

St. Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church

Rectory/Parish Center: (973) 338-9190 . Fax: (973) 338-4224 . Religious Education: (973) 338-7400
School: (973) 338-8505 . Convent: (973) 338-9118
Address: 60 Byrd Avenue, Bloomfield, NJ 07003 . Website: www.stthomas-bloomfieldnj.com

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY

Saturday Eve: 5:00pm

Sundays: 7:30, 9:00,
10:30am & 12:15pm
(12 Noon during summer months)

Weekdays: 7:30, & 11:30am

Saturday Mornings: 8:30am Only

Holy Days:
7:30, 11:30am & 7:00pm

Holidays: 8:30am Only

INTERPRETED MASS
FOR THE DEAF
Fourth Sunday
of Each Month
12:15pm

SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILIATION:
(Penance/Confessions)
Saturday: 11:00am

MARIAN DEVOTIONS:
Mondays
Novena Prayer
11:30am Mass

LITURGY OF
THE WORD
WITH CHILDREN:
Sundays: 10:30am Mass
September - June

CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY
SERVICES
OFFERING SOCIAL
SERVICE ASSISTANCE
1(800) CCS-7413
Fax: 596-3735

Rev. Charles J. Miller, M. Div., Pastor

Rev. Peter K. Funesti, M. Div., Parochial Vicar

Rev. Philip A. Sanders, S.T.B., Parochial Vicar

Rev. Thomas F. Blind, M. Div., In Residence

PERMANENT DEACONS:

Deacon Albert H. Tizzano

Deacon Dennis J. Besida

Deacon Thomas J. Coyle

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE FOR
ELEMENTARY CATECHETICS:
Tracey Rennie

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE
FOR PARISH MINISTRY:
Sister Arleen Crimmins, O.P.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:
Ms. Joan Ferraer

DIRECTOR OF LITURGICAL
MUSIC MINISTRIES:
Nancy A. Cardone

ASSISTANT LITURGICAL
MUSIC MINISTERS:
Paul DiBianca
Kimberley Mesiti

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE FOR FAMILY
& ADULT FORMATION MINISTRIES:
Robert P. Miller

COORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY:
Mr. Timothy Dennin

PASTORAL COUNCIL:
Tom Rossano, Chairperson
Orly Trias, Vice Chairperson
Michele Sweetman, Secretary

FINANCE CHAIRMEN:
Peter Maulbeck, Finance Council
Patrick DeCotiis, Finance Committee

Masses for the Week

Sunday, December 30

Saturday, December 29

5:00 pm Salvatore Lo Cicero & Salvatore Cataliotti –
Wife & Sister

Sunday, December 30

7:30 am Esterina & Silvester Fusco - Family
9:00 am Mary C. Healy - Family
10:30 am Frances Hughes - Friend
12:15 pm Francisco Rodriguez - Friend

Monday, December 31

7:30 am Robert Shiel - Friend
11:30 am Barbara Ann Spagnoli - Brother
4:00 pm Ernest & Philomena Cordasco and
Jospeh Bianchi – Wife & Daughter

Tuesday, January 1

7:30 am Rachel DeMunno - Friend
11:30 am John Magullian - Friend
7:00 pm Paul Candido - Friend

Wednesday, January 2

7:30 am John Santoro - Friend
11:30 am Vincent Kreder - Friends

Thursday, January 3

7:30 am Thomas P. Mahon, Jr. - Family
11:30 am Mary O’Hickey - Friend

Friday, January 4

7:30 am Jean Powers - Family
11:30 am Matthew Larson - Friends

Saturday, January 5

8:30 am Loretta DiMichele -

Sunday, January 6

Saturday, January 5

5:00 pm Mr. & Mrs. Louis Scaglione - Family

Sunday, January 6

7:30 am For the people of the parish
9:00 am Dennis W. McDonald - Family
10:30 am Patrick J. Longo - Friends
12:15 pm Nick Spooner - Friends

Next Sunday’s Readings:

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

PRAY
THE ROSARY
FOR PEACE



Right to Life

For all families, and especially those who are refugees: that their consecrated love might help them find their way home;

We pray to the Lord



Joseph’s obedience to God was not a one-time thing. His attention to the angel’s warning kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod and led to the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would be a Nazorean. Fidelity to God’s will assures the best use of my talents, too!

