

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 31, 2023



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 HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH DECEMBER 31, 2023

SATURDAY	DECEMBER 30
4:00pm	Phil Migliore r/o Children
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 31 - THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
8:00am	John Wyatt r/o Joan Hampton
10:00am	Stan D'Mello r/o Alice & Percy Brown
12:00pm	NO NOON MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED
	VIGIL
4:00pm	Daniel McNerney r/o Donna Weber
MONDAY	JANUARY 1— SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD
10:00am	For Our Parishioners
12:00pm	Arpad Csizmadia Jr. r/o Loving Mother, Susan
TUESDAY	JANUARY 2 - STS. BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS & DOCTORS
8:00am	Barbara L. Hathaway r/o Lee Umvach
12:15pm	Barbara Dombrowski r/o Tosonotti Family
WEDNESDAY	JANUARY 3
8:00am	Dolores Tyndale r/o George & Elaine Reda
12:15pm	Barbara Romaine r/o Nancy D' Mello
THURSDAY	JANUARY 4 - ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS
8:00am	Daniel Mahoney r/o Nancy Pindilli
12:15pm	Ed McCarthy (Liv. intention) r/o Elise McCarthy
FRIDAY	JANUARY 5 - ST. JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP
8:00am	Jackie Guzzone r/o The Albano Family
12:15pm	Stanislaus D'Mello r/o John & Eleanor Kobryn
SATURDAY	JANUARY 6
4:00pm	Stephanie Goley r/o Diane Jarusiewicz
SUNDAY	JANUARY 7 - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
8:00am	For Our Parishioners
10:00am	Gloria Sansone r/o Pasqua Family
12:00pm	Zenon Najdzinowicz

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.

Come spend some time with our Lord!

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 John or Father Joseph. 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. Jennifer Bachonski

Bulletin Editor: Ms. Lisa Sorrentino

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 the marriage questionnaire is completed and 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, 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.

DECEASED + LOVED ONES

*Gail Motta, Silvio Adami, John Agugliaro
Irene Goldstein, Patricia Crescenzo,
Kelly Doherty, and Catherine Hilman*



"Not to go to Communion is like someone dying of thirst besides a spring."

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 or other ways to give:*

- visit <https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/>
- [Giving/PS-1381](#)
- Scan the QR code below
- Use your envelopes



*The collection for December 16th/17th....\$16,775
The collections for December 23rd/24th & 25th were not available at time of printing.*

THANK YOU!

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

*"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." -
Colossians 3:13*

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone, a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

Holiday Office Closure

The **Parish Office** will be **closed** on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

We will **re-open** Tuesday, January 2nd at 9:00am



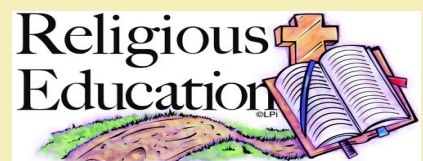
From the Desk of Our Pastor...

Bring them to church. Saturate their lives with the Word of God. Even if they lay on the floor. Even if they need 437 goldfish and a sucker to be quiet. Even if you stand in the back swaying back and forth holding them. Even when it's hard. Even when your row looks like a small hurricane just came through. Bring them to church. Let them see you worship. Let them see you pray. Let them see you running towards the Savior.... because if they don't see and learn these things from you, who are they going to learn from?

The world will teach them it's not a priority. The world will teach them it's okay to stay home...to not pick up their Bibles. The world will direct them so far off course, confuse them, and misinform them that just being "good" is enough. The world won't teach them about Jesus. That's our job.

Bring them to church.

We love your children and look forward to seeing them here often!



**Thursday PREP classes will resume this week
Thursday, January 4th.**

*****Monday Special Needs classes will resume next week
January 8th.*****

**Tuesday PREP classes will also resume next week,
January 9th, 2024.**

PREP Confirmation Candidates only:

Our next mandatory session is **Monday, January 8th from 6:45 - 8:30pm in St. Thomas School.** Please arrive promptly!
Parents must meet their child at the front doors of the school at dismissal.

