

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

Parochial Vicars: Rev. Philip A. Sanders, S.T.B. • Rev. Andrew N. Onyemaobi, M.Div., M.A.
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 & 7:30pm

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:
Kimberley Mesiti

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE FOR FAMILY
& ADULT FORMATION MINISTRIES:
Robert P. Miller

COORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY:
Mr. Timothy Dennin

PASTORAL COUNCIL:
Eileen Conte, Chairperson
Jean Barbetta, Vice Chairperson
Michael Pasquale, 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

November 29, 2009 . 1st Sunday of Advent

Masses for the Week

Sunday, November 29

Saturday, November 28

5:00 pm Trevon Taylor - Family

Sunday, November 29

7:30 am Antonette DeLorenzo - Daughters

9:00 am Paul Brady - Family/Friend

10:30 am For the People of the Parish

12:00 pm Louis Occhetti - Family

Monday, November 30

7:30 am Gloria & Pat Clark - Sister

11:30 am Leonardo Lungaro - Daughter

Tuesday, December 1

7:30 am Alma W. Garrubbo - Friend

11:30 am Mary Credence - Daughter

Wednesday, December 2

7:30 am Monahan - Friend

11:30 am Mary Ellen Downey - Friends

Thursday, December 3

7:30 am Catherine McAlvanah - Friend

11:30 am Charles Occhetti - Friend

Friday, December 4

7:30 am Lisa M. Purvis - Family

11:30 am Charles Occhetti - Friend

Saturday, December 5

8:30 am Rosetta DeRosa - Friend

Sunday, December 6

Saturday, December 5

5:00 pm John McEntee - Friend

Sunday, December 6

7:30 am Esterina & Silvester Fusco - Family

9:00 am Fabbo Family - Family

10:30 am Marie Bloom - Family

12:00 pm For the People of the Parish

PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

Frank Korec, Paul Strickland,
Franco & Fasone Families

CANDLE INTENTIONS:

Church: Nancy Papara

Rectory: Thomas Guidry

First Sunday of Advent



A Sense of the Season

December is the time for expressing the hope and strengthening the dreams that will carry us through the next year. Advent is the way we as church express our hopes. Prophetic visions, prayers and songs calling for the Lord to come do help us to hope profoundly. Advent allows us to do what most others do in December—but to see in the coming Lord the answer to our dreams. In our Catholic tradition, keeping Advent means singing the songs of expectation, of our hopes and longing, before we enter into the full-throated praise of Christmas carols.

Here are a few lines from our tradition on what Advent is about. "Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare us for Christmas when Christ's first coming is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and the heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation." (General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, #39)

Thomas Merton, in his book *Seasons of Celebration*, reviewed the ways Saint Bernard of Clairvaux approached these comings of Christ. The first advent was Christ's birth. The other will be at the end of time. Faith in these two stimulates recognition of a third, the advent of Christ in our church now, today. Viewed from this perspective, the Advent liturgy, with its scriptures, prayers and songs, is neither a romantic return to the Old Testament while we wait for the baby at Bethlehem, nor is it an exercise in expressing hope for an ever-receding end of time. The Advent liturgy is neither nostalgic nor illusory. When we take the tradition and enter it fully, we become Advent, the people in and through whom Christ comes.

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ADVENT PRAYER

O, come Emmanuel.

Come into our world and bring Your peace.

Come into our lives and grant us Your favor.

Come into our homes with Your love.

Stay with us, Lord Jesus,

Throughout these days of Advent.

Be with us wherever we go,

Be with us in whatever we do.

Prepare us for Your birth.

May Your birth enlarge our hearts.

May we prepare a place for You there.

Jesus, make room within our hearts for others.

May Your birth awaken us to the Good News.

Jesus, make us worthy of You, O, Lord,

Emmanuel, God-with-us. Come.

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

From the Pastor's Desk...



*"The Lord is our
righteousness."*

Dear Parishioners,

Today we begin a new Church year with the celebration of the First Sunday of Advent. This is a special season that asks us to look in two directions at the same time – first to the past and then to the future.

In Advent we prepare to celebrate the First Coming of the Lord two thousand years ago. As we prepare to celebrate this first coming at Christmas it becomes a reminder to us that we also need to prepare ourselves to be ready for the Second Coming of the Lord in the future.

The dark Advent colors remind us of the darkness of the world before the coming of Christ, the Light of the World. We are all called through our baptism to be children of that light. We should use each week of Advent to prepare fully to celebrate at Christmas the Incarnation of the Son of God. The Son of God became human so that we humans could become sons and daughters of God.

The society around us skips over Advent and begins to celebrate “the holidays” – a word with no real content. We are asked to celebrate the act of celebrating – without ever mentioning what we are celebrating – the coming of Christ, our Lord. As Christians we cannot make this choice. So let us prepare to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas by embracing a vibrant celebration of Advent as we look into our hearts and prepare a place there for Christ the Light of the World.

