Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish & School

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

<u>Pastor</u> Rev. Jerome A. Johnson

<u>Parochial Vicars</u> Rev. Frank W. Fellrath Rev. Anthony Dukru

> PARISH MISSION STATEMENT "To make disciples, as we know, love and serve God and one another."

December 29, 2019

<u>Deacons</u> Robert Bonfante, Sr. Patrick W. Hearty Joseph C. Tobin Scott D. Titmas, Sr.

School Principal Ms. Joanne Kowit

<u>PREP Director</u> Ms. Debbie Yesis

Director Sacred Music/Liturgy Mr. Justin Connors

Celebration of Mass

Saturday Vigil: 4:00PM & 5:30PMWeekday: (Pastoral Center Chapel)Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30AM &
12:00 NoonMonday - Friday: 8:15AM & 7:00PM*Saturday: 8:15AMSaturday: 8:15AM*Mondays: Celebrated in church with Miraculous Medal NovenaParish Office: Tel: 732.251.4000Fax: 732-251-4946Website: www.saintthomasob.com

PEACE & 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	1	he Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
December 29, 2019		
SATURDAY 8:15am	+	DECEMBER 28 - <i>Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i> Ann Featherman r/o Audrey Landsnes
4:00pm 5:30pm	+	Frank Bootz r/o John Fillimon John Fillimon r/o Gerry/Maria Fillimon
SUNDAY	+	DECEMBER 29 - THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS MARY & JOSEPH
7:30am	+	Parishioners Living and Deceased
9:00am	+	Christopher Heppel r/o Heppel Family
10:30am	+	Arpad Joseph Csizmadia, Jr. r/o Loving mom, Susan
12:00pm MONDAY	+	Phyllis Thornton r/o Maureen/John Nigro DECEMBER 30
8:15am	+	Edward Lonegan r/o Betty
7:00pm		Thomas L. O'Dwyer r/o Chris/Frank Doyle
Solemnity of Mary Mother of God		
	(Holy Day of Obligation)
TUESDAY		DECEMBER 31 (Vigil)
4:00pm	+	William Micciulli r/o TB-7 PREP/Liposky Family
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 1 – Mary, Mother of God		
10:30am	+	
12:00noon	+	Agnes Kramer r/o Bob/Sue Taureck
THURSDAY JANUARY 2 - St. Basil the Great & Gregory		
8:15am	+	<i>Nazianzen, Bishops</i> Mrs. Nancy Lynch r/o Pat and Criss Farrell
7:00pm	+	Int. of Paul/Vivian Montalban (49th Wedding
		Anniv) r/o Paulo/Gloria Han Montalban
FRIDAY		JANUARY 3 - Holy Name of Jesus
8:15am	+	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
7:00pm	+	8
SATURDAY		JANUARY 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
8:15am	+	Brenden Luke r/o Madeline and Bill Luke
4:00pm	+	Paul Sachkowsky r/o Colleen Ryan
5:30pm	+	Hannah Clements r/o Michael and Barbara Clements
SUNDAY		JANUARY 5 -EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
7:30am	+	Robert J. Mohring r/o wife, Patricia/Sons
9:00am	+	Ed Leddermann r/o Prekeris Family
10:30am	+	Thomas Franken r/o 8:15am Mass Friends



This week in Loving Memory of ...

Arpad Joseph Csizmadia, Jr., r/o Loving mom, Susan

Sanctuary Candle in Church

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 and after Mass please introduce yourself to Fr. Jay, Fr. Frank or Fr. Anthony. 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 School Tel: 732.251.4812 PREP Tel: 732.251.1660 Hours (Lunch 12:30pm-1:30pm approx.): Monday and Friday: 9:00am-4:00pm Tues./Wed./Thurs: 9:00am-8:00pm Saturday-Sunday: 11am-1:30pm **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. Kristine Yuhas **Reception/Bingo Coordinator:** Ms. Angelica Gangemi **Bulletin Editor:** Ms. Nellie Moran

Sacramental Information

BAPTISMS: (1:30pm, most Sundays) 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 <u>three weeks</u> before the scheduled Baptism. <u>PARENTS</u> must attend a Baptismal Preparation Session. (Registration is required.)

