# Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** 

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2024** 

#### PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

"To make disciples, as we know, love and serve one another"

#### Pastor:

Rev. Jerome A. Johnson

#### **Parochial Vicars:**

Rev. John M. Rozembajgier, JCL Rev. Jojappa 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:**

**Andrea Madonna** 

#### **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!



# TWENTY – FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14** 

8:00am Richard England r/o Kathy Salmon 4:00pm Vincente Manalastas r/o Carmen Valerio &

Family

Priest of the Day: Rev. Joseph L. Desmond

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15 - TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

8:00am Antonio DeSello r/o DeSello Family

10:00am For Our Parishioners

12:00pm Joan Szuminksy - Novellino r/o Family

Priest of the Day: Rev. Manuel Diaz

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16 - STS. CORNELIUS AND CYPRIAN

8:00am Ann & Frank Major r/o Peter, Laura, & Lisa 12:15pm Gerald & Mary McKeown r/o Hudock & Lynch

Families

Priest of the Day: Rev. Paul Dziatkiewicz

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17

8:00am Carolyn Petry r/o Tim & Mary Ann Donoghue 12:15pm Teri Gibson r/o Tara & Rebalance Massage Team

Priest of the Day: Rev. Timothy Eck, II

**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18** 

8:00am Danny Murphy r/o Jack & Jeanette McCarthy 12:15pm Cederic Lester G. Magaway r/o Ricardo, Luz

and Carlo Magaway

Priest of the Day: Rev. Bonfilio Enriquez

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 19

8:00am Jean D'Alessandro r/o George Inserra 12:15pm Margaret Matthews r/o Michael & Barbara

Clements

Priest of the Day: Rev. Martin Espinoza

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20 - STS. ANDREW KIM TAE-GON & PAUL CHONG HA-SANG

8:00am Maureen Baldacchino r/o Mills-Iacouzzi Families

12:15pm Deborah Blonder r/o Sonny Siravo

Priest of the Day: Rev. Mhonchan Ezung

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21** 

8:00am Irene Jadwinski r/o Frank Boysa

4:00pm Gerald & Marguerite Heath r/o Mark & Mary

Agolia

Priest of the Day: Rev. Msgr. William Fadrowski

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22 - TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00am Anna & James Opramolla r/o Ruocco Family 10:00am Dan & Marcella Treacy r/o The Loney Family

12:00pm For Our Parishioners
Priest of the Day: Rev. George A. Farrell

#### DEMENADEDING LOVE

**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.

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.

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 <a href="mailto:three-weeks">three-weeks</a> before the scheduled Baptism. <a href="mailto:PARENTS">PARENTS</a> must attend a Baptismal Preparation Session. (Registration is required.)

#### **MARRIAGES:**

Arrangements must be made at least one year in advance—<u>before</u> 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 serious 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 ...

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anonymously Recommended: Anthony Aurilia, Walter Blais, Edmund Crookhorn, John Derenoski, Cathy Duh, Catherine Franken, Clark French, Walter Gladowski, Thomas La Marca, Mary Margett, Pat & Ruby Maurer, Barbara McMillan, Paul & Vivian Montalban, Ernie Nocera, Frank Ranelli, Lucia Rella, Bob Samaco, John Soporowski, Eileen Stolte, Irene Sutton, Rich Szuminsky, Joseph Vasham, Isilio Villa.

Please pray for all the sick. (Names will remain on our sick list for <u>one month</u>, 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

#### **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/P1381
- Scan the QR code below
- *Use your envelopes*



Weekly Collection Aug. 31st & Sept. 1st....\$14,686 Weekly Collection Sept. 7th & 8th....\$15,520 St. Peter's Pence...\$ 2,575

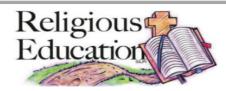
THANK YOU!

# 2024 Bishop's Annual Appeal Renew our Hearts and Send Us on Mission

Our Goal - \$88,000 Amount Received - \$ 99,439.50

#### **Vocations Prayer**

Jesus, make me your disciple,
With your joy fill me,
By your love form me,
In your hope lead me,
Show me the vocation that you desire for me,
The path to love and follow you. Amen!



#### PREP REGISTRATION

If you have not registered for PREP classes, please do ASAP. You can register online at <a href="https://www.saintthomasob.com">www.saintthomasob.com</a> and click on the Religious Education tab. Registration forms are also available in the Pastoral Center.

#### WE NEED YOU!!

Serve as a Catechist or Catechist Aide...WHY?

