

Saint Thomas the Apostle

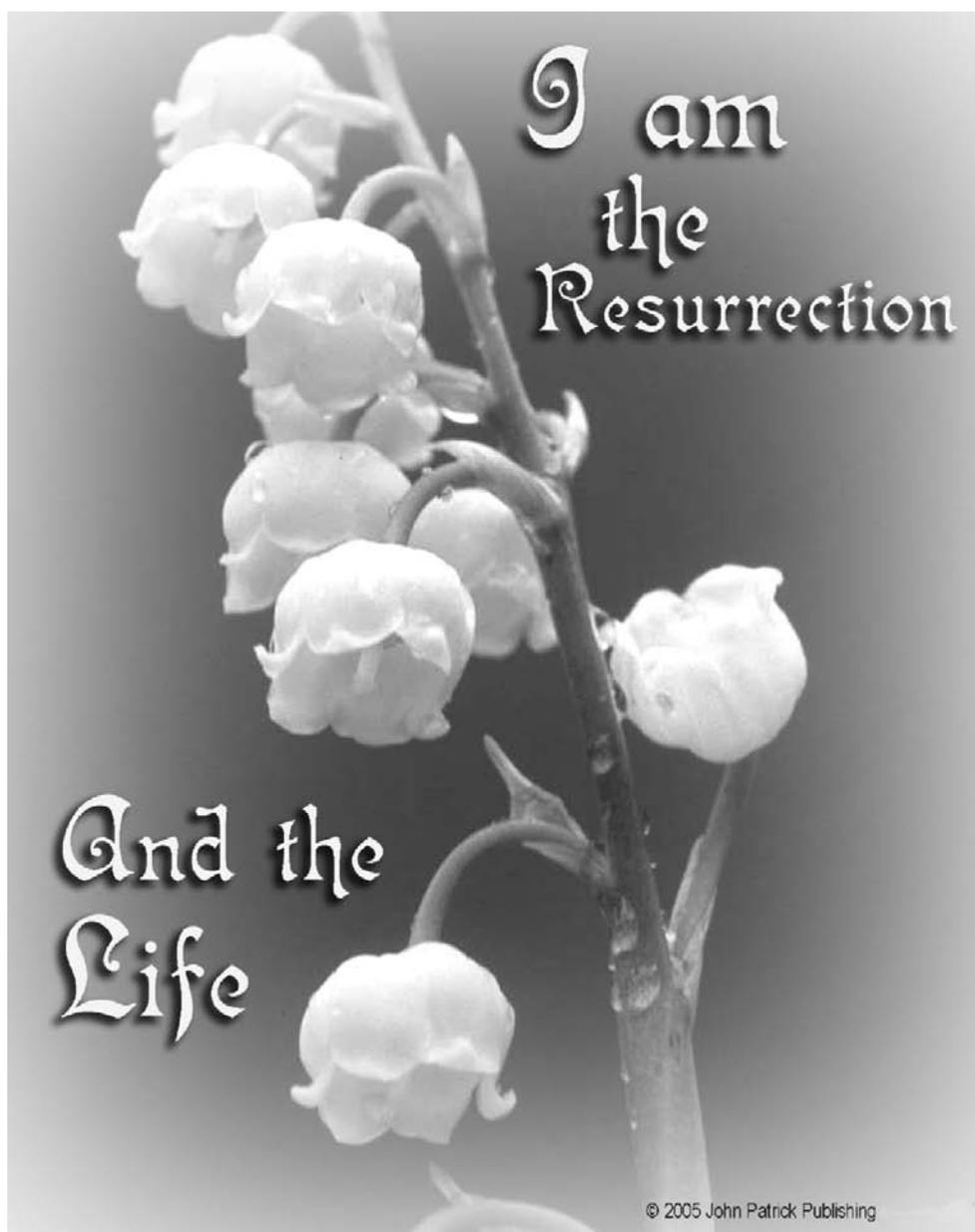
Roman Catholic Church

Address: 60 Byrd Avenue, Bloomfield, New Jersey

Rectory/Parish Center: (973) 338-9190 • Fax: (973) 338-4224

Religious Education: (973) 338-7400 • School: (973) 338-8505 • Convent: (973) 338-9118

