Whatever your status in the Church, whatever your family/marital situation, whatever your religious affiliation, whatever your personal history, age, background, race or color, sexual orientation, you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here in the Catholic Community of Saint Thomas the Apostle!
Christ the King
November 24, 2019

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23 - Saint Clement, Pope martyr; St. Columban, Abbot, Bl. Miguel Agustin, Priest
8:15am + Christopher Liguori r/o Joe & Susan Olive
4:00pm + Nicholas Vastola r/o MaryAnn, Fran & Tony
5:30pm + Robert Balint r/o Balint & Gracon Family

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24 - Christ the King
7:30am + Lisa Ann Seledotis r/o Aunt Patricia & Family
9:00am + Nicholas Tricardo r/o Chris & Frank Doyle
10:30am + Thomas Gallagher r/o Gallagher Family
12:00pm + Charlie Donnelly r/o Chris & Frank Doyle

MONDAY NOVEMBER 25 - St. Catherine of Alexandria, Martyr
8:15am + Msgr. Richard A. Behl (3rd Amiv.) r/o Staff
7:00pm* + Msgr. Richard A. Behl r/o St. Vincent de Paul Group

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26
8:15am + Chris Dincuff r/o Family
7:00pm + Nancy Tidds r/o Family

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 27
8:15am + Conrado Malixi r/o Manuel Malixi
7:00pm + Doreen J. Kiniery r/o Nephew, Shawn Lukac

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28 - Thanksgiving Day
9:00am* Mass of Thanksgiving

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29
9:00am + Sarah & Dominick Cruciani r/o Mr. & Mrs. Peter Merrill

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30 - Saint Andrew, Apostle
8:15am + Lori Hennessey r/o Brian, Donna & Family
4:00pm + John & Virginia Kuzyk r/o Romeo Family
5:30pm + Ralph Nocera r/o Durstewitz Family

SUNDAY DECEMBER 1 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
7:30am + For Parishioners, Living & Deceased
9:00am + Living & Deceased Mem. of St. Vincent de Paul
10:30am + Doris Zadlock Probus r/o Marie Wilson & Fam.
12:00pm + Frank Bellina r/o Wife, Children & Grand-children

*Mass in Church

This week in Loving Memory of . . .
Blanca Rivera r/o Madonna Family
Mary Candle in Church

Marie Grzankowski r/o Suzanne Meyer
Mary Candle in Chapel

“Faith is not a light which scatters all our darkness, but a lamp which guides our steps in the night and suffices for the journey.”
—Pope Francis

Welcome to the Parish Family of St. Thomas!
If you are new to the community, Welcome! We are grateful to the Lord for your presence with us and look forward to including you in all areas of parish life. Please take a moment to stop by the Parish Office and register with us and after Mass please introduce yourself to Fr. Jay, Fr. Frank or Fr. Anthony. Registering and using your envelopes makes it easier for us to provide documentation, such as a certificate for sponsoring a child for Baptism or Confirmation or to arrange for a wedding. So please register... and Welcome!

Parish Office
One St. Thomas Plaza
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
Tel: 732.251.4000 Fax: 732.251.4946
School Tel: 732.251.4812
PREP Tel: 732.251.1660

Hours (Lunch 12:30pm-1:30pm approx.):
Monday and Friday: 9:00am—4:00pm
Tues./Wed./Thurs.: 9:00am-8:00pm
Saturday-Sunday: 11am—1:30pm

Contact Information:
Website: www.sainthomasob.com
www.facebook.com/pages/St-Thomas-the-Apostle-Church-Old-Bridge-NJ
Parish Office Staff
Business Administrator: Ms. Michelle Loney
Parish Secretary: Ms. Kristine Yuhas
Reception/Bingo Coordinator: Ms. Angelica Gangemi
Bulletin Editor: Ms. Justine Durstewitz

Sacramental Information
BAPTISMS: (1:30pm, most Sundays) The Church calls GODPARENTS, to be practicing Catholics, examples of Christ-centered living today. All Godparents should submit Sponsor letters from their Parish ASAP—but no later than three weeks before the scheduled Baptism. PARENTS must attend a Baptismal Preparation Session. (Registration is required.)

MARRIAGES:
Arrangements must be made at least one year in advance—before any social plans. Either the bride or groom must be a registered member of our parish. Once a marriage questionnaire (available in Pastoral Center) is completed/returned, a Parish Priest or Deacon will then contact the couple.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:
In case of dangerous illness or accident, phone the Pastoral Center. A communal celebration of the Sacrament is held each year in the Spring.

PENANCE: Individual Confessions most Saturdays, 12:30pm and immediately following 5:30pm Mass. Communal Penance during Lent/Advent with visiting clergy.

HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS: Parishioners desiring the Sacraments, please contact Pastoral Center.

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES . . .
Sanctuary Candle/Mary Candle. (lit for one week in church/ chapel, available during daytime in Pastoral Center).
Wall of Remembrance: Honor your Loved One’s with a candle that burns for one year and has a plaque under the candle in the church.
Parish Support
Here at STA we encourage you to be Christian Stewards, using everything God has given us—time, talent, treasure—to serve Him gratefully.

Information not available at time of printing.

Online Giving... Visit our website and get started: www.saintthomasob.com.

DECEASED LOVED ONES
Kathleen Christian, Dorothy Adamic, Ellen Ruane, Hermina Persaud, Ralph Nocera and Susan Legere

THIS WEEKEND: SECOND COLLECTION
...is for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Over 46 million people in the U.S. live in poverty. This collection supports programs to empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face as they work to lift themselves out of poverty. Learn more about the campaign www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.

Old Bridge Interfaith
Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, November 26, 7:30pm
Simpson United Methodist Church, 2095 Rte. 516 OB

Please attend, express gratitude for all blessings and share in the fellowship ALL ARE WELCOME!

ADVENT Penance Service
Tuesday, December 10, 7pm
This service includes Scripture reading, a brief homily and a communal examination of conscience, followed by individual confessions (church).

Visiting priests will be here. (No 7pm Mass.)

WIDOWS AND WIDowers (WOWs)
Have you lost your spouse or significant other? Are you looking for a group of individuals that share a similar situation? Then WOWs may be the group for you! We meet once a month in the Parish Room and go offsite for dinner monthly. Please contact Deacon Pat at 732.251.4000 x8218 prior to attending.

Next gathering: Tuesday, December 3, 6:00pm.

PRE-ORDER YOUR 2020 CALENDAR RAFFLE NOW !!!
Only a limited number of calendars will be printed. Order now while supplies last! 366 times to win (leap year!) Cost is $25 and is a great Christmas gift! Order you calendar at the “Welcome Desk” today!!!

2020 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES
Please pickup your envelopes in the auditorium after mass. Thank you!

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY
Make the most of your Advent Season!
Join us for a Bible Study Monday, November 25 & December 2, 12:00 Noon in chapel with Fr. Anthony and same dates at 7:30pm (after Novena) in Parish Room with Fr. Jay.

ADVENT SHARING TREE
Each year we are amazed and grateful for the generosity of our parishioners who donate toys and gifts to our Sharing Tree. Families within our parish needing assistance, as well as other families that reach out to us for help will receive donated toys. The money received will go toward the purchase of gift cards to ShopRite and Target. The Yellow Tag Gifts received will be distributed to 120 residents of Summer Hill Nursing home, 110 residents of Preferred Care and 180 residents of Roosevelt Care Center. It is with your generosity that this year’s Sharing Tree will be a huge success, so that we can share the special warmth of the Christmas season with so many wonderful people.

May the Peace of the season fill your heart.

Please stop by the lobby next weekend and select your gift tag/envelope for the Advent Sharing Tree. Envelopes for monetary donations and for food (red stamp and clothing green stamp) will be available. Gifts for nursing homes are in great demand; at least 425 gifts are needed. Nursing home items will be on yellow tags and UNWRAPPED children’s toys blue tags. Place any checks or monetary donations in the box. All Sharing Tree gifts/envelopes may be dropped off at the Pastoral Center or the Sharing Tree Mass on Saturday, December 14, 5:30pm. Please be sure to include the gift tag on each gift. Gifts accepted until December 14. Thank you!

Parish Office will close Thursday/Friday, November 28/29, and reopen on Saturday, November 30, 11am.

A wonderful tradition here at St. Thomas is that of giving thanks as a Parish Family. Please join us at the 9am Mass (church) on Thanksgiving Day. Our parish choirs (including children’s choir) will assist at this celebration of gratitude to our Lord, giver of all gifts. At the end of the liturgy, baskets of food and wine for your Thanksgiving table will be blessed. Happy Thanksgiving!
**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Every Monday The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for **Adoration from 6pm-6:45pm** just before the beginning of the 7pm Mass, except on holidays. In addition, the **Blessed Sacrament** will also be exposed for **Adoration on First Fridays** for an hour after the **8:15am morning Mass**. If your schedule allows, please come and spend some quiet time in prayer with our Lord.

