

# 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

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

December 12, 2010 . 3rd Sunday of Advent

**Masses for the Week**

**Sunday, December 12**

**Saturday, December 13**

**5:00 pm Joseph Sawicki – Family**

**Sunday, December 12**

**7:30 am Donald & David Stefanelli – Mother**  
**9:00 am Renata & Perlita Cayetano – Family**  
**10:30 am For the People of the Parish**  
**12:00 pm Frank Gazzo – Daughter**

**Monday, December 13**

**7:30 am Sr. Paula DeRogatis – Sister**  
**11:30 am Richard Matt – Wife**

**Tuesday, December 14**

**7:30 am Rev. Robert J. Gordon – Brother**  
**11:30 am Elizabeth Donatiello – Family**

**Wednesday, December 15**

**7:30 am Ralph Dey – Friends**  
**11:30 am Richard Matt – Friend**

**Thursday, December 16**

**7:30 am Stella Giampapa – Family**  
**11:30 am Rosemary Leon – Friend**

**Friday, December 17**

**7:30 am Thomas Bennett – Daughter & Family**  
**11:30 am Mary & Fred Roberts – Family**

**Saturday, December 18**

**8:30 am Geraldine Halpin – Friend**

**Sunday, December 19**

**Saturday, December 18**

**5:00 pm Michael & Fannie Bove – Family**

**Sunday, December 19**

**7:30 am Grace Monticello – Son**  
**9:00 am Josepha Martinez – Family**  
**10:30 am Thomas Bennett – Daughter & Family**  
**12:00 pm Richard Adrian Sause – Wife**

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK:**

Ryan Joseph, John McGovern, Frank Korec, Jennie Janulin  
Robert Colucci, Barbara Savage, Lois Cunningham  
Angela Ciccone, Virginia Fazzi, Anthony LoConte

**PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Michael Hurley

**CANDLE INTENTIONS:**

**Church:** Lataro Family  
**Rectory:** Daniel Lardieri  
**Convent:** Mark Zieleniewski

*Third Sunday of Advent*



The Third Sunday of Advent (like the Fourth Sunday of Lent) is a day of joy in the midst of a penitential season. It is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*, from the Latin of the Entrance Antiphon for today: *Gaudete in Domino semper*, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near" (Philippians 4:4-5). The antiphon captures the mood of the entire liturgy as we move into the second part of Advent: there is a sense of joyful expectation, an awareness that the fulfillment of God's great plan for us is near. That sense is strong in today's readings.

**FIRST READING:** The prophetic imagination of Isaiah sees a world of abundant life, as desert and steppe are covered in flowers, while the blind see and the mute sing. All of this is simply the outward sign of what the Lord does for his people when he comes among them, bringing strength for the weak, joy for the sorrowful, healing for the broken. In the prophet's vision, the Lord's coming is a time of judgment, of "divine recompense" (Isaiah 35:4). But knowing who the judge will be, there is no fear here.

**RESPONSORIAL:** Psalm 146, with its simple refrain, is the prayer of a people who long for the coming of God, the just judge.

**SECOND READING:** In his letter, James urges the Christian community to wait with patience for the Lord's coming, just as farmers must wait for their crops to grow. James offers wise counsel for how to live in this between-time: patiently, not judging each other, and taking as our models the prophets, who endured such hardships for the Lord's sake.

**THE GOSPEL:** John is nearing the end of his course—he is already in prison and will soon be put to death. But hearing of the deeds of Jesus, he sends his followers to ask if he is the Messiah. And Jesus in reply sends back words that echo the vision of Isaiah we heard in the First Reading. Jesus knows that John will understand: the words of the prophets are being fulfilled; "the one who is to come" (Matthew 11:3) is here.

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

*From the Pastor's Desk...*



Dear Parishioners,

Thank you to all our parishioners who responded so generously to our Emergency Boiler Fund Collection. Last Sunday we succeeded in reaching our goal of \$100,000. This is due to a wonderful spirit of cooperation and sacrifice from the people of St. Thomas the Apostle.

The new church boiler is now fully operational and according to initial reports is functioning with a greater efficiency than the old boiler it replaced. This provides us not only with heat, but also with cost savings for many years to come.

Thank you to all who made this possible and may God bless you for your generous spirit.

In the Lord,



Father Charles J. Miller  
Pastor

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



**RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) SESSION**

**Monday, December 13, 2010 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**Reconciliation (Penance) Service at St. Thomas the Apostle Church** with Individual Confessions heard by the Priests from the Churches of St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Valentine's & Sacred Heart Church.  
**Saturday, December 18, 2010, - 11:00 a.m.** (at St. Thomas the Apostle Church)

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**Friday, December 24, 2010 (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)**

**Saturday, December 25, 2010 (Christmas Day)**  
8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 noon  
(All Masses with traditional Christmas Carols)

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

**Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010**  
7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, & 12noon  
**Blessing of Families at all Masses**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

**Friday, December 31, 2010 - 4:00pm (Vigil Mass)**  
**Saturday, January 1, 2011 - 8:30am**

**SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY**  
**(Annual "Bell Sunday")**

**Saturday, Jan 1, 5:00pm Vigil Mass**  
**Sunday, January 2,**  
7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, & 12noon  
(Children's Epiphany Pageant following 12noon Mass)

**SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS ED & SACRAMENTS**

**St. Thomas the Apostle School**  
**MOMMY 'n ME PLAYGROUP**  
 Tuesday Mornings  
 Join the fun! **Free program!**




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

- ☺ The playgroup will serve children from 2-4 years old
- ☺ 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](http://www.stthomastheapostlenj.com)




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 through March 25, 2011.

