

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.stachurchbloomfield.com

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

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

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY

Saturday Eve: 5:00pm

Sundays: 7:30, 9:00,
10:30am & 12:00 Noon

Weekdays: 7:30, & 11:30am

Saturday Mornings: 8:30am Only

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

Holidays: 8:30am Only

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
Vincent Lipoma, Vice Chairperson
Michele Sweetman, Secretary

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

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

November 30, 2008 . 1st Sunday of Advent

Masses for the Week

Sunday, November 30

Saturday, November 29

5:00 pm For the People of the Parish

Sunday, November 30

7:30 am Janet A. McGuire - Friend

9:00 am Jerome T. Mulvaney - Friend

10:30 am Anna Lorenzo - Friend

12:00 pm Candida Rodriguez - Friend

Monday, December 1

7:30 am Stephen Zadoyka - Uncle

11:30 am Mary Credence - Daughters

Tuesday, December 2

7:30 am Angelo Melia - Friend

11:30 am George M. Kuhn - Friend

Wednesday, December 3

7:30 am Fay Grohe - Friend

11:30 am Angelina Patente - Friend

Thursday, December 4

7:30 am Peter Fagan - Family

11:30 am Angelo Melia - Friend

Friday, December 5

7:30 am Renee Garner - Friend

11:30 am Frank Bianchi - Uncle

Saturday, December 6

8:30 am Esterina & Silvester Fusco - Family

Sunday, December 7

Saturday, December 6

5:00 pm Frank Gazzio - Friend

Sunday, December 6

7:30 am For the People of the Parish

9:00 am Helena Filippi - Aunt

10:30 am Marie Blume - Wife

12:00 pm Philip Lipari - Wife

PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

John McCue, Claire Mykowski
Franco & Fasone Families

REST IN PEACE:

Sr. Mary Rose Reichert, Christine Laue, Joanne Vignola

CANDLE INTENTIONS:

Church: Members of the O'Hara Family
Rectory: Angelina Catalano
Convent: Lisa M. Purvis



***First Sunday
of Advent
November 30, 2008***

Today marks the beginning of the new liturgical year, a day of new beginnings. On this first day of Advent, we begin to prepare for the annual celebrations of Christ's incarnation at Christmas, his manifestation at Epiphany, and the beginning of his mission at the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Advent means "coming." We are to prepare for the coming of God among us as a child who is a King, as an infant who is a Savior, as one born at a given time and place yet who is a Messiah for all ages and people. The General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar state:

Advent has a two-fold character: as a season to prepare us for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.

ADVENT PRAYER

O, come Emmanuel.

Come into our world and bring Your peace.

Come into our lives and grant us Your favor.

Come into our homes with Your love.

Stay with us, Lord Jesus,

Throughout these days of Advent.

Be with us wherever we go,

Be with us in whatever we do.

Prepare us for Your birth.

May Your birth enlarge our hearts.

May we prepare a place for You there.

Jesus, make room within our hearts for others.

May Your birth awaken us to the Good News.

Jesus, make us worthy of You, O, Lord,

Emmanuel, God-with-us. Come.

***Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(a holy day of obligation)***

Monday, December 8, 2008

Masses at 7:30am, 11:30am and 7:00pm

Visit our website at www.stachurchbloomfield.com

SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS ED & SACRAMENTS

St. Thomas the Apostle School
Home and School Association
presents

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



**Saturday, December 13th,
at 9:30 a.m. in St. Thomas School.**

MENU:

- Scrambled eggs
- Bacon
- Sausage
- Hash Browns
- French Toast
- Bagels
- Fruit salad
- Desserts
- Coffee
- Tea

Games, gifts, magician, and fun for children of all ages!
No phone reservations
Seats will be assigned when money is received

Reserve by Monday, December 1st, 2008

Christine Licciardello
973-303-2112

Tricia Polizzi
973-202-7334

NAME _____ GRADE: _____

ADDRESS _____

TICKETS: \$11.00 Adults \$6.00 Children

ADULTS _____ # CHILDREN _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

If you wish to sit with someone, please note:

