

# 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](http://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

January 4, 2009 . Epiphany of the Lord

**Masses for the Week**

**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

**Monday, January 5**

7:30 am Joseph Marcheel - Sister

11:30 am Loretta Di Michelle - Bequest

**Tuesday, January 6**

7:30 am Helen Prawdzik - Friend

11:30 am Thomas J. McGarry - Bequest

**Wednesday, January 7**

7:30 am Rosa Cunha - Friends

11:30 am Patricia Birczak - Friend

**Thursday, January 8**

7:30 am Joseph Marcheel - Sister

11:30 pm Ann Riley - Bequest

**Friday, January 9**

7:30 am Rose Sharpe (7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) - Friends

11:30 am Bob Arms - Wife

**Saturday, January 10**

8:30 am Joseph Shelesky - Daughter

**Sunday, January 11**

**Saturday, January 12**

5:00 pm James Brown - Friends

**Sunday, January 13**

7:30 am Daniel Lardieri - Wife

9:00 am For the People of the Parish

10:30 am Millie Ciampi - Family

12:00 pm Dennis W. McDonald - Family

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK:**

Claire & Walter Mykowski, Deacon John Coffey,  
John McCue, Alex Wessell, Franco & Fasone Families  
Paul Strickland, Frank Korec

**REST IN PEACE:**

Dorothy J. Nitto

**CANDLE INTENTIONS:**

**Church:** Lawrence Molinaro  
**Convent:** Thomas Guidry  
**Rectory:** Alice Ferraer



***The Epiphany  
of the Lord***

The solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord comes to us from the East, as its Greek name indicates. The word means “manifestation,” “showing forth,” or “advent.” In the Eastern Church, this day marked three great moments in the life of Christ: his manifestation to the Gentiles (the wise

men of Matthew 2), his baptism in the Jordan (Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 2, John 1), and his first miracle at Cana (John 2). Unlike Christmas, which focuses on the hidden life of Jesus, on Epiphany, the news gets out.

Today, the Church in the East and in the West celebrate both Christmas and Epiphany. In the East, Epiphany now focuses on the Baptism of the Lord and includes the solemn blessing of water. In the West, however, this solemnity focuses on the visit of the Magi to the infant Christ, with the Baptism of the Lord commemorated on its own nearby feast. The texts for today’s solemnity emphasize the Magi, but a hint of the ancient origins of Epiphany survives in the antiphons at the Liturgy of the Hours for today: “Three mysteries mark this holy day: today the star leads the Magi to the infant Christ; today water is changed into wine for the wedding feast; today Christ wills to be baptized by John in the river Jordan to bring us salvation” (antiphon for the Cantic of Mary, Evening Prayer).

**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 Baptism of the Lord**

Isaiah 55:1-11

1 John 5:1-9

Mark 1:7-11

## 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 Dec. 21: \$15,917**  
**Amount Needed: \$20,000**

We will report on our Christmas collection in our next bulletin. 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.

## 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.

## STA SOCIETIES, MINISTRIES & EVENTS



### Right to Life

That as a star guided the wise men to the author of life, the Church might be the light in the darkness of a culture of death;

*We pray to the Lord*



"[The Freedom of Choice Act] FOCA would have ... an effect on the freedom of conscience of doctors, nurses and health care workers whose personal convictions do not permit them to cooperate in abortions. It would threaten Catholic health care institutions and Catholic Charities. It would be a law that would further divide our country."

"If the election is misinterpreted ideologically as a referendum on abortion, the unity desired by President-elect Obama and all Americans at this moment of crisis will be impossible to achieve. Abortion kills not only unborn children; it destroys constitutional order and the common good, which is assured only when the life of every human being is legally protected. Aggressively pro-abortion policies, legislation and executive orders will permanently alienate tens of millions of Americans, and would be seen by many as an attack on the free exercise of their religion."

*Statement by USCCB President Cardinal Francis George on behalf of the USCCB, Nov. 12, 2008*

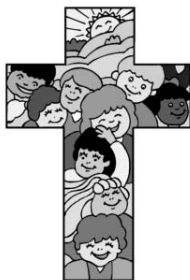
### A Day of Prayer and Penance for Life January 22, 2009

In all the dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. The Mass "For Peace and Justice" (no. 22 of the "Masses for Various Needs") should be celebrated with violet vestments as an appropriate liturgical observance for this day.

*General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 373*

## Religious Education News

**CCD classes resume on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.**



**Summer CCD Update:** A quick reminder to all those hoping to attend summer CCD in 2009. Registration packages are NOT sent home, even if your child attended summer CCD last year. A notice will be placed in the bulletin around the middle of January announcing that the packages are ready. Once the notice has appeared in the bulletin you may call the Religious Education Office and request that a registration package be mailed to you or you may download it from the STA website. Dates for summer CCD 2009 are July 6<sup>th</sup> through July 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 12:30 each day. Children in grades 3 through 8 only may attend summer CCD. Last year summer CCD closed out in two weeks and names were taken for a waiting list, so please note that this program is first come, first served. Please do NOT call the Religious Education Office until the announcement appears in the bulletin. Teachers and aides are needed for each grade. If you are interested please call Tracey Rennie at 973-338-7400.

## *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
May 10	1:30pm

## **“THIS WEEK”**

### Monday – 1/5

September Club – 11:30am in St. Peter  
Men’s prayer and Bible Study – 7:30pm in St. Matthew

### Thursday – 1/8

SCC Thursday – 7:00pm in St. Matthew

### Friday – 1/9

SCC Friday – 7:00pm in St. Peter

## 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.

**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

**Adult Enrichment Bible Study  
St. Paul's Letter to the Romans**

**Tuesday, January 13, 2009**

St. Paul's letter to the Romans is both the longest of his letters and the most theologically complex. In it he expounds key matters of doctrine regarding the redemptive work of Christ and the Christian life. Come and learn about Paul's understanding of salvation and justification; how Christ is the new Adam; the moral demands of the Christian. For more information, call Bob Miller at 973.338.9190 x 29.

**Course begins:** Tuesday, January 13

**Time:** 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Place:** St. Thomas Parish Center: St. Peter room

**Suggested Text:** Ignatius Catholic Study Bible – Romans

*Every time you smile at someone,  
it is an action of love,  
a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.*

- 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](http://www.wmme.org) or call/email (800) 823-5683 [sylvia12@aol.com](mailto:sylvia12@aol.com)



**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 if someone is admitted to a hospital 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.

***Believe the Promise,  
Share the Hope,  
Live the Joy!***



*As we celebrate the feast of  
the Epiphany, may the gift of  
Jesus fill your heart with peace  
and love today and always.*

**The Saint Thomas the Apostle School Community**

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*

**Please RSVP by January 20, 2009**

**Checks Made Payable to St. Thomas the Apostle H&S Assoc.**

**Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Adult Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15/pp Child Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @\$10/pp**

**Total Amount Due: \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**For further Info, please call Charlene Perrone at (973) 893-1304.**

**PLEASE RETURN TO SCHOOL OFFICE ADDRESSED TO:  
CHARLENE PERRONE**

**PLEASE NOTE SEATING REQUESTS ON A SEPARATE SHEET.**