

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

December 6, 2009 . 2nd Sunday of Advent

Masses for the Week

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

Monday, December 7

7:30 am Frank & Faye Petrock - Family

11:30 am Edward L. Post, Jr. - Family

Tuesday, December 8

7:30 am Immaculata Fuscaldo & Orsilina DiMichele - Family

9:00 am (School Mass) Mary McCormick - Friend

11:30 am Veronica Kievit - Husband

7:00 pm Kathleen Lataro - Family

Wednesday, December 9

7:30 am Ned Ganning - Mother

11:30 am Philip Lipari - Wife

Thursday, December 10

7:30 am Emma & Michael Willean - Daughter

11:30 am Samuel E. Battista - Daughter

Friday, December 11

7:30 am Jim Brown - Family

11:30 am Virginia & Patrick Martorano - Family

Saturday, December 12

8:30 am Rene Cayetano & Perlita Cayetano - Family

Sunday, December 13

Saturday, December 12

5:00 pm For the People of the Parish

Sunday, December 13

7:30 am Rev. Robert J. Gordon - Family

9:00 am Sister Paula DeRogatis - Sister

10:30 am Marie Lataro - Family

12:00 pm Joseph Sawicki - Family

PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

Emidio V. Sestillo, Frank Korec, Paul Strickland,
Sandra Leuhr-Shaw, Franco & Fasone Families

REST IN PEACE:

Frank Korec, Paul Strickland,

CANDLE INTENTIONS:

Church: John Bierfeldt, Sr. **Convent:** Patricia Ann Meskell
Rectory: George & Elizabeth Mauro

Visit our website at:
www.stachurchbloomfield.com

Second Sunday of Advent



On the Second Sunday of Advent the Church turns to one of the major companions of the season, John the Baptist. For the next two weeks we travel with John and are reminded, as were the people to whom he preached, that the Lord is coming and we are entreated to make preparation for him.



*Feast of the
Immaculate Conception
of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
(a holy day of obligation)*

According to the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, Mary was conceived free from original sin and all its penalties. This privilege was granted to Mary because she was to give birth to Jesus, the Savior. Mary was the first to benefit from the saving passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. Mary was conceived and born without sin because of the merits of her Son, Jesus.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception always occurs during Advent. Under the title of the Immaculate Conception, Mary is the patroness of the United States. This special feast of Mary is a holy day of obligation in the United States.

One of the traditional prayers honoring Mary's Immaculate Conception can be recited or sung:

*Prayer to the
Immaculate Conception*

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end.

Amen.

*Masses Tuesday, December 8, 2009
Masses at 7:30am, 11:30am and 7:00pm*

SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS ED & SACRAMENTS

On behalf of the St. Thomas the Apostle Home & School Association, THANK YOU to all the Senior members of our Parish who helped with the Calendar Raffle mailing on Wednesday and Thursday, 11/18 & 11/19! Your help was extraordinary and very much appreciated! We couldn't have done it without you!

**Tickets for the 2010 Calendar Raffle
are now on sale!**

You should have received your tickets in the mail by now. Additional tickets are available on the desk in the Parish Center or by calling Gen Pezzino at 973-771-0463. All proceeds from the Raffle will go directly to benefit the educational programs of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish School.

*We welcome into our Community of Faith
With our prayers and good wishes,
Our newly Baptized...*



Victoria Rose Kiefer

Parents: Alexis (Lupo) & Kevin Kiefer

Mia Kate Brinley

Parents: Julianne L. (Mardo) & Bryan C. Brinkey

Dominick Graziano Del Pizzo

Parents: Danielle (Cetrulo) & Gary Del Pizzo

Emily Grace Fava

Parents: Melissa (Battino) & Andrew Fava

Shannon Mary Naughton

Parents: Victoria (Flynn) & Michael Naughton

"THIS WEEK"

Monday – 12/07

September Club – 11:30am in St Peter

Tuesday – 12/08

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

Thursday – 12/10

SCC Thursday – 7:00pm in St. Matthew

Friday – 12/11

SCC Friday – 6:30pm in St. Peter
Separated, Divorced, Widowed – 8:00pm in St. Thomas

STA SOCIETIES, MINISTRIES & EVENTS

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

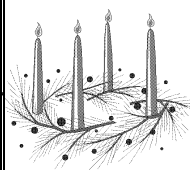
SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

(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)

Women's Advent Reflection Group



On Tuesday afternoons, at 12:40 pm, there will be a Women's Reflection group in the St. James room. We'll 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.

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.

NOVEMBER 22ND COLLECTION: \$19,451
NOVEMBER 31ST COLLECTION: \$21,206
AMOUNT NEEDED PER WEEK: \$20,500

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.



**WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT
TEAM MEETING MONDAY, DECEMBER 7,
2009 AT 7PM IN THE ST. JAMES ROOM.
PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE
THERE. THIS IS OUR LAST MEETING OF
THE YEAR.**

THANK YOU, SR. ARLEEN

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!

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



St. Thomas the Apostle



15th Annual

Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Featuring
The Garden State Concert Band
Vocalist – Andrea Covais
Narrator – Father Charles Miller

All are welcome
Reception to follow concert in Herron Hall



Concert and Reception
are FREE!