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.stachurchbloomfield.com



Easter Sunday ~ 2011

Masses for the Week

Sunday, April 24 Easter Sunday

Saturday, April 23 **EASTER VIGIL MASS**
8:15 pm Veronica Kievit – Husband
Josephine & Philip Coyle – Family

Sunday, April 24

7:30 am Raffaella M. Candido – Family
9:00 am For the People of the Parish
10:30 am Ernest & Philomena Cordasco & Joseph
Bianchi – Family
12:00 pm Helen Mc Garry – Bequest

Monday, April 25

7:30 am Fred & Catherine Winters – Bequest
11:30 am Joseph & Domenica Franco – Family

Tuesday, April 26

7:30 am Rosuccia & Antonio De Rogatis – Family
11:30 am Ernest & Philomena Cordasco – Family

Wednesday, April 27

7:30 am Damian Utkewicz – Friend
11:30 am Edward & Jennie Bonanno – Family

Thursday, April 28

7:30 am Josephine Shalbinsky – Friend
11:30 am Frances Accardo (9th Anniversary) – Family

Friday, April 29

7:30 am Fred & Catherine Winters – Bequest
11:30 am Edward L. Post, Jr. (3rd Anniv.) – Family

Saturday, April 30

8:30 am Paul De Rogatis – Daughter

Sunday, May 1

Saturday, April 30

5:00 pm Marco Cieri – Family

Sunday, May 1

7:30 am Rocco & Tony Ciampi – Family
9:00 am Josefa Agilda Agruña – Friends
10:30 am For the People of the Parish
12:00 pm Rose Passero – Friend

PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

Frank Korec, Nicholas Biecksha

CANDLE INTENTIONS:

Church: Charles Rusignuolo

Rectory: David Kossak & Bridget Kochuk

Convent: Concepcion V. Pagua



**Which Three Days
Are The
Three Days?**

There's a lot of talk in church now about "the Three Days," or in Latin, the "Triduum." These are our most holy of days. They make up our most important single celebration of the year: Easter. But exactly *which* three days make up the Triduum?

At first this sounds like a stupid question such as, "What color was Napoleon's white horse?" or "Who's buried in Grant's tomb?" Actually, it's a trick question. Most would say that the Three Days are Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. And that's wrong! (How could Easter Sunday *not* be one of the Three Days?!)

The three days of the Triduum are counted using the Jewish way of keeping time: from sunset to sunset. So the first day of the Triduum is from sunset on Holy Thursday until sunset on Good Friday. The second day is from sunset on Good Friday until sunset on Holy Saturday. The third day is from sunset Holy Saturday (the great Easter Vigil) to sunset Easter Sunday (Paschal Vespers).

Does this make any difference—or is it only good Catholic trivia? Here's the difference that it makes. We tend to think of the Three Days as commemorating separate, distinct events: On Holy Thursday we remember the Last Supper, on Good Friday we recall the passion and on Holy Saturday the resurrection. But in our liturgy, the church thinks about the Last Supper not as the last thing that happened on Holy Thursday, but as the *first* thing to happen on Good Friday. What new insights into the eucharist do you have when you think of it as the first act of Christ's passion? What new understanding of Sabbath—the day of rest—do you have when you reflect on the fact that Jesus slept in death from sunset Friday and all through the Jewish Sabbath, Saturday? And how might we spend our Saturday nights if we understood them to truly be the beginning of Sunday—not just during the Triduum, but year round? What does it mean when the deacon or cantor sings at the Vigil that because of the resurrection, this night is brighter than any day?

These Three Days are a single moment. We walk into this moment on Thursday night and walk out on Easter day. In between, there's a flood of stories and songs, rites and rest, fasting and feasting. The Three Days are time out of time, the center of our year and of our life.

From the Pastor's Desk...



Dear Parishioners,

A Happy and Holy Easter from all the priests, deacons, sisters and staff of Saint Thomas the Apostle. Our prayer is that the Lord, whose Resurrection we celebrate today, may dwell in your hearts and in your homes throughout this season of joy.

