

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

March 14, 2010 . 4th Sunday of Lent

Masses for the Week

Sunday, March 14

Saturday, March 13

5:00 pm Amy Poster – Mother & Sisters

Sunday, March 14

7:30 am For the People of the Parish

9:00 am Aldo & Iris Arrigoni – Friend

10:30 am Antoinette Santora – Family

12:00 pm John Janiec – Friend

Monday, March 15

7:30 am Rose Ann Libertelli – Sister-in-law

11:30 am Nicholas Syracuse – Wife

Tuesday, March 16

7:30 am Vincent Pignettelo – Friend

11:30 am Boni Facia & Theodora Mendoza – Family

Wednesday, March 17

7:30 am Josephine Di Michele – Family

11:30 am Louis & Lucy De Falco – Bequest

Thursday, March 18

7:30 am Joseph Marchell

11:30 am James Brown – Family

Friday, March 19

7:30 am Lisa M. Purvis – Family

11:30 am Myrtle Donahue – Bequest

Saturday, March 20

8:30 am Isabella Kovacs – Family

Sunday, March 21

Saturday, March 20

5:00 pm Veronica Kievit – Husband

Sunday, March 21

7:30 am Paul W. McDonald – Family

9:00 am For the People of the Parish

10:30 am John Janiec – Friends

12:00 pm John M. Janiec (1st Anniv.) - Friend

PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

Mark Catona, Ryan Joseph, Stefanie Castellano
Fr. Charles Miller

REST IN PEACE:

Joseph Gerard, Alice M. Lalor, Eleanor Catona

CANDLE INTENTIONS:

Church: Elizabeth Jane Dennin

Rectory: David Kossack & Bridget Kochuck



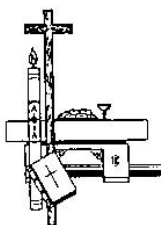
Today is known as *Laetare* Sunday, a day that marks the halfway point of Lent and that celebrates our joy in being that much closer to the Resurrection of Christ, the day of our salvation. The name of the day comes from the first word of today's Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice, Jerusalem!" It reminds us of *Gaudete* Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent.

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.

MARCH 7TH COLLECTION: \$21,999
AMOUNT NEEDED PER WEEK: \$20,500



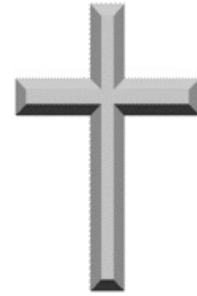
2011 MASS BOOK OPENING

Tuesday, March 23rd from 9am-1pm in the parish Center.

Masses from January through December of 2011 will be scheduled. We will be taking intentions for 7:30 and 11:30 a.m. daily masses 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.

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

From the Pastor's Desk...



Dear Parishioners,

I am deeply grateful for all of your prayers and best wishes following my accident resulting in a seriously broken leg. The doctors tell me it may take 8-12 weeks before I will be able to stand on it once again.

In the meantime, I am going to daily therapy and looking forward to soon being able to celebrate mass with you.

As your pastor, I encourage you to use all the Lenten opportunities and devotions to feed and deepen your spiritual life in preparation for Easter.

Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers each day. Please continue to pray for me.

May God bless you and those you love.

Love in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Father Charles".

Rev. Charles J. Miller,
Pastor

Lent 2010 at St. Thomas the Apostle

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross continue to be held every Friday evening throughout Lent until Good Friday when the St. Thomas Senior High Youth Group will present the **Living Stations of the Cross.** (see below)



Community Penance Service

Monday, March 22 at 7:30 PM
Sacred Heart Church, Bloomfield
The Catholic Parishes of Bloomfield (Sacred Heart, St. Valentine's, and St. Thomas the Apostle) will have a Communal Penance Service with individual confessions.



Holy Week

Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 27 Mass at 5PM
Solemn Blessing of Palms & Procession
Sunday, March 28 Masses at 7:30, 9:00,
10:30, & 12 Noon.
(Palms will be distributed at all Masses.)



Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Masses at 7:30 and 11:30 AM

Sacred Triduum

Holy Thursday, April 1

7:30PM **Mass of the Lord's Supper**
Followed by Bread and Wine Fellowship in the Parish Center
11 PM *Night Prayer*



Good Friday, April 2

The Church will be open from 8 Am to 9 PM
8:30 AM *Morning Prayer*
3:00 PM **Celebration of the Lord's Passion**
7:30 PM *Living Stations of the Cross*
Presented by the STA Youth Group



Holy Saturday, April 3

8:30AM *Morning Prayer*
8:15PM **The Great Easter Vigil**



Easter Sunday, April 4

Masses at 7:30, 9, 10:30, and 12 Noon.

Journey Through Lent Series

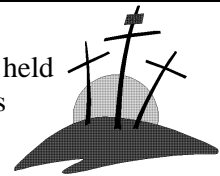
7:30pm – 9:30pm March 17, 24 in the parish center
Guest Speakers Include: Fr. Gerald McIntyre, SJ of Loyola House of Retreats, Fr. Gerald Greaves of St Raphael Parish, and Fr. Al Berner from Caldwell College
To Register: Anna (973) 338-9190

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK 2010 LENTEN REGULATIONS

- 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 (1) 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.
- The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence “substantially”, or as a whole, is a serious obligation.
- 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.
- The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 21, 2010 to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, May 30, 2010.**

Women's and Men's

Lenten Reflection Groups will be held all Tuesdays during Lent. Both groups will read, pray, and reflect on the following Sunday's Readings.



