

# ***Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School***

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**JANUARY 11, 2026**

**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

**Director of Sacred Music/Liturgy:**

Daniel Neff

**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

**"To make disciples, as we know, love and serve God and one another"**

**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!**



## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD JANUARY 11, 2026

### SATURDAY JANUARY 10

8:00am NO MASS

4:00pm Charlotte Simon r/o Bob & Barbara Egan

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Michael Goyette*

### SUNDAY JANUARY 11 - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

8:00am Carmen Barbato r/o Holowinski Family

10:00am Hannah Clements r/o Barbara & Mike Clements

12:00pm Herman Deissinger r/o Maria Riporti  
*Priest of the Day: Rev. Vincent Guest*

### MONDAY JANUARY 12

8:00am Iris Schmitt r/o Noreen & George Szymanski

12:15pm David Simon r/o Alice & Percy Brown

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Paul Harte*

### TUESDAY JANUARY 13 - ST. HILARY

8:00am Denise Rocca r/o Noreen & George Szymanski

12:15pm John & Bronislawa Budz r/o Fillimon Family

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Glen Hartman*

### WEDNESDAY JANUARY 14

8:00am Lillian R. San Agustin r/o Cora Reyes

12:15pm Kevin Dougherty r/o Mom & Dad

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Robert Hughes*

### THURSDAY JANUARY 15

8:00am Mary Capdeville r/o Richard Quinn

12:15pm Marion Palmer r/o Gerry Blinstrub

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Peter Idler*

### FRIDAY JANUARY 16

8:00am Mary Ita Boyle r/o Degenhardt Family

12:15pm Frank Bootz r/o Fillimon Family

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Anthony Infanti*

### SATURDAY JANUARY 17

8:00am Gerald Frances Donoghue r/o Table at St. Thomas

4:00pm Marie Fama r/o Larry Fama

*Priest of the Day: Rev. William Kelly*

### SUNDAY JANUARY 18 - SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00am John & Rose Chimienti r/o Family

10:00am Josephine Torricelli r/o Rosalie Federico

12:00pm For Our Parishioners

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Edward Kennedy*

*The Mary Candle in the Church this week burns in memory of: Hannah Clements*

*r/o Barbara & Michael Clements*



## 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

Walter Blais, Joseph Ciminiello, Edmund Crookhorn, Cynthia Czarnecki, Nicky DeFonte, John Derenoski, Jack DeRuvo, Brien Essenbreis, Christopher Horn, Sina Indelicato, Anatoli Karnicki, Harriet Kunzman, Maria Lim, Harold Mann, Mary Margett, Pat & Rudy Maurer, William Mendez, John McDevitt, Florence Picco, Angela Principe, Frank Ranelli, Lynda Savickas, Richmond Sesay, Thomas Smith, Migdalia Soto, Irene Sutton, Jean Swinarski, Tristan Thompson, Daphne Ulveling, Mary Yu.

*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*

### DECEASED + LOVED ONES

*Ronald Atlak  
Julia Maffei  
Eduardo Varela  
Bernard Wisniewski*

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

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



*Collections for Christmas.....\$35,758  
Collections for December 28th.....\$18,802.50  
Collection for Solemnity of Mary.....\$6,449  
Collections for January 4th.....\$20,888  
Collection Together in Charity.....\$2,706*

**THANK YOU!**

### HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

#### PLEASE NOTE:

**The Parish Office will closed on January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King Day. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 20th at 9:00am.**

## 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 February 6th for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** 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

#### **First Reconciliation:**

Congratulations to our 69 second graders in St. Thomas the Apostle PREP and School who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this Saturday. May they always trust in God’s mercy and grow in His love.

#### **Confirmation:**

**PREP Confirmation candidates only:** Our next session is Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, from 6:45 PM-8:30 PM in St. Thomas School. Please arrive promptly. Parents, please meet your child at the front doors of the school at dismissal.

All Candidates: Mass attendance will resume this weekend. Please do not go up to sign the book once the announcements have begun, during Mass or after receiving Holy Communion and wait until the Priest has left the Church before signing the book.

#### **First Communion:**

There will be a Parent Meeting on **Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>** at 4:30 PM **or Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>** at 6:15 PM for those who have a child receiving First Holy Communion in April / May. Please choose a meeting that works best with your schedule. The meetings will be held in St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

### **Christmas Flower Thank You!**

A special thanks to all who donated toward the Christmas Flowers for the 2025 Christmas Season. A Triduum of Masses was offered in Thanksgiving for your loved ones on Christmas Day. Your generosity helped beautify the Sanctuary for all the Christmas liturgical celebrations.

## OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)



### January 11 - The Baptism of the Lord

We are reading the baptism of Jesus. One of the many ways in which the creator of the world and our Savior imitated us in all things but sin. It is delightful to ponder Him growing up with Mary and Joseph, learning to walk, working alongside Joseph in his workshop, growing taller just like our own sons during puberty. Now, He is standing in line with the others waiting for John the Baptist to baptize Him. Was the sun blazing hot? Was He sweating as He waited? We all know how a splash of cool water feels on a hot day just as Jesus did on this momentous day. But, did He know how His Father would respond to this action? For most of us, our baptism took place when we were infants, so there are no memories. There might not even be photos. But we have this Gospel to ponder. We were baptized just as Christ Himself, and every day God speaks the same words over us: "This is my beloved [child], with whom I am well-pleased." Take this declaration with you today and every day. God is pleased by you, not with what you do, or where you live or any external measure of success by the world's standards. Stand strong in that truth. Please pray for our candidates this week, those who are actively seeking His love and truth, that their hearts may be open to the beauty of His grace.



