

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. Andrew N. Onyemaobi, M.Div., M.A. • Rev. Camilo E. Cruz, M. Div.
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 28, 2010 . 1st Sunday of Advent

Masses for the Week

Sunday, November 28

Saturday, November 27

5:00 pm Josephine Raimo (47th Anniv.) – Daughter

Sunday, November 28

7:30 am For the People of the Parish

9:00 am Gloria & Pat Clark – Sister

10:30 am Cathy Russo – Niece

12:00 pm Frank Barclay – Family

Monday, November 29

7:30 am Paul Candido – Grandson

11:30 am Arnold Strollo – Friends

Tuesday, November 30

7:30 am Ann Rudy – Friend

11:30 am Dolores Wallermann – Friends

Wednesday, December 1

7:30 am Dr. William Ranucci – Friend

11:30 am Mary Credence – Daughters

Thursday, December 2

7:30 am Thomas McDermott – Friends

11:30 am James A. Ruffalo – Son

Friday, December 3

7:30 am Michael Scarpelli – Friend

11:30 am Frank D. Ramirez (63rd Birthday) – Family

Saturday, December 4

8:30 am Richard Seely – Friend

Sunday, December 5

Saturday, December 4

5:00 pm Lisa M. Purvis – Family

Sunday, December 5

7:30 am Leonardo Garcia – Friend

9:00 am For the People of the Parish

10:30 am Henry Wurts – Family

12:00 pm Deceased Members of the Offsak & Russo Families – Family

PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

Robert Colucci

CANDLE INTENTIONS:

Church: David Kossack and
Bridget Kochuk

Convent: Jean Blind

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

First Sunday of Advent



The First Sunday of Advent—a day of beginnings and of endings. We stand at the beginning of a new liturgical year, yet our readings are all about endings. Jesus invites his disciples to meditate on the end of time in order to bring them to a new beginning: a conversation of heart and a change of life.

FIRST READING: In this reading from First Isaiah, the prophet envisions a future time of reconciliation and peace. He sees the Lord's house standing above the highest mountain, and all the peoples of the earth on pilgrimage of war changed into useful tools. We climb this mountain for a reason—to be taught the Lord's ways. This vision of the future ends with an invitation for here and now: "O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord" (Isaiah 2:5).

RESPONSORIAL: Psalm 122 is the song of pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem, glad and full of good will for their family and friends and all people. It is an apt psalm for the Church as we await the Lord's return, rejoicing indeed, but also full of prayers for the needs and intentions of the world. (Notice that this is exactly the same psalm and refrain that we had last Sunday, on the solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King: this psalm is like a thread that brings us from the end of one beginning cycle, Year C, to the beginnings of the next, Year A.)

SECOND READING: Saint Paul, like Isaiah, uses imagery of war to describe the parousia. Isaiah imagined the people beating their swords into ploughshares; Saint Paul envisions each Christian preparing for spiritual battle, not with armor of steel and weapons of destruction, but with armor of light, clothed in Christ himself.

GOSPEL: In the Second Reading, Saint Paul says, "you know the time" (Romans 13:11), but in the Gospel Jesus tells his disciples that no one knows when the Son of Man will come: he will take us by surprise. The vivid imagery makes it clear that his coming will be so sudden that we will all be about our ordinary daily tasks. The only way to be prepared is to stay awake, to watch for the coming of the "thief" (Matthew 24:43). In Matthew's account of the Gospel, this teaching comes shortly before the beginning of the Passion narrative. The point is not to terrify the disciples, but to wake them up; to urge them to an attitude of awareness of God's presence and action, who indeed comes to us in the midst of our daily activities.

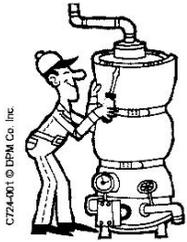
STA SOCIETIES, MINISTRIES & EVENTS

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 21st & 28th collections will be posted in the December 5th bulletin.

New Church Boiler Fund



*** UPDATE ***

We remain on track to meet our goal of \$100,000 by the end of the year. As of Nov. 16, 2010, we have collected **\$96,877** which accounts for one-time major tax deductible donations and monthly donations equal to or greater than my usual Sunday contribution. Please note this is a restricted fund solely for this purpose and therefore will not be assessed by the Archdiocese. **Our next collection will be held December 5, 2010.** We thank you for your generosity and commitment to this emergent need.

