

# 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

March 29, 2009 . Fifth Sunday of Lent

**Masses for the Week**

**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**

**Monday, March 30**

**7:30 am Nicholas Del Prete - Bequest**

**11:30 am Michalek & Saporito Families - Daughter**

**Tuesday, March 31**

**7:30 am Regine Rogacki - Friend**

**11:30 am Andrew DeMatteo - Friend**

**Wednesday, April 1**

**7:30 am Elizabeth Doyle - Aunt**

**11:30 am Deceased Members of the Begley Family - Bequest**

**Thursday, April 2**

**7:30 am Theresa Candido - Grandson**

**11:30 pm Frances & Louis Allain - Cousin**

**Friday, April 3**

**7:30 am Andrew DeMatteo - Friend**

**11:30 am Robert Imfeld - Family**

**Saturday, April 4**

**8:30 am Claire McCarron - Daughter**

**Sunday, April 5**

**Saturday, April 4**

**5:00 pm Sal Nesto, Sr. - Wife & Family**

**Sunday, April 5**

**7:30 am Thomas DeLorenzo - Daughters**

**9:00 am Patrick G. Russillo - Friend**

**10:30 am Thomas F. Wardell (32<sup>nd</sup> Anniv.) - Daughter**

**12:00 pm For the People of the Parish**

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK:**

Alex Wessell, Paul Strickland, Frank Korec

**REST IN PEACE:**

Claire Mykowski, John M. Janiec

**CANDLE INTENTIONS:**

**Church:** Daniel Lardieri

**Rectory:** John Lonati

**Convent:** Anna Saporito

**Visit our website at  
[www.stachurchbloomfield.com](http://www.stachurchbloomfield.com)**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**



Lent is drawing to a close. As we move toward Holy Week, the readings speak insistently of death. In contrast, the Lord who gives his people living water to drink, and who opens the eyes of the blind, also breaks the power of death, calling us forth from our tombs into life that lasts forever. This is the purpose of our Lenten observance: to help us move from death to life as we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord, and to recall our participation in the new life Christ brings through our Baptism.

■ **FIRST READING:** In the reading from Jeremiah, God promises that the new covenant will not be like the old - when "I had to show myself their master" (Jeremiah 31:32). In this new relationship, the law will be written on the hearts of the people, not on tablets of stone, and God will have an intimate relationship with every one of them, a relationship built on forgiveness of sin.

■ **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** In Psalm 51, we beg for the coming of that new covenant, as we pray with the psalmist, "Create a clean heart in me, O God" (51:12).

■ **SECOND READING:** The reading from Hebrews shows us Jesus: man of prayer, man of suffering. It is through his sufferings that Christ learns obedience; and it is through his obedience that he is made "perfect" and becomes the salvation of all who obey him in turn. *What kind of obedience?* It is the obedience that seeks God in prayer and trusts in the will of the Father.

■ **THE GOSPEL:** This Gospel passage comes immediately after John's account of the entry into Jerusalem, when the Pharisees complain to one another that "the whole world has gone after him" (John 12:19). We see that at the beginning of today's Gospel, when some Greeks come to the house where Jesus is, hoping to see him. This prompts Jesus to say, "The hour has come" (12:23). All through this Gospel, we hear references to the "hour" of Jesus (think of Jesus' words to his mother at the wedding feast in Cana - "my hour has not yet come" [John 2:4]). Now the time is fulfilled. Jesus is the "grain of wheat" (12:24) that can only bear fruit if it "dies" (ibid.). Jesus prays with great honesty: "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour" (12:27). Jesus is afraid, but he never stops trusting in the Lord.

**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*.



**PARISH COMMUNAL PENANCE**

**Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm**

This year our Lenten Penance service will be held at St. Thomas the Apostle Church at 7:30 pm. Like other years, the Churches of Bloomfield will gather together as one family to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. What a wonderful witness it is for all of us to ask GOD for his forgiveness.

# Lent 2009

## Passion Palm Sunday

**April 5, 2009**

**Saturday, April 4, Mass at 4:45 p.m.**

Solemn Blessing of Palms and Procession. (Please note – the Procession begins at 4:45 p.m.)

