

# 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

February 1, 2009 . Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Masses for the Week**

**Sunday, February 1**

**Saturday, January 31**

**5:00 pm For the People of the Parish**

**Sunday, February 1**

**7:30 am Jose Granda - Friend**

**9:00 am Patrick Russillo - Friends**

**10:30 am Elizabeth Doyle - Aunt**

**12:00 pm Sal Nesto, Sr. (5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.) - Wife & Family**

**Monday, February 2**

**7:30 am Josephine & Dominick Tortorello - Bequest**

**11:30 am Marie Raimo (34<sup>th</sup> Anniv.) - Sister**

**Tuesday, February 3**

**7:30 am Mary Fagan - Family**

**11:30 am Michael J. Sullivan (20<sup>th</sup> Anniv.) - Family**

**Wednesday, February 4**

**7:30 am Mary & Fred Roberts - Family**

**11:30 am Josephine & Dominick Tortorello - Bequest**

**Thursday, February 5**

**7:30 am John DeVito - Wife**

**11:30 pm George A. Delaney - Wife**

**Friday, February 6**

**7:30 am Josephine & Dominick Tortorello - Bequest**

**11:30 am Rosemary Ciuba - Family**

**Saturday, February 7**

**8:30 am Edward Ganning - Wife**

**Sunday, February 8**

**Saturday, February 7**

**5:00 pm Veronica Kievit - Wife**

**Sunday, February 8**

**7:30 am For the People of the Parish**

**9:00 am Mamie & Louis De Cicco - Family**

**10:30 am John & Fortnetta - Family**

**12:00 pm Frances Ann Klika - Daughter**

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK:**

Eva Morgan, Paul Strickland, Frank Korec,

Jack Kearney, Franco & Fasone Families

**REST IN PEACE:**

Frank J. Rennie,

Eva A. Morgan, Gerard R. Riker

**CANDLE INTENTIONS:**

**Church:** Thomas Guidry



**Fourth Sunday  
in  
Ordinary Time**

Today's psalm refrain aptly summarizes the liturgy for this Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." All the readings today are about hearing God's word with an open heart.

***Lectionary***

■ **FIRST READING:** In the reading from Deuteronomy, Moses reminds the Israelites of the great self-revelation on Mount Sinai, when the people begged not to hear God's voice, nor to witness his presence in the fire. God grants their request, telling them that they will hear his voice through the prophets he will send them, prophets like Moses. Notice the characteristics of the prophet. He will be one of their own "kin" (Deuteronomy 18:15), not a stranger; the words he speaks will be God's word, not his own. Both *hearing* a prophet and *being* a prophet bring an obligation. Those who do not listen to God's word through the prophet will "answer for it" (18:19). The prophet, in turn, must never speak on his own or prophesy on behalf of any other gods.

■ **PSALM 95:** Responsorial Psalm 95 is a call to faithfulness. The first verse is a joyful invitation to prayer and song; the second verse calls us to worship; and the third verse gives us a salutary reminder. We have not always been faithful. In the desert, at Meribah and Massah (see Exodus 17:1-7), the chosen people doubted God, hardening their hearts, forgetting his promises, and demanding a sign.

■ **THE GOSPEL:** The Gospel follows immediately on last week's account of the calling of the four fishermen. In Capernaum, Jesus teaches in the synagogue. We do not hear what Jesus taught, but instead, we hear about how the people reacted. They are immediately aware that something is different. In fact, they are "astonished" (Mark 1:22) at the "authority" (1:22) with which Jesus speaks. It is the unclean spirits (1:23) who recognize Jesus and cry out in terror, "I know who you are - the Holy One of God" (1:24)! Jesus orders the unclean spirit to be quiet. Raymond Brown writes, "This is the first instance of what scholars call Mark's 'Messianic Secret,' whereby Jesus seems to hide his identity as the Son of God until it is made apparent after his death on the cross - the full mystery of his person involves suffering and death" (*Christ in the Gospels of the Ordinary Sundays*, 44). In casting the demon out of the man, Jesus shows that his authority is not just in his teaching, but in his deeds as well. The people are "amazed" (Mark 1:27). Word about Jesus begins to spread.

