## Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School

**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** 

**SEPTEMBER 29, 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 – SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28**

8:00amJohn Betchkal r/o Fillimon Family4:00pmMary H. Lang r/o Michael & Barbara ClementsPriest 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 Milogros Villarosa (living int.) r/o Mr. & Mrs.

Alberto Benson Priest of the Day: Rev. Timothy Kinyua Gatitu

#### MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30 - ST. JEROME

8:00am Marie Darezzi r/o Michael & Dolores Ambrosio 12:15pm Monthly Memorial Priest of the Day: Rev. Juan Carlos Gaviria

#### TUESDAY OCTOBER 1 - ST.THERESE

8:00am Geraldine Golembeski r/o Michael & Barbara Clements

12:15pm Theresa McLaughlin Crowe r/o Children *Priest of the Day: Rev. Timothy Kinyua Gatitu* 

#### WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2 - HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

8:00am Teresa Silagan r/o Robin Bagadion 12:15pm Deceased Family Members of Mary Nocera r/o Nocera Family

Priest of the Day: Rev. John C. Gloss

#### **THURSDAY OCTOBER 3**

8:00amAnn Inserra r/o George Inserra12:15pmThomas Edgell r/o Russo FamilyPriest of the Day: Rev. Msgr. John B. Gordon

#### FRIDAY OCTOBER 4 - ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

8:00amAntonia B. Reyes r/o Reyes Family12:15pmPauline Siravo r/o Son, Sonny SiravoPriest of the Day:Rev. Robert G. Gorman

#### **SATURDAY OCTOBER 5**

8:00am Charles Starkey r/o Jeanne & Jerry Goll 4:00pm Nancy Stahley r/o St. Thomas Seniors Club Priest of the Day: Rev. Piotr Grezskiewicz

#### SUNDAY OCTOBER 6 - TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00amFor Our Parishioners10:00amCharles & Kathleen Donnelly r/o Donnelly Family12:00pmThomas & Rosa Federico r/o son, Anthony &<br/>Rosalie Federico

Priest of the Day: Rev. John C. Grimes

#### 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

Ms. Michelle Loney
Ms. Lisa Sorrentino
Ms. Jennifer Bachonski
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 <u>three</u> weeks before the scheduled Baptism. <u>PARENTS</u> 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.

#### **<u>REMEMBERING</u>** 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: <u>www.saintthomasob.com</u> or other ways to give:

- visit https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/P1381
- Scan the QR code below
- Use your envelopes



Weekly Collection Sept. 21st - 22nd....\$13,659

THANK YOU!

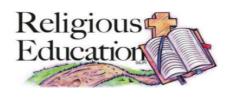
#### 2024 Bishop's Annual Appeal

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

Our Goal - \$88,000 Amount Received - \$100,095.50

#### **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!** 



### <u>Liturgy of the Word for Children - Begins 10/6 during the 10:00 am Mass</u>

On the first and third Sunday of the month we invite all children grades K-8 to join us for Liturgy of the Word for Children. The priest will call all children into the center aisle and they will process to the Chapel where they will her the Gospel, Sing, Pray, and have a discussion on their level. They will return to you during the Offertory Hymn.

The **Sanctuary Candle** in the Church this week burns for our Priests Fr. Johnson, Fr. Rozembajgier and Fr. Thippabathini.



-STA Vocation Ministry

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

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

## **FEUCHARIST**

"When the Sisters are exhausted, up to their eyes in work; when all seems to go awry, they spend an hour in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. This practice has never failed to bear fruit: they experience peace and strength."

- St. Teresa of Calcutta

#### **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.

## 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.

<u>**Religious Life**</u> — 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.

#### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



The annual blessing of the animals in honor of St. Francis of Assisi will be at 1:00pm on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Grotto.

#### 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.

#### JUBILEE 2025 TRIP TO ITALY

Join Fr. Jay September 22<sup>nd —</sup> October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025 - Rome/Assisi & 6 night River Cruise to Venice and the Vento Region More information to follow!

## 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!

#### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The purpose of the **Parish Pastoral Council** is to exercise shared responsibility for the pastoral life of the parish under the leadership of the pastor. The **Parish Pastoral Council** (**PPC**) meets bi-monthly and is charged with providing Fr. Jay with guidance and support in meeting the present future goals and visions of the parish.

