

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, January 11

Saturday, January 10

5:00 pm James Brown - Friends

Sunday, January 11

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

Monday, January 12

7:30 am Fagan & Taylor Family - Family

11:30 am Patricia Dwyer - Rosary

Tuesday, January 13

7:30 am Barbara Ellmer - Husband

11:30 am Jane Clifford - Rosary

Wednesday, January 14

7:30 am Sally Jewel - Friend

11:30 am Giorgia & Clemente Mifsud - Daughter

Thursday, January 15

7:30 am Lisa M. Purvis - Friends

11:30 pm Lottie Szajkowski - Daughters

Friday, January 16

7:30 am Russell T. Wright - Friends

11:30 am Frank Corsi - Friend

Saturday, January 17

8:30 am Camille Pietrowski - Daughter

Sunday, January 18

Saturday, January 17

5:00 pm Dr. Jack Adeffa - Family

Sunday, January 18

7:30 am Georgann Sabato - Family

9:00 am Al & Seria Derro - Parents

10:30 am For the People of the Parish

12:00 pm Charles Ofsak - Family

PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

Claire & Walter Mykowski,
Alex Wessell, Franco & Fasone Families
Paul Strickland, Frank Korec

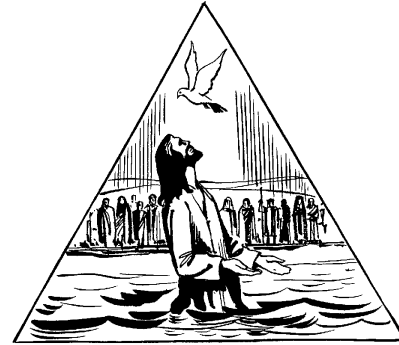
REST IN PEACE:

Phyllis De Lorenzo, Paul Dobrinski, Joseph Ricca
John McCue, Deacon John Coffey, Arlyne S. Nash

CANDLE INTENTIONS:

Church: Carl Nyman

The Baptism of the Lord



*After Jesus was baptized,
he came up from the water and behold,
the heavens were opened (for him),
and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove
(and) coming upon him.
And a voice came from the heavens, saying,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
(Matthew 3:16-17)*

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a bridge between Christmas and Ordinary Time. It is the conclusion of the Christmas season, but the Lectionary also calls it the First Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Baptism of the Lord is yet another powerful revelation (manifestation or epiphany) of Christ's identity: God's beloved Son, on whom his favor rests. Like the visit of the Magi and the wedding feast of Cana, the baptism of Christ by John in the River Jordan is an experience of God's action and presence revealed in Christ.

Prayer

*Almighty, eternal God,
when the Spirit descended
upon Jesus at his baptism in the Jordan,
you revealed him as your own beloved Son.
Keep us, your children born of water and the Spirit,
faithful to our calling.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Next Sunday's Readings:

**1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19
1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
John 1:35-42**

SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS ED & SACRAMENTS

SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL

50 BYRD AVENUE, BLOOMFIELD, NJ



Education is the movement from darkness to light.
Allan Bloom

For more information, please contact our school office at 973-338-8505.

Open House*
for new families looking for the perfect fit for your child

Tuesday, February 3rd
10:30 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.

Grades Pre-K 3 through 8
Before & After School programs available

Pre-K options include full-day and/or half-day sessions
Minimum requirement of two sessions per week

*Does not include registration.
New family registration begins March 2nd.

We are a Middle States Accredited School.

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 AND 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. 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

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Drop in to the Parish Center next Sunday after the 9 and 10:30 a.m. Masses for a little coffee and conversation and some special treats.

The Filipino American Community of St. Thomas will be our hosts and they know how to entertain!



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. 28: \$20,003
Collection week of Jan 4: \$21,090
Amount needed per week: \$20,000

Our Christmas collection was: \$77,323
Our Christmas 2007 collection was: \$84,652

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. If you haven't given your gift to St. Thomas yet, please do so soon so that we can include it in the total.



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

"THIS WEEK"

Monday – 1/12

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

Thursday – 1/15

SCC Thursday – 7:00pm in St. Matthew

Friday – 1/16

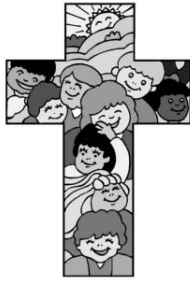
SCC Friday – 7:00pm in St. Peter

Sunday – 1/18

Prayer Shawl Meeting – 1:00pm in St. Thomas

Religious Education News

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 to end 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 6th through July 17th 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.

Adult Enrichment

BIBLE STUDY: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans

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

Finding Work & Managing Your Career in Tough Economic Times

Please join us on Saturday, January 24th from 9:00 a.m. to noon at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Bloomfield in the Parish Center to learn the best ways to find work in today's job market, and learn what you should be doing to sustain your career, even while you are working. Topics include: resumes; proactive job-hunting; networking; etc. The workshop is led by Julie V. Burkey, MAPM, director of the Center for Workplace Spirituality at Seton Hall University where she is also an adjunct professor. Light refreshments served. Cost is \$10.00 per person payable at the door. For more information call Bob Miller at 973-338-9190 x29.