All you have to do is: Log on to [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://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

**STA SOCIETIES, MINISTRIES & EVENTS**

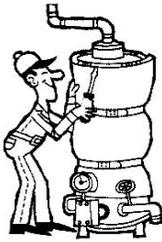
**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**



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. The year to date (YTD) amount compared to the budget is also shown below. This line will be updated monthly.

<b>Amount Budgeted:</b>	<b>20,500</b>
<b>December 5th collection:</b>	<b>16,775</b>
<b>YTD amount Nov. 30:</b>	<b>(-32,717)</b>

**New Church Boiler Fund**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!**

We have surpassed our goal of \$100,000 by the end of the year. As of Dec. 6, 2010, we have collected **\$110,916** 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. The excess monies will be held for future heating repairs throughout our parish buildings. We thank you for your generosity and commitment to this emergent need.

**"THIS WEEK"**

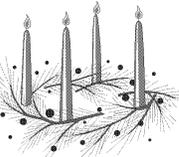
**Monday – 12/13**  
 Three Parish Penance  
 September Club – 11:30am in St. Peter

**Wednesday – 12/15**  
 SCC Wednesday/Thursday – 7:00pm in St. Andrew

**Thursday – 12/16**  
 Job Seekers – 7:00pm in St. Peter

**Friday – 12/17**  
 SCC Friday – 6:30pm in St. Peter

**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.



The Saint Thomas the Apostle  
Rosary Confraternity  
Advent  
Giving Tree

*Thank You!*

The Advent Giving Tree project was a huge success! Thanks to the kindness and generosity of our parish community, we fulfilled the wishes of over 1,000 people from 10 different organizations.

The Rosary Confraternity would like to thank Fr. Miller for his support of the Advent Giving Tree project, as well as the following organizations:

- 🔔 The Shawl Ministry for the donation of shawls, hats & scarves.
- 🔔 Joan Ferraer & the students of STA Parish School for gift donations.
- 🔔 Tim Dennin & the STA Youth Group for gift donations.
- 🔔 Glen Kyle & the Boy Scouts of Troop # 22 for their assistance with moving the gifts.

May God bless all of you during this Christmas season and bring you peace and good health in the New Year.



## 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**



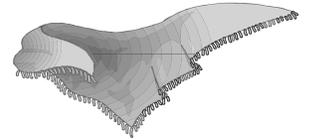
## Right to Life

For school-age children:  
That their parents will shield them from all that demeans human life and preserve the innocence of their childhood;

*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

## 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](mailto:workministry@stachurchbloomfield.com)

## 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 40<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:chrishelm@optonline.net)

## 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 - December 19th

Blood pressure screenings will be held on Sunday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

# Simbang Gabi



**St. Thomas the  
Apostle Church  
December 17th  
7:00 p.m.**

***You're all invited to the annual Filipino  
religious tradition of "Simbang  
Gabi" (Advent Evening Mass)***

## 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.

## 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](http://www.womenandspirit.org) for more information.

*Not to be missed!! Spread the word!*

## HISTORY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



The roots of Advent go much deeper than Christianity. They reach deep into the thirsty soil of Israel, and into the dreams of God's chosen people. The word "Advent" itself means "Coming", but it has taken on the nuances of waiting and expectation. And in that sense, we can say that Advent began outside the gates of Eden.

During Advent, we join our voices in a special way with the people of Israel. The Old Testament readings on the Sundays of Advent recall our deepest roots, a people-in-waiting. A great majority of these readings come from one remarkable collection, the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Isaiah is the poet of the Promise, and his words provide us with a whole treasury of Advent-Christmas images. It was Isaiah who envisioned a "peaceable kingdom", where the lion and the lamb lie down together under a child's leadership. And it was Isaiah who first gave the Messiah the name by which He would be known through all the waiting years: Emmanuel, "God-with-us".

When we look at the roots of Advent in the early years of Christianity, we find a gap. The early Church did not celebrate Advent at all--which is really no surprise, because they didn't celebrate Christmas, either! In those first centuries, Jesus' death and Resurrection were the central experiences of Christianity --especially while Christians themselves were meeting persecutions and death for their beliefs.

In the third century, as Christians was finally allowed to flourish, the Church found room for more light-hearted feasts. No one knew, however, on what day Jesus had actually been born - and to make matters worse, there were many different ways of reckoning time, and no centralized calendar.

In the middle of the fourth century, Pope Julius settled on December 25<sup>th</sup>. It is possible that he chose this date because it fell so close to the Winter Solstice an ancient feast familiar to so many converts to Christianity. The Roman worshippers of Mithras, with whom Pope Julius was familiar, celebrated December 25<sup>th</sup> as "The Birthday of the Unconquered Sun" - a title that certainly suited itself to the Nativity.

Christmas itself didn't come to be called Christmas until much later. Some of the early names for this feast were Epiphany (manifestation), Natale (birth), and interestingly enough - Adventus (the coming).

During the fifth century, Christians in Ravenna, Italy, began experimenting with the liturgy of preparation for Christmas, which they called "Advent". The liturgies developed in Ravenna found their way to Rome in the sixth century, where they were printed in the Celesian Sacramentary, one of the earliest collections of prayers and readings chosen for liturgical use.

In about the ninth century, the first Sunday of Advent became the first Sunday of the Church's liturgical year. The tension between penitence and joy, promise, and waiting which marked the Advent liturgies gave rise to many rich customs and traditions.

The revised Roman Catholic Calendar of 1970 called the Church back to the original Roman understanding of Advent as a period of "joyful and spiritual expectation", not a penitential season