**Sunday, April 5, Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., & 12:00 p.m.**  
(Palms distributed at all Masses.)



## Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

**April 6, 7, 8, 2009**

Masses at 7:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

**Monday, April 6, 8:00 p.m.**

Chrism Mass at Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. All are welcome.

**Tuesday, April 7, 7-7:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service**  
(The Office of Tenebrae is characterized by successive extinguishing of candles. Every word is taken from Scripture.)

## Holy Thursday

**April 9, 2009**

No morning Mass. No morning prayer.

**7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper**

(followed by bread & wine and fellowship in the parish center)

11:00 p.m. Night Prayer (Church closed after this service)



## Good Friday

**April 10, 2009**

(No Masses; Church will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

**3:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Passion & Death of our Lord Jesus Christ with Holy Communion.**

7:30 p.m. Living Stations of the Cross  
Presented by St. Thomas Sr. Youth Group



## Holy Saturday

**April 11, 2009**

(No morning Mass; **No 5:00 p.m. Mass**)

8:30 a.m. morning prayer

**8:15 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass**

(Satisfies Easter Sunday Obligation)

## EASTER SUNDAY

**April 12, 2009**

Masses in Church at

7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.



*Thank you for using a Church envelope for your gift to your Church at Easter.*

## 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.

## 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: \$19,437**  
**AMOUNT NEEDED PER WEEK: \$22,000**

## SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS ED & SACRAMENTS

### Religious Education News



At the entrances of the church you will find colorful sheep made by our 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 hard to prepare for their big day and it will soon be here. 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:** NO CCD the week of April 5th (Holy Week) and the week of April 12<sup>th</sup> (Easter Week).



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

**MARCH**

23	\$75	Tim Sullivan
24	\$50	Rose Bochicchio
25	\$200	Susan Casale
26	\$50	Annie McCrimmon
27	\$50	Tim Kelly
28	\$50	George Daudelin
29	\$75	Josephine DiLauri

**\*\*LAST CHANCE REMINDER\*\***



**THE  
BUNNY  
BREAKFAST**

Sat., April 4<sup>th</sup> 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

Last chance reservations are due by March 30<sup>th</sup>

Pick up a reservation for in the parish center or contact  
Carolyn Howell at 973-771-9398  
or email at jleehowell@comcast.net

**STA SOCIETIES, MINISTRIES & EVENTS**

**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.

**Volunteers Wanted**

The Wellness Ministry is looking for volunteers to occasionally run an errand or drive a parishioner to the store or doctor's appointment. The commitment is small. The reward is great. If you are interested, please call the parish center and leave your name and number on the Wellness line at extension 20.

**"THIS WEEK"**

**Monday – 3/30**

September Club – 11:30am in St. Peter  
**COMMUNAL PENANCE** - at St. Thomas Church 7:30pm

**Thursday – 4/2**

SCC Thursday – 7:00pm in St. Matthew

**Friday – 4/3**

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.

**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 25<sup>th</sup> 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**

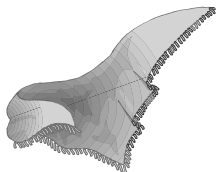
### SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

- 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](mailto:tdennin@att.net)

### The Prayer Shawl Ministry



Our next meetings are scheduled for Wednesday evening April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm and Sunday afternoon, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. We wish to thank all of our members who have continually supported us by prayerfully using their talent.

Our project to make baby items suitable for children up to 2 years old is very successful. We now have some lovely wraps and shawls. Keep them coming. If you wish to give someone a shawl, please contact the Ministry. All are welcome to work and pray with us. If you have any questions, call 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*

### Sixth Annual Faith and Family Conference

St. Thomas the Apostle will hold its sixth annual Faith and Family Conference on Saturday, May 2, in the Parish Center from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This year's theme is **The Mission of Marriage: Heaven on Earth**. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Bill Donaghy. Bill has done missionary work in Haiti, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic, as well as parish and young adult ministry in the United States. He has a Masters in Systematic Theology and teaches at Malvern Prep in Philadelphia and is an adjunct professor at Immaculata University. For more information about Bill and his work go to his website [www.missionmoment.org](http://www.missionmoment.org).

