



St. Thomas More 'A Parish Family'

2101 Pottstown Pike / Pottstown, PA 19465

Episcopal Region 1 ~ Deanery 4 ~ Pastoral Planning Area 220:

Saint Thomas More, Saint Elizabeth, Saints Philip and James, Saint Joseph



Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap
Most Reverend John McIntyre, Regional Bishop
Msgr. Thomas Mullin, Dean
Rev. Edward E. Brady, Pastor
Rev. Hugh Dougherty, Pastor Emeritus
Mrs. Sharon Otto, D.R.E.

Maria Innocenti, OFS Director of Liturgy and Music
Charlie Palladino, Vocations
John Dutton, Operational Engineer

Transitional Team

Joy Moyer, B.M.
Terri Beilder, Pastoral Assistant
Jack Werkley, Maintenance
Ben Pupek, Maintenance
Michele Hillier, House Keeping

Neo Catechumenal Way



Presider
Rev. Carlos Benitez
Vice - Rector
Rev. Mariano Dellagiovanna



Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for Sunday

Saturday Evening, 5:30 PM
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM

Sacrament of Confession Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Saturdays 4:30 PM to 5:15 PM



Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

After Any Sunday Mass
or by Appointment

Weekday Mass in our area:

St. Thomas More
Monday to Saturday: 8:30 AM
St. Aloysius
Tuesday to Thursday - 8:30 AM Mass
Friday-8:30 AM Mass held at 844 N. Keim St.
Saturday - 8:00 AM Mass

Holy Day Mass Schedule

Vigil / Evening before: 7:00 PM
The Day of: as announced

Like us on Facebook:

Saint Thomas More Parish
www.stmsouthcoventry.com
stm2@aol.com



Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2017
Parish Center: 610-469-9304

Intentions for week of December 17th

Monday 8:30 AM ~ Bob Yanos

Requested by: Family

Tuesday 8:30 AM ~ Richard Leinbach

Requested by: His Children

Wednesday 8:30 AM ~ Deacon Eugene Brady

Requested by: Tomarelli Family

Thursday 8:30 AM ~ Edith McCarthy

Requested by: Ed and Andrea Fowler

**Friday 8:30 Am ~ Theresa and Joseph
Facciolo**

Requested by: Ann Pizzi

Saturday 8:30 AM ~ Deacon Eugene Brady

Requested by: Jack and Jane Werkley and Family

Sunday

Vigil 5:30 PM ~ Alice Leinbach

Requested by: Her Children

8:00 AM ~ People of the Parish

10:30 AM ~ Dan Pizzi

Requested by: Ann Pizzi



The Christmas Tree: Legends, Traditions, History: By Lino Lozza (Part 1)

TREE OF LIFE, LOVE, PEACE

Many legends and old traditions concerning the Christmas tree date back to very ancient times, but historical documentation of its origins as the tree we know and decorate today only appeared in recent centuries.

There is no doubt, however, that legends and traditions show the convergence of many customs, some born outside the Christian culture and others strictly Christian. We will consider here some of the most important ones that were forerunners of the Christmas tree.

Since very ancient times even primitive people would take evergreen plants and flowers into their huts, seeing in them a magical or religious significance. The Greeks and Romans decorated their dwellings with ivy. The Celts and Scandinavians preferred mistletoe, but many other evergreen plants such as holly, butcher's broom, laurel and branches of pine or fir were considered to have magical or medicinal powers that would ward off illness. This belief was found especially among the inhabitants of the northern regions with cold climates and long, dark winters; it was almost as if these plants revived thoughts of the coming spring while everything around them lay dormant. Naturally enough, temples were built to the "goddess Flora". St Boniface, eighth-century Bishop

An interesting tradition, part history, part legend and very popular in Germany, claims that the Christmas tree dates back to the eighth century. This legend is based on a historical figure, St Boniface, and even a historical event, the destruction of Odin's oak. St Boniface (675-754) was the English Bishop Winfrid who went to Germany in the eighth century, to Hesse to be precise, to preach the Christian faith as a missionary from the Church of Rome. After a period of apparently successful Gospel preaching, Boniface went to Rome to confer with Pope Gregory II (715-731). After a long absence, he returned to Geismar, Germany, for Christmas 723, and felt personally offended on discovering that the Germans had reverted to their former idolatry of pagan divinities and were preparing to celebrate the winter solstice by sacrificing a young man under Odin's sacred oak tree. Fired by holy anger, as was Moses by the golden calf, Bishop Boniface took up an axe and dared to cut down the oak. This courageous, historically documented act meant the triumph of Christianity in Germany over the pagan divinities.