Please seat with _____

Session Dates for Baptism for 2008

CATECHESIS PREPARATION

In the St. James Room in the Parish Center

Jan 25 1:00pm
March 29 1:00pm
May 17 1:00pm

BAPTISM CELEBRATIONS FOR 2008

Dec 7 1:30pm
Jan 11 1:30pm
Feb 1 1:30pm
Feb 22 1:30pm
April 18 During Mass at 5:00pm
April 19 1:30pm

Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 63: 16b-17, 19b; 64: 2-7
1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
Mark 13: 33-37

STA SOCIETIES, MINISTRIES & EVENTS



Right to Life

For those who await their execution on death row: that God might teach us how to love and protect them;

We pray to the Lord

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.

"THIS WEEK"

Monday - 12/1

September Club – 11:30am in St. Peter

Tuesday - 12/2

Advent Prayer Reflection Group - 1:00pm in St. James

Wednesday - 12/3

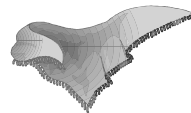
Prayer Shawl Meeting 7:00pm in St. Thomas

Thursday - 12/4

SCC Thursday - 7:00pm in St. Matthew

Friday - 12/5

SCC Friday - 6:30pm in St. Peter



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our heartfelt thanks to all who participated in our recent project. Our hand made items will be distributed throughout our community during the next few weeks. They are in great demand and will surely be appreciated. We have kept some items for our own parishioners. During the upcoming holidays, if you wish to give someone a shawl or lap robe, please contact the Ministry. Our next meeting is Dec. 3rd @ 7PM Bernadette - 973-893-0114 Sister Arleen - 973-338-9190 Alicia - 973-473-6633 *Let us continue to pray for those making shawls and those who receive them.*

**GIVING TREE
At St. Thomas
The Apostle**



**December
14th
2008**

'Tis the season for giving

Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, next weekend, there will be two Christmas trees in the front of the church on either side of the altar. The trees will be adorned with gift tags. On the gift tags will be gift suggestions. If you choose to donate a gift for the giving tree, please be sure to bring your gifts - *unwrapped* - into the church *only the weekend of December 13th & 14th*. PLEASE NOT BEFORE OR AFTER THESE DATES.

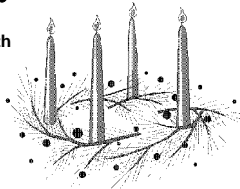
Gifts will be sorted and packed on Sunday, December 14th after the 12 noon Mass and will be delivered on Monday December 15th.

Santa is in need of helpers to sort and pack on Sunday Dec. 14. If you can help, please call Maryann Carini at (973) 338-5394.

Women of St. Thomas parish

You are invited!

Beginning Tuesday, November 25th at 12:45 p.m., we will meet in the parish center for the next four Tuesdays during the Advent season. Come as we take the Sunday Readings and pray and reflect on God's Word. Please contact Sr. Arleen with any questions at (973) 338-9190.



**STEWARDSHIP
OF TREASURE**

The main source of operating funds for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is our weekly offertory contribution. To assist us in being good stewards of God's gift of treasure, here is what we contributed last weekend compared to what we need to meet our budget:

Collection week of 11/16: \$19,175
Amount Needed: \$20,000

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

11 / 30 YOUR PLACE IN TIME
12 / 5-7 FALL RETREAT

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT TIM DENNIN AT tdennin@att.net

Blessing of an Advent Wreath

Recite:

Let us now pray for God's blessing upon us and upon this wreath.



After short silence, say the following prayer:

Lord our God,
We praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ;
He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
He is the savior of every nation.

Lord God,
Let your blessing come upon us
As we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
Be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May He come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Each day in Advent, perhaps at the evening meal, the candles are lighted; one candle the first week, two the second, and so forth.

SIGN UP for the...

**Children's Christmas Event
Epiphany Pageant**

OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN OF THE PARISH
Ages Pre-K4 - Grade 3

Plan now for your children to participate!

As always, we will be looking for Angels and Shepherds to join our Nativity and Epiphany scene.

