

# *Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 17, 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



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 17, 2024

<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 16</b>
4:00pm	Stan D'Mello r/o D'Mello Family
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 17 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
8:00am	Mr. & Mrs. James Cutrone r/o Anthony & Terri Cutrone
10:00am	Grandparents Flynn & Boyle r/o Marge Boyle
12:00pm	For Our Parishoners
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 18</b>
8:00am	Florence Filizof/ Janet & Tim Seell
12:15pm	Joann Apruzzi r/o Andy & Peggy Diaz
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 19 - ST. JOSEPH SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>
8:00am	Theresa Toto r/o Tim & MaryAnne Donoghue
12:15pm	St. Joseph r/o Bellina Family, Josephine & children
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 20</b>
8:00am	Ed Fernandez r/o Nick & Patti Casertano
12:15pm	Florence & John Moran r/o Nellie & Marty
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 21</b>
8:00am	Earl Christopher Reyes r/o Reyes Family
12:15pm	David Howarth r/o Dolores & Michael Ambrosio
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 22</b>
8:00am	John Kosovich Jr. r/o Harris Family
12:15pm	Mark Brower r/o Chris Doyle
7:00pm	Mary's Way of the Cross
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 23</b>
4:00pm	Bill, Regina, Billy & Sonny r/o Lewandoski Family
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 24 - PALM SUNDAY</b>
8:00am	For Our Parishioners
10:00am	Stan D'Mello r/o Stella Cavallo
12:00pm	Eugene Hadden r/o Ed & Beth Stefanski

*The Mary Candle in the Church for this week burns in memory of: Bellina Family  
r/o Josephina Bellina & Family*



*The Sanctuary Candle in the Church for this week burns in memory of: Christine LoPresto  
r/o Kathy Salmon*



## 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, Sienna Franco, Anthony D., Joseph Fricano, Joanne Howard, Patricia Howley, 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.*

## DECEASED + LOVED ONES

Harold Maresco, Maryann Spector

## 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 March 9th/10th...\$ 17,363

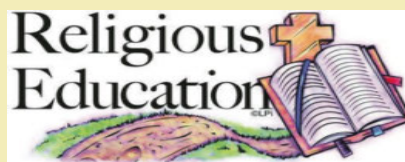
THANK YOU!

## Bishop's Annual Appeal 2024

Our Goal - \$88,000  
Amount Received - \$38,983

## DONATIONS

If you would like to make a donation to the St. Thomas Tricky Tray, please drop it off at the Pastoral Center.  
Thank You!



## PREP Candidates only:

Our next mandatory session is tomorrow **Monday, March 18th from 6:45 - 8:30pm in St. Thomas School.** Please arrive promptly!

## Confirmation:

Confirmation will be celebrated Wednesday, April 17th at 4:00pm. Confirmation rehearsal will be on Monday, April 15th at 6:00pm in the Church. Sponsor or parent must attend rehearsal with student.

## 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.



## Lenten Quotes

*"Lenten fasts make me feel better, stronger, and more active than ever."*

- St. Catherine of Genoa



Lord Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, grant to children/grandchildren the generosity necessary to follow Your call and the courage required to overcome all obstacles to their vocation. Give us faith, love and spirit of sacrifice which will inspire us to offer our children to God's service and to rejoice whenever one of our 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.



### COME CELEBRATE THE PASSOVER SEDER OF THE LORD

All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders  
are invited to join us  
Wednesday, March 27, 2024  
6:00 to 9:00pm in the Parish Center.

*Bring a Friend*

DINNER WILL BE SERVED.  
RSVP by Monday March 18, 2024  
to Mrs. Valerie Romer  
at: [kvrkc@aol.com](mailto:kvrkc@aol.com) or text 732-586-0303



### DEACONS TABLE EASTER DINNER



March 20, 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 dinner at  
St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

Please RSVP to [sttmas@sttaob.com](mailto:sttmas@sttaob.com) or  
Call the parish office at 732.251.4000

### CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS FOR MARCH 1—15

Mar. 1	# 283	Mar. 9	# 1291
Mar. 2	# 872	Mar. 10	# 674
Mar. 3	# 313	Mar. 11	# 1080
Mar. 4	# 928	Mar. 12	# 759
Mar. 5	# 829	Mar. 13	# 1380
Mar. 6	# 459	Mar. 14	# 1191
Mar. 7	# 154	Mar. 15	#1164
Mar. 8	# 1188		



**The Table at St. Thomas**  
**Saturday, April 13, 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**

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



### Fifth Sunday in Lent

*"I will be their God and they shall be my people..."*  
Jeremiah 31:33

What does it mean to be God's people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our family, our neighbors and for people we don't know, just as God cares for each of us.

### **CHRISM MASS TUESDAY, MARCH 26 - 4:00PM**

On Tuesday, March 26, 2024, Bishop James F. Checchio will celebrate the Chrism Mass with the priests of the Diocese. At this Mass, all priest will make a Renewal of Commitment to priestly Service to the Bishop and the People of God. The Bishop will also bless and consecrate the Holy Oils, which each parish receives for the rites of anointing.

The Oil of Catechumens is used to anoint infants and adults before their Baptism; the Oil of the Sick is used on the forehead and hands of the infirm in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, and the Sacred Chrism is used to anoint the hands of a priest at his ordination, the altar and walls of new churches.

All are strongly encouraged to join in person or via Livestream in the ancient, grace-filled Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen at 4:00pm.



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**

### 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 13<sup>th</sup>** - Sight and Sound Theater Lancaster, Pa. Time 7am - 7:30pm. The show "Daniel" and Bird-in-Hand Restaurant and Bus \$180pp.

### 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:**

**3/23** - Holy Week Presentation in the Church.

### 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-formation](http://www.diometucvhen.org/faith-formation).

For more information email:

[amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org) or call 732.562.1543

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

**STAY WITH US, LORD**

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

By now you have received a letter from the Bishop inviting your participation in the 2024 Bishop's Annual Appeal. The diocesan ministries supported by the Appeal directly impact many of the parishioners here at St. Thomas. Your gift provides formation opportunities for our catechists, youth and young adults. In the coming days, you will receive a letter from our pastor, encouraging your participation. If you have not yet made your gift, please prayerfully consider doing so today by either returning your pledge card in the mail or going to the secure website: <https://diometuchen.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.



## 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)

# 20 24 DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY

LIFE WITH CHRIST IS A WONDERFUL ADVENTURE

APRIL 20, 2024 / 10:30 AM-5:00 PM  
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL, EDISON



CHIKA ANYANWU  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Throughout the course of this day, 8th-12th grade teens from across the diocese will come together to enter into the sacrament of the Mass, have fun with one another, hear talks from our keynote speaker Chika Anyanwu, have the opportunity for Adoration and Confession, enjoy live music, good food, and more!

**COST: \$20** Per Person

**Register  
Today!**

Scan QR code or visit  
[www.diometuchen.org/diocesan-youth-day](http://www.diometuchen.org/diocesan-youth-day)



## **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.



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James T. Fife, Manager, NJ Lic. No. 2873

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DShaller@4LPi.com • (800) 477-4574 x6458

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