

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

March 22, 2009 . Fourth Sunday of Lent

Masses for the Week

Sunday, March 22

Saturday, March 21

5:00 pm Veronica Kievit - Husband

Sunday, March 22

7:30 am Thomas & Lena Caputo - Daughters

9:00 am For the People of the Parish

10:30 am Lisa M. Purvis - Family

12:00 pm Nancy Dolny - Sister

Monday, March 23

7:30 am Louis & Lucy DeFalco - Bequest

11:30 am Deceased Members of Klenk Family - Bequest

Tuesday, March 24

7:30 am James Kamphausen - Family

11:30 am Louis & Lucy DeFalco - Bequest

Wednesday, March 25

7:30 am Elizabeth Hannah - Friends

11:30 am Jerome Mulvaney - Friend

Thursday, March 26

7:30 am Louis & Lucy DeFalco - Bequest

11:30 pm Vincent J. Lipoma - Family

Friday, March 27

7:30 am Helen McGarry - Bequest

11:30 am Lena Grillo - Daughter & Son-in-law

Saturday, March 28

8:30 am Pat & Phyllis Russillo - Children

Sunday, March 29

Saturday, March 28

5:00 pm Caputo Family - Daughter

Sunday, March 29

7:30 am James Kamphausen - Family

9:00 am John Petrus - Family

10:30 am For the People of the Parish

12:00 pm Frances Scardilli - Daughter

PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

Paul Strickland, Frank Korec, Fasone & Franco Families

REST IN PEACE:

Gennaro Tortoriello, Walter Wnorowski

CANDLE INTENTIONS:

Church: Joseph Jacobino
Rectory: James McArthur
Convent: Carmine Rispoli

**Visit our website at
www.stachurchbloomfield.com**

Fourth Sunday of Lent

The Entrance Antiphon for today urges us to joy: "Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who love her; rejoice with her, you who mourned for her, and you will find contentment at her consoling breasts" (see Isaiah 66:10-11).



■ **FIRST READING:** In the reading from 2 Chronicles, we hear about the exile of the chosen people. They have "added infidelity to infidelity" (36:14); they have betrayed their God. According to Old Testament logic, their sufferings are a punishment from God, because his anger is "inflamed" (36:16) by their faithlessness. Their city is destroyed, the temple is despoiled, and they are taken in captivity to Babylon. But at the end of the reading, God chooses an unlikely instrument - their enemy, the Persian King Cyrus - to tell them that they may go home, and even to bless them: "may his God be with him!" (36:23).

■ **SECOND READING:** The reading from Ephesians emphasizes that God does not save us because we deserve it or because of our love for him. Quite the contrary is true. "Even when we were dead in our transgressions," God "brought us to life with Christ" (Ephesians 2:5). It is not because of something we did, but "by grace" (2:8) that we have been saved.

Stations of the Cross

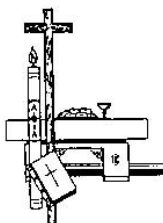
Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday evening throughout Lent until Good Friday, April 10th when the St. Thomas Senior High Youth Group will present the *Living Stations of the Cross*.



**2010 MASS BOOK OPENING
 Tuesday, March 24th**

9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parish Center

We will be scheduling Masses for January through December of 2010. We will be taking intentions for 7:30am and 11:30am Monday through Friday and weekend Masses. We ask that you please limit the number of Masses you reserve. For this reason we are limiting Mass reservations on opening day to a maximum of two weekend Masses or four weekday Masses. For example, one can reserve four weekday Masses *or* two weekday and two weekend Masses. Perhaps a birthday or anniversary might be an initial date - thus giving all Parishioners the opportunity to reserve the dates and times they may wish. Another way to remember your deceased loved ones would be to make donations to our Memorial Fund. The Memorial Fund allows us to purchase needed Vestments, Altar Linens, Vessels, etc. to be used at the celebration of Mass. Also available are Sanctuary Offerings which include the Sanctuary Candles in Church, the Rectory and the Convent. They burn weekly in memory of your loved ones as well as for special intentions: birthdays, anniversaries, improved health, etc. Cards are available announcing your donation to both the Memorial Fund and the Sanctuary Candles.





**ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK
2009 LENTEN REGULATIONS**

1. The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

On a day of Fast, only one full meal is permitted. Those between ages 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those age 14 and over are obliged by the law of abstinence.

2. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence “substantially”, or as a whole, is a serious obligation.

3. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.

4. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, March 1, 2009 to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, June 7, 2009.**

*Canon 920, §1. *All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.*

SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS ED & SACRAMENTS

**St. Thomas the Apostle School
2009 Calendar Sweepstakes Winners!**

MARCH

16	\$75	Michael J. Haven
17	\$500	Iziel Perez
18	\$75	Dolores T. Ferris
19	\$50	Rich Nisivoccia
20	\$75	Anita R. Leck
21	\$100	Nancy Palomba
22	\$50	Elena & Emanuele Triggiano



CELEBRATE WITH
THE EASTER BUNNY
AT THE

**BUNNY
BREAKFAST**

Sat., April 4th 9:30 am
St. Thomas School Herron Hall

- Fantastic Food • Kids DJ Dance Party •
- Awesome Raffle Prizes • Free Crafts •
- New Surprises • And... THE EASTER BUNNY!

