

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

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
Sister Rosangela Ganau, FMIJ, Catechetical Leader
Julie Linn, Music Ministry
Marylee Garber, Parish Secretary
Sheila Tartamosa, Business Manager



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Send all bulletin announcements to:
stmsecretary1439@gmail.com by 2:00pm Monday

DIRECTORY

Parish Trustees	Jeannine Mc Menamin			<i>Worship</i>		
	Henry Glover			Altar Servers		
<i>Christian Life/Education</i>				Church Environment	Committee	
Bereavement	Staff	856- 424-3212		Ch. Art Environment	Committee	
Consolation Ministry	Ann Marie Lento	856- 344-7454		Eucharistic Ministers		
	Jon Lisitski	jon11@comcast.net		Lectors		
Faith & Justice Team	Chris Baeckstrom	856-912-7078		Linea Committee	Ann Vigrass	856-428-7217
Hospital Visitors	Staff & Euch. Ministers	856-424-3212		Sacristans	Greta Tyrrell	856-428-2412
Intercessory Prayer	Ann Vigrass	856-428-7217			Dom Sacca	
Knights of Columbus	John Galati	856-424-3212			Dave Bongiovanni	
Marriage Formation	Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa	856-795-1160		<i>Ushers</i>	Joe Centonze	
Parish Rel. Ed. Prog.	Sr. Rosangela Ganau,	856-424-3212		<i>Social Development</i>	Chico Febus	
Respect Life	Staff			Bridge Groups	Joyce DeMichele	856-424-4008
Rite of Ch. Init. Adults					Barbara Cerquitella	856-795-7323
Rosary Ministry	Marian Kapischke	856-424-2053		Parish Festival	Committee	856-424-3212
Small Christian Comm.				Women's Club	Barbara Cerquitella	856-795-7323
Spiritual Retreats	John Galati	856-428-7073			Lorraine Kennedy	856-489-0031
St. Vincent de Paul	Chico Febus	856- 424-3212		<i>Administration</i>		
Stewardship	Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212		House of Charity	Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212
Welcoming Team	Shirley Kane	856-424-8022		Parish Finance Council		
				Parish Pastoral Council		

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 5, 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.

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 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



"As the Father loves me, so do I love you"

Open our hearts fully to the love and presence of God and God's action within.


Pour out on us your Holy Spirit and deepen our sense of your unconditional love as we gather in your name.

This we pray through Christ our Lord,
Amen

St. Thomas More Parish rejoices with the families of the children who will be receiving their First Eucharist at the 11:00 AM Mass this weekend.

**Darcy Berkowitz
Nicholas Cammarata
Angelina Cammarata
Alexandra Mackey
Fiona Mackey
Sean McNeill
Mackenzie Oyola**



 **MOTHER'S DAY** Spiritual Bouquet Intention cards are at the doors of the Church. Your mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters etc. will be remembered at Masses throughout the month of May.

Please list the names (living or deceased), put your donation in the envelope provided and return to the office or the collection basket.

Mother's Day donation envelopes were also included in your monthly mailing.

Stewardship Corner: 6th Sunday of Easter

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." - JOHN 15:12-13 Do you love Jesus? Do you consider Him your friend? Jesus says that if we love Him we would be willing to offer whatever we have to Him, not because we want praise and glory, but simply because we love Him. **Does your Stewardship giving seem mechanical out of obligation or do you share freely out of love?**

From the Pastor's Desk

First Holy Communion and the May Crowning

Dear Parishioners,

When I received my **First Holy Communion** almost six decades ago, I was in *first grade*, not the traditional second grade. (Incidentally, the very next year, I received the Sacrament of Confirmation.) First Holy Communion was on a Saturday morning and I received as part of a rather large class of students—approximately 50 or more.

Depending on the parish, First Holy Communion frequently is on a Saturday (usually in May) or may also be celebrated at one or more of the Sunday Masses. With our small size, the seven First Communicants here will be receiving at the 11 AM Sunday Mass this week.

