Whatever your status in the Church, whatever your family/marital situation, whatever your religious affiliation, whatever your personal history,
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.saintthomasob.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 GOD-PARENTS, 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.

This week in Loving Memory of . . .
Norbert J. Tschinkel r/o Thomas Tschinkel
Mary Candle in Church
DECEASED LOVED ONES
Kathleen Christian, Dorothy Adamic, Ellen Ruane, Hermina Persaud, Ralph Nocera and Susan Legere

NEXT WEEKEND: SECOND COLLECTION
Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital support for our senior Catholic Sisters, Brothers and religious order Priests. Thank you for your generosity.

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

“A Century of Faith...a Future of Hope”
1921 • 2021
In October of 2021, St Thomas the Apostle Parish will celebrate its 100th Anniversary! We will begin our yearlong celebration in October of 2020. Parish Council members, as well as parishioners, will be part of planning our Celebration and asked to be members of the various committees that will be formed to make our Centennial Celebration a success. The Committees are: Publicity Committee, History Committee, Art and Historical Display Committee. Liturgy Committee, Dinner-Dance Committee, and the Event Committee Sign-ups for these Committees will be announced shortly and more information will follow in upcoming bulletins. May God continue to Bless our parish as we continue to strive to fulfill the Mission He has entrusted to us!

ALTAR FLOWERS
Envelopes are available at church exits (Welcome desks) and in the Pastoral Center for those wishing to remember and honor Loved Ones by donating Christmas Flowers. A Triduum of Masses will be celebrated for them. (Names will appear in the bulletin.)

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.

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.

Collections November 17: $10,962 Organ Fund: $4,065

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

Advent Prayer
Week One
Dear Jesus,
You are the hope in this world. This Advent, help us to slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what’s really important. We place our hope in You as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Your birth on Christmas. Amen.

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.)

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
...will be celebrated on Monday, December 9 (and is not a Holy Day of Obligation) because December 8 falls on the Second Sunday of Advent. Masses: 8:15am & 7pm in the church.

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!
First Sunday of Advent

Please Note!
Bishop Checchio will Celebrate...
...Mass here at St. Thomas Parish, next weekend, Saturday, December 7, at the 5:30pm Mass. Please join us!!!

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.
- Thank you to all those Confirmation Candidates that donated to our Annual Msgr. Behl Memorial Thanksgiving dinner! It was a huge success.
- 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.
- Next Saturday, December 7, 100 children will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Please remember them in your prayers.
- Questions? Phone the PREP Office 732.251.1660.

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

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!

Parish Religious Education Program

- See’s Candies

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 Darkness

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. All are welcome!
The Catechism teaches us that God created us to know Him, love Him, and serve Him in this world and to be happy with Him forever in the next. This was God’s original intent. This is our purpose. Our restoration, worked through Jesus, and manifested in the Sacraments brings us back to this place of knowing, loving, and serving God here on earth.

(Excerpt from Restored discussion guide)

GOD, ARE YOU THERE? 24 HOUR PRAYER LINE
Our Diocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities has a 24 hour prayer line for those who desire prayers for any need. If you, a family member or friend would like to be remembered in prayer temporarily or permanently, please call us and leave a detailed message at 732.765.6431 or send an email to our office: catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com.

$12,000.00 CASH CALENDAR
Searching for a unique Christmas gift for family and friends?
The 2020 St. Thomas Cash Calendar might be the answer.
 Each month’s scene depicts one of our Church’s beautiful stained glass windows ~ and each of the 366 days of the 2020 leap-year offers a cash prize ranging from $25.00 (weekdays) to $50.00 (Sundays) to $100.00 (9 holidays) to $500.00 on both Easter and Christmas.

That’s a total of $12,000.00 in prize money!

Each $25.00 calendar is individually numbered with a tear-off section to fill in the recipient’s name and address. We keep the tear-off “you give the calendar as a gift. (Make sure to reserve one for yourself, too!)

Each daily winner will be sent a check for that day’s prize. You can win more than once as each winning number is returned to the pot for the next day’s drawing.

A total of 1,500 calendars will be sold ~ so please stop by the “Welcome Table” in the Church Lobby after weekend Masses to reserve your “gift” that keeps on giving throughout the year.

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN
TODAY, 9:00am Mass. Children in Grades K-8 go to the Pastoral Center, listen to readings, reflection and Prayers of the Faithful on their own level. Children are well supervised and return to their parents during the Presentation Hymn for the Eucharist.

OPLATKI AVAILABLE FOR SALE
...at the Pastoral Center. Cost: $5. per package.

Prayer for Vocations
Almighty and Eternal God,
In Your unfailing love You provide ministers for Your Church. We pray that more men may hear Your call to serve the Church of Metuchen as priests. Inspire in them a generous response. Grant them courage and vision to serve Your people. May their lives and service as Men of the Eucharist call Your people to respond to the presence of Your Spirit among us that, faithful to the Gospel and hope of Jesus Christ, we may all be reconciled to God, announce glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, set prisoners free, and renew the face of the earth.

Amen
SENIOR’S MEETING
There will be NO meeting in December. Blessed Christmas and happy, healthy 2020 to all!

EXPERIENCE IN GRANT WRITING?
Our school is looking for an individual(s) who has/have experience in writing grants to volunteer to train our Development Staff. If you would like to help our St. Thomas the Apostle School, please contact Sue Sirianni at 732.251.4812 x8253 or email ssirianni@sttaob.com. Thank you!!!

MOTHER SETON HIGH SCHOOL
One Valley Road, Clark, NJ 07066
372.382.1952 www.mounterson.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.

• 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/bwgala 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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please pray for 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!

SP4 Mark Gonzalez 82nd Airborne - serving in India

Welcome Home Curtis Lynn and Douglas Titmas!

St. Thomas Calendar Raffle

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