

Feast of the **Guardian Angels**

FOR HE WILL ORDER HIS ANGELS
TO PROTECT YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.



PSALM 91:11

**SAINT THOMAS OF AQUIN R.C. CHURCH
OGDENSBURG, NEW JERSEY**





WELCOME TO SAINT THOMAS OF AQUIN PARISH

www.stthomasofaquin.org

Email: Office@StThomasofAquin.org



Sept. 27 - Oct. 5, 2025

- Sat. 5:00 P.M. Daniel Maloney req. of Frank & Lorraine Horlacher
Judy Rumrill req. of Patricia Bianco & family
- Sun. 8:00 A.M. Marilyn Vliet req. of Mary Jones
10:30 A.M. Joseph P. Fitzgibbons Sr. - Ann - req. of family
12 Noon Craig Hill req. of Bill Amodeo and family
- Mon. 8:00 A.M. Patricia Dolan
- Tues. 8:00 A.M. Mieczyslaw Zysk
- Wed. 8:00 A.M. For our Parish family
- Thurs. 8:00 A.M. Diane Sweller Crum - Birthday - req. of Kevin Sherlock
- Fri. 8:00 A.M. Special Intentions of our Holy Father, Pope Leo
- Sat. 5:00 P.M. Diane Hammond req. of Bobby & Seal Lipari
- Sun. 8:00 A.M. Tracey Schrader req. of Rosary Society
Deceased Rosarians req. of Rosary Society
10:30 A.M. Dorothy Donaldson req. Pat & Rich Donaldson
12 Noon Stanislaw Krol req. of Hojdas family

*Is anyone among you suffering They should summon presbyters of the church and they should pray over them.”
(James 5:13, 14)*

Pray for those who are sick

Maryann Hughes, Kyle Sisson, John Ciser, Karolee Destefano, Kaden Williams, Lucille DiSalvo, Karen Ganly, Chris Batty, Robyn Cammarata, Edward Green, Blake Riley, Sarah Santangelo, Peggy Fitzgibbons, Bill Connors, John Onder, Charles Fantasia, Jasper Gonzales, Patricia Matthews, Paul Koch, Thomas Ricalde, Peter Pensec, Eric Gonzales, Russell Priem, Harper Lynn Bevers, Michaela Seville, Linda Winters, Lowell Christman, Amelia Grace, Joe & Rosemary Mora, Ryan DelaTorre, Laura & Jim Gorman, Tawnie Scymanski, Brian Cummins, Amanda Hoskins, Glenn Clark, Kathy Manning, Dennis Green, Patricia Donaldson, Bonnie Trachy, Linda Batelli, Margaret Presto

*“Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven.”
(New Roman Missal, Preface I for the Dead)*

Pray for those who have died

Pray for those buried in St. Thomas Cemetery and may God grant eternal rest to all the faithful departed, and to their families' peace and consolation.

The Sanctuary Candle, a reminder of the Divine presence in the Eucharist, burns this week in **Memory of Daniel Maloney - Birthday** - donated by Aunt Jeanne.



FIRST FRIDAY: EUCHARISTIC ADORATION will be held Friday, October 3, following the 8:00 AM Liturgy until 9:00 AM. You are invited to come and worship, and find spiritual solace before the Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist.

THE PARABLE OF LAZARUS AND THE RICH MAN

Jesus's parable reminds us about loving and taking care of the people we encounter every day.

Three years ago, the acclaimed television series *This Is Us* concluded its six-year run on NBC with a moving episode about death — and hope. *This Is Us* chronicled the lives of the Pearson Family over 50 years — but not in an orderly narrative: each episode jumped from the present to the past to the future. We saw how the family's past shaped their present, how the experiences they experienced in the present set the stage for the challenges to come.

In one of the series' final episodes, eighty-year-old Rebecca, the family matriarch, is dying. She is bedridden and in the final stages of Alzheimer's disease. The nurse has summoned the family — Rebecca probably won't make it through the night. As Rebecca's body shuts down, her spirit begins its journey to eternity — on a train, the kind of vintage train she rode with her father when she was a child, a train decorated in brocade and plush seats, a train on which passengers dress in elegant formal wear. Rebecca is again as young and beautiful as she was the day she married her beloved Jack a half century before. As Rebecca moves through the train, she sees her children at every stage of their lives, all happily hanging out with each other. In each car, she is greeted by the many wonderful people who have blessed her life, including her daughter-in-law and sons-in-law and grandchildren. The light in Rebecca's eyes reveals the joy she is experiencing in remembering again.

In the “bar car,” she is greeted by Dr. K, the obstetrician who delivered her three children. He's serving as bartender. As he mixes a cocktail for her, Rebecca confesses her fear that she made too many mistakes in raising her family. Dr. K assures her that “there are no perfect games in parenting. No one ever came back and said to me, ‘Doc, I got this parent thing down.’” Dr. K tells Rebecca that even in “the sadness and mess” she and her family experienced, Rebecca made something beautiful and wonderful: “What a thing you made of it all, Rebecca. What a big, messy, gigantic, spectacular thing!”

As her children say their goodbyes to Rebecca in real time, Rebecca's soul continues to move from car to car on the mythical train, reliving one memory after another. Finally, at the moment of her death, Rebecca comes to the last car, the caboose. There she is reunited with her husband, Jack, who died years before as the result of a house fire. As they embrace, Jack tells her, “You did so good.”

