

# Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School

**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**November 27, 2022**

**Pastor:**

Rev. Jerome A. Johnson

**Parochial Vicars**

Rev. Paulus Marandi, CMF

Rev. John M. Rozembajgier, JCL

**Deacons:**

Robert Bonfante, Sr.

Patrick W. Hearty

Scott D. Titmas, Sr.

Joseph C. Tobin

**School Principal:**

Annette Pioppo

**School Vice Principal:**

Diane Zarate

**PREP Director:**

Ms. Debbie Yesis

**Director Sacred Music/Liturgy:**

Mr. Justin Connors

**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

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

**Celebration of Mass**

***Weekend:***

***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](http://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



## FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT NOVEMBER 27, 2022

<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 26</b>
	<b>VIGIL</b>
4:00pm	Rosetta Pasqua r/o St. Thomas PREP Staff
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 27— FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
8:00am	Dr. Thomas J. Purcell r/o Brian/Donna & Family
10:00am	Francis Ancheta r/o Lucille Ancheta
12:00pm	Parishioners, Living and Deceased
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 28</b>
8:00am	Norma Tamborini r/o daughter, Barbara
12:15pm	Monthly Memorial Mass
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 29</b>
8:00am	Agnelo Fernandes r/o Menezes Family
12:15pm	Anand Durairaj r/o wife, Jayanthi
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 30 - St. Andrew, Apostle</b>
8:00am	Angelo Granata r/o Anthony Holowinski
12:15pm	Wilfredo Montemayor r/o Mhylanie Guinto
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 01</b>
8:00am	Richard Aboussleman r/o Linda Haboush
12:15pm	Tina Spagnolo r/o Lisa/Chris Marzella
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 02</b>
8:00am	Jill Szabo r/o Tim/MaryAnne Donoghue
12:15pm	Debra Citrano r/o O.B. Dermatology Family
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 03 - St. Francis Xavier, Priest</b>
	<b>VIGIL</b>
4:00pm	Rosetta Pasqua r/o Arlene Carlone
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 04— SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
8:00am	Int. Toni Jean McGuire r/o Richard J. McGuire
10:00am	Francis Ancheta r/o Lucille Ancheta
12:00pm	Bernard/Delina/Phyllis Santangelo r/o Lisa/Chris Marzella

The *Mary Candle* in the Church this week burns in loving memory of: Anand Durairaj r/o wife, Jayanthi



## DECEASED + LOVED ONES

Carolyn Petrey, Bettina Maresco, Rose Marie Davidson-Wilton, Cornelius "Earl" Anderson, Anastasia Segui, Rosemary Casey, Raymond Lucas, Sr.,

## 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, Father Paulus, or Father John. 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 10:30am-1:30pm

Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am - 7:00pm

(Lunch 12:30pm-1:30pm )

**School Tel:** 732.251.4812

**PREP Tel:** 732.251.1660

### Contact Information:

**Website:** [www.saintthomasob.com](http://www.saintthomasob.com)

[www.facebook.com/pages/St-Thomas-the-Apostle-Church-Old-Bridge-NJ](https://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:

(Sundays: 1:30pm, twice a month). 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.

### RECONCILIATION:

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.



### ADVENT PRAYER

Father, let your hope arise in our hearts! Lift our eyes to see that you alone are where our hope comes from. Help us to shake off the anxieties, discouragements, and distractions that have filled this year. May we pause to remember that we have hope in you.



### ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Make the most of your Advent Season! Join Fr. Jay for a study of the Bible, **Monday, December 5th** and **Monday, December 12th** at 7:00pm in the Pastoral Center.

### CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES



Contribution envelopes will be available for **pick up this weekend and until the end of November**. Please stop by the auditorium after all Masses to pick up your envelopes. *Thank you.*

### THIS WEEKEND: WORKS OF MERCY CAMPAIGN

The proceeds benefit the local needs of those within the Diocese of Metuchen community by addressing the social issues of poverty and hunger.

### 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.



### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Envelopes are available at Church exits and in the Pastoral Center for those wishing to remember their loved ones by donating Christmas Flowers. *A Triduum of Masses will be celebrated for them on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.*

### 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, One St. Thomas Plaza,  
Old Bridge, NJ 08857*

*Online Giving... Visit our website to get started: [www.saintthomasob.com](http://www.saintthomasob.com).*

*Collection: November 12/13 .... \$12,968.00  
Collection: November 19/20.....not available at time of printing.*



**PREP/ Confirmation Candidates only:** are required to attend a mandatory session on **Monday, December 12th from 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 of our PREP and all Confirmation students for their participation in our food drive for Thanksgiving. It is truly appreciated!*



### SHARING TREE



St. Thomas the Apostle Parish will continue its Sharing Tree Program. We will **NOT** be collecting toys. **Instead,** we will be collecting Target, Walmart, Amazon and Visa gift cards in **\$10, \$25 and \$50 denominations.** The Gift cards will be collected beginning November 5 through December 4.

If you would like to contribute, you can drop your gift card in the Sharing Tree box in the church lobby.

