Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish & School

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT ***FEBRUARY 28, 2021***

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

"To make disciples, as we know, love and serve God and one another."

Isabella Hamm

Pastor:
Rev. Jerome A. Johnson

Parochial Vicars:
Rev. Frank W. Fellrath
Rev. Nalaka Silva

Deacons:
Robert Bonfante, Sr.
Patrick W. Hearty
Joseph C. Tobin
Scott D. Titmas, Sr.

School Principal:
Annette Pioppo

School Vice Principal:
Diane Zarate

PREP Director:
Ms. Debbie Yesis

Director Sacred Music/Liturgy:
Mr. Justin Connors

Celebration of Mass

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am & 12:00Noon
Weekday:
Monday - Friday: 8:00am & 12:15pm*

****Mondays: Celebrated in church with Miraculous Medal Novena.***
Parish Office: Tel: 732.251.4000
Fax: 732.251.4946
Website: www.saintthomasob.com

PEACE & WELCOME

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!

MASS INTENTIONS

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27

VIGIL

4:00pm Kathleen Grasso r/o Christian Theil
Anna/James Opramollo r/o Ruocco Family
Vincente /Teresita Manalastas r/o Carmen Valerio/Family

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28 - SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00am James Callari r/o Kathy/Barbara/Kenny
10:00am Rose Marie Bucci r/o Tom Smith
Helen A. Stolte r/o John/Maureen Nigro
12:00pm Parishioners, Living and Deceased

MONDAY MARCH 1

8:00am Alice Sharkey r/o Christina/Lee
12:15 pm Rich Cooper r/o Homebound Friends
Patricia Budy Smith r/o Pat/Criss Farrell

TUESDAY MARCH 2

8:00am Vincent F. Colosimo r/o Claire McDonnell
12:15pm Theresa Mary Maciag r/o Julia Szabadisc
Gloria Adele Sansone r/o Sue/Carl Sirianni

WEDNESDAY MARCH 3 - St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin

8:00am Ellie Argento r/o Margaret Klem
12:15pm Thomas Antal r/o Bruce/Claire Stankiewicz
Theresa Borgone r/o Tim/MaryAnne Donoghue

THURSDAY MARCH 4 - St. Casimir

8:00am Norbert Tschinkel r/o Tschinkel Family
12:15pm John Michael Milea r/o Sue Sirianni
Esterina Campora r/o Cormey Family

FRIDAY MARCH 5

8:00am Valentim D. Neves r/o Isabel Badillo
12:15pm Fr. Eugene (Chip) O'Toole (25th Anniv) r/o Patti Crescenzo
Teresita/Jose Yap r/o Arlene Malixi

SATURDAY MARCH 6

VIGIL

4:00pm Paul Gangemi r/o Gangemi Family
William Luke r/o Donna Weber
Mary D. Fillimon r/o John M. Fillimon

SUNDAY MARCH 7 - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00am David Piano r/o Joseph/Maryann Vingara/Family
10:00am Antonia Dragoslabic r/o John Picinic
William M. O'Brien r/o Timothy/MaryAnne Donoghue
12:00pm Nicholas/Domenick/Frances Bonfante r/o Deacon Bob Bonfante

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. After Mass, please introduce yourself to Father Jay or Father Frank, or Father. Nalaka. 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
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm
Saturday-Sunday 11:00am-1:30pm
(Lunch 12:30pm-1:30pm approx.)
School Tel: 732.251.4812
PREP Tel: 732.251.1660

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. Nellie Moran

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 Saturdays, 12:30pm in the church.

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 ones with a candle that burns for one year and has a plaque under the candle in the church.

