

THE PARISH OF ST. THERESA

450 RADIO ROAD · LITTLE EGG HARBOR, NEW JERSEY 08087



FEBRUARY 15, 2026
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Phone ----- 609 296-2504

Fax----- 609 296-4530

Emergency Phone----- 609 857-3676

Email----- info@sttheresa450.org

Web ----- sttheresa450.org

Parish Office Business Hours

Monday through Friday: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Closed for lunch: 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Selvam J. Asirvatham
(Rev. Gerry Johnson)

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Dean Gaudio

Weekend Assistant

Rev. Phillip Pflieger

Deacons

Deacon David O'Connor
Deacon Jay Werling

**Parish Coordinator /
Assistant to the Pastor**

Cathy Mazanek

Parish Secretary

Katrina Barrett

Director of Religious Education

Joana Schmidt

Director of Music

Joe Dalton

Parish Finance Manager/HR

Chris Gile

Facilities Manager

Michael Gavina

Trustees

John Kern, Maureen Malsbury

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am (*Daily Chapel*)

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm & Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am & 11:30 am

Holy Days of Obligation

Vigil Mass: 7:00 pm & Holy Day Mass: 8:00 am & 12:15 pm

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 pm & By appointment

DAILY PRAYER & ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The Main Church and the Daily Chapel are opened for private prayer Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for Adoration (in the Daily Chapel) Fridays after the 8:00 am Mass and concludes with Evening Prayer & Benediction at 4:00 pm.

PARISH LIFE

“The Church draws her life from the Eucharist. This truth does not simply express a daily experience of faith, but recapitulates *the heart of the mystery of the Church.*” (St. John Paul - *On the Eucharist & Its Relationship to the Church*). At the parish of St. Theresa, we strive to embody these words that describe the centrality of the Eucharist for the life and mission of the Church.

We welcome you to join us as we gather to celebrate our faith and worship God. Whatever your present status in the Catholic Church, whatever your current family or marital situation, whatever your past or present religious affiliation, whatever your personal history, age, background, or race, you are a Child of God and you are welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected at the Church of St. Theresa.

REGISTRATION: We invite you to officially register as a member of our parish community. By registering you declare your desire to be part of our Catholic community and you are able to stay closely connected with the life of the parish. In order to register, please call or stop by the Parish Office.



WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Please remember in your prayers all those members of our parish family and our friends who continuously suffer physically, emotionally, and/or spiritually, and those who tirelessly care for them. Let us especially remember those currently in need of our prayers: **Kevin Brady, Amy Cisyk, Kim Coyle, Maureen Dwyer, Johnny Favro, Chuck Griffin, Peter Hummel, Justin Marchese, Ro McLaughlin, Art Midgley, Peter Mills, Rev. William Modlin, Rita Murray, Rota O'Neill, Andrew Joseph Ragusa, Samantha Saraceno, Valerie Schaffer, Nick Steiger.**



WE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of **Mary Ann Geoghegan and Josephine Paci.** May they find eternal rest in peace with God our Father.



WE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Please remember in your prayers all those members of our parish family and our friends who are currently deployed, especially: **Sr. Boatswain Gabrielle Fest, LCPl Christopher Hansen, Airman Staff Sgt. Frank J. Kowalewski, Jr., Airmen Tech Sgt. Amanda Keller, Lt. Jennifer LaFalace, FC2 Paul R. Lund, Pvt. Anthony Mackiewicz, Jr., Pvt. Logan Mora, Sgt. John Murray, USMC, Staff Sgt. Michael Novelli, Spec. Jeffrey Peterson, Jr., Nicholas Roesch, Capt. Amanda Southard, LCDR Christopher J. Worosz, USN, Lt. Matthew A. Worosz, USN.** May the Lord protect them as they protect us.



WE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, your harvest needs good and faithful men to tend to its many needs. Open their minds and hearts to respond to your call to be priests of and for the Diocese of Trenton, in imitation of your Son Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd of your flock. Amen. Follow us on Instagram: **TrentonMakesPriests**



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are held the first and third Sunday of each month at 1:00 PM. Arrangements must be made in person at the Parish Office at least two months in advance. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a Baptismal Prep Class.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements must be made at least one year in advance. Preparations include sessions with a member of the clergy and attendance at a Pre-Cana Conference. For more information, please call the Parish Office.



THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us there is **no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.** A careful judgment about the serious nature of an illness is sufficient. *“Hence, as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived.”*¹³⁰ We welcome anyone who has a physical condition, is anticipating entering the hospital for surgery or tests, or under any emotional distress to avail themselves of this beautiful Sacrament. Please call the Parish Office to schedule the Sacrament with a priest. Please do not wait until the very last minute to call.