"THIS WEEK"

Monday – 11/29

September Club - 11:30am in St. Peter

Wednesday – 12/1

SCC Wednesday/Thursday – 7:00pm in St. Andrew

Thursday – 12/2

Job Seekers – 7:30pm in St. Peter

Adult Education Events

MARIAN CONFERENCE

St. Thomas the Apostle will hold a Conference on Saturday, December 4th from 9:30 a.m. to Noon. The topic, **Mary: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow**, will be presented by Maura Hearden, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Theology at DeSales University. Subject matter includes Mary's role in Salvation History, her role in our prayer life, and Marian dogmas. For more information or to register call Bob Miller at 973.338.9190 x131. A suggested offering of \$15 payable at the door is appreciated.

Please Register:

Name: _____

Phone: _____



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

For the last 15 years our church has been blessed to have an outstanding traditional concert. All have enjoyed the fine musical work of the Garden State Concert Band and their guest vocalists.

We have set it for Saturday, December 11, 2010, 7PM with reception following. To achieve this objective we need to have a Souvenir Program Journal that will raise the necessary funds. Please see the form below and make your contribution check to St. Thomas the Apostle.

Thank you,
PAUL ALONGI

Be a Sponsor for the St. Thomas the Apostle

Annual Christmas Concert & Reception

Saturday, December 11, 2010 – 7PM

**Featuring the Garden State Concert Band
And guest narrator Father Charles Miller**

How – Contribute to the Souvenir Program Journal

- Back Cover - \$400.00
- Inside Back Cover - \$200.00
- Gold Page - \$150.00
- Inside Front Cover - \$200.00
- 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 \$25.00 for a name listing.

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

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. 120**. 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.

SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS ED & SACRAMENTS

St. Thomas the Apostle School
MOMMY 'n ME PLAYGROUP

Join the fun! **Tuesday Mornings** **Free program!**

11:00 a.m. till 11:45 in the school gym

- ☺ The playgroup will serve children from 2 to 4 years of age.
- ☺ The playgroup aims to promote new and lasting friendships for both children and their parents.
- ☺ Parents will be responsible for the supervision of their children at all times.
- ☺ If you or a friend have any questions, please call the school office at **973-338-8505**.

www.stthomastheapostlenj.com



St. Thomas the Apostle
Home and School Association

Breakfast With
SANTA

Saturday, December 4, 2010,

9:30 a.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle School.

Tickets: Adults = \$11 / Children 4 yrs & over = \$6
Children 3 yrs & under = FREE

MENU: Scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, French toast, bagels, fruit salad, desserts, coffee, tea, and juices

DJ, crafts, & fun for children of all ages!!!!

SANTA will be available for pictures!
 (Please bring your own camera!)

Reservations due by Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Christine Licciardello
 973-303-2112

Tricia Polizzi
 973-202-7334

NAME _____ GRADE: _____

PHONE: _____

ADULTS _____

CHILDREN (4yr+) _____ # CHILDREN (4yr+) _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

If you wish to sit with someone, please note:

Please seat with _____



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL WILL BE COLLECTING BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION AND LABELS FOR EDUCATION. PLEASE DROP OFF THEM OFF IN THE "BOXTOPS" BOX LOCATED AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH



Dear St. Thomas the Apostle Parishioners:

Reminder: Please register or re-register your Stop & Shop Card for the A+ Bonus Bucks School Rewards Program. You must re-register every year. The program only runs from October 8, 2010 through March 25, 2011.

All you have to do is:

Log on to www.stopandshop.com/aplus to register online OR

Dial 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone

The St. Thomas the Apostle School ID # is 08625.

Thank you for your support!



CURRENTLY ACCEPTING
REGISTRATION FOR THE
2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR

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

Session Dates for Baptism 2010

CATECHESIS PREPARATION

St. Thomas Room in the Parish Center

December 5

1:00 p.m.

BAPTISM CELEBRATIONS

December 12

1:30 p.m.



The Saint Thomas the Apostle
Rosary Confraternity
is sponsoring the

Annual Advent Giving Tree

- Gift Tags are still available.
- **All gifts must be returned no later than the weekend of December 4th/5th.****
- Please do not wrap gifts – place items in gift bags or plastic bags.
- Original gift tags must be attached to the bags.
- Gift cards (with the gift tag attached) should be placed in the collection basket.

**We have received requests for donations from over 12 local organizations this season. The organizations have requested early pick-up dates in order to prepare for delivery to families and Christmas celebrations. We appreciate your spirit of generosity and look forward to another successful year.

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.



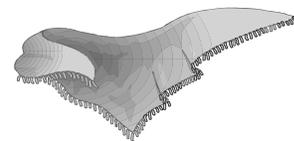
Right to Life

For families caring for a child with a disability: that God's peace will reign in their hearts and replace their fears with faith and hope;

We pray to the Lord

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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



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 at 973-893-0114, Sister Arleen at 973-338-9190 or Alicia at 973-473-6633

Save the Date !!!