Parents who are having their first child baptized are required to attend a Baptism Preparation session in advance.

**Next class: Tuesday, January 27th - 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 **registered and practicing** member of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

**If you have moved out of the parish, and no longer live within our parish boundaries, we CANNOT 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.**

## DEACONS TABLE SPAGHETTI DINNER



January 21, 2026

4:00 PM- 6:00 PM

**St. Thomas the Apostle Church**

333 Highway 18, Old Bridge, NJ

*We will be distributing dinners to take home.*

*Come pick up your spaghetti dinner at*

*St. Thomas the Apostle Church.*

*Please RSVP to [sttmas@sttaob.com](mailto:sttmas@sttaob.com)*

*or call parish office (732) 251-4000*

### Encounter the Love of Jesus through personal prayer

Encounter School of Ministry Prayer Teams will be available January 25th, after the 12:00pm Mass.

### THANK YOU...

**To all parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle:**

Thank you for your generous monetary donations in support of our Nursing Home gift drive. Because of your kindness, we were able to **donate 400 beautifully wrapped gift bags to our three local nursing homes** before Christmas. Each gift bag included a **blanket, puzzle book, and holiday tumbler**, bringing warmth and cheer to the residents.

In addition, we collected **over \$2,500** to help **parish families in need provide a beautiful Christmas for their children and families**. Your generosity truly made a meaningful difference this Christmas season, and we are deeply grateful for your support.

Join us on February 7, 2026

At 7:00pm



### Super Pull Tab Saturday

*Proceeds to benefit St Thomas Music Ministry*

Orders can be placed at Tuesday, 11:00 am, Thursday, 11:00am, or Friday, 9:00pm Bingo. You may also drop off your form with payment in a sealed envelope at the Pastoral Center Attn: Jenn Flaherty. Payment for Pull Tab Pre-Order must be received by February 5, 2026. You will be issued an entrance number with Pre-order pull tabs. Questions please call Jenn 908-601-6210.

Forms will be available at Bingo or at the Pastoral Center



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2025-2026

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**Sunday Bingo** 5p Doors Open 245p  
**Tuesday Bingo** 11a Doors Open 830a  
**Thursday Bingo** 11a Doors Open 9a  
**Friday Bingo** 9p Doors Open 715p  
**Midnight Bingo** Doors open 11p

**Don't forget our full Kitchen!!**

### 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!

### FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED!

**We are in need of the following items:**



Coffee, canned soups, juice boxes, snacks (individual), canned fruit, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, Dinty Moore stew, Vienna sausage, Spam, ketchup, mayo, pasta, pasta sauce (plastic jars ONLY), Mac and Cheese, Chef Boy Ardee, tuna fish, and canned chicken.

**Please be sure your items are not used and do not carry expired dates.**

### 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.

### 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.



# Come Pray a ROSARY for LIFE

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026  
AT 1:00 PM  
MAIN STREET, WOODBRIDGE, NJ**

## IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE

You are asked to park and meet in the  
St. James Parish parking lot at 12:45 pm, 369 Ambey Ave., Woodbridge, NJ  
There is a 12:10 pm Daily Mass at St. James for those who wish to attend.  
For more information, please contact [magnese@dometachen.org](mailto:magnese@dometachen.org)



**Wonderfully Made**  
Psalm 139:14

## DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY 2026!

**Saturday, January 31st**

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Monet Souza**

**St. Thomas Aquinas High School  
Edison, NJ**

**Music By:**  
**Marisel Rodriguez**

**Cost: \$20 (Lunch included!)**

**Grades 8-12**

**10:30am-5:00pm**

## Stress in your Marriage?

ANNOUNCING AN  
UPCOMING RETROUVAILLE  
**WEEKEND FOR  
COUPLES**

**JANUARY 30 –  
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FOR MORE INFO OR REGISTRATION:  
RICH COLASUONNO @ 732-236-0671  
ANNETTE COLASUONNO @ 732-672-0748  
OR [3024@HELPOURMARRIAGE.ORG](mailto:3024@HELPOURMARRIAGE.ORG)

Is your marriage going down the right road... or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage. Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track.



## Blood Drive

Celebrating  
National Blood  
Donor Month



**SATURDAY, JAN 24<sup>TH</sup>  
8 AM – 2 PM**

**ST. THOMAS RC CHURCH**

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
ST. THOMAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

333 ROUTE 18, OLD BRIDGE, NJ 08857

To make an appointment:

Please scan QR code

Or Visit: [www.nybc.org/drive](http://www.nybc.org/drive)

Sponsor code: **07755**

Donors over 76 years and older can now give blood without a doctor's note.

800.933.BLOOD • [nybc.org](http://nybc.org)

### Prepare to donate

- Eat well and hydrate
- Bring a photo ID
- Feel good and symptom free
- Meet minimum weight requirements



## CHRISTMAS GIFT

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for your spouse?  
Why not give yourselves a Marriage Encounter Weekend?

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 13 – 15.

Please apply ASAP as space is limited.

Phone 1-732-904-9636 for application and information (Tom & Ruth DeFalco).

Visit us at: [www.wvme.org](http://www.wvme.org) for more information.



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