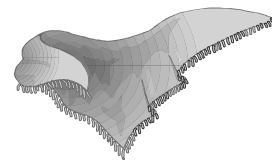
Wellness Ministry Cares... Assistance Program

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.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING – NEXT WEEK

Blood pressure screenings will be held next weekend, Saturday, January 17th, after the 5:00 p.m. Mass and Sunday, January 18th, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry



Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 18th at 1PM.

Our Ministry is now working on two special projects. As we work together to fill a request for 60 red scarves, the knitters can learn to crochet and the crocheters can

learn to knit. Please bring a skein of red wool knitting needles size 9 or larger to participate and either a crochet hook size I or k. In addition, we will be working on baby items suitable for children up to 2 years old. All are welcome to work and pray with us.

If you have any questions or you wish to give someone a shawl or lap robe, please contact the Ministry: Bernadette 973-893-0114, Sister Arleen 973-338-9190, or Alicia 973-473-6633.

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

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WELCOME BACK!

1/11/09 KICK-OFF MEETING FOR SPRING SCHEDULE
1/18/09 MLK REGULAR MEETING (LOCK-IN CANCELLED)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

2/15 LOCK-IN AT ST. THOMAS MOORE - FAIRFIELD
3/8 MATT MAHER CONCERT AT CHURCH OF NATIVITY
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT TIM DENNIN AT tdennin@att.net

Confirmation Parents Meeting

Meeting will be held in the Parish Center after all Masses on 2/15 and 2/22.

Confirmation Classes Begin 3/15.

Thanks from the heart!

*A Grateful Heart –
Two kinds of gratitude,
the sudden kind we feel for what we take,
and the larger kind we feel for what we give.*

- Robert H. Schuller

We would like to thank all of our generous parishioners for their donations not only over the holidays but all year long. The response this Thanksgiving was tremendous! There were many turkeys and trimmings as well as Shop Rite gift cards donated by the Rosarians and the New Jersey State Police Troop E, Bloomfield Station!

As you know, the Food Pantry is an ongoing project here at St. Thomas. We help our parishioners first, then families living in Bloomfield and the Emergency Food Bank of the Archdiocese of Newark.

The Christmas Giving Tree was most successful! Children's Hospital, nursing homes and inner city parishes received the gifts that you placed under the tree. The gift certificates were shared by families living in our parish.

Special thanks go to MaryAnn and Thomas Carini and their elves that did a wonderful job coordinating this worthy project.

The Work of Christmas

*When the song of the angels is over,
When the star has disappeared from the sky,
When the Wise men have returned to their homes,
And the shepherds have returned to their flocks,*

The work of Christmas begins:

*To feed the hungry,
To clothe the naked,
To shelter the homeless,
To bring peace to the world,
And healing to the sick,
To find the lost,
To welcome the stranger,
And to make music in the heart.*

National Vocation Awareness Week

“**In the Beginning**” is a program designed for those beginning to consider the possibility of a church vocation.

Today we celebrate the baptism of the Lord. Jesus heard God the Father say, “My favor rests on you.” His imagination was sparked. He envisioned the mission and went about doing good works.

Is your imagination being sparked? If the mission of priest, sister, brother or deacon slips in and out of your vision of doing good works, then speak to your pastor or to the vocation director, Rev. John Gabriel at 973-497-4000.

SAVE THE DATE

For St. Thomas the Apostle Rosarians'
ANNUAL FISH & CHIPS DINNER



March 13, 2009 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. in Herron Hall
Catered by: Argyle of Kearny

Details to follow!

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

In all the dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 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. This is a Mass “For Peace and Justice”

Annual Archdiocesan

Pro-Life Mass

Sunday, Jan. 18, 2009 12:00 noon
Sacred Heart Cathedral Basilica
89 Ridge Street, Newark, NJ

Most Rev. Manuel A. Cruz presiding

Immediately following Mass all are invited to join a
Procession to St. Lucy's Church for
Eucharistic Holy Hour for Life
(St. Lucy's is a short walk from the Cathedral)

Holy Hour will include the Rosary and the Devine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration & Benediction.
Young adults of the Archdiocese will lead prayer & music
All are invited to attend this Pro-Life Mass & Holy Hour marking the 36th anniversary of the infamous Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in the United States.

Let us come together to pray for the unborn, our nation and its leaders - that our prayers may open hearts, minds, and souls to the fullness of the Gospel of Life in our lives and laws.

For more information log onto www.rcan.org/life

Ministry of Spiritual Direction



**NEW YEAR
NEW BEGINNINGS
RETREAT DAY**

Guided Retreat for Men & Women

Sat., Jan. 17 9am-3:30pm in Parish Center

Please Register by Jan 14 with Anna – (973) 338-9538
Light Continental Breakfast - Bag a Lunch - Offering

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.