Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 28, 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:

Michele Racavich

School Vice Principal:

Diane Zarate

PREP Director:

Andrea Madonna

<u>Director of Sacred Music/Liturgy:</u> 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!



TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27

8:00am Honorato Rivera Jr r/o Castillo Family 4:00pm Joan & Dan Vitone r/o Daughter & Son

Priest of the Day: Rev. Joseph Meagher

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28 - TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00am Mary H. Lang r/o Mike & Barbara Clements

10:00am For Our Parishioners

12:00pm Josephine & Vincent Torricelli r/o Rosalie

Federico

Priest of the Day: Rev. William Melillo

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 29 - STS. MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL

8:00am Michael J. Weiss r/o Loving wife, Maria

12:15pm Monthly Memorial *Priest of the Day: Rev. John Opara*

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 30 - ST. JEROME

8:00am Margaret Carroll r/o Anthony Gesualdi

12:15pm John Ferretti r/o Matera Family

Priest of the Day: Rev. Thomas Orians

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1 - ST. THERESE

8:00am Dolores Grzywinski r/o Ockenhouse Family 12:15pm Tony Andolfi r/o Gregory, Cathie, Hnat &

Family

Priest of the Day: Rev. Roberto Ortiz

THURSDAY OCTOBER 2 - THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

8:00am Teresa Silagan r/o Robin Bagadion 12:15pm James E. Powell r/o Deborah Ferrandino

Priest of the Day: Rev. Nelson Oyola

FRIDAY OCTOBER 3

8:00am Ann Inserra r/o George Inserra 12:15pm Thomas Edgell r/o Russo Family

Priest of the Day: Rev. Bryan Page

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4

8:00am Pauline Siravo r/o Siravo Family 4:00pm Pauline Siravo r/o Sonny Siravo Priest of the Day: Rev. Anthony Palomba

SUNDAY OCTOBER 5 - TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00am Antonia Baxter Reyes r/o Reyes Family 10:00am Marilyn Veverka r/o John Veverka

12:00pm For Our Parishioners Priest of the Day: Rev. Andrew Park



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. <u>PARENTS</u> must attend a Baptismal Preparation Session. (Registration is required.)

MARRIAGES:

Arrangements must be made <u>at least one year in advance</u> - 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: Walter Blais, Gerry Blinstrub, Sylvia Bowman, Edmund Crookhorn, Cynthia Czarnecki, John Derenoski, Jack DeRuvo, Brien Essenbreis, Richard Fazio, Christopher Horn, Sina Indelicato, Anatoli Karnicki, Harriet Kunzman, Maria Lim, Harold Mann, Mary Margett, Pat & Rudy Maurer, Fran Maxwell, Danny Posadas, Frank Ranelli, Dolores Rinella, Chito & Winnie Santiago, Thomas Smith, John Soporowski, Irene Sutton, Frances Thippabathini, Tristan Thompson, Francis Travino, Daphne Ulveling.

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

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



Collection for September 21st was not available at time of printing.

THANK YOU!

Bishop's Annual Appeal 2025

Our Goal - \$90,000 and 600 Families

Total amount received \$106,354.39 and 491 families

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.



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 on October 3rd for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 11:00am - 12:00pm. 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



PREP

Confirmation Students:

Beginning this week you must sign the Mass Attendance book located by the television on the right-hand side of the Church. **DO NOT** sign during the Mass. Once Mass begins you must wait until the priest has processed out of the Church to sign the book.

VOCATION MINISTRY

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 28, 2025 Priesthood Sunday

"If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead." (Luke 16:31) This Priesthood Sunday, invite your children to pray for priests who dedicate their lives to serving God's people. Encourage them to speak with a priest to learn more about this important role and the ways they can serve the Church.

Music Ministry

Do you sing, play an instrument, want to be part of the music ministry?

Now is the time to join!

Rehearsals for the Adult Choir take place on Thursday nights at 7:30pm in the church. The Adult Choir sings at the 10am Mass on Sundays.

The Children's Choir will have their first rehearsal on Thursday, October 9th at 4:15pm in the Church. The children will sing at the 12pm Mass on Sunday, October 12th.