In the Lord,



Father Charles
Pastor

STA SOCIETIES, MINISTRIES & EVENTS

**St. Thomas the Apostle School
Home and School Association**



**Breakfast With
SANTA**

**Saturday, December 12, 2009,
9:30 a.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle School.**

MENU: Scrambled eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Hash Browns, French toast, Bagels, Fruit salad, Desserts, Coffee, Tea, Juices

Photo with Santa, DJ, crafts, & fun for kids of all ages!

No phone reservations.

Seats will be assigned when money is received

Reserve by Friday, December 4, 2009

Christine Licciardello
973-303-2112

Tricia Polizzi
973-202-7334

NAME _____ GRADE: _____

ADDRESS _____

TICKETS: \$11.00 Adults \$6.00 Children

ADULTS _____ # CHILDREN _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

If you wish to sit with someone, please note:

Please seat with _____

STA SOCIETIES, MINISTRIES & EVENTS

PLANNED GIVING

Here are some other ways you can help Saint Thomas the Apostle Church continue its mission of serving God's people. Give a gift of cash or check for general use or a specific purpose. Give a gift of stocks or bonds. There could be a significant tax advantage to you if there has been appreciation in their value and they are transferred to Saint Thomas the Apostle Church.

A bequest in your will assure that your possessions are distributed as you desire. When making a bequest, use the full legal name and address:

**Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
60 Byrd Avenue, Bloomfield, NJ 07003**

Make Saint Thomas the Apostle Church partial or primary beneficiary of a life insurance policy that is no longer needed for family security. Ask the insurance company for the forms necessary to change the beneficiary or to transfer the ownership to Saint Thomas the Apostle Church.

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, our contribution from last weekend is compared below to the amount we need this week to meet our budget. You may have noticed this amount will vary. This is because our budget varies by season, just as yours does.

**Nov. 22nd collection will be in next week's bulletin
AMOUNT NEEDED PER WEEK: \$20,500**

**St. Thomas the Apostle Church
Mass Schedule for Christmas Season**



RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) SESSION

Saturdays, December 5, 12, 19, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. (at St. Thomas the Apostle Church) **Monday, December 14, 2009 – 7:30 p.m. Reconciliation (Penance) Service at Sacred Heart Church** with Individual Confessions heard by the Priests from the Churches of St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Valentine's & Sacred Heart Church.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 24, 2006 (Christmas Eve)
4:00pm (Herron Hall – School)
Christmas Music Prelude and Mass
4:00pm (Church) Christmas Music Prelude and Mass
6:00pm (Church) Mass
10:30pm (Church) Concelebrated Mass with Music
Prelude at 9:45pm. **(No Midnight Mass)**

Friday, December 25, 2009 (Christmas Day)
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
(All Masses with traditional Christmas Carols)

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday, December 26, 2009 – 5:00pm
Sunday, Dec. 27, 2009 – 7:30am-9am-10:30am-12noon
Blessing of Families at Masses today

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Thursday, December 31, 2009 – 4:00pm (Vigil Mass)
Friday, January 1, 2010 – 7:30am – 11:30am

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

(Annual "Bell Sunday")

Saturday, January 2, 2010 – **5:00pm Vigil Mass**
Sunday, January 3 – 7:30am-9:00am-10:30am-12noon
(Children's Epiphany Pageant following 12noon Mass)

St. Thomas Christmas Cards



St. Thomas Altar (1)
5 1/2 (H)
8 1/2 (W)

Limited Quantity!



St. Thomas Manger (2)
8 1/2 (H)
5 1/2 (W)

Order soon while supplies last!



St. Thomas Manger (3)
5 1/2 (H)
8 1/2 (W)

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Cell: _____
Email: _____

Christmas Card Selection	Quantity	Price	Total
St. Thomas Altar (1)		\$1.00	
St. Thomas Manger (2)		\$1.00	
St. Thomas Manger (3)		\$1.00	
Total Christmas Card Order			

Email Questions to:
ChristmasCards@stachurchbloomfield.com

Please make checks payable to:
 "St. Thomas Home and School Assoc."

Orders may be placed in the collection basket at Mass.
 Please submit order form and payment at the Parish Center

Men's Cornerstone Meeting
 Thursday, December 3rd at 7:30 p.m.
 In St. Peter Room.



Support St. Thomas'



Annual Christmas Concert

Be a sponsor for the St. Thomas the Apostle Annual Christmas Concert and Reception Saturday, December 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Featuring the Garden State Concert Band With Father Charles Miller as narrator

Contribute to the Souvenir Program Journal

Back Cover -	\$400.00
Inside Back Cover	\$200.00
Inside Front Cover	\$200.00
Gold Page	\$150.00
Full Page	\$100.00
Half Page	\$ 75.00
Quarter Page	\$ 50.00
Listing of Name Page	\$ 25.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

I want to contribute _____ for _____ page or \$25 for a name listing.