# *Archbishop's Annual Appeal*

**Next Sunday, February 8, 2009**

**is**

***Pledge Sunday***

**At all the Masses for the  
2009 Archbishop's Annual Appeal**

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## **Important Pro-Life Announcement**

As a new administration begins to take shape in Washington, Congress is expected to begin deliberating legislation to eliminate many of the pro-life laws and policies that have in recent years been helpful in stemming abortions in this nation. The laws and policies at risk include a ban on partial-birth abortions, mandatory waiting periods, and parental notification in cases where minors are seeking abortions, and prohibition against federal funding of abortions. The most comprehensive attack on pro-life laws is called the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA). Although the name may change, this legislation will eliminate every limitation on the destruction of innocent life that the pro-life movement has gained in the past 35 years. However, some 63 pro-abortion groups have already submitted to the new administration an outline of plans to "advance reproductive rights," and FOCA is a centerpiece of this anti-life agenda.

As Catholics, we believe that life is a gift from God that must be cherished and protected. Our faith obliges us to work to defend life both privately and publicly.

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities has begun a massive postcard campaign to urge Congress to retain laws against federal funding and promotion of abortion, and to oppose any bill that includes provisions contained in FOCA.

The Bishops of New Jersey are urging all Catholic people to join in informing our elected representatives in Washington to retain the pro-life laws and policies now in place, and to oppose any effort to pass the provisions contained in the "FOCA Agenda." The postcards are located at the end of each pew. Please complete them and return them in the collection box. The parish will arrange to mail them to Washington this week.

Today, we have the opportunity to make not only the strongest possible statement about the Sanctity of life, but also to demonstrate our strength as people of faith and faithful citizens. Help us make this campaign to secure true progress in building a Culture of Life in our nation a success.

## SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS ED & SACRAMENTS

### SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH SCHOOL

50 BYRD AVENUE, BLOOMFIELD, NJ 07003  
Phone: 973.338.8505 Fax: 973.338.9565  
email: [www.staoffice@catholic.org](mailto:www.staoffice@catholic.org)  
[www.stthomastheapostlenj.com](http://www.stthomastheapostlenj.com)



*When you enroll your child, we enroll your family.*

Full-Day  
Kindergarten



**Open House\***  
for new families looking for the  
perfect fit for their child

**Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
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  
**Registration begins March 2, 2009**



Middle States  
Accredited



Advanced  
Technology  
Program

### ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL SHOPRITE GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

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

**YOU RECEIVE THE FULL DOLLAR VALUE OF THE CARD AND STA SCHOOL RECEIVES 5% OF YOUR PURCHASE (FROM *SHOPRITE*).**

**SHOPRITE GIFT CARDS CAN BE USED . . .**

- AT ANY SHOPRITE STORE OR SHOPRITE PHARMACY
- TO PURCHASE OTHER STORE GIFT CARDS SUCH AS DISNEY, KOHL'S, SEARS, HOME DEPOT, BEST BUY, TOYS R US, RED LOBSTER, OLIVE GARDEN, ETC.
- SHOPRITE ALSO SELLS ELECTRONICS INCLUDING TV'S, DVD PLAYERS, GAME CONSOLES, ETC. (SEE THE SHOPRITE CIRCULAR FOR ADVERTISED SPECIALS)

**THERE ARE 3 EASY WAYS TO PURCHASE SHOPRITE 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.



### EARN CASH FOR OUR SCHOOL

St. Thomas the Apostle Home and School will be collecting "Box Tops for Education" and "Labels for Education"

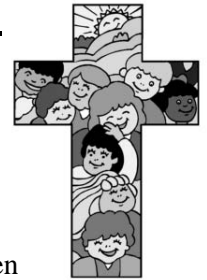
A collection box is located in the back of the Church. A list of the products participating in the program is available at the STA Home and School table which is also located at the back of the Church.

### 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.

### Religious Education News



Thank you to all those who helped out with First Penance recently. Over 110 children received the sacrament for the first time on January 24<sup>th</sup> and they all did a wonderful job. Parents, siblings, grandparents and godparents all turned out to help us celebrate with the children and Fr. Miller, Fr. Philip, Fr. Tom, Nancy Cardone and Kim Mesiti provided beautiful words and music. Thank you especially to all the second grade teachers who work so hard all year preparing the children—Kim Baldasare, Mary Berger, Kathy Iacovone, Gerrie Michalek, Ellen Naughton and Lorajean Tice. The children will now be moving toward their First Holy Communion in the spring so we ask that you continue to keep them in your prayers.

