

# *Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School*

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 25, 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](http://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



## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 25, 2024

<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 24</b>
4:00pm	For Our Parishioners
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 25 - SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT</b>
8:00am	Lauretta Michalak r/o Fillimon Family
10:00am	Vilma Liposky r/o Tom & Janet Liposky
12:00pm	Frank Bellina r/o Wife, Children & Grandchildren
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 26</b>
8:00am	Martha & Robert Salmon r/o Daughter Kathy
12:00pm	Monthly Memorial
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 27</b>
8:00am	Gloria Ubertaini r/o Julie & Henri Torenli
12:15pm	Susan McCarron r/o Fillimon Family
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 28</b>
8:00am	Cheryl Heiss r/o The Harris Family
12:15pm	Norma Tamborini r/o Barbara Tamborini
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 29</b>
8:00am	Antonio Toto r/o STA Rosary Society
12:15pm	Rita Claire Fitzsimmons r/o Chris Doyle
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 1</b>
8:00am	Carole Corcoran r/o Lora Corcoran
12:15pm	Charles Donnelly r/o Donnelly Family
7:00pm	Stations of the Cross
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 2</b>
4:00pm	Barbara Romaine r/o Gerry & Michael Martin
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 3 - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
8:00am	For our Parishioners
10:00am	Dorothy Johnson r/o Family
12:00pm	Vicente & Teresita Manalastas r/o Carmen Valerio & Family

The **Sanctuary Candle** in the Church for this week burns in memory of: **Martha & Robert Salmon** r/o Daughter Kathy



### 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](http://www.saintthomasob.com)

[www.facebook.com/pages/St-Thomas-the-Apostle-Church-Old-Bridge-NJ](https://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](http://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 17th/18th...\$ 11,850  
Ash Wednesday February 14th....\$5,582*

**THANK YOU!**

## Catholic Press Month

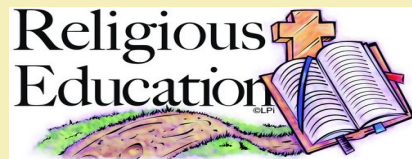
Please put your envelope in the regular collection.

**Thank you for your support!**

## Lenten Quotes

*"Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring"*

*- St. Catherine of Siena*



## Confirmation:

### PREP Candidates only:

Our next mandatory session is tomorrow **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 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**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.

### HOLY NAME SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>** - Communion Breakfast in the Pastoral Center after 10am Mass - Guest Speaker - Parish Committee Forum. Cost \$20 pp.

**Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>** - Somerset Patriots -vs- New Hampshire Fisher Cats \$40 pp. More information to come!

**Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup>** - Site and Sound Theater Lancaster, Pa. Time 7am - 7:30pm. The show "Daniel" and Bird-in

### **ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS**

In our OCIA sessions, we welcome all who desire to learn more about the Catholic faith. If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or know someone who is, please have them contact me. For some, this may be an opportunity for a "refresher course" in the Faith. Our classes are weekly. Please invite anyone you know who may be interested in the Catholic Church. Registration is required. - Deacon Pat Hearty -732.251.4000 ext. 8218.

### 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!**

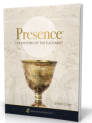
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:marilynarmyk@gmail.com), by Feb.20th.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY  
SPONSORING

### **CASINO TRIP**

**Monday March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024**



### **TROPICANA CASINO**

On the Boardwalk in Atlantic City, NJ  
Bus Trip Leaving 9:00 am to 7:00pm

\$50 per person getting back \$20 Casino Voucher  
George Szymanski John Thornton  
732-238-5743 732-763-3280



## Second Sunday in Lent

*"Here I am! He answered."*

*Genesis 22:11*

It is easy to say, "Here I am, Lord" when we are kneeling in church. But how easy it is to say "Here I am, Lord" when a neighbor needs our help, or when we are invited to join a parish ministry, or when we are asked to provide financial support. Often times we are called when it's not convenient for us. Discipleship is not easy, most of the time it will make us uncomfortable and vulnerable.



**The Table at St. Thomas  
Saturday, March 9, 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](mailto:chrisdoyle167@gmail.com)  
or call 732-609-1499

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

## **2024 Bishop's Annual Appeal**

***STAY WITH US, LORD***

***Renew our Hearts and Send Us on Mission***

Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal supports a number of diocesan ministries dedicated to faith formation. Through Discipleship Formation for Children and our Catholic schools, Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Campus Ministry at Rutgers and the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, we are reaching out to children, teens, young adults and older adults new to our Catholic Church. These ministries help people of all ages grow in their knowledge and practice of the faith, experience a meaningful sense of service to the community, and come to a deeper understanding of their call to discipleship. Please prayerfully consider a gift today.

