

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

March 9, 2008 . Fifth Sunday of Lent

Masses for the Week

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 (6th Anniv.) - Daughter

12:15 pm George Bulino - Friends

Monday, March 10

7:30 am Lucy & Salvatore Cerbone - Family

11:30 am John Ponzio - Wife

Tuesday, March 11

7:30 am Rose McGarry - Bequest

11:30 am Richard Matt - Friend

Wednesday, March 12

7:30 am Matilda McKie - Family

11:30 am John Reynolds - Family

Thursday, March 13

7:30 am Mary Casieri - Friend

11:30 am Mary Casieri - Friend

Friday, March 14

7:30 am Thomas Muir - Family

11:30 am Nicholas Syracuse - Wife

Saturday, March 15

8:30 am William Quigley - Friend

Sunday, March 16

Saturday, March 15

5:00 pm Father Martin Quigley - Cousin

Sunday, March 16

7:30 am Joseph Bianchi and Ernest & Philomena Cordasco - Family

9:00 am For the People of the Parish

10:30 am Jack O'Grady - Friend

12:15 pm John Brendan O'Connor - Father

PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

Mary McEnroe, Glenn Stickles, Harry Shaw
Franco, Fasone & Martucci Families

REST IN PEACE:

Dominick Martucci, Fr. Miguel Mendez, Edward Mona

CANDLE INTENTIONS:

Church: Frank J. Yavorski, Sr.

Convent: Arthur Margeotes

Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Matthew 26:14 – 27:66 or 27:11-54



When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, "This illness is not to end in death; rather it is for God's glory, that through it the Son of God may be glorified." Every aspect of our lives – our gifts as well as our sufferings – can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessing for ourselves and other.

HOSPITALITY

Everyone is invited to drop in downstairs in the Parish Center before or after Mass this Sunday, from 10 a.m. until 12:15 p.m., to enjoy some hot coffee and delicious snacks. Our host this month is the Pastoral Council.

Please feel free to stop down if you would like to ask questions of the council about parish life or to sign up for our upcoming elections.

Pray For Vocations



The resurrection of Lazarus was a fundamental piece of Christ's ministry. Yet, just as Lazarus had died before, he would die again. Christ's goal was to bring the glorious news of a resurrection without death to the world. The priest, deacon and religious prepare the faithful to attain this through the sole road to salvation: Christ's Church. Are you willing to help the faithful on this road? If so, you may have a vocation to the priesthood, religious or diaconate. Pray about this possibility, and contact the Vocation Office at 973.497.4365 or email kellybar@rcan.org.

Right to Life



For researchers dedicated to finding a cure to disease and hardship: that God might give them the grace to be open to his will;

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
THIS WEEKEND !!**

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

LECTIONARY

The heart and soul of the raising of Lazarus cannot be missed: This Jesus whom we have been following, this one who has claimed to be the Son of God, is indeed the Messiah. He has power over all that threatens to separate us from God – even death itself. This is central to the Lenten journey of the baptized into the life, death, and Resurrection of Christ. He forgives enlightening our minds, hearts, and actions and he saves us from death.

The First Reading from the prophet Ezekiel also centers upon God's power over death. Through the prophet, God promises to open our graves and raise us to new life.

Psalm 130 sings from the depths of the grave. Known as the *De Profundis*, this psalm calls us to trust in the God who has made these promises to us, for he redeems us fully.

The Second Reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans speaks of the power God the Father has to save us from death through Christ.

"THIS WEEK"

Monday – 3/10

September Club – 11:30am in St. Peter
PARISH PENANCE – 7:30PM AT SACRED HEART CHURCH

Tuesday – 3/11

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

Thursday – 3/13

SCC Thursday – 7:00pm in St. Matthew

Friday – 3/14

MEN'S CORNERSTONE

Senior Tax Preparations – 10am-12pm in St. Peter
Stations of the Cross – 7:30pm in Church
Separated, Divorced, Widowed – 8:00pm in St. Thomas

Saturday – 3/15

Bunny Breakfast

Sunday – 3/16

Palm Sunday

Bereavement – 1:30pm in St. Thomas

*** ANNOUNCEMENT ***

Due to the Early arrival of Holy Week and Easter this year the Feast of St. Joseph, normally on the 19th of this month, has been transferred to the 15th and the Memorial of St. Patrick is not celebrated this year in the United States.