Wellness Ministry Cares... Assistance Program

The Wellness Ministry phone line is available Mon-Fri, 9am to 8pm. Call the Parish Center 973-338-9190 ext. 20 and a return call will be made within 24 hours. A Parish Nurse will provide limited confidential health counseling & referrals to Community health resources & services. Volunteers are available for errands, home visits and phone contacts.

Pray for Vocations

The Staff of the Vocation Office of the Archdiocese of Newark wish you a Blessed and Happy New Year. Pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life in this New Year as we strive to serve the Church and her people more faithfully.



PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

Paul Strickland, Nina Vetere, Joanne Stile,
Eleanor & Peter Franco, Michele & Nicholas Fasone,
Glenn Stickles, George Scott, Joe Ciuba,
Harry Shaw, Luke Schwenderman

REST IN PEACE:

Frank J. Yavorski, Sr., Rev. Charles W.A. Herr,
Rev. John E. O’Brien, Rev. Edward A. Haber

CANDLE INTENTIONS:

Church: Henry Brennan
Convent: David Kossack

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



This feast is celebrated on the Sunday falling within the octave of Christmas. It is a relatively new feast – added to the Church’s calendar in the early part of the last century. During a season fostering the centrality of family, this feast emphasizes the unity and love so evident in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The orations of the Mass emphasize the core meaning of this feast: “we want to live as Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in peace with you and one another”. Yes! We want to live in the same kind of relationship with God that the Holy Family had with God. We want *our* families to be united in peace and in love.

LECTIONARY

The Gospel according to Matthew recounts Joseph’s dream in which the angel tells him Herod is searching for the child. The angel instructs Joseph to take Mary and the child Jesus and flee to Egypt. Here, the evangelist connects two Old Testament prophecies to Jesus: Hosea 11:1, in which God calls Isreal, his son, out of Egypt, and a second prophesy of undecipherable origin in the Old Testament, which cites an unnamed Nazarean who is referenced in Matthew 2:23.

The First Reading from Sirach instructs children to honor their parents, and the Second Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians shows how God’s people are to live with “kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience” (3:12). This reading reminds us that it is love that binds us all together into one family of God.

Psalm 128 sings of the happiness a family finds when they walk in God’s ways.

Mass Schedule for the Christmas Season at St. Thomas the Apostle Church



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday, December 29th – 5:00pm
Sunday, Dec. 30th, 7:30am - 9:00am - 10:30am -
12:15pm

Blessing of Families at Masses today

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Monday, December 31st, 2007
4:00pm Mass

Tuesday, January 1, 2008
Masses at 7:30am, 11:30am, 7:00pm

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY (Annual “Bell Sunday”)

Saturday, January 5th 5:00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday, January 6th -7:30am-9:00am-10:30am-12:15pm
(Children’s Epiphany Pageant following 12:15pm Mass)

“THIS WEEK”

Monday – 12/31

Parish Center closed at 1:00 p.m.
School Closed

Tuesday – 1/1

New Year’s Day
Parish Center Closed
School Closed

Wednesday – 1/2

Back to School!

Thursday – 1/3

SCC Thursday – 7:00 p.m. in St. Matthew

Friday – 1/4

SCC Friday – 7:00 p.m. in St. Peter

Sunday – 1/6

EPIPHANY

Epiphany Pageant – Immediately after 12:15 p.m. Mass

The Prayer Shawl Ministry



"And he was wrapped in swaddling..."
Let us continue to pray for those making shawls and those who receive them.

Our next meetings are Sundays Jan. 20th, Feb. 17th, and March 2nd at 1:30 p.m. Please check with the parish center as meetings may be cancelled due to bad weather. If you have any questions, call Eileen (973) 661-9699; Debbie (973) 771-1952 or Bernadette (973) 893-0114. If you need a shawl please call Sister Arleen (973) 338-9190 or Alicia (973) 473-6633.

Men's Cornerstone Retreat

(March 7th – March 8th)

All St. Thomas Men are Invited

What is Cornerstone?

Cornerstone is a **26-hour retreat** which provides you with the opportunity to reflect, renew and strengthen your faith while meeting other men in our Parish community. The retreat is hosted here at St. Thomas by a group of men from our parish who have experienced last year's Cornerstone.