Speak to Dan for more information after mass or e-mail him at Dneff@saintthomasob.com

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)



September 28, 2025 - Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The life of St. Teresa of Calcutta stands for us as a shining example of the Gospel in action. The rich man in today's Gospel reading was the opposite of St. Teresa of Calcutta. His life and death and subsequent belated remorse serve as a warning for us of the danger of living a life overly devoted to luxury and pleasure. While Lazarus was poor, infirm, and hungry during his life, the rich man dressed and dined extravagantly and enjoyed many earthly pleasures during his life. After death, the rich man cried out for relief from his torments while Lazarus enjoyed eternal bliss in Heaven. An essential lesson for us to take from this story is to learn to detach from material things and worldly experiences and to seek out the things of Heaven instead. We are called to be empty vessels so that Jesus can fill us with His love and heavenly blessings, which are worth so much more than the things of earth. When our arms are filled with material goods, they are already too full to receive the spiritual treasures that God wants to give us. Do you know someone who would like to learn more about Jesus, and how we can follow him through the Catholic Faith? All who are unbaptized, baptized into another faith denomination, or baptized Catholic but have not received Eucharist and Confirmation, are invited. For more information we invite you to call Lisa at 732-251-4000 ext. 8218.



America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally

October 11, 2025
following the 4:00 p.m. Mass
to be held at
Our Lady of Fatima Grotto
St. Thomas the Apostle parking lot
WE ALL NEED MARY!



DEACONS TABLE

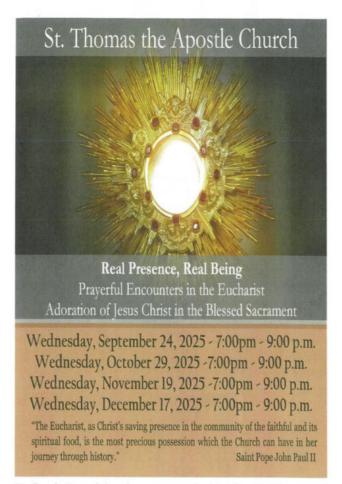


Wednesday, October 15, 2025 4:00pm-6:00pm St. Thomas the Apostle Church 333 Highway 18, Old Bridge, NJ

We will be distributing dinners to take home.

Come pick up your dinner at

St. Thomas the Apostle Church.



We all need a time and place where we can go and quietly reflect. We all have personal challenges that make us tired and weary. We all search for hope and peace in such a busy and noisy life. As Christians we believe real Hope is found in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Come and allow his presence to heal and nourish you.

We invite you to four Holy Hour's this year focused specifically on the Real Presence of Christ. This will be a time for you to hear readings relevant to our lives, music that will help you to reflect, and a message of Hope. You can find more information on our website: https://saintthomasob.com/

Bereavement Group at St. Thomas

A weekly bereavement group held on Wednesday's in the Parish Room at 7pm. All are welcome to attend. To find out more information or to register, please call Lisa at 732.251.4000 ext.8218.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Any adult, 18 years of age or older, who has received First Communion, but not Confirmation, and is interested in <u>Adult Confirmation</u>, please contact Fr. John Rozembajgier at the Parish Office -732.251.4000.

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.

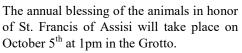
PARISH MISSION - OCT 19 - 21 "60 Minutes for Jesus" Fr. Jim Sichko



Fr. Jim Sichko is a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington, KY, and has been an internationally known preacher, evangelist, and motivational speaker for over 25 years. In 2015, Pope Francis commissioned Fr. Jim as a Papal Missionary of Mercy in conjunction with the Extraordinary Jubilee Year, making him one of 100 in the United States and 1,000 in the world. He will be here at St. Thomas for a parish Mission entitled "60 Minutes for Jesus" October 19th - 21st, at 7:00pm each night.

Fr. Jim's talks and parish missions are geared for every member of the household, from youth to adulthood, and for anyone regardless of religious affiliation or not. Known as "the best opening act ever" by Dolly Parton, Fr. Jim uses real life experiences, personal stories, and humor, to motivate any audience to recognize the good within themselves and others,

Blessing of the Animals





for Old Bridge Residents

Ready to learn how your local police department serves the community? Apply today and be part of the experience.