All this is historically documented. The rest belongs to the legend which tells how, at the first blow of the axe, a strong gust of wind instantly brought down the tree. The astounded Germans fearfully recognized the hand of God in this event and humbly asked Boniface how they should celebrate Christmas. The Bishop, the legend continues, pointed to a small fir tree that had miraculously remained upright and intact beside the debris and broken branches of the fallen oak. Boniface was familiar with the popular custom of taking an evergreen plant into the house in winter and asked everyone to take home a fir tree. This tree signifies peace, and as an evergreen it also symbolizes immortality; with its top pointing upwards, it additionally indicates heaven, the dwelling place of God.

Another legend is constituted by a famous hawthorn called the "Holy Thorn" that was found at Glastonbury Abbey in England and flowers at Christmas time. It was venerated as a "sacred relic" because a legend claims that it derived from a sprig that came from Jesus' crown of thorns.

The legendary hawthorn survived for many centuries and was honored as a sacred relic. This flowering bush made a contribution of its own to the idea of a tree associated with the Christmas feast day.

Regular Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Friday and Saturday by Appointment

Our newly Baptized

Levi Plant and Jonathan Giampaolo
Danielle Mendoza and Neve Isabel Mendoza
Dakota Jones

If you have someone in your family who needs the
Sacrament of Baptism contact Fr. Brady



The Altar Society changes and cleans the linens every week.

Adult Choir, Cantors, Organists



Contact Maria Innocenti, OFS
musicmarra@yahoo.com



**St. Thomas More Council
#14090. This year's officers are:**

- Ray Canton, Grand Knight
- Jeff Evans, Deputy Grand Knight
- Dave Walsh Sr, Chancellor
- James O'Connor, Recorder
- Peter Sagona, Financial Secretary
- Keith Brown, Advocate
- Tom Esterly, Warden
- James McCausland, Inside Guard
- Bill Soumis, Outsider Guard
- Nicholas Bartelmo, Outside Guard
- Al McCarthy, Trustee
- John Janda, Trustee
- John Hughes, Trustee
- Program Director, Greg Martin
- Ray McGlew, Lecturer
- John Coccia, Treasurer

For more information on becoming a member contact: KofC14090@gmail.com or go to our website at <http://www.stmsouthcoventry.com/koc.html>

If you are interested in starting a group, let Father Brady know.



The Humble Helpers clean the Church: **Fall / Winter/ Spring:** Mondays after the 8:30 AM Mass. **Summer Time every other week:** Tuesday after the 8:30 AM Mass. If you can spare some time, feel free to join us.



**Ladies Auxiliary
#14090. This year's officers are:**

- Patty Evans, President
- Joanne Tesar, Vice President
- Patty Evans, Treasurer
- Cathy Carney Horner, Recording Secretary
- Amy Piazza, Financial Secretary
- Amy Piazza, Inside Guard
- Cathy Carney Horner, Publicity

Next Meeting is December 14 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

For more information on becoming a member contact: KofC14090@gmail.com or go to our website at <http://www.stmsouthcoventry.com/koc.html>



Please let us know if there is someone who because of illness needs the Eucharist brought to his/her home for a few weeks or on a regular basis. Contact the parish office.



The Gardens of Pottstown: A Prayer Service is held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month beginning at 1:30 pm.

Manatawny Manor: A Prayer Service is held every Tuesday at 11:00 AM



St. Thomas More Outreach program connects our parishioners with the most needy in our area.

We collect clothing, food, household items, diapers, art supplies, postage stamps, etc. for many local organizations throughout the year. If interested kindly contact Mary Jo Anne Valko-Warner, Committee Chair: mjaz@ptd.net 610-323-1986.

Thank you for your generous giving! Please consider joining our committee!

Transitional Team Finance Council



Spencer Claypoole, Catherine Fink
Dr. Mary Harris-Van Brunt
Mark Lloyd, Pete Sagona
Joy Moyer



If you need a special intention prayed for, you can email us at STMORE2@aol.com



Book and Movie Club

Please join us on second Tuesday of the month, at 9:00 AM or the second Thursday of the month, at 7:00 PM. Our next meetings will be held on: January 9th and 11th. January's book is titled, "He Is My Heaven, The Life of Elizabeth of the Trinity by Jennifer Moorcrof.