This retreat is simply a gathering of **Ordinary Men** sharing stories and life's experiences. You may share in the discussion as much or as little as you choose. This is an outstanding opportunity to:

- examine your relationship with God, your family and others in your life
- think about those things that matter to you most in an atmosphere that lends itself to reflection and contemplation
- "jump-start" your sense of belonging or involvement in our parish, and enjoy the fellowship of other men who seek to build our Christian community

This is a great opportunity to step out of the hustle of daily life and meet and interact with other men of the parish, in a friendly, welcoming, non-judgmental environment.

Give yourself and our parish a gift by attending St. Thomas' 3rd "Men's Cornerstone" on March 7th to March 8th.

Contact us at:

- The Rectory:
- Fr. Peter Funesti (973) 338-9190 x-14
- Cornerstone Welcoming Team Members:
- Bob Garrabrant 973 338-6358 or bgarrab@neca.org
- Bob Silvestri 973-773-6040 or silvestrima@optonline.net
- Pat DeCotiis 973-896-5739 or pdecotiis@att.com

Religious Education News



Summer CCD Update: A quick reminder to all those hoping to attend summer CCD in 2008. Registration packages are NOT sent home, even if your child attended summer CCD last year. A notice will be placed in the bulletin around the middle of January announcing that the packages are ready.

Once the notice has appeared in the bulletin you may call the Religious Education Office and request that a registration package be mailed to you or you may download it from the STA website. Dates for summer CCD 2008 are July 7th through July 18th from 9:00 – 12:30 each day. Children in grades 3 through 8 only may attend summer CCD. Last year summer CCD closed out in two weeks and names were taken for a waiting list, so please note that this program is first come, first served. Please do NOT call the Religious Education Office until the announcement appears in the bulletin. Teachers and aides are needed for each grade. If you are interested please call Tracey Rennie at 973-338-7400.

Vacation Bible School 2008: Mark your calendar for an exciting faith adventure for children ages 4 through 12. Our annual Vacation Bible School program will be held June 23rd through June 27th. Each day will be packed with crafts, songs, activities, and games. Children do not need to be parishioners to attend. We will also need lots of volunteers, especially Confirmation Candidates. Watch the bulletin for further information.

Thank You

Church Calendars for 2008 are available thanks to the generous sponsorship of Frank Halpin's Brookdale Funeral Home.

*We welcome into our Community of Faith
With our prayers and good wishes,
Our newly Baptized...*



Ava Rose Cardone

Parents: Dana (Cuozzo) & Frank A. Cardone

Erin Elizabeth Oguss

Parents: Heather (Ricca) & Ethan Oguss

Ashley Elizabeth Toro

Parents: Linda J. (Ingles) & Samuel Toro, Jr.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Presents

ST. THOMAS DANCE TIME

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26TH AT 7PM

At
HERRON HALL

MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL AGES

Also
**DINNER, BEER, WINE AND SODA
BYOB FOR EVERYTHING REST**

DONATION-\$35 PER PERON

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. THOMAS

NAME _____

TELEPHONE # _____

ADDRESS _____

HOW MANY COMING _____

AMOUNT OF CHECK _____

Make returns to Paul Alongi, 21 Leo Terrace,
Bloomfield, New Jersey, 07003, 973-338-4665
or Parish Center 973-338-9190

Ministry of Spiritual Direction **

**New Year – New Beginnings
One Day Guided Retreat**



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 12 from 9:00am – 3:30pm
(PARISH CENTER)**

*“There is an appointed time for everything...”
(Ecclesiastes 3)*

After a busy season which holds much excitement and possibly some disappointments, it is good to take some time to rest & reflect with God on those things held in your heart.

Day includes presentations, prayer service, quiet reflection time, gathering of the graces.

**Anna Graziano, – (973) 338-9538
Registration Helpful / Offering \$25
Light Continental Breakfast**

**Individual Spiritual Direction Available by Appointment

**LEARNING TO LIVE
WITH YOUR LOSS**

**Sunday, January 6th, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
in the Parish Center**

**Our theme will be:
We Are Precious Gifts**

Thanks from the heart!

*A Grateful Heart –
Two kinds of gratitude,
the sudden kind we feel for what we take,
and the larger kind we feel for what we give.*

- Robert H. Schuller

We would like to thank all of our generous parishioners for their donations not only over the holidays but all year long. The response this Thanksgiving was tremendous! There were many turkeys and trimmings as well as Shoprite gift cards donated by the Rosarians!