MARRIAGES:

Arrangements must be made at least one year in advance—<u>before</u> any social plans. Either the bride or groom must be a registered member of our parish. Once a marriage questionnaire (available in Pastoral Center) is completed/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.

PENANCE: Individual Confessions most Saturdays, 12:30pm and immediately following 5:30pm Mass. Communal Penance during Lent/Advent with visiting clergy.

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

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES ...

<u>Sanctuary</u> <u>Candle/Mary</u> <u>Candle</u>, (lit for one week in church/ chapel, available during daytime in Pastoral Center).

Wall of Remembrance: Honor your Loved One's with a candle that burns for one year and has a plaque under the candle in the church.



DECEASED LOVED ONES

Ray Vaughan, Carmen Dias, John Felon, Paula Colo, Leon Golembiewski, Kathleen Egner, Michael J. Glynn



Sunday, January 5, - 12noon Mass—we

will celebrate a special Mass for parents and Christmas their infants who were born this year. A special blessing will be given to each child and a reception for family members will follow in the Parish Room (prior registration required).

Holy Name Society Presents: "THE CHRISTMAS CAROL"



Featuring Riddlesbrood Touring Co.

January 5, 2020

Buffet Dinner and Photo booth Knights of Columbus, Old Bridge Doors open at 3:30pm - Show 4:00pm - 7:00pm Cost: \$40 per person or \$70 per couple

Tickets available after all masses or call 732.763.3280.

SENIOR'S MEETING

Our next meeting : Monday, January 6 - 1:00pm in the Pastoral Center.

WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS (WOWs)

Have you lost your spouse or significant other? Are you looking for a group of individuals that share a similar situation? Then <u>WOWs</u> may be the group for you! We meet once a month in the Parish Room and go offsite for dinner monthly. Please contact Deacon Pat at 732.251.4000 x8218 prior to attending.

Next gathering: Tuesday, January 7, 6:00pm.

"TABLE AT STA"

"For I was hungry and you gave me food...." Matthew 25:35 Next meal is Saturday, January 11, 12pm-2pm. Our thanks to parishioners for providing non-perishable food donations. Info: Chris Doyle cdoyle167@optimum.net or 732.257.0994.

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.

Collection: (Dec. 15: \$10,908 ('16: \$11,802) Poor: \$845, Organ collection: \$3,612

Online giving for November, 2018: \$3,868 Online Giving... Visit our website and get started: www.saintthomasob.com.





We are so grateful to our many Parishioners who contributed their time, talent and treasure to make our Parish observance of Christmas special: Justin Connors and the Parish Chil-

dren's Choir, Family Choir (Rachel Gavin), Members of the Liturgy Committee, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Servers, Lectors and Maintenance Staff. Because of Parishioners' kindness, many needy families were helped with gifts of food, clothing and toys. Also, Nursing home residents were very grateful for their gifts. Many thanks to our dedicated PREP Staff that was instrumental in coordinating this effort. Also, thank you to our St. Vincent de Paul Group. STA Priests, Deacons and Staff; thank you for your personal kindness to us ... greeting cards, baked goods etc. May our Lord reward you. Heartfelt thanks!



The Parish office closes on Monday, December 31 at 12 noon, and will be closed on Tuesday, January 1.

Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve - Tuesday, December 31 4:00pm Vigil Mass (No 5:30pm Mass)



New Year's Day - January 1: Solemnity of Mary Mother of God 10:30am and 12:00pm

Epiphany of the Lord - Saturday/Sunday, January 4/5 4:00, 5:30pm/7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am and 12:00pm (Baby's First Christmas: 12:00pm) followed by refreshments in the Pastoral Center.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

All parents must participate in a Baptismal Preparation Program (if possible before the birth of your child). Next class: Tuesday, January 28, 7:30pm (Parish Rm). Registration required. Remember, the Sacrament of Baptism is a sacred event regulated by Church (Canon) law. Please do not plan any activity until dates are confirmed. **Ouestions?** Phone Pastoral Center: 732.251.4000.