Make all returns with copy to
 Paul Alongi, 21 Leo Terrace, Bloomfield, NJ 07003
 973-338-4665 or to the St. Thomas Parish Center

GIVING TREE
 At St. Thomas
 The Apostle



December
 13th
 2009

'Tis the season for giving

Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, next weekend, there will be two Christmas trees in the front of the church on either side of the altar. The trees will be adorned with gift tags. On the gift tags will be gift suggestions. If you choose to donate a gift for the giving tree, please be sure to bring your gifts - *unwrapped* - into the church *only on Sunday December 13th*.

PLEASE NOT BEFORE OR AFTER THIS DATE.

Gifts will be sorted and packed on Sunday, December 14th after the 12 noon Mass and will be delivered on Monday December 15th.

Helpers are needed to sort and pack on Sunday Dec. 13. If you can help, please call Bernadette Lipoma at 973-893-0114.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

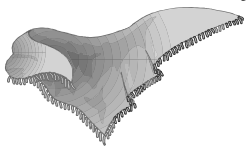
MEETINGS EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT IN THE PARISH CENTER FROM 7-9PM. ALL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH ARE WELCOME

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

11/29 BOWLING DAY
11/29 THEOLOGY OF THE BODY WITH DAVID HAJDUK
50 IN 15 MAC - N - CHEESE

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

The Prayer Shawl Ministry



Please note changes:

We'll meet Wednesday evening, Dec. 2nd 7:30-9PM. Our Sunday meeting, Dec. 20th is cancelled.

The next Sunday meeting will be Jan. 17th starting at 11:30-2PM. We meet in the Parish Center. If you cannot attend the meeting but wish to participate please contact Alicia. We're in need of shawls measuring **at least** 22" x 60". If you have any questions please contact the Ministry: Bernadette @ 973-893-0114, Sister Arleen @ 973-338-9190, or Alicia @ 973-473-6633

"THIS WEEK"

Monday – 11/30

September Club - 11:30am in St Peter

Thursday – 11/19

SCC Thursday - 7:00pm in St. Matthew



Right to Life

For all unborn children: That their families will prepare to welcome them with joy and awareness of the many gifts children bring into the world;

We pray to the Lord

NUNNBETTER DANCE THEATER

25 SOUTH WASHINGTON AVE., BERGENFIELD, NJ
PRESENTS:

The Nutcracker

Friday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 12 at 2 pm and 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 13 at 3:00 p.m.

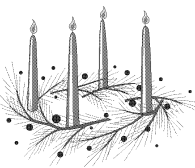
At MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY
1 NORMAL AVENUE, MONTCLAIR, NJ

Reserved seat tickets \$30 Children under 12 years \$25
Group Rate (for organized groups of 10 or more) \$15

Tickets available on line at www.nunnbetterdance.com
or by calling 201-385-9638.

Group sales contact: Patricia Yeh at (917) 885-6546
or at patriciayeh1970@yahoo.com

Women's Advent Reflection Group



On Tuesday afternoons, at 12:40 pm, there will be a Women's Reflection group. We will gather in the St. James room to pray, reflect, and share on the Sunday Readings for this Advent Season. All women are invited. If you attend the 11:30 am Mass, you are most welcome to bring your lunch and eat here in the Parish Center before we gather.

JOB SEEKERS GROUP Looking for a job? Come to a meeting of the St. Thomas the Apostle job seekers on the first and third Thursdays of every month at 7:30 pm in the Parish Center where you will get a chance to network, get some advice, and pray with other members of the parish who are searching for a job. If you're not looking for work, but are looking for a good worker, come to one of our meetings and you'll meet plenty of them!



WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT TEAM MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2009 AT 7PM. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE THERE. THIS IS OUR LAST MEETING OF THE YEAR. *THANK YOU, SR. ARLEEN*

HOLIDAY BULLETIN SCHEDULE

EARLY SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR OUR HOLIDAY BULLETINS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

DEC 20, CHRISTMAS BULLETIN DUE:

FRI. DEC. 11 BY 10:30 AM



DECEMBER 27TH BULLETIN DUE:

TUES. DEC. 15 BY 10:30 AM

JANUARY 3RD BULLETIN DUE:

MON. DEC. 21 BY 10:30 AM



PLEASE BE SURE TO SUBMIT ALL BULLETIN INFORMATION TO THE PARISH CENTER BEFORE THE ABOVE DUE DATES.

SEND VIA EMAIL TO: jwgasparini@aol.com

**DROP OFF AT THE PARISH CENTER,
OR SEND VIA FAX TO 973-338-4224.**

Volunteers are special people. The St. Thomas Parish Staff would like to thank all those who've shared their gifts of time and talent to make things happen here in our community.