Reminder – Mandatory First Communion Parent's Meeting February 9<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in Herron Hall.

Summer CCD is closed and names are being accepted for waiting lists only. We are in need of teachers and some volunteers. Confirmation candidates in need of service hours are also needed - if interested please call Tracey Rennie at 338-7400.

THERE WILL BE NO CCD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> OR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>.

### STA SOCIETIES, MINISTRIES & EVENTS

#### "THIS WEEK"

##### Monday – 2/2

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

##### Tuesday – 2/3

Adult Education - 7:00pm in St. Peter

##### Thursday – 1/29

SCC Thursday – 7:00pm in St. Matthew

##### Friday – 1/30

Tax Preparation - 10:00am to noon in St. Peter  
SCC Friday – 7:00pm in St. Peter

**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 AND NOW... GLUCOSE SCREENING--NEXT WEEK**

Blood pressure and Glucose screenings will be held next weekend, Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, after the 5 p.m. Mass and Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

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

2/1 NO MEETING SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

- 2/ 8 COOKIE NIGHT
- 2/15 ST. THOMAS MOORE LOCK-IN FAIRFIELD
- 3/ 8 MATT MAHER CONCERT MIDLAND PARK

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

**Confirmation Parents Meeting**

In the Parish Center after all Masses 2/15 and 2/22. Confirmation Classes Begin 3/15.

**Confirmation Service Project**

Set-Up & Clean-Up  
Irish Night, Fish Fry, Women's & Men's Cornerstone

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

Everyone is invited downstairs to the Parish Center next Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> after the 9 am and 10:30 a.m. Masses for coffee and conversation with your fellow parishioners. Our hosts this month are the Men's Cornerstone Team.



**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:

<b>Collection week of Jan. 18:</b>	<b>\$17,730</b>
<b>Collection week of Jan. 25:</b>	<b>\$21,383</b>
<b>Amount needed per week:</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>

Saint Thomas the Apostle Rosary Confraternity's



**Annual Fish & Chips Dinner**

catered by  
**Argyle Restaurant**

**Friday, March 13th**

**5:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.**

**Herron Hall**

**Adults: \$11 Children\*: \$5**

- \*Chicken available for children only
- **Dessert & Beverage Included**
- **Bring Your Own Beer or Wine**
- **Eat In or Take Out**

(please indicate on the reservation form)

**RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH.**

**PLEASE, NO WALK-INS.**

Baked goods (cookies/cupcakes/brownies, etc.) are needed for the Dessert Table. Please drop off baked items in Herron Hall on Friday, March 13th, after 2:00 p.m.

Questions, please contact:

Bernadette Lipoma - 973-893-0114

Rosalie Mescall - 973-893-8186

**Fish & Chips Reservation Form**

(Please return to Parish Center)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Eat In or  Take Out

(Please check one box only)

# of Adult Dinners \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$11 each

# of Child Fish \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5 each

# of Child Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5 each

**Total Enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**LEARNING TO LIVE WITH YOUR LOSS**

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – 1 p.m. in the Parish Center

Our theme will be:

**THE CHOICE IS THE DIFFERENCE**

**The Rosary Confraternity**

A reminder our deceased members' Mass will take place on Monday, Feb. 2 at 7:00 p.m. in Church followed by Fellowship at St. Peter's Room in the Parish Center. Please join us for Mass to pray the Rosary. All are welcome.



## **FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION**

THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY CONTINUES TO PROVIDE FREE FEDERAL AND NJ STATE INCOME TAX PREPARATION FOR SENIORS AND DISABLED MEMBERS OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS SERVICE, YOU MUST BE A REGISTERED MEMBER OF ST. THOMAS, AT LEAST 62 YEARS OF AGE OR DISABLED, NOT ACTIVELY EMPLOYED AND REQUIRE NO MORE FORMS AND SCHEDULES THAN THOSE LISTED BELOW.

INCOME TAX RETURNS WILL BE PREPARED BY EXPERIENCED TAX PREPARERS WHO ARE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY, VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME AND TALENT IN THE SPIRIT OF STEWARDSHIP.