DECEASED + LOVED ONES

Louis Glynn, Dan Haas, Al Simon, Robert McGuinness, Helen Ann Skarzynski, Rosemarie Fellrath, Luis F. Salazar, Peter Abatangelo, Salvatore Ingrao, Gertrude Fealy,

*The **Sanctuary** Candle in the Church burns in **loving memory of:** Robert Vreeland r/o Family*

*The **Mary** Candle in the Church burns in **loving memory of:** Tiffany Corda r/o Andrea Madonna*

ST. THOMAS PREP

Confirmation

Saturday, **March 6**—9:00am and 11:00am
Saturday **March 20**—9:00am and 11:00am

*Information was mailed to your home ... questions—please call PREP: **732.251.1660***

SPONSOR LETTERS FOR BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION

To receive a sponsor letter to be a Godparent for a Baptism or Sponsor for Confirmation, the Sponsor must fulfill the following requirements:

1. *Have received Baptism, Communion & Confirmation in the Catholic Church;*
2. *If married, you must have been married in the Catholic Church;*
3. *If divorced, you must not be remarried without having received an annulment for the first marriage;*
4. *Be a registered and practicing member of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish **or** the parish you are registered in.*

If you have moved out of the parish, and no longer live within our parish boundaries, we CANNOT give you a Sponsor Letter, even if you grew up here and made all your Sacraments here and, your family still lives here. You are given a Sponsor Letter from the parish whose boundaries you live within currently.

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.

You may mail in your weekly donation to:

St. Thomas Church
1 St. Thomas Plaza
Old Bridge, NJ 08857

Parish GoFundMe Page:

www.gofundme.com/f/weekly-parish-offering Online Giving... Visit our website to get started: www.saintthomasob.com.

Last week's collection: $6,008 (20: $13,617)
Organ collection: $1,252

- Stations of the Cross: **Fridays** at 7:00pm
- Mary's Way of the Cross: **Friday March 26 at 7:00pm**

Reconciliation/Confessions: *Individual Confessions most Saturdays (12:30pm) or by appointment. No confessions on Holy Saturday.*

INSTRUCTIONS

Days of Fast: Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, The "Easter Fast" (Holy Thursday until Easter Vigil/Holy Saturday) is an ancient tradition that should be observed and encouraged. (One full meal, applies to those 18-59 years of age.)
Days of Abstinence: Ash Wednesday, and ALL Fridays in Lent.
Fridays of Lent: (No meat, applies to 14 + years of age.)
While failure to observe penitential days in itself may not be considered serious, the failure to observe any penitential days at all, or substantial number of them without a good cause would be considered a grave matter. Those unable to abstain on any given Friday of Lent are asked to perform some other penitential act or abstain on another day.

"The ultimate goal of fasting is to help each one of us to make a complete gift of self to God"
—Pope Benedict XVI

NEW THIS LENT 2021
Parousia: The Bible and the Mass

Join Schott Hahn to uncover how the Mass is the summit of God's plan for our salvation. Please sign up to watch 10 video episodes for free. Follow up questions will be taken online by Fr. Jay. To sign up go to: stpaulcenter.com/studies-tools/journey-through-scripture/parousia-the bible-and-the mass/

Sign up is free, more information to come.

The History Committee is hoping that past and present parishioners will share their short, poignant, humorous and thoughtful anecdotal stories about Father French for his upcoming presentation.
If you have pictures that will also be a nice touch, but not necessary. Email stories to mcbriartypatricia@gmail.com **or** you may send them to: Pat McBriarty -30 Meadow Road, East Brunswick 08816.

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or emails us at

registration@sttaob.com

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ADULT CONFIRMATION

Any adult, 18 years of age or older, who has received First Communion but not Confirmation, and is interested in Adult Confirmation, please contact **Fr. Frank** at the Parish Office **-732.251.4000 ….** Confirmation will be scheduled for late fall.

COMMUNITY HOUSE AT ST. THOMAS

Community House at St. Thomas, Old Bridge, NJ is a program managed by Catholic Charities and provides affordable, accessible housing for adults of very low income who have physical disabilities. Up to 8 physically challenged adults live together as a group, functioning their individual level of independence, and with professional case management services provided. If you or someone you know is in need of this type of housing, please call Susan at **732.251.0022** or go to www.communityhouse-saintthomas.org for further information.

"At the root of all misery is unfulfilled desire."
— Scott Hahn, *Hope for Hard Times*

CATHOLIC PRESS MONTH

The annual drive to support our diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Spirit, is taking place during the **month of February, National Catholic Press month.** You may support their good work by using the envelope you received in your packet and make **checks payable to the Catholic Spirit.** If you wish to participate in this Special Collection for the Catholic Spirit, please place your envelope in the Sunday collection basket any time during the **month of February**, and remember to take home a copy of the paper. It has a special role to play in your life as a practicing Catholic. Thank you for your support!