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**New Jersey Independent Victim Compensation Program**

As announced in February, the Diocese of Metuchen – along with the four other Roman Catholic Dioceses in New Jersey (Newark, Trenton, Camden and Paterson) – established an Independent Victim Compensation Program (IVCP) to compensate those who, as children or young adults, were sexually abused by a priest or deacon of the Diocese. The IVCP will be open to claims beginning June 15 and will conclude on December 31, 2019. All individual claims must be submitted during this period.

The state-wide IVCP will be independently administered by Kenneth R. Feinberg and Camille S. Biros, two noted victims’ compensation experts who have nationwide experience in administering varying compensation programs such as the Penn State sexual abuse claims, the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund, and the Boston Marathon bombing compensation fund.

The IVCP will handle the submission, evaluation and resolution of individual claims, and will operate independently of the Diocese or any church-affiliated institution. The administrators of the IVCP will have complete autonomy to determine the eligibility of a claim with the guidelines of the established Protocol. The amount of compensation for those who make a claim will be independently determined by the IVCP administrators. All victims – no matter when the abuse occurred – are eligible to participate, and all matters will be handled confidentially.

Victims of clergy sexual abuse of a minor can begin the process of utilizing the program by going to **www.njdiocesesivcp.com** and reviewing the protocol for submitting a claim.

The implementation of the IVCP is an important step in aiding victims in seeking justice and healing, and as we journey together as a Church toward a new day. Transparency, justice and truth, remain a top priority for Bishop Checchio, who in a February letter to the Church of Metuchen, said, “As sad as this day is for the Church, I remember daily that God has called me to this diocese, to be here with you and to walk down this road back to Him with transparency, justice and truth to promote healing, confidence and renewal. The challenges the Church faces now may seem daunting, but we must not fear the days ahead; Christ walks with us. Together, we will journey toward a new day. Even though our Church today inherited these problems from the past, we are to be part of the solution to ensure these horrific crimes are never repeated in the future.”

Anyone who has been the victim of sexual abuse by a priest of the Diocese is encouraged to participate in the IVCP.

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**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION**

All parents must participate in a Baptismal Preparation Program (if possible before the birth of your child). **Next class: Tuesday, November 26, 7:30pm (Parish Rm). Registration required.** Remember, the Sacrament of Baptism is a sacred event regulated by Church (Canon) law. Please do not plan any activity until dates are confirmed. Questions? Phone Pastoral Center: 732.251.4000. **No class in December! A Blessed Christmas to All!**

**STA CHOIR FUNDRAISER**

St. Thomas Parish Choir is holding their annual See’s Candy Fundraiser. Order forms are available in the auditorium after all Masses and should be returned **no later than November 24**, so that orders can be placed and delivered for pickup the weekend of December 14/15. See’s Candy items make great teacher gifts, employee gifts, and even stocking stuffers, as well as a welcome addition to any Christmas dessert table. Please remember that some items come already wrapped for Christmas, which makes gift giving quite easy. While promoting the See’s Candy Fundraiser after Masses, the choir will also have the choir cookbook “Recipes to Remember” Favorite Recipes of the St. Thomas Parish Choir and Friends” available for those who may have missed them last year. This will give everyone plenty of time to add some great recipes to their Christmas gatherings!!!

This year the proceeds of these combined fundraisers will be donated directly to the organ refurbishment fund and we greatly appreciate your support!

**Holy Moments:**

**How are you spending your time?**

Holy moments are actions you take to demonstrate Christ within you. It is being led by the Holy Spirit, doing God’s will. It can be as simple as smiling at someone who needs a smile, visiting a sick friend or signing up to be a teacher for PREP. Take time to read some of the Holy Moments shared by your fellow parishioners that are already posted on the wall in the lobby of the church and share your holy moments by filling out a label and dropping it into the box.

**BRINGING LIGHT TO THE DARKNESS**

Healing our Church Prayer Service

**Tuesday, December 3, 7:30pm**

Come, pray with fellow parishioners and help our Church heal following the clergy sex abuse crisis. We are all Church and we are all affected. Let us pray together.
BLANKET MINISTRY

There is no meeting in November or December...Do you enjoy crocheting or knitting? Do you want to comfort the ill? Phone: Kathy (732-238-7187). Anyone in need of a prayer blanket contact the Pastoral Center (732-251-4000).

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

♦ PREP Confirmation Candidates Only: are required to attend a mandatory session next Monday, December 2, 6:45pm-8:30pm in St. Thomas School. Please arrive promptly. Parents must meet their child at the front doors of the school at dismissal.

♦ All Confirmation Candidates: PREP/School are asked to donate a non-perishable food item for the Thanksgiving Dinner held here at St. Thomas. Candidates please bring your item to the November 18 session. St. Thomas School students please bring your items to the PREP office.

