

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 10, 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 – SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

MONDAY NOVEMBER 11 - SAINT MARTIN OF TOURS

8:00am Tina Maresco 2nd. Anniv. r/o Grace & Chet
George
12:15pm Jerome G. Johnson r/o Family
Priest of the Day: Rev. Michael G. Krull

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12 - SAINT JOSAPHAT

8:00am Patti Crescenzo r/o Tim & Maryann Donoghue
12:15pm Carolyn Petry r/o Family
Priest of the Day: Rev. Joseph M. Kubiak

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13 - SAINT FRANCES XAVIER

8:00am Catalina Del Campo r/o Leo Alquiros
12:15pm Christopher Albano r/o Gerry & Mike Martin &
Family
Priest of the Day: Rev. James A. Kyrpczak

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14

8:00am Martha & Robert Salmon r/o Daughter, Kathy
12:15pm Louise Corraro r/o Nellie Moran
Priest of the Day: Rev. Thomas Lanza

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15

8:00am Thomas Campbell r/o Wallace Family
12:15pm Louise Corraro r/o STA Rosary Society
Priest of the Day: Rev. Yong Bum Lee

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16

8:00am Robert Davis r/o William & Patricia McCormick
4:00pm Satn D'Mello r/o John Barabas
Priest of the Day: Rev. Jose Lim

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17 - THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00am In Thanksgiving to the Blessed Mother r/o Rosalie
Federico
10:00am Theresa Toolen-Veverka r/o John Veverka
12:00pm For Our Parishioners
Priest of the Day: Rev. Jose Lorente

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, Bruce Cruickshank, John Derenoski, 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 November 2nd - 3rd....\$ 17,733
All Souls Day....\$948
All Saints Day....\$3,060

THANK YOU!

The **Sanctuary Candle** in the Church this week burns in memory of Martha & Robert Salmon.

- Daughter, Kathy



The **Mary Candle** in the Church this week burns in memory of: Jocelyn DiGiacomo

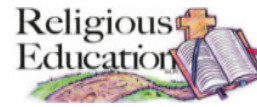
r/o Karen & Joe Ungrady



EUCCHARIST

“The Eucharist is a fire which inflames us. ”

- St. John Damascene



PREP NEWS

Next Liturgy of the Word for Children is November 17th 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.

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**



Hope and Healing Concert
Tony Melendez

“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

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

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.

Encounter the Love of Jesus through personal prayer

Encounter School of Ministry Prayer Teams are available: Sunday, November 24th after 12pm Mass

PARISH RECEPTIONIST NEEDED

Most Holy Redeemer, Amboy Road, Old Bridge, is in need of a parish receptionist. Start date: December 16, 2024. Responsibilities include daily operation of the parish office; including clerical work and minor administrative and business details; reports directly to the pastor. Office hours: Monday through Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Summer: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.). Hourly wage. Experience required: must be a mature, courteous, cordial, and effective communicator; good computer and typing skills; know Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, and Publisher); excellent organizational skills; a general knowledge of office procedures and familiarity with office equipment. Inquiries should be made to the pastor during business hours (732-566-9334).



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.

HONEY FOR SALE

Polish Supplementary School will be having a fundraiser selling honey here at St. Thomas this weekend after all Masses.



Please help them achieve their goals!!

Young Adult Late Night Holy Brunch Hour
November 13th

The South Amboy/Sayreville Catholic Young Adult Group invites young adults ages 21-39 to a “Late Night” Holy Brunch Hour on Wednesday, November 13th at 7pm in St. Pat's Hall at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church (256 Augusta St, South Amboy NJ 08879) for fellowship and faith-based discussion. Our topic this month is “Hungry for Conversation: Discovering the Call to Holiness at the Dinner Table”. Please contact Mike at mconawa8@gmail.com, <mailto:mconawa8@gmail.com> if you have any questions.

**2024 Old Bridge Interfaith
Thanksgiving Program**

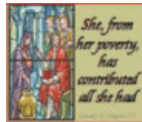
Sunday, November 17th at 2pm
Baitul Hadi Mosque
27 South St.
Old Bridge, NJ 08857



Participating faith communities include:
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community
Congregation Beth Ohr
Glorious Faith Ministries
St. Thomas the Apostle Church
Simpson United Methodist Church



OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)



November 10, 2024 - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's gospel Jesus cautions His listeners about wanting attention for the good they do, and seeking places of honor for it. That concept seems counter-cultural today more than ever. With social media and a big emphasis placed on bragging, we're bombarded with the message that we have a right to boast - loud and proud. Conversely, Mark reminds us that the way to truly show our love for others is to serve them humbly and quietly, seeking no one's approval, "like," or notice but God's. Please pray for our Inquirers this week as they continue on their journey towards the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome next week at the 10am mass.

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.

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

Door Opens at 5:30PM Dinner at 6PM by

TROPICAL HUT and TOPHAT Catering -- Show to follow

And Photo Booth OPEN throughout the evening

**** \$50 per person and \$95 per couple ** and Cash Bar**

John Thornton

George Szymanski

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732-238-5743



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 (rwk4815@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 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



St. Thomas The Apostle Church
Presents

Designer Bag

B I N G O



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
harmyfoods@outlook.com

The Faith Sharing Group - Two Advent Series

Advent Awakenings, Say Yes to God by RENEW International based on the Gospel of St. Luke. The book prompts participants to accept the invitation of Jesus' coming by reflecting on how to be more open to his presence in their lives. There will be four sessions corresponding with the four Sundays of Advent and presents themes drawn from the Sunday gospel readings, plus enriching devotions for family use.

Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Thursday Nov. 21, Dec. 5th, 12th & 19th.

The second series...

Encountering Emmanuel by Heather Khym
This is a guided prayer and meditation study. Each day you'll journey deeper into the meaning of Advent with moving reflections, meditation, questions, prayer, and journaling space. You'll learn how to invite Jesus in so that he can bring his light, love, peace, hope, and healing into your heart.

Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Thursday Nov. 21, Dec. 5th, Wednesday Dec. 11th & Dec. 19th.

Or Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m.
Nov. 23, Dec. 7th, 14th and 21st.
All sessions will be held in the Pastoral Center.

Sign up will be after all Masses.
Any questions contact Marilyn Harmyk 732-735-5907 or marilynharmyk@gmail.com
Join us and prepare the way for the Christ Child this Season.

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. Pre-planning is a meaningful gift to your loved ones. For more information, call 1-800-943-8400 today!

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