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 10th at 7:30 p.m.



Passion Palm Sunday

March 16, 2008

Saturday, March 15,

Mass at 4:45 p.m.

Solemn Blessing of Palms and Procession. (Please note – the Procession begins at 4:45 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 20th

(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 21st

(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 22nd

(No morning Mass;

No 5:00 p.m. Mass)

8:30 a.m. morning prayer

8:15 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

(Satisfies Easter Sunday Obligation)

EASTER SUNDAY, March 23rd

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.



GET THE TRUE MEANING OF LENT.

~~~~~  
**FEEL WHAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE TO  
WITNESS AND EXPERIENCE CHRIST'S LIFE  
EXTINGUISHED BEFORE YOU.**

**Tenebrae service will be celebrated  
at St. Thomas the Apostle Church  
on Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.**

**What is a Tenebrae Service?**

The word 'tenebrae' is Latin for shadows and dates back to the seventh or eighth century A.D. The purpose of the Tenebrae service is to recreate the emotional aspects of the passion story. There are candles lit and a Christ Candle. As we pray, our voices rise to God like incense and the candles are extinguished one at a time until all that is left is the Christ Candle. The Christ Candle is then hidden for a time, thought not extinguished, to signify that death could not really obtain dominion over Christ even though it appeared to do so. The congregation is left in near total darkness—and near total devastation. At this point, the service ends. There is no benediction and the people leave in silence. (The lights are turned up but remain dim so that people can see their way out.)

The purpose of the service is to recreate the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of the events, and it is left unfinished, because the story isn't over until Easter Day. Everyone exits in silence.

**Join us, you'll thank yourself later.**

*Anything to be placed in the  
Easter bulletin  
must be submitted to the parish center  
by 10:30 a.m. this Tuesday, March 11, 2008.*

*St. Thomas the Apostle School  
will be holding their annual Tricky Tray.  
This year's theme is:*

*Spring is in the Air*

*Come one! Come all!*

*April 4, 2008 in Herron Hall*

*Doors open at 6:30 p.m.*

*Tickets are \$12.00 per person*

*Feel free to bring your own food for your table!*

**EARLY BIRD SPECIALS:**

*Advanced tickets are available.*

*Call Lisa Ricciardelli at (973) 759-4778*

**LEARNING TO LIVE  
WITH YOUR LOSS**

**March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 –  
1:30 p.m. in the Parish Center  
Our theme will be:  
Celebration of Life**

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

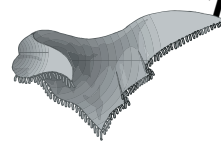
MEETINGS EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT  
IN THE PARISH CENTER FROM 7-9 P.M.  
ALL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH ARE WELCOME

3/9 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



***The Prayer Shawl Ministry***

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

Our next meeting will be Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.  
Our next evening meeting will be Wed. April 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
In case of bad weather, you can call the parish center to  
find out if the meeting is canceled. If you have any  
questions call Bernadette @ 973-893-0114. If you need  
a shawl please call Sr. Arleen



*A Note of Thanks...*

*The Broadway House of Newark says thanks to all those  
who've knitted and crocheted scarves for their residents.*

Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry,

On behalf of Broadway House for Continuing Care, I would like to extend our sincere thanks for the hand knit scarves and sets. We handed them out on Valentine's Day and had enough for every resident in the building. They felt very special and many of them wore their scarves all day. It is because of your efforts that the residents of Broadway House were touched this Valentine's Day.

Thank you again for thinking of our residents and spreading a little love to Broadway House.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer Stephens*

Asst. Director of Activities and Interns  
Broadway House for Continuing Care

***Women's Cornerstone Team III  
Meeting Mon., March 31<sup>st</sup> 7:30pm in the parish center.***