Gardens of St. Thomas More

Many people volunteer their time to keep our gardens looking great. Kindly let Father Brady know if the various gardens are dedicated to anyone.



50th Jubilee
Committee and events
Coming Soon



Is celebrated at the 10:30 AM Mass

Storytellers:
Susan Lloyd
Sharon Otto
Cathy Horner
Denise Frosty

Readers:
Anna Lignelli
Jack Lignelli
Connor Fennell
Grace Fennell
Rachel Dawson
Dominic Frosty
Mallory Horner
Pauline McBride



Safe Environment

Background Checks

Mrs. Sharon Otto
Rev. Ed Brady

Campus Security

Jaime D'Angelo, Greg Catagnus
Stewart Miller, Jason Owens, Wayne Shych

A suggestion from the Safe Environment Team:

Make sure all children are accompanied to the bathroom. Prudence is most important.



Allergic to Wheat?
Low Gluten Hosts are available for Holy Communion.
Just ask Fr. Brady



Meets on Tuesdays in Church from 6:00 to 6:45 PM. You can contact us at:

STM youthchoir@gmail.com

Ushers



**5:30 PM Vigil
8:00 AM
10:30 AM**

Lectors are needed

**5:30 PM Vigil
8:00 AM
10:30 AM**



Altar Servers are needed



**5:30 PM Vigil
8:00 AM
10:30 AM**

Eucharistic Ministers

**5:30 PM Vigil
8:00 AM
10:30 AM**



Church / Art and Environment



Susan Baxter - Flower Arranger

Joanne Bartelmmo - Changing of Colors
Michelle Bergey - Order and Arrange for help

St. Thomas More Youth Group



Grades 7-12. Next Meetings:
January 2nd, 16th, and 30th
7:00 PM-8:00 PM

For more information, contact: Greg Martin,
gpmartin226@yahoo.com, 484-942-3200 or Cathy
Carney Horner, cathycarneyhorner@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

December

- 18 Confessions
- 19 CCD / PREP
- 19 Guitar Practice
- 20 Gardens of Pottstown
- 20 Children's Choir
- 20 Adult Choir

January

- 3 Gardens of Pottstown
- 6 Rosary
- 9 Manatawny
- 9 Book and Movie Club
- 10 Cantor Rehearsal
- 11 Book and Movie Club



A Prayer to Keep Christmas Simple

Dear Lord, don't let us miss You this Christmas season. Help us to simplify our activities and traditions so we can focus our celebration on Your birth. Thank You for being the Prince of Peace, and I ask You for that supernatural peace to reign in our hearts. Thank You for the simple but life-changing message of Your love for us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Music Ministry Update

- Wednesday, 12/20/17 – 7:00 Adult Choir rehearsal
- Wednesday, 1/10/18 – 7:00 Adult Choir rehearsal
- Wednesday, 1/17/18 – 7:00 Adult Choir rehearsal

Upcoming Cantor rehearsals

- Wednesday, 1/10/18 – 6:00 PM Cantor rehearsal
- Wednesday, 2/7/18 – 6:00 PM Cantor rehearsal
- Wednesday, 3/7/18 – 6:00 PM Cantor rehearsal

Calling all Instrumentalists, Pianists, Organists!

The St. Thomas More Music Ministry is seeking those interested in participating with the Music Ministry on Sundays or just for Special Occasions.

If you're interested in exploring using your musical gifts to serve the assembly, please contact:

Maria Innocenti, OFS
stmoremusic@comcast.net
215-385-0911





On Sundays
after the 8:00 AM Mass
in our Social Hall.
When CCD / PREP
is in session



Join us in Praying the Rosary
Mondays at 7:00 PM
First Saturday of the Month
8:00 AM in church.