A special “thank you” goes to all those who helped to decorate our Church; as well as to Nancy Cardone, our choir and the members of our music ministry for helping to make our Holy Week celebrations so moving, prayerful and faith-filled.

May the Lord bless you and those you love!

In the Lord,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Fr. Charles J. Miller".

Rev. Charles J. Miller,
Pastor

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### **EASTER - THE 50 DAY LONG FEAST**

The fifty-day feast of Easter developed from the harvest feast of ancient Israel known as “Shavuot,” or the “Feast of Weeks.” It was a period of seven weeks (a “week of weeks”) plus one day, beginning with Passover and concluding with the fiftieth day, the day of Pentecost. The fiftieth day marked the end of the barley harvest and included an offering of the first fruits. By the time of Jesus, this festival also had become a celebration of the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai.

The themes of harvest, Exodus and the Law also became part of the Christian celebration. Christians celebrated the Passover of Jesus through death to new life and the Covenant that was established in him. Images of Christ as paschal Lamb and as first fruits are the earliest Easter images used by St. Paul.

Easter was the first of our feasts to develop beyond the weekly Sunday celebration. This fifty-day period of rejoicing seems to have been adopted by all Christian communities by the second century. Within a few centuries, however, the unity of the feast began to weaken, and the resurrection, the ascension, and the descent of the Holy Spirit began to be celebrated separately. Easter and Pentecost became two separate days rather than the two names for the same fifty-day period. Only in our own time has the unity of this celebration been reestablished, at least in the liturgical books. The pastoral challenge is to reestablish it in the minds and hearts of the parish, and the best way to do that is by celebrating the whole feast well.

## EASTER WATER

Blessed Easter Water will be available for each parish family to take home this weekend. The water, in small containers, will be near the Baptismal Font. It is suggested that you bless your Easter food or your home.

### *Blessing of House with Easter Water*

*Lord, we rejoice in the victory of your Son over death.*

*By rising from the tomb to new life,*

*He gives us new hope and promise*

*Bless all the members of this household and surround them with your protection, that they may find comfort and peace in Jesus Christ, the paschal lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen*

## **SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS ED & SACRAMENTS**

### *ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH SCHOOL*

#### **2011/2012 REGISTRATION FOR NEW FAMILIES**

**To schedule a visit,  
please call 973.338.8505**

Pre K3 through 8th grades  
Full-Day or Half-Day Pre K & K  
Middle States Accredited

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



#### **ATTENTION STA ALUMNI**

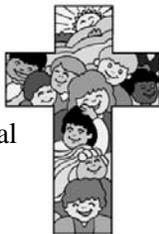
**Please check out the**

**Alumni Registration page on our website  
[www.stthomastheapostlenj.com](http://www.stthomastheapostlenj.com)**

### Religious Education News

There will be NO CCD this week April 24<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking for volunteers for our annual Vacation Bible School who can help with setting up, decorating, and art work. We want to transform the school into a beach party for the kids so come share your gifts and talents with our children! This work can be done at night, at home, or even on the weekends – think about it. Call Tracey at the Religious Education Office at 338-7400.



## *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

## *He is risen!*

## **STA SOCIETIES, MINISTRIES & EVENTS**

### **“THIS WEEK”**

#### **Monday – 4/25**

September Club – 11:30am in St. Peter

#### **Wednesday – 4/27**

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

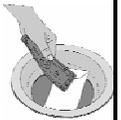
#### **Thursday – 4/28**

Job Seekers – 7:30pm in St. Peter

#### **Friday – 4/29**

SCC Friday – 7:00pm in St. Peter

### **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.

**April 17th collections will be posted next Sunday**

**YTD Amount as of Feb. 28: (-47,025)**

### **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.



### **Right to Life**

For all who are dying in poverty, loneliness and pain, that we might help bear their cross, and that in death, God might reward them with new life in his heavenly kingdom;

***We pray to the Lord***

**BRIAN MURPHY,  
HOLY NAME MAN OF THE YEAR**

The Holy Name Society of St. Thomas invites you all to the annual Essex-West Hudson Federation of Holy Name Societies for Mass and Dinner honoring Brian Tuesday, May 17, 2011. The Mass begins at 7pm at St. Valentines and dinner following at The Essex Manor, Broughton Avenue, Bloomfield. Cost is \$35 per person. Make all checks to St. Thomas.