Bereavement Support Program

A parish bereavement support program will begin on Tuesday, January 14, 7:00pm—St. Thomas parish room of the Pastoral Center. The group will meet on Tuesdays -January 14, 21, February 11, February 25, and March **10**. There will be five sessions offered as a support for all persons who have recently lost a loved one struggling with the mourning process. Registration is required. No Walk-Ins. For more info...please call Deacon Pat 732-251-4000 ext. 8218.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

• <u>All</u> Confirmation Candidates: must sign the Mass attendance book (red *binder*) located on the front right side of the church. Arrive a few

minutes early or stay after Mass to sign the book. **Do** <u>not sign the book during Mass or after receiving</u> **Communion.** If you attend Sunday Mass at another Parish, you must bring a bulletin signed by a local priest.

 <u>All Confirmation paperwork was due December 2.</u> This includes your Confirmation Candidate Contract, Saint Report and Sponsor form. Please return to the <u>PREP Office as soon as possible.</u> Questions? PREP: 732.251.1660.

PREP Confirmation candidates only: are required to attend a mandatory session on Monday, January 6, from 6:45pm—8:30pm in St. Thomas School. Please arrive Promptly. Parents must meet their child at the front doors of the school at dismissal.

PREP Classes resume January 2, 2020.



ENVELOPE NUMBERS:

1266, 2522, 2783, 3208, 3410

Please contact Angelica or Nellie at the Parish Office, 732.251.4000



NEW AMBO

Our new Ambo has been recently installed, made specifically for us by a master wood worker, through the generosity of our parishioners, from last years Bishops Annual Appeal refund, as a result of the parish exceeding its goal. The tabernacle stand

and Ambo are made of Ash Buryl wood, and the tabernacle was designed by our own parishioner, Sean Pielli.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP (20's-30's)

Join us on the <u>third Sunday</u> of the month to meet new friends, forge relationships, and stay connected to the Church!



Our next gathering: Sunday, January 19 - 6:30pm, Parish Room Info: John - staya316@gmail.com



BUS TRIP • MARCH FOR LIFE

January 24, 2020 More info to follow.. Reserve: Tom 423.595.8211

MEMORIAL GIFT AVAILABLE

The Altar Bread and Wine (weekend) are available in memory of your Loved Ones. With a \$25 offering, your Loved One will be acknowledged in the bulletin.

PARISH PIPE ORGAN FUND

For the **month of January**, our Pipe Organ collection will be on the **(Third Sunday of the month).** We will continue this special collection for the refurbishing of our current pipe organ, so that we may achieve our goal of repairing it. Special envelopes will be available at the exits of the church, as well as a brochure for memorial opportunities.

The next collection is January 19, 2020

"A Century of Faith...a Future of Hope" 1921 • 2021

In October of 2021, St Thomas the Apostle Parish will celebrate its 100th Anniversary! We will begin our yearlong celebration in October of 2020. Parish Council members, as well as parishioners, will be part of planning our Celebration and asked to be members of the various committees that will be formed to make our Centennial Celebration a success. The Committees are: Publicity Committee, History Committee, Art and Historical Display Committee, Liturgy Committee, Dinner-Dance Committee, and the Event Committee. Sign-ups for these Committees will be announced shortly and more information will follow in upcoming bulletins. May God continue to Bless our parish as we continue to strive to fulfill the Mission He has entrusted to us!

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.



LEGION OF MARY...