Mass Intentions

MASSES FOR THIS WEEKEND:

SATURDAY – February 14, 2026

4:00 PM – **Shawn Anthony Pluta/** Adriana Chizan
Valentine Rosiak/ Wife, Susan
Helen Grotzky/ Frank & Joann Aliotta
Gail Ann Simone/ Frank & Joann
 Aliotta

SUNDAY – February 15, 2026

7:30 AM – **Dennis Arculeo/** Phil & Millie Cross
Rose A. May/ Joyce May
John James Martin/ Martin Family
Margaret DePergola/ Frank &
 Barbara Davide

9:00 AM – **Jack Murray/** Wife, Rita
Rose May/ Vince & Jane Poisella
Tom Cullen/ Beverly Holmes
Thomas Auer/ Diane & Michael
 Cocozza

11:30 AM – **Thomas Auer/** Barbara & John Collier
Rachel D’Amato/ Tegano Family
Patty Walker/ Vought Family
Andy Milazzo/ Ziegler &
 Laskowski Families

The Bread & Wine

In Memory of: Anthony Carlini

Requested by: Family



Stations of the Cross are held on the
 Fridays of Lent at 7:00 PM.
 We hope you will join us for this
 traditional Lenten Devotion.



Readings for Next Weekend

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

Reading I: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Reading II: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK:

MONDAY – February 16, 2026

8:00 AM – **Mary Triola/** Marianne & Joe Downs
Carl Salva/ Barbara O’Brien

TUESDAY – February 17, 2026

8:00 AM – **Elizabeth C. Long-Furia/** Bill Long
Antoinette Solari/ Eileen Wertz

WEDNESDAY- February 18, 2026

8:00 AM – **Cassie Sweeney/** Sweeney Family
Margaret DePergola/ Bobbie Jo Crea
 12:15 PM – **PRAYER SERVICE W/ASHES**
 5:00 PM – **PRAYER SERVICE W/ASHES**
 7:00 PM – **Maureen Tracy/** Kathleen Lynch
Veronica Pendergast/ Phil & Dottie
 Paulucci
Jane Stewart/ Phil & Dottie Paulucci

THURSDAY – February 19, 2026

8:00 AM – **Robert Stanley Putt/** Dennis & Aleida
 Kocse
Margaret DePergola/ Dave & Sandi
 Johnson

FRIDAY – February 20, 2026

8:00 AM – **Carl Salva/** Nancy, Terra & Lisa
Margaret DePergola/ Vinny & Monica
 Johnson

SATURDAY – February 21, 2026

4:00 PM – **Rose May/** Lorraine & Lorraine
Sonny LaBrunda/ Lorraine & Lorraine
Angelo Lovallo/ Anne & Vin Lucrezio

SUNDAY – February 22, 2026

7:30 AM – **Foti Family/** Millie & Phil Cross
Rose May/ Pam & Tony Camiscioni
Jacob Strassburger/ Rose Wilson
Susan Weipel/ Caroline & Chebil
 Family

9:00 AM – **Mario Sciarra/** Peggy Madison
Thomas Cullen/ Anne & Vin Lucrezio
Sonny LaBrunda/ Lou & Ginny Piccolo
Glenn Codner/ Jeff & Grace Green

11:30 AM – **John F. May/** Joyce May
Jacob Strassburger/ Margaret Syarto
Margaret DePergola/ Nancy & Francis
 Murphy
Mary Lynch/ Carolyn Malatin



THIS WEEK

Monday, February 16, 2026

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Al-Anon 7:15 PM (Faith Formation Center)

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Adult Faith Formation 9:30 AM

(Faith Formation Center)

Scriptural Rosary 1:30 PM (Daily Chapel)

Seven Sorrows Rosary 3:00 PM (Church)

OCIA 7:00 PM (Faith Formation Center)

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday Masses - 8:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday Services- 12:15 PM & 5:00 PM

(Church)

Scripture Study 9:15 AM (Daily Chapel)

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Adult Faith Formation 9:30 AM & 7:00 PM

(Faith Formation Center)

Friday, February 20, 2026

Seven Sorrows Rosary 3:00 PM (Daily Chapel)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

8:30 - 4:00 PM

Evening Prayer with Benediction 4:00 PM

(Daily Chapel)

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry 4:00 – 6:00 PM

(Faith Formation Center)

Stations of the Cross 7:00 PM (Church)

