

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 18, 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:

Daniel Neff

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



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 18, 2024

SATURDAY 4:00pm	FEBRUARY 17 Stan D'Mello r/o D'Mello Family
SUNDAY 8:00am 10:00am 12:00pm	FEBRUARY 18 - FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT Dorothy Argondizzo r/o Geraldine Tier Barbara Romaine r/o Tim & Maryanne Donoghue Ann Major r/o Crochet Club
MONDAY 9:00am	FEBRUARY 19 Debra Becker r/o Sorrentino Family
TUESDAY 8:00am 12:15pm	FEBRUARY 20 Michael Costagliola r/o Costagliola Family Robin Mohr r/o The Giugliano Family
WEDNESDAY 8:00am 12:15pm	FEBRUARY 21 Francis Foley r/o Patricia Flaherty Margo Blair r/o Jesse Bachonski & Neo Santos
THURSDAY 8:00am 12:15pm	FEBRUARY 22 - The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle George Inserra r/o George Inserra (Son) Carol Tabori r/o Glenda Levenstein
FRIDAY 8:00am 12:15pm 7:00pm	FEBRUARY 23 Lottie Cappelletta r/o Carole Astuni Mary Ruffe r/o Fillimon Family Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY 4:00pm	FEBRUARY 24 For Our Parishioners
SUNDAY 8:00am 10:00am	FEBRUARY 25 - SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Lauretta Michalak r/o Fillimon Family Vilma Liposky r/o Tom & Janet Liposky

DECEASED + LOVED ONES

*Henry M. Haden, Patricia A. Daley
&
Joseph Lane*

Lenten Quotes

"God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy."

- Pope Francis

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anonymously Recommended: Bob Andrews, Anthony Androvich, Ronald Atlak Sr, Walter Blais, Edmund Crookhorn, Chet Dudek, Anthony D., Joseph Fricano, Joanne Howard, Patricia Howley, Joseph Lane, Pat & Rudy Maurer, Barbara McMillian, Daniel Mechkowski, Paul & Vivian Montalban, Rita Murray, Ernie Nocera, Frank Ranelli, Lucia Rella, Salvatore Sodano, John Soporowski, Eileen Stolte, Irene Sutton, Rich Szuminsky, 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.

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 February 10th/11th...\$ 14,764
Winter Heating Collection ...\$2,888*

THANK YOU!

Catholic Press Month

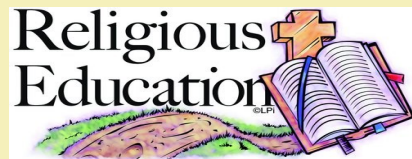
Please put your envelope in the regular collection.

Thank you for your support!

PLEASE NOTE:

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 19th in Observance of President's Day.

There will only be one Mass at 9:00am.



Confirmation:

PREP Candidates only:

Our next mandatory session is **Monday, February 26th 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. **DO NOT sign the book during Mass or after receiving Holy Communion.**

Liturgy of the word with Children at the 10:00am Mass:

Children in Grades K-8 are invited to go to the Pastoral Center, listen to the Readings, share a reflection and Prayers of the Faithful on their level. Children are well supervised and returned to their parents during the Presentation Hymn for the Eucharist. We will meet every Sunday in Lent.

2024 Lenten Obligations



- ◆ The days of both fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (March 29).
- ◆ The other Fridays of Lent (Feb. 23, Mar. 1, 8, 15, and 22) are days of abstinence.
- ◆ Fasting in the Roman Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal with two smaller which together do not equal the size of your full meal. The obligation of fasting applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59.
- ◆ Abstinence in the Roman Catholic tradition means to abstain from eating meat (beef, chicken, pork, turkey, etc.) The obligation of abstinence applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14.
- ◆ Fridays at 7pm - Stations of the Cross





St. Thomas the Apostle's
FUNRaising Committee
is offering a

"Simple Soup Supper"

Enjoy Homemade Meatless Soup
before the Stations of the Cross

March 8th, 15th and 22nd
Join us anytime between 5:30pm- 7pm
in the Pastoral Center.

This is a free event

Cor Program



The Knights of Columbus Council No. 4815 is excited to share the continuation of the Cor Program with all parishioners as we prepare ourselves for Lent. We continue to strive to be better disciples by developing a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation and reflection. Cor is being held each Saturday morning at 8:00am in the Parish Center. Come join your brother parishioners for prayer and fraternity.

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 sttmas@sttaob.com or
Call the parish office at 732.251.4000

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
Attn: Jennifer Bachonski.
PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE OFFICE!

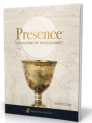
NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____

ENVELOPE #: _____

FAITH SHARING



Faith Shaping Group is presenting a video,
workbook, and discussion group for Lent.
There will be morning or evening sessions on
Thursdays starting February 22 at 10:30-noon
or in the evening 7-8:30pm.

Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist explores the
truth and beauty of Christ's real presence in the
Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture, to its
profound role in the life of the Church and her members.
It explores the heart of the entire story of salvation.

This is the last weekend to register!

You can also reach out to Marilyn at 732.735.5907 or
email marilynarmyk@gmail.com, by Feb.20th.

How to Pray the Daily Examen

1. Place yourself in God's presence. Give thanks for God's great love for you.
2. Pray for the grace to understand how God is acting in your life.
3. Review your day — recall specific moments and your feelings at the time.
4. Reflect on what you did, said, or thought in those instances. Were you drawing closer to God, or further away?
5. Look toward tomorrow — think of how you might collaborate more effectively with God's plan. Be specific, and conclude with the "Our Father."

