

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

Masses for the Week

Sunday, December 28

Saturday, December 27

5:00 pm Charles Ofsak - Family

Sunday, December 28

7:30 am Joseph Pietrowski - Daughter

9:00 am Larry Martin - Friends

10:30 am Joseph Stevens - Daughter & Family

12:00 pm For the People of the Parish

Monday, December 29

7:30 am DeRogatis & Lepore Families - Family

11:30 am Jerome T. Mulvaney - Friend

Tuesday, December 30

7:30 am Benjamin Dispenzere - Friend

11:30 am George Kuhn - Friend

Wednesday, December 31

7:30 am Esterina & Silvester Fusco - Family

11:30 am George Delaney - Wife

4:00 pm Joseph Bianchi and Ernest & Philomena Cordasco - Family

Thursday, January 1

7:30 am Ann Aquino - Friend

11:30 pm Elizabeth Doyle - Aunt

Friday, January 2

7:30 am Patricia Bircsak - Friends

11:30 am Rose Portolese - Friend

Saturday, January 3

8:30 am Warren Miller - Friend

Sunday, January 4

Saturday, January 3

5:00 pm Jean Powers

Sunday, January 4

7:30 am For the People of the Parish

9:00 am Ted Wohlbold - Wife

10:30 am Edith Marone - Friends

12:00 pm Lisa Purvis - Friends

PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

John McCue, Claire Mykowski, Deacon John Coffey,
Alex Wessell, Franco & Fasone Families

REST IN PEACE:

Rosabel J. Sullivan

CANDLE INTENTIONS:

Church: Irene Garner
Convent: George & Cosmo Mauro
Rectory: The Keenan Family



*The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*

The Holy Family is a “devotion feast or an idea feast”. Like the solemnity of the Most Holy Blood of Christ, it does not commemorate a specifically Trinity or the solemnity of the Most Holy Body and event, but rather fosters devotion to the Holy Family as a model for all family life. It is quite recent, having been added to the calendar by Pope Leo XIII in 1893. Although it has moved here and there over the last century, it has always been celebrated in relation to Christmas, and it is observed on the Sunday in the octave of Christmas. It gives us a chance to celebrate another aspect of the Incarnation of Christ: his sharing in the life of a human family.



*Christmas Tide
Mass Schedule*

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Wednesday, December 31, 2008 - 4:00pm

Thursday, January 1, 2009

Masses at 7:30am, 11:30am

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

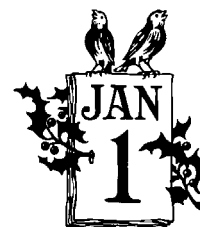
Annual “Bell Sunday” -- Sunday, January 4, 2009

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)

A very...

Happy New Year!!!!



to you from your St. Thomas family!
The Parish Center will be closed January 1st & 2nd.

SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS ED & SACRAMENTS

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL
SHOP RITE GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER**

HELP THE STA HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION REACH THEIR FUNDRAISING GOALS BY PURCHASING SHOP RITE GIFT CARDS.

YOU RECEIVE THE FULL DOLLAR VALUE OF THE CARD & STA SCHOOL RECEIVES 5% OF YOUR PURCHASE (FROM SHOP RITE).

SHOP RITE GIFT CARDS CAN BE USED . . .

- % AT ANY SHOP RITE STORE OR SHOP RITE PHARMACY
- % TO PURCHASE OTHER STORE GIFT CARDS (i.e. DISNEY, KOHL'S, SEARS, HOME DEPOT, BEST BUY, RED LOBSTER, OLIVE GARDEN, ETC.)
- % TO PURCHASE CHRISTMAS GIFTS INCLUDING TV'S, DVD PLAYERS, GAME CONSOLES, ETC. (SEE THE SHOP RITE CIRCULAR FOR ADVERTISED SPECIALS)
- % AS STOCKING STUFFERS

THERE ARE 3 EASY WAYS TO PURCHASE SHOP RITE GIFT CARDS:

- % AFTER EVERY MASS (IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH)
- % FROM JUDY IN THE PARISH CENTER
- % BY CALLING THE STA SCHOOL OFFICE @ 973-338-8505.

Sign up your Target Credit Card so a proceed of any charge helps St. Thomas the Apostle School

One percent of purchases at Target and ½ percent of purchases elsewhere go toward St. Thomas the Apostle School. You can register your card at <http://redcard.target.com> and click on the "Manage My Redcard" link. The school ID is 10369.

You can also enroll at the store by going to the kiosk. You can also enroll your Target credit card by calling toll free 1-800-316-6142.

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

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

**SAVE THE DATE!
SAVE THE DATE!**

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
Invites you to



PASTA NIGHT

Saturday, January 31, 2009

6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Herron Hall



*Please join us for a Family-Fun Evening of
Fine Food, Italian Music & Dancing!*



**Three Types of Pastas
Meatballs**

**Antipasto/Salad/Bread
Italian Pastries & Coffee**

50/50 Raffle, Door Prizes, Gift Raffle

*All Proceeds To Benefit St. Thomas the Apostle
Home & School Association*

Children's Epiphany Pageant

Jan. 4, 2009 after 12:00 noon Mass

**There's still time for your child to participate in
the Epiphany pageant!**

Bring your child to dress rehearsal Sat. Jan 3rd at 12:00 noon in Church.

STA SOCIETIES, MINISTRIES & EVENTS

The main source of operating funds for St. Apostle Parish is our weekly offertory contributions. 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 Dec. 14: \$20,336
Amount Needed: \$20,000**

Next month we will also report on our Christmas collection. This is an important collection for us. In the past, our monetary gift to our parish has been like an extra month and a half of contributions! Please be sure that St. Thomas is on your Christmas list this season.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

There will be Eucharistic Adoration on **Monday, December 29th**, 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.