Gift cards may also be dropped off at the Pastoral Center during office hours:

**Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9:00am to 12:30pm or 1:30pm to 4:00pm, Tuesday/Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:30pm or 1:30pm to 7:00pm. Saturday/Sunday from 11:00am to 1:30pm.**

We will be collecting donations through December 3/4. Please give your cards to the Parish secretary in an envelope marked **SHARING TREE.**

We also welcome gifts of cash or checks made out to St. Thomas Church. St. Thomas the Apostle parishioners have always been very generous to those in need. Your continuing support is greatly appreciated during this holiday season. *May the Peace of the season fill your heart.*



### NURSING HOME DONATIONS

St. Thomas the Apostle will be accepting monetary donations for the purchase of specific items requested by our local Nursing Homes. Please place your check, made out to St. Thomas the Apostle Church, or cash donation in the envelope labeled **NURSING HOME** and put in to the **NURSING HOME box** in the church lobby.

They may also be dropped off at the Pastoral Center during office hours. **Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9:00am to 12:30pm or 1:30pm to 4:00pm. Tuesday/Thursday from 9:00am to 12:30pm or 1:30pm to 7:00pm. Saturday/Sunday from 11:00am to 1:30pm.**

We will be collecting donations through December 3/4. Please give your **NURSING HOME** donation envelope to the Parish secretary.



St. Thomas the Apostle Church  
Old Bridge, NJ



## MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS TREES 4TH ANNUAL

*“LIGHT UP THE SEASON”*

St. Thomas the Apostle is sponsoring a fundraiser that will allow you to memorialize a Christmas tree in honor of your loved ones, living or deceased. The trees will be placed on the parish grounds around the St. Thomas statue. The trees are live, 6 foot trees. Each tree will be lighted and have a memorial sign remembering your loved one or family members attached to it.

### JOIN US FOR THE LIGHTING

There will be a blessing and lighting of the trees and Nativity following the **4:00pm** Mass on **December 3, 2022**. The trees will be lit every night for the entire Christmas season and families will be able to visit the trees throughout this time.

**Trees must be ordered ASAP!**

### SPONSOR A MEMORIAL TREE FOR \$100

If you are interested, please complete this form and return with a check made payable to St. Thomas Church and return to the Pastoral Center.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORIAL MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2022 CONCERT SERIES AT ST. THOMAS

Collegium Musicum Presents ...

The History of the Musical Instruments

December 10th at 7:00pm

### SAVE THE DATE: WINTER **BLOOD** DRIVE



“St. Thomas the Apostle Church in conjunction with St. Thomas Knights of Columbus will conduct its annual Winter Blood Drive on **Saturday, January 14, 2023 from 8:00am - 2:00pm**. You can make an appointment to donate by going to [nybc.org/newjerseydrive](http://nybc.org/newjerseydrive). Enter sponsor code 07755 and end date 1/14/23. You may also call 800.933.2566.

### FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION



**First Friday** Adoration on the first **Friday** of **each month** following the 8:00am Mass, and **concluding** with the 12:15pm Mass.



### ST. THOMAS 2023 CASH CALENDARS HAVE ARRIVED!

Please stop by the Auditorium after Mass to pick up your reserved calendars. If you have not yet reserved a calendar number—ranging from 1 to 1500 and wish to do so, please e-mail Eileen at [eatabert@hotmail.com](mailto:eatabert@hotmail.com) with your desired selection. Calendars are \$25 and daily prizes ranging from \$25 to \$500 totaling \$12,000 for the year. *It's the gift that keeps on giving!*

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anonymously Recommended, Beatrice, Thomas Altruda, Bob Andrews, Ronald Atlak, Sr, Enola Barlik, Rita Bator, Walter Blais, Bollhardt, Gloria Bonagard, Barbara Brooks, Craig Michael Buttcher, Nicholas Campanella, Ralph Chiano, Louis Coromilias, Edmund Crookhorn, Camella Dacunta, Barbara Davis, Christopher Dee, John D'Mello, Nancy Donoghue, Loretta Doyle, Chet Dudek, Jim Feely, Sharon Ferrari, Flora, Abigail Francy, Joseph Fricano, Brian Gage, Lucinda Gatto, Walter Gladkowski, Johanna Gordon, Charlotte Guarino, Corazon Gutierrez, Matthew Harris, Robert Henrion, Cathy Hilman, Robert John Isbecki, Emelie Jeffries, Vlad Kachur, Thomas Kaufman, Katie, Gwen Kelly, Pearl Kelly, Cathleen Kimber, Albert King, Joseph Lane, Cheryl Layden, Michael Layden, Thomas Layden, Lester Lim, Rosa Lopez, Cedric Magaway, Harold Mann, Patricia Mann, Gabrielle Margett, Mary Margett, Daniel Mechkowski, Margie Marrero, Rafael Marrero, Jr., Rudy Maurer, Wilfredo Medina, III, Brian Menedez, Yanina Cruz Mikos, Paul Montalban, Jeff Nemeth, Ann Marie Nocera, Ernie Nocera, Olivia, Carolyn Petry, Ralph Perez, Connie Pfiel, Sam Pontieri, Elaine Posluszny, Michael Quinlan, Frank Ranelli, Lucia Rella, Harry Rothlin, Joseph Russo Jr., Marie Sarna, Eileen Schuck, Donna Semko, Anasta Sequi, Fr. Thomas E. Smith (S.J.), John Soporowski, AnnMarie Sorrentino, Nancy Stahley, Eileen Stolte, Irene Sutton, Jacquelyn Tortoriello, Denise Tuite, Daphne Ulveling, Sandra Varnis, Joseph Vasham, Mark Vern, Isilio Villa, Pati Wert, Nell White, Peter Wsheff, Mary Yuhas, Candida and Edward 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.*

