

# Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

FEBRUARY 2, 2025

## 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](http://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



## PRESENTATION OF THE LORD FEBRUARY 2, 2025

### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1

8:00am Frank E. Davis r/o Francine  
4:00pm For Our Parishioners  
*Priest of the Day: Rev. Michael Tabernero*

### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2 - PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

8:00am Harold Maresco r/o Cliff & Annette Quibell  
10:00am Valentim Neves r/o Robert Badillo  
12:00pm Barbara Goetz r/o Freddie & Myra Medina  
*Priest of the Day: Rev. George C. Targonski*

### MONDAY FEBRUARY 3

8:00am Douglas Hartwyk r/o Wayne & Laurie Miller  
12:15pm Nellie O'Neill r/o The Farrell Family  
*Priest of the Day: Rev. Pauly Thekkan*

### TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4

8:00am Adrienne Bottomly r/o Thomas Passero  
12:15pm John & Ruth Veverka r/o John Veverka  
*Priest of the Day: Rev. Tholitho*

### WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 5 - ST. AGATHA

8:00am Frank Boyle r/o Kathy Salmon  
12:15pm Frank Bootz r/o John Fillimon  
*Priest of the Day: Very Rev. Jonathan Toborowsky*

### THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6 - ST. PAUL MIKI

8:00am Jo-Jo Kemper r/o Mary Ann Vingara & Family  
12:15pm Melanie Elvena r/o Paul & Vivian Montalban & Family  
*Priest of the Day: Rev. Virgilio T. Tolentino*

### FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7

8:00am Doris Schmidt r/o Gerard & Elizabeth Drum  
12:15pm Ron Weber r/o Andrew, Justin & Matthew  
*Priest of the Day: Rev. Damian Tomiczek*

### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8

8:00am Elvira Tomarchio r/o Elise, EJ, Kim & Juliana  
4:00pm Barbara DeRobertis r/o John & Maureen Nigro  
*Priest of the Day: Rev. Peter Tran*

### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9 - FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00am For Our Parishioners  
10:00am Liv. Int. Frank Conte r/o Gerarda Conte  
12:00pm Elizabeth Mirman r/o Arthur Miranda  
*Priest of the Day: Rev. John Fredy Triana-Beltran*



## 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](http://www.saintthomasob.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/pages/St-Thomas-the-Apostle-Church-Old-Bridge-NJ](https://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. 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, Chet Dudek, Catherine Franken, Clark French, Walter Gladowski, Ben and Sina Indelicato, William Killeen, Thomas La Marca, Mary Margett, Pat & Rudy Maurer, Paul & Vivian Montalban, John Mullane, Ernie Nocera, Eugene W. Picco, Frank Ranelli, Lucia Rella, Norma Shenesky, John Soporowski, Eileen Stolte, Irene Sutton, Rich Szuminsky, Joseph Vasham.

*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.*

*The Mary Candle in the Church this week burns in memory of: Caroline Bonnano*

*r/o Caroline DelFino*



*The Sanctuary Candle in the Church this week burns in memory of Denise Pontrello*

*- Caroline DelFino*



## 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](http://www.sainthomasob.com) or other ways to give:*

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



*The collections for January 26th....\$ 14,522  
Catholic Education ....\$2,264*

*THANK YOU!*

## DECEASED + LOVED ONES

Marie Pomeroy, Giuseppina DeCarlo

## Eucharistic Adoration



Eucharistic Adoration is the act of worshipping 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 on February 7th. 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

## VOCATION MINISTRY

### **Presentation of the Lord - February 2, 2025**

#### ***World Day for Consecrated Life***

*"When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord." (Luke 2:22)*

Inspire your children to trust in God's call for their lives. Could He be inviting them to offer themselves in a unique way? Support them by nurturing their openness to God's plan and connecting with your priest, religious coordinator, or diocesan vocation director.

## Altar Flower Memorial

If you would like to contribute to the Altar Flowers prices are as follows:

\$100 weekly for Altar Flowers  
\$35 each for small vases placed by the Tabernacle

Please drop off your donations at the Parish Office.

## Encounter the Love of Jesus through personal prayer

Encounter School of Ministry Prayer Teams are available today after 12pm Mass.

Next Healing Mass at St Mary's February 7th 6:30 PM.

## Bereavement Group at St. Thomas

A weekly bereavement group will begin in January at 7pm in the Parish Room. All are welcome to attend. To find out more information or to register, please call Lisa at 732.251.4000 ext.8218.

