

Saint Thomas the Apostle Church

331 8th Street So. Brigantine, NJ 08203

www.stthomasbrigantine.org

"Lord, You have come to the Seashore..."

December 03, 2023
1st Sunday of Advent

An advent wreath made of green pine branches, decorated with white pinecones, white ornaments, and clusters of purple berries. Four candles are placed in the center: three purple and one white. The white candle is lit, and its flame is visible. The word "Hope" is written in a large, purple, cursive font across the middle of the wreath.

Hope

**WELCOME TO
ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH**

To Schedule Baptisms & Weddings

Please call the Parish Office.
(609) 266-2123 Ext. 3

Baptisms

Baptisms are held after the 11:00am on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. One session of Baptism preparation is required prior to Baptism. Preparation sessions are held on the second Wednesday of the month in the Parish Meeting Room at 7:30pm. Registration required. Call the parish office.

Religious Education

Our Religious Education Program is for Grades 1st thru 8th. Grades 1 - 4 attend from 4pm - 5pm and 5 - 8 attend from 6pm - 7pm. Also, we have special programs for children & adults who would like to become Catholic or complete their sacraments.

Care of the Sick

The Parish Office may be called any time for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. A Priest or Eucharistic Minister will administer the Eucharist to those who are homebound, **Our local hospitals also have a catholic priest available.**

St. Dismas Ministry

"Helping People Anonymously"

This ministry is available to anyone in Brigantine who feels overwhelmed by financial burdens and needs a helping hand. If you are in need of assistance, an application from the Parish Office must be completed first. The application is anonymous and if approved, short-term help will be provided. Please call the Parish Office.



Saturday
8:30AM
4:00PM

December 2

James Berezny by Coyle Family
Gregory Nacios by Ron & Marcia Williams
Genevieve Haines by Alexis & Madeline Harvey

Sunday
8:00AM

December 3 (1st Sunday of Advent)

Salvatore Apa by Cynthia Mariotti
Diane Hennessy by Barb & Joe Cawley
Philip Alburger by Carolyn & Patrick Meehan
David Carr by Joe & MJ Kelso
Karl Riek by Robert & MaryEllen Smith
Bob Simon by Marie & John Hillman
Dolly Lucas by Annie & Mark

9:30AM

11:00AM

Monday
8:30AM

December 4

Diane Hennessy by Jim & MaryLou Dooling

Tuesday
8:30AM

December 5

William Kane Lavin by brother Gregory

Wednesday
8:30AM

December 6

Michael Bordonaro, Jr. by Roey Rehill

Thursday
8:30AM

December 7

Diane Hennessy by LaMar Buffington

Friday
8:30AM
6:30PM

December 8 (Immaculate Conception)

Joe Hennessy by Michael & LuAnne Manno
Msgr. Thomas Cannon by Richard & Gerry Michelfelder

Saturday
8:30AM
4:00PM

December 9

Deceased Members of Sulimay Family
Anthony Cianfrani by Linda Clavin
Michael Bordonaro, Jr. by Martin & Andrea Cortellessa & Family

Sunday
8:00AM

December 10 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

Joseph Ryan by Jean & Butch Sneade
Joseph J. Fumo, IV by Turzanski Family
Sr. Margaret Mary Smith by Smith & Mong Families
Anita Varanese by Larry & Sharon DeGiacomo
Barbara Matta by Jerry Carrozzino
JoAnn Marchesani by Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Diana
Teresa Virginia Jones by John & Kathe Murray
Vincent Johnson by Barbara Jaffe

9:30AM

11:00AM

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKENDS

SAT: 4:00PM

**SUN: 8, 9:30 &
11:00AM**

WEEKDAYS

MON. - SAT.: 8:30AM

CONFESSION

**Saturday: 3PM
or by appointment**

PASTOR: Fr. Edward Maher
e.maher@stabrig.org

DEACON: Len Long

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.- Thurs.:

9:00AM - 4:00PM

Friday 9:00AM - 1:00pm

609-266-2123

office@stabrig.org

BULLETIN EDITOR:

Barb Cawley, ext. 102
bulletin@stabrig.org

Retired Religious Collection (Diocesan)

Next weekend, **December 9th & 10th**, our second collection will be a Diocesan Collection for our Retired Religious.

Elderly religious need your help. Nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brother and religious order priests have dedicated their lives to serving others by praying for us, ministering to all, educating the young, caring for those who are sick and helping those in need - usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation will make a real difference by providing essential care, medicine and other necessities. Please give generously.



"What you do after you say you believe"

"Be watchful! Be Alert! You do not know when the time will come."
Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today living Stewardship by thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

Collections for the weekend of:

Nov. 18/19

Nov. 25/26

Offertory: \$ 7,428.00

Offertory: \$ 7,123.00

E-Giving: \$ 2,187.00

E-Giving: \$ 1,239.00

School: \$ 1,056.00

School: \$ 1,016.00

\$10,671.00

\$ 9,378.00



To get started with online Giving, log onto our parish website: stthomasbrigantine.org and click on the **Parish Giving** button or click on the QR code.



