

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 24, 2008 . Third Sunday of Lent

Masses for the Week

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

Monday, February 25

7:30 am Genevieve Liptai – Daughter

11:30 am Thomas Stile - Wife

Tuesday, February 26

7:30 am Thomas J. Monsomo - Family

11:30 am Agnes McDonald - Friend

Wednesday, February 27

7:30 am Michael Frazzano - Friend

11:30 am Mary Miller - Friends

Thursday, February 28

7:30 am Jaime Zerna, Sr. - Family

11:30 am Mary Shelesky - Daughter

Friday, February 29

7:30 am Maria Pia Sciara - Friend

11:30 am Angelina Williams - Friend

Saturday, March 1

8:30 am George Bulino - Friends

Sunday, March 2

Saturday, March 1

5:00 pm For the People of the Parish

Sunday, March 2

7:30 am Kathryn Bright - Family

9:00 am Anthony Meola, Jr. (15th Anniv.) - Mother

10:30 am Anna Veloce - Family

12:15 pm Anthony Fabbo - Wife

PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

Glenn Stickles, Paul Strickland,
Eddie Post, Elizabeth Rosa

REST IN PEACE:

Mildred Paul, Baby Kevin Younkings, James F. Ross
Deacon William J. Toth, Sr. Elizabeth Joseph McGrath

CANDLE INTENTIONS:

Church: Irene Garner **Convent:** Mimi Astarita

Next Sunday's Readings:

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Ephesians 5: 8-14

John 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must be ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives!

Pray For Vocations



Today's Gospel speaks to the unity Christ can bring in the Church, in Christ, we are all one. Are you willing to break down the typical stereotypes that have been built over the years? As a priest, deacon or religious we are called to not see race, gender, age or disability, but we are called to see one thing: a person in need of the Sacraments and the loving grace of God. If you are willing to pursue this for yourself and all humanity, consider the possibility of a vocation. Pray for the love made manifest by Christ's Sacred Heart and contact the Vocation Office at 973.497.4365 or email kellybar@rcan.org.



Right to Life

For all who have been wounded by the sin of abortion: for repentance, mercy and peace;

We pray to the Lord

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., 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

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.

Third Sunday of Lent

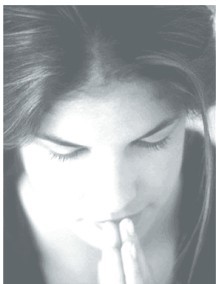
The Gospel according to John presents the powerful story of the woman at the well. Coupled with the Gospel is the First Reading's equally powerful story of God's faithfulness providing water from the rocks of the desert in care of the wandering Israelites. The Israelites are grumbling against Moses because they are without water. They fear dying in the desert. Moses becomes exasperated and calls out to God for help. The God of the covenant, the God of Abraham, answers Moses, telling him to strike a rock and water will flow from it. "I will be standing there in front of you," (v. 6) promises God. Of course, God is faithful to his promise and the Israelites are saved. They name the place in commemoration of the event and the First Reading ends with a question: "Is the LORD in our midst or not?" (v. 7)

The answer to this question, of course, is given in the Gospel. God always goes before us in our lives, struggles, and journeys. God waits for us – ready to meet us and show us his power, love and care.

"Is the LORD in our midst or not," we ask ourselves. Look at the Gospel – who is at the well first? Of course we know the answer to this. Jesus is already there waiting for the Samaritan woman. He longs to provide life-giving water just as Yahweh waited for the Israelites, in order to give life-giving water. So does Christ wait for the elect and for all of us in order to give life-giving water.

The Second Reading, from St. Paul's letter to the Romans, reinforces the conviction that Christ died for us sinners. Now he waits for us again, resurrected in glory, to provide us with new life.

