

# 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](http://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

March 2, 2008 . Fourth Sunday of Lent

**Masses for the Week**

**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. (15<sup>th</sup> Anniv.) - Mother

10:30 am Anna Veloce - Family

12:15 pm Anthony Fabbo - Wife

Monday, March 3

7:30 am Thomas P. Mahon, Jr. - Family

11:30 am Anthony Nisivoccia - Wife

Tuesday, March 4

7:30 am Emanuel Vecchi (9<sup>th</sup> Anniv.) - Grandchildren

11:30 am John Ciuba - Friend

Wednesday, March 5

7:30 am Alice Tomaselli - Cousin

11:30 am Rosalie Collins - Daughter

Thursday, March 6

7:30 am Catherine King (Birthday) - Son

11:30 am Florentino Punla - Friend

Friday, March 7

7:30 am Ermene Parrillo - Friends

11:30 am Salvatore LoCicero (17<sup>th</sup> Anniv.) - Wife

Saturday, March 8

8:30 am Rose Quigley - Family

**Sunday, March 9**

Saturday, March 8

5:00 pm Paul W. McDonald – Family

Sunday, March 9

7:30 am For the People of the Parish

9:00 am Aldo Arrigoni – Family

10:30 am Mary Montesano (6<sup>th</sup> Anniv.) - Daughter

12:15 pm George Bulino - Friends

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK:**

Mary McEnroe, Glenn Stickles, Paul Strickland,  
Eddie Post, Elizabeth Rosa

**REST IN PEACE:**

Joseph Arroya, Rev. Sylvester J. M. Livolsi

**CANDLE INTENTIONS:**

**Church:** Angelina Lorenzo

**Convent:** Helen Reed

**Next Sunday's Readings:**

Ezekiel 37:12-24

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?

**Pray For Vocations**



Today's Gospel is about the man born blind. Christ heals him and states: "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind." The teachings of the Church often mystify those who claim they "see" with the eye of reason, simply because they refuse to look with the eyes of faith. The role of the priest, religious or deacon is to assist others in opening their eyes of faith to the possibility of seeing. Are you willing to help people in this way? If so, you may have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. Pray for the wisdom and strength needed to work with the faithful and contact the Vocation Office at 973.497.4365 or email [kellybar@rcan.org](mailto:kellybar@rcan.org).



**Right to Life**

For our governor, our state representatives and senators: that they may be guided by a dedication to the right to life of each of the citizens whom they represent;

*We pray to the Lord*

**Wellness Ministry Cares... Assistance Program**

The Wellness Ministry phone line is available Mon-Fri, 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Call the Parish Center at 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.

**BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING – March 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>**

Blood pressure screenings will be held **next** weekend, Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, after the 5:00 p.m. Mass and Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.



**Spring Ahead One Hour!**

*Daylight savings time resumes next Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 a.m. Please remember to set your clocks ahead one hour at bedtime prior to the change.*

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

There are a number of things occurring on this Fourth Sunday of Lent. Traditionally, this Sunday is referred to as Laetare Sunday. This name comes from the English translation of the first words of the Latin Entrance Antiphon:

*Laetare, Ierusalem,  
et conventum facite, omnes qui diligitis eam;  
gaudete cum laetitia, qui in tristitia fuistis,  
ut exsultetis, et satiemini ab  
uberibus consolationis vestrae.*

*(Rejoice, Jerusalem!*

*Be glad for her, you who love her;  
rejoice with her, you who mourned for her,  
and you will find contentment  
at her consoling breasts.)*

We have reached a point in the season that marks joy. We are much closer to the renewal of our Baptism and the celebration of Easter sacraments. Easter is approaching—the day of our salvation.

.....

### LECTIONARY

The Christian tradition has always held tightly to the image of light as a symbol of enlightenment and knowledge, and the image of seeing as a symbol of realization and acceptance. In today's Gospel these themes are dominant. We hear the wellknown, ironic story of the man born blind. The Gospel invites us to consider for ourselves how well we know and believe in this prophet from Nazareth who claims to be the Messiah, this prophet whom we know to be the Son of God.

The man born blind is healed by Jesus. Some of the religious authorities use it as an occasion to challenge Jesus and his actions. Through a series of questions the man born blind comes to deeper understanding of who Jesus is.