### ~ ~ September Club Travel ~ ~



The September Club welcomes you to a bus ride on April 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

*You are invited*

### Cornerstone Women Mark your Calendars!

An invitation goes out to all who have taken part in the Women's Cornerstone retreats in the past,

- Cornerstone I "Windows of Hope"
- Cornerstone II "Imagine"
- Cornerstone III "Journey Together"
- Cornerstone IV "Be Still and know that I am your God"

We are having a wine and cheese gathering Friday evening, May 15<sup>th</sup> in Herron Hall at St. Thomas the Apostle School. More information will follow.

### LESS IS MORE ..... By Mitch Albom

Everyday I have less in my bank account.  
Everyday I grow scared as my losses mount.  
Everyday there is less to the house that I own  
And the equity in it, like the wind, has blown.

Everyday I see less in my bottom line.  
Everyday something worsens that used to be fine.

Everyday in my family there's worry and stress  
Where we once dreamt of more, we now do with less.

Everyday I hear stories of a company's worth  
Sinking to levels from before my birth.

The places I shopped are now closing their doors.  
Big firms I grew up with are big firms no more.

Everyday I have less of a once strong sensation  
That the leaders we choose are any good for our nation.

Everyday I think less of a boss once respected  
Who parachutes down with his own hind protected.

Everyday I see less of the country I knew  
Of the dreams we encouraged for ol' red, white & blue.

Instead I see signs of foreclosure and sale  
And people afraid of what comes in the mail.

I see layoffs and cutbacks, no help for the needy  
As billions are given to the powered and greedy.

And this news, it is endless, it burrows so deep.  
It shadows my waking, it's haunting my sleep.

Yet everyday I have less I cannot ignore it.  
Something grows ever clearer that wasn't before it.

If I still have a job, I am luckier than some.  
If I still have my home, it is better than none.

If I still have my wits, there are mouths I can feed.  
If I still have my family, what more do I need?

If I still have my health, I am mercifully blessed.  
If I think I have little, someone out there has less.

Everyday I discover more mercy in me.  
Everyday I find out who my true friends will be.

Everyday that I stumble or say, "I can't do it!"  
Is a day I discover with God's grace, I'll get through it.

So I learned a new lesson. If I keep a new score,  
Everyday I have less may be a day I have more.

**BLOOMFIELD RESIDENTS**

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

**PAP SMEAR & MAMMOGRAPHY SCREENING**

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)



**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](http://www.qphs.org)

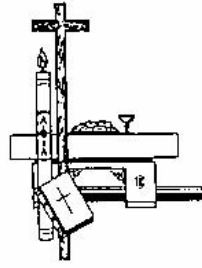


**LACORDAIRE ACADEMY**

**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](mailto:LacoBookSale@msn.com).



**2010 MASS BOOK  
IS NOW OPEN  
in the parish center**

We are now scheduling Masses for January through December of 2010. At this time we are taking intentions for 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday and all weekend Masses. As usual, we ask that you please limit the number of Masses you reserve. 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.

**GET THE TRUE MEANING OF LENT.**

**FEEL WHAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE TO  
WITNESS AND EXPERIENCE CHRIST'S LIFE  
EXTINGUISHED BEFORE YOU.**

**Tenebrae service will be celebrated  
at St. Thomas the Apostle Church  
on Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m.**

**What is a Tenebrae Service?**

The word 'tenebrae' is Latin for shadows and dates back to the seventh or eighth century A.D. The purpose of the Tenebrae service is to recreate the emotional aspects of the passion story. There are candles lit and a Christ Candle. As we pray, our voices rise to God like incense and the candles are extinguished one at a time until all that is left is the Christ Candle. The Christ Candle is then hidden for a time, thought not extinguished, to signify that death could not really obtain dominion over Christ even though it appeared to do so. The congregation is left in near total darkness—and near total devastation. At this point, the service ends. There is no benediction and the people leave in silence. (The lights are turned up but remain dim so that people can see their way out.)

The purpose of the service is to recreate the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of the events and it is left unfinished, because the story isn't over until Easter Day. Everyone exits in silence.

**All are welcome.**