Weekly Devotions

Rosary: Mon. - Fri. : after 8:30am Mass

Saturday: 8:10am

Tuesday: 7PM

Miraculous Medal Novena: Wednesday

Divine Mercy Chaplet: Friday



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

is every Friday from 9am-12noon. If there is a funeral, Adoration is held in the Parish Meeting Room, located behind the Rectory Office.

Prayer Requests

FOR ALL OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Lawrence Carlin, Joan DiBona, Barbara Bound, Catherine Daddario

Please keep their families in your prayers.

FOR OUR SICK:

Jim Covert, Celine Powell, Carol Graham, Steve Shincarick, Beth LaSerre, Fran Byers, Zoe Rodriguez, Madeline Harvey, Melanie Hudson, Jerry Kilroy, Cynthia Giordano, Matt Fannon, Logan Seitz, Kristina McDaniel, Aurora Mary Gross, Charlie Arsenault, Diana Certo, Pat Castellano, Gail Squicciarri, Salvatore Pantalone, Kevin Thurlow, John Bernard, James Ruggiano, Bob Erickson, Thomas Heath, Diane Anderson, Frank DiBona, Gilberta Rocha, LaMarr Gable, Gary Zimmerman, Marilyn Thoresen, Loretta Smith, George Kulczycki, Penny Walton, Brendan Garland, Ronald DiPinto, Brody Pomager, Katrina Yearicks, Diane Kuczynski, Barbara Smaldore, Brian Cavallari, Bill Whalen, Joanne Miller, Asha Freytag

FOR THOSE WHO SERVE:

Capt. Robert Glanville, USMC, Maj. Jeffrey Moon, USAF
Sgt. Matt Krimm, US Army, Maj. Matt Valnoski, US Army
Cpl. Tristen T. Barry, USMC, Pvt. Austin Rehill, US Army
Sgt. Ronald DeWaal, USMC, PFC Jaryd Witkowski, US Army
Pvt. Matt Rehill, US Army, Ofc. Stephen D. Vanzant, US Navy
Lt. Cmdr. Tim Kerley, US Navy

Prayer Chain Network: The network prays for the immediate needs of others. To make a confidential request, please contact Renata Rynkiewicz at 609-705-9144

Liturgy and Life

Jesus wants the disciples to be ready to greet the Son of God whenever he returns. But Jesus also knows full well the limits of the human body. We are not created to be awake at all hours of the day and night. Rest matters. Good sleep fuels us so we can be attentive to the coming of Christ and the needs of our neighbors. Many lack this basic need. Worries about how to pay mounting bills or a child's mental health struggles are just some of the realities that may keep us wide awake at 3:00 in the morning. Next time you see someone sleepy-eyed in a pew nearby, offer to watch their kids for an hour so they can rest and recharge.

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Ministry Schedule December 9th & 10th

Mass	Presider	Lector	Eucharistic Minister
SAT. 4:00PM	Msgr. Pashley	ML DiFranks	F. Streeper, B. DeLucry, J. D'Ascenzo
SUN. 8:00AM	Msgr. Morgan	E. Stafford	A. Solari, D. Phillips, K. Mogan
SUN. 9:30AM	To Be Determined	M, Dougherty	G. Scutti, P. Zuber, M. Brindisi
SUN. 11:00AM	Fr. Ed	J. Levins	Deacon, F. & J. Sucharski

*******SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE******* If you cannot attend, please find a replacement. **THANK YOU!**



HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH
MASS: 8:30AM & 6:30PM

2024 Calendar Raffle
90 Chances to win
& only \$20 each
 (you can win more than once)
Available Now in the
Parish Office!

These 3 month calendars
 (Jan., Feb., & March) make great gifts for
 anyone: hostess, mail carriers, neighbors,
 delivery drivers, etc...

Good Luck!



Christmas Confessions

Additional Confessions

On **Saturday, December 16th**, additional
 confessions will be heard after the 4pm Mass
 during the hour of **5:00pm - 6:00pm**.

ALTAR ANGELS MARTHA'S HELPERS

All Altar Angels and Martha's Helpers, please
 come into the Sacristy and pick up your
 schedule and a little gift for all your hard work.
 Your time and talent is very much appreciated.
 Thank You!

UPCOMING

Dec. 05th Rosary 7:00pm
 Knights of Columbus Meeting 7:30pm (Hall)
 Dec. 06th Women's Club Meeting 6:30pm (Hall)
 Dec. 08th Mass 8:30am & 6:30pm
 (Immaculate Conception)
 Dec. 09th Cookie Walk 9:00am (Hall)



The Giving Tree

Helping Those
in Need



Helping Those in Need

Advent Season is a time to prepare the way of the Lord. Open your hearts and help others celebrate the birth of the Lord.