Among other things, the people in the Gospel are challenged about their assumptions regarding sin and the health of an individual. Not surprisingly, these assumptions are still present in the spiritual and theological understanding of many today. The Gospel reveals the flaws in this argument.

The Second Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians also includes light as a primary symbol.

The light that comes from God illumines our sight, thoughts, choices, and behavior. This is the essence of the First Reading from the first book of Samuel. David is chosen and anointed as king. He is the youngest of Jesse's sons and considered the least eligible for this important role. Yet the reading reminds us that "not as mansees does God see, because... the Lord looks into the heart" (v. 7) As the chosen one of God, David prefigures Jesus the Christ—the anointed one of God (*the literal meaning of the word messiah*).

Psalm 23 includes the image of the great shepherd who is the Lord, the one who leads through the shadows and into the light; who guides us through the right paths; who bestows upon us goodness and kindness all the days of our lives.

# Lent 2008

### Communal Penance Service

The Catholic Parishes of Bloomfield (Sacred Heart, St. Valentine, and St. Thomas the Apostle) will have Communal Penance Service with confessions at **Sacred Heart Church** Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.



### Passion Palm Sunday

**March 16, 2008**

**Saturday, March 15,  
Mass at 4:30 p.m.**

Solemn Blessing of Palms and Procession. (Please note – the Procession begins at 4:30 p.m.)

**Sunday, March 16,** Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 12:15 p.m. (Palms distributed at all Masses.)



### Don't Miss Our Triduum

**Holy Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

(No morning Mass & No morning prayer)

**7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper**

(followed by bread & wine and fellowship in the parish center) 11:00 p.m. Night Prayer (Church closed after this service)



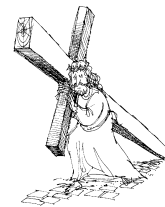
**Good Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**

(No Masses; Church will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

**3:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Passion & Death of our Lord Jesus with Holy Communion.**

7:30 p.m. Living Stations of the Cross Presented by St. Thomas Youth Group



**Holy Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

(No morning Mass;

**No 5:00 p.m. Mass)**

8:30 a.m. morning prayer

**8:15 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass**

with Sacraments of Initiation celebrated (Satisfies Easter Sunday Obligation)



**EASTER SUNDAY, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Masses in Church at 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m. Mass in Herron Hall (in STA School) at 10:45 A.M.

*Thank you for using a Church envelope for your gift to your Church at Easter.*

## Men's Cornerstone Retreat

(March 7<sup>th</sup> – March 8<sup>th</sup>)  
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' 3<sup>rd</sup> "Men's Cornerstone" on March 7th to March 8<sup>th</sup>.**

### 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](mailto:bgarrab@neca.org)
  - Bob Silvestri 973-773-6040 or [silvestrima@optonline.net](mailto:silvestrima@optonline.net)
  - Pat DeCotiis 973-896-5739 or [pdecotiis@att.com](mailto:pdecotiis@att.com)

## SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

- 3/2 Open Your Eyes
- 3/9 Lazarus, Come Out

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

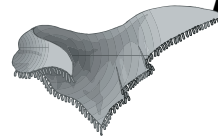
Stations of the Cross practices Sundays 3 p.m. in Church

EMAIL TIM DENNIN WITH ANY QUESTIONS [tdennin@att.net](mailto:tdennin@att.net)



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 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 p.m. Evening meeting held Wed. April 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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.

## "THIS WEEK"

### Monday – 3/3

September Club – 11:30am in St. Peter  
Respect Life – 7:30pm in Church  
Pastoral Council – 7:30pm in St. Thomas  
Men's prayer and Bible Study – 7:30pm in St. Matthew

### Tuesday – 3/4

Women's Lenten Reflection – 1:00pm in St. James  
Men's Cornerstone Meeting – 7:30pm in St. Peter

### Thursday – 3/6

SCC Thursday – 7:00pm in St. Matthew

### Friday – 3/7

### MEN'S CORNERSTONE

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

### \*\* CONFIRMATION ANNOUNCEMENT \*\*

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

### ARE YOU OR A LOVED ONE GOING TO 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.

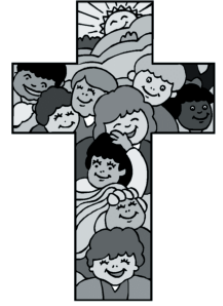
3. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.

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.*

## Religious Education

This weekend we will have First Communicants at all of the masses handing out their handprints. We ask each family to take a handprint and pray for that child as well as all of the other children who are working so hard to prepare for this special sacrament.



