family
May he rest in peace.

Thank You!

ADVENT RETREAT—St. Vincent Pallotti Church 901 Hopkins Rd., Haddonfield, NJ

Worship, Witness & Wonders

Tues. Dec. 10th 7:00-8:00 PM

Learn about miracles, especially miracles of St. Rita presented by Fr. DiGregorio from the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia, Phila. Pa.

Wed. Dec. 11th 7:00-8:00 PM

Hear testimonies from three witnesses who experienced the healing power of God's grace. Adoration and Benediction. All are welcome. Call 856-858-1313 for more

An invitation to men of the parish from the Cherry Hill Council 6173 Knights of Columbus: If you want more information or to join us, you can do so today at

www.kofc.org/joinus with this QR code include "Council 6173" when asked and use the promo code: BLESSEDDMCGIVNEY to join for free.



First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024

MASS Intentions

SATURDAY, November 30

4:30 PM Elva Clark r/b Fitzpatrick Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

8:30 AM Elva Clark r/b Lorraine Kennedy

11:00 AM Michael Vigrass r/b Family

MONDAY, December 2

9:00 AM People of the Parish

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, December 3

9:00 AM Vincent Menna r/b Ron & Gail Bizzoso

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, December 4

9:00 AM Living and deceased members
of Morgan family in Ireland

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY, December 5

9:00 AM Elva Clark r/b Jeannine McMenamin

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

FRIDAY, December 6 1st Friday*

9:00 AM James & Susan Quaranto r/b Son

9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

Saturday, December 7 1st Saturday*

9:00 AM Dec'd Members of Quaranto & Daraio
Families r/b Family

4:30 PM Rev. Sebastian V. Annino
r/b Pauline Montes

Sunday, December 8

8:30 AM Kathy & Dick Haughwout
r/b Brian Haughwout

11:00 AM Martha & Nick Korson r/b Flynn Family

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for December
Pilgrims of HOPE

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith,
helping us recognize the Risen Christ in our lives and
that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Devotion on the **First Fridays and First Saturdays**
of each month incorporates devotion to the Sacred Heart
of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary into our
monthly routines.

*Mass is at 9:00 AM followed by
Rosary
Confession

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: *THE*

SICK... Kristina Acevedo,
Caroline Bancheri, Jim Beaney,
Joe Centonze, Grace Cobin,
Joseph Console, Marie Corco-
ran, Mary Cowan, Catherine Diana, Linda Di Giulio,
Fr. George Donfurtang, Elizabeth Garber, Eileen Gerie,
Eileen Goodwin, Marjorie Graham, Marion
Kapischke, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy,
John Lane, Bob Lento, Marie Manalo, Kelly Moore,
Carter Oakley, Tina Petrone, Dom Sacca, Carlos
Santiago, Teddy Shaffer, Grace Sklencar, Joe Sklencar,
Claire Spence, Stacia Strack, Michael Suralik, Pat
Suralik, Ed Targonski, Sr., Ann Vigrass, Joanne
Wachman, Sarah Warner, Baby Finley, Arlene Pajic,
Tim Fitzgerald, Jose Dorotan, Hilda Maldonado.



PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...

Sgt. Jordan Beckman, Captain
Patrick J. Bones, USMC,
Major Anthony R. Cosentino,
USAF, TSgt. John P. DeYoung,
Sam Houston, USN Special Forces, , Lt. Nicholas G.
Iannuzzi, SSgt. Kris Knaup, Capt. Jennifer LaSalce,
US Army, Capt. Christopher Mawn, Lt. Jacqueline
A. McCabe, PFC Sonny Morrison, Lt. Col. Louis J.
Papa, Sisi Tyrrell, USMC, Sgt. Nicole Williams,
PFC Timothy Kenny, U.S. Army and *all those serving
our country.*



St. Thomas More Consolation
Ministry to the bereaved will be
having a luncheon on
**Friday, December 6, 1 pm, at
Siena's Italian Creative Cuisine**
located at 300 White Horse Rd,
Voorhees, NJ 08043-2500. Please
contact one of the ministry members
listed below if you wish to attend.

Our mission is to be a source of love, comfort, and
support to those who experience loss through death. We
work to reach out to those who experience loss, so they
will feel the healing comfort of God through this faith
community.

We hope you will allow us to walk alongside you
through your grief journey as a companion who has
seen the same terrain. Join us or call for more
information.

AnnMarie Lento 856-344-7454,
Jon Lisitski 856-905-6162,
Marian Kapischke 856-424-2053

First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024

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 Second Sunday of Advent, December 8– Luke 3:1-6

“A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Commentary:

John the Baptist is the last of the prophets of the old law who announced the arrival of the new law in Christ. St. Luke demands that Jesus' followers have a complete conversion, a turning away from a life that does not fulfill this change, and turning toward God. They call us to own up to our failings, to seek the forgiveness of God: a forgiveness that makes us stronger and more able to live the life God desires for us.

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 Commentary resonates with me?

Retreats

- SAT & SUN **DECEMBER 7 - 8, 2024**: ADVENT
- SAT **MARCH 15, 2025**: LENT
- SAT **MAY 10, 2025**: MARIAN RETREAT



**FRANCISCAN MISSIONARY
OF THE INFANT JESUS**

CONTACT US

call: (856)-428-8834
text: (856)-518-0184
fmijcomeandsee@yahoo.com



"MOTHER MARY JOSEPH" CENTER OF HOSPITALITY 1215 KRESSON ROAD, CHERRY HILL, NJ



Pro-Life Corner

“Every analysis must necessarily start from the premise that—although each person lives in a particular concrete social and historical context—every human being is endowed with a dignity that must never be lessened, impaired or destroyed

but must instead be respected and safeguarded, if peace is really to be built up.”

(Address to the General Assembly of the United Nations Oct. 2, 1979)

faith  justice

Angel Tree Gift Program

All gifts must be returned to STM by **Sunday, 12/1/24 UNWRAPPED** along with the tag. A table will be in the gathering space.

You can also make a cash donation (see basket by tree). Our team will use what is collected to purchase gift cards for the Angel Tree caretakers.

Any questions, please call Chris Betson-Smith (609) 313-0982.



Christmas and Food from Around the World

**December 7, after 4:30 pm Mass
St. Thomas More Parish Hall.**

All are invited to participate and share in this celebration. This is your opportunity come together in fellowship and experience the foods of other cultures while sharing your family tradition. We are looking for a few more people to provide an hors d'oeuvres or dessert that is part of your Christmas Celebration.

Contact us by email stmfaithandjustice@gmail.com or call 856-424-3212.

Eucharistic Adoration is held in the Chapel Monday through Friday after the 9:00 AM Mass until Noon.

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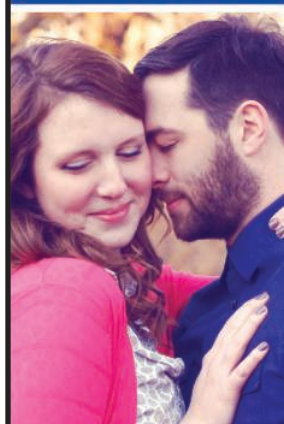


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