Come to a meeting and experience a source of great grace and deep living of Catholic life by praying the Rosary and visiting people in area nursing homes. To Jesus through Mary. Meets

every Tuesday, 11:30am-1:30pm, Chapel (Sacristy). All are welcome! Questions: Maureen D'Onofrio 732.234.3923 or Deacon Pat Hearty 732.251.4000 x8218.

Prayer for Vocations

Almighty and Eternal God,

In Your unfailing love You provide ministers for Your Church. We pray that more men may hear Your call to serve the Church of Metuchen as priests. Inspire in them a generous response. Grant them courage and vision to serve Your people. May their lives and service as Men of the Eucharist call Your people to respond to the presence of Your Spirit among us that, faithful to the Gospel and hope of Jesus Christ, we may all be reconciled to God, announce glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, set prisoners free, and renew the face of the earth. Amen

GOD, ARE YOU THERE? 24 HOUR PRAYER LINE

Our Diocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities has a 24 hour prayer line for those who desire prayers for any need. If you, a family member or friend would like to be remembered in prayer temporarily or permanently, please call us and leave a detailed message at 732.765.6431 or send an email to our office: catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish School Pre-K - 8th Grade



Register for a Tour Today! Contact: Admissions Office 732.251.4812 x8253 333 Highway 18, Old Bridge Visit our website: www.sttaob.com

ST. THOMAS CASH CALENDER ... the <u>Gift</u> that keeps on giving 366 days of



the year with daily **prizes** ranging from **\$25.00 to \$500.00!** *Pick up your \$25 calendar* at the "Welcome Table" and the Parish office today!



\$12,000.00 CASH CALENDAR

Searching for a unique Christmas gift for family and friends?

The 2020 St. Thomas Cash Calendar might be the answer.

Each month's scene depicts one of our Church's beautiful stained glass windows ~ and each of the 366 days of the 2020 leap-year offers a cash prize ranging from \$25.00 (weekdays) to \$50.00 (Sundays) to \$100.00 (9 holidays) to \$500.00 on both Easter and Christmas.

That's a total of \$12,000.00 in prize money!

Each \$25.00 calendar is individually numbered with a tear-off section to fill in the recipient's name and address. We keep the tear-off ~ you give the calendar as a gift. (Make sure to reserve one for yourself, too!)

Each daily winner will be sent a check for that day's prize. You can win more than once as each winning number is returned to the pot for the next day's drawing.

A total of 1,500 calendars will be sold ~ so please stop by the "Welcome Table" in the Church Lobby after weekend Masses to reserve your "gift" that keeps on giving throughout the year.



TIME TO HELP A CHILD?

Catholic Charities is currently seeking <u>volunteers</u> for the Connections Program. This program provides positive adult role models for children who have suffered a loss or have special needs. Info: Jeanette Cullen (732) 738-1323 or email: jcullen@ccdom.org

College-Age* Retreat - January 3–5, 2020

Retreat to bring young people together of **college-age** 17-22). Whether you're in college or working, come join us to renew and deepen your relationship with God and meet new friends.

Cost \$135 per person/double occupancy. **Register**: www.capemaymarianists.org or call 609.884.3829.

Some financial aid available— *High School Seniors are welcomed.

PRAYER BLANKET

Anyone who needs spiritual, mental or physical comfort can benefit spiritually from a prayer blanket. Visit the Pastoral Center (business hours).



BINGO

(Including progressive) All proceeds support Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish School: Sundays - 5:00pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays - 11:00am; Friday—9:00pm and Midnight.



.. In God's Image, the <u>Catholic Faith Sharing Group for</u> gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people meets the 2nd Wed. of every month at 7:00pm. Next meeting is **January 8**—open to LGBTQ adults and their families 18 and over. For more info: contact Fr. John 908.756.0633, ext.125 or the group may be reached at 908.822.5895/ email: sacredheartigi@gmail.com.

..12 day Holy Land Pilgrimage with Msgr. Brennan, June 15, 202--June 27, 2020. Website: https:// selectinteranaltours.com/product/thomas.