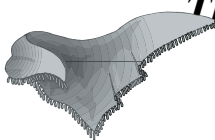
Psalms 95 recounts the ordeal of the Israelites, entreating us with the response, "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts" (v. 8)



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

Thanks, Sr. Arleen

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.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday evening throughout Lent until Good Friday, March 21st when the St. Thomas Senior High Youth Group will present the **Living Stations of the Cross.**



"THIS WEEK"

Monday – 2/25

September Club – 11:30am in St. Peter
Eucharistic Adoration – 12Noon-730pm in Church

Tuesday – 2/26

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

Wednesday – 2/27

Men's Cornerstone Meeting – 7:30pm in St. Peter

Thursday – 2/28

SCC Thursday – 7:00pm in St. Matthew

Friday – 2/29

SCC Friday – 7:00pm in St. Peter
Stations of the Cross – 7:30pm in Church
Senior Tax Preparations – 10am-12pm in St. Peter

Sunday – 3/2

Prayer Shawl Meeting – 1:30pm in St. Peter

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

There will be Eucharistic Adoration this Monday, February 25th, from Noon to 7:30 PM followed immediately by the Life-Awareness Holy Hour. All are invited to spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament.



** 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.



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

St. Thomas the Apostle School 2008 Calendar Sweepstakes Winners!

FEB

17	\$75	Rosalie & Joe DeFillippes
18	\$250	Nigel Gopaul
19	\$50	Nicholas Duva
20	\$150	Anthony Melillo
21	\$75	Brianne Vill
22	\$50	Nicholas Onnembo
23	\$150	Nicholas Duva

CONGRATULATION TO ALL WINNERS!!!

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. Our last lecture will be held Thursday, Feb. 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.

Ministry of Spiritual Direction

Dramatic Meditation

Wednesday March 12th

7:30pm – 9:00pm

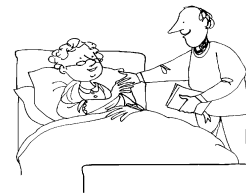
Presenter Mary Musella



Mary Musella presents a Dramatic Meditation transforming the surroundings into ancient Jerusalem. The verbal picture she presents takes the listener on a journey that starts on Palm Sunday and goes to Easter Sunday.

To Register Call: Anna (973) 338-9538

ARE YOU GOING INTO THE HOSPITAL? DO YOU HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER IN THE HOSPITAL?



We would like to visit our parishioners who are homebound, in the hospital or other health care facility. Because of patient confidentiality laws, however, the only way we can know is if someone informs us. Call the Parish Center at (973) 338-9190, leaving your name and number so we may return your call, or you may leave the information at the Parish Desk on Sunday mornings.

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.*

LEARNING TO LIVE WITH YOUR LOSS

-- TODAY --

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

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

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 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**

Moving?

Please let us know.

Within the parish –
to update new address

Out of parish –
to discontinue mailings

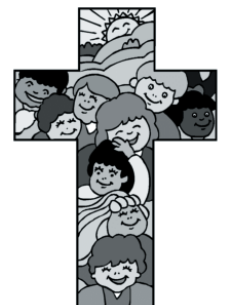
Please call the Parish Center at 973-338-9190.



Religious Education

First Communion Reminder

The Gathering for First Communion children and their parents is Saturday, March 1st. Families may attend either the 9:30-12:00 session or the 1:00 – 3:30 session in Herron Hall of St. Thomas School. This is a mandatory activity for all First Communicants. If you have any questions please call the Religious Education Office at 338-7400.



**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).

Prayer for Peace

Christ, Prince of Peace, as we celebrate your coming anew, open us to the moral wisdom of our Pope. Help us discern in his words your call for Peace on Earth. Give us the grace to support international cooperation to build the common good. Help us speak out with courage and conviction on matters of justice and peace as a way to affirm that we are all brothers and sisters, all members of your human family.

Amen.

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.

Birthright of Essex County, Inc.

623 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield, NJ 07003
(973) 743-2061

Birthright of Essex County will host a Spring Luncheon on Thursday, March 6th at the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair at 200 Cooper Ave., Upper Montclair, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Rev. Douglas J. Milewski, Assistant Professor, Religious Studies and Assistant Director, Center for Catholic Studies at Immaculate Conception Seminary of Seton Hall University will be the speaker. Rev. Milewski was ordained in 1989 and received his doctorate from the Lateran University in Rome.

The event will feature a Spring Boutique, Sweepstake Gift Raffle, Off-Premise Raffle, On-Premise 50/50 Raffle and delicious gourmet lunch. Tickets are \$28.00. To make a reservation, please contact Pam Rafferty 20 Redwood Ave., West Orange, NJ 07052 or (973) 669-5957. Directions: take Bloomfield to Valley Rd. in Montclair; turn left and go 2-3 miles. Just past the A&P (on the left) turn right onto Cooper Ave.

Come support Birthright and have a good time and good food.