Sometimes I have been asked why **First Holy Communion** is celebrated in this manner instead of in a separate group as in some other parishes. There are a number of reasons for our current practice (which, incidentally, has been in place *prior* to my arrival as pastor about four years ago). Let's first look at our diocesan guidelines for sacramental preparation:

The preferred option for the celebration of First Eucharist is within the Sunday Liturgy. It is the whole community, the Body of Christ united with its Head, that celebrates [the liturgy.] Liturgical services are not private functions but are celebrations of the Church which is the 'sacrament of unity' (SC 26*). Liturgical services pertain to the whole Church. Rites are meant to be celebrated in common, with the faithful present and actively participating, and should as far as possible be celebrated in this way rather than by an individual or quasi-privately. (SC 27*) Eucharist is the crowning jewel in the sacraments of initiation and should be celebrated within the parish worshipping community. It is recommended that the celebration take place during the Easter Season when the Church traditionally welcomes her new members. (Sacrament Guidelines when Sacraments of Initiation are not Celebrated Together, *Looking to the Rite of First Eucharist, Diocese of Camden, 2005*)

It is critical to remember that the two families that should be most important in the children's lives are their **domestic family** and their **Church family**. The **parents** are the first (*and need to be the best*) teachers of their children in the *ways of faith*. It is also necessary to consider that we are preparing the children to be a part of the regular worshipping community that we call the *Church*. While it may look "nice" or "cute" to have all of the children together in one (or two) ceremonies with their classmates and friends, it is much more essential to emphasize for them the bonds of **family** and **Church**. Essentially, we are not preparing them to be with their current *friends* (who may not be their *friends* past next week), but to be regular, practicing members of the **Catholic Church** as experienced through their *local parish family*. Let me again quote our diocesan guidelines:

Children should be made aware that Eucharist is not a "once and done" sacrament. Therefore, there should be encouragement to the children (and their parents) to form good habits of weekly celebration of the Eucharist.

We all have much *to learn from each other and to teach one another*. We should **rejoice** to see our children share in the sacramental life of the **Catholic Church**, as lived and experienced in our parish family. If the faith is not *handed on to, experienced and practiced* by our young, then eventually our Church will be nothing but a bunch of empty, lifeless buildings.

Congratulations to our *First Communicants*! My prayer is that your faith in **Jesus Christ** will grow ever stronger as you receive another important sacrament in your spiritual journey. Also, we will be honoring Mary today (in this month of May) with the traditional May Crowning led by our First Communicants.

Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor (*SC *Sacrosanctum Concilium* 12/4/63, a document of **Vatican II**)

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 5, 2024

Ministry Schedule May 11/12

	Clergy	Music	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Coronado	Len	R. Javier	J. Bland Campbell	
8:30 AM	Fr. Norris	Celine/Julie	B. Massey	T. Smith	R. & A. Witts
11:00 AM	Fr. Norris	Choir	M. Garber	B. Haughwout	L. Vascisin A. Bresani



May, the month of Mary
An invitation form "Rome Reports Premium"

Traditionally, the month of May, also known as the month of flowers, is dedicated to the Virgin Mary in the Catholic Church. The Hozana association, a Christian social network, has launched a worldwide campaign entitled "1 Million Roses for Mary" The initiative invites Catholics to pray a million Hail Mary's for the Virgin. The association has asked people to pray a mystery of the rosary every day.



The Hozana app allows people to share this initiative with others and helps count the number of participants. If five people participate, they will complete a rosary in one day. This idea is inspired by the practice of the Living Rosary by Blessed Pauline Jaricot, a French laywoman who invited groups of 15 people to pray the rosary together and offer it for the intentions of the pope.

Let's all entrust to Mary in a special way our children of the Parish who will be receiving Jesus for the First Time on May 5.

Reminders:

Have a safe, relaxing summer.

Remember to Go to Mass Regularly. See you there.

SJCM A 2024 APPEAL: "THROUGH HIM AND FOR HIM" **St. Thomas More's Goal is \$89, 700. We will need the help of every parishioner to meet this goal. Thank you for prayerfully considering your donation. ** To date we have received gifts from 60 people totaling \$32,225 00 which is 35.9% of our goal.