2021 MASSES

All weekday Masses for 2021 will be celebrated at 8:00amand 12:15pm. The 7:00pm Mass intentions will be included with the 12:15pm.

A huge thank you to Teresa Saputo and TJ Maxx—Route 18, East Brunswick for their generous donation of adult and children's masks, disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer.

The St. Thomas Parish Community will continue to keep in prayer all those affected by the Coronavirus, and who have requested us to pray for them, their families & friends.

LAZARUS MINISTRY

The Lazarus Ministry here at St. Thomas the Apostle is comprised of Catholics who give their time in order to assist other parishioners through the difficult times of loss. They assist families with the preparation of the Funeral Mass. We are always looking for volunteers who are available to help when these Masses come up. If you are interested, **contact Deacon Pat at 732.251.4000 ext. 8218.**

St. Thomas Calendar Raffle

1-Feb-21	5	15-Feb-21	279
2-Feb-21	1243	16-Feb-21	425
3-Feb-21	638	17-Feb-21	718
4-Feb-21	1435	18-Feb-21	1052
5-Feb-21	1405	19-Feb-21	1142
6-Feb-21	19	20-Feb-21	31
7-Feb-21	946	21-Feb-21	39
8-Feb-21	407	22-Feb-21	621
9-Feb-21	932	23-Feb-21	713
10-Feb-21	119	24-Feb-21	475
11-Feb-21	974	25-Feb-21	19
12-Feb-21	153	26-Feb-21	664
13-Feb-21	903	27-Feb-21	192
14-Feb-21	475	28-Feb-21	606

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED!

We are in need of the following items:

Canned fruit, spam, peanut butter, jelly, Chef Boyardee, vienna sausage, shelf stable milk. ***Please be sure your items are not used and do not carry expired dates!***

Thank you for your generosity.

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH
Mass Times:

Daily Mass - 8:00am and 12:15pm. Only the **12:15pm** will be livestreamed. No registration needed.
Sacrament of Reconciliation *Saturdays:* ***12:30pm in the Church.***

Numbers increased to 150 for weekend Masses.
+ **Weekend Mass**—Saturday 4:00pm, Sunday 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm). *You must* ***wear a mask and be socially distanced*****!** All Masses continue to be streamed via **Facebook** or **YouTube.**

For the most current updates, please refer to our website: www.saintthomasob.com or visit our Facebook page.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anonymously Recommended: Sarah Alvarez, Beatrice, Bob Andrews, Ronald Atlak, Sr, Pat Barabas, Enola Barlik, Rita Bator, Becky Bliefernich, Barbara and George Bollhardt, Gloria Bonagard, Craig Michael Buttcher, Nicholas Campanella, Jacklyn Canton, Ralph Chiano, Eileen Connolly, Louis Coromilias, Edmund Crookhorn, Philip Czochanski, Christine D'Onofrio, Camella Dacunta, Barbara Davis, Christopher Dee, John D'Mello, Stan D'Mello, Nancy Donoghue, Loretta Doyle, Chet Dudek, Gertrude Fealy, Sharon Ferrari, Flora, Joseph Fricano, Brian Gage, Lucinda Gatto, Johanna Gordon, Charlotte Guarino, Matthew Harris, Robert Henrion, John Herringty, Elizabeth Rose Holis, Robert John Isbecki, Emelie Jeffries, Vlad Kachur, Katie, Gwen Kelly, Cathleen Kimber, Albert King, Joseph Lane, Cheryl Layden, Michael Layden, Thomas Layden, Stanley Lewandoski Lester Lim, Harold Mann, Gabrielle Margett, Mary Margett, Wilfredo Medina, III, Brian Menedez, Susan Napier, Jeff Nemeth, Olivia, Ralph Perez, Sam Pontieri, Elaine Posluszny, Michael Quinlan, Frank Ranelli, Lucia Rella, Harry Rothlin, Joseph Russo Jr., Marie Sarna, Becky Schmitt, Eileen Schuck, Donna Semko, Fr. Thomas E. Smith (S.J.), Nancy Stahley, Rose Stasi, Jacquelyn Tortoriello, Ruth Tschinkel, Denise Tuite, Mark Vern, Isilio Villa, Linda Villa, Adele Weiner, Pati Wert, Nell White, Janet Wilson, Peter Wysheff, Mary Yuhas, Candida and Edward, Jr. Zglobicki.