### INTO THE BREACH UPCOMING TOPICS:



Nov. 29 Spiritual Warfare - 7:00pm  
Dec. 06 Evangelization - 7:00pm  
Dec. 13 The Cornerstone - 7:00pm



### \$12,000.00 CASH CALENDAR

Searching for a unique Christmas gift for family and friends?

The 2023 St. Thomas Cash Calendar just might be the answer!

Each of the 365 days of 2023 offers a cash prize ranging from **\$25.00** each weekday to **\$50.00** each Sunday to **\$100.00** each of 9 holidays:

New Year's Day ~ Valentine's Day ~ St. Patrick's Day ~ Mother's Day ~ Father's Day ~ Memorial Day ~ July 4<sup>th</sup> ~ Labor Day ~ Thanksgiving 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!)

Calendars go on sale to the general public on November 5<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to reserve the same number as you had in 2022, please contact Eileen at [eatabert@hotmail.com](mailto:eatabert@hotmail.com) or call 732.251.4766 prior to November 5, 2022.

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. Your Christmas "gift" will keep on giving throughout the year!



## CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

FIRST FRIDAY  
DECEMBER 2, 2022  
6:30PM

FATHER JEFF KEGLEY  
CELEBRANT

MINISTRY TEAMS LED BY  
ENCOUNTER SCHOOL  
OF MINISTRY  
NEW JERSEY CAMPUS

COME & SEE

SAINT MARY,  
MOTHER OF GOD CHURCH  
MIDDLETOWN, NEW JERSEY  
[WWW.STMARYCHURCHNJ.ORG/PRAYER](http://WWW.STMARYCHURCHNJ.ORG/PRAYER)



**LIFE CHOICES RESOURCE CENTER**

Clothing needed for children (up to size 7) Fall/Winter clothes. Contact: Maureen Nigro - 732.591.8914

**THE TABLE AT ST. THOMAS**



Saturday, December 10, 2022  
12pm - 2pm

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

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

Please RSVP, so we can have your meal prepared, to [chrisdoyle167@gmail.com](mailto:chrisdoyle167@gmail.com) or call 732.609.1499.



**RESPECT LIFE MASS SUNDAY**

Sunday, January 23, 2023

Please consider joining us for the Annual Diocesan Respect Life Mass on **Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 12:00 Noon;** Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen. Bishop James F. Checchio will be the celebrant. Youth who have been active in pro-life volunteering will be recognized. There will be a light reception immediately following the Mass. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact: [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org) or call 732.562.1543.

**DOMESTIC CHURCH MEDIA**

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**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**  
Sunday, December 11, 2022  
8:30am to 11:30am



**Santa is Coming, Santa is Coming!!**

Sit down and have a hot Breakfast and take pictures  
Bring your camera and take as many pictures as you like  
with Santa

**Children under 5 are Free**  
**Children 5 to 12 - \$5.00 a ticket**  
**Children and Adults over 12 - \$10.00 a ticket**  
Call 732.251.9817 for reservations before Dec. 11th

Knights of Columbus is located at  
61 Pine Street  
Old Bridge, NJ

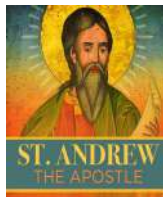
2 Blocks south of St. Thomas Church off Route 18 South



**MOST HOLY REDEEMER BLOOD DRIVE**  
133 Amboy Road, Matawan, NJ

NJ Blood Services will be conducting a Blood Drive at Most Holy Redeemer Parish on **Thursday, December 15, 2022 from 1:00pm - 7:00pm in Desmond Hall.** At this time, the blood supply is critically low—PLEASE HELP.

Donors must wear a mask or face covering, have their temperature taken, must be 14 days symptom free if recovered from COVID 19. May NOT donate if you are currently on self-quarantine restrictions. We DO NOT test for COVID-19. Remember to eat, drink, and bring your Donor ID or ID with your name and photo.



**ST. ANDREW CHRISTMAS NOVENA  
NOVEMBER 30**

A wonderful way to enter into the Advent season which is marked by a time of anticipation, penance, and prayer, and is prayed traditionally 15 times a day throughout all four weeks of Advent. The prayer is addressed to God and focuses our attention on the coming Nativity.

*Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.*