

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

February 17, 2008 . Second Sunday of Lent

Masses for the Week

Sunday, February 17

Saturday, February 16

5:00 pm Juliana & Pedro Cayetano – Family

Sunday, February 17

7:30 am Alfred Sabella – Family

9:00 am Joan Sears – Friends

10:30 am For the People of the Parish

12:15 pm James A. McKittrick, Sr. – Family

Monday, February 18 **-President's Day – One Mass-**

8:30 am Mary Del Prete – Bequest

Tuesday, February 19

7:30 am Daniel Breen – Friend

11:30 am Michael John Melograno – Wife

Wednesday, February 20

7:30 am Angelina Williams – Friends

11:30 am Salvatore Lo Cicero & Joseph Cataliotti –
Wife and Sister

Thursday, February 21

7:30 am Lillian Verduin – Rosary Society

11:30 am Sadie & James Burns – Family

Friday, February 22

7:30 am Gonzalo DeJesus – Family

11:30 am Mario Lucciolo – Family

Saturday, February 23

8:30 am Helen McGarry – Bequest

Sunday, February 24

Saturday, February 23

5:00 pm Mr. & Mrs. James Palagano - Family

Sunday, February 24

7:30 am Henry W. Wroblewski – Friend

9:00 am Helen Kleissler – Friend

10:30 am Vincenzo Vitelli – Friend

12:15 pm For the People of the Parish

PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

Glenn Stickles, Paul Strickland, Eddie Post,
Louis Gartner Sr., Mildred Paul, Elizabeth Rosa

REST IN PEACE:

Robert Stickles, Patrick Russillo, Rev. John D. Sweeney
Arthur Margeotes, Patsy Limongello, Eleanor Sinnenberg

CANDLE INTENTIONS:

Church: Irene Garner

Convent: Mimi Astarita

Next Sunday's Readings:

Exodus 17:3-7

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

John 4:5 – 42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42



"Bear your share of the hardship which the gospel entails," St. Paul tells Timothy in today's Second Reading. What sacrifice is asked of me for the sake of the Gospel? How willing am I to bear my share?

Pray For Vocations



"Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." This prophecy of Christ is now fulfilled. It is the duty of each Christian, especially priests, religious and deacons, to teach about the Transfiguration of Christ, and its meaning in our lives. Are you willing to teach the faithful about Christ's miraculous acts and Passion, Death and Resurrection? If so, pray for the wisdom that Christ's grace brings, and contact the Vocation Office at 973.497.4365 or email kellybar@rcan.org.



Right to Life

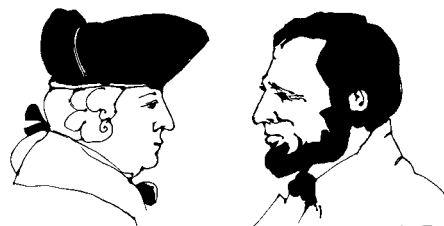
For all who await execution on death rows across this country: that we might learn to love them;

We pray to the Lord

PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Monday, February 18, 2008

One Mass: 8:30 a.m. • Parish Center Closed



LONG MAY OUR LAND BE BRIGHT
WITH FREEDOM'S HOLY LIGHT
PROTECT US BY THY MIGHT
GREAT GOD OUR KING

Archdiocese of Newark Anniversary Masses

It is an annual tradition to honor the couples in the Archdiocese who are celebrating five, twenty-five, fifty years of Christian marriage in 2008. These anniversary liturgies will be celebrated by Archbishop John J. Myers in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.

- Sun., March 2 – 5 & 25 years (all counties)
- Sun., April 13 – 50 years (Essex & Union Counties)
- Sun., June 1 – 50 years (Bergen & Hudson Counties)

All Masses will be celebrated at 3:00 p.m.

To register, call the Parish Center at (973) 338-9190

Second Sunday of Lent

In every year of the Lectionary cycle, the particular Gospel proclaims the Transfiguration of the Lord on the Second Sunday of Lent. In addition to the image of the glory Christ would receive in his Resurrection, the Church has always seen in this event a glimpse of the promised glory that each follower of Christ receives as baptized members of his Body, the Church. In a sermon on the Transfiguration, Pope St. Leo the Great wrote, "With no less forethought [Christ] was also providing a firm foundation for the hope of holy Church. The whole body of Christ was to understand the kind of transformation that it would receive as his gift. The members of that body were to look forward to a share in that glory which first blazed out in Christ their head" (*Office of Readings, Second Sunday of Lent*).

