

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 11, 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

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



THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
December 11, 2022

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10

VIGIL

4:00pm Frank Doyle r/o George/Noreen Szymanski

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11– THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00am Ramon Tudtud r/o Susan/Rolly Leon

10:00am Living and Deceased Members of MBAS

12:00pm Joseph Faber r/o Tom/Janet Liposky

MONDAY DECEMBER 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00am Parishioners, Living and Deceased

12:15pm Christopher Doyle r/o Lucille/Ed Suffel

TUESDAY DECEMBER 13 - St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

8:00am Lorraine Gerenza r/o Susan/Mike Walsh

12:15pm Marie/Salvatore Capasso r/o daughter
 Arlene Carlone

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14 - St. John of the Cross, Priest/
 Doctor of the Church**

8:00am Dennis G. Shneider r/o Michael/Barbara Clements

12:15pm Maurice Regan r/o Tom/Janet Liposky

THURSDAY DECEMBER 15

8:00am Marie Wilson r/o Tim/MaryAnne Donoghue

12:15pm Richard Wall r/o John/Maureen Nigro

FRIDAY DECEMBER 16

8:00am Andrew Hadzimichalis r/o Time/MaryAnne
 Donoghue

12:15pm Emma Hynes r/o Erin Kelleher

SATURDAY DECEMBER 17

VIGIL

4:00pm Rev. Msgr. Samuel Winters (29th Anniversary)
 r/o Frank/Peggy/Marge Boyle

SUNDAY DECEMBER 18– FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00am Parishioners, Living and Deceased

10:00am Michael Rohal r/o Patti Crescenzo

12:00pm Frank Doyle r/o Thomas/Catherine O'Brien

DECEASED + LOVED ONES

*Loretta Doyle, James M. Berardi, Patricia Naber,
 Ellen O'Connor, Carolyn Petrey, Bettina Maresco*

*The Mary Candle in the Church this week burns in
 loving memory of: Christopher DeCesare
 r/o Family*



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

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

Lord God, may we, your people who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

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



INTO THE BREACH

This Tuesday, **Dec. 13**
Topic: **The Cornerstone -7:00pm**
in the Pastoral Center.



COATS FOR UKRAINE

St. Thomas Parish's "Coats for Ukraine" Project truly demonstrated the overwhelming generosity of our parishioners. 56 giant boxes - 2,040 pounds - 757 coats, along with gloves, scarves, and hats are now on their way to Ukraine. Shipping costs were totally covered by donations totaling \$1,685.00. Our love and prayers went with each packed box. Thank you sincerely to all who participated. May Christmas be warmer for us all!!



The Stewardship "Heart 2 Heart" Committee

THIS WEEKEND: SECOND COLLECTION

Your gift to the **Retirement Fund** for religious provides for our senior Catholic Sisters, Brothers, and religious order Priest. *Thank you for your generosity.*



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.*

*Collection: November 26/27\$12,198.00
Collection: December 03/04 . . \$16,405.00*



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



Bambinelli Mass - December 10 (revised)
4:00 pm

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols - 10:15 pm

Christmas Eve Masses - Saturday, December 24
4:00 pm, 7:00 pm, *11:00 pm
*No Mass at 12:00 am

Christmas Day Masses - Sunday, December 25
8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 Noon

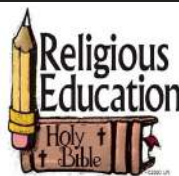
New Year's Eve - Saturday, December 31
4:00 pm

New Year's Day Mass - Sunday, January 1
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 Noon

Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday/Sunday, January 7/8

Saturday - 4:00 pm, Sunday - 8:00 am, 10:00 am,
12:00 Noon (Baby's First Christmas: Noon Mass)



PREP/ Confirmation Candidates only: are required to attend a mandatory session **tomorrow, 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.**



LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

Sundays in Advent: During the 10:00am Mass, children in Grades K-8 are invited to 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.



\$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 4th ~ 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 5th. If you wish to reserve the same number as you had in 2022, please contact Eileen at 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!



*Numbers are limited
Final Opportunity*



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 eatibert@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!*

MOST HOLY REDEEMER BLOOD DRIVE 133 Amboy Road, Matawan, NJ Thursday, December 15, 2022



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.

DEACONS TABLE CHRISTMAS DINNER



December 21, 2022
4:30 PM- 6:30 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 Christmas dinner at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Please RSVP to sttmas@sttaob.com or call parish office (732) 251-4000



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, Coleen Fedyna, 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, Paul Tierney, Jacquelyn Tortoriello, Denise Tuite, Daphne Ulveling, Sandra Varnis, Joseph Vasham, Mark Vern, Isilio Villa, Pati Wert, Nell White, Peter Wysheff, 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

Monthly MEMORIAL



*Massis offered for specifically-recommended deceased loved ones. The names are inscribed in a **Memorial Register** located at the rear of the church under a lighted candle. For more information, call the Pastoral Center: 732.251.4000.*

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.*

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.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 4815

The Knights of Columbus have been hosting a **Rosary from Monday to Thursday at 7:00pm via Zoom**. If you would like to participate, please contact Rob Wright at **908.510.6328** or email: rjwko4815@gmail.com.

ADVERTISING IN OUR BULLETIN!

Did you know we have 4,000+ families registered here at STA? What better way to advertise your business? We need and appreciate your help!

*Our thanks to all our **current** advertisers!*



WINTER BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, January 14, 2023
8:00am to 2:00pm

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

In conjunction with

St. Thomas

Knights of Columbus Council 4815

Appointments recommended. Walk-ins accommodated if space allows.

For an appointment go to nybc.org/newjerseydrive
Sponsor code 07755 end date 01/14/23
or call 800-933-2566

Please remember to eat, drink and bring your donor ID card or ID with name and photo.

Donors 76 and over need a doctor's note unless one is already on file. 16 year olds need signed NYBC parental consent form. If you have received the Covid-19 vaccine, there is no waiting period before donating as long as you are feeling well.

We urge you to make an appointment even though you are not sure of the exact time you will be able to donate. Select a time about when you think you can come.

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 or call 732.562.1543.

OFFICE OF YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Saturday, January 21 - 11:00am

St. John Neumann Pastoral Center
146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway

Awards ceremony with Bishop Checchio will be held on Saturday, **January 21st at 11:00am**. The **St. Timothy** Award is given annually to a high school youth within our diocese, who live as disciples of Christ. The **St. Teresa** Awards is given to a select few High School Seniors who follow St. Mother Teresa's example. Nominations are due by December 15th.

Please email mcalhan@diometuchen.org or call 732.243.4576 for further information.

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12



Our Lady of Guadalupe, mother of God and of the people of Metuchen: you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and hope. We rely on you, Health of the Sick, you who, at the cross, united with Jesus' pain, keeping steadfast your faith.

You, Salvation of God's people, you know what we need and we are sure that you will provide for us, as at Cana of Galilee, after the adversity of these days, may joy and celebration return. Help us Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do what we are told by Jesus, who has taken our suffering upon Himself and has burdened Himself with our sorrows to lead us through the cross, to the joy of resurrection. Amen

*Under your protection, Holy Mother of God, Our Lady of Guadalupe, we seek refuge, hear our prayer and intercede for us to the Father so that we may be free from every danger, **Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.***

FEAST OF ST. LUCY



St. Lucy (283–304), also known as Santa Lucia, was a wealthy young Christian martyr, killed in Syracuse, Sicily by Diocletian for refusing to submit to her heathen husband, and is now venerated as a saint by Christians around the World. Today; with a name derived from lux, lucis "light," she is the patron saint of those who are blind or have eye-trouble (as well as salesmen, writers and those with throat infections). In the legend surrounding her she had her eyes put out before being killed. In some versions of the tale God restores her sight. She is shown here with two of her traditional symbols or attributes—the palm-frond of Martyrdom and her own eyes upon a salver or cake-stand! **St. Lucy's feast day is December 13.**

DOMESTIC CHURCH MEDIA

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