Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish & School

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME          AUGUST 29, 2021

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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

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!
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.saintthomassob.com
www.facebook.com/pages/St-Thomas-the-Apostle-Church-Old-Bridge-NJ

Parish Office Staff
Business Administrator: Ms. Michelle Loney
Parish Secretary: Ms. Lisa Sorrentino
Reception/Bingo Coordinator: Ms. Jenn Bachonski
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.
The Mary Candle in the Church burns this week in loving memory of Yu/Ho/Maramara Family
r/o Herman/Emelie Ho

September 1, 2021

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

"Let us all rejoice that our loving Creator sustains our humble efforts to care for the earth, which is also God’s home where his Word “became flesh and lived among us” (Jn 1:14) and which is constantly being renewed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.”

— Pope Francis

Monday, September 6th, Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am. Parish Office will be closed.

“Come to me, all you who labor, and are burdened, and I will give you rest”

Matthew 11:28

ST. THOMAS SENIORS

Meeting: Monday, September 13 - 1:00pm in the Pastoral Center.

MEMORIAL GIFT AVAILABLE

The Altar Bread and Wine (weekend) are available in memory of your Loved Ones. With a $25 offering, your Loved One will be acknowledged in the bulletin.

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

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

Collection: August 21/22, 2021: $13,874.00
Organ: August 21/22, 2021: $1,836.00

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

PREP REGISTRATION

If you have not yet registered, please register ASAP for classes. Go on-line to register at www.saintthomasob.com or stop by the PREP Office or Pastoral Center for a registration form. Any questions, please call the PREP Office at 732.251.1660.

URGENT: WE NEED YOU!!!

Serve as a Catechist or Catechist Aide - Why?
The best way to learn is to teach. Your own faith will come alive and you become an active participant in one of the essential responsibilities of the Church community. You assist in bringing Christ to others, and practice stewardship. You show your family that you value your faith, and by becoming a role model you can make a difference in the lives of our young people by teaching weekly PREP classes. (25 x yearly).

H.S. STUDENTS CONSIDER . . .

. . . there is a great way to be of service here at STA. PREP enables you to assist our Catechists in sharing our faith with younger students. Volunteering in PREP will help you with your community service requirements for high school. Remember by your witness, experience, talents and service you can positively change the lives of others! It’s time to “Pay it Forward!”

REASONS TO BECOME A CATECHIST!

♦ You will grow in your own faith, learn the teachings of the Church and deepen your relationship with Jesus.
♦ Your Baptism calls you to share in the ministry of Jesus.
♦ Children, teens and adults in today’s world need to hear the Word of God.
♦ Children, teens and adults need good role models of faith.
♦ You have much to share with those you will teach and share your faith with others.
♦ You will be challenged; you will have fun and make new friends.
♦ You will help others deepen their relationship with Jesus. You will be an evangelizer.
♦ You will be handing on a 2000-year-old tradition that changes life.
♦ It is our job; Jesus sent us to “go and teach all nations.”

We are also in need of Aides to assist our Catechists on
Tuesday 4:15pm—5:45pm and Thursday evening 6:00pm—7:30pm.

Aides for our Special Needs Program are also needed to provide one to one assistance for our students. Classes meet on: Mondays: 4:30pm—5:30pm

If you are interested in sharing your faith with the younger members of our parish family in our Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) or Special Needs Program, please contact our office at 732.251.1660.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Catechist in Service for all catechists, adult aides, including Special Needs Program:

Tuesday, September 14 at 6:30pm in the Parish Room (Pastoral Center).

Parents: Classes begin:

Monday, Sept. 20 (4:30pm-5:30pm)
Tuesday, Sept. 21 (4:15pm-5:45pm)
Thursday, Sept. 23 (6:00pm-7:30pm)
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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**Food Truck Festival**

Saturday, Oct. 31, 2021

11am-7pm

St. Thomas the Apostle Church
333 NJ-18, Old Bridge, NJ 08857

- 15+ Food Trucks
- Live Music Starting at 11:30AM
- Craft Vendors
- Boardwalk Style Games
- Face Painters

MegaBiteEvents.com

Bring your lawn chair and your appetite. Over 15 food vendors coming to St. Thomas. In addition to the amazing food and live music; play Jersey Shore style games, hatchet toss, bounce in the house, henna body art, sand art and more. Kids admission include Free Bounce House! Tickets are: $8 for adults and $5 for children 4-10 at the door—$6 for adults and $4 for children in advance.

To purchase tickets go to: mega-bite-events.ticketleap.com Scroll down to St. Thomas and click on get tickets.

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**Old Bridge Columbian Club Presents**

Annual Comedy Night

Knights of Columbus Hall, 61 Pine St., Old Bridge

Join us for a night of great comedy with the comedy act of John Pizzi and Billy Garan on Saturday, October 2,
6:30pm. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Please call for reservations: 732.512.8577 or email obcc.comedynight@gmail.com

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**Deacons Table Spaghetti Dinner**

September 15, 2021
5:30 PM- 7:00 PM

St. Thomas the Apostle Church
333 Highway 18, Old Bridge, NJ

Due to COVID 19 regulations we will be distributing dinners to take home. Come pick up your spaghetti dinner at St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

Please RSVP to stitmas@sttaob.com

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The menu will include hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, drinks (juice, water and beer), games, and more!