As faithful members of his Body we are destined for the same transfiguration of our mortal selves into the glory of Christ witnessed by the apostles on the mountaintop.

LECTIONARY

This year the proclamation of the Transfiguration of the Lord is from the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus goes to the top of the mountain with Peter, James, and John. He is transfigured in glorious light while conversing with Moses and Elijah. The presence of these two figures—Moses the law giver and Elijah the great prophet—indicate that Jesus fulfills both the law and the teachings of the prophets.

From the clouds, a voice is heard identifying Jesus as God's beloved Son. This is the same voice heard at Jesus' baptism. There is also the voice that identified Jesus as the beloved. In our Baptism we too were claimed by God as his beloved son or daughter. We too received the promise of eternal glory that Jesus manifests in the Transfiguration. Just as Christ would pass through death into transfigured glory, so too will those who have been claimed by him in Baptism and faithfully follow him.

On the Second Sunday of Lent the First Reading is always part of the story of Abram. Today we hear of God's first call to Abram—the one who would be named Abraham and become the great patriarch. Here the Lord makes the ancient promises to Abram: God will make of him a great nation and give to this nation a land to which the Lord himself will take them.

Both the First Reading and the Gospel speak of the great promise of God to those who follow him faithfully: a future of glory. Abraham's promise of future glory is mirrored in the Transfiguration of Christ: the promise of *our* future glory. The land to which the Lord himself will take them if the kingdom of God, which we have entered through Baptism and which will, through God's mercy, one day be ours for eternity.



Come join us for the Women's Lenten Reflection Group on Tuesdays, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. in the St. James room in the parish center. Meetings will continue through March 11th, 2008. We read, pray and reflect on the Sunday Readings for Lent. All women are invited. Any questions? Call Sr. Arleen at 973 338-9190 x-34

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday evening throughout Lent until Good Friday, April 6th when the St. Thomas Senior High Youth Group will present the **Living Stations of the Cross.**



"THIS WEEK"

Monday – 2/18

- - **PRESIDENT'S DAY** - -

School and Parish Center closed today
- - ONE MASS ONLY at 8:30 a.m. - -

Tuesday – 2/19

Women's Lenten Reflection – 1:00pm in St. James

Thursday – 2/21

SCC Thursday – 7:00pm in St. Matthew

Friday – 2/22

PRESIDENT WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

Stations of the Cross – 7:30pm in Church
Senior Tax Preparations – 10am-12pm in St. Peter

Sunday – 2/24

Berevement – 1:30pm in St. Thomas

16th Annual Irish Night February 23, 2008

The Holy Name Society of St Thomas the Apostle in Bloomfield is holding the sixteenth Annual Irish Night on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 6:30-10:30 PM at the Parish's Herron Hall. Ticket price: \$25 per person.

Ticket sale deadline is Saturday Feb. 17. Tickets will *NOT* be available at the door. Entertainment will include Irish Step Dancers from the Peter Smith School of Irish Dancing, bagpiper Scott Sim, and a sing along led by balladeer Mike Albert and the Parish Priests.

A corned beef and cabbage dinner, Irish soda bread, beer, wine, soft drinks and setups (BYOB) are included. For information, call Rich Bevere at 973-338-6444 or Frank Helmstetter at 973-338-5872.



The Rosary Confraternity

Just a reminder: Our next meeting will be held on Monday, March 3rd in the St. Peter room at 7:00 p.m.

God Bless

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

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

MEETINGS EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT
IN THE PARISH CENTER FROM 7-9PM.
ALL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH ARE WELCOME

2/17 Mini Lock-in in Parish Center President's Day
2/24 Veggie Tales – Jonah

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Stations of the Cross practices begin today in Church 3pm.

EMAIL TIM DENNIN WITH ANY QUESTIONS tdennin@att.net

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. 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.

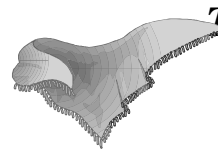
** CONFIRMATION ANNOUNCEMENT **

Parents meeting for Confirmation Registration will be held after all Masses on March 8th & 9th and 15th & 16th. Registration is open to all those currently in the 8th grade who have completed all CCD religious education requirements or will graduate STA this June.

St. Thomas the Apostle School 2008 Calendar Sweepstakes Winners!

