

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 29, 2023

Pastor:

Rev. Jerome A. Johnson

Parochial Vicar:

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:

Debbie Yesis

Dir. of Sacred Music/Liturgy:

Justin Connors

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

“To make disciples, as we know, love and serve 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



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 29, 2023

SATURDAY	JANUARY 28
	VIGIL
4:00pm	Eleanor Nagy r/o Brian Nagy
SUNDAY	JANUARY 29 - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME
8:00am	Ruth Tschinkel r/o Tom Tschinkel
10:00am	Geraldine Joan Carson r/o Tom/Janet Liposky
12:00pm	Anna Bella Apuy r/o Dave/May Brunnengraber
MONDAY	JANUARY 30
8:00am	Dennis O'Connor r/o Gerard/Elizabeth Drumm
12:15pm	Monthly Memorial Mass
TUESDAY	JANUARY 31 - St. John Bosco, Priest
8:00am	Parishioners, Living and Deceased
12:15pm	Kevin Galasso r/o Cieran Murphy
WEDNESDAY	FEBRUARY 01
8:00am	Anthony Silecchia r/o Gerard/Elizabeth Drumm
12:15pm	Thomas Doyle r/o Charlotte Simon
THURSDAY	FEBRUARY 02 - THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD
8:00am	Valentim Neves r/o Isabel Badillo
12:15pm	Ruth/John F. Veverka r/o John J. Veverka
FRIDAY	FEBRUARY 03 - St. Blaise, Bishop/Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop
8:00am	Seamus Hogan r/o Vallo Family
12:15pm	Alvin Earl Sales r/o May/Dave Brunnengraber
SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 04
	VIGIL
4:00pm	Louis K. Tran r/o Cam Wu
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 05 - FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME
8:00am	Carl Chacon r/o Dan/Angelica Gangemi
10:00am	Mary/John Fillimon r/o Fillimon Family
12:00pm	Helen Rosella r/o Debbie/Rich O'Brien-Mann

DECEASED + LOVED ONES

*Carl Cicchino, Patricia Liguori, Rose Scarlino,
 Seraphine A. Alvarez, Christine Quaranta, Peter Kaznosky*

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.*

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 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.

**ST. THOMAS
HOLY NAME SOCIETY
Month of the Holy Name of Jesus
JANUARY 2023**



The month dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus calls us to think of Jesus - more specifically, to honor and love the Holy Name of Jesus. The liturgical calendar offers an optional memorial for the Name of Jesus on January 3rd within the Christmas season; yet the entire month is dedicated to the Holy Name. The Most Holy Name of Jesus includes all the mysteries of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church that is found in its liturgy. It is the central point of all the Sacraments.

January 29

The Name of Jesus is the shortest, the easiest and the most powerful of prayers. Everyone can say it even in the midst of their daily work. God cannot refuse to hear it. Let them invoke the Name of Jesus, asking Him to save us from the calamities that threaten us.



"St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Council 4815 wish to thank all those who assisted with our Annual Parish Winter Blood Drive on January 14, 2023. We especially thank those who came out to donate at the Drive.

Through your efforts, we were credited with **97 units of blood**. We are also very grateful to the St. Thomas Maintenance Staff and the NJ Blood Services Staff for providing a safe and secure environment for the Blood Drive. Also, a **big thank you** to the **Texas Roadhouse**, located on Route 9 in Old Bridge for their generous and continued support of our Blood Drive by donating gift certificates as donor door prizes. Please **mark your calendars** and plan on donating at our **Summer Blood Drive on Saturday, August 5, 2023.**"

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SENIORS...

...meeting on Monday, **February 6, 2023** at 1:00pm
and

... ST. VALENTINE'S DAY BAKE SALE



February 11 and February 12 after all Masses.

Thank you for your support!

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.