## 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

### IRS NEWS

**ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE:  
YOU MUST "FILE A 2007 FEDERAL TAX RETURN"**

STARTING IN MAY, THE TREASURY WILL BEGIN SENDING ECONOMIC STIMULUS PAYMENTS TO MORE THAN 130 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS.

TO RECEIVE A PAYMENT, TAXPAYERS MUST HAVE A VALID SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, \$3,000 OF INCOME AND FILE A 2007 FEDERAL TAX RETURN. IRS WILL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

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.

### ARE YOU OR A LOVED ONE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL?

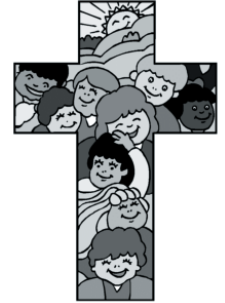
We would like to visit our parishioners who are homebound, in the hospital or other health care facility. Because of patient confidentiality laws, however, the only way we can know is if someone informs us. Call the Parish Center at (973) 338-9190, leaving your name and number so we may return your call,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

### \*\* 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.

## Religious Education

As you enter or leave the church today you will notice the colorful sheep hanging near all the doorways. These sheep were made by our First Communicants and we ask that when you see these sheep you remember these children in your prayers. The children and their teachers and families are working very hard to prepare to receive the Eucharist in April. Thank you.



There will be NO CCD classes on Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> for Easter vacation.

CCD teachers please mark your calendars for a Catechist Workshop on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

## 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.*

## SAINT BARNABAS Health Care System

### 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).

### 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."



**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!

#### MARCH

|   |       |                  |
|---|-------|------------------|
| 2 | \$75  | Susan Coffey     |
| 3 | \$50  | Michael J. Haven |
| 4 | \$75  | L. Samuels       |
| 5 | \$200 | Roland Spence    |
| 6 | \$50  | Dartha Armstrong |
| 7 | \$75  | Cele Van Winkle  |
| 8 | \$50  | M. Crowley       |

CONGRATULATION TO ALL WINNERS!!!

Applications are now being accepted for the 2008 Irish Way. The Irish Way is a four-week high school summer study abroad program that has been educating students since 1976. Students are introduced to Ireland's history and traditions through structured classes and are able to witness Ireland's beauty by touring the southeastern and western regions of Ireland. Dates for this summer's program are July 6<sup>th</sup>-August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. If you would like more information on the Irish Way, please call (973) 605-1991, visit our website at <http://www.iaci-usa.org>, or the Irish Way Program on Facebook and MySpace.

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

### Calling All

#### Special Educators & Psychologists

If you have training in behavior strategies, a desire to share your gifts with your church, and 60 to 90 minutes per week to help others help children with behavior challenges learn to attend Mass, we need you!

**Contact:** Manne Masters, Dir. for Pastoral Ministry w/ persons w/ disabilities for the archdiocese at (973) 497-4309 or [masteran@rcan.org](mailto:masteran@rcan.org).

### CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL EXPO

**Attention 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders and parents. Now is the time to start planning for Catholic High School! Come join us at High School Expo.** The Catholic Secondary Schools of the Archdiocese of Newark are traveling to your area. School personnel and student-ambassadors will answer your questions in an informal, "college-fair type" setting. Ten to twenty-five schools are represented at each night. These nights will be held on: April 8 (Visitation Academy, Paramus), April 9 (St. Aloysius Elementary School, Jersey City), April 10 (Queen of Peace Elementary), April 15 (St. John the Apostle School, Clark), April 16 (Our Lady of Sorrows School, South Orange), and April 17 (Archdiocesan Center, Newark). All nights are held from 7PM until 8:30PM, no pre-registration is required, and siblings are welcome. For directions and further information visit our website at [www.rcan.org/schools](http://www.rcan.org/schools) or call (973) 497-4258.