



**HAPPY**

**COLUMBUS**

**DAY**

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





**WELCOME TO SAINT THOMAS OF AQUIN PARISH**

[www.stthomasofaquin.org](http://www.stthomasofaquin.org)

Email: [Office@StThomasofAquino.org](mailto:Office@StThomasofAquino.org)



**Oct. 11 - 19, 2025**

- Sat. 5:00 P.M. Stephanie Sweeney req. of Father Przemek  
Tina & Tony Ciasullo req. of  
Chris, Pam, Candace & Chris Jr.
- Sun. 8:00 A.M. Theresa Vaxmonsky req. of Pete & Karen Pensec  
10:30 A.M. Beverly Hill req. of Taormina family  
12 Noon Joan Stolarz
- Mon. 8:00 A.M. Jan Spiechowicz
- Tues. 8:00 A.M. Victoria Trzeciak
- Wed. 8:00 A.M. Tim Sherlock req. of Kevin, Dennis & Chris
- Thurs. 8:00 A.M. Special Intentions of Chris & Greta
- Fri. 8:00 A.M. Gregory Fiszer
- Sat. 5:00 P.M. Diane Howard req. of Anna & Dom Zampella
- Sun. 8:00 A.M. Michele Ando - Birthday - req. of Ando family  
10:30 A.M. Robert Bisang  
12 Noon Craig Hill req. of

*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, MaryEllen Duggan, Fred Weierstall

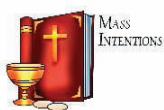
*"Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended,  
and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust,  
an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven."  
(New Roman Missal, Preface I for the Dead)*

**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

**Special Intentions of Tawnie Scymanski**  
donated by Rosemarie Gammara.



**MASS INTENTIONS:** If you wish to  
schedule a Mass Intention in memory of a  
loved one or a Mass of Special Intention for  
someone who is ill or could benefit from extra  
prayer, please contact Connie at the Parish

Office. The customary donation is \$10.

# THANK GOD!

*One of the lepers, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he  
fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. (Luke 17: 11-19)*

This Sunday we focus on the importance of thanking God for our  
blessings.

Novelist Suzanne Finnamore's 86-year-old mother Bunny has  
dementia. Bunny's diagnosis a decade ago was devastating to  
Bunny and her family — but over time, Suzanne has come to see  
Dementia as a place: "a land where my mother lives . . . not who  
she is."

Suzanne Finnamore writes in a New York Times essay [May 11,  
2022]: "Thinking of it this way allows for magic to happen — for  
[Mom] to remember my name suddenly and to know my husband  
— and for there to be a boundary between me and the  
treacherous drop of despair. Each time I go to see her, it's  
different. I've learned to set expectations aside, like an umbrella  
on a sunny morning."

Suzanne visits her mom and her stepfather, Ron, twice a week.  
While it can be beautiful one day and grim the next, Suzanne and  
her husband, Tom, have realized unexpected gifts. "I'm grateful  
that she's been able to stay in her own home, to keep living with  
her husband, instead of moving to a nursing home, where her life  
expectancy would have likely been far shorter.

And the more time I spend in Dementia, the more I pay attention  
to my own mortality. I prize this and have rearranged my  
priorities to include less screen time and more joy in experiencing  
the real world, putting nothing off. "My mother was recently  
approved for home hospice care, and her nurse and chaplain are  
unspeakably kind. They are teaching me about the beauty of  
dying on one's own terms, surrounded by family. They are  
showing us how to let go . . ."

Finnamore writes that her mother has brought all the same grace  
and joy she has lived all her life with her to Dementia. The  
"sacred core" of her mom's essence remains "untouched." "And if  
that's true for her, it's true for everyone.

Suzanne is learning a great deal from her mother's cheerful spirit  
and disposition in the face of her illness. "I take notes," Suzanne  
writes, "for when my own demise comes. This is how it's done.  
"There is dignity in Dementia if we say there is. There is wisdom  
and humor and radiance if only we can see it. I make the effort  
because my mother does and because it is what she deserves after  
a long life well lived, harming no one. I am astonished by her  
courage, even now. Especially now."

For women and men of faith, gratitude is a practice, a way of  
approaching life, that asks Where is God in this? Despite Bunny's  
illness, her daughter and family are able to see reasons for  
thankfulness, to realize the "unexpected gifts" of "wisdom and  
humor and radiance" regarding aging and death. We too can  
realize that our blessings far outweigh our struggles, that we have  
been cured despite our brokenness, that we have reason to rejoice  
and hope despite the sadness and anxieties we must cope with. If  
we approach life with a perspective of gratitude, we come to  
realize the love of God in our midst at every stage of our lives, in  
every "state" we live.

**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.*

Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> Collection: \$ 2,458  
Online Giving: \$ 1,257

**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.

**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](mailto:John.mcguire004@gmail.com)



**SECOND COLLECTION:** Next weekend, we will be accepting donations for Mission Sunday. Our prayers and donations on World Mission Sunday help to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. It is our chance to show our love and solidarity with our brothers and sisters who share our faith. If you wish to contribute to this worthy cause, please use your envelope in your packet and place your donation in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for your support.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Family Faith Formation meets on Sunday morning, Oct. 12, in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Connie in the Parish Office.



**RAFFLE:** Thank you for your support through your purchase of raffle tickets for NJ Right to Life. Funds raised help support the state's oldest and largest pro-life organization. Tickets are still available at the Parish Office through October 15. The drawing will be held on Nov. 21.



### MEALS ON WHEELS BLIZZARD BOX COLLECTION:

This weekend our Social Action Ministry is 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 a monetary donation or donating shelf stable, non-perishable foods. Items can be placed on the table at the entrance of the church or in the Parish Hall.

### 2025 DIOCESAN MINISTRIES APPEAL

#### "Three Counties, One Family of Faith"

Over the past two weeks, our bulletin highlighted the work that the Diocesan Ministries Appeal helps support in Sussex and Morris County. This week, we are highlighting Passaic County. Group residences for adults with disabilities in Pompton Lakes, Clifton, West Milford and Wayne; Early intervention programs; Early learning programs; Teen and youth programs, Passaic and Paterson; Senior activities program and day center, Paterson; Services for veterans and their families; Straight and Narrow substance abuse programs, Paterson Your gift to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal is a blessing to people in great need! Please consider a donation to the 2025 Diocesan Ministries Appeal.

**PROJECT ANDREW:** Open to young men in High School and older to discover God's call. Vocation talks given by priests and seminarians. Join Bishop Sweeney in an evening of prayer and dinner on Friday, Oct. 17 at St. Philip the Apostle in Clifton. To register, call Rev. Charlie Lana at 973-777-8818 x 711.

**CATHOLIC IN RECOVERY:** Has your faith walk with Jesus been impaired due to your or others behavior, compulsion or addiction? Do you have trouble letting go of vices that keep you from focusing on God? CATHOLIC IN RECOVERY is a 12 Step recovery program about addressing issues that allows you to focus and hear God's voice and to follow him. You can begin, or continue, your recovery journey by attending a meeting at one of our locations. For info. contact Rita at 201-874-0362.

Monday's 6:30 - 7:30 PM  
Our Lady Queen of Peace  
209 Rt. 206 S, Branchville

Thursday's 6:30-7:30 PM  
Saturday's 7:30 - 8:30 AM  
Our Lady of the Lake  
- St. Joseph Room  
294 Sparta Ave, Sparta

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