

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School

THIRTY– FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 3, 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: Telephone -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

THIRTY– FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2

8:00am Juan Jiminez r/o Daughter
4:00pm Vincent & Josephine Torricelli r/o Daughter
Rosalie Federico

Priest of the Day: Rev. Bede Kim

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3 - THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00am For Our Parishioners
10:00am Marilyn Veverka r/o John Veverka
12:00pm Charlotte Guarino r/o Maureen & John Nigro

Priest of the Day: Rev. James King 'ori

MONDAY NOVEMBER 4 - SAINT CHARLES BORROMEIO

8:00am August J. Garbellotto r/o Robert, April & Michael
Zelinskas
12:15pm Salvatore & Rosalie Panepinto r/o Panepinto
Family

7:00pm Mass of Remembrance
Priest of the Day: Rev. Vernon Kohlmann

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5

8:00am William Isola r/o Barbara Inserra
12:15pm Ted Taylor r/o Mark & Mary Agolia

Priest of the Day: Very Rev. Robert B. Kolakowski

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 6

8:00am Charlotte Guarino r/o STA Rosary Society
12:15pm Andrew Lanza r/o Gerry & Mike Martin &
Family

Priest of the Day: Rev. Kenneth R. Kolibas

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 7

8:00am Carl Manganaro r/o Kerrie Lopez
12:15pm Joan E. Donoghue r/o Tim & Maryann Donoghue

Priest of the Day: Rev. Vibin T. Kollanur

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8

8:00am August J. Garbellotto r/o Enzo Fusco & Kathy
Tolson
12:15pm Regina, Billy, Sonny, & Bill r/o Family

Priest of the Day: Rev. David B. Kosmoski

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9

8:00am Dolores & Peter Sukosky r/o Mary & George
Byrne
4:00pm Robert Badillo Sr. r/o Melanie Iwanaszyn

Priest of the Day:

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10 - THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00am For Our Parishioners
10:00am Helen & Joseph Malkiewicz r/o Irene & Eleanor
12:00pm Jim Nasto r/o 5:30 Ushers

Priest of the Day: Rev. Joseph A. Krajewski

Welcome to the Parish Family of St. Thomas the Apostle Church!

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
Telephone: 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 Telephone: 732.251.4812

PREP Telephone: 732.251.1660

Contact Information:

Website: www.saintthomasob.com

Facebook: 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

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 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 or by appointment by calling the Parish Office.

HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS: Parishioners desiring the Sacraments, please contact the Parish Office.

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES . . .

Sanctuary Candle/Mary Candle, lit for one week in Church, available during daytime by contacting the Parish Office.

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, Sylvia Bowman, Edmund Crookhorn, John Derenoski, Cathy Duh, Catherine Franken, Clark French, Walter Gladowski, Thomas La Marca, Mary Margett, Pat & Rudy Maurer, 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 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.sainthomasob.com or other ways to give:*

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



Weekly Collection October 26th -27th....\$ 13,486

THANK YOU!

Attention all Ushers

There will be an Ushers meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 6th, at 7:30pm in the **Church**. Please save the date and make every effort to attend our meeting.



Hope and Healing Concert

"Tony, Tony my wish for you is to continue giving hope to all the people all the people"

– St. John Paul II

Saturday, November 16, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Free Will Offering



PREP NEWS

Next Liturgy of the Word for Children is November 10th at the 10:00 AM Mass.

We need help during PREP on Thursdays during class 6:00 – 7:30pm. Call the PREP Office if you can help!

Confirmation Gathering is Monday, November 18th at 6:45pm in church. MANDATORY for all CONFIRMATION students. One parent must attend with their child. Guest speaker Fr. Paul Houlis.

No PREP Class on November 4th, 5th or 7th.

PREP Thanks for Giving Food Drive has begun. Notices and emails have gone home listing the items needed. Any questions call the PREP Office at 732.251.1660.