Saturday, February 21, 2026

Men's Spirituality 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

(Daily Chapel & Faith Formation Center)

Monthly 50/50 Tickets on Sale

SUPER EASTER 50/50 on Sale

(Gathering Space)

Sunday, February 22, 2026

Monthly 50/50 Tickets on Sale

SUPER EASTER 50/50 on Sale

(Gathering Space)

Children's Faith Formation 9:00 AM

(Church & Faith Formation Center)

Respect Life Ministry Recitation of the Rosary

After 11:30 AM Mass

(Daily Chapel)



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

This passage from Sirach gives strong, unequivocal emphasis to free will in every person. Before each of us is set, sin or virtue, life or death, and each of us are free to choose the one or the other.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Paul explains to the Corinthians that there are two different kinds of wisdom, the wisdom of God and the wisdom of the world. The wisdom of God is mysterious, but this wisdom has been revealed “to those who love him” through the Spirit.

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells the people He has come to fulfill the law. He speaks strongly against murder and anger, against adultery and lust, and against false oaths and lies. He warns the people that unless their virtue exceeds that of the Pharisees, they “will not enter the kingdom of God.”

Consider & Reflect

“If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you; if you trust in God, you too shall live... Before you are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him, immense is the wisdom of the Lord, he is mighty in power and all seeing. The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, he understands man’s every deed.”

How many choices we make every day. Many times, we are not even aware of choosing one thing over another. We decide, period. But there are things of value and great importance which require thought and careful consideration. How do I know the difference?

There are life-giving decisions, important family matters, the common good or well-being of others, which tell us, slow down, what are the consequences before you make a rash move? The author tells us to make right and deliberate choices. The phrase ‘*what would Jesus do?*’ is a point well taken, or as Sirach states ‘*if you trust in God, you too shall live.*’

‘Jesus I trust in you.’



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During the days and weeks of penance that lie ahead --- from **Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026, until Holy Thursday morning, April 2, 2026**, the Catholic

Church throughout the world commemorates the penitential season of Lent ending with the Sacred Triduum of Holy Week. The model Jesus gave us for “these forty days” was his own experience in the desert and the temptations that followed him there where he encountered Satan face to face. And yet, Jesus, there in the desert alone, fasting and in intense prayer, beat back the devil and triumphed over temptation, as strong and as unrelenting as it was throughout those forty days.

We enter the desert of Lent like Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, to face our devils, our temptations head on. But we are not alone. The Lord Jesus Christ is with us. And so, too, is the Church, the entire community of faith observing Lent. Here is what the Catholic Church in the United States requires of us as baptized Catholics:

1. The days of FAST (only one full meal) and **ABSTINENCE** (no meat) are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. **No dispensations are granted on these solemn days except for reason of sickness** or those provided in canon law below. **ALL OTHER FRIDAYS OF LENT are days of ABSTINENCE.**

The pastor of a parish has the faculty to give a dispensation to individual parishioners in his parish and the Diocesan Bishop alone has the authority to dispense groups of Catholics but only for a serious reason.

2. Those who are automatically dispensed from fast and abstinence regulations outside the age limits noted below include: the physically or mentally ill, especially individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also included in the dispensation are women who are pregnant or nursing. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.

3. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to FAST (only one full meal) as noted above. **From the age of 14, people are also obliged to ABSTAIN:** this obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat.

4. The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious one for Catholics. Failure to observe one penitential day in itself is not considered a serious sin. It is the intentional failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of penitential days, that must be considered a serious matter.

5. The obligation, the privilege really, of receiving the Eucharist at least once a year --- often called “**Easter duty**” --- for those in the state of grace should still be fulfilled during the period from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 22, 2026, to Trinity Sunday, May 31, 2026**. However, the Church’s law does permit this precept to be fulfilled at another time during the year when there is a just cause.

I want to encourage all Catholics, especially those who are conscious of serious sin, to go to Confession and to make use of the sacrifices and traditions that have always been part of our Lenten practices in the Church.