## **Dynamic Catholic Kids**

**6-8th Graders**

**Please join us for**

**FAITH, FELLOWSHIP & FUN**

**in the Parish Center**

**immediately following 12 o'clock Mass**

**See you there!**

## **CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY 1-15**

Feb. 1	# 327	Feb. 9	# 401
Feb. 2	# 191	Feb. 10	# 1442
Feb. 3	# 1045	Feb. 11	# 373
Feb. 4	# 479	Feb. 12	# 919
Feb. 5	# 545	Feb. 13	# 294
Feb. 6	# 1178	Feb. 14	# 978
Feb. 7	#1283	Feb. 15	# 754
Feb. 8	#836		

## **BLOOD DRIVE**

**Most Holy Redeemer Parish  
133 Amboy Road, Matawan, NJ 07747**



New Jersey Blood Services will be conducting a blood drive at Most Holy Redeemer Parish on Thursday, February 29, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in Desmond Hall. At this time, the blood supply is critically low – **PLEASE HELP.**

Remember to eat, drink, and bring your Donor ID or ID with your name and photo.



January 31, 2024

Reverend Jerome A. Johnson  
St. Thomas the Apostle  
1 St Thomas Plaza  
Old Bridge, NJ 08857

Chair of the Board  
Neil Black  
President & CEO  
Kerry Alys Robinson  
Episcopal Liaison  
The Most Reverend  
Frank J. Dewane  
Bishop of Venice, FL

Dear Father Jerome,

On behalf of Catholic Charities USA, thank you for your critical support of our mission to serve people, families and communities in need. Your generous gifts totaling \$6,326.00 in 2023 made this noble work possible, and we are truly grateful.

The 168 Catholic Charities agencies around the country are committed to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable members of their communities. Their clients face a wide variety of complex challenges, but they all have something in common: they need help, they need mercy, and they know that they can find both at Catholic Charities.

Your support last year helped nourish hungry senior citizens and children, rebuild communities reeling after natural disasters, provide affordable housing for families on the verge of homelessness, and much more. Together, the Catholic Charities network brought relief, dignity, and hope to more than 15 million people across the country and its territories.

Thank you again for your selfless commitment to helping our vulnerable sisters and brothers. Please know of my continued prayers for you and your family.

With deep gratitude,

*Kerry Alys Robinson*

Kerry Alys Robinson  
President & CEO

Your donation is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.  
No goods or services were considered in exchange for this gift.



2050 Ballenger Avenue, Suite 400, Alexandria, VA 22314 | Phone: 571-527-3295 | Fax: 703-549-1728  
[www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org)

## 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](http://www.diometuchen.org/faith-formation). For more information, please email [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto: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.

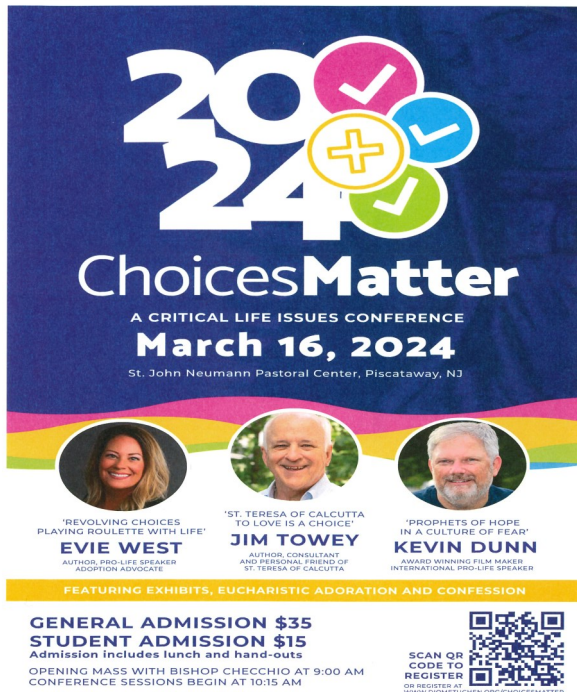
Responsibilities include assisting the pastor with clerical work and minor administrative and business details.

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](http://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](http://www.just4kixs.org) or go to [www.oldbridgesc.com](http://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](mailto: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.