

Saint Thomas the Apostle Church

331 8th Street So. Brigantine, NJ 08203

www.stthomasbrigantine.org

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

December 10, 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent

An advent wreath made of green pine branches, decorated with pinecones and clusters of small purple berries. Four candles are placed in the center: three purple and one white. The purple candles are lit, with flames visible at the top. The white candle is unlit. The word "Peace" is written in a large, elegant, purple script font across the middle of the wreath.

Peace

**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.

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

BULLETIN EDITOR:
Barb Cawley, ext. 102
bulletin@stabrig.org



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
9:30AM

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

11:00AM

Monday
8:30AM

December 11

Joyce Corrigan by Family

Tuesday
8:30AM

December 12

Diane Hennessy by Pat Jackson

Wednesday
8:30AM

December 13

Diane Hennessy by Bonnie & John Magro

Thursday
8:30AM

December 14

Pat Kowaleski by Diane & Joe Hennessy

Friday
8:30AM

December 15

Robert Gentile by Family

Saturday
8:30AM
4:00PM

December 16

Shirley Frey by Meghan
Nick DiFranks by Family

Sunday
8:00AM

December 17 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

David Scott by Carmella & Gary Siems
Daniel Pino by Coyle Family
Joan Widmann by Mary & Frank Pizza
Michael Bordonaro, Jr. by Glick Family
Teresa Virginia Jones by Joe & MJ Kelso
Richard Judge by Annie & Mark Weichman

9:30AM

11:00AM

Retired Religious Collection (Diocesan)

This 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.



**Congratulations to Our Parishioners
Celebrating December Anniversaries**

Our prayers and best wishes go with you as you continue to live your vows.

Susan & Joe Marsella, 33 Years



"What you do after you say you believe"

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. WE are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a Stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?

Collections for the weekend of: Dec. 2nd & 3rd

Offertory: \$7,128.00

E-Giving: \$2,975.00

School: \$1,817.00

\$11,920.00



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:

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 Kulczycky, Penny Walton, Brendan Garland, Ronald DiPinto, Brody Pomager, Katrina Yearicks, Diane Kuczynski, Barbara Smaldore, Brian Cavallari, Bill Whalen, Joanne Miller, Asha Freytag, Pat Marziano, Charles Kuczynski

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, FN Brendan E. Mackey, USCG

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

John the Baptist was a wild man. Clothed in camel's hair and eating locusts, John did not look like your typical religious leader. Yet the Baptist had a world-changing prophecy to proclaim: The Mighty One is coming. Prepare the way. It is easy to imagine people judging John as unworthy of respect, similar to how many judge people experiencing homelessness today after one glance at ragged clothes or a dirty face. What lessons get lost amid such judgment? Next time you see someone asking for money or carrying bags of their belongings, stop. Listen. Consider how this person could be preparing the way.

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Ministry Schedule December 16th & 17th

Mass	Presider	Lector	Eucharistic Minister
SAT. 4:00PM	Fr. Ed	M. Stinson	F. Streeper, B. DeLucry, M. Stinson
SUN. 8:00AM	Msgr. Morgan	L. Camerota	B. O'Connor, B. Ferris, G. Espinoza
SUN. 9:30AM	Fr. Ed	J. Murray	J. Staffieri, M. Brindisi, P. Zuber
SUN. 11:00AM	Fr. Bob	B. Bologna	Deacon, R. Wilson, T. Tomlin

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



2024 Calendar Raffle

90 Chances to win & only \$20 each

(you can win more than once)



Available Now in the Parish Office and after ALL weekend Masses

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



Good Luck!

Merry Christmas!



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**.

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY



Hospitality Sunday will be held **next Sunday, December 17th** after all morning Masses. All are welcome to enjoy a cup of coffee, doughnut and friendly conversation. Also, our nursing ministry will be available for complimentary blood pressure screenings.

UPCOMING

Dec. 12th Rosary 7:00pm
Dec. 13th Scripture Study 9:15am (PMR)
Dec. 16th Confessions 5:00pm - 6:00pm
Dec. 17th Hospitality Sunday
Dec. 18th Religious Ed. Sing a long 6:00pm (Church)
Dec. 19th Pageant Rehearsal 4:00pm (Church)
Rosary 7:00pm

HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG

Come One – Come All

On Monday, December 18th our Middle school Religious Education classes will be treated to a performance by Brigantine Unplugged. They will be singing all your favorite Christmas carols.

What a GREAT way to start your Christmas week!!!

Where: St. Thomas Church

When: December 18th

Time: 6:00 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!

We hope to see – and hear – you there!!!!!!

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)

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CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, Dec. 24

4:00pm - Children's Mass

6:00pm - Mass

10:00pm - Mass (caroling @9:35pm)

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sunday, Dec. 31

4:00pm - Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, Dec. 25

9:30am - Mass ONLY

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Monday, Jan. 1

8:30am



*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



CALLING ALL SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS (1st thru 4th Grade Religious Ed Students)

Any Religious Education students in the 1st thru 4th grades who would like to be included in this year's Christmas Eve Pageant, which will take place at the **4:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS**, PLEASE attend the practice. The practice will be held on **Tuesday, December 19th, from 4PM to 5PM in the CHURCH.**

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

Location: 601 Bayshore Ave.
Hours: 8:00am - 1:00pm

We have items for every room of your house. Also, if you have gently used items (**except clothing and shoes**), that you wish to donate, please drop them off during business hours. **We look forward to seeing you soon.**

*****We have a huge selection of Christmas items*****

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.



St. Thomas continues to support “**Moms in Need**” at the Jersey Shore Women’s Center in Galloway. This crisis pregnancy center provides support to all women and their families, in a loving environment, connecting them to the resources and services they need.

CURRENT NEEDS:

Diapers– Size 3-7; Wipes: Shampoo, Lotion, Diaper Rash Cream; Sheets; Infant, Toddler (2-5) and Maternity Clothing (new or GENTLY used).

Donations can be placed in the **white basket** outside the confessional in the vestibule.

The center is always in need of bassinets and small portable baby items such as strollers, booster seats, pack n plays and high chairs. These items can be taken to the Community Presbyterian Church Thrift Store on Saturdays from 9am-12noon or call Brian & Kathy Mulvenna at 609-266-2268 to schedule donation pick up or drop off.



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

ARCS Regional Catholic School

You can purchase gift cards all year long from Assumption. There are hundreds of retailers that participate in the gift card program, such as ShopRite, Wawa, Walmart, Amazon, Acme etc.

To order or receive a full list of the retailers, please contact Janet Parker at 856-524-3491 or jpv0505@yahoo.com. *When you purchase through us, Assumption School earns a percent of every dollar you spend. If you’re shopping or eating at the stores/restaurants, why not help support our catholic school at no extra cost to you.* Great Christmas gifts and at the same time helping our Catholic School.

True Spirit Coalition

Hunger Never Takes a Vacation

1501 West Brigantine Avenue (609)266-7942

Donations of the following items would be appreciated.

All items must be new:

Cereal, Pasta Sauce, Pasta & Peanut Butter

Donations can be placed in the designated **food bank boxes** located in the Main Entrance foyer of the church. Your donations will be delivered to the True Spirit Coalition each week. **For more information, please call Eileen Robbins at 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