

SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH AND SCHOOL



The Nativity of the Lord

CHRISTMAS

December 25, 2022

Pastor:

Rev. Jerome A. Johnson

Parochial Vicars:

Rev. Paulus Marandi, CMF
Rev. John M. Rozembajgier, JCL

Deacons:

Robert Bonfante, Sr.
Parick W. Hearty
Scott D. Titmas, Sr.
Joseph C. Tobin

School Principal

Annette Pioppo

School Vice Principal:

Diane Zarate

PREP Director:

Debbie Yesis

Director of Sacred Music/Liturgy:

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 & 12:00 Noon

Weekday:

Monday - Friday: 8:00am and 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 AND 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



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) December 25, 2022

SATURDAY	DECEMBER 24 - Christmas Eve VIGIL
4:00pm	<i>Christmas Flower Triduum</i>
7:00pm	Parishioners, Living and Deceased
11:00am	Parishioners, Living and Deceased
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 25 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
8:00am	<i>Christmas Flower Triduum</i>
10:00am	<i>Christmas Flower Triduum</i>
12:00pm	Parishioners, Living and Deceased
MONDAY	DECEMBER 26 - St. Stephen, First Martyr
9:00am	William/Elena McCarron r/o Fillimon Family
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 27 - St. John, Apostle/Evangelist
8:00am	Deborah Kroeper r/o Tim/MaryAnne Donoghue
12:15pm	Michael Lynch r/o Hudock Family
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
8:00am	Patricia Barabas r/o Larry/Joan McGrath
12:15pm	John G. Fillimon r/o John M. Fillimon
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 29 - St. Thomas Becket, Bishop/ Martyr
8:00am	Richard Aboussleman r/o Ernie/Mary Nocera
12:15pm	Christopher Heppel r/o Heppel Family
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 30 - The Holy Family of Jesus
8:00am	Marie Wilson r/o Sokolowsky Family
12:15pm	Arpad Csizmadia, Jr. r/o Loving Mom/Wife
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 31 - St. Sylvester I, Pope VIGIL
4:00am	Sergio Yu r/o Angelina/Gerard Kaupke
SUNDAY	JANUARY 01 - SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
8:00am	Brenden Luke r/o Madeline Luke
10:00am	Dorothy Johnson r/o Arlene Carlone
12:00pm	Marie Josee Kersaint r/ Mr. & Mrs. Martino

DECEASED + LOVED ONES

*Mildred Moriggia, Carol Powers, Dona Lepkowski,
Rosemarie Chimienti, Loretta Doyle, James M. Berardi*



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

*The Mary Candle in the Church this week burns in
loving memory of: John Allen
r/o Marantino 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.



From the Pastor's Desk

My dear friends,

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:1). In the midst of the darkness of trying to move forward after the pandemic, it is Christ who lights our way. It's time for us to pause and see this Light and feel its warmth. As we celebrate Christmas, as one big parish family, may the light of Christ illumine your ways and fill your homes.

All the readings for the various Christmas liturgies proclaim the same mystery; the Incarnation. God not only authors life and sustains it, He chooses to become one of us. Whatever the circumstances of your life right now; grief or joy, struggle or success, faith or doubt, love or betrayal, Jesus has lived it Himself, and He longs to live it with you. Allow Him to enter into your moments and give you the life for which you were created.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your commitment to our parish. The giving of your time, talent and treasure to the Lord continues to reflect God's presence in our community. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all those who have worked so hard to make our Christmas celebrations truly wonderful, prayerful moments. Additionally, a special thank you to our staff and the devoted members of the various ministries in our parish and especially to those few who work quietly, behind the scenes all the time to make our parish vibrant.

My Christmas message, this year, is to challenge all of us to become more involved. It is not so much a question of giving more; it is a question of giving more of ourselves. Moreover, that is what God did when He entered our world at the first Christmas. God will fill us with His peace if there is room for Him in our lives.

In closing, my prayer today is that you, your family and homes be filled with the Blessings of Peace, Joy and Love. At the same time, I thank you all most sincerely for your thoughtful prayers and inspiring Christmas greetings. May all of you, dear parishioners of St. Thomas, be overshadowed with the mighty and powerful blessings of the Christ Child ... Emmanuel ... God with us!

Peace,
Fr. Jay

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.sainthomasob.com.

Collection: December 10/11 . . \$13,775.00
Immaculate Conception: \$ 2,434.00
Retirement Fund Religious \$ 2,400.00
Collection: December 17/18 not available at time of print.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



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)

**We will be
CLOSED**

The Parish Office will be closed
December 24th - 26th.

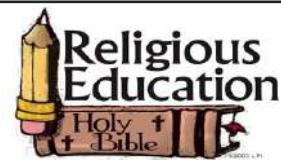
We will re-open, Tuesday, December
27th at 9:00am.

We will also be closed on Monday January 2nd and
re-open on Tuesday, January 3rd.



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.



PREP/ Confirmation Candidates only: are required to attend a mandatory session on **Monday, January 9th**, 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.**

PREP classes resume Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023.
Special Needs classes resume Monday, January 9th, 2023.



\$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!

