

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 3, 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



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 3, 2024

SATURDAY	MARCH 2
4:00pm	Barbara Romaine r/o Gerry & Michael Martin
SUNDAY	MARCH 3 - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
8:00am	For our Parishioners
10:00am	Dorothy Johnson r/o Family
12:00pm	Vicente & Teresita Manalastas r/o Carmen Valerio & Family
MONDAY	MARCH 4
8:00am	Bob Reale r/o Michelle & RJ Reale
12:00pm	Eleanor LaFata r/o Annette Hopman
TUESDAY	MARCH 5
8:00am	Michael Costagliola r/o Costagliola Family
12:15pm	Valentim J. Neves r/o Robert Badillo Jr.
WEDNESDAY	MARCH 6
8:00am	Frank E. Davis r/o Anne Marie & Robert Pohlman
12:15pm	Jose & Teresita Yap r/o Malixi Family
THURSDAY	MARCH 7
8:00am	Patricia McInerney r/o Bruce & Claire Stankiewicz
12:15pm	Margo Blair r/o Lois & Ed Bachonski
FRIDAY	MARCH 8
8:00am	Jude Wilson r/o Ranelli Family
12:15pm	Steve Schultz r/o Erin Kelleher
7:00pm	Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY	MARCH 9
4:00pm	Barbara Romaine r/o Al & Gloria Grima
SUNDAY	MARCH 10 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
8:00am	Stella Wanat r/o Pat Andolfi
10:00am	For Our Parishioners
12:00pm	Kathleen Clements r/o Mike & Barbara Clements

The **Sanctuary Candle** in the Church for this week burns in memory of: Henry Hayden
r/o Linda & Matt Gunther



The **Mary Candle** in the Church for this week burns in memory of: Kelly Doherty
r/o Anthony & Teri Cutrone



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 24th/25th...\$ 15,351

THANK YOU!

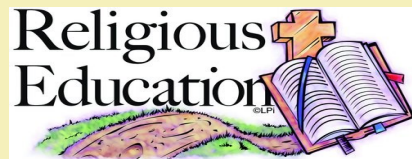
Catholic Press Month

Please put your envelope in the regular collection.

Thank you for your support!

Bishop's Annual Appeal 2024

Our Goal - \$88,000
Amount Received - \$25,416.50



Confirmation:

PREP Candidates only:

Our next mandatory session is tomorrow **Monday, March 4th 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

Lenten Quotes

"Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may go to heaven."

- St. Rose of Lima



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



Lord Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, grant to our young people the generosity necessary to follow Your call and the courage required to overcome all obstacles to their vocation. Give the parents faith, love and spirit of sacrifice which will inspire them to offer their children to God's service and to rejoice whenever one of their children is called to the priesthood and religious life. Let your example and that of Your Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph encourage both young people and parents and let Your grace sustain them. Amen.

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. Cor is being held each Saturday morning at 8:00am in the Parish Center. Come join your brother parishioners for prayer and fraternity.

Tentative Schedule:

- 3/2** - Daily Prayers in the Parish Center.
- 3/9** - Teaching Mass in Church.
- 3/16** - Reconciliation (Penance) in the Parish Center
- 3/23** - Holy Week Presentation in the Parish Center.

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 #: _____

YOUTH MINISTER MEET UP & FORMATION DAY

at **St. John Neumann Pastoral Center**
146 Metlars Ln. Piscataway, NJ

Theme: Marketing the Mission!

-Recruiting Youth and Volunteers into your Youth Ministry
-Practical Tips & Hacks for Youth Ministers, Volunteers, and Parish Leaders

DATE: MARCH 9, 2024
LOCATION: ST. JOHN NEUMANN PASTORAL CENTER, ROOM C/F
TIME: CHECK IN BEGINS AT 9 AM. DAY RUNS 9:15 AM - 1:45 PM.
COST: \$15 (LUNCH IS PROVIDED)

Keynote Speaker:
Chris Bartlett, Ablaze Ministries

Please Visit our Website for More Information and to Register by March 4th:
<https://www.diometuchen.org/ymtraining>

HOLY NAME SOCIETY
SPONSORING

CASINO TRIP

Monday March 4th, 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
732-238-5743

John Thornton
732-763-3280

Second Sunday in Lent

"You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything..."

Exodus 20:4

How many "gods" do you put before God? "Idols" do not always take the shape of physical things, things we can touch and feel. Those are easy to recognize. Many times they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot like pride, power, ego, time, comfort or health. Pray for God's help to prune our vices and to grow in virtue.



**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
or call 732-609-1499

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

HOLY NAME SOCIETY
Sponsoring

PARISH REFLECTION

Saturday – March 23, 2024 – 10 am to 1pm
In the Pastoral Center

Featuring film

"MOTHER TERESA"

Her heart found the forgotten, her faith found a way.



And
Deacon Joseph Tobin Guest Presenter

Cost is a Donation to Food Bank
Prior to Retreat
Join us for a great day of Parish Fellowship

St. Thomas the Apostle's 2024

Altar Server Installation. God Bless them!



HOLY NAME SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Saturday July 13th – 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.

ADULT ENRICHMENT CLASSES WORLD RELIGIONS

St. John Neumann Pastoral Center
146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway

10 Classes April 18 – June 27, 2024

Thursday 10:00AM – 11:30AM

Fr. Comandini, S.T.D. will teach about Hinduism - Buddhism - Judaism - Christianity - Islam

To register visit: www.diometucvhen.org/faith-formaiton.

For more information email:

amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732.562.1543



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.