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.

ENVELOPE NUMBERS: 3071 & 3258

Please call the Parish Office if you are using contribution **envelope 3071 or 3258** so you may receive proper credit. Ask for Angelica or Nellie ...732.251.4000

"With the Apostolic Letter "Patris Corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron Saint of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father proclaimed a ***"Year of Saint Joseph" from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021***. At the conclusion of the Apostolic Letter, Pope Francis adds a prayer to St. Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
In you Mary placed her trust;
With you Christ became a man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
Show yourself a father
And guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage.
And defend us from every evil. Amen.

Taken from: stmatthewcathedral.org and slmedia.org/blog

MATER DEI
A CATHOLIC PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Mater Dei Prep, an independent, faith-based college preparatory high school located in Middletown, NJ is pleased to announce a **scholarship exclusively for the Class of 2025 who are parishioners at St. Thomas the Apostle.**
Two rising 9th grade students with stellar academic and participation in extracurricular activities will be chosen to **receive a $2,000 scholarship per year** they attend and maintain good academic standing at Mater Dei. That equates to an **$8,000 scholarship per student**!

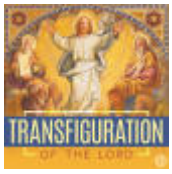
In order to be eligible, please go to the Admissions Process page of www.materdeiprep.org and complete a Mater Dei application. To apply for the scholarship, the student is to send a one-page essay describing themselves as a person, their academic and extracurricular achievements, and what they plan to do with a Mater Dei education to awinnicker@materdeiprep.org. **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION OPEN UNTIL RECIPIENTS CHOSEN.**
If you would like to learn more, contact admissions@materdeiprep.org or call 732-533-2309.

SAINT LEO THE GREAT RELIGIOUS STORE

What does ***your Soul*** need this Lent?

Visit our store for Lenten devotionals, statuary, books, medals and more! Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday **10:00am to 4:00pm.** Located - 50 Hurleys Lane, Lincroft, NJ 07738 on the *lower level of the Parish Center, chair lift accessible.* Stleothegreat.com/stor…
908.770.1989

SEE, THEN SHOW



Peter, James, and John were witnesses to God's glory. A witness is one who first sees, then shows. Jesus had asked them to hold everything they had witnessed in their hearts until the appropriate time to show.

-Excerpt by Allison Gingras

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Romans 8:31b-34
Mark 9:2-10

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: *catholicswithdisabilites@gmail.com.*

CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2021-2022 TUITION ASSISTANCE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPEN

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment at http://online.factsmgt.com/aid. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) no later than **March 31, 2021.** Applications are available in English and Spanish. Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.

WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED
A YEAR OF SERVICE

Pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes need to be "islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference.." Everyone in our parish community should know where to refer a pregnant woman in need. Join this nationwide effort from **March 25, 2020 to March 25, 2021.** For more information, please visit www.walkingwithmoms.com.

RETREAT FOR WIDOWS
March 12-14
Marianist Family Retreat Center, Cape May Point, NJ

Join with other widows as we look at our own individual stories for courage and wisdom, and discover how sharing our stories we continue to find strength and hope. $145 pp. Call **609.884.3829** or visit: www.capemaymarianists.org.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

All parishioners are asked to **check** the box of recently mailed weekly envelopes for the coming year. Please be certain that the number on the mailing label matches the printed number on the envelopes. If the numbers do not match, please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible. **Do not use the envelopes if the numbers do not match**! *Thank you.*

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

Registered parishioners who would like to receive a statement of Church Contributions, must fill out the information below and either drop this request in the collection basket, drop it off at the Pastoral Center or mail it to the Parish Office: One Saint Thomas Plaza, Old Bridge, NJ 08857. **Please do not call the office**. Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Envelope #: _____ **Phone #:** _____

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