# Saint Thomas the Apostle Church

331 8th Street So. Brigantine, NJ 08203

www.stthomasbrigantine.org

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

December 24, 2023 Christmas

# Born, the King of Markets of the King of t

#### 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.



Saturday December 23

Dominic DiGiacomo by Family 8:30AM Joseph Kelso, Sr by Joe & MJ Kelso 4:00PM

Vanessa Rivera & Child by Roseman Family

Neil J. Vitiello by Wife Fran James Dwyer by Wheeler Family Vincent Gorman by Family

Sunday December 24 (4thSunday of Advent) 8:00AM Joe Hennessy by Michael & Luanne Manno

9:30AM Joyce Corrigan by Family

Helen Stipo by Glick Family

11:00AM William H. Wood by Maria & John Abbruzzi

Bonsignore Family by Anna & Family 4:00PM Joan Teresa Widmann by Joe & MJ Kelso Clayton C. Riegel by St. Thomas Staff

6:00PM John DiJoseph, III by Janice & Ricchina Maureen Patricia Flanagan by The Mothers Group

10:00PM Culmone & Italiano Families by Elena

Bob Champaine by Barbara

December 25 (Christmas Day) Monday

Rosemarie Caucci by Christine Messanella 9:30AM

Tuesday December 26

8:30AM Joe Hennessy by Michael & Luanne Manno

Wednesday December 27

8:30AM Diane Hennessy by Cushing Family

Thursday December 28

8:30AM Joseph J. Messick, Sr. by Wife Joanna

Friday December 29

8:30AM Donna Becker by Ralph & Nancy Gattis

Saturday December 30

8:30AM Frank Kancso, III by Mr. & Mrs. George Riker 4:00PM

Anthony Cianfrani by LaMar Buffington

Richard Toole by Mary Fox

**December 31 (Feast of The Holy Family)** Sunday

8:00AM Parishioners of St. Thomas 9:30AM Parishioners of St. Thomas

11:00AM Joseph B. Price by Paul & Chris Mercurio

4:00PM Vincent Pancari by Daughter

#### 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"

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" Luke1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal Steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.



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

#### **Welcome to Our Parish Family**



Violet Marie McGovern



#### 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 Squiccimarri, 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 Kulczyckyi, 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, Douglas Boehme, Sr.

#### **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

The birth of Christ is meant to be celebrated together. Of all the major holidays, Christmas is arguably the most community focused - and not just because of the cookie exchanges or family dinners that happen this time of year. Christmas is the time we celebrate God's great love for the world, a love so profound that God's very self would become flesh and dwell among us. Christ's birth brings the human family together in grace. Sadly, many people will spend this holiday alone - those who are homebound, sick, or without loved ones in town. If you see someone sitting alone in their pew this Christmas, go over to say hi or even consider inviting them to join your celebration.

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Ministry Schedule December 30 <sup>th</sup> , 31 <sup>st</sup> & January 1 <sup>st</sup>			
Mass	Presider	Lector	Eucharistic Minister
SAT. 4:00PM	Fr. Ed	R. Barone	F. Streeper, J. D'Ascenzo, M. Stinson
SUN. 8:00AM	Fr. Bob	E. Stafford	B. O'Connor, B. Ferris, G. Espinoza
SUN. 9:30AM	Msgr. Morgan	J. Robbins	R. Pagoulatos, J. Staffieri, P. Zuber
SUN. 11:00AM	Msgr. Pashley	J. Levins	Deacon, F. & J. Sucharski
SUN. 4:00PM	Fr. Ed	F. Burbridge	M. Brindisi, B. DeLucry
MON. 8:30AM	Fr. Ed	B. Bologa	Daily Mass Attendees

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

#### A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

The advent and Christmas seasons are great seasons. Unfortunately, there are many wars going on in the world. There are also many forms of darkness, some right within the Catholic church. Jesus comes to bring light to all those situations. The Gospel means good news. It's about salvation and our future with God forever.

The good news is that God comes as Emmanuel. We don't know what the New Year will bring us, but we know God will continue to be with us. He will not let us down. The gospel is greater than our social circles, health, money and even life itself. Keep focusing in on Jesus.

Christmas tells us that God did not just create us and was unconcerned about us. He has shown up as a baby in our world. He hasn't forgotten us! He came to redeem and forgive us for our sins. He wants us to be free. This is a reason for great rejoicing. He shows up each day in our lives.

An uplifting experience for me is visiting our Religious Education classes. We have so many fine children. Most are well behaved and attentive. They have a hunger for God. It is heart breaking for myself and the catechists that many are not involved in the sacramental life of the church. This is where we receive supernatural graces.

Most of you know we are presently in a three year Eucharistic Revival. That is one of the reasons we are giving as gifts, the book, "The Beautiful Eucharist". The Eucharist is essential for all Catholics. Receiving communion brings us to the right hand of the Father. What a great place to be. It is food for the journey. We all know the journey gets hard. The Eucharist is the greatest joy of all.

On behalf of the clergy and staff, I would like to extend our best wishes to all our parishioners and friends of St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

Sincerely,

Fr. Ed Maher



# **UPCOMING**

Dec. 24th Christmas Pageant 4:00pm Mass

Dec. 25th Christmas Day Parish Office Closed

Dec. 26th Parish Office Closed

Dec. 31st New Year's Eve Party 7:45pm

1st New Year's Day Parish Office Closed

# LAST CHANCE !!!

2024 Calendar Raffle 90 Chances to win & only \$20 each you can win more than once)

## Available in the Parish Office!

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

Jood Luck!







#### Tickets available in the Parish Office

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



#### 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

# Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest Grades 1 thru 4 Grades 5 thru 8





#### **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



#### **Maintaining 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 and spirt, body.

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: <a href="www.vitality.camdendiocese.org">www.vitality.camdendiocese.org</a> [1] or email <a href="mailto:christine.willard@camdendiocese.org">camdendiocese.org</a>.