FEB		
10	\$75	Gloria Iachio
11	\$100	Rose Melone
12	\$75	Ronald Ward
13	\$200	Madeline Barker
14	\$50	John Wholbold
15	\$75	Cheryl Ploia
16	\$50	Kimberly Maziarz

CONGRATULATION TO ALL WINNERS!!!



The Prayer Shawl Ministry

Let us continue to pray for those making shawls and those who receive them

Meeting this Sunday Feb. 17th and March 2nd at 1:30 p.m. Evening meeting held Wed. April 2nd. Please call the parish center to find out if a meeting has been canceled due to bad weather. If you have any questions call Bernadette at 973-893-0114, or for a shawl, call Sr. Arleen at 973-338-9190 x-34 or Alicia at 973-473-6633.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
When all was said and done, we had over 80 scarves for the Broadway House!

Adult Enrichment Lenten Series on Prayer "Teach us to Pray"

Is your prayer life sometimes dry, inconsistent, or a struggle? Join us for a three part series focusing on different methods of prayer and incorporating prayer into your life. Lectures are Tuesday, February 19 and Thursday, February 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the parish center. Presenters are Tom Rossano and Bob Miller. For more information call Bob Miller in the parish center at 973.338.9190 x29.

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION

THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY CONTINUES TO PROVIDE FREE FEDERAL AND NJ STATE INCOME TAX PREPARATION FOR SENIORS AND DISABLED MEMBERS OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS SERVICE, YOU MUST BE A REGISTERED MEMBER OF ST. THOMAS, AT LEAST 62 YEARS OF AGE OR DISABLED, NOT ACTIVELY EMPLOYED AND REQUIRE NO MORE FORMS AND SCHEDULES THAN THOSE LISTED BELOW.

INCOME TAX RETURNS WILL BE PREPARED BY EXPERIENCED TAX PREPARERS WHO ARE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY, VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME AND TALENT IN THE SPIRIT OF STEWARDSHIP.

INCOME TAX RETURNS WILL BE LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING FORMS AND SCHEDULES:

- **FEDERAL FORMS 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ**
- **FEDERAL SCHEDULES A, B, D, E (RESIDENTIAL RENTAL ONLY), AND R.**
- **NJ STATE FORMS 1040NJ AND 1040NJHR**
- **NJ SCHEDULES B, C, AND HR-A**

THE TAX PREPARATION PROCESS FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL OR MARRIED COUPLE WILL INCLUDE AN INTERVIEW, REVIEW OF YOUR 2006 TAX RETURN AND TURNOVER OF YOUR TAX DOCUMENTS (1099'S). COMPLETED RETURNS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN ABOUT ONE WEEK.

TAX PREPARERS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH CENTER EVERY FRIDAY FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON.

IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT. COME IN TO THE PARISH CENTER TO GET YOUR TAXES DONE OR TO SPEAK TO A TAX PREPARER.

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK 2008 LENTEN REGULATIONS

1. The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted. Those between ages 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those age 14 and over are obliged by the law of abstinence.

2. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially", or as a whole, is a serious obligation.

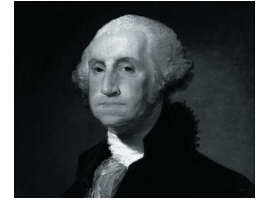
3. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.

4. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 10, 2008 to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, May 18, 2008.**

*Canon 920, §1. *All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.*

February 22nd

President Washington's Birthday



"Do not conceive that fine clothes make fine men any more than fine feathers make fine birds."

- GEORGE WASHINGTON

In a letter to Bushrod Washington, Jan. 15, 1783

LEARNING TO LIVE

**February 24th, 2008 – 1:30 p.m.
in the Parish Center
WITH YOUR LOSS**

**Our theme will be:
The Cross Our Hope**



Moving?

Please let us know.

Within the parish – to update new address

Out of parish – to discontinue mailings

Please call the Parish Center at (973) 338-9190.



WHY SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

*"The Lord is my helper,
I will not be afraid..."*

(Hebrews 13:6)

- **Life is in transition**
- **Faced with difficult decisions**
- **Struggling with past hurts**
- **Prayer has become dry / empty**
- **Desire to savor God's loving presence**
- **Explore God's seeming absence**
- **Stuck in unforgiveness, anger,**
- **Post abortion issues**
- **Grieving the loss of a loved one through death, divorce, etc.**
- **Grieving the loss of health, life's dreams / expectations**
- **Sensing a call to more**

**Call for a private appointment
Anna Graziano, cSD (973) 338-9538**

Pope Benedict XVI: 2008 World Day of Peace Message

Each year the pope issues an annual message of peace at the threshold of the New Year. The continuation of this year's message is summarized here. (Due to the length of the article, various themes and sections -fifteen to be exact- will be updated in this bulletin weekly).