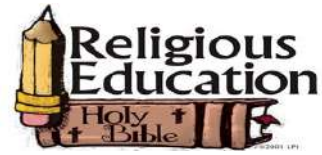
You may mail in your weekly donation to:

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

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



*Collection for January 22, 2023: \$11,492.00
Catholic Education: \$ 2,190.00*



PREP/Confirmation Candidates only: Our next mandatory session is Monday, **February 6th** 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.**

2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal

Renewed and Sent on Mission by the Eucharist

Please watch your mailbox for a letter from Bishop Checchio coming to you this week announcing the 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Our parish can share in a successful Appeal by earning a rebate of 50% of the amount collected over goal.

Through your support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal you help those in our diocese whose needs are the greatest—the poor, the homeless, and those struggling with illness or grief. Among other needed pastoral ministries, your gift also supports the formation of seminarians and the ministry of our hospital and prison chaplains. The many pastoral, educational and charitable ministries of the Diocese of Metuchen would not be possible without a generous contribution from every household. Please be as generous as your means allow.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Multi-Services Program of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, located at 26 Safran Avenue, Edison, responds to those facing eviction and those that are homeless. They are in need of volunteers to assist with returning phone calls, organizing files, etc. If you or someone you know may be able to offer some time to help, please call Maria Hunter, Office of Parish Social Ministry at 732.387.1315 for more information.



Six weekly small group faith sharing sessions will begin the week of **February 19** - for Lenten weekday mornings or evenings. Make a spiritual plan for the 40 days of Lent. Include joining a small group to share the journey with others.

Sign-ups begin this weekend after all Masses at church entrances.

From the ❤️ of St Thomas to the ❤️ of Ukraine

Our 58 giant boxes of warm winter coats, hats, gloves and scarfs arrived on December 15th at the offices of Archbishop Vasyl Tuchapets in Kharkiv, a city in the northeast corner of Ukraine.

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words - so here are two photos that say "thank you" two thousand times over!

May God be pleased with our efforts.

St. Thomas Stewardship Committee
"Heart 2 Heart" Project





PARISH REFLECTION ON SAINT PETER

Saturday, February 18—Pastoral Center

11:00am - 3:00pm

Guest Presenter: Deacon Joe Tobin

As a dedicated follower of Christ, Peter spreads the message of the Gospel across the land, often staying only one step ahead of those determined to persecute him. As tensions between Christians and the Romans grow, blood runs in the streets; Peter and Paul meet, and together they form a strong friendship in preaching about Christ.

While there was persecution in the Eternal City, Peter sees Jesus walking towards him saying “Peter, I am coming to Rome to be crucified again.” Peter realizes he must follow Christ to the end and returns to Rome to be crucified like his master.

-Sponsored by the Holy Name Society

Doors open at 11:00am

We ask you to bring a non-perishable food item for the St. Thomas the Apostle Food Bank

John Thornton
732.763.3280

George Szymanski
732.238.5743

THE TABLE AT ST. THOMAS SOUP KITCHEN



Saturday, February 11, 2023
12:00 – 2:00pm

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 the Apostle Church.

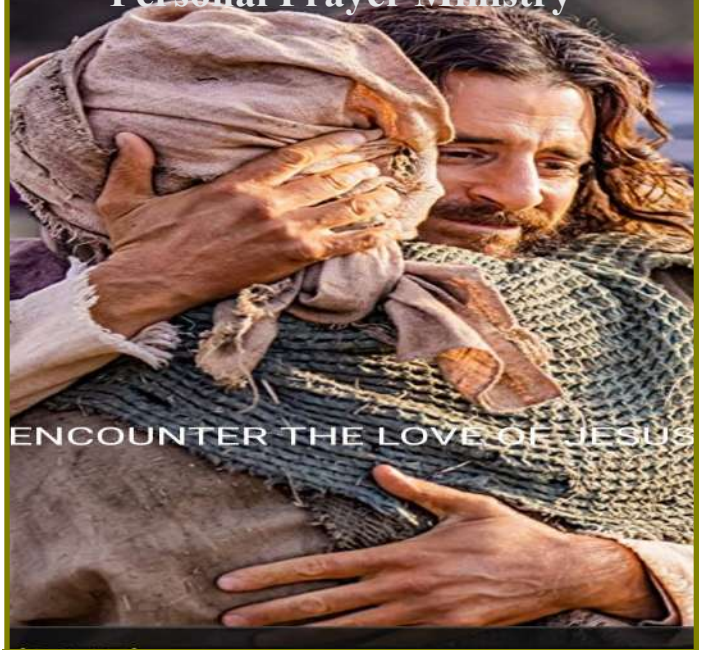
Please RSVP, so we can have your meal prepared to: chrisdoyle167@gmail.com or call 732.609.1499.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend values in a busy changing world. Our local council, St. Thomas the Apostle, Council 4815, will be holding a membership drive at all Masses the weekend of February 4th and 5th. Whether you become an individual member or a member of our council you will find that Knights of Columbus membership brings Catholic men together in a powerful way. If you would like to join today, simply go to kofc.org/joinus and enter our Council number (4815) for local information.