*December 31, 2022 is the
Final Opportunity to purchase
your calendar!*





God's Precious Blessings

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parishioners!

Thank you so much for your generosity and support of our Baby Bottle Blessings Fundraiser once again! We have found a home here at Saint Thomas filled with love and compassion for our clients and truly feel CHRIST'S presence.

Your beautiful hearts raised an amazing \$5,459.28!

Words cannot express how grateful we are.

Your gifts enable us to continue serving mothers and families by providing the practical, emotional, and spiritual support they need when faced with a difficult or unplanned pregnancy. Your **LIFE** affirming support gives families hope!

You are making a difference in the lives of many of God's people – born and unborn. You are helping to save lives and transform hearts right here in our own community. God bless you!

Please know that you are in our daily prayers of Thanksgiving.

Your friends at,



www.LifeChoicesRC.com



SENIORS MEETING

Monday, January 9th at 1:00pm
in the Pastoral Center



Parents who are having their first child baptized are required to attend a Baptism Preparation session in advance. **Next class: Tuesday, January 24 - 7:30pm Parish Room of the Pastoral Center. Registration required.** The Sacrament of Baptism is a sacred event regulated by Church (Canon) law. **Please do not plan any activity until dates are confirmed.** Any questions - call 732.251.4000



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: rjwkofc4815@gmail.com.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

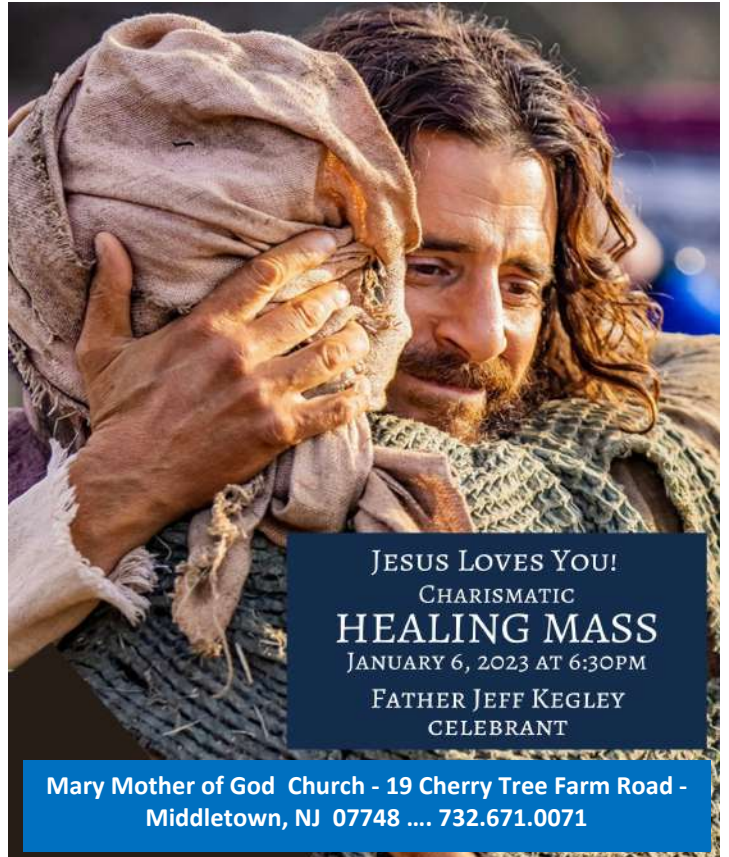
Anonymously Recommended, Beatrice, Thomas Altruda, Bob Andrews, Ronald Atlak, Sr, Enola Barlik, Rita Bator, Walter Blais, Bollhardt, Gloria Bonagard, Barbara Brooks, Craig Michael Butcher, Nicholas Campanella, Ralph Chiano, Louis Coromilias, Edmund Crookhorn, Camella Dacunta, Barbara Davis, Christopher 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



Mass is 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.



JESUS LOVES YOU!
CHARISMATIC
HEALING MASS
JANUARY 6, 2023 AT 6:30PM
FATHER JEFF KEGLEY
CELEBRANT

Mary Mother of God Church - 19 Cherry Tree Farm Road -
Middletown, NJ 07748 732.671.0071



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.



An invitation to "Baby's First Christmas."

*On the Feast of the Epiphany, Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 12:00 noon, our parish will celebrate a special Mass to mark your **Baby's First Christmas**. At this time, your child will receive a special blessing. Following the Mass, we will gather for a reception in the Pastoral Center to which you and your family members are cordially invited.*

I hope you will be able to join us on January 8. Please phone the Pastoral Center 732.251.4000 **no later than Wednesday, January 4**, to let us know how many family members will join us so appropriate arrangements can be made.

We here at Saint Thomas wish you and your family a blessed and healthy Christmas and New Year.

LIFE CHOICES RESOURCE CENTER

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

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT



Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for your spouse? Why not give yourselves a Marriage Encounter Weekend.

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held on February 24-26. Please apply ASAP as space is limited. Call Tom & Ruth DeFalco at 732.904.9636 for application and information or visit us at www.wwme.org for more information.

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Communicating Hope on Catholic Radio!

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