

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 9, 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

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FEBRUARY 9, 2025

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

MONDAY FEBRUARY 10 - ST. SCHOLASTICA

8:00am Brian Gage r/o Larry & Joan McGrath
12:15pm Marie & Salvatore Capasso r/o Arlene Capasso-
Carlone
Priest of the Day: Rev. James Tucker

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11

8:00am Anna Gervasi r/o Anthony & Gayle Gesualdi
12:15pm Antoinette Bongiovanni r/o Ruth Newton
Priest of the Day: Rev. A. Gregory Uhrig

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12

8:00am Sophie & Frank Klinga r/o Joseph Laga
12:15pm Bryon Smith r/o Thomas & Mary Reilly
Priest of the Day: Rev. J. Phillip Vadakkekara

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13

8:00am Michael Cavallo r/o Stella & Children
12:15pm Patrick & Gail Hearty r/o Deacon Pat &
Margaret
Priest of the Day: Rev. Msgr. Randall Vashon

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14 - ST. CYRIL

8:00am Alois Bendekovitz r/o Daughter, Susie
12:15pm Barbara DeRobertis r/o Donna Weber
Priest of the Day: Rev. Ronal R. Vega Pastrana

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15

8:00am Antonia Baxter Reyes r/o Baxter Reyes
Family
4:00pm Robert Higgins r/o Debbie & Tom Yesis
Priest of the Day: Rev. J. Michael Walega

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16 - SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00am Robert Sousa r/o Mother n& Father
10:00am Helen Malkiewicz r/o Irene Gipel
12:00pm For Our Parishioners
Priest of the Day: Rev. Thomas J. Walsh

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. 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.

THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION

St. Thomas' Winter Heating Collection

Thank you for your support!

The Mary Candle in the Church this week burns in memory of: Isilio Villa

r/o Wife & Daughter



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



The collections for February 2nd....\$ 16,755

THANK YOU!

DECEASED + LOVED ONES

Marie Pomeroy, Giuseppina DeCarlo,
John Mullane, and Joseph Stokes

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 March 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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 9, 2025

World Marriage Day & National Marriage Week

"They left everything and followed him." (Luke 5:11) As we celebrate World Marriage Day, honor the sacred beauty of marriage while also discussing the possibility of religious vocations with your children. Be an advocate for them to explore how they can follow Christ in whatever path He sets before them.

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.

PLEASE NOTE:

The Parish Office will be closed on February 17th in observance of President's Day and will reopen on Tuesday February 18th at 9:00am.

Bereavement Group at St. Thomas

A weekly bereavement group will began 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 9th, 2025 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Most of us wish we could be more effective in handling our feelings, careers, relationships, problems..etc. We don't often realize, however, that what holds us back is the hundreds of little anchors that prevent us from sailing into more promising waters. Life becomes a "drag" because we drag around so much baggage. When Jesus calls us to him, he often asks us to venture out into deeper waters...to make changes in our life. Jesus asks each of us to be "fishers of men"...to bring others to him...to pray for them, encourage them, support them, be hospitable to them, as they journey with this community of faith. Our catechumens and candidates have accepted that invitation to venture out into deeper waters. It is important that we assure our catechumens and candidates that they have our prayerful support as they venture out to answer the Lord's call. Please keep them in your prayers!



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 4th either at 2:00 –4:00p.m. or 7:00 – 9:00p.m. This Retreat in Everyday Life called the 19th 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 4th 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.

DEACONS TABLE



Wednesday, February 19, 2025
4:00pm-6:00pm
St. Thomas the Apostle Church
333 Highway 18, Old Bridge, NJ

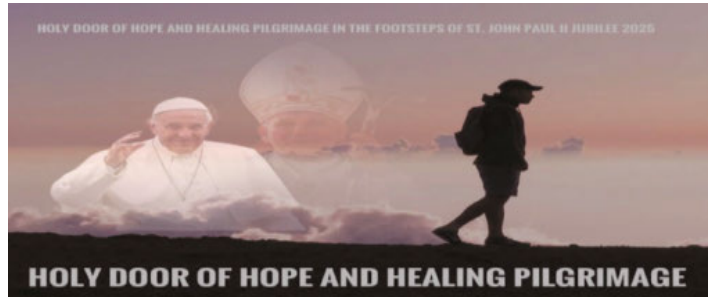
We will be distributing dinners to take home.
Come pick up your dinner at
St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

**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. **DEPOSIT DUE NOW.**

**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 11TH
CHRISTMAS DAY

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

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.

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 #: _____

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.

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.

YOUTH GROUP MEETING

Are you between grades 7-12? Do you want to give back to your community, learn about your faith, and have a place to meet enthusiastic like-minded peers?

Join us in the Auditorium on Wednesday February 26th from 6:30PM-8:30PM for our Youth Group meeting!

This will be a fun-filled evening of activities, food, music, and hearing what Youth Group is all about! If you would like to learn more information about Youth Group, or would like to RSVP for the upcoming meeting, feel free to reach to our Youth Minister Miss Juliette Malone at her email jmalone@saintthomasob.com or call the Religious PREP office at 732-251-1660!

TO THE PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN, MAY WE SUGGEST...

+Relax! God put the wiggle in children; do not feel you have to suppress it in God's house. ALL ARE WELCOME!

+Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little one to see and hear what is going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of other's heads.

+Quietly explain the parts of Mass and actions of the priest, altar servers, etc. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

+If you have to leave Mass with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

+Remember that the way we welcome children in the church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

The presence of children is a gift to the church, and they are a reminder that our parish is growing. Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents!



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**

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

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"LET THE SHENANIGANS BEGIN!!"

SATURDAY, MARCH 8th
5:30 p.m.

LIVE MUSIC
IRISH DANCERS
IRISH FOOD BUFFET
(Menu Available at Ticket Table)

We Supply Beer and Refreshments
BYOB permitted

Adults - \$30 per person
Children (5 thru 10 years) - \$10 each
Children (under 5) - free

Tickets available after all Masses starting Feb 8th for 4 weekends only!!
Limited seats available

Hosted by St. Thomas the Apostle FUNraising Committee

HOLY NAME SOCIETY
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St. Thomas Parish Retreat
Saturday March 8th, 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

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1 St. Thomas Plaza Old Bridge, NJ 08857
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Facebook: STA BINGO
Office: 732-251-4000 Bingo #4

Tuesday 11a Bingo	Doors Open 9:15a
Thursday 11a Bingo	Doors Open 9:15a
Friday 9p Bingo	Doors Open 7:15p
Midnight Bingo	Doors Open 11p
Sunday 5pm Bingo	Doors Open 3:15p

Progressive Pot for all except Midnight Bingo

Admission / Bingo Prices	\$18 Special Books
\$2 Tues/Thurs/Mid	\$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 3rd, 2025
WIND CREEK CASINO

Wind Creek Casino in Bethlehem, PA
Bus Trip Leaving 9:00 am to apx.7:00pm
\$50 per person getting back \$25 Casino Voucher

George Szymanski 732-238-5743
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