As you know, the Food Pantry is an ongoing project here at St. Thomas. We help our parishioners first, then families living in Bloomfield and the Emergency Food Bank of the Archdiocese of Newark.

The Christmas Giving Tree was most successful! Children’s Hospital, nursing homes and inner city parishes received the gifts that you placed under the tree. The gift certificates were shared by families living in our parish.

Thank you to MaryAnn and Thomas Carini and their elves that did such a wonderful job in coordinating this worthy project.

*May the Spirit of Christmas bring you peace,
The gladness of Christmas give you hope,
and the warmth of Christmas grant you love*

*Women’s Cornerstone
“Journey Together”*

Women’s Cornerstone team will meet Mondays, January 14th & 28th. Please do your best to attend.

Thank you, ~ Sister Arleen



SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON

**TO BE HONORED
IN CONVENT STATION**

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH AT A LITURGY TO HONOR THE FIRST NORTH-AMERICAN BORN SAINT, ELIZABETH ANN SETON. MOTHER SETON FOUNDED OUR COUNTRY'S FIRST RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY, THE SISTERS OF CHARITY, IN BALTIMORE IN 1809.

A WIDOWED SINGLE MOTHER WITH FINANCIAL AND PERSONAL CHALLENGES, THROUGH HER EXAMPLE SHE OFFERS INSPIRATION TO MANY OF US TODAY. THE MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2008, AT HOLY FAMILY CHAPEL, CONVENT STATION, NJ, AT 11:00 A.M. THE MASS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A LIGHT LUNCH IN THE STUDY HALL OF THE ACADEMY OF SAINT ELIZABETH. THE HERITAGE ROOM OF THE MOTHERHOUSE WILL BE OPENED FOR A DISPLAY OF MOTHER SETON MEMORABILIA. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE A PLACE, CALL (973) 290-5412 OR (973) 290-5338.

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER CALL (973) 290-5478. SNOW DATE IS JANUARY 12, 2008.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

In today's second reading it tells us "Over all these virtues put on love". Does your marriage reflect the virtues of a holy family? Let Worldwide Marriage Encounter help you to re-ignite the vows you made on your wedding day. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is July 11-13, 2008

Please call 800-823-5683 or www.wwme.org

Christian Marriage:

An imitation of God the Father

In the spousal relationship between man and woman we see the divine plan of God unfold and at the same time, we see an example of divine love itself. Marriage is an institute and covenant that does not end except by death. This relationship is supposed to produce fruit. Other than death, there is nothing that can break this bond. This imitates God's love for us, only His does not end at our death.

Biblically, God is often depicted as being in a spousal relationship with His people. Throughout the Old Testament, God promised that no matter the circumstances, unfaithfulness or betrayal, for example, the Lord would always be espoused to Israel, his beloved. At the same time, Israel could always count on the Lord as its God and protector. This "marriage" of God and Israel was permanent and indissoluble. Jesus maintains a similar relationship with his Church. Jesus is oftentimes called the Bridegroom and the Church his Bride. All Catholic Christian marriages are to model themselves after these examples of permanency, faithfulness and fruitfulness. For more information, go to: www.foryourmarriage.org.

Archdiocese of Newark.....News

Consider your Christian responsibility to yourself, your family and to God to be a wise steward of the blessings God has given you. How will your blessings be passed on to those you love and care for when you die? Planning now will help those that mean the most to you benefit forever. It's easy to include our parish endowment fund in your will. This will provide annual income to the parish forever. Call the parish office or Anne DeMesa in the Archdiocese of Newark's Planned Giving Office at 973-497-4048 to learn how simple and easy it is to include our parish in your will.

A Note of Thanks from

St. Rocco's Church in Union City, NJ

Dear Father Miller,

We wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the parishioners of St. Thomas The Apostle Church for their very generous donation of gifts for the children of the Religious Education Program of St. Rocco / St. Brigid Church.

We are so grateful to each and every one of you for your gift of love extended to the children of our parish family.

May the peace and love of the Christmas Season be with all of you throughout the New Year 2008.

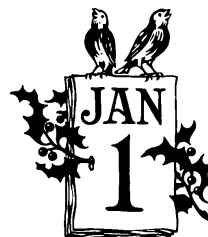
Sincerely yours,

REV. MANNY RIOS

**Rev. Manny Rios
Pastor**

A very...

Happy New Year!!!!



to you from your St. Thomas family!