****First Reconciliation will be on Saturday, January 13th.
Information was sent home to parents.****

First Communion:

There will be a Parent meeting on Tuesday, January 23rd at 4:30 OR Thursday, January 25th at 6:15pm for those who have a child receiving First Communion in May. Please choose a meeting that works best with your schedule. Meetings will be held in the church.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Your contribution envelopes are being mailed directly to your home. They should arrive shortly. Please contact the Parish Office at 732.251.4000, if you do not receive them by the middle of January.

Rosary for Life—January 19, 2024

Come Pray a Rosary for Life (in solidarity with those at the March for Life in Washington DC and across the country). Bishop Checchio is scheduled to attend! Friday, January 19, 2024, at 1:00 pm, on Main Street in Woodbridge. Park and meet in the St. James Parish parking lot at 12:45 pm (369 Amboy Ave, Woodbridge, NJ) There is a 12:10 pm daily Mass at St. James, for those who wish to attend. For more information, contact amarshall @ diometcuhen.org or call 732-562-1543.



Stress in Your Marriage?

- Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage?
- Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse?
- Have you thought about separation or divorce?
- Does talking about it only make it worse?

Retrouvaille is a Lifeline to Help Couples Heal and Renew their Marriages sponsored by the Office of Family Life, Diocese of Metuchen, NJ.

Retrouvaille consists of a weekend experience for married couples (no group discussions) with four follow-up sessions. The upcoming weekend is **February 2-4, 2024**. All inquiries are confidential. Please contact Rich Colasuonno 732.236.0671 or Annette Colasuonno 732.672.0748 or email 3024@helpourmarriage.org.



Thanks to everyone who came out to participate in our Advent Wreath making activity!



PLEASE CHECK IF YOU HAVE

ENVELOPE NUMBER 1944 OR 1952

Please call Lisa in the Parish Office: 732.251.4000 ext.8211 and let her know so you may receive proper credit for your contribution.

MARCH FOR LIFE - January 19th

Three parishes will be running buses to the March for Life in Washington DC on January 19, 2024. Please call and reserve your spot.

St. Francis Cathedral - Metuchen

Contact: Kara Kwiatkowski 732-548-0100 ext. 210

St. John Vianney - Colonia

Contact: Carolyn Glodek 973-394-4626

St. Philip & St. James - Phillipsburg

Contact: Colleen Wolters 908-454-9880



Dear Saint Thomas the Apostle Church,

Thank you so much for your generosity and support of our Baby Bottle Blessings Fundraiser!

Christ is alive and present here!

Your beautiful hearts raised an amazing
\$5,677.03!

Words cannot express our gratitude to you!

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 or just need a hand to help right now. Your **LIFE** affirming support gives families hope! **YOU** celebrate **LIFE** right alongside us!

GOD loves you!

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!

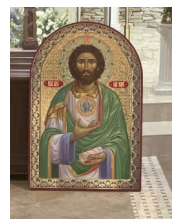
Please know that you are in our daily prayers of Thanksgiving.

Your friends at
Life Choices

ST. JUDE THE APOSTLE

St. Jude is known as the Apostle of the Impossible, is revered for his unwavering dedication and steadfast faith. Millions have experienced his intercession in times of adversity and need.

On December 12th, 2023, St Thomas the Apostle Church had the honor of hosting The Arm of St. Jude the Apostle. Approximately 2300 faithful came to pray to St. Jude.





Dear Parent(s),

An invitation to
"Baby's First Christmas."

On the Feast of the Epiphany, Sunday, January 7th, 2024 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 7th. Please phone the Pastoral Center 732.251.4000 **no later than Wednesday, January 3rd**, 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.

In Christ Jesus,
Rev. Jerome Johnson
Pastor

**CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2024-2025 TUITION
ASSISTANCE ONLINE APPLICATION**

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than **March 31, 2024**. 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.



Parents who are having their first child baptized are required to attend a Baptism Preparation session in advance.

