

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

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FEBRUARY 8, 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!**

# MASS INTENTIONS



## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FEBRUARY 8, 2026

### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7

8:00am Christopher Albano r/o Mom and Dad  
4:00pm William Flaherty r/o Kathy Honan

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Logan Nilsen*

### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8 - FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00am Michael Hartwyk r/o Larry & Joan McGrath  
10:00am Nikolai Hopkins r/o Chris Doyle  
12:00pm Norma Tamborini r/o Barbara Tamborini

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Robert Nolan*

### MONDAY FEBRUARY 9

8:00am Diane Meagan r/o Loney & Calice Families  
12:15pm Frusto Manalili r/o Joji Manalili

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Franklin Opara*

### TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10 - ST. SCHOLASTICA

8:00am James Pollio r/o Kathy & Sean O'Neil  
12:15pm Marie & Salvatore Capasso r/o daughter, Arlene

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Robert Pasley*

### WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11

8:00am Annette Elizabeth Giovia r/o Thomas Faas  
12:15pm Norma Shenesky r/o Justine & Scott  
Durstewitz

*Priest of the Day: Rev. John Perdue*

### THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12

8:00am Robert Bove r/o Kathy Salmon  
12:15pm Charlotte Simon r/o St. Thomas Prep

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Andrew Pham*

### FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13

8:00am Nancy LaCava r/o Dolores & Michael Ambrosio  
12:15pm Alois Bendekovitz r/o Susan Simon

*Priest of the Day: Rev. John Picnic*

### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14

8:00am Natividad DeSello r/o DeSello Family  
4:00pm Ron Weber r/o Andrew, Matthew, & Justin

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Steven Pinzon*

### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15 - SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00am Madeline Dorothy Ebinger r/o Doug Young &  
Anna Schwartz  
10:00am Anna Helen Burness r/o Eva & Victor Dawson  
12:00pm JoAnn Hilt r/o Tom & Janet Liposky

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Lawrence Polansky*

## 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.

*The Mary Candle in the Church this week burns in memory of: Eleanor Kobryn*

*r/o husband, John*



## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Richard Allen, Bianca Aresta, Joseph Ciminiello, Cynthia Czarnecki, Nicky DeFonte, John Derenoski, Jack DeRuvo, Maragret Gallagher, Christopher Horn, Sina Indelicato, Anatoli Karnicki, Harriet Kunzman, Maria Lim, Laura Magee, Pat & Rudy Maurer, William Mendez, John McDevitt, Florence Picco, Angela Principe, Frank Ranelli, Patricia Richi, Lynda Savickas, Richmond Sesay, Thomas Smith, Migdalia Soto, Irene Sutton, Jean Swinarski, 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

*Joseph John Reap Jr.*

## 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/PI381>
- Scan the QR code below
- Use your envelopes



*Collections for February 1st....\$19,009  
Catholic Education....\$ 1,325  
Catholic Press....\$1,625*

**THANK YOU!**

## 2026 Lenten Obligations

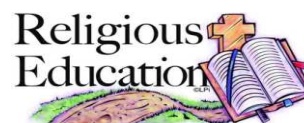
- The days of both fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday (February 18<sup>th</sup>) and Good Friday (April 3<sup>rd</sup>).
- The other Fridays of Lent (February 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>) are days of abstinence.
- Fasting in the Roman Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal with two smaller meals which together do not equal the size of your full meal. The obligation of fasting applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59.
- Abstinence in the Roman Catholic tradition means to abstain from eating meat (beef, chicken, pork, turkey). The obligation of abstinence applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14.

## 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 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.

### **Confirmation:**

Confirmation Rehearsal is Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm. Rehearsal is mandatory and each candidate must be accompanied by a parent or their sponsor.

Confirmation will be celebrated on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm 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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you very much for all your prayers and support during the difficult time of my mother's passing on December 19, 2025. It meant so much to me to hear from many of you through your phone calls, messages, and Mass offerings.



We celebrated the funeral Mass on December 21, 2025. My bishop in India and 32 priests concelebrated the Mass, and more than 100 religious sisters from my sister's congregation, the Sisters of St. Ann, were present, along with about 500 people from my hometown.

We also had the fifth-day ceremony on December 23rd, during which 14 priests concelebrated the Holy Mass and 400 people present. Again On January 16th, we celebrated the monthly memorial Mass, concelebrated by three priests, two of my uncles and myself, and 70 people present.

Everything went well with God's grace and through your prayers. I wholeheartedly thank you for your prayers and support during this time. Special thanks to Fr. Jay for his great concern and understanding.

With gratitude,

Fr. Joseph Thippabathini

### OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)



#### February 8 - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today Jesus reminds us that as His disciples, we have an obligation to share the message through words and deeds. As His disciples, we are the salt of the earth. We are called to "flavor" and enhance the lives of those around us. Remember that during the time of Jesus, salt was also used as an important preservative. Therefore, as the salt of the earth, we are also tasked with the preservation and saving of souls.