- The best way to learn is to teach.
- Your own faith will come alive.
- You become an active participant in one of the essential responsibilities of a Church community.
- You assist in bringing Christ to others.
- You practice stewardship.
- You become a role model.
- Being a Catechist brings joy.
- A Catechist helps young people come to Christ and the riches of our faith by teaching PREP classes.

If interested....Call the PREP Office at 732.251.1660

#### **PARENTS:**

Classes begin: Monday, September 16th Tuesday, September 17th Thursday, September 19th

### **EUCHARIST**

"Our sharing in the Body and Blood of Christ has no other purpose than to transform us into that which we receive."

- Pope St. Leo the Great

# From the Upper Room to the Resurrection: September 30<sup>th</sup>, October 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the Pastoral Center

As we continue the Eucharistic Revival, all are invited to join Fr. Jay for an exciting **Bible Study** that will cover the **Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper to the Resurrection of Jesus** as told in the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke. All you need is a Bible and an open heart! Please call the Parish Office to let us know you are coming!

#### ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE



Priesthood, Consecrated Life, Sacramental Marriage and Single Life

<u>Vocation</u> — A vocation is God's invitation to love and serve him and his Church in a particular way of life. It is a call to live on earth in a way that will impact eternity. The word itself is derived from the Latin word *vocare* which means 'to be called.'

<u>Priest</u> — A man is ordained to the priesthood through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Diocesan priests are called to serve the people of a particular diocese like Fr. Jay, Fr. John and Fr. Joseph serve the people of the Diocese of Metuchen. Men called to be priests in religious orders belong to communities like the Franciscans and the Benedictines. Counsels.

Religious Life — Priests, brothers, monks, sisters, and nuns who separate themselves from the world to some degree according to their religious institute's mission and purpose to witness the coming of the Kingdom of God. This radical witness is made through the public profession of the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and is a permanent commitment made in a specific religious institute recognized by the Church.

<u>Sacramental Marriage</u> — A covenant between baptized man and a woman and establishes a partnership of the whole life, which is ordered toward the good of the spouses and procreation and education of offspring.

<u>Single Life---</u> A divine call to holiness that some people choose to live out for their entire lives. It's a state of life that's just as significant as marriage or priesthood or religious life. Those called to the Single Life live a chaste life. Single people can serve the Church in a variety of ways, such as proclaiming the Gospel, helping care for other families, studying and praying, and mentoring and teaching.

# worldwide marriage encounter

#### Marriage Encounter

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to enrich your marriage, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage.

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held October 18 - 20.

Please apply ASAP as space is limited.
Phone 1-732-904-9636 for application and information (Tom & Ruth DeFalco).

Visit us at: **www.wwme.org** for more information.

#### **DEACONS TABLE**



September 18, 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.

# Blessing of Athletes and Artists at the Children's Mass

We will be having our Children's Mass on Saturday, September 21st at 4:00 p.m. All athletes and artists are welcome to wear their jerseys, performance attire (modest) and bring their cleats, bats, balls, musical instruments, paint brushes any equipment that they use for their talents for a special blessing at the Mass.

# CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS FOR SEPTEMBER 1 - 15

Sept. 1	# 1129	Sept. 9	# 28
Sept. 2	# 902	Sept. 10	# 450
Sept. 3	# 238	Sept. 11	#1409
Sept. 4	# 578	Sept. 12	# 330
Sept. 5	# 1385	Sept. 13	# 154
Sept. 6	# 507	Sept. 14	# 350
Sept. 7	# 380	Sept. 15	# 1273
Sept. 8	# 1466		

#### **Music Ministry**

Do you sing, play an instrument, want to be part of the music ministry?

Now is the time to join!

Rehearsals for the Adult Choir take place on Thursday nights at 7:30pm in the church. The Adult Choir sings at the 10am Mass on Sundays.

The Children's Choir will have their first rehearsal on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm in the Church. The children will sing at the 4pm Mass on the second Saturday of the month. Speak to Dan for more information after mass or e-mail him at

Dneff@saintthomasob.com

#### The Faith Sharing group will be presenting:

#### A Powerful Study on the Blessed Mother

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of Mary's earthly life, taking you through her joys and her sorrows. You will learn how she works in our lives today, drawing us ever closer to her divine Son. Seeing Mary in this way will change you forever. She will become part of your daily life and help you to become more like Christ.

Beginning September 12<sup>th</sup> and for 8 weeks there will be 3 different sessions:

Thursday 10am-12pm Thursday 7-9pm Saturday 10am-12pm

Call Marilyn Harmyk at 732.735.5907 or email:marilynharmyk@gmail.com.