Banns of Ordination to the Diaconate

The Most Reverend Dennis J. Sullivan, D.D. announces that he intends to **ordain Mr. Timothy Stephen Mulranen and Mr. Thomas Kristopher Piro to the Sacred Order of Deacon on Saturday, the 11th day of May, 2024 at Saint Joseph Church, 126 44th Street, Sea Isle, New Jersey.**

The faithful of the Diocese of Camden are asked to pray for these men and for the young men of their parish who are being called by God to service in the Church. At the same time the faithful are obliged to reveal impediments to sacred orders, if they know of any, by contacting their pastor before the ordination in accord with the norms of cc. 1043 and 1051.2 of the Code of Canon Law.

Mary Immaculate, patroness of the Diocese of Camden, intercede for these men and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood here in South Jersey.

Banns of Ordination to the Priesthood

The Most Reverend Dennis J. Sullivan, D.D. announces that he intends to **ordain Reverend Mister Ricardo Lozano Cruz to the Sacred Order of Presbyter on Saturday, the 18th day of May, 2024 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 642 Market Street, Camden, New Jersey.**

The faithful of the Diocese of Camden are asked to pray for these men and for the young men of their parish who are being called by God to service in the Church. At the same time the faithful are obliged to reveal impediments to sacred orders, if they know of any, by contacting their pastor before the ordination in accord with the norms of cc.

1043 and 1051.2 of the Code of Canon Law. Mary Immaculate, patroness of the Diocese of Camden, intercede for these men and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood here in South Jersey.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 5, 2024



SATURDAY, MAY 4

9:00 AM Special Intentions
4:30 PM Jane Catron r/b Tobin family

SUNDAY, MAY 5

8:30 AM Corazon Alabanzas r/b /Dolly Rochoa
11:00 AM Jennifer Sullivan r/b Donna & Brad Stainrook

MONDAY, MAY 6

9:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, MAY 7

9:00 AM deceased members of Laurito family
r/b Blaise & Jeanne Cona
9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

9:00 AM Living & deceased members of Morgan family in Ireland
9:30—Noon Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY MAY 9

9:00 AM Nick & Vince Menna
r/b Thursday Evening SCC
9:30-Noon Adoration in the Chapel.

FRIDAY, MAY 10

9:00 AM Harvey & Betty Faford
r/b John & Rosemary Faf
9:30-Noon Adoration in the Chapel.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

4:30 PM Mothers' Day Intentions

SUNDAY, MAY 12

8:30 AM Mothers' Day Intentions
11:00 AM Mothers' Day Intentions

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions For May 2024 For The Formation Of Men And Women Religious And Seminarians

Let us pray that men and women religious and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.

Catholic Communications Campaign NEXT weekend.

Through websites, social networks, television, radio, and print, the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) helps the Church spread the Gospel message through the media locally and nationally. Half of all donations to the CCC collected in your diocese stay in your diocese to support your local communications needs, such as radio and television programming and diocesan publications.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE SICK...

THE SICK... Kristina Acevedo, Caroline Bancheri, Jim Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Joe Centonze, Elva Clark, Grace Cobin, Tammy Colon, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, Mary Cowan, Catherine Diana, Linda Di Giulio, Fr. George Donfurtang, Elizabeth Garber, Eileen Gerie, Eileen Goodwin, Marjorie Graham, Helen Kane, Marion Kapischke, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, John Lane, Bob Lento, Marie Manalo, Kelly Moore, Carter Oakley, Tina Petrone, Helen Protzman, Dom Sacca, Carlos Santiago, Teddy Shaffer, Grace Sklencar, Joe Sklencar, Claire Spence, Dale Strack, Stacia Strack, Michael Suralik, Pat Suralik, Ed Targonski, Sr., Roy Targonski, Ann Vigrass, Joanne Wachman, Sarah Warner.



PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES...