Jesus takes it one step further and reminds His disciples that if salt loses its taste, it becomes worthless. Today we get to reflect on what it means to retain our saltiness in life. None of us wish to be thrown out and trampled underfoot, so we must find a way to retain our flavor. This can mean giving generously to the poor, volunteering to share our time and talents, or forgiving someone who doesn't deserve to be forgiven.

Jesus goes on to call His disciples the light of the world. A light is meant to shine, and more importantly, to be seen by others. But a light is special in that the light, simply by its existence, helps others to see the way. By living our faith in a public way, we can become the light for others. We shine simply because we are living the life we are called to. By this example, we have the privilege of showing other people the way to God. **How can you be the light for someone else in your life today?** 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, February 24th - 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.

### Rosary Society Bake Sale

February 14 – 15 \* After All Masses

Treat yourself to something sweet while supporting the Rosary Society. Our members are baking with love. Stop by after mass to share in the warmth and community.

Opportunities to recite the Rosary each day:

Monday - Saturday before morning Mass

Sunday morning after 10:00am Mass

### 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.



**SAVE THE DATE**

The Parish Community is invited to mark a joyful milestone as we celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priesthood Ordination of

Rev. Jerome A. Johnson

Saturday, May 30, 2026  
(details to follow)

We look forward to gathering in appreciation and celebration of Father Jay's years of faithful service

*Presented with gratitude by the*  
St. Thomas the Apostle FUNraising Committee



**St. Padre Pio Prayer Group of St. Ambrose Parish**

83 Throckmorton Lane  
Old Bridge, NJ 08857  
732.679.5666



Come join us in prayer as we celebrate mass together in honor of St. Padre Pio by Celebrant Fr. Jack C. Grimes. Mass will be celebrated on Saturday February 21, 2026, at 9:00am, followed by veneration of a first-class relic of St. Padre Pio.

**THANK YOU**



St. Thomas Parish and St. Thomas Knights of Columbus would like to thank all those who came out in the cold to assist or donate at our Winter Blood Drive. We are especially grateful to the St. Thomas Maintenance Staff, the St. Thomas Parish Staff, the NJ Blood Services Staff and our volunteers for creating a safe and secure environment for the donors. We are also grateful to the TEXAS ROADHOUSE, Route 9, Old Bridge for their continued and generous support of our blood drive by providing donor door prizes. We were credited with 98 units of blood. Once again St. Thomas responded to the critical blood shortage. Mark the date for our Summer Blood Drive, August 1, 2026.

**LENTEN NIGHT OF RECOLLECTION**  
**St. Bartholomew Church, East Brunswick**

+  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



Date: **Thursday, February 19, 2026**  
Presenter: Father Thomas Walsh  
Private Prayer: 6:00pm – Reflection: 6:15pm – Mass: 7:00pm

**Lenten Soup Supper after Mass .... \$7.00pp**  
Reservation required for the Soup Supper  
For details: call Lois Q. or Nellie M. – 732.207.9786

**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.factsmgmt.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.

**Join Us for A Special Experience**  
**with Rare Relics of the Passion**

Join us at St. James the Less Church for an encounter with nine rare *Relics of Christ's Passion*. Having the opportunity to meditate on the Passion in the presence of these holy relics is sure to enhance your Lenten experience.

Take advantage of what is likely to be a once in a lifetime opportunity to engage in a meditative walk to Calvary and venerate these rare and holy relics. This powerful program is a 90-minute meditational experience supported with Eucharistic Exposition, music and prayer, culminating in relic veneration.

A collection such as this is generally seen only in Rome or the Holy Land. This presentation is being brought to us as part of a collaborative initiative with the Apostolate for Holy Relics.

**The Relics of the Passion collection includes:**

- A piece of the True Cross which was discovered by St. Helena
- A piece of the Holy Table from the room where the Last Supper took place
- A piece of the Column of Flagellation
- A piece of the Crown of Thorns
- A replica of the Holy Nail, fashioned using filings from the true nails
- A relic (bone) of St. Longinus, the centurion who pierced the side of Christ
- A picture of (the effigy of) the Veil of Veronica touched to the original with a Vatican seal attesting to the fact.

## 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: [sttmas@sttaob.com](mailto:sttmas@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 [chrisdoyle167@gmail.com](mailto:chrisdoyle167@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).

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(Which covers the cost of dinner)  
Please RSVP NO LATER than February 9, 2026

**Faithful Servant Award Recipients**

 &   
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## HOLY NAME SOCIETY

Presents  
Site and Sound DVD Stage Show

### "MOSES"



February 21, 2026

In the Pastoral Center Door OPEN 9:30 DVD 10am – 1pm  
Cost \$5 per person

Limited Snacks and Drink will be Provided

George Szymanski  
732-238-5743

John Thornton  
732-763-3280

## HOLY NAME SOCIETY

SPONSORING

### CASINO TRIP

Monday March 2nd, 2026

### WIND CREEK CASINO



Wind Creek Casino in Bethlehem, PA  
Bus Trip Leaving 9:15 am to 7:00pm

\$50 per person getting back \$20 Casino Voucher

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732-238-5743

John Thornton  
732-763-3280

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