INCOME TAX RETURNS WILL BE LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING FORMS AND SCHEDULES:

- FEDERAL FORMS 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ
- FEDERAL SCHEDULES A,B,D,E (RESIDENTIAL RENTAL ONLY), AND R.
- NJ STATE FORMS 1040NJ AND 1040NJHR
- NJ SCHEDULES B, C, AND HR-A

THE TAX PREPARATION PROCESS FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL OR MARRIED COUPLE WILL INCLUDE AN INTERVIEW, REVIEW OF YOUR 2007 TAX RETURN AND TURNOVER OF YOUR TAX DOCUMENTS (1099's). COMPLETED RETURNS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN ABOUT ONE WEEK.

TAX PREPARERS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH CENTER EVERY FRIDAY **EXCEPT GOOD FRIDAY** FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON BEGINNING FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2009.

IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT. COME IN TO THE PARISH CENTER TO GET YOUR TAXES DONE OR TO SPEAK TO A TAX PREPARER.

## Women's Cornerstone

March 20 & 21, 2009

### "Be Still and Know That I Am Your God"

*Psalm 46*

Cornerstone is a 26-hour retreat which provides you with the opportunity to reflect, renew and strengthen your faith while meeting other women in our parish community.

You may share in discussions as much or as little as you choose, or not at all, if that is your preference.

There will be great food, great conversation and an opportunity to meet some great women.

For more information, pick up a brochure at all church entrances or at the parish center.

### **Registration Form**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON YOUR BADGE: \_\_\_\_\_

ANY DIET RESTRICTIONS OR ALLERGIES?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Suggested Registration Fee: \$50**

## **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Irish Night** **February 28, 2009**

The Holy Name Society of St Thomas the Apostle is holding its 17th Annual Irish Night on Saturday, Feb. 28 from 6:30-10:30PM in Herron Hall. Ticket price: \$25 per person. Ticket sale deadline is Sat., Feb.21. Tickets will not be available at the door. Entertainment will include Irish Dancers from the Peter Smith School of Irish Dancing, Bagpiper Scott Sim, and a sing along led by balladeer Mike Albert and the Parish Priests. Corned beef and cabbage dinner, Irish soda bread, beer, wine, soft drinks and setups (BYOB) are included. For information, call Rich Bever at 973-338-6444 or Frank Helmstetter at 973-338-5872.

### ***The Prayer Shawl Ministry***

A meeting is scheduled for Sun., Feb. 22, 1PM. We are not meeting Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. We hope to fill a request for 60 red scarves. (Please call us if you are participating in this project so we can have a count of the scarves to date.) We are also working on baby items for children up to 2 yrs old. We are short of prayer shawls. If you have completed one please drop it off at the parish center with Sr. Arleen. If you have any questions or you wish to give someone a shawl or lap robe, contact the Ministry: Bernadette 973-893-0114, Sister Arleen 973-338-9190, or Alicia 973-473-6633.

### **\*\*\* Men's Cornerstone Retreat \*\*\***

**(March 27<sup>th</sup> – March 28<sup>th</sup>)**

**ALL ST. THOMAS MEN ARE INVITED**

#### **What is Cornerstone?**

Cornerstone is a **26-hour retreat** which provides you with the opportunity to reflect renew and strengthen your faith while meeting other men in our parish community. The retreat is hosted here at St. Thomas by a group of men from our parish who have experienced last year's Cornerstone.

This retreat is simply a gathering of **Ordinary Men** sharing stories and life's experiences. You may share in the discussion as much or as little as you choose.

This is a great opportunity to step out of the hustle of daily life and meet and interact with other men of the parish, in a friendly, welcoming, **non-judgmental environment**.

**Give yourself and our parish a gift by attending St. Thomas' 4<sup>th</sup> Men's Cornerstone March 27<sup>th</sup>–March 28<sup>th</sup>**

#### **For information or questions please contact:**

- John Barbetta at (973) 338-5086 or email [jbarbetta@verizon.net](mailto:jbarbetta@verizon.net)
- William J. Padilla at (973) 338-9414 or email [wiji777@aol.com](mailto:wiji777@aol.com)
- Pat DeCotiis at (973) 896-5739 or email [pdecotiis@att.com](mailto:pdecotiis@att.com)