

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

***SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME***

***FEBRUARY 15, 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!**



**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
FEBRUARY 15, 2026**

**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 Schwartzter

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*

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 16**

9:00am Francis & Adeline Sullivan r/o Dorothy & Dennis  
Sullivan

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Philip Ramos*

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17**

8:00am Robert Sousa r/o Mother & Father

12:15pm Patrica Howley r/o Jean Norland

*Priest of the Day: Rev. David Rivera*

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18 - ASH WEDNESDAY**

8:00am Ruben Bagadion r/o Robin Bagadion

12:15pm L. Iris Schmitt r/o Chris Doyle

4:30pm Prayer Service

7:00pm Prayer Service

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Stephen Robbins*

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19**

8:00am George Inserra r/o Son, George

12:15pm Joe Ungrady r/o Pat & Lou Albano

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Jason Rocks*

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20**

8:00am Eileen Stolte r/o Tim & Janet Sewell

12:15pm Eleanor Kobryn r/o Wendy Crane

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Michael Romano*

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21**

8:00am Gerald Frances Donoghue r/o Chris Doyle

4:00pm Robert Higgins r/o Debbie & Tom Yesis

*Priest of the Day: Rev. John Rossi*

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22 - FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

8:00am Rosa Alfaro r/o DeSello Family

10:00am Helen Malkiewicz r/o Irene Geipel

12:00pm Lorraine McKinney r/o Rosemarie Gentile

*Priest of the Day: Rev. Robert Sinatra*

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS  
PLEASE NOTE:**

The Parish Office will closed on Monday, February 16th in honor of President's Day. The office will reopen on Tuesday, February 17th at 9:00am.

**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. 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

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 Mages, 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, Tristian Thompson, 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.*

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

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



*Collections for February 8th....\$13,660  
Winter Collection....\$2,628  
THANK YOU!*

*The **Sanctuary Candle** in the Church for this week burned in loving memory of: **Leonard S. Yesis***



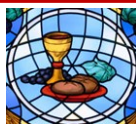
*r/o Terri, Sue, Andrea, and Juliette*

*The **Mary Candle** in the Church this week burns in memory of: **Anna Helen Burness***



*r/o Eva & Victor Dawson*

*The **Altar Bread and Wine** this week is offered for: **Robert Sousa***



*r/o Mother & Father*

## 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."

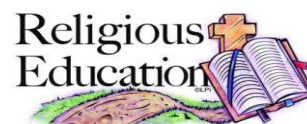
-Pope Benedict XVI

### 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.

### **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.



### **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.

## 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.

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



### **February 15 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

In each example Jesus gives in this passage: that we should not be angry with each other, not commit adultery, not divorce and not to swear any oath for any reason, all comes down to your yes or no being the truth. It is the desire to live that way that is needed. None of us is perfect; we make mistakes, but God always knows our intentions. You may have heard the term “authentic witness or Christian” or the phrase “you can’t just talk the talk; you have to walk the walk.” What we are looking for are people who are truthful, transparent and trustworthy. Jesus calls us to be that person. We can’t love Him and not our neighbor. We expect the person who tells us how to live a good, Christian life to be a good Christian. That is what is so shocking and upsetting when people we love, trust, and admire, whether they are public people or personally known to us, let us down. I’m not going to list the ways we are let down. You know them. But then, what about the ways we let others down? Are we authentic witnesses? Does our “yes” to Jesus show up in our life on a regular basis (as in, all the time)? And do we stick to our “no” as well? We know what Jesus is calling us to. Our task then is to say yes or no as needed, with conviction and follow-through, being authentic followers of Christ. The last verse in this Gospel is one to live your life by, no matter who you are or what you do. **It is the best advice ever: “Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’ Anything more is from the evil one”.** 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 #: \_\_\_\_\_



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.

## 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.**

## **BLANKET MINISTRY**



Our next meeting (weather permitting) of St. Thomas Blanket Ministry will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. in the Pastoral Center. Hope to see you there. Happy Valentine’s Day!

## **Rosary Society Bake Sale**

This weekend - 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



**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.

**Our Lady of Victories**

**Parish Mission**

Led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal  
[www.franciscanfriars.com](http://www.franciscanfriars.com)

*All are welcome!*

The Franciscan Friars from the Most Blessed Sacrament Friary in Newark will lead us in three evenings of prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, and reflection on the mission of the Church.



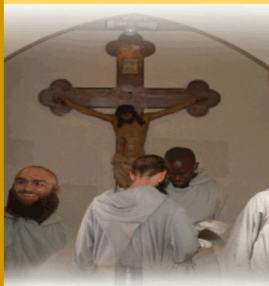
February 23–25, 2026  
Mon • Tues • Wed @ 7:00 PM

**Evening Schedule**

Monday: Adoration & Reflection  
Tuesday: Adoration, Reflection & Confession  
Wednesday: Adoration & Reflection  
*A free will offering will be collected*

Come and be renewed through prayer, worship, and reflection.

*Youth Track option Sunday Evening*



**Our Lady of Victories**

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**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 on February 22nd 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



March 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.  
RSVP: [sttmas@sttaob.com](mailto:sttmas@sttaob.com)

## Table at St. Thomas the Apostle



Saturday, March 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).

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

George Szymanski

John Thornton

732-238-5743

732-763-3280

## 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.

## 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!

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