

# *Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School*

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**JANUARY 25, 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!



### THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 25, 2026

#### SATURDAY JANUARY 24

8:00am James Siravo r/o Sonny Siravo  
4:00pm Patricia Higgins r/o Debbie & Tom Yesis  
*Priest of the Day: Rev. Allen Lovell*

#### SUNDAY JANUARY 25 - THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00am Charlotte Simon r/o Caroline O'Leary  
10:00am Mary Helen Keevins r/o Keevins Family  
12:00pm Madeline Dorothy Ebinger r/o Doug Young & Anna Schwartzner

*Priest of the Day: Rev. John Lydon*

#### MONDAY JANUARY 26 - ST. TIMOTHY

8:00am Christine Sabato r/o Mary Ellen Wilson  
12:15pm Monthly Memorial  
*Priest of the Day: Rev. Edward Maher*

#### TUESDAY JANUARY 27

8:00am Georgiana Miller r/o Michael Kovacs  
12:15pm Mary McKeown r/o Family

*Priest of the Day: Rev. John March*

#### WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28 - ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

8:00am Monica Izzo r/o Gerard & Elizabeth Drumm  
12:15pm Harold Munn r/o John & Maureen Nigro

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Sunny Mathew*

#### THURSDAY JANUARY 29

8:00am Joseph Ungrady r/o Caroline O'Leary  
12:15pm Louise Restivo r/o Fillimon Family

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Mark Matthias*

#### FRIDAY JANUARY 30

8:00am Eileen Reilly r/o Wayne & Laurie Miller  
12:15pm Eleanor Nagy r/o Brian Nagy

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Michael McCue*

#### SATURDAY JANUARY 31

8:00am Joseph Ungrady r/o Chris Doyle  
4:00pm Frank Davis r/o Francine Davis

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Kevin Mohan*

#### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1 - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00am Sophie Smith r/o JoAnn Presti  
10:00am Charlotte Simon r/o CJHS Family  
12:00pm Margaret Liestensnider r/o May & Dave Brunnengraber

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Joseph Monahan*

### 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](http://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.

*The Sanctuary Candle in the Church this week  
burns in living intention of: Frank & Christopher  
Doyle*

*r/o Chris Doyle*



## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Walter Blais, Joseph Ciminiello, Edmund Crookhorn, Cynthia Czarnecki, Nicky DeFonte, John Derenoski, Jack DeRuvo, Christopher Horn, Sina Indelicato, Anatoli Karnicki, Harriet Kunzman, Maria Lim, Pat & Rudy Maurer, William Mendez, John McDevitt, Florence Picco, Angela Principe, Frank Raneli, Lynda Savickas, Richmond Sesay, Thomas Smith, Migdalia Soto, Irene Sutton, Jean Swinarski, 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 hospital. Contact the Parish Office at 732.251.4000.*

### DECEASED + LOVED ONES

*Elisabeth Altruda*

*Sereida Kopitskie*

*Mary Ann Mastrogiacomo*

*Michael Anthony Morales*

*Sharon Yonchak*

### 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 January 18th not available at time of printing.

THANK YOU!

### ST. MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL PRAYER

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our safeguard against the wiles and wickedness of the devil. Restraine him O God, we humbly pray, and do thou O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin and destruction of souls. Amen.



## 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 Confirmation candidates only:

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.

### MASS BOOK 2027 OPENING FEBRUARY 10th AT 10:00AM

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

OCIA (Order of  
Christian  
Initiation of Adults)



**January 25 - Third Sunday in  
Ordinary Time**

A lot goes on in today's Gospel from Matthew. Jesus has just returned from His forty days in the desert and hears of John the Baptist's arrest. He withdraws into Galilee, leaves Nazareth, goes to Capernaum, fulfills a prophecy of Isaiah about a great light in the darkness, calls His first four disciples, and proclaims the gospel of the kingdom. Oh, and He heals disease and infirmity. **WOW!**

Yet hidden in these verses is a wonderful template for our lives: **Prayer** - Deeply troubled by his cousin's arrest, Jesus withdrew to regain His composure and to pray. **Community** - After prayer, Jesus called His disciples, creating community. Jesus did not go it alone. **Ministry** - Then Jesus began His ministry. 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.

**2025 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 #: \_\_\_\_\_

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
Most Holy Redeemer Parish  
(Desmond Hall)  
133 Amboy Road, Matawan, NJ 07747



New Jersey Blood Services will be conducting a blood drive at Most Holy Redeemer Parish on **Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 1:00 – 7:00 p.m.** in Desmond Hall. At this time, the blood supply is critically low – PLEASE HELP.

Remember to eat, drink, and bring your Donor ID or ID with your name and photo.



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



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.

**Encounter the Love of Jesus through personal prayer**

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

Next healing mass at St. Mary's on February 6th at 6:30pm.  
Address: 19 Cherry Tree Farm Rd., Middletown, NJ 07748

SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL'S

2025-2026

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## CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2026-2027 TUITION ASSISTANCE

### ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPEN

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than **March 31, 2026**. A signed Parish Verification Form is also required by the Diocese, and should be signed by your Pastor, and submitted to the school or schools your children attend. Eligibility requirements, instructions and forms can be found at <https://diometuchen.org/tuition-assistance>. Applications are available in English and Spanish.

## 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.



## ST. THOMAS BINGO

333 Rt. 18 S  
Old Bridge, NJ 08857

[www.saintthomasob.com](http://www.saintthomasob.com)  
Facebook: STA BINGO

**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!

## 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.

## DEACONS TABLE



February 18, 2026  
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 Thanksgiving dinner at  
St. Thomas the Apostle Church.  
RSVP: [stitmas@sttaob.com](mailto:stitmas@sttaob.com)

## Table at St. Thomas the Apostle



Saturday, February 14, 2026  
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 [chrисdoyle167@gmail.com](mailto:chrисdoyle167@gmail.com)  
or call 732-609-1499

This Lent, the Faith Sharing Group will be offering **Restore: A Guided Lent Journal for Prayer and Meditation**, by author: Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT.

**Follow the Lord into the depths of your heart this Lent and you will never be the same.**

In this beautiful guided journal for prayer and meditation, Sr. Miriam invites you to meet the tenderness of God's mercy, the power of his love, and the restoration of your heart and life as you practice prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Restore features daily meditations on passages from scripture, reflection questions, guided prayer, and space for journaling and notetaking. There is also a video for each week.

If you enter into Lent with Christ, your heart will see more clearly, be pierced more easily, love more strongly, and serve more passionately. Jesus will be etched into the crevices of your being.

Journaling will be an optional part of the group meeting. As always, you're welcome to participate at your comfort level.

Meetings will be held on Thursdays, starting February 19th – March 26th. The morning sessions will be from 10am-12noon and the evening sessions will be from 7-9pm in the parish center room.

Please sign up early so we can order books. The cost of the book is \$10, which is due at the first meeting-2/19/26. Any questions, please contact Marilyn Harmyk 732-735-5907 (text) or email: [marilynarmyk@gmail.com](mailto:marilynarmyk@gmail.com).

## Stress in your Marriage?



**RETRouveAU**  
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

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

ANNOUNCING AN  
UPCOMING RETROUVEAU  
**WEEKEND FOR  
COUPLES**

**JANUARY 30 –  
FEBRUARY 1, 2026**

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 did for 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.



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.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org) for more information.

**Ponte Vecchio** Italian Seafood Grille 3863 Route 516 East Old Bridge, NJ 08857  
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