

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

December 7, 2008 . 2nd Sunday of Advent

Masses for the Week

Sunday, December 7

Saturday, December 6

5:00 pm Frank Gazzio - Friend

Sunday, December 7

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

Monday, December 8 *Immaculate Conception of Mary*

7:30 am Kathleen Iataro - Family

9:00 am (School) Immaculata Fuscaldo - Family

11:30 am Ann DiLaura & Aunt Dolly - Family

7:00 pm Thanksgiving for Noel's Birthday

Tuesday, December 9

7:30 am Eva Rizzo - Friend

11:30 am Ned Ganning - Mother

Wednesday, December 10

7:30 am Michael & Emma Willean - Daughter

11:30 am Samuel E. Battista - Daughter

Thursday, December 11

7:30 am Jean Sargalski - Sister

11:30 am Richard Matt - Wife

Friday, December 12

7:30 am Renato Cayetano & Perlita Cayetano - Family

11:30 am Sr. Paula DeRogatis - Sister

Saturday, December 13

8:30 am Marie Iataro - Family

Sunday, December 14

Saturday, December 13

5:00 pm Joseph Sawicki & Vincent Lupo - Family

Sunday, December 14

7:30 am Elizabeth Donatiello - Family

9:00 am For the People of the Parish

10:30 am Donald Stefanelli - Mother

12:00 pm Rodger Ryan - Friend

PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

John McCue, Claire Mykowski, Alex Wessel

REST IN PEACE:

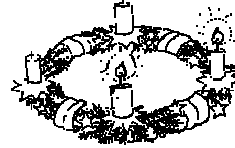
Alan Grabowski, Harold Wittig, John W. Masson

Thomas P. Guidry, Sr. Francis Maria Cassidy

CANDLE INTENTIONS:

Church: Mary English **Rectory:** Debbie Martino

Convent: Mark Zieleniewski



**Second Sunday
of Advent**

December 07, 2008

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.

"Prepare the way of the Lord!" (MARK 1:3)

Each of today's readings contains an urgent message. It is not only the prophets like John who are to prepare the way for the Lord, but people like us as well. *How do we prepare God's way?* Through repentance, forgiveness, and peace.

***Feast of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary***



According to the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, Mary was conceived free from original sin and all its penalties. This privilege was granted to Mary because she was to give birth to Jesus, the Savior. Mary was the first to benefit from the saving passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. Mary was

conceived and born without sin because of the merits of her Son, Jesus.

December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, always occurs during Advent. Under the title of the Immaculate Conception, Mary is the patroness of the United States. This special feast of Mary is a holy day of obligation in the United States.

One of the traditional prayers honoring Mary's Immaculate Conception can be recited or sung:

*O Mary, conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

(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

*Mass Schedule
for the Christmas Season
at St. Thomas the Apostle Church*



RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 13, 20, 2008, at 11:00 a.m.
(at St. Thomas the Apostle Church)

Monday, December 15, 2008 – 7:30 p.m.
Reconciliation (Penance) Service
at St. Valentine Church

...with Individual Confessions heard by the Priests from
the Churches of St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Valentine
and Sacred Heart Church.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 24, 2008 (Christmas Eve)

4:00pm (Herron Hall – School)
Christmas Music Prelude & Mass
4:00pm (Church) Christmas Music Prelude & Mass
6:00pm (Church) Mass
10:30pm (Church) Concelebrated Mass with Music
Prelude at 9:45pm.
(There is No Midnight Mass)

Thursday, December 25, 2007 (Christmas Day)
8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
(All Masses with traditional Christmas Carols)

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday, December 27, 2008 – 5:00pm
Sunday, Dec. 28, -7:30am-9:00am-10:30am-12noon
Blessing of Families at Masses today!