♦ All Confirmation paperwork is now due! This includes your Confirmation Candidate Contract, Saint Report and Sponsor form. Please return to the PREP Office by December 2.

♦ Questions? Phone the PREP Office 732.251.1660.

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE HELP SUPPORT STA & OUR SVdP GROUP

When deciding what to do with your car, please consider donating it to CARSEASY.ORG for the benefit of St. Thomas! We have partnered with this accredited 501C3 Non-profit to handle the car donation process! To donate please go to our homepage: https://carseasy.org/nonprofit/st-thomas-the-apellido-church or phone 855.500.7433.

FLOCKNOTE.COM

...is a simple way for us to communicate with you via email or text! Simply register for Flocknote.com and follow the instructions ... it’s so easy!

VOTIVE AND WALL OF REMEMBRANCE CANDLES...

...are available near the Mary and Joseph statues. The votive candles in front of the statues will be on the honor system, the cost is $2 and the candles will burn for 2 hours at a time. The Wall of Remembrance will burn for one year, and the suggested cost from the candle company is $250 per year, and will be marked with a plaque with your loved one’s name. Please visit the Parish Office.
SENIOR’S MEETING
Our next meeting is **December 9, 1 pm** in the Parish Room.

HOLY NAME PRESENTS
**“The Christmas Carol” December 1, 2019**
Featuring Riddlesbrook Touring Co. Photo booth & Buffet Dinner (Location K of C) 111 Pine St. OB
Doors open 3:30pm– Show 4pm-7pm, Cost $40pp 2/$70
John Thornton 732.763.3280

MOTHER SETON HIGH SCHOOL
One Valley Road, Clark, NJ 07066
732.382.1952 www.motherseton.org

**“Peppermint Boutique Craft Fair” December 7, 9am**
Open House • Tuesday, December 10, 7pm
“The Future is Hers”

BINGO
(Including progressive) All proceeds support Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish School: Sundays - 5:00pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays - 11:00am; Friday—9:00pm and Midnight.

COMUNITY EVENTS

• Bridge Women’s Center Gala, Friday, December 6, 7:00pm. 125 White Oak Lane, Old Bridge. Keynote speaker Abby Johnson, author of the nationally best selling book and movie “Unplanned.” Reserve tiny.cc/bwcgala by November 22.

• Corpus Christi, Church Hall, off Kamm Ave, South River, Christmas Cookie Walk, Sunday, December 8, 11am. Delicious homemade baked goods sold by the pound. Info: Ann Marie Lento amlento@aol.com or 732.589.1576.

• St. Lawrence Tricky Tray, Parish Hall, Laurence Parkway, December 8. Doors will open 1pm. Tickets $10. Call 732.290.3002.

• Pilgrimage to Philadelphia Shrine of St. John Neumann, Saturday, December 14, 7am-5pm. Cost: $40. Mail to Church of the Immaculate Conception New Evangelization, 35 Mountain Ave. Somerville, NJ 08876.


HOT LINE NUMBERS:
• Alanon/Alateen: 1-888-425-2666
• Narcotics Anonymous: 1-800-992-0401
• Nar-Anon of NJ 1-877-424-4491
• Alcoholics Anonymous: 1-888-245-1377 or 908.687.8566
• Domestic Violence: 1-800-572-7233
• NJ Gamblers Anonymous: 1-855-222-5542
• Suicide/Crisis: 1-800-999-9999

PRAY FOR THE SICK


Please pray for all the sick. (Names will remain on our sick list for one month, after which time they will be removed, unless we are notified to the contrary.) The Clergy will be happy to visit parishioners confined to local hospitals. Phone the Pastoral Center: 732.251.4000

MILITARY MEMBERS DEPLOYED OVERSEAS

If you have a family member deployed overseas please stop at the “Welcome Desk” in the Main Lobby, so that the name(s) can be added to our Military Prayer List. May God bless all of our military service members and their families. Thank you for your service!

2nd Class Petty Officer Kyle Conlon - serving Japan
Major Scott Daniels - serving in Japan
SP4 Mark Gonzalez 82nd Airborne - serving in Iraq
Sergeant Thomas Jobson - serving in India

Welcome Home Curtis Lynn and Douglas Titmas!

#1 holiday hack:
When you buy your gifts at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

IT’S SO EASY! • NO COST TO YOU!
If you’re shopping on Amazon, why not elect to donate 0.5% of your purchase to St. Thomas the Apostle Church? There is no cost to you and Amazon donates the $$$.
Visit smile.amazon.com and choose St. Thomas the Apostle Church Old Bridge. For your convenience here is the link: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-1559414

Thank you so much for your support!