Personal Prayer Ministry



Saturday, February 4th after the 4:00pm Mass
Sunday, February 12th after the 8:00am and 10:00am Mass
Sunday, February 19th after the 12:00pm Mass

DEACONS TABLE SPAGHETTI DINNER



February 15, 2023
4:30 PM- 6:30 PM

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

We will be distributing dinners to take home. Come pick up your spaghetti dinner at St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

Please RSVP to sttmas@sttaob.com or call parish office (732) 251-4000

2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

Please complete and return this form to the *Pastoral Center*; place in the collection basket, or mail to: Saint Thomas Church, One Saint Thomas Plaza, Old Bridge, NJ 08857. **Please do not phone the office.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Day phone # _____ Envelope # _____



**CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2023-2024
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 on line now through FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment at <https://online.factsmgmt.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) **no later than March 31, 2023**. 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.

**RETRouvaille WEEKEND
FEBRUARY 3—5, 2023**



Do you feel lost, lonely or bored in your marriage? Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse? Are you constantly fighting, or do you simply shut down? Have you thought about separation or divorce, or does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a Lifeline to Help Couples Heal and Renew their Marriages. The program consists of a weekend experience for married couples (no group discussions) with six follow-up sessions. To register, call Rich/Annette Colasuonno at 732.236.0671 or 732.672.0748 or email njretrouvaille@gmail.com or 3024@hopourmarriage.org.



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

Looking for the perfect 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.

**LENTEN NIGHT OF RECOLLECTION
St. Bartholomew Church, East Brunswick**



Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2023**
Presenter: Fr. Timothy Eck
Theme: "The Essence of Penance"

Private Prayer: 6:00pm - Reflection: 6:15pm - Mass: 7:00pm

Lenten Soup Supper after Mass...\$7.00pp. Reservation required for the Soup Supper....contact: 732.207.9786

Everyone is Welcome!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anonymously Recommended, Beatrice, Thomas Altruda, Bob Andrews, Janet Gavin Arden, 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, Diane Derenoski, Nancy Donoghue, 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, 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 Yuhass, 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.

SURVIVING DIVORCE

**For Men and Women Seeking Healing
from Separation or Divorce**

Surviving Divorce- For men and women seeking healing from separation or divorce. This 12 week program, while based on the teachings of the Catholic Church, is open to anyone who needs comfort, counsel and clarity after a divorce. Meetings will be held on **Thursdays 7:00pm - 9:00pm beginning March 2, 2023** at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ For more information or to register **contact Ro Bersch at 908.313.5947**.

Available Ad Space

**Build your business and help us
grow a vibrant faith community!**

Doug Shaller from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be offering ad sponsorships in our weekly bulletin through the month of February 2023. Please consider purchasing an ad, sponsoring a charity, or in Memory of a Loved One. Your participation makes our bulletin

BENEFITS OF ADVERTISING

- Local, targeted community advertising for **one full year, at one low price.**
- A FREE ad listing on parishesonline.com.
- FREE, professional ad design, and 4 free ad changes per year.

Doug Shaller 862-373-0746



**BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER**