

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and School

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 24, 2024



Pastor:

Rev. Jerome A. Johnson

Parochial Vicars:

Rev. John M. Rozembajgier, JCL

Rev. Joseph 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:

Debbie Yesis

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: Tel -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



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD MARCH 24, 2024

SATURDAY	MARCH 23
4:00pm	Bill, Regina, Billy & Sonny r/o Lewandoski Family
SUNDAY	MARCH 24 - PALM SUNDAY
8:00am	For Our Parishioners
10:00am	Stan D'Mello r/o Stella Cavallo
12:00pm	Eugene Hadden r/o Ed & Beth Stefanski
MONDAY	MARCH 25
8:00am	Edward Kinkela r/o Gayle & Anthony Gesualdi
12:15pm	Monthly Memorial
TUESDAY	MARCH 26
8:00am	Jane Edith Taylor r/o Joann Arena
12:15pm	Nancy Stahley r/o Judy & Jim Tabert
WEDNESDAY	MARCH 27
8:00am	Mark Brower r/o Fillimon Family
12:15pm	Paul Cascione r/o Giugliano Family
THURSDAY	MARCH 28 - HOLY THURSDAY
8:00am	Morning Prayer
7:00pm	Mass of The Lord's Supper
FRIDAY	MARCH 29 - GOOD FRIDAY
8:00am	Morning Prayer
12:00pm	Children's Stations of the Cross
3:00pm	Passion of The Lord
7:00pm	Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY	MARCH 30 - HOLY SATURDAY
8:00am	Morning Prayer
8:00pm	Easter Vigil
SUNDAY	MARCH 31 - EASTER SUNDAY
	THE RESSURECTION OF THE LORD
8:00am	Easter Flower Triduum
10:00am	Easter Flower Triduum
12:00pm	Easter Flower Triduum

Welcome to the Parish Family of St. Thomas!

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.

So please register... and Welcome!

Parish Office : One St. Thomas Plaza, Old Bridge, NJ 08857

Tel: 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 Tel: 732.251.4812

PREP Tel: 732.251.1660

Contact Information:

Website: www.saintthomasob.com

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

Bulletin Editor: Ms. Lisa Sorrentino

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—but no later than three weeks before the scheduled Baptism. 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 dangerous 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.

HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS: Parishioners desiring the Sacraments, please contact Pastoral Center.

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES . . .

Sanctuary Candle/Mary Candle, lit for one week in Church, available during daytime in Pastoral Center.

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 Mary Candle in the Church for this week burns for the intention of: John Soporowski 70th Birthday

r/o LNO + 4



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anonymously Recommended: Bob Andrews, Anthony Androvich, Ronald Atlak Sr, Walter Blais, Edmund Crookhorn, Chet Dudek, Sienna Franco, Anthony D., Joseph Fricano, Joanne Howard, Patricia Howley, Pat & Rudy Maurer, Barbara McMillian, Daniel Mechkowski, Paul & Vivian Montalban, Rita Murray, Ernie Nocera, Frank Ranelli, Lucia Rella, Salvatore Sodano, John Soporowski, Eileen Stolte, Irene Sutton, Rich Szuminsky, Joseph Vasham, Isilio Villa, Nell White.

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.

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

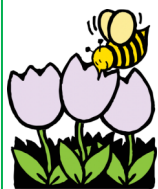


The collection for March 9th/10th...\$13,164.00

THANK YOU!

Bishop's Annual Appeal 2024

Our Goal - \$88,000
Amount Received - \$44,870



DONATIONS

If you would like to make a donation to the St. Thomas Tricky Tray, please drop it off at the Pastoral Center or call Jen at: 908.601.6210.

Thank You!



Palm Sunday - March 24

Regular weekend Mass schedule
Saturday 4:00pm, Sunday 8:00am, 10:00am, & 12:00pm

Holy Thursday - March 28

8:00am - Morning Prayer
7:00pm - Mass of The Lord's Supper

Good Friday - March 29

8:00am - Morning Prayer
12:00pm - Children's Stations of the Cross
3:00pm - Passion of The Lord
7:00pm - Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday - March 30

8:00am - Morning Prayer
1:00pm - Blessing of Food
8:00pm - Great Easter Vigil
NO CONFESSIONS

Easter Sunday - March 31

Masses 8:00am, 10:00am, & 12:00pm

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office Holy Thursday (closes: **12:00pm**)
Closed: Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday
and Easter Monday.

The Parish Office will **re-open Tuesday,**
April 2nd at 9:00am.

HOLY LAND COLLECTION

Good Friday - March 29

The single beneficiary of this collection is the commissariat of the Holy Land which is responsible for the preservation of the shrines of the Holy Land and the Sacred Congregation of Oriental Churches.

Lenten Quotes

"As Lent is the time for greater love listen to Jesus' thirst... 'Repent and believe.'"

- St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta



Lord Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, grant to children/grandchildren the generosity necessary to follow Your call and the courage required to overcome all obstacles to their vocation. Give us faith, love and spirit of sacrifice which will inspire us to offer our children to God's service and to rejoice whenever one of our children is called to the priesthood and religious life. Let your example and that of Your Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph encourage both young people and parents and let Your grace sustain them. Amen.



COME CELEBRATE THE PASSOVER SEDER OF THE LORD

All 6th, 7th and 8th graders are invited to join us Wednesday, March 27, 2024 6:00 to 9:00pm in the Parish Center.

Bring a Friend

DINNER WILL BE SERVED.
RSVP by Monday March 18, 2024 to Mrs. Valerie Romer at: kvrkc@aol.com or text 732-586-0303



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



April 17, 2024
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 spaghetti dinner at St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

Please RSVP to stitmas@sttaob.com or Call the parish office at 732.251.4000

Come join the fun
Tuesday & Thursday 11am
Friday 9pm
Saturday Midnight
Sunday 5pm
Facebook: STA Bingo
Saint Thomas
BINGO



The Table at St. Thomas Saturday, April 13, 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 or call 732-609-1499

PLEASE BE SURE TO PICKUP BETWEEN 12:00 & 1:30

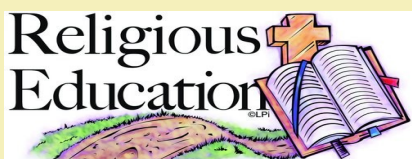


Parents who are having their first child baptized are required to attend a Baptism Preparation session in advance. **Next class:** this **Tuesday, April 23, 2024 - 7:30pm** in Parish Room of the Pastoral Center. **Registration required.** The Sacrament of Baptism is a sacred event regulated by Church (Canon) Law. Any questions - call 732.251.4000.

Palm Sunday

"Pilate again said to them, 'Then what shall I do with the man whom you call King of the Jews?' Crucify him. '...'"
Mark 15:12-13

Jesus told us "whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." Every day we are presented opportunities to help someone. Every day we have the opportunity to see the face of Jesus in others and to be the face of Jesus to others. Every day we pass by someone in need. Pray for the strength and courage to be the answer to someone's prayer.



Liturgy of the Word with Children at the 10:00am Mass:

Children in Grades K-8 are invited to go to the Pastoral Center, listen to the Readings, share a reflection and Prayers of the Faithful on their level. Children are well supervised and returned to their parents during the Presentation Hymn for the Eucharist. We will meet every Sunday in Lent.

PREP Level 2 Students:

Students who attended **Level 2 PREP** classes this year are required to attend class on **Tuesday, April 9 at 4:15 - 5:45pm OR Thursday, April 11 at 6:00 - 7:30pm.** Please bring your child to PREP on the day that they attended during the year for activities and reflection in preparation for First Communion. This is for PREP students only.

**** Second grade students who attend St. Thomas School will have their class of activities and reflection in preparation for First communion during their school day. ****

Confirmation:

Confirmation will be celebrated **Wednesday, April 17th at 4:00pm.** **Confirmation rehearsal** will be on Monday, April 15th at 6:00pm in the Church. Sponsor or parent must attend rehearsal with student.

ST. MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL PRAYER

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our safeguard against the wiles and wickedness of the devil. Restrain 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

HOLY NAME SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday April 14th - Communion Breakfast in the Pastoral Center after 10am Mass - Guest Speaker - Parish Committee Forum. Cost \$20 pp.

Saturday May 4th - Somerset Patriots -vs- New Hampshire Fisher Cats \$40 pp. More information to come!

Saturday July 13th – Sight and Sound Theater Lancaster, Pa. Time 7am – 7:30pm. The show “Daniel” and Bird-in-Hand Restaurant and Bus \$180pp.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

In our OCIA sessions, we welcome all who desire to learn more about the Catholic faith. If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or know someone who is, please have them contact me. For some, this may be an opportunity for a “refresher course” in the Faith. Our classes are weekly. Please invite anyone you know who may be interested in the Catholic Church. Registration is required. - Deacon Pat Hearty -732.251.4000 ext. 8218.

ADULT ENRICHMENT CLASSES **WORLD RELIGIONS**

St. John Neumann Pastoral Center
146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway

10 Classes April 18 – June 27, 2024
Thursday 10:00AM – 11:30AM
Fr. Comandini, S.T.D. will teach about Hinduism - Buddhism - Judaism - Christianity - Islam

To register visit: www.diometucvhen.org/faith-formaiton.

For more information email:
amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732.562.1543

2024 Bishop's Annual Appeal

STAY WITH US, LORD

Renew our Hearts and Send Us on Mission

Your gift supports the mission of the Office of Human Life and Dignity, remaining steadfast in its efforts to promote the sanctity of human life in all stages and in all conditions. Your support also brings the grace of the sacraments and compassionate care to those in hospitals and prisons through our clergy chaplains, and has a tremendous impact on the lives of so many in need through our Catholic Charities.

PRAYER BLANKET

Anyone who needs spiritual, mental or physical comfort, and can benefit spiritually from a prayer blanket, contact the Pastoral Center: 732.251.4000.





CHRISM MASS
Tuesday, March 26 - 4:00pm

On Tuesday, March 26, 2024, Bishop James F. Checchio will celebrate the Chrism Mass with the priests of the Diocese. At this Mass, all priest will make a Renewal of Commitment to priestly Service to the Bishop and the People of God. The Bishop will also bless and consecrate the Holy Oils, which each parish receives for the rites of anointing.

The Oil of Catechumens is used to anoint infants and adults before their Baptism; the Oil of the Sick is used on the forehead and hands of the infirm in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, and the Sacred Chrism is used to anoint the hands of a priest at his ordination, the altar and walls of new churches.

All are strongly encouraged to join in person or via Livestream in the ancient, grace-filled Chrism Mass at the **Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen at 4:00pm.**



BE A BUDDY or FIELD CREW.... JUST 4kixs

BUDDIES: Just4kixs is looking for responsible teens to be a buddy to a child with special needs. Just4kixs has been teaching soccer to children with special needs for 16 years. If you are between the ages of 12- 19 you can be a buddy and friend to a special child.

You do not need any soccer experience to be a buddy. All you need is patience, enthusiasm, and a friendly smile. You will work alongside a child with special needs for one hour each Saturday for 8 sessions.

You will receive 12 hours of community service for completing the 8-week Spring program and an additional 2 hours for attending our buddy training class as well as a lifetime of memories for sharing your time. We need about 200 buddies each season, bring your friends to sign up as well.

FIELD CREW: Our field crew is a HUGE part of this program. They are responsible for setting up the field each week. Since we have 5 different teams and over 120 players, we need as much help as possible to make a smooth transition into play time.

We have two field crew managers who will explain the job to be done and oversee the set up and clean up. Ages 10 & up can be part of our field crew team. Field crew will NOT work with a child on the field, they are simply responsible for set up and clean up.

You will receive 16 hours of community service for completing the 8-week Spring program and an additional 2 hours for attending our field crew training class.

We can assure you it will be one of the best and most rewarding experiences you will ever have.

Register online:

Sign up is easy, visit the www.just4kixs.org or go to www.oldbridgesc.com

Spring season begins Saturday, April 6, 2024

Season ends Saturday, June 1, 2024

Playtime is (11:30 am-12:30pm)

Additional info...please email Linda Giasullo

vgpg03@gmail.com

CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2024-2025 TUITION ASSISTANCE ONLINE APPLICATION

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, 2024**. Applications are available in English and Spanish.

Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.