\$15 Per adult • \$5 for each child
Reservations are required by March 27th

Contact Carolyn Howell at 973-771-9398
or email at jleehowell@comcast.net
Or pick up a reservation form at the parish center.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Thank you to the Pastoral Council for sharing their baking talents with us last Sunday at our March Coffee and Conversation. If you weren't able to make it, please plan to come to the next one scheduled for April 19 after the 9am and 10:30am Mases.



**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:

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION: \$19,468
AMOUNT NEEDED PER WEEK: \$22,000

Thank you to all those who donate through our Electronic Giving program. Please note that we are not able to offer Electronic Giving for Holy Days or Second Collections yet, but we will offer that in the future.

Religious Education News



As you walk in each of the entrances of the church you will notice colorful sheep that were made by the First Communicants on their retreat day. We ask that when you see these sheep as you enter and leave church you remember our First Communicants in your prayers. They have been working so hard to prepare for their big day and it will soon be here. Also, the children pray for each of us that we may remember how blessed we are to be able to receive Jesus each week. Thank you.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

There is NO CCD the week of April 5th (Holy Week) or the week of April 12th (Easter Week.) Classes will resume the week of April 19th. Happy Easter to all.

STA SOCIETIES, MINISTRIES & EVENTS

"THIS WEEK"

Monday – 3/23

September Club – 11:30am in St. Peter
Eucharistic Adoration - 12 Noon to 7:30pm in Church
Respect Life Holy Hour - 7:30pm in Church
Men's prayer and Bible Study – 7:30pm in St. Matthew

Thursday – 3/19

SCC Thursday – 7:00pm in St. Matthew

Friday – 3/20

Tax Preparation – 10:00am to 12:00pm in St. Peter
SCC Friday – 7:00pm in St. Peter
Stations of the Cross – 7:30pm in Church

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 TO 12 NOON.

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

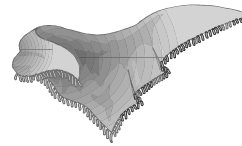
~ ~ September Club Travel ~ ~

The September Club welcomes you to a bus ride on April 15th to **Renault Winery** with lunch and wine tasting and then on to **Atlantic City** for more fun. For more information please call Jean 973-777-2278.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE

STA Girls Scout Troop #611 will be holding its annual cookie sale after each Mass on Sun., March 29th in front of St. Thomas Church. Please support your Girl Scouts!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry



Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 22nd at 1PM. Those who wish to learn to crochet, please bring a skein of wool and a crochet hook size J, L or N.

Our project to make baby items suitable for children up to 2 years old is very successful. Keep them coming. 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 Alicia 973-473-6633

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



The Rosary Confraternity

Our monthly meeting will take place on Monday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in St. Peter's room at the Parish Center. Please join us to pray the Rosary.

The Lenten Sacrifice You'll Feel Guilty Over

Hey, Guys, remember when you were a kid and tried to give up something like Brussels sprouts for Lent? Somebody always told on you. But this Lent, here's your chance to pull that off:

Men's Cornerstone.

Give up 26 hours – Friday night through Saturday – on March 27 and 28, and you'll find you're ahead on the deal. Sure, you'll go with the intention of examining your faith and improving your relationship with God – and you'll do all that. But you will also meet friends you never knew you had and swap stories with them. You'll have a good time. No need to give up beer or watching **CSI** this Lent. Your sacrifice is Men's Cornerstone. We won't tell on you. But you must hurry! Contact:

John Barbetta (973) 338-5086 jbarbetta2@verizon.net

Pat DeCotiis (973) 896-5739 pdecotiis@att.com

William I Padilla (973) 338-9414 wiji777@aol.com



Men's Cornerstone.
***A gathering of ordinary men
for an extraordinary retreat.***

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.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

- 3/22 FR. MILLER NIGHT
- 3/27 COTILLION
- 3/29 SFA YOUTH GROUP EVERYTHING SKIT
- 4/5 PALM SUNDAY STATIONS DRESS REHEARSAL

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



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.

Archdiocese of Newark Anniversary Masses

It is an annual tradition to honor the couples in the Archdiocese who are celebrating five, twenty-five, fifty or more years of marriage. These liturgies are celebrated by Archbishop John J. Myers held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.

- May 31 50 Anniv. (Essex & Union Counties)
- June 7 50 Anniv. (Bergen & Hudson Counties)
- June 14 25th and 5th Anniversaries (All 4 Counties)

All Masses will be celebrated at 3:00 p.m.