Needless to say, we are very proud of Brian, ( soon to be Deacon) for his dedication and commitment to our Faith, Church And Community. He is an outstanding awardee and truly deserves your prayers and thanks for all he does on our behalf.

For reservations, call Paul Alongi Sr. at 973-338-4665 or the Parish Center, 973-338-9190.

**SAVE THE DATE**

PLEASE JOIN ME IN CELEBRATING  
"50" YEARS AS A SISTER OF CHARITY  
(37 HERE AT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE)  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup>. 5p.m. MASS

Sister Joan Moore

**MEN'S CORNERSTONE  
MEETING WEDNESDAY, APRIL, 27  
ST. PETERS ROOM AT 7:30 P.M.**

Saint Thomas the Apostle Rosary Confraternity's

**GIFT SHOP**

(located in the Parish Center)  
will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
May 1<sup>st</sup>



A variety of gift items is available including First Communion items (prayer books, rosaries, veils, ties, accessories & gifts for prayer partners.)

If you have any questions, please call Bernadette at 973.893.0114 or Mary Ellen at 973.893.9625.



**Moving?**

**Please let us know.**

Within the parish – to update  
Out of parish – to discontinue

Call the Parish Center at  
(973) 338-9190.

**JOB SEEKERS GROUP**

Don't let your job search get you down. St. Thomas' Work Ministry offers a free, comfortable place to find support, ideas and inspiration. We meet on the first and third Thur. of every month at 7:30 in the Parish Center. Keep checking the bulletin for our programs geared to helping your job search. All are welcome to join us if you are looking for a job or need a person to fill a position. We ask any parishioner who knows of an opening at their company to send the open position information to us to be shared with our job seekers, (it will be shared anonymously). For more info, send an e-mail to [workministry@stachurchbloomfield.com](mailto:workministry@stachurchbloomfield.com).

**PLANNED GIVING**

Here are some other ways You can help St. 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 St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

A bequest in your will assures 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 St. 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 St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

*An Easter Prayer*

*Jesus, you are risen! You are with us. Keep us ever mindful of how you are a part of our lives in a deep and profound way. Surprise us with a touch of your love in places where we never thought that we would find you. Fill our hearts with hope. May the gift of your presence transform every ordinary moment of ours into a sacred place where you dwell. Help us to see this gift through the eyes of faith. Fill us with your peace.*

*AMEN*

**ST. THOMAS GOLF OUTING**

**MONDAY JUNE 6, 2011 \* GLEN RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB \* GLEN RIDGE , NJ  
GOLF, CART, LUNCH, DINNER AND SPORTS AUCTION \$250.00  
COCKTAIL HOUR – DINNER AND SPORTS AUCTION-- \$75.00**

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**REGISTRATION & LUNCH 11:00 – 12:30  
SHOTGUN START AT 1:00 PM  
COCKTAIL HOUR 5:30-6:30 DINNER AND AUCTION 6:30**

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TEL# \_\_\_\_\_ TEL# \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE \_\_\_\_\_ RESERVATIONS @\$250.00 \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RESERVE \_\_\_\_ PLACES FOR DINNER/AUCTION@ 75.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**PLAYERS IN FOURSOME**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**AD JOURNAL**

BOOSTER @10.00-----\$ \_\_\_\_\_

1 /2 PAGE @25.00-----\$ \_\_\_\_\_

FULL PAGE @\$50.00-----\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**HOLE SPONSORS**

Please attach a copy of exactly how you would like your sign to appear. Business cards can be used.

EAGLE SPONSOR (ONLY 1 SIGN ON HOLE) \$1000.00----- \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BIRDIE SPONSOR (ONLY 2 SIGNS PER HOLE) \$500.00-----\$ \_\_\_\_\_

PAR SPONSOR \$100 ----- \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CORPORATE SPONSOR \$1500 ----- \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(INCLUDES EAGLE SPONSOR AND FOURSOME)

TOTAL AMOUNT FOR GOLF/DINNER/SPONSORS-----\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO  
ST. THOMAS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**