Please contact Paul Alongi at 973-338-4665 or
the Parish Center at 973-338-9190 with any questions.

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 13th after the 12 noon Mass and will be picked up on Monday December 14th.

If you are planning to give gift certificates, we would appreciate it if you would drop the gift cards in the collection baskets at Mass on Sundays or during the week, they may be dropped off at the Parish Center. Please note that they are for the "Giving Tree". Only gift cards will be accepted after December 14.

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

12/6 NATIVITY MOVIE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

12/13 RESPECT LIFE DISCUSSION
 12/20 6PM ADVENT MASS
 12/20 CHRISTMAS MEETING
 01/10/10 KICK-OFF MEETING

50 IN 15 PASTA

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



Right to Life

For young women in crisis pregnancies: that they may receive loving support and guidance, and consolation from our Blessed Mother;

We pray to the Lord

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

The Respect Life Committee needs your help!

The Respect Life Committee desperately needs disposable diapers and baby supplies. Also Aspirin, Tylenol, ibuprofen, bar soap and used sheets and towels. The latter items are for a container going to Cuba in January.

God bless and thank you for your generous support!

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.**

SIGN UP for the...

Children's Christmas Event Epiphany Pageant

OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN OF THE PARISH
 Ages Pre-K4 - Grade 3

Sunday, January 3, 2010
 Immediately following 12:00 Noon Mass

Three Kings Reception in the Parish Center to follow. Angels, Shepherds and Kings are needed to join our Nativity and Epiphany scene. Many costumes will be provided.

Rehearsal dates: Sat. Dec. 12th, 12noon (parents must stay)

Please complete the form below and return to the Parish Center by Fri., Dec. 11th attention: "Children's Pageant".

Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____

_____ I would like to help with costumes.

_____ I would like to help with the Three Kings Reception.

Parent Name: _____

Phone: _____

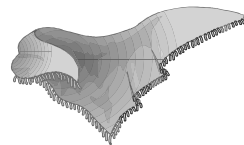


Rosary Society Meeting

Our Christmas Meeting will take place on Monday, Dec. 7th at 7:00 p.m. after the recitation of the Rosary in Church.

Please join us at this time of Advent. Please call Rosalie Mescall at 973-893-8186 with questions.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry



We will meet Sunday, January 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 at 973-893-0114, Sister Arleen at 973-338-9190, or Alicia at 973-473-6633



Moving? Please let us know.

Within the parish - to update new address
 Out of parish - to discontinue mailings
Call the Parish Center at (973) 338-9190.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you so much for your generosity this past Thanksgiving. We received – over 50 turkeys – plus the trimmings! Thanks to you, we were able to assist St. Ann Parish in Newark and the Food Network of the Archdiocese of Newark.

As always, we helped our own parishioners and families of Bloomfield first.

God bless you and your families this Advent season.

Sister Arleen

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 Sunday, Dec. 20

Blood pressure screenings this month will be held on Sunday, December 20, 2009 from 8am to 12Noon in the parish center.

F.Y.I.

Section 202 (P. 91-92) requires you to enroll in "qualified plan". If you get your health insurance at work your employer will have a grace period to switch you to a "qualified plan" meaning a plan designed by the Secretary of Health and Human Resources.

Sec 224(p.118) provides that 18 months after the bill becomes law, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources will decide what a qualified plan will cover and how much you'll be legally required to pay for it.

Sec1302 (pp.672-692) moves Medicare from a fee-for -service payment system, in which patients choose which doctors to see and doctors are paid for each service they provide toward what's called a "medical home." A primary care provider manages access to costly specialists and diagnostic tests for a flat monthly fee. A December 2008 Congressional Budget Office report noted that "medical homes" were likely to resemble the unpopular gatekeepers of 20 years ago if cost control was a priority.

Wall Street Journal 11/7/09. For the text of the bill with page numbers, see www.defendyourhealthcare.us

Senator Lautenberg - (202) 224-3224

Senator Menendez - (202) 224-4744

Rep. Pascrell - (202) 225-5751

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.

The Catholic Parishes of Deanery 16
invite you to

Simbang Gabi 2009

Filipino Christmas Novena Masses

St. Thomas the Apostle Church
Thursday, December 17, 2009, 7:00 PM
Fellowship at Heron Hall
will follow after the Mass.

Schedule of masses in other parishes:

Dec. 15, Tuesday 7pm	St. Valentine's Church, Bloomfield
Dec. 16, Wednesday 8pm	St. Peter's Church Belleville
Dec. 18, Friday 7pm	St. Anthony Church, Belleville
Dec. 19, Saturday 6:30pm	Our Lady of Mount Carmel Nutley
Dec. 20, Sunday 5pm	Holy Family Church Nutley
Dec. 21, Monday 7:30pm	Sacred Heart Church Bloomfield
Dec. 22, Tuesday 7:30 pm	St. Mary Church Nutley
Dec. 23, Wednesday 7pm	Holy Name of Jesus Church East Orange

MEN'S CORNERSTONE – MARCH 12 and 13, 2010
"The 2008 Cornerstone Retreat opened my eyes to what the really important things in life are, my faith and my Family." – *Greg Piegaro*

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.