We would like to thank **Maryanne Donoghue** whose term as President recently concluded. We thank her for her Faith, dedication, and valuable leadership! **If you would like to be considered for** <u>**Parish Council member or President**</u>, please call the parish office and submit your name for consideration as soon as possible.

#### Table at St. Thomas



October 12, 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 <u>chrisdoyle167@gmail.com</u> or call 732-609-1499

#### Be a Champion for Catholic Charities and Put Mercy into Action 50/50 RAFFLE DRAWING ~ NOVEMBER 1, 2024

We might never know the recipients of our Works of Mercy or the impact our financial gift had on their lives. Consider the family that was helped by Catholic Charities during a period of unemployment and is now on the path to self-sufficiency or, the person whose struggle with addictions is being alleviated through our Catholic Charities' counseling services. Who would guess that becoming a Champion for Catholic Charities by purchasing a raffle ticket could have such far-reaching results. When a community responds in generosity, that is exactly what happens.

By entering our Champions 50/50 Raffle, you are helping our neighbors in need and you just may win one of the two grand prizes. *Over the years, the prize for this raffle has reached as high as \$40,000 <u>each for two lucky winners!</u> With your participation, we are hoping for even greater success this year. Tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased by <u>downloading a raffle form</u> at <u>www.diometuchen.org/champions</u> and mailing it in with your payment or by calling 732-562-2432. Thank you and good luck!* 

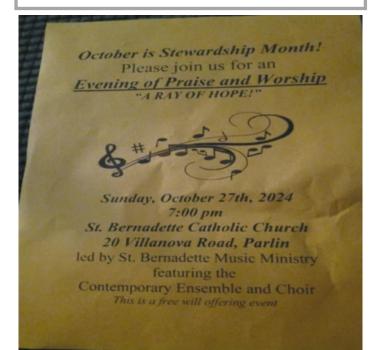


#### **Stewardship Scripture Reflection**

#### September 29, 2024 - 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward." Mark 9:41

We are made in God's image and likeness. We tend to forget this. When you look at others, do you see the face of Jesus in them? When others look at you, do they see the face of Jesus in you? When we realize that all lives matter to God, then gratitude and generously become easier. Why? Because that's the way we are made! We are one Body of Christ; when one of us is hurting, all of us feel the pain.





#### 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 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 29, 2024 - 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

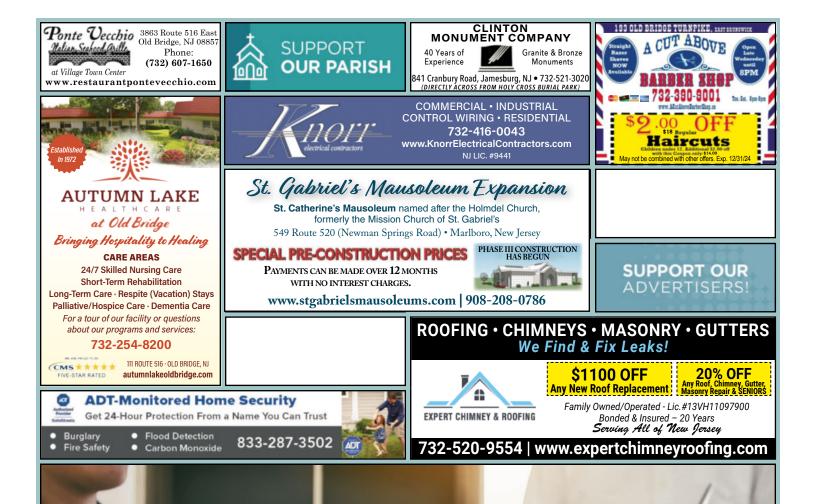
Today's Gospel reading seems violent! Losing a hand, eye, or foot is no laughing matter. We rarely stop to think about them, but we rely on these body parts during every moment of our waking hours. Jesus' intent in this teaching, however, is not that we should aim ourselves in an attempt to live a sin-free life. Instead, we're asked to consider an underlying question: What do I hold so tightly that it can become an obstacle to living the way that Christ is calling me to live? And - how is that? Is there someone in your life who would like to know more about Jesus Christ? (Adapted from www.Catholicmom.com). Our Inquiry sessions began in early September. Inquiry Sessions are opened to anyone who is unbaptized, baptized into Denomination or baptized Catholic another Christian but has not received BOTH sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Call Lisa at 732-251-4000 ext. 8218 for more information.

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

Available after Mass on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 12pm.







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