SPC Jordan Beckman, Captain Patrick J. Bones, USMC, Major Anthony R. Cosentino, USAF, TSgt. John P. DeYoung, Sam Houston, USN, 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, SPC Nicole Williams, and *all those serving our country.*

An invitation to men of the parish from the Cherry Hill Council 6173 Knights of Columbus:

The Knights of Columbus has been a brotherhood of Catholic men devoted to Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. The Cherry Hill Council is devoted to this work locally: helping the mentally challenged, funding local pro-life centers, aiding our seminarians, and supporting the parishes of St. Mary, St. Thomas More, and Christ our Light. **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.**



Eucharistic Revival quotes from

Pope Francis "The Eucharist is the sacrament of communion that brings us out of individualism so that we may follow him together, living our out faith in him. Therefore we should all ask ourselves before the Lord: how do I live the Eucharist? Do I live it anonymously or as a moment of true communion with the Lord, and also with all the brothers and sisters who share this same banquet? What are our Eucharistic celebrations like?"



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 5, 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 Ascension of the Lord: Mark (16:15-20), May 12, 2024

Jesus said to his disciples, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

Commentary: Mark notes succinctly that the Lord Jesus "was taken up into heaven" and then describes the spreading of the faith by the apostles as done with the invisible help of his grace: "while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message..." Those who go out in his name, do so with *his* blessing. It was he who set the great target for them: "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." In Matthew's Gospel the Lord's definite promise is added, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Though unseen, He is with us still, guiding and supporting. When we are alone we need not be lonely. One can be surrounded by people and still be lonely. Communication with our Lord doesn't even need words. If I am open to His presence in my life, and live with a conscious awareness of His presence, I can experience like, those first Christians, the Joy of the Gospel.

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-Life Corner: "The difference between the way of life and the way of death is great. Therefore, do not [murder a child by abortion](#) or kill a newborn infant."— [The Didache](#), apostolic moral teachings compiled at the end of the first century A.D.

TREX Recycling Plastic Challenge

Remember to bring your accepted plastic items and place them in the collection barrels each week.

Dear Parishioners,

I am very grateful for your presence at the gathering last Sunday acknowledging my years of ministry at Saint Thomas More. I appreciated very much Father Ed's blessing at Mass and the wonderful reception in the parish meeting room. I thank all those who worked to make the day a special one for me. Many thanks to Chris, Shirley and Sheila for their words shared at the reception. I am also very appreciative of your generous gifts given to me.

St Thomas More will always have a special place in my heart as I remember all that we shared together. Please pray for me as I will for you, your families and the family of St. Thomas More.

Gratefully in Christ,
Sister Ann



On behalf of the St. Thomas More community, the Faith & Justice team wants to thank Sister Ann for creating this team nearly five years ago based on Catholic Social Teaching. She wrote our Mission Statement which defines us.

Our Mission is to raise awareness of justice issues and live the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching by advocating for justice for all, and empowering the poor and vulnerable.

With your support, the Faith & Justice team will continue that Mission. Now would be a great time to consider joining us. Email Chris Baeckstrom at stmfaithandjustice@gmail.com to learn more.



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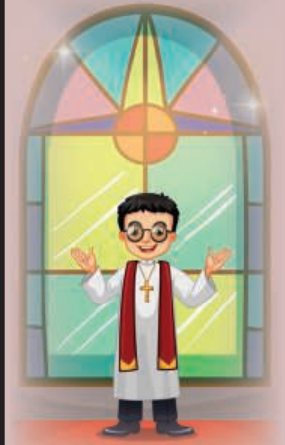
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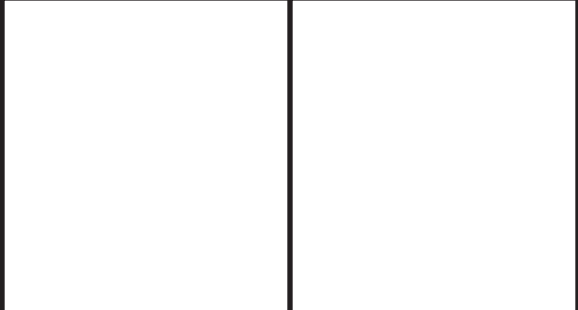
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