IMPORTANT PARENT MEETING FOR RECONCILIATION
Please attend either Tuesday, November 12th at 4:30pm or Thursday, November 14th at 6:15pm in the church for a brief meeting. Attend whichever day works best for you. Any questions call the PREP Office at 732.251.1660.



Eucharistic Adoration



Eucharistic Adoration is the act of worshiping God as He is present in the consecrated Eucharist. Since the Last Supper, when Jesus broke the bread and distributed the wine saying, "This is my Body" and "This is my Blood," Catholics have believed that the bread and wine are no longer merely baked wheat and fermented grape juice, but the actual living presence of the Second Person of the Trinity—Jesus Christ. Spending time before the Blessed Sacrament, in prayer and devotion, is exactly the same as spending time before the Living God. Adoration occurs whenever someone kneels in front of a tabernacle that contains the Blessed Sacrament, genuflects toward a tabernacle, bows before receiving the Blessed Sacrament at Mass, or, in a more focused way, when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for Adoration. Join us every First Friday in 2024 - November 1, and December 6. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues from the conclusion of 8:00 am daily Mass on First Friday until the beginning of 12:15 pm Mass that very same day. Please come and embrace Jesus in which you say to Him: "I am yours, and I ask you, please stay with me always." -Pope Benedict XVI

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**

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4 AT 7:00PM

During this liturgy we will remember the name of each parishioner who passed away this year (October 1, 2023 – September 24, 2024). As your loved one's name is read, a relative or friend will come forward to receive a candle and place it to the right of the altar. All are welcome to join us for this liturgy.

Light refreshments will be served following Mass.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1333, tells us that; "At the heart of the Eucharistic celebration are the bread and wine that, by the words of Christ and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, becomes Christ's Body and Blood. Faithful to the Lord's command the Church continues to do, in his memory and until his glorious return, what he did on the eve of his Passion: "He took bread...", "He took the cup filled with wine..." The signs of bread and wine become, in a way surpassing understanding, the Body and Blood of Christ."

Communion for the Homebound

If you or your loved ones are homebound and cannot attend Mass to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, please contact Lisa Giuliano at 732-251-4000 ext. 8218 to have one of our ministers bring the sacrament in a home visit.

Table at St. Thomas the Apostle



Saturday, November 16, 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

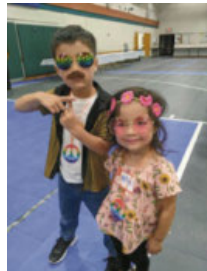
ADULT SACRAMENT PREPARATION - RCIA

Are you searching for God? Are you interested in becoming a Catholic? Do you want to complete what your baptism began, and prepare for Confirmation and Eucharist? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults may be the answer...The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is an open-ended process to warmly welcome new members and provide spiritual formation according to each person's needs. The process includes small and large group meetings, discussion, individual and group prayer, and liturgies and rites celebrated within our faith community. Participants reflect on Scripture, uncover their faith stories and learn to recognize themselves and God's action in their lives, while exploring the teachings of the Church and its application to their own lives. The process is designed for catechumen (those who have never been baptized). It can also assist candidates (those baptized in another Christian tradition or Catholics who have never received Eucharist and Confirmation) in their preparation for sacraments. Contact our parish office for more information.

Adult Confirmation

Have you never received Confirmation, and now feel called to complete your Christian Initiation with its celebration at the Easter Vigil of 2025? Each year starting in the fall, we offer a weeknight formation series to prepare adults for Confirmation. This year we will begin our formation series on October 24th, from 7-9pm.

FUNraising Committee thanks all those who attended the Groovy 60's Party and made it a huge success!
Delicious food, engaging entertainment, costumes and games. Fun was had by all.



**CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS FOR
 OCTOBER 16 - 31**

Oct. 16	# 1051	Oct. 24	# 1110
Oct. 17	# 138	Oct. 25	# 1142
Oct. 18	# 1318	Oct. 26	#275
Oct. 19	# 148	Oct. 27	# 1100
Oct. 20	# 900	Oct. 28	# 921
Oct. 21	# 410	Oct. 29	# 1309
Oct. 22	# 349	Oct. 30	# 264
Oct. 23	# 1304	Oct. 31	#1464

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)



November 3, 2024 - 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

The scribe in today’s gospel got it right. He asked Jesus what was the greatest commandment. Jesus answered, and he agreed totally. Jesus said of him that he wasn’t far from the Kingdom of God; but still, if not far from it, then not yet in it! At least, his thinking was straight. Loving others is our responsibility, and by it we show our “response ability.” Are we fully committed to God’s law of love? Are we willing and able to respond to the needs of others? How we treat those in our lives is the measure of our love of God. Please pray for our Inquirers this week as they continue on their journey towards the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome in two weeks. Pray this week for our Inquirers who seek Jesus will discover his presence among us.

WINTER BLOOD DRIVE

Our annual Parish Winter Blood Drive will take place on **SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025**. You are eligible to donate if you are in generally good health, at least 17 years old (16 year olds can donate with parental consent). If you are 76 years or older you need your doctor’s consent. (Medical consent needs only to be filed once, not every donation.) Most people with diabetes and most people on medications are eligible to donate. For specific medical guidelines, call NJ Blood Services at 1-800-688-0900. Details of the St. Thomas Blood Drive will be issued soon.

HONORING OUR VETERANS
Thank You For Your Service

Honor Our Veterans

In the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, World War I ended when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. Formerly known as Armistice Day when President Woodrow Wilson declared it one year later, Veterans Day this year marks the 105th anniversary of the end of WWI.

Not to be confused with Memorial Day, which remembers and honors those who died while in service to our country, Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank our living veterans for their service to our country and to remember those veterans who have gone to their rest.

On Sunday, November 10th after the 12pm Mass, Saint Thomas the Apostle will honor the living and deceased veterans of our parish family at Saint Thomas the Apostle Church. Organized by the Saint Thomas the Apostle Knights of Columbus Council 4815, an American flag will be placed for your veteran, with their name, branch of service, and other pertinent information you wish to share in the lawn near the entrance of Saint Thomas the Apostle Church. A blessing will be bestowed to all veterans in attendance followed by a prayer for those who have gone to their eternal rest. A black ribbon will be affixed for those who are deceased.

Complete the form below and return to the Parish Center or drop into a collection basket no later than Sunday, November 3rd. Free-will donations in the name of each veteran accepted via check payable to Knights of Columbus Council 4815 with proceeds benefitting the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park.

Veteran's Name: (Last) (First) (MI)

Branch of Service: Army Marines Navy Air Force Coast Guard

Other Information*:

Your Name: Phone:

Email:

* Examples: Rank, years served, war (if served during wartime), awards/medals/ribbons, year of birth and, if deceased, year of death.
Flags will remain until sunset on Monday, November 11th when you may pick up.
Uncollected flags will be stored at the Parish Center for pick up at a later date.
Any questions, email Rob Wright (rwkofc4815@gmail.com) or call him at 908-510-6328.

RETROUVAILLE

Stress In Your Marriage?

- Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage?
- Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse?
- Have you thought about separation or divorce?
- Does talking about it only make it worse?

RETROUVAILLE is a Lifeline to Help Couples Heal and Renew their Marriages sponsored by the Office of Family Life, Diocese of Metuchen, NJ.

RETROUVAILLE consists of a weekend experience for married couples (no group discussions) with four follow-up sessions. The upcoming weekend is **February 28 – March 2, 2025**. All inquiries are confidential. For further information, please contact Rich Colasuonno 732-236-0671 or Annette Colasuonno 732-672-0748 or email 3024@helpourmarriage.org.