Rebecca confides to Jack her fear of leaving her family now when they need her. “It's hard to explain,” Jack says, but you'll do all those things with them. You'll be there.”

On her train ride to eternity, Rebecca sees her life in its totality, she comes to a new awareness of the good she did as a mom, the blessings she realized in her marriage, the many broken hearts — and bones — she was able to mend.

To follow Jesus is to be aware of the good that has blessed our lives, the good we and others possess because we are all created by God, and the good we are able to do as a result.

That's the failing of the rich man in today's Gospel: his want of gratitude for all that he has and his lack of awareness of the good he could do for the Lazaruses at his gate. With humility and gratitude, may we open our hearts and spirits to discover, as



Rebecca comes to see on "the train," the blessing, the good, the hope that "is us."

Jesus I trust in you,

Father Przemek

Around the Parish

- **Morning Liturgy** - Mon., Tues., Wed, Thurs and Fri at 8:00 AM
- **Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal** - Monday following the 8:00 AM Liturgy

Weekly Collection

Thank you to all the members of our parish family who respond each week to the needs of our parish and who make their weekly offering a part of their budget. We know how difficult things are for families, so, too, is it to run a parish, as expenses are constantly rising. The parish depends on income from the Sunday collections. Your contributions are important to our parish. May God bless you for your continued generosity.

Sept. 21st Collection: \$ 1,539
Online Giving: \$ 712

ON-LINE GIVING: To enroll or make a one time donation using our on-line giving program, simply aim the camera on your phone at the QR code to get started.



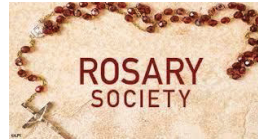
PARISH MEMBERSHIP: A parishioner is one who belongs to our parish family. As such, he/she is a registered parish member and is committed to Saint Thomas of Aquin Parish through participation in the life of the parish community - Spiritually, Socially and Financially. We request that you register at the Parish Office when you move into our community, so that we may be of service to you. In order for Baptisms and Marriages to be administered, Sponsor Certificates and recommendations to be issued the recipient must be a registered and active member of the Saint Thomas of Aquin family for at least one year. Please notify us of any changes of address, or if you are moving out of the parish.



MASS INTENTIONS: There are currently plenty of openings for Mass intentions. The 2026 book has arrived, so you can schedule your intentions for the coming year. Call, stop in or email Connie at the Parish Office. The customary donation is \$10.



HOPE & HEALING: Have you lost a loved one? Are you having a difficult time, living through your grief? Please stop in and speak with our volunteers. Hope and Healing will meet in the Parish Hall on Thursday, October 2, at 3 PM. Call to register: Parish Office 973-827-3190 or Pat 973-271-8201.



The next meeting of the Rosary Society will be held on Sunday, October 5 following 8 am Mass and the recitation of the Rosary. All women of the Parish are invited to attend.



MEALS ON WHEELS BLIZZARD BOX COLLECTION. On the weekend of October 11 & 12 our Social Action Ministry will be conducting the annual drive for the Meals on Wheels Emergency Food Box campaign. The boxes are prepared in advance of inclement weather so that the recipients will have nonperishable foods available for those days when meals cannot be delivered. Please consider donating shelf stable, non-perishable foods (no glass containers and low sodium, sugar free if possible): canned fruit, pasta, stews, soups; canned chicken or tuna; crackers, cereal bars, cereals - hot or cold, low-fat peanut butter and water bottles.

BEEFSTEAK: The Knights of Columbus #588 is having a fundraising Beefsteak Dinner to benefit scholarships, individuals with disabilities, veterans and families in need. The dinner will be Sat., Oct. 25, from 6 - 10 at Rev. Brown School, in McKenna Hall. Dinner, Beverages, Music, 50/50 Raffle and Silent Auction. Tickets are \$75. Seating is limited. Get your tickets today! Use the Venmo QR code or email John.mcguire004@gmail.com



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NJ RIGHT TO LIFE RAFFLE: Next weekend, representatives from St. Thomas will be available following all our Liturgies offering NJ Right to Life Raffle Tickets. Funds raised help support the state's oldest and largest pro-life organization. Tickets are \$10 each for a chance to win 1st Prize - 2025 Volvo XC40 AWD SUV valued at \$44,595; 2nd Prize - \$1,000 ShopRite Gift Card; 3rd Prize - \$750 ShopRite Gift Card; 4th Prize \$500 ShopRite Gift Card. Please show your support! Tickets can also be purchased at the Parish Office through October 15. The drawing is Nov. 21.

BLESSING OF PETS: I will offer a Blessing of the Animals on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on the front lawn of the church on Sat., Oct. 4 at 11 am.



2025 DIOCESAN MINISTRIES APPEAL "Three Counties, One Family of Faith"

As stated in this year's Diocesan Ministries Appeal theme, "Three Counties, One Family of Faith," the impact of the Appeal can be felt in every corner of our Diocese. For instance, the Appeal helps support the following ministries and programs in Sussex County: Group home for adults with disabilities, Sparta; Meals on Wheels program for seniors; Partnership for Social Services in Franklin which includes a food pantry, clothing thrift shop, friendly visitors program for seniors, community education, referral service; treatment services for individuals struggling with addiction; aging services; services for veterans and their families; veterans clothing closet; family referral and information for loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and case management for over 200 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Thank you to all who support this important work. Lives are transformed through your generosity.

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