Saturday, March 1 was the First Communion Gathering. This was a special day of prayer, reflection, and fun for the families of children preparing for First Communion.

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave so freely of their Saturday to spend time with our children. A special thank you, also, to all the Confirmation Candidates who helped make this day a big success.

CCD classes will be going to penance on Monday March 3 and Tuesday March 4 (grades 3 and 4 only.) Please make sure your children are on time to class.

Summer CCD is closed – we will not accept any additional registration forms.

There will be NO CCD on March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> for Easter vacation.

## *The Rosary Confraternity*

One of the blessings of winter is the promise of spring which follows. One of the blessings of the Cross is the promise of Resurrection which follows. Someone once said the cross is a minus (-) turned into a plus (+). Hope is born in our faith that God's promise will come true.

Meta Boyle's rendition of "Ave Maria" and "Let There Be Peace On Earth" at our memorial Mass for deceased members was a beautiful and uplifting performance.

Thanks to Frank Candido who served as altar boy replacing our dear friend Joe Ciuba and our reader, old faithful, Henry Lubben.

Our next meeting will be held Monday, March 3, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Peter Room.



Peace,  
Lil Bieksha, Pres.  
(973) 338-8188



## **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.**

## SAINT BARNABAS Health Care System

**Make A Difference ... Share Your Love...  
BECOME A HOSPICE VOLUNTEER!**

As a volunteer, you'll bring your loving spirit to those in your community under our special care, providing companionship and emotional support.

Training will be held in Belleville, Montclair, Newark, Scotch Plains, Union and West Orange.

To learn more about becoming a Hospice Volunteer and to receive an introductory packet, contact:  
Spiro Ballas, Volunteer Coordinator (973) 322-4866 or email [sballas@sbhcs.com](mailto:sballas@sbhcs.com).

## 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

For appointment Anna Graziano, cSD (973) 338-9538

## MOUNTAINSIDE OFFERS FREE PARKING

Mountainside Hospital has set aside free parking spaces for its Outpatient and Emergency Department patients. The 40 free spots are in a surface lot adjacent to the doctors' parking area and Mountainside's parking deck. Previously, drivers had to pay a \$3 fee to park there. When outpatients or ER patients leave and return their visitors' passes, they will get a token enabling them to exit the lot free of charge. Administrators see this "as a way to provide better service to the community, and to thank the community, and to thank the community for their support of the hospital."

## ST. Anthony's Church - Belleville

ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY 63 Franklin St. Belleville, NJ  
LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION on Saturday, March 8, 2008 beginning at 10:00 a.m. 'til 3:00 p.m. in the lower church. Seminarian Frank Fano will be the guest speaker with reflection and Sacrament of Reconciliation. All are welcome to join us and bring a friend!  
**Light breakfast & lunch will be provided. Donation \$15.**



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

**Knight of Columbus Belleville Council #835  
98 Bridge St., Belleville, NJ 07109 - (973) 759-9656**

The Knights of Columbus, Belleville Council #835, is hosting its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Tricky Tray on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. The Tricky Tray will be held in the Gymnasium of St. Peter's School at 152 William St. The doors open at 6:00 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$15 per person and include one sheet of tickets for first level prizes, coffee, soda and dessert. Everyone is welcome to bring their own food. Advance tickets are available by calling Chairman, Joseph Downey at (862) 220-1268 or Thomas Doeffinger at (973) 759-1268. Donations of Prizes are being accepted.

## **St. Thomas the Apostle School 2008 Calendar Sweepstakes Winners!**

### FEB

|    |       |                           |
|----|-------|---------------------------|
| 24 | \$200 | Terri Duva                |
| 25 | \$50  | Andrew Joseph             |
| 26 | \$75  | Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Piesla |
| 27 | \$50  | Sharon Y. Stivale         |
| 28 | \$50  | Joseph Conditto, Jr.      |
| 29 | \$75  | George Sierchio           |

### MARCH

|   |      |               |
|---|------|---------------|
| 1 | \$50 | Lomazow Girls |
|---|------|---------------|

**CONGRATULATION TO ALL WINNERS!!!**

Ministry of Spiritual Direction

## **Dramatic Meditation**

**Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm**

**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**

**Second collection next week,  
March 9<sup>th</sup> for Peter's Pence.**

This supports the works of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict.