St. Thomas Holy Name Society
Presents
The Riddlesbrood Touring Theatre Company
**“A Christmas Carol”
and Dinner Show**
December 7th, 2024

At the **St. Thomas the Apostle**
Knights of Columbus, 61 Pine Street, Old Bridge, NJ 08857

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St. Thomas the Apostle Church
Old Bridge, NJ



**ANNUAL MEMORIAL
CHRISTMAS TREES**

“Light up the Season”

St. Thomas the Apostle again is sponsoring a fundraiser that will allow you to memorialize a Christmas tree in honor of your loved ones, living or deceased. The trees will be placed on the parish grounds around the St Thomas statue. The trees are live, 6-foot trees. Each tree will be lighted and have a memorial sign remembering your loved ones or family members attached to it.

JOIN US FOR THE LIGHTING

There will be a blessing and lighting of the trees and Nativity following the 4:00pm Mass on **November 30, 2024**. The trees will be lit for the entire Christmas season, and families will be able to visit the trees throughout this time.

Trees must be ordered by November 28

SPONSOR A MEMORIAL TREE FOR \$150

If you are interested, please complete this form and return with cash or check, made out to St Thomas Church, to the Pastoral Center.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Memorial Message (Please print clearly)

**MSGR. BEHL
MEMORIAL
THANKSGIVING
DINNER**



**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28
11:00 AM- 1:00 PM**

**St. Thomas the Apostle Church
333 Highway 18, Old Bridge, NJ**

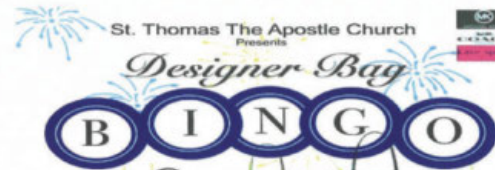
We will be distributing dinners to take home. Come pick up your Thanksgiving dinner at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Please RSVP to stitmas@sttaob.com



HONEY FOR SALE

Polish Supplementary School will be having a fundraiser selling honey here at St. Thomas the weekend of November 9th & 10th.

Please help them achieve their goals!!



St. Thomas The Apostle Church
Presents
**Designer Bag
BINGO**
Tricky Tray & More
Wed. 11/20/24 @ St. Thomas the Apostle
\$40 - Includes: 10 Games, Light Refreshments, and Free Dabber
Doors open @ 5:30 pm
First ball called @ 7:00 pm
No one under 18 years of age is permitted
Participants are welcome to bring their own food and beverages
Due to limited seating, don't delay in purchasing your tickets!



Entrance on day of event is cash only
333 Highway 18, Old Bridge, New Jersey
For more information, contact Leah at
honeyfoods@outlook.com



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CARD SIGNING

The Parish's annual Christmas card signing for servicemen will be held the weekend of November 16/17 after every Mass. Kindly stop by the Auditorium and be sure to sign a card or two to show our support for all those serving in the Armed Forces.

From the Diocese:

With Election Day 1 week away, below is the link to the USCCB information and inserts for the Faithful Citizenship catechesis as well as the Civilize It Campaign. Strong opinions about political topics is historically nothing new, especially in a Presidential election year. But we used to debate, attempt to persuade, sometimes argue, and then the day after the election tempers cooled and life resumed. That's no longer the case. It seems now someone with a differing political opinion is deemed "evil" forever and in any and everything they will ever do.

<https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-and-peace/forming-conscience-faithful-citizenship>

Lunch and Learn
A Pre-Planning Event You Won't Want to Miss!

Date: November 13th

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Location: Café Amici

393 Davidson's Mill Road, South Brunswick, NJ

Join us for a complimentary lunch while representatives from Brunswick Memorial Home and Holy Cross Cemetery share valuable insights on pre-planning.

Reserve your spot by November 6th:

Call 732-254-9393 or visit brunswickmemorialhome.com/plan-ahead-lunch-and-learn.

Enjoy exclusive pre-planning incentives on mausoleum crypts and cremation niches, with flexible payment plans and financing options available to fit every budget.

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