~ **Men will meet Tuesdays from 6am to 7am.**

Contact: Frank Mescall (973) 893-8186

~ **Women will meet Tuesdays 12:45pm to 2pm**

Contact: Sister Arleen (973) 338-9190

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, March 30th 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.**

SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS ED & SACRAMENTS

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS MARCH 9, 2010

Please call the School Office at 973-338-8505 to schedule a tour

- Pre K3 through 7th grades
- Middle States Accredited
- Full-Day or Half-Day Pre K 3 & 4
- Full-Day or Half-Day Kindergarten
- BeforeCare & AfterCare programs
- Advanced Technology
- Jr. High Science / Synergistics Program
- Physical Education for all grades
- Spanish & Italian Classes
- Art & Music Classes
- Wide Variety of Extra-Curricular Activities

**St. Thomas the Apostle School
2010 Calendar Sweepstakes Winners!**

MARCH

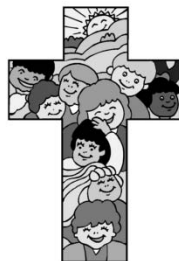
8	\$50	Diane Nicol
9	\$75	Leo Carrillo (<i>Donated back to STA!</i>)
10	\$50	Mr. & Mrs. LaMagna
11	\$75	Thom Mathewson
12	\$50	Helen McGrath
13	\$75	Richard J. Galioto
14	\$100	Frank P. DeGennaro

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WINNERS!!!

**REMINDER
Confirmation Classes Begin
March 13th and 14th, 2010!!!**

Religious Education News

As you walk in each of the entrances of the church you will notice colorful sheep which 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 4th (Easter Week.) Classes will resume the week of April 11th.
Happy Easter to a

STA SOCIETIES, MINISTRIES & EVENTS

"THIS WEEK"

Monday – 3/15

- September Club – 11:30am in St. Peter
- Eucharistic Adoration – 12:00noon in Church
- Respect Life – 7:30pm in Church

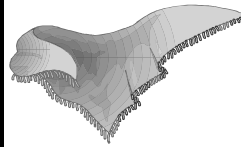
Wednesday – 3/17

- SCC Thursday – 7:00pm in St. Matthew

Friday – 3/19

- Tax Preparations – 10:00am to 12:00pm in St. Peter
- SCC Friday – 6:30pm in St. Peter
- Stations of the Cross – 7:30pm in Church

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 21st at 11:30am in the Parish Center. We are in need of prayer shawls. Shawls should be long enough and wide enough to cover the shoulders (at least 22 inches by 60 inches). Lapghans should be approximately 36" wide and 40" in length. 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, call Bernadette at 973-893-0114, Sister Arleen at 973-338-9190, or Alicia at 973-473-6633.

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

STA Respect Life and Good Counsel Homes



The Church proposes prayer, fasting and almsgiving as the three means of perfecting our Christian Charity. In that Lenten spirit, the St. Thomas Respect Life Committee is sponsoring an opportunity to help unwed mothers and their children through the auspices of Good Counsel. Good Counsel operates Catholic pro-life homes for unwed mothers and children as well as a national toll-free crisis pregnancy hotline at 800-723-8331. After all Masses next weekend, we will have Good Counsel Baby Bottles for you to take home, if you would like to participate, and fill it with your pocket change during the next month. The bottles will be collected the weekend of April 18. Thank you for saying YES to life!

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 2008 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 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON EXCEPT GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND.

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.

~ ~ *September Club Travel* ~ ~

Upcoming 2010 Day Trips

FOR INFORMATION: CALL JEAN AT 973-777-2278

STATUE OF LIBERTY & ELLIS ISLAND

June 24, 2010

INCLUDES:

- ROUNDTrip MOTORCOACH TRANSPORTATION
- ADMISSION TO THE STATUE OF LIBERTY
- LUNCHEON SPECIAL INCLUDING: SOUP OR SALAD, RICE OR CHOCOLATE PUDDING, POTATO AND VEGETABLE WITH ENTRÉE.



PRICE

MEMBERS: \$43.00 --- NONMEMBERS: \$45.00

SIGHT & SOUND THEATERS

IN LANCASTER, PA - MAY 5, 2010

The Psalms of David

INCLUDES:

- ROUNDTrip MOTORCOACH TRANSPORTATION
- ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET
- ADMISSION TO THE SHOW

PRICE

MEMBERS: \$80.00 --- NONMEMBERS: 82.00

Women's Cornerstone March 19 & 20, 2010

"You search me... and you know me"...

Psalm 139

STA's 2010 Women's Cornerstone Retreat is upon us! The team members have spoken with many women who have stated "I'm thinking about coming." We need you to fill out the registration form. They can be found in church and in the parish center.

Please come. Do something for yourself this Lenten season. We promise you won't regret it!

Sr. Arleen Crimmins	973-338-9190		
Marianne Sommerkamp	973-667-9575		
Carol Zieleniewski	973-744-5681		
Joyce Spieczynski	973-388-5881		
Joan Roake	973-661-2979	Joyce Cupoli	973-785-1840
Daniella Riser	973-454-9204	Priscilla Trias	973-338-4402
Marty Levine	973-566-0416	Stella Toncic	973-771-0569

GIRL SCOUTS - TROOP #611

During the weekend of March 20/21 STA's Girl Scout Troop #611 will be holding their annual Cookie Sale at STA Church after each mass. Come out and support your scouts.



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! For information, send an email to: workministry@stachurchbloomfield.com

MARCH 18: Our speaker will be Ben Thompson, who will discuss what those out of work or in a career transition need to know about their health insurance options. He'll share tips and ideas on what people can do to better manage their finances in difficult economic times.

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 - NEXT SUNDAY

Blood pressure screenings will be held next Sunday, March 21stth, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.