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



**February 2, 2025 - Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**

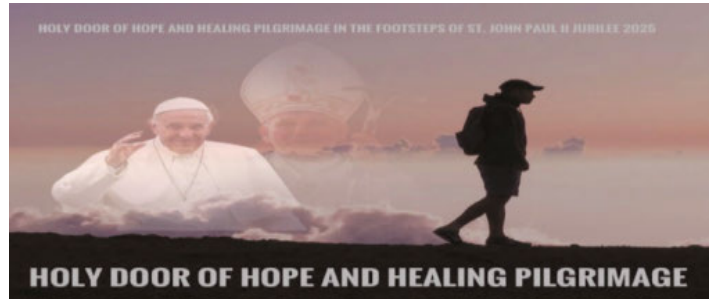
Our winter days are short now with many hours of darkness. Halfway between the winter solstice and spring equinox, winter feels long and bleak. On The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, we are reminded that - even in the darkness of winter - Jesus, the Light of the World, is here! In obedience to the Mosaic Law, Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple to offer Him to God. Simeon and Anna are in the temple, and they recognize the Light has come into their midst. In this meeting, we see the meeting of the Old and New Testaments. Many of us put away our Christmas decorations by now, but this is a Christmas feast, AND also points us forward to the light of the Paschal Candles at Easter. Let us continue to pray for our catechumens and candidates. They need our prayers to carry them through to initiation.

**JOIN FATHER JAY FOR THIS EXCITING JUBILEE YEAR TOUR!**

We will visit **Rome & Assisi** with the **Canals of Venice** and then take a **River Cruise** to the Renaissance infused towns of the **Veneto Region** on the **Croisi Ms. Michelangelo**.

**September 22 / October 3, 2025, 12 days, 10 nights** including cruise, hotels, excursions, meals, drinks with meals & airfare from Newark. \$4,995.00.

Brochures available at church entrances or in parish office. **DEPOSIT DUE NOW.**



Join Fr. John M. Rozembajgier, JCL, STL and Mr. Tony Melendez, Catholic Musician and Speaker for the Hope and Healing Pilgrimage honoring the life and legacy of St. John Paul II on June 19-30, 2025 to Poland and Italy - check out the website at [www.totalfreedompilgrimages.com](http://www.totalfreedompilgrimages.com). **DEPOSIT DUE NOW.**



Picture: St. Ignatius of Loyola handing over his sword to God so that he can take on a new life in Christ.

A.M.D.G. – “For the greater glory of God”

Would you like to hand over your life to Christ this New Year?

Do you want to grow in your Spiritual Life?

Do you want to learn more about God?

Please join Fr. John Rozembajgier, JCL for an informational meeting on the Introduction to the Jesuit Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola – Retreat in Everyday Life on Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> either at 2:00 – 4:00p.m. or 7:00 – 9:00p.m. This Retreat in Everyday Life called the 19<sup>th</sup> Annotation is a version of the Spiritual Exercises designed for people who cannot be away for 30 days to do the Exercises as they were practiced originally. Most of the time, the “19th” is done by people who work full-time but who want to do the Spiritual Exercises. So, the Exercises are extended over several months, and the retreatants do weekly prayer practices, readings, and meditations. Again, please join Fr. John on Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> either at 2:00-4:00 p.m. or 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. for the introduction of the Jesuit Spiritual Exercises in the Chapel in the Pastoral Center. All are welcome and don’t worry, just keep smiling and bring your love and joy of Jesus with you to these sessions. Please note: if you cannot make this session, please call the office and speak with Fr. John at 732-251-4000.

**MASS BOOK 2026 OPENING FEBRUARY 12TH AT 10:00AM**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR 2026

**PLEASE NOTE THAT EACH FAMILY CAN HAVE A TOTAL OF 3 MASSES**

ONE WEEKEND MASS  
AND  
TWO WEEKDAY MASSES

**NO MASS INTENTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS**

HOLY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY  
HOLY SATURDAY, EASTER SUNDAY  
MOTHER’S DAY, FATHER’S DAY  
SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>  
CHRISTMAS DAY

MASS INTENTION OFFERING \$10  
CANDLES/ALTAR BREAD & WINE \$25  
MONTHLY MEMORIAL MASS \$5

**DEACONS TABLE**



Wednesday, February 19, 2025  
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 dinner at  
St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

**LOST and FOUND**

There will be a Lost and Found Box in the Ushers room. Should you leave or lose an item in Church, please check with an usher or check in the usher's room for your item.

**Table at St. Thomas the Apostle**



**Saturday, February 8, 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](mailto:chrisdoyle167@gmail.com)  
or call 732-609-1499

**2024 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

Please complete and return this form to the Parish Office,  
place in the collection, or mail to: St. Thomas Church  
One Saint Thomas Plaza, Old Bridge, NJ 08857  
Attn: Jennifer Bachonski.  
**PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE OFFICE!**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ENVELOPE #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Making Social Media Safe for Everyone  
Special Parent-Only Assembly  
Saint Thomas the Apostle School Gymnasium**

On Thursday, March 6th from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Saint Thomas the Apostle School will be hosting a critical presentation on social media safety, led by Mr. Douglas Collier, Director of Professional Outreach & Engagement at Monmouth University's Department of Criminal Justice, and Officer Patrick D'Onofrio from the Old Bridge Township Police Department.

This informative session is designed specifically for parents and will focus on how to protect children from the growing dangers associated with social media and social media addiction.

