

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 21, 2024

Pastor:

Rev. Jerome A. Johnson

Parochial Vicars:

Rev. John M. Rozembajgier, JCL

Rev. Joseph Thippabathini

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

Director 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



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 21, 2024

| | |
|------------------|--|
| SATURDAY | JANUARY 20 |
| 4:00pm | Patrica Higgins r/o Yesis Family |
| SUNDAY | JANUARY 21 - THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME |
| 8:00am | Joseph Fumando Sr. r/o Yock Family |
| 10:00am | Maria Fiore Wilson r/o Jim & Maryanne Donoghue |
| 12:00pm | For Our Parishioners |
| MONDAY | JANUARY 22 |
| 8:00am | Anthony & Willie Mae Yancosky r/o Fred & Amy Bernstein |
| 12:00pm | Daniel Mahoney r/o Gerry Tier |
| TUESDAY | JANUARY 23 |
| 8:00am | Vincent Napoli r/o Marvin & Jennifer Obler |
| 12:15pm | Theresa Toolen—Veverka r/o John Veverka |
| WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 24 - St. Francis deSales |
| 8:00am | James Siravo r/o Son, Sonny Siravo |
| 12:15pm | Michael Agolia r/o Mark & Mary Agolia |
| THURSDAY | JANUARY 25 - The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle |
| 8:00am | Joann Rozembajgier r/o Fr. John Rozembajgier |
| 12:15pm | Barbara Hathaway r/o Nellie Moran |
| FRIDAY | JANUARY 26 - St. Timothy and St. Titus, Bishops |
| 8:00am | Gladys Wilson r/o Joseph & Georgiana Vele |
| 12:15pm | Mary McKeown 13th Anniv. r/o Hudock & Lynch Families |
| SATURDAY | JANUARY 27 |
| 4:00pm | Barbara Hathaway r/o Chris Doyle |
| SUNDAY | JANUARY 28 - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME |
| 8:00am | John Wanat r/o Pat Andolfi |
| 10:00am | For Our Parishioners |
| 12:00pm | Frank Fetyko r/o Vingara Family |

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

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

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

Daniel Black, Joseph Lucciola
and Kevin Roy

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, Paul & Vivian Montalban, Rita Murray, Ernie Nocera, Frank Ranelli, Lucia Rella, Salvatore Sodano, Eileen Stolte, 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 to be on our list.



"We must not separate our life from the Eucharist. The moment we do so, something shatters"

- St. Teresa of Calcutta

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*

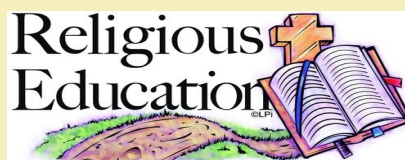
*Online Giving... Visit our website to get started:
www.saintthomasob.com or other ways to give:*

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



*The collection for January 13th/14th....\$14,121
Second Collection "Together in Charity"....\$2,700*

THANK YOU!



Confirmation:

PREP Confirmation Candidates only:

Our next mandatory session is **Monday, January 22nd 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 .

All Confirmation Candidates must sign the Mass attendance book (red binder) located on the right side of the church near the front. Please arrive a few minutes early or stay after Mass to sign the book. **Please do not sign the book during Mass or after receiving Communion.**

Communion

There will be a Parent Meeting this Tuesday, January 23rd at 4:30pm **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 church.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

Mark 1:17

Jesus' call to "follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order . Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule, but that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

Advertising in our Bulletin

Do you know we have 3000 + families registered here at St. Thomas the Apostle. What better way to advertise your business.

We need and appreciate your help!

Thanks to all our current advertisers!



Cor Program



The men of Knights of Columbus Council No. 4815 are excited to share the implementation of Cor, a new formation and fraternal opportunity for the men of St. Thomas the Apostle parish. Cor exists to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, and fraternity. Cor will be held at 8 am on Saturday, February 3rd (and the following Saturday's) in the Parish Center. Come join your brother parishioners for prayer and fraternity.



The Table at St. Thomas

Saturday, February 10, 2024

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

We will be distributing dinners to take home.
Come and pick up your dinner at
St. Thomas the Apostle Church
Please RSVP to chrisdoyle167@gmail.com
or call 732-609-1499

PLEASE BE SURE TO PICKUP BETWEEN 12:00 & 1:30

RIGHT TO LIFE

Over 60 million abortions since 1973 reflect the heart-breaking magnitude of what Pope Francis means by a "throw away culture." And while Roe v Wade was overturned on June 24, 2022; right now state and federal laws are still hostile to unborn children in many instances. So, great prayer, sacrifice and advocacy are still needed. In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22nd shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for the violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

ST. MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL PRAYER

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our safeguard against the wiles and wickedness of the devil. Restrain him O God, we humbly pray, and do thou O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin and destruction of souls. Amen

2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

Please complete and return this form to the Parish Office, place in the collection, or mail to: St. Thomas Church
One Saint Thomas Plaza, Old Bridge, NJ 08857
PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE OFFICE!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____

ENVELOPE #: _____

Jan 20, 2024

Calling all 6th to 8th graders
Join us at 4pm Mass
stay afterwards for

**Admission
to the movie:**

Donation of
TP or Paper Towels
for STA Food Pantry



Movie TBD:

Any recommendations you have
Email: kvrkc@aol.com or
text: 732-586-0303
Dynamic Catholic Kids

THANK YOU!