ADVERTISING IN OUR BULLETIN!

Did you know we have 4,000+ families registered here at STA? What better way to advertise your business? Interested? Contact: Donna Delgrosso (646-359-0254). We need and appreciate your help!

Our thanks to all *current* advertisers!

HOT LINE NUMBERS:

- Alanon/Alateen: 1-888-425-2666
- Narcotics Anonymous: 1-800-992-0401
- Nar-Anon of NJ 1-877-424-4491
- Alcoholics Anonymous: 1-888-245-1377 or 908.687.8566
- Domestic Violence: 1-800-572-7233
- NJ Gamblers Anonymous: 1-855-222-5542
- Suicide/Crisis: 1-800-999-9999

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anonymously Recommended: Ronald Atlak, Sr, Pat Barabas, Enola Barlik, Rita Bator, Becky Bliefernich, Barbara and George Bollhardt, Gloria Bonagard, Frank Boyle, Craig Michael Buttcher, Nicholas Campanella, Jacklyn Canton, Ralph Chiano, Eileen Connolly, Louis Coromilias, Philip Czochanski, Camella Dacunta, Mafalda Decleva, John D'Mello, Stan D'Mello, Nancy Donoghue, Loretta Doyle, Sharon Ferrari, Brian Gage, Johanna Gordon, Charlotte Guarino, Matthew Harris, Robert Henrion, Frances Hogan, Robert John Isbecki, Vlad Kachur, Katie, Cathleen Kimber, Albert King, Joseph Lane, Cheryl Layden, Michael Layden, Thomas Layden, Harold Mann, Gabrielle Margett, Shannon Arrand McGuire, Wilfredo Medina, III, Brian Menedez, Bob Molloy, Susan Napier, Richie Naso, Ralph Perez, Sam Pontieri, Michael Quinlan, Frank Ranelli, Harry Rothlin, Joseph Russo Jr., Marie Sarna, Becky Schmitt, Eileen Schuck, Donna Semko, Donna Shenesky, Fr. Thomas E. Smith (S.J.), Rose Stasi, Eileen Stolte, Jacquelyn Tortoriello, Ruth Tschinkel, Isilio Villa, Erminia Werner, Pati Wert, Nell White, Janet Wilson, Mary McBurney Wrede, Peter Wysheff, Mary Yuhas, Candida and Edward, Jr. Zglobicki.

Please pray for all the sick. (Names will remain on our sick list for <u>one</u> <u>month</u>, after which time they will be removed, unless we are notified to the contrary.) The Clergy will be happy to visit parishioners confined to local hospitals. Phone the Pastoral Center: 732.251.4000

FLOCKNOTE.COM

...is a simple way for us to communicate with you via email or text! Simply register for Flocknote.com and follow the instructions ... it's so easy!

DONATION BINS (PARKING LOT) Please visit the Catholic Charities donation bins in our parking lot. We have confirmed that donations will be sold to help the needy and not destroyed. The bins accept <u>clothing</u>, <u>shoes</u> and <u>small house</u> <u>wares</u>. Questions? Need a tax receipt, or would like to schedule a larger pick up (sorry, no furniture). Info: *Catholic Charities toll free 877-343-3651*.

LIFE CHOICES RESOURCE CENTER

Clothing needed for children (up to size 7) Fall/Winter clothes. Also, **toys/baby fumiture** (except cribs) needed. Contact: George Wiliszewski (732-679-4719)/Maureen Nigro (732-591-8914).

ONLINE GIVING

Now is a great time to start with our Online Giving Program. Even though your away, your contribution will be sent without you having to worry about it! Also, you can give greener by using Online Giving. Simply go to our Parish website at <u>www.saintthomasob.com</u>. You can set up the amount that you would like to give on a schedule that meets your needs *We appreciate all those who support our parish!!!*



P

St. Thomas the Apostle, Old Bridge, NJ 04-0316