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Wednesday, December 31, 2008 - 4:00pm
Thursday, January 1, 2009
Masses at 7:30am, 11:30am, 7:00pm

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

Annual “Bell Sunday” -- Sunday, January 4, 2009
Saturday, January 3, 2009 - 5:00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday, January 4 - 7:30am - 9:00am - 10:30am - 12noon
(Children’s Epiphany Pageant following 12noon Mass)

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 Tricia Polizzi
973-303-2112 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

STA SOCIETIES, MINISTRIES & EVENTS



Right to Life

For the members of our Supreme Court: that the principles upon which this nation was founded might lead them to save the lives of all children from the moment of conception;

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 - 12/8

September Club – 11:30am in St. Peter
Respect Life Holy Hour - 7:30pm in Church

Thursday - 12/11

SCC Thursday - 7:00pm in St. Matthew

Friday - 12/12

SCC Friday - 6:30pm in St. Peter

Saturday - 12/13

SANTA BREAKFAST



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 11/23:	\$19,902
Collection week of 11/30:	\$20,050
Amount Needed:	\$20,000

Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

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



**December
14th
2008**

'Tis the season for giving

Our Giving Trees are out in either transept of the church adorned with gift tags. On the gift tags are gift suggestions.

If you choose to donate a gift for the giving tree, please choose your gift tag and be sure to bring your gifts - *unwrapped* - into the church **only the weekend of December 13th & 14th.**

PLEASE NOT BEFORE OR AFTER THESE DATES.

The only gifts we can accept after Dec 14 are gift cards.

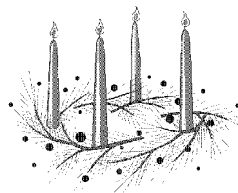
Gifts will be sorted and packed on Sunday, December 14th after the 12 noon Mass and will be delivered on Monday December 15th.

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!

We will be meeting in the parish center each Tuesday at 12:45pm during the Advent season. Come join us as we take the Sunday Readings and we pray and reflect on God's Word. Please contact Sr. Arleen with any questions at (973) 338-9190.



SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

NO MEETING 12/7 AFTER FALL RETREAT

12/14 BOWLING DAY - MEETING - MOVIE NIGHT

12/21 ADVENT CLOSING MEETING

50-IN-15 PASTA / MACARONI

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



St. Thomas' Annual Christmas Concert

Sponsored by

The Garden State Concert Band

featuring

**Soprano - Andrea Covais
Narrator - Fr. Charles Miller**

**St. Thomas the Apostle Church
Saturday, December 13, 2008
7:00 P.M.**

**Reception to follow concert in Herron Hall
Concert and Reception
are FREE**

**The parish thanks the Garden State Concert
Band and the sponsors who have contributed
to our Ad Journal.**

Please contact Paul Alongi 973-338-4665 or
Parish Center 973-338-9190 with any questions.

It's All About The Journey

'Twas the night Jesus came and all through the house
Not a person was praying, not one in the house.
The Bibles were left on the shelf without care,
For no one thought that Jesus would come there.
The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And mom in her rocker with baby in her lap
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the east there rose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and lifted the sash!
When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here!
The light of His face made me cover my head-
It was Jesus returning, just like He said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.
In the Book of Life which He held in His hand
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;
When He said, "It's not here" my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love
He gathered to take to His Father above.
with those who were ready, He rose without a sound
While all the rest were left standing around.
I fell to my knees, but it was too late;
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and cried as they rose out of sight;
Oh, if only I'd known that this was the night.

In the words of this poem, the meaning is clear;
The coming of Jesus is now drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call
We'll find that the Bible was true after all.

PLANNED GIVING

Here are some other ways you can help Saint 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 Saint 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 Saint Thomas the Apostle Church partial or primary beneficiary of a life insurance policy that is no longer needed for family security. Ask the insurance company for the forms necessary to change the beneficiary or to transfer the ownership to Saint Thomas the Apostle Church.

"With the Lord a thousand years is like one day." Time passes so quickly in our marriage, also. One day our spouse will be gone. Have I worked to make our days together the best they can be? The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is March 13-15. For more information, visit our website at: www.wwme.org or call /email (800) 823-5683 sylviav12@aol.com.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please help support all our brothers and sister in Christ who have dedicated their lives to prayer, ministry and service. When their numbers were vast and their majority young, Religious institutes invested not in pension plans but in ministry and people; in the future of the Church they served. Today, the majority is past age 60 and a significant amount is past age 80. Many institutes simply do not have the resources to meet the dramatically escalating costs of care for their elderly.

Archbishop John J. Myers is asking that we remember the ways that our elderly Religious have nourished our faith and make a donation to the appeal for the Retirement fund for Religious on December 13-14, 2008.

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



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

fiVe BEL^oW 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 THIS WEEKEND:

**All Day Saturday, December 6th and
Sunday December 7th**

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 BEL^oW, whatever you got will buy a lot!

Visit us at www.fivebelow.com