Overcoming Conflicts and Disarmament

14. Humanity today is unfortunately experiencing great division and sharp conflicts which cast dark shadows on its future. Vast areas of the world are in situations of increasing tension, while the danger of an increase in the number of countries possessing nuclear weapons causes well-founded apprehension. Many civil wars are still being fought in Africa, even as progress is made on the road to freedom and democracy. The Middle East still has conflict and violence, which also affects neighboring nations and regions and risks drawing them into the spiral of violence. On a broader scale, one must acknowledge with regret the growing number of nations engaged in the arms race: even some poor nations seek to purchase of weapons. The developed countries profit immensely from the sale of arms, while the rulers in some poorer countries try to acquire ever more sophisticated weaponry. It is truly necessary for all persons of good will to come together to reach concrete agreements aimed at an effective demilitarization, especially in the area of nuclear arms. At a time when the process of nuclear non-proliferation is at a stand-still, I feel bound to entreat those in authority to resume with greater determination negotiations for a progressive and mutually agreed dismantling of existing nuclear weapons. I am echoing the desire of all those concerned for the future of humanity with this appeal.

15. 60 years ago the United Nations issued the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: the human family reacted to the horrors of the WWII by acknowledging international unity, based on the equal dignity of all men and women, and by putting respect for the fundamental rights of individuals and peoples at the center of human coexistence. This was a decisive step forward along the difficult and demanding path towards harmony and peace.

In this New Year, I invite every man and woman to have a more lively sense of belonging to the one human family, and to strive to make human coexistence increasingly reflect this conviction, essential for the establishment of true and lasting peace. Implore tirelessly from God the great gift of peace. Trust in the intercession of Mary, who, as the Mother of the Son of God made flesh for the salvation of all humanity, is our common Mother.

RETROUVAILLE

("Rediscovery") is a program of the Catholic Church designed to provide practical help and support to married couples in difficult or painful relationships. The program, offered by the Office of Family Life Ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark, begins with a weekend experience on April 4-6, 2008. For program and fee information, please contact the Office of Family Life Ministries at 973-497-4327. RETROUVAILLE can be a lifeline of hope and healing for the New Year.

PLANNED GIVING

Here are some other ways You can help St. Thomas the Apostle Church continue its mission of serving God's people.

- **Give a gift of cash or check for general use or a specific purpose.**
- **Give a gift of stocks or bonds. There could be a significant tax advantage to you if there has been appreciation in their value and they are transferred to St. Thomas the Apostle Church.**
- **A bequest in your will assures that your possessions are distributed as you desire.**

When making a bequest, use the full legal name and address: Saint Thomas the Apostle Church, 60 Byrd Avenue, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

- **Make St. Thomas the Apostle Church partial or primary beneficiary of a life insurance policy that is no longer needed for family security. Ask your insurance company for the forms necessary to change the beneficiary or to transfer the ownership to St. Thomas the Apostle Church.**

ST. MARY'S UPCOMING EVENTS

17 Msgr. Owens's Place, Nutley, NJ

Virtual Trip to the Holy Land

Thursday, February 28th at 7:00 p.m. – Msgr. Walsh Hall

Join Anne Breslin, tour guide extraordinaire, for a comprehensive, multi-media itinerary that will include stops at all the locations Christ traveled in His lifetime. Anne, owner of Great Experiences Inc., has visited the Holy Land over 50 times during the past 25 years. She will share stories of her travels, show video highlights of Pope John Paul II's trip there, and help us visualize how the land and its people have evolved over the past 2000 years.

This is a free presentation. For more information, please call St. Mary's Parish Center at (973) - 235-1100 weekdays during business hours.

JESUS THE HEALER

This unforgettable experience of healing presented by the Franciscan Mystery Players of Notre Dame Church will take place at **St. Mary's Church, in Nutley, Sunday, Feb. 24th at 7:30 p.m.**

Through the use of special lighting and sound, this dramatic meditation promises to be a high point in your spiritual journey. Because of the intensity of the subject matter of suffering and death, it may not be recommended for children. We strongly encourage all adults and teens to attend this unique and prayerful presentation. A free-will offering will be taken after the performance.