First Sunday in Lent

"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God..."

Mark 1:14

Have you ever thought about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to go to Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that He was proclaiming. It took great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, living a stewardship lifestyle takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that He will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

MASS BOOK 2025 OPENING FEBRUARY 20TH AT 10:00AM

MASS INTENTIONS FOR 2025

**PLEASE NOTE THAT EACH FAMILY CAN
HAVE A TOTAL OF 3 MASSES**

ONE WEEKEND MASS
AND
TWO WEEKDAY MASSES

NO MASS INTENTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS

HOLY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY
HOLY SATURDAY, EASTER SUNDAY
MOTHER'S DAY, FATHER'S DAY
SEPTEMBER 11TH
CHRISTMAS DAY

MASS INTENTION OFFERING \$10
CANDLES/ALTAR BREAD & WINE \$25
MONTHLY MEMORIAL MASS \$5

FAMILY CRAFT NIGHT

Join us in making "Pretzels for Lent" and a
"Crown of Thorns" as we continue to
prepare for Lent.



DATE: Saturday, February 24, 2024

TIME: 5:00 pm
(immediately following the 4:00 pm Mass)

WHERE: Pastoral Center

COST FOR MATERIALS: \$5.00/family
(payable at door)

**Register now to reserve your family's spot.
Contact by email or phone.**

MaryAnne Donoghue: tdmaatwest@gmail.com
732-673-2354

OR

Elizabeth Soporowski: easoporowski@gmail.com
732-501-9938

2024 Bishop's Annual Appeal

STAY WITH US, LORD

Renew our Hearts and Send Us on Mission

"Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32)

Just as the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus "set out at once" to share their experience of the Risen Lord with others, we too are inspired to go out into the world and tell everyone we meet of His love and grace. Your gift to the Bishops' Annual Appeal supports the work of the Vicariate for Evangelization and Communication. Responsible for our website, social media platforms, videos, podcasts and written content about our Catholic faith, the Evangelization & Communication ministry is essential to how we expand our effort to share the Gospel message and make his love known to all. More and more, we have come to understand that these tools are necessary for reaching people where they live and work. A gift of any amount is important and greatly appreciated.

Dynamic Catholic Kids

6-8th Graders

Please join us for

FAITH, FELLOWSHIP & FUN

Sunday, February 25th

in the Parish Center

immediately following 12 o'clock Mass

See you there!

SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL'S
MOTHERS CLUB PRESENTS:

49TH ANNUAL BASKET RAFFLE

- TICKET -

**50/50
\$250,000**

SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH

TAKE ME HOME

ADMISSION AND PACKAGE
DETAILS/ PURCHASING IN THE
LINK BELOW

EARLY REGISTRATION - VIP:
JAN. 24TH - FEB. 2ND

DOORS OPEN:
4:30 PM EARLY REGISTRANTS VIP
5:00 PM GENERAL ADMISSION

[HTTPS://WWW.STJOES.ORG/PARENTS/parents-club/basket-raffle.com](https://www.stjoes.org/parents/parents-club/basket-raffle.com)

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.

PARISH SECRETARY NEEDED

Most Holy Redeemer
133 Amboy Road
Matawan, NJ 07747

Start date: mid-May 2024.

Responsibilities include assisting the pastor with clerical work and minor administrative and business details.

Experience required: must be a mature, courteous, cordial, and effective communicator, good computer and typing skills, knowledge of Word, Excel and Publisher, excellent organizational skills, general knowledge of office procedures and familiarity with office equipment.

Office hours: Monday through Friday 9am-3pm (Summer 9am – 1pm)

Hourly wage

Inquiries should be made to the pastor during business hours 732.566.9334.

2024
Choices Matter
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



BE A BUDDY or FIELD CREW.... JUST 4kixs

BUDDIES: Just4kixs is looking for responsible teens to be a buddy to a child with special needs. Just4kixs has been teaching soccer to children with special needs for 16 years. If you are between the ages of 12- 19 you can be a buddy and friend to a special child.

You do not need any soccer experience to be a buddy. All you need is patience, enthusiasm, and a friendly smile. You will work alongside a child with special needs for one hour each Saturday for 8 sessions.

You will receive 12 hours of community service for completing the 8-week Spring program and an additional 2 hours for attending our buddy training class as well as a lifetime of memories for sharing your time. We need about 200 buddies each season, bring your friends to sign up as well.

FIELD CREW: Our field crew is a HUGE part of this program. They are responsible for setting up the field each week. Since we have 5 different teams and over 120 players, we need as much help as possible to make a smooth transition into play time.

We have two field crew managers who will explain the job to be done and oversee the set up and clean up. Ages 10 & up can be part of our field crew team. Field crew will NOT work with a child on the field, they are simply responsible for set up and clean up.

You will receive 16 hours of community service for completing the 8-week Spring program and an additional 2 hours for attending our field crew training class.

We can assure you it will be one of the best and most rewarding experiences you will ever have.

Register online:

Sign up is easy, visit the www.just4kixs.org or go to www.oldbridgesc.com

Spring season begins Saturday, April 6, 2024

Season ends Saturday, June 1, 2024

Playtime is (11:30 am-12:30pm)

Additional info...please email Linda Giasullo

vgpg03@gmail.com

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.