We do, indeed, fast and pray with the Lord Jesus and with our fellow Catholics. May this Lent be a time of Penance leading to grace and joy for us all at Easter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David M. O’Connell, C.M.
Bishop of Trenton



February 18, 2026

Our Masses and Services for Ash Wednesday are as follows:

Masses - 8:00 AM & 7:00 PM
Prayer Services - 12:15 PM & 5:00 PM

Ashes will be distributed at all
Masses & Services



Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Saturday, February 21, 2026- 4:00 PM

CELEBRANT: Fr. Gerry Johnson

READER: Sue Eggert

ALTAR SERVERS: Rory Krier, Brynn Krier

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: Ann Marie Rehrmann, Jack Stewart, John Kern, Pat O’Hara, Cathy Mills, Susan Geldart, Eileen Wertz

Sunday, February 22, 2026- 7:30 AM

CELEBRANT: Fr. Phil Pflieger, Deacon Jay Werling

READER: Peg Chroboncinski

ALTAR SERVER: Justin McCarthy

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: Jim Newman, Mary Schneider, Arlene Murray, John Minnella

Sunday, February 22, 2026- 9:00 AM

CELEBRANT: Fr. Dean Gaudio, Deacon Jay Werling

READER: John Brady

ALTAR SERVERS: Matthew Wurst, Jacob Schaffer

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: John Sullivan, Joann Spickard, Jayne Ziegler, Suzanne Hughes, Terry Walsh, Gail Buffi

Sunday – February 22, 2026- 11:30 AM

CELEBRANT: Fr. Gerry Johnson

READER: Royal Dwyer

ALTAR SERVERS: Sophia DiFrancia, Bart DiFrancia

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: Maureen Klotzbach, Cathy Brys, Ann Wilton, Desiree Ott, Norma Mooney, Nelida Kuhlmann, Patricia Claussen



If you would like to purchase Altar Flowers in memory of a deceased loved one or for a special occasion, please see Katrina at the Parish Office. The cost is \$50.00 for the week.



FOOD PANTRY

609-296-1345

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Items needed this month:

JARRED PASTA SAUCE

CANNED CORN

Hamburger Helper type packaged products, ravioli, canned soups, canned pastas, rice side dishes, cake mixes and frosting, small jars of mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, peanut butter, jelly, pancake syrup, pancake mix, apple juice, and pasta.

Thank you!

50/50

A NEW EASTER SUPER 50/50

**Drawing to be held
after the Easter Vigil**

Book of 4 tickets - \$100.00

3 CHANCES TO WIN

25% - 15% - 10%

***On sale after all the Masses every weekend
in the Gathering Space.***

We hope you will support this fundraiser!



FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION
SPONSORED BY AARP/ IRS
 TAX AIDES OF SOUTHERN OCEAN COUNTY.

YOU must have an appointment.
Make appointment in person:
WEDNESDAYS - 9am to 1pm.

at St. Theresa Faith Formation Center
NO WALK INS - NO PHONE CALLS

DO NOT CALL
THE CHURCH OFFICE

OTHER TAX PREPARATION SITE
ST. MARY'S OF THE PINES PARISH CENTER
 100 BISHOPS LANE, MANAHAWKIN
 Make appointment in person:
THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 9AM TO 1PM



Collection for February 7 & 8, 2026
\$8,019.00

Contributions Online
(includes other donations)
\$5,860.02

Thank you to all those who financially sacrifice each week to support our parish and its ministries!



COLLECTION ENVELOPES

If you were unable to pick up your envelopes from the Church, you may pick them up at the Parish Office during office hours.

If you are going away this winter, please let us know and we will hold your envelopes until you return.

If you have any questions, please call Katrina at the Parish Office at Ext. 232.



Diocese of Trenton

LOVE that **JOY** that
Strengthens | **Sustains**

2026 Annual Catholic Appeal

2026 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
DIOCESE OF TRENTON

Love that Strengthens/Joy that Sustains

Bishop O'Connell has invited each of us to participate in the 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal through a letter to your homes and a video message that was shown at all Masses.

The Appeal strengthens families, cares for those in need, forms future priests, and educates our youth across the Diocese.

Our Parish goal this year is \$53,000.00

PLUS

50% of the collected funds above the goal comes back to our parish for our needs.

NEW DONORS

If the number of donors increases **10%** from last year, the parish will receive an additional **5%** of the goal

(We do not have to reach goal to be eligible for the additional 5%.)

Please prayerfully consider your gift to this year's Annual Catholic Appeal.

Join us to create
Love that Strengthens, and
Joy that Sustains.

More details about the Appeal's impact can be found in the brochure in the kiosk and on our parish website.

Please be as generous as possible!



FISH AND CHIPS FRIDAYS ARE BACK

Come join the Knights of Columbus before the Stations of the Cross during our Lenten season for a delicious meal of Fish and Chips.