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.

Next Sunday's Readings: **The Epiphany of the Lord**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

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.

Right to Life



For those who have been forgotten in this Christmas season: that we might see in them the homeless holy family and respond to their presence with abiding love;

We pray to the Lord

The Gift He'll Thank You For in March

Long after most Christmas gifts are forgotten, the man you love will be thanking you for signing him up for Men's Cornerstone. It's a chance for him to take a break and hang out for 26 hours with a great bunch of men from our parish. He'll get to know more about them, about God and about himself. And when it's all over, this is one Christmas gift you'll both be grateful for.

Sign him up for the unique Cornerstone retreat. March 27 and 28, 2009. 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.

To all women of the parish:
Have you attended a Cornerstone Retreat?
Number IV is coming this March 20th and 21st.
Our theme will be:

“ Be still,
and know
that
God”



Psalm 46:10
Give it some thought. You will not be disappointed.
This is an opportunity to spend some time with your
God and to meet other women in our parish
community.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask any of the
team members:

Sister Arleen Crimmins	973-338-9190
Marty Levine	973-566-0416
Alicia von Schaumburg	973-473-6633
Karen Cortese	973-472-4522
Millete Padilla	973-338-9414
Priscilla Trias	973-338-4402
Gerry Neville	973-661-3453
Heidi Kovacs	973-338-0722
Ellen White	973-338-8308
Carol Zieleniewski	973-744-5681

Ministry of Spiritual Direction

NEW YEAR

NEW BEGINNINGS

RETREAT DAY

Guided Retreat for Men & Women

Saturday, January 17

9:00am - 3:30pm in the Parish Center

*"Rise up, be off to the potter's house;
there I will give you my message."*

Jeremiah 18:2



Please Register by Jan 14 with Anna – (973) 338-9538

Offering

Light Continental Breakfast - Bag a Lunch

Ministry Resource Day

Is God calling you to be a guiding light in His Church? Have you ever considered a career in Church service and wondered if you have the gifts and talents needed?

Our day will include a spiritual gifts workshop, as well as information about church service and opportunities for professional training.

Saturday January 31, 2009

Time: 9:30am - 4:30pm

Location: St. Peter the Apostle Church, River Edge

Cost: \$30 (Includes light breakfast, lunch and spiritual gifts booklet)

Registration requested by January 23.

To register, or for more information please contact Jo-Anne Lieder, Coordinator STEPS Institute for Christian Spirituality at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology (973) 313-6331 or email liederjo@shu.edu

*If you can't feed a hundred people,
then just feed one.*

Mother Teresa

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend March 13-15.

"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience..." Jesus asks us to learn how to live in our families with the qualities necessary to be truly one body in the Lord. Am I willing to learn how to do this? The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is March 13-15. For more information visit our website at: www.wmme.org or call/email (800) 823-5683 sylvia12@aol.com

Celebrating Young Adult Month January, 2009

January 10 Young Adult **Festival of Praise** and Celebration of Young Adult Month Eucharistic Adoration followed by Food, Fun and Festivities, 8 -10 p.m. Archdiocesan Retreat Center 499 Belgrove Drive, Kearny, NJ 07032

January 8 **Theology on Tap** "Googling God: Connecting with the Divine in a Busy World," Mike Hayes, Managing Editor: Busted Halo.com and Author: Googling God 7:00 p.m. \$10.00, All Inclusive Supper The Cloverleaf Tavern 395 Bloomfield Avenue Caldwell, New Jersey 07006

January 12 **Theology on Tap** "Decoding the Mass," Fr. Dan Murphy, Pastor, Our Lady of the Valley, Wayne 7:30 p.m. Riddles Restaurant 300 Wanaque Avenue Pompton Lakes, New Jersey 07442

January 13 **Theology on Tap** "Faith-filled Friendships in the Age of Face Book," Dr. Linda Baratte, Director of the Center for Theological and Spiritual Development at the College of Saint Elizabeth 7:30 p.m. Grasshopper Off the Green 41-43 Morris Street Morristown, NJ 07960

January 14 **Theology on Tap** "The Challenges of Being Catholic in the 21st Century" On the Border 7:30 p.m. Garden State Plaza 17 S. State Rt. 17 Paramus, New Jersey 07652

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.

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. By law, hospitals are unable to give out information about their patients; so 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.

Resolutions for Stewards

I resolve to trust God more, believing that in His wisdom and abundance He will give me all that I need.

I resolve to spend more time with God, giving a few more minutes of each day to prayer, worship and spiritual reading.

I resolve to find more ways to share my unique skills and talents so that my special strengths will make a difference in this world.

I resolve to give a generous share of my treasure to God's work here on earth, making this the first check that I write each week or each month.

PARISH INFORMATION

REGISTRATION FOR

ST. THOMAS PARISH

Did you know



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.

How Do I Arrange a Wedding?

Archdiocesan policy requires that arrangements be made with a Parish Priest at least one year before the wedding date. Arrangements can be made by calling the Parish Center, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. You should be a registered parishioner of St. Thomas in order to be married here.

"Time of Marriage"

Well in advance of making other arrangements for your wedding, the time of your marriage should be arranged with one of the Parish Priests.

'Directives'

You should consult one of the parish priests concerning the current Church law when a Catholic is marrying a person of another faith. All procedures for Marriage Preparation must still be followed,

In preparation for Marriage here at Saint Thomas, you would ask you to be willing to follow the norms set by Canon (Church) Law, Archdiocesan and Parish Policy.

Baptisms

We remind you to contact the parish at least three months prior to the Baptism of your child.

We have scheduled various dates for Baptisms during the year. These schedules are published in the Bulletin and are available at the Parish Center.

Baptism is a community celebration. Individual Baptisms are normally performed only in case of necessity.