

Saint Thomas the Apostle Church

331 8th Street So. Brigantine, NJ 08203

www.stthomasbrigantine.org

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

December 17, 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent

A photograph of three lit candles in a wreath. The candles are purple and pink, and the wreath is decorated with greenery, pinecones, and white ornaments. The word "Joy" is written in a large, purple, cursive font across the center of the image.

Joy

**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.

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.

***Masses For
The Week***



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

Monday
8:30AM

December 18
Diane Hennessy by Trish & Jim

Tuesday
8:30AM

December 19
Joseph J. Fumo, IV by Ryan Family

Wednesday
8:30AM

December 20
Cheryl Ann Goodman-Brackett by Sandy & Dave Ross

Thursday
8:30AM

December 21
Betsy & Gary Seritello by Bob Bologna

Friday
8:30AM

December 22
Elizabeth Maguire by Maguire Children

Saturday
8:30AM
4:00PM

December 23
Dominic DiGiacomo by Family
Joseph Kelso, Sr by Joe & MJ Kelso
Vanessa Rivera & Child by Roseman Family
Neil J. Vitiello by Wife Fran
James Dwyer by Wheeler Family
Vincent Gorman by Family

Sunday
8:00AM
9:30AM

December 24 (4th Sunday of Advent)
Joe Hennessy by Michael & Luanne Manno
Joyce Corrigan by Family
Helen Stipo by Glick Family
William H. Wood by Maria & John Abbruzzi
Bonsignore Family by Anna & Family
Joan Teresa Widmann by Joe & MJ Kelso
Clayton C. Riegel by St. Thomas Staff
John DiJoseph, III by Janice & Ricchina
Maureen Patricia Flanagan by The Mothers Group
Culmone & Italiano Families by Elena
Bob Champaine by Barbara

11:00AM

4:00PM

6:00PM

10:00PM

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



"What you do after you say you believe"

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. 'Rejoice always' means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

Collections for the weekend of: Dec. 9th & 10th

Offertory: \$6,61900

E-Giving: **\$2,650.00**
\$9,269.00

Retired Religious: \$2,955.00



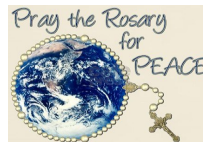
To get started with online Giving, log onto our parish website: stthomasbrigantine.org and click on the **Parish Giving** button or click on the QR code.



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



Rosary for Peace

Come join us every **Tuesday at 7pm** as we gather and pray the Rosary.

All are welcome.

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 LaSere, 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, Pat Marziano, Charles Kuczynski, Charles Gallagher

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

Ministry Schedule December 23rd, 24th & 25th

Mass	Presider	Lector	Eucharistic Minister
SAT. 4:00PM	Fr. Ed	R. Barone	B. DeLucry, J. D'Ascenzo, M. Stinson
SUN. 8:00AM	Fr. Ed	L. Camerota	K. Mogan, A. Solari, D. Phillips
SUN. 9:30AM	Fr. Bob	R. Pennestri	G. Scutti, R. Pagoulatos, M. Brindisi
SUN. 11:00AM	Msgr. Morgan	J. Murray	Deacon, G. Shindle, T. Tomlin
SUN. 4:00PM	Fr. Ed	M. Stinson	M. Brindisi, K. & J. Murray
SUN. 6:00PM	Msgr. Morgan	J. Levins	B. DeLucry, D. Phillips
SUN. 10:00PM	Fr. Bob	F. Burbridge	K. Mogan, J. D'Ascenzo
MON: 9:30AM	Fr. Ed	B. Bologna	L. Flanagan, R. Pagoulatos, P. Zuber

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

Liturgy and Life

Priests and Levites bombard John with questions of identity in today's Gospel. They want to know: Who are you? Elijah? The Prophet? Who? John shares his identity honestly. He is humble with respect to himself and speaks with deep reverence about his cousin Jesus. Surely the respect was mutual. As many families prepare to gather together this holiday season, let us be mindful of those who struggle to identify with their relatives. Issues like alcoholism, abuse, neglect, or unresolved points of tension can make it difficult to connect with, much less advocate for, family members in the way of John the Baptist.

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HOSPITALITY SUNDAY



Hospitality Sunday is being held **today, 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.



The Knights of Columbus and American Red Cross would like to thank all the donors who participated in the blood drive on December 2nd. There were 42 donors. Thank you for helping to save lives and giving of yourselves for this worthy cause.

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!!!!!!

Time's Running Out!

2024 Calendar Raffle

90 Chances to win

& only \$20 each

(you can win more than once)

Available 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!



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.

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



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, Dec. 24

4:00pm - Children's Mass

6:00pm - Mass

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

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, Dec. 25

9:30am - Mass ONLY

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sunday, Dec. 31

4:00pm - Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Monday, Jan. 1

8:30am

UPCOMING

Dec. 17th Hospitality Sunday (Hall)

Dec. 18th Religious Ed. Sing a long 6:00pm (Church)

Dec. 19th Pageant Rehearsal 4:00pm (Church)

Rosary 7:00pm

Dec. 24th Christmas Pageant 4:00pm Mass

Dec. 25th Merry Christmas (Parish Office Closed)

Dec. 26th Parish Office Closed



**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

**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

NEED A RIDE AROUND BRIGANTINE???

The Brigantine Community Center (CER) offers a free shuttle for any senior resident who cannot drive themselves. The driver will take you to your destination (in Brigantine only) and then take you back home. This shuttle is offered Monday through Friday, from 9:15 AM to 11:45 AM. Please call to reserve your ride at least 1-2 days before. (609) 264-7350 ext. 4



Mental Health Through the Holidays

Around the holidays, family gatherings, unrealistic expectations and/or loss can bring feelings of anxiety, sadness and loneliness. It is important to be aware of these feelings, and to take action to support your mind, body and spirit.

Five tips to maintain your mental health and well-being this holiday season:

- * Set realistic expectations. Traditions can change as our lives change. Try to embrace change and be present with those in your life right now.
- * Set healthy boundaries. Be mindful of how you want to commit your time. Responding with "no thank you" is okay in order to give yourself peace and calm.
- * Connect with others. Seek out opportunities to socialize with others if you are feeling lonely or sad.
- * Do what brings you joy. Engaging in an activity you enjoy for just 20 minutes each day can help reduce stress.
- * Practice moderation. Be mindful of your alcohol intake during the holidays and whether or not you are drinking to avoid difficult feelings.

VITALity Life to the Fullest membership program informs and connects seniors to the information they need to stay safe and healthy. Membership is free to all seniors age 65 and over living in the South Jersey area. For more information, visit: www.vitality.camdendiocese.org [1] or email christine.willard@camdendiocese.org.

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

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.

REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE

An independent, toll-free number has been established by the Diocese of Camden to help callers report cases of sexual abuse by priests, deacons, religious, employees and/or volunteers. Calls are handled by a licensed clinical social worker. In accord with state law, cases of child sexual abuse are reported to the N.J. Division of Child Protection and Permanency and law enforcement.

For information or to inquire about counseling and support services, call 1-800-964-6588