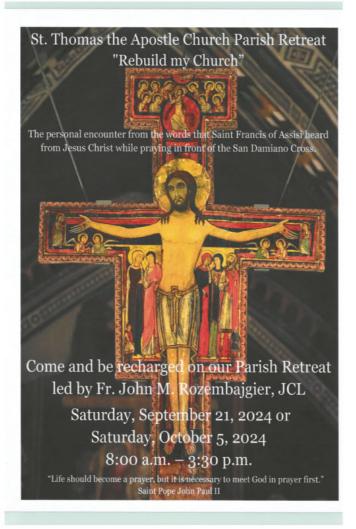


We all need a time and place where we can go and quietly reflect. We all have personal challenges that make us tired and weary. We all search for hope and peace in such a busy and noisy life. As Christians we believe real Hope is found in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Come and allow his presence to heal and nourish you.

We invite you to four Holy Hour's this year focused specifically on the Real Presence of Christ. This will be a time for you to hear readings relevant to our lives, music that will help you to reflect, and a message of Hope. We will gather afterwards for refreshments and small table discussions. You can find more information on our website: <a href="https://saintthomasob.com/">https://saintthomasob.com/</a>

#### **Encounter School of Ministry Prayer Teams**

Available after Mass on September 29th at 12pm.



#### **Be a Champion for Catholic Charities**

You are invited to join CHAMPIONS for CATHOLIC CHARITIES—a community of individual and corporate benefactors who support the vital services for our neighbors in need provided by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Over 60,000 people are helped each year through more than 100 programs in the New Jersey counties of Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Warren. Catholic Charities continues to work each day to renew hope and bring wholeness to those broken in body and spirit, and we invite you to join us in putting love into action by becoming a CHAMPION for CATHOLIC CHARITIES.

Go to <u>www.diometuchen.org/champions</u> to make a gift or download a raffle form to purchase a ticket. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated. Checks should be made payable to Champions for Catholic Charities and mailed to Champions for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, PO Box 191, Metuchen, NJ 08840-0191. Questions may be directed by email to <u>champions@diometuchen.org</u> or by phone to 732-562-2432.

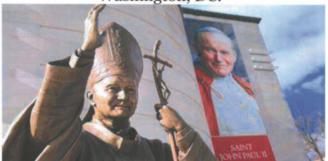




"Open wide the Doors to Christ in Your Life!"

Join Fr. John Rozembajgier on Pilgrimage to the

National Shrine of St. John Paul II in Washington, DC.



Saturday, September 28, 2024 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. \$140.00 (per person) (cash or check)

Price includes the Total Freedom Tour Package of transportation to and from Washington, DC; a tour of the National Shrine of St. John Paul II; Exhibit on St. John Paul II; the Rosary; Mass celebrated in the Luminous Mystery Chapel; a delicious lunch; the Divine Mercy Chaplet; and fun and excitement along the journey. Please note that if you are paying by check, please make check out to: St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Thank you and look forward to you joining us in this pilgrimage of a lifetime.

#### **OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)**

# September 15, 2024 - 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's gospel, Jesus himself asks: who do you say I am? Just before that, the disciples told Jesus what other people say. And as if with the force of an electric shock, Peter makes his declaration. Simply: You are the Christ. That is: you're not just one more in the line of prophets. In fact you're the central reference point for all human history. Is there someone in your life who would like to know more about Jesus Christ? Invite your relative or friend to call Lisa Giuliano at the parish office, 732-251-4000 ext. 8218 for information on OCIA. Our Inquiry sessions began last week. Inquiry Sessions are opened to anyone who is unbaptized, baptized into another Christian Denomination or baptized Catholic but has not received BOTH sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

#### SAVE THE DATE!!!

October 26th - 2pm

Parish Pilgrimage to Old St. Thomas the Apostle on Old Bridge Turnpike, Old Bridge, NJ with Fr. John Rozembajgier and Fr. Iaroslav Korostil

#### June 2025

In the Footsteps of John Paul II, Italy and Poland with Fr. John Rozembajgier. More information to come.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE



Priesthood, Consecrated Life, Sacramental Marriage, and Single Life



#### September 29, 2024

Please join St. Thomas the Apostle Vocation Ministry on this special day, Priesthood Sunday, in praying for our priests, in praising God for their courage and their generosity. Along with prayer, the Vocation Ministry invites you to take a moment after Mass to write a note of appreciation to one or all our priests. Let Fr. Jay, Fr. John and Fr. Joseph know something they have done that has impacted you personally to assure them of your loving care and gratitude for their presence in the life of our church community. God bless our priests!





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Resurrection Cemetery Hoes Lane & Park Ave., Piscataway

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