Don't Miss The 40th Reunion of the Class of 1971



St. Thomas the Apostle

Saturday March 12, 2011 7:00pm
50 Burd Avenue Bloomfield NJ

\$50.00 per person

The Graduating Class of 1971 is having its 40th Reunion on March 12, 2011. It is scheduled to be held in Herron Hall. We are still in the process of locating some of our classmates. If you were a member of that class, or know someone who was, and have contact information, please call **Chris Helm** at 973-951-7669 or email him at chrishelm@optonline.net



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

JOB SEEKERS GROUP

Don't let your job search get you down. St. Thomas's Work Ministry offers a free, comfortable place to find support, ideas, and inspiration.

We meet on the first and third Thursdays of every month at 7:30 in the Parish Center. Keep checking the bulletin for our programs geared to help in your job search. All are welcome to join us if you are looking for a job or need a person to fill a position. For more info, send an e-mail to workministry@stachurchbloomfield.com

Altar Server Training

All parish boys and girls in grades 5 and 6 interested in becoming Altar Servers should call the Parish Center at 973-338-9190. Please leave your name and phone number and mark your calendars for training on the following dates and times:

- **Tuesday, November 30th, 4:00 p.m. in Church**
- **Wednesday, December 1st, 4:00 p.m. in Church**

Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America

Catholic Sisters in America, a traveling exhibit sponsored by the Leadership Council of Women Religious (LCWR) is at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, Statue of Liberty National Monument through January 22, 2011. This creative and compelling exhibit illustrates the enormous impact the lives of these remarkable women have had and continue to have on both our church and our nation's history. Visit www.womenandspirit.org for more information.

Not to be missed!! Spread the word!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITIONS:

In 1794, a young Irishwoman befriended two widows aboard ship while emigrating to America. They bought a house in Philadelphia and began to live a community life under the direction of a priest. Soon they relocated to Washington. There, the "pious ladies," as the neighbors called them, were asked by their priest friend, by then the president of Georgetown University, to begin a religious community. In 1799 they established a branch of the Visitation Order founded by Saint Jane de Chantal and Saint Francis de Sales in the 1620's.

The unique vision of this order followed a sensible routine, less arduous and more flexible than most traditions, and also accepted widows and older women. Amazingly, this American outpost of the Visitation began without reference to the "rule" of the Order. Most of the European convents had been lost under the "reign of terror," and the rules and customs of the community could not be obtained. A copy of the rule was discovered in 1812, and in 1816 the pope officially established the monastery. By then, some French nuns had regrouped and they sent a habit and cross to be copied. (No religious wore the habit in public in the United States until after the Civil War.) From the beginning, the Georgetown nuns had an educational mission, even though they discovered in the "rule" that such work was officially off-limits for the contemplative life. In America, the nuns depended on a school for their livelihood, so the rule was adapted. Today, the Academy of the Visitation is a thriving example of excellence in Catholic education, and the adjacent monastery is the oldest monastic foundation in the original thirteen United States.

~ Rev. James Field, Copyright, J.S. Paluch Co.

*The Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour
~ Mt 24:44*

REGISTRATION FOR ST. THOMAS PARISH

Did you know



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.

God's Work

We are so busy! Most of us have more than one job to do, and we never seem to have enough time. We are workers, volunteers, parents, friends, and most of us are more than one thing at a time. But which of these is the work of God?

We seldom view our ordinary work as being the work of God. We may think that we have to be ministers or priests, missionaries or charity workers, engaged full-time in works formally identified as being "God's work." But everything we do with a faithful heart and with love for others is God's work. We each have our own role to fill in the world, and many gifts are necessary. We cannot always see the direct connection of our daily work to the plan of God. But we trust and we believe that God leads us to do what is needed, where it is needed. What is "God's work?" *"This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent" (John 6:29).*

St. Thomas the Apostle Mission Statement

The Roman Catholic faith community of St. Thomas the Apostle recognizes God's call to be a sign of His Kingdom in the communities we serve. We respond to this call by:

- † Leading people to a deeper relationship with Christ by providing opportunities for spiritual growth, renewal, education, the celebration of the Sacraments, and the worship of God in the sacred liturgy;
- † Encouraging a commitment to justice and to service of those in need;
- † Promoting good stewardship of our time, talent and treasure;
- † Building a community of hospitality and support in the daily living out of Christian ideals by nourishing mutual respect and understanding within our Church, our families, our community, and other faith traditions.