**Key topics covered will include:**

- *Cyberbullying and its impact on mental health*
- *Hate speech and its harmful effects*
- *Online sexual harassment and exploitation*
- *Propaganda and misinformation*
- *Depression, suicide, and the psychological risks of social media*
- *Violence and harmful behaviors linked to online interactions*

Our goal is to equip parents with the knowledge and tools they need to create a safer online environment for their children, and to promote social media safety for students, parents, and educators alike. We invite you to join us for this important and timely discussion.

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Faith Sharing Group for Lent 2025**

**No Greater Love:  
A Biblical Walk-Through Christ's Passion**

Thousands sought Jesus during his life. Only a few followed him to Calvary.

**What will you do?**

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life. You will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you—and grow closer to Jesus.

**Location:** Parish Center

**Dates:** Thursdays from March 13 to April 10.

**Times:** Morning session: 10am – 12noon or Evening session 7pm – 9pm

**Cost:** \$28 Study set

Any questions or sign-up contact:

Marilyn Harmyk call/text: 732-735-5907 or email: [marilynharmyk@gmail.com](mailto:marilynharmyk@gmail.com)

**CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS FOR  
JANUARY 1 - 31**

|         |       |         |       |
|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| Jan. 1  | # 275 | Jan. 16 | #916  |
| Jan. 2  | #506  | Jan. 17 | # 856 |
| Jan. 3  | #1411 | Jan. 18 | #1090 |
| Jan. 4  | #1121 | Jan. 19 | #798  |
| Jan. 5  | #552  | Jan. 20 | #991  |
| Jan. 6  | #1140 | Jan. 21 | #1075 |
| Jan. 7  | #1409 | Jan. 22 | #802  |
| Jan. 8  | #734  | Jan. 23 | #854  |
| Jan. 9  | #267  | Jan. 24 | #1170 |
| Jan. 10 | #63   | Jan. 25 | #781  |
| Jan. 11 | #1075 | Jan. 26 | #969  |
| Jan. 12 | #109  | Jan. 27 | #816  |
| Jan. 13 | #908  | Jan. 28 | #523  |
| Jan. 14 | #1093 | Jan. 29 | #1269 |
| Jan. 15 | #559  | Jan. 30 | #868  |
|         |       | Jan. 31 | #11   |



**Valentine's Day**

No reason why Valentine's Day should be just one day each year. Why not give your spouse a gift that lasts every day?

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 February 14 - 16.

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

**A NIGHT OUT WITH Mr. Schaefer**

**TICKETS ONLY \$15** **APRIL 12 6:05 PM**

**SOMERSET PATRIOTS VS READING FIGHTIN' PHILS**

**TD BANK BALLPARK**  
1 Patriots Park, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

**GATES OPEN AT 5:00 PM**

IF OVER 200 TICKETS ARE SOLD, MR. SCHAEFER WILL THROW THE FIRST PITCH!

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE ATHLETICS!

**SAVE THE DATE**



**"ST. PAT'S PARTY"**

Hosted by The FUNraising Committee  
**Saturday, March 8, 2025**  
**5:30pm**  
Further Details Coming Soon

HOLY NAME SOCIETY  
SPONSORING

**St. Thomas Parish Retreat**  
**Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**"REACHING OUT"**



In The St. Thomas Pastoral Center 9:00 am. – 2:00 pm.  
Reading 10 stories from the Old and New Testaments and sharing insights with others.  
Includes morning coffee, doughnuts and lunch with Retreat related materials  
Cost only \$20 per person

John Thornton 732-763-3280  
George Szymanski 732-238-5743



**St. Thomas The Apostle**  
1 St. Thomas Plaza Old Bridge, NJ 08857  
[www.saintthomasob.com/bingo](http://www.saintthomasob.com/bingo)  
Facebook: **STA BINGO**  
Office: 732-251-4000 Bingo #4

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Tuesday 11a Bingo</b>  | Doors Open 9:15a |
| <b>Thursday 11a Bingo</b> | Doors Open 9:15a |
| <b>Friday 9p Bingo</b>    | Doors Open 7:15p |
| <b>Midnight Bingo</b>     | Doors Open 11p   |
| <b>Sunday 5pm Bingo</b>   | Doors Open 3:15p |

**Progressive Pot for all except Midnight Bingo**

|                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Admission / Bingo Prices</b> | \$16 Special Books        |
| \$2 Tues/Thurs/Sat              | \$2 Single Sheet Specials |
| \$3 Fri/Sun                     | \$2 6 Board               |
|                                 | \$4 12 Board              |

We also sell: Dabbers, tape, Bingo cushions, Bingo t-shirts etc.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY  
SPONSORING

**CASINO TRIP**  
Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025  
**WIND CREEK CASINO**



Wind Creek Casino in Bethlehem, PA  
Bus Trip Leaving 9:00 am to approx. 7:00pm  
\$50 per person getting back \$25 Casino Voucher  
George Szymanski 732-238-5743  
John Thornton 732-763-3280

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