To register, call the Parish Center at (973) 338-9190

REGISTER

TO BE A

ST. THOMAS PARISHIONER

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.

Did you know



LOST AND FOUND BOXES ARE LOCATED IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH AS WELL AS IN THE PARISH CENTER. THERE ARE READING GLASSES, GLOVES, KEYS ETC. STOP BY TO SEE IF ANYTHING MAY BELONG TO YOU.

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. Because of patient confidentiality laws, however, 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.

Virginia Beach • Williamsburg

• Norfolk Naval Base •

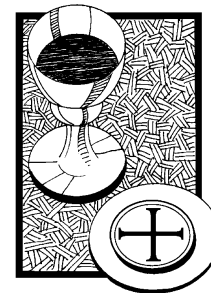
Join us on a trip JUNE 7-10

Sponsored by the

Belleville Irish American Association

\$425 per person/double occupancy includes transportation, sightseeing, 3 dinners, 3 breakfasts. Open to everyone. For info call Pat 973-751-5308.

St. Valentine Athletic Club Communion Breakfast



St. Valentine Church E. Passaic & Hoover Aves.
Sunday, March 29, 2009 8:00 a.m. Mass

9:00 a.m. breakfast at the Essex Manor

41 Broughton Ave., Bloomfield, NJ

Donation: \$20.00 • Door Prizes

A Traditional Father & Son Event Since 1923.

Contact Mike McGowan (973) 743-9033 or
Jim Bell (973) 748-1174

BLOOMFIELD RESIDENTS

Bloomfield Nursing Division is offering the following.
Appointments required, please call 973-680-4058.

PAP SMEAR & MAMMOGRAPHY SCREENING

TUES., MARCH 24 & TUES., MAY 19, 9:00 A.M.-12NOON
FREE TO UNINSURED WOMEN AGE 40 AND OVER.

BONE DENSITY SCREENING

FOR WOMEN AND MEN
TUES., MARCH 31, 10:00 A.M. - 12 NOON
BONE DENSITY - \$10 (\$8 FOR THOSE OVER AGE 55)

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE *OPEN TO ALL NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS*

Have you lost your health insurance, lack prescription drug coverage or in the Medicare benefit gap period? The Partnership for Prescription Assistance maybe able to help you. The Partnership brings together America=s pharmaceutical companies, doctors, other health providers, patient advocacy organizations and community groups to help qualifying patients who lack prescription coverage get the medicines they need through the public or private program that=s right for them. Many will get them free or nearly free. Through this site, the Partnership for Prescription Assistance offers a single point of access to more than 275 public or private patient assistance programs, including more than 150 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies. Access the Partnership for Prescription Assistance by phone toll-free at 1-888- 4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669).



Queen of Peace High School Theater Presents:



Fri, April 24
Sat, April 25
Fri, May 1
Sat. May 2

Professional Orchestra and Costumes at
Queen of Peace High School
191 Rutherford Place, North Arlington, NJ

Tickets \$10 - Curtain 8:00 p.m.

For tickets, call 201-998-8227 x39

Order forms and playbill ad forms
available at www.qphs.org

ENERGY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Apply now through April 30th



**Low income Home Energy Assistance Program
(LIHEAP) 1-800-510-3102**

LIHEAP is now taking applications to help you pay your winter bills. You must apply every year. To qualify, you must meet the following income guidelines:

Number in Household*	Monthly Gross Income
1	\$1,950
2	\$2,625
3	\$3,300
4	\$3,975

*Visit www.pseg.com/liheap for households of more than 4

LIHEAP income limits have increased, so people who previously did not qualify may now qualify!

More money is available, so more households can benefit from LIHEAP this heating season.



LACORDAIRE ACADEMY

Spring Cleaning?

**Donate Used Books
for a Great Cause –
Educating Young People!**

Lacordaire Academy is accepting donations of gently-used hardcover, paperback and audio books for its annual book sale to benefit technology upgrades at the Academy. *It's So Easy!* Think of us during spring cleaning and drop off your books any time under the covered porch at the front door of the high school–155 Lorraine Ave., Upper Montclair. Lacordaire's Annual Used Book Sale will take place Thursday-Sunday, May 14-17, 2009. For more information, contact Teresa at LacoBookSale@msn.com.

FAITH TO FACE

OUR FINANCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

March 27, 2009 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. - \$40

Stella Maris Retreat Ctr, 981 Ocean Ave., Elberon, NJ
(732) 229-0602 • www.stellamarisretreatcenter.com

Where is God in the midst of our broken economy and threatened environment? How did we get into this mess? Fr. John S. Rausch, a Glenmary priest and economist, will explain how we can live with faith and hope moving into the future. Through prayer, presentations and discussions, Fr. Rausch will lead us to consider how our faith offers a perspective to overcome the dire prediction in the media.