**Rite of Christian
Initiation of Adults**
Rev. Edward Brady
Sharon Otto, DRE
John Zajkowski

For those 14 years of age or older
who need to receive their Sacraments.
We meet on Sundays at 11:30 AM



We should be VERY proud of the
generosity of our of St. Thomas More
Parish. Thanks for all your help! Mary Jo

Delivery was very well received by staff
and residents of Salvation Army. For
eleven (plus) families St. Thomas More
provided:

Cooking Utensils (Spatula, Mixing Spoon, Measuring cups/
spoons); \$50 Gift Card to shop for Household Needs; Can
Opener; Brooms and Dust Pans; Silverware; Queen Sheets;
Twin Sheets for all children in families; Queen Blanket;
Twin Blankets for all children in families; Crib Sheets
Towels & Washcloths; \$20 in Gift Cards for Personal Care
items; Specific Personal Care Items needed: Shave Cream,
Baby wipes; Underwear for Ladies, Men, and children;
Bathrobes / Slippers / Slipper Socks; Nail Grooming kits;
Body Wash / Soap / Shampoo;

All the makings for a taco dinner.
Holiday Baking supplies (sugar,
flour, chocolate chips, brownie
mix, etc)

Condiments for residents and
community meals: Seasoned Salt,
Garlic Powder, Pepper, Oregano,
Cinnamon, Chili Spices, Paprika,
Onion Powder, Steak Sauce, and
Gravy Mixes (can or packets),
Sugar, Coffee, Salad Dressing,
Mustard, Ketchup.

The Chief
Corporal Works
of Mercy
Feed the hungry.
Give drink to the thirsty.
Clothe the naked.
Shelter the homeless.
Visit the sick.
Visit the imprisoned.
Bury the dead.



Parish Council
Yet to be elected and appointed.



**Parish Religious
Education Preparation**
PREP / CCD

Class times: Sundays: 9:10 AM / Tuesdays: 7:00 PM
STMORECCD@comcast.net 610-469-9302



Guitar Group
Practice is held on Tuesdays
from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Musicians and Singers are Welcome.
If interested contact Romana: ro2292@aol.com



Confession Schedule

Monday, December 18
4:00 to 5:00 PM
7:00 to 8:00 PM

Saturday, December 23
No Confessions

**Christmas Weekend
Mass Schedule**

Saturday, December 23
5:30 PM

Sunday, December 24
8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Christmas Eve
5:00 PM Youth Choir Concert
5:30 PM Vigil Mass

8:30 PM Adult Choir Concert
9:00 PM Night Mass

Christmas Day
8:00 AM and 10:30 AM



New Years Mass
Monday, January 1
10:30 AM

Offices will be closed
December 25, 26, and 29
January 1



December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1						
3 8 & 10:30 AM Masses 9:10 AM CCD	4 7:00 Pm Rosary 7:30 PM KOC Meeting	5 7:00 PM CCD 7:00 PM Parent Confirmation Meeting 7:00 PM Guitar Practice	6 1:30 PM Gardens of Pottstown Mass 6:00 Pm Children's Choir 7:00 PM Cantor Reh. 7:30 PM Adult Choir	7 Immaculate Conception of Mary Vigil Mass 7:00 PM	8 Immaculate Conception of Mary 10:00 Am & 7:30 PM Masses	2 8:00 Am Rosary 5:30 Pm Mass
10 8 & 10:30 AM Masses 9:10 AM CCD 1 st Communion Parent Meeting Parish Breakfast	11 7:00 Pm Rosary	12 9:00 AM Book/Movie Club 11:00 AM Man. Manor Mass 7:00 PM CCD 7:00 PM Youth Grp. 7:00 PM Our Lady of Guadalupe	13 6:00 PM Childrens Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	14 Ladies Auxiliary 7:00 Pm 7:00 Pm Book/Movie Club	15	16 Confessions 10:00 - 11:00 AM 4:00 - 5:00 PM 5:30 Pm Mass
17 8 & 10:30 AM Masses 9:10 AM CCD	18 Confessions 4:00 - 5:00 PM 7:00 - 8:00 PM 7:00 Pm Rosary	19 7:00 PM CCD 7:00 PM Guitar Practice	20 1:30 PM Gardens of Pottstown Prayer Service 6:00 PM Childrens Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	21	22	23 5:30 Pm Mass No Scheduled Confessions
24 8 & 10:30 AM Masses Christmas Vigil Masses 5:30 & 9 PM	25 <i>Christmas Masses</i> <i>8 & 10:30 AM</i>	26 Parish Office Closed	27	28	29	30 5:30 Pm Mass
31 8 & 10:30 AM Masses						

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