**WHEN:** Sunday, September 19, 2021 (RAIN OR SHINE)
**FROM:** 1:30 to 5:00 p.m.
**WHERE:** Thompson Park – Grove 1A
1 Thompson Park, Monroe, N.J.
**COST:** $7 per adult. Kids 10 & under are free!

Tickets will be on sale after all weekend Masses.

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Presented by
The Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish
FUNraising Committee

As we celebrate 100 years as a Parish, please join us for a Welcome Back Parish Picnic
You are cordially invited to attend our 100th Anniversary Gala

Cocktail Hour, Dinner, Beer, Wine and Soda, DJ, Photo Booth - Formal Attire - Adults 18+

Purchase by September 5 — Questions: Please email Joe/Jen at jenp4stob@aol.com

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH 100TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
REGISTRATION
October 17, 2021 - 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
The Reception Center - Matawan

**Ticket cost is $75/person. (Adults only)**

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<th>Place count next to meal choice:</th>
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<th>Salmon with mango salsa</th>
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| Total Amount Paid: | $__________ | Cash _____ | Check _____ |

**TABLE SEATING:**
Securing your table: Each table can sit 8-10 people. Each table must select one person as their table coordinator. If you are selected as table coordinator, you are responsible to submit the complete table list with all of the attendees. If you are not the table coordinator but want to ensure you are sitting with your designated group, only list the table coordinator’s name below. If you do not have a full table, you can still list the people with whom you would like to sit.

**TABLE COORDINATOR NAME/PHONE (REQUIRED):**

**THIS SECTION TO BE FILLED OUT BY TABLE COORDINATOR ONLY (Print Clearly)**

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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.

COVID-19 CRISIS COUNSELING SERVICES

Have you or someone you know been impacted by Covid-19? NJ Hope and Healing Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) offered through Catholic Charities is available to assist the communities in NJ affected by COVID-19. The following confidential and anonymous FREE services are:

- Stress Management
- Emotional Support
- Linkage to Resources
- Daily Zoom Calls
- Motivational Quotes
- Drop In Zoom Sessions.

Call 732.204.6510 or Email: hopeandhealing@ccdom.org.

IN GOD’S IMAGE: the Catholic Faith Sharing Group

for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people at Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield, meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm. Our next meeting is Sept. 8 and will be in person and online. Please email for more information. The group is open to LGBTQ adults, 18 and over, and their families. All are welcome for faith sharing, prayer, conversation and support. For more information, contact Fr John at 908 756 0633, ext. 125 or the group may be reached by contacting 908 822 5895 or by emailing sacredheartigi@gmail.com.

THE JOY OF LOVE AND FAMILY 2021 CONFERENCE SERIES

The Diocese of Metuchen, in collaboration with the other four Roman Catholic Archdioceses in NJ, will sponsor The Joy of Love & Family: a conference series in celebration of the Year of the Family as declared by Pope Francis. Premiering June - December 2021, the series of free talks will be covering topics for every stage of family life. 20+ Speakers. The Conference is Free! Full schedule and details are available at www.lightingheartsonfire.org. To register go to https://lightingheartsonfire.org/sign-up. Questions or concerns, email cdaverso@diometuchen.org.

UPDATE: BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL

To date, the Development Office has received pledges totaling 96,384.55 and payments totaling 93,919.55 from 442 parishioners. This represents 110.8% of our $87,000 goal. Thank you for your efforts.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

With summer winding down, why not treat yourself to a Marriage Encounter Experience?

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage.

Join us from the comfort of your home via Zoom for eight evening sessions, 7:00 - 9:30pm, Monday and Thursday evenings from September 27-October 21. For application information, phone Tom/Ruth DeFalco 732.904.9636.

ACTION NEEDED TO STOP INFANTICIDE

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Act (H.R. 619) has again been introduced in Congress to protect babies from infanticide, but efforts to bring the bill to a vote in the House are being blocked. Your action is needed to urge your Representative to sign a discharge petition that would allow this vote to occur. Some states have passed laws to expand abortion and to repeal laws providing specific protections for babies born alive after surviving an attempted abortion. The Born-Alive Act would provide these specific protections nationwide to help prevent newborns from being killed or left alone to die. We must continue to push Congress to pass the Born-Alive Act, so babies born alive following abortion attempt are treated the same as any other newborn baby. PLEASE ACT TODAY!!! Visit: https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/home.

MEDIA RELEASE - MOST HOLY REDEEMER BLOOD DRIVE

133 Amboy Road - Matawan, NJ 07747

NJ Blood Services will be conducting a blood drive, Thursday, September 30th, from 1:30pm - 7:30pm in Desmond Hall. To remain in compliance with federal guidelines for social distancing, APPOINTMENTS are preferred. Walk-ins are accommodated only if space allows. For an appointment, go to nybc.org/newjerseydrive-sponsor code 10712 or call 800.933.2566.
EUGENE A. ISOLA III, DDS
Raritan Bay Medical Center
2 Hospital Plaza, Suite 410
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
732-360-2500
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