St. Thomas Parish and St. Thomas Knights of Columbus would like to thank all those who assisted or donated at our Winter Blood Drive. We are especially grateful to the St. Thomas Maintenance Staff and the NJ Blood Services Staff for creating a safe and secure environment for the donors. We are also very grateful to the Texas Roadhouse, Route 9, Old Bridge for their continued generous support of our blood drive by providing gift certificates to be used as a donor door prize. We were credited with 110 units of blood. Once again, St. Thomas responded to the emergency blood shortage.

FLOCKNOTE.COM ...

*..is a simple way for us to communicate with you via email or text! Simply register for **Flocknote.com** and follow the instructions it's so easy!*

DEACONS TABLE SPAGHETTI DINNER



February 21, 2024
4:00pm-6:00pm
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 stitmas@sttaob.com or
Call the parish office at 732.251.4000



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 Re-new 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.

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS FOR JANUARY 1-16

| | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|-------|
| Jan. 1 | # 1218 | Jan. 2 | # 946 |
| Jan. 3 | # 1217 | Jan. 4 | # 69 |
| Jan. 5 | # 675 | Jan. 6 | # 94 |
| Jan. 7 | # 405 | Jan. 8 | # 821 |
| Jan. 9 | # 1213 | Jan. 10 | # 951 |
| Jan. 11 | # 327 | Jan. 12 | # 233 |
| Jan. 13 | # 65 | Jan. 14 | # 965 |
| Jan. 15 | # 29 | Jan. 16 | # 425 |

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.

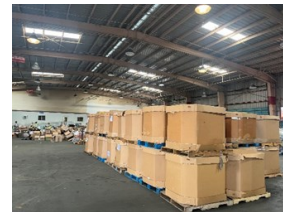
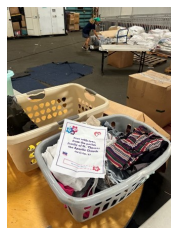
January - Holy Name of Jesus

St. Paul was in a very special way the preacher and doctor of the Holy Name. At first, he was a fierce persecutor of the church, moved by false zeal and hatred of Christ. Our Lord appeared to him on the road to Damascus and converted him, making him the great Apostle of the Gentiles and giving him his glorious missions, which was to preach and make known His Holy Name to kings and princes, to the Jews and Gentiles, and to all nations and people.

St. Paul filled with a burning love for Our Lord, began his great mission, uprooting paganism, casting down the false idols, confounding the philosophers of Greece and Rome, fearing no enemies and conquering all difficulties - all in the Name of Jesus

MAUI CLOTHING DONATION UPDATE

One of the volunteers in Maui reached out to us to thank us for our amazing donation! He grew up in the area and was surprised and touched that we sent such a big donation. Here are a few pictures he shared.



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.



Catholic Schools

OPEN HOUSE AT
SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28TH
FROM 11:00AM TO 1:30PM



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL * WWW.STTAOB.COM

PRAYER BLANKET

Anyone who needs spiritual, mental or physical comfort, and can benefit spiritually from a prayer blanket, contact the Pastoral Center: 732.251.4000



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).

2024
ChoicesMatter
A CRITICAL LIFE ISSUES CONFERENCE
March 16, 2024
St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway, NJ

EVIE WEST
'REVOLVING CHOICES
PLAYING ROULETTE WITH LIFE'
AUTHOR, PRO-LIFE SPEAKER
ADOPTION ADVOCATE

JIM TOWEY
'ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA
TO LOVE IS A CHOICE'
AUTHOR, CONSULTANT
AND PERSONAL FRIEND OF
ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

KEVIN DUNN
'PROPHETS OF HOPE
IN A CULTURE OF FEAR'
AWARD WINNING FILM MAKER
INTERNATIONAL PRO-LIFE SPEAKER

FEATURING EXHIBITS, EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSION

GENERAL ADMISSION \$35
STUDENT ADMISSION \$15
Admission includes lunch and hand-outs

OPENING MASS WITH BISHOP CHECCHIO AT 9:00 AM
CONFERENCE SESSIONS BEGIN AT 10:15 AM



SCAN QR
CODE TO
REGISTER
OR REGISTER AT
WWW.DIOMETUCHEN.ORG/CHOICESMATTER