Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

"To make disciples, as we know, love and serve God and 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 – FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23 - ST. PIUS

8:00am Carolyn Petry r/o STA. Rosary Society
12:15pm Joan Labdon r/o Michael & Barbara Clements

Priest of the Day: Rev. Eugeniusz Fasuga

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 24

8:00am Linda Wood r/o Stephen & Maria Wood 12:15pm Michael Lynch r/o Michael & Sean Bennett

Priest of the Day: Rev. Msgr. John N. Fell

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25

8:00am John Tschinkel r/o Tom Tschinkel

12:15pm Albertina M. Neves r/o Melanie Iwanaszyn

Priest of the Day: Rev. Frank Fellrath

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26

8:00am Jennifer Tubolino r/o Desiree & Joseph

Abenante

12:15pm Marilyn Veverka r/o John Veverka

Priest of the Day: Rev. Luke Fletcher

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27 - ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

8:00am Gabrielle Noa Abbate r/o Mary O'Mara &Family 12:15pm William M. Homa r/o Gary & Joann Holland

Priest of the Day: Rev. Michael Fragoso

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28

8:00am John Betchkal r/o Fillimon Family

4:00pm Mary H. Lang r/o Michael & Barbara Clements

Priest of the Day: Rev. Msgr. David I. Fulton

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29 - TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00am Michael J. Weiss r/o Loving wife, Maria

10:00am Margaret & Thomas Devery r/o Acquilynn & Bill

Devery

12:00pm For Our Parishioners

Priest of the Day: Rev. Timothy Kinyua Gatitu

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 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—<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 ...

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: 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 Sept. 14th - 15th....\$12,645 School Support Sept. 15th...3,247

THANK YOU!

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

Our Goal - \$88,000 Amount Received - \$ 99,795.50

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 Class begins:

Monday, September 16th - Special Needs Tuesday, September 17th - Levels 1-7 Thursday, September 19th - Levels 1-7

Level 1 Parent Meeting in St. Thomas the Apostle Church

Tuesday, September 24th at 4:30pm Thursday, September 26th at 6:15pm

Confirmation

- Mass Attendance Beginning the weekend of 9/21-9/22 All candidates MUST sign the Mass Attendance Binder or get a bulletin signed from the Church they attended and submit it to the PREP Office.
- ♦ 9/23 All CONFIRMATION PAPERWORK AND SERVICE HOURS ARE DUE!! Submit all paperwork to the PREP Office, PRER students can bring it to their first confirmation session.
- ◆ Monday, 9/23 First Confirmation Session for PREP students from 6:45pm— 8:30pm in St. Thomas the Apostle School.

FEUCHARIST

"Through adoration, the Christian mysteriously contributes to the radical transformation of the world and to sowing of the gospel. Anyone who prays to the Saviour draws the whole world with him and raises it to God"

- Pope St. John Paul II

From the Upper Room to the Resurrection: September 30th, October 7th and 15th 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



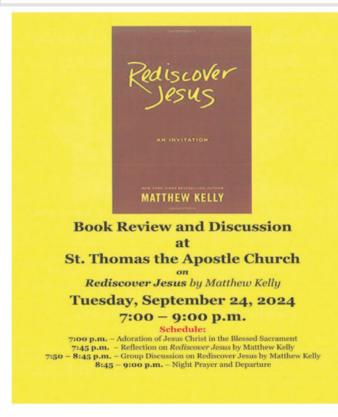
Priesthood, Consecrated Life, Sacramental Marriage and Single Life

<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.

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.



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!

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 3rd 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

Stewardship Scripture Reflection

September 22, 2024 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Mark 9:35

Jesus teaches us that we are called to love one another. Love involves sacrifice. Sacrifice is a word that many of us don't like to hear. We think it means that we must give up something that we want. However, the literal meaning of sacrifice is "to make holy," from the words "sacer" = sacred and "facere" = to make. In other words, when we sacrifice, we make our lives holy by sharing our gifts in the service of God.



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 12th 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: https://saintthomasob.com/

Encounter School of Ministry Prayer Teams

Available after Mass on September 29th at 12pm.





Life Choices Resource Center "Baby Bottle Blessings"

St. Thomas is hosting a "Baby Bottle Blessings" Campaign for **Life Choices Resource Center** which is based in Metuchen.

For over 39 years, **Life Choices** has been serving women and families in our local communities by offering **FREE** services and support. We offer hope and friendship for those facing crisis pregnancies and post abortion healing. WE are "Walking with Moms in Need."

By supporting the "Baby Bottle Blessings" campaign, you are assisting our families and helping to **spread the Gospel of Life** while building a legacy of Love with our precious clients.

We would be most grateful if you would take home a bottle or an envelope and return it with your donation (cash, check or credit card information) by October 13th. Donations also can be mailed directly to: **Life Choices Resource Center**, 503 Main Street, Metuchen, NJ 08840 *or* made on-line at *www.Life ChoicesRC.com* or by using the QR code.

Your gift will help us serve our Lord's most precious creation!

Thank you! You are in our prayers!

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)



September 22, 2024 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Despite the actions of Christ up until this point in the Gospel, the disciples continue to find the reality of His kingdom difficult to believe. They desired glory and praise for keeping the company of Jesus and following His path. And do not I continue to seek a path of ease, joy and comfort even as a Christian apostle? Is there someone in your life who would like to know more about Jesus Christ? (Adapted from www.Catholicmom.com). 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 in early September. Inquiry Sessions are open to anyone who is unbaptized, baptized into another Christian Denomination or baptized Catholic but has not received BOTH sacraments of Confirmation and rist.

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.

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