As in the past, we will have **two giving Christmas trees** next to the Sanctuary this Advent Season, one for **seniors** without families and one for Brigantine families that are in need. With your generosity, we will be able to spread Christmas Blessings throughout our Community. Thank you.

Seniors without Families: Take a senior tag, purchase the requested item(s) listed, wrap the gift and return under the tree **with the tag visible on the gift.**
Deadline: December 10th. For your information, we work together with "Home Instead" and each gift is specifically matched with a senior who has no family.

Brigantine Families in Need: this year we are collecting **gift cards only.** Take an empty envelope (labelled Gift Card) from the tree, place a gift card with receipt in the envelope and drop in the **Locked Box** next to the Christmas tree. **Deadline: December 10th.**

Suggested gift cards (in any denomination): Walmart, Target, WaWa & Amazon. With the help of True Spirit, your gift cards will go to families in need within the Brigantine Community.

Reminder: Donations due next weekend

OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process in which adults become full, participating members of the Catholic Church. Participants, known as catechumens, go through a process of studying the Gospel, nurturing their relationship with God, becoming familiar with the Catholic teaching and practices, professing their faith in Jesus and the Church, and receiving the Sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Communion and Confirmation. Classes will be held on **Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm - 8:00pm at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church.** For more information or to register, please contact **Deacon Len Long at 609-335-6470.**

*****If you already have your Sacraments and want to continue to grow and learn your faith, you are more than welcome to attend.*****

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Our tradition here at St. Thomas' is to decorate the Altar and church with beautiful Poinsettia Flowers as we celebrate the Birth of Our Lord.

The Poinsettia Flowers are known as "**Flowers of the Holy Night**". The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought to be a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ.

All parishioners and visitors are invited to make a donation **IN MEMORY** (deceased) or **IN HONOR** of a loved one. The envelope is included in the packet or can be found at the entrances of the church. The envelopes will be placed and remain on the Altar during the Christmas season.

Christmas Flower Offering

In Memory / Honor of...

(Please Print)

☐ In Memory of
☐ In Honor of

☐ In Memory of
☐ In Honor of

☐ In Memory of
☐ In Honor of

☐ In Memory of
☐ In Honor of

☐ In Memory of
☐ In Honor of

☐ In Memory of
☐ In Honor of



**Tickets available in the Parish Office
and after all weekend Masses**

**Sunday, December 31st
Doors open @7:45pm**

\$65 per person

An array of hot & cold appetizers, salad station,
dinner served buffet style includes:

Pan Seared Chicken Breast

Penne Ala Vodka

**Grilled Asparagus, Baby Carrots
in Brown Butter**

English Cut Prime Rib

Assortment of Accompaniments

Dessert, Music & Dancing

BYOB

Any questions or concerns, please call

Mike Brindisi @ 609-220-7677

Thanksgiving Interfaith Service

Thank you to everyone who joined us in giving thanks at our Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 21st. We had a great turn out considering the stormy weather. Special thanks to our bakers, our donors and the choir.



Pictured above are: Deacon Len Long, Fr. Ed Maher (Pastor) and Rabbi Gerald R. Fox.

Pictured below is a portion of the congregants that participated in the Interfaith Service.



Knights of Columbus **(WILL BE OPEN ON SATURDAY, DEC. 16th)**

Location: 601 Bayshore Ave.

Hours: 8:00am - 1:00pm

We have items for every room of your house. Also, we have a large selection of Christmas inventory. **We look forward to seeing you soon.**

Any questions or concerns, please contact the parish office at **609-266-2123 ext. 102** and leave your name and contact number and your call will be returned.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Many times seniors and others need help but don't want to ask. **Our St. Dismas Ministry** is ready to help Brigantine Residents who are overwhelmed by financial burdens. Also, we can often set them up with a routine food order from the True Spirit Coalition.

All contacts are in strict confidence. If you know of someone that may need our help, please give them the contact information below or if you would rather, give their name to us and we will handle it very discretely.

Contact: Eileen Robbins 610-721-7438

Important Phone Numbers

Addictions Healing HELP-LINE: 856-342-4057

Catholic Charities Clinical Services: 1-866-862-2166

NJ Hotline for Addiction: Dial 211.

This is an information and referral service that connects you with substance use disorder and support services

National Suicide Prevention Helpline: 800-273-8255

NJ Veterans Hotline for Suicide Prevention

"Life doesn't have to be a battlefield."

Confidential Peer Support for NJ Veterans

1-866-838-7654 or www.njveteranshelpline.org
Sponsored by Rutgers NJ Dept. of Military Affairs

**Diocese of Camden Addiction Hotline:
1-855-5HOPE4U**