DATES: February 20th, March 6th

and March 20th

TIMES: 4:00 – 6:00 PM

The menu is as follows:

- Fish and Chips
- Choice of either Clam Chowder or Vegetable Soup
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Cole Slaw
- Dessert
- Soda, Coffee, Tea

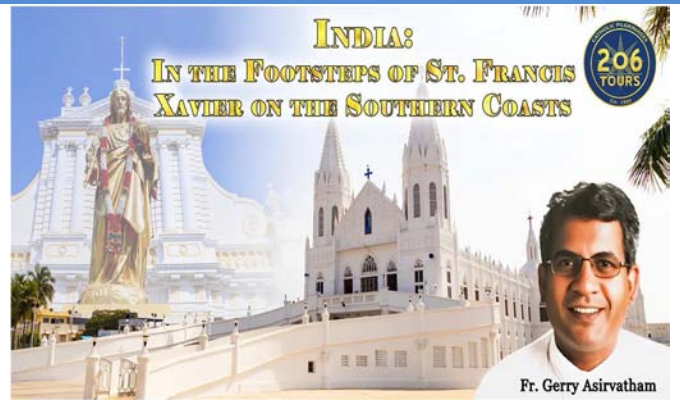
\$18.00 PER PERSON

If you would like to join us but do not eat fish we have a MENU for you:

- Vegetable Soup
- Macaroni and Cheese
- French Fries
- Dessert
- Soda, Coffee, Tea

\$10.00 PER PERSON

TAKE OUT ORDERS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE



“Pilgrimages are vital for a Christian’s life of faith” – Pope Leo XIV

India:

In the Footsteps of St. Francis Xavier on the Southern Coasts

Spiritual Director:

Fr. Gerry (Asirvatham) Johnson

March 1 – 13, 2027

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Join 206 Tours on an exclusive Pilgrimage throughout the magnificent country of India! Begin with a tour of Chennai where St. Thomas the Apostle is Buried. In Vailankanni, you will learn about two Marian Apparitions which occurred in the area in 1570 and 1597. Travel to Kanyakumari and learn about the great missionary Saint John de Britto. See beautiful Goa, the capital of Portuguese colonial rule and the see of the Patriarch of the East Indies.

\$500.00 Deposit is due at the time of registration.*If within 90 days prior to departure, full payment is due at time of Registration.

Register online sales@206tours.com

For more information, call Suzana 1800-206-8687



PARKING LOT REPAIR NEWS

PHASE 1 - Drain Repair:
6 Drain Repairs - \$15,916.18

Here's where we need your help!

We are asking all our parishioners to please join us in helping achieve this goal by financially contributing to the cost of this project.

HERE'S WHAT WE RECEIVED
SO FAR FOR PHASE 1

RECEIVED: \$8,525.00

COST: \$15,916.18

-\$8,525.00

\$7,391.18

You are the solution to making our parking lot safe for all! We cannot repair the parking lot without your support. We need to raise all the money necessary before we can start this project.

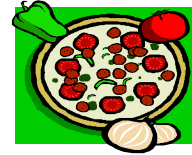
WE ARE HOPING & PRAYING FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

To contribute, mail or drop off checks payable to St. Theresa's to the Parish Office or place in the collection, designating "Parking Lot" in the memo section.

For credit cards, electronic payments, please call Chris at 609-296-2504 Ext. 223

"Together, we can do great things".
Mother Teresa

IT'S BACK AGAIN!



You can keep your observance of "Meatless" Fridays during Lent AND support St. Theresa's at the same time!!

Brother's Italian Restaurant and Pizza
Great Bay Plaza (near Dollar Tree),
Mathistown Road, Little Egg Harbor, NJ
has again agreed to donate 20% of the cost of your order – whether it's take-out, delivery, or eat-in – to St. Theresa's Church on **Ash Wednesday and the Fridays in Lent:**

(2/18, 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27)

When you pay, simply hand the voucher printed below to the cashier or to the delivery person and St. Theresa's will receive 20% back of every dollar you spend! **YOU MUST BRING VOUCHER.** If you need additional vouchers, they are available in the kiosk or in the Parish Office.

Let's all get together. Invite your family and friends to participate, and make this a HUGE success for our Parish Community! We had a great response last year – let's make this year's even better!!

After all, who can resist a good pizza? (or pasta, or seafood, or eggplant...?)!!!

VOUCHER

"St. Theresa's Church"

Brother's Italian Restaurant & Pizza
Great Bay Plaza (near Dollar Tree)
Mathistown Road, Little Egg Harbor, NJ
(609) 294-1850

(2/18, 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27)

Please cut out this voucher and present it to the cashier or delivery person to earn **20% of the cost of your order** for St. Theresa's Church.

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Thank you for an amazing 2025 season, we look forward to seeing you in the Spring of 2026!

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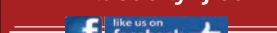
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