> Starts: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Duration: One night per week for 8 weeks Class size: Limited to the first 25 applicants.

Eligibility:
Must be 18 years of age or older
Must reside in Old Bridge Township
Must pass a limited background check

What you will Learn: Accident investigation Patrol functions and tactics Defensive tactics Firearms familiarization Use of Force Active Shooter Community Programs Police Officer Qualifications

Application deadline: September 26, 2025.

Notification: Accepted applicants will be contacted via email.

Ouestions?call (732) 721-5600, Ext. 3170.







Parents who are having their first child baptized are required to attend a Baptism Preparation session in advance. **Next class:** *Tuesday, September 30th - 7:00pm* in the Parish Room of the Pastoral Center. **Registration required.** The Sacrament of Baptism is a sacred event regulated by Church (Canon) Law. Any questions - call 732.251.4000.

SPONSOR LETTERS FOR BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION

To receive a sponsor letter to be a Godparent for a Baptism or Sponsor for Confirmation, the Sponsor must fulfill the following requirements:

- 1. Have received Baptism, Communion & Confirmation in the Catholic Church.
- 2. If married, you must have been married in the Catholic Church.
- 3. If divorced, you must not be remarried without having received an annulment for the first marriage.
- 4. Be a <u>registered and practicing</u> member of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

If you have moved out of the parish, and no longer live within our parish boundaries, we <u>CANNOT</u> give you a Sponsor Letter, even if you grew up here and made all your Sacraments here and your family still lives here. You are given a Sponsor Letter from the parish whose boundaries you live within currently.

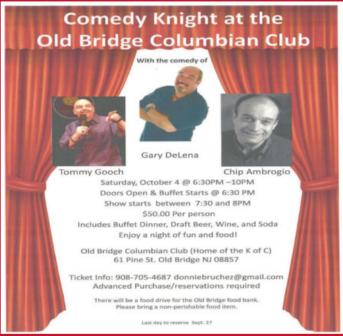
The Catholic Parent

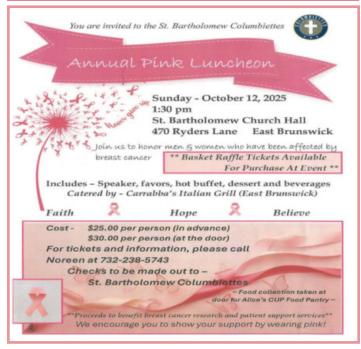
Parents are invited to a new group which will meet 2 Fridays a month at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom beginning on September 26th. Meetings will include watching a brief video on a topic particular to Catholic parenting and discussing as a group. Topics will include desiring holiness for your child, child temperaments, family culture, strong marriage, and being an effective witness, among others. The group is intended for those with children in the home and new parents are particularly welcome as developmental stages will be discussed! If interested, please contact Cristina at cdaverso@diometuchen.org

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.



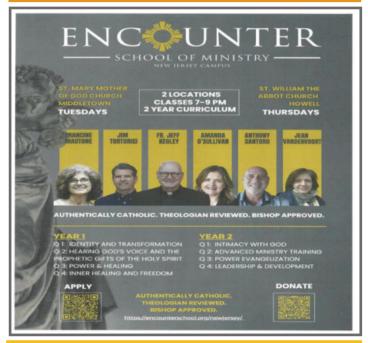




Silver & Gold & 5 Year Wedding Anniversary Celebration

You are cordially invited to celebrate your 25th, 50th, 50+ or 5th Wedding Anniversary with the Church of Metuchen and renew your marriage vows with Bishop James F. Checchio at a special Evening Prayer Service at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen on Sunday, October 19, 2025 at 3:00 PM. The Silver and Gold Anniversary Prayer Service will again include couples celebrating 5 years of marriage. Registration is required. Please register online at: https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-

celebration. If you are unable to access, please contact the Family Life Office at 732-562-1543. Registration will close on October 10, 2025. Although no fee is required, in the past many Jubilarian couples have given a donation of gratitude to the Church in memory of this special occasion. Donations of Gratitude may be made online at https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration or calling 732-562-1543.





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