Shepherds and Angel costumes will be provided if needed.

If interested please complete the form below and return to the Parish Center by November 30th attention: "Children's Pageant".

Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____

_____ I would like to help with costumes.

_____ I would like to help with the Three Kings Reception.

Parent Name: _____

Phone: _____



**Support
St. Thomas' Annual
Christmas Concert**



**Be a Sponsor for the St. Thomas the Apostle
Annual Christmas Concert & Reception
Saturday, December 13, 2008 – 7PM**

Featuring the **Garden State Concert Band**
And guest narrator **Father Charles Miller**

How – Contribute to the Souvenir Program Journal

- Back Cover - \$400.00
- Inside Back Cover - \$200.00
- Gold Page - \$150.00
- Inside Front Cover - \$200.00
- Full Page - \$100.00
- Half Page - \$75.00
- Quarter Page - \$50.00
- Listing of Name Page - \$25.00

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

I want to contribute _____ for _____ page or
\$25.00 for a name listing.

Make all returns with copy to:
Paul Alongi, 21 Leo Terrace, Bloomfield, NJ 07003,
973-338-4665 or Parish Center 973-338-9190.

**St. Vincent's Nursing Home Auxiliary's
"Babes in Toyland"**

annual Sleigh Bell Luncheon

will be held on

Thursday, December 4, 2008

at the **Mayfair Farms** in West Orange.

Ticket cost is \$50 per person.

Events get started at 10:30am
with a Christmas Bazaar offering
gifts to purchase and raffles to buy.

If you would like to attend this annual fund-raiser
for the benefit of the residents
of St. Vincent's Nursing Home,
reservations may be made
by contacting **Connie Love** at (973) 509-3943.
We invite you to come and bring some friends.

A Bail-Out Package for Your Soul

Afraid there are no bright spots next year? Here's one. Men's Cornerstone. A chance to take a break and hang out for a while with a great bunch of ordinary men you see from time to time in church. In just 26 hours, you'll get to know more about them, about God and about yourself. It's a bail-out package for your soul – and it won't cost \$700 billion -- even though it's worth much more.

Say yes, when someone invites you to the unique Cornerstone retreat. March 27 and 28. Or if you can't wait, contact:

John Barbetta (973) 338-5086
jbarbetta2@verizon.net

Pat DeCotiis (973) 896-5739
pdecotiis@att.com

William J. Padilla (973) 338-9414
wiji777@aol.com



*Men's Cornerstone.
A gathering of ordinary men
for an extraordinary retreat.*

**REGISTRATION Did you know
FOR ST. THOMAS PARISH**

If you are presently not on our mailing list, receiving envelopes and the various parish mailings, the chances are that you are not a registered member of our parish. You are not automatically a registered member because you were married here or even if you were brought up here and lived in the parish with your parents—or went to school here. Membership is by formal registration only. Just call the Parish Center at (973) 338-9190 and let us know that you wish to register and the registration form will be mailed to you. Thank you.



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.

St. Thomas the Apostle School will be holding a
FUNDRAISER event at



The best place to get hot stuff, cool prices and raise money for **St. Thomas the Apostle School!**

five BELOW carries stationery, school supplies, computer software, books, electronic accessories, sporting goods, games, t-shirts, jewelry, hobbies, collectibles, bath and body, candy, snacks and beverages, room décor, storage, seasonal items plus much more. And **everything is priced at \$5 or less!**

**And 10% of the dollars spent by our organization
will be donated back to
St. Thomas the Apostle School!**

Our event will be held on:

Date: December 6th and 7th (Saturday and Sunday)

Time: All Day

Where: Five Below located at 386 Rt 3 West, Clifton (Riverfront Shopping Center)

**Please don't forget to bring this flyer to the event so that we
get credit for your purchase!**

(pre tax) Purchase Amount \$ _____
To be completed by Five Below Associate

Register: 1 2 3 4 5 6 (circle one) **Associate Name** _____

At **five BELOW**, whatever you got will buy a lot!

Visit us at www.fivebelow.com