Next class: this **Tuesday, January 23, 2024 - 7:30pm**
Parish Room of the Pastoral Center. **Registration required.**
The Sacrament of Baptism is a sacred event regulated by Church (Canon) Law. Any questions - call 732.251.4000.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anonymously Recommended: Bob Andrews, Anthony Androvich, Ronald Atlak Sr, Walter Blais, Edmund Crookhorn, Chet Dudek, Anthony D., Joseph Fricano, Patricia Howley, Pat & Rudy Maurer, Barbara McMillian, Daniel Mechkowski, Rita Murray, Ernie Nocera, Frank Ranelli, Lucia Rella, Salvatore Sodano, Joseph Vasham, Isilio Villa, Nell White.

*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 their home or local hospital.
Contact the Parish Office at 732.251.4000. If a name no longer needs*

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS FOR DECEMBER

Dec. 1	# 1409	Dec. 17	#1488
Dec. 2	# 206	Dec. 18	#1189
Dec. 3	#289	Dec. 19	#680
Dec. 4	#677	Dec. 20	#59
Dec. 5	#504	Dec. 21	#143
Dec. 6	#487	Dec. 22	#728
Dec. 7	#610	Dec. 23	#321
Dec. 8	#527	Dec. 24	#223
Dec. 9	#1211	Dec. 25	#715
Dec. 10	#1318	Dec. 26	#970
Dec. 11	#692	Dec. 27	#1207
Dec. 12	#1351	Dec. 28	#131
Dec. 13	#1243	Dec. 29	#1169
Dec. 14	#1076	Dec. 30	#514
Dec. 15	#837	Dec. 31	#1064
Dec. 16	#248		

Join the
Immaculate Conception
Columbiettes
at
**BUNCO
NIGHT**
Roll The Dice and
Join The Fun!
on
January 19, 2024
at
6:00 pm
Dice Roll at 7:00 pm

Knights of Columbus
Crescent Ave, Spotswood

Coffee & Tea will be
served.
Bring a snack or dessert
to share!

To Reserve Your Seat(s) Contact:
Nadine 732-690-7933
or
Miriam 732-446-3650
Payment due January 12, 2024

**\$15.00
to play**

Cash bar

**50/50
RAFFLE**

Dear Family and Friends of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish,

Help us kick off our 2023 Annual Fund with a BANG!



Your support is a vital part of our mission at Saint Thomas the Apostle School, and we cannot thank you enough for that. As we embark on another year of hard work and big goals, we want you to know that your generosity this year is as important as ever. Donations can be made by filling out the remittance envelope found at the rear of the church or online via our website www.sttaob.com. Once on our site, scroll across the home page banner to the Giving tab and click on 2023-2024 Annual Fund on the drop down menu and scroll down to the gold donate button. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Theology of the Eucharist

The Office of Ongoing Faith Formation will be offering a 12-week Adult Enrichment Course entitled "Theology of the Eucharist" on twelve consecutive Thursdays, starting January 4 through March 21, 2024 from 10am-11:30am. The course will be offered at the St. John Neuman Pastoral Center located at 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ. Admission is \$15 for all twelve classes. Please register at www.diometuchen.org/faith-formation. For more information, please email amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732.562.1543.

2024

HAPPY
New Year

**The Table at St. Thomas
Saturday, January 13, 2024**

Pickup 12 PM - 1:30 PM [note time change]

We will be distributing dinners to take home.

To reserve your dinner, please call 732.609.1499
or email ChrisDoyle167@gmail.com

Pickup between 12 PM-1:30 PM at:
St. Thomas the Apostle Church
333 Highway 18 Old Bridge, NJ



Thanksgiving

In this season of Thanksgiving, why not celebrate your marriage and its many blessings by attending 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 February 16 - 18.

Please apply ASAP as space is limited.
Phone 1-732-904-9636 for application and information (Tom & Ruth DeFalco).

Visit us at: www.wwme.org for more information.



BLOOD DRIVE St. Thomas RC Church

Saturday, January 13th

8:00am-2:00pm

333 Route 18, Old Bridge



**Appointments preferred: Scan the QR code above or
call 1-800-933-2566, or visit www.nybc.org**

https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/311022

Please remember to eat, drink, and bring your ID with your name and photo. Appointments are preferred however walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits.
www.nybc.org/coronavirus for COVID-19 safety protocols.



800.933.BLOOD • nybc.org #nybloodcenter