

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

Rev. Philip A. Sanders, S.T.B., Parochial Vicar • 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 & 7:00pm

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:
Paul DiBianca
Kimberley Mesiti

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE FOR FAMILY
& ADULT FORMATION MINISTRIES:
Robert P. Miller

COORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY:
Mr. Timothy Dennin

PASTORAL COUNCIL:
Tom Rossano, Chairperson
Vincent Lipoma, Vice Chairperson
Michele Sweetman, 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

September 7, 2008 . 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses for the Week

Sunday, September 7

Saturday, September 6

5:00 pm Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Barbalaci - Nephew

Sunday, September 7

7:30 am Leonard Dean - Friend

9:00 am For the People of the Parish

10:30 am Giovanni Soccolich (2nd Anniv.) - Family

12:00 pm Daniel DeFilippo - Family

Monday, September 8

7:30 am In Honor of the Blessed Mother's Birthday

11:30 am Catherine Healy - Family

Tuesday, September 9

7:30 am Jack Flaherty - Friend

11:30 am Frank Sheehan - Cousin

Wednesday, September 10

7:30 am Leona Marino - Friend

11:30 am Helen Appleton - Rosary Society

Thursday, September 11

7:30 am John Holle, Jr. - Friends

11:30 am Antoinette Dugar - Friends

Friday, September 12

7:30 am Marcella Herrera - Friend

11:30 am Charles Viau - Bequest

Saturday, September 13

8:30 am Jean Niemi - Family

Sunday, September 14

Saturday, September 13

5:00 pm Nesto - Franco Family - Family

Sunday, September 14

7:30 am Joseph Paul Szajkowski - Sisters

9:00 am Rose Russo - Friend

10:30 am For the People of the Parish

12:00 pm Joann Castaldo - Family

PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

Paul Strickland, Anthony Meola, Michael Kochka
Cathy Spagnuolo, Frank Korec, Clair Mykowski
John Kearney,

REST IN PEACE:

kjfioshfoiez

CANDLE INTENTIONS:

Church: Arthur Margeotes

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time



As the summer wanes and the season moves along, the cross enters more and more into the scriptures of the liturgies. The liturgies in this latter part of the season begin to focus on the cost of following Jesus - to Jerusalem and to the cross.

Lectionary

■ **THE GOSPEL:** Today, Matthew's account of the Gospel moves into the fourth discourse of Jesus. The theme and focus is the Church. If a person should commit some wrong against you, Jesus counsels to engage the involvement of others and the Church, if necessary. The Gospel ends with a great image in this discourse on the life of the Church: wherever two or more gather in his name, Christ is in their midst.

■ **FIRST READING:** The First Reading is taken from the prophet Ezekiel. In today's section the Lord tells Ezekiel that if he does not warn the wicked and try to dissuade them from their sins, the Lord will hold the prophet responsible.

■ **PSALM 95:** The psalmist warns against hardening the heart at the sound of the Lord's voice.

■ **SECOND READING:** The Second Reading from the letter to the Romans assures us that the one who loves his or her neighbor follows the law of God; for love fulfills the law.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Numbers 21; 4b-9

Philippians 2; 6-11

John 3; 13-17



BIRTH OF THE VIRGIN MARY
Monday, September 8th

Although there is no historic support for September 8th as being the exact date of Mary's birth, Catholics have traditionally honored Mary on this day.

*Our Lady, Help of Christians,
Pray for us.*

Visit our website at
www.stachurchbloomfield.com

From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear Parishioners,

Where did the summer go? It seems like only yesterday that summer began; and now, our school is already open and our parish activities are in full swing. I hope that the summer was a time of refreshment and renewal for you and for your families.

During the summer we were busy working on decreasing our operating costs by installing new, more effective thermostats, adding automatic timers to control air-conditioning in the church, and changing all the light bulbs in our church to energy efficient bulbs, which should help to reduce our monthly energy costs. Our last monthly electric bill was over \$11,000! Each hanging fixture in the church used 1440 watts and now, with the new bulbs, it is only 312 watts. That's a 78% reduction with the surprising result that the Church is also more evenly and brightly lighted than before.

September will be a busy month. CCD classes will begin the week of September 22nd; our Parish Picnic Carnival will begin at 2pm on Saturday, September 20th. We need volunteers to work on the games and man the booths. If you can help, see the bulletin for details.

The St. Thomas Annual Blood Drive will be on Sunday, September 28th; the Holy Name and Rosary Societies and all of our many organizations and groups will begin meeting again. Mark your calendars and be ready to join in!

Soon we will be conducting an increased giving appeal in our Church as well as looking for more people to serve our parish as Special Ministers of Communion at all the Sunday Masses. It will be a busy and exciting time.

Keep Father Philip and me in your prayers, that we may serve you well. In a special way, I ask your prayers for our young people, who will be celebrating their Confirmation next month, that they will discover in our community the support and love they need to continue to grow in the faith.

And finally, I ask God's blessing on you and those you love.

In the Lord,



Rev. Charles J. Miller,
Pastor

A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States

The following is an excerpt from a document, issued by the bishops in November, 2007, suggesting key issues for our prayerful reflection as we prepare to fulfill our responsibilities as voters in the national election this year. The full text of the document can be found at www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship/FCStatement.pdf. Additional resources for families, groups and individuals are available at www.faithfulcitizenship.org.

From: Why Does the Church Teach About Issues Affecting Public Policy

9. The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith. It is a basic part of the mission we have received from Jesus Christ, who offers a vision of life revealed to us in Sacred Scripture and Tradition. To echo the teaching of the Second Vatican Council: Christ, the Word made flesh, in showing us the Father's love, also shows us what it truly means to be human (see *Gaudium et Spes*, no. 22). Christ's love for us lets us see our human dignity in full clarity and compels us to love our neighbors as he has loved us. Christ, the Teacher, shows us what is true and good, that is, what is in accord with our human nature as free, intelligent beings created in God's image and likeness and endowed by the Creator with dignity and rights.

10. What faith teaches about the dignity of the human person and about the sacredness of every human life helps us see more clearly the same truths that also come to us through the gift of human reason. At the center of these truths is respect for the dignity of every person. This is the core of Catholic moral and social teaching. Because we are people of both faith and reason, it is appropriate and necessary for us to bring this essential truth about human life and dignity to the public square. We are called to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34). We are also called to promote the well-being of all, to share our blessings with those most in need, to defend marriage, and to protect the lives and dignity of all, especially the weak, the vulnerable, the voiceless. In his first encyclical letter, *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict XVI explained that "charity must animate the entire lives of the lay faithful and therefore also their political activity, lived as 'social charity' " (no. 29).

SEPTEMBER 7, 2008 IS GRANDPARENTS DAY

Grandparents' Prayer of Blessing

God our Father, in whom we live, move and have our being, we thank you and praise you for those who are grandparents, long years lived in faith and in doing good.

Grant that they may have the loving support of their friends and relatives, that in good health they may be happy, and in poor health not lose hope. Sustained by the help of your blessing, let them spend their senior years giving praise to your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Anne & St. Joachim, parents of Mary, grandparents of Jesus, Pray for us.



The image of Sts. Anne and Joachim are depicted in stained glass in our St. Thomas Church in the window of Mary, Queen of the Universe.

Sacraments

Session Dates for Baptism 2008

CATECHESIS PREPARATION

In the St. Thomas Room in the Parish Center
Sept 7 1:00pm
Oct 12 1:00pm
Nov 2 1:00pm

BAPTISM CELEBRATIONS

September 14 during 12:00pm Mass
October 4 during 5:00pm Mass
October 5 1:30pm
November 16 1:30pm
December 7 1:30pm



Confirmation dates to remember:

Sept. 23 - Penance Service at 7pm
Sacrament of Confirmation (A thru L) Oct. 19th
Sacrament of Confirmation (M thru Z) Oct. 26th

Rite of Christian Initiation

Do you or another adult that you know need to receive the sacrament of Baptism, First Eucharist, or Confirmation? St. Thomas the Apostle Church offers classes for adults needing to receive these sacraments beginning the first Sunday in October and running through Pentecost. Call Bob Miller for more information at (973) 338-9190 x29.



Next Sunday, Sept. 14th, several babies will be received into the Church during the 12noon Mass. This is a wonderful opportunity to witness the celebration of the Baptism Sacrament.

School, Religious Education



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL
www.stthomasprek.org

WELCOME BACK!!!

2008-2009 School Year - Classes begin as follows:

Grades K-8

Monday, 9/8, 8:10 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.

Pre K 3

Monday, 9/8, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Orientation (Parent and Child)
Wednesday, 9/10, Regular classes begin

Pre K 4

Tuesday, 9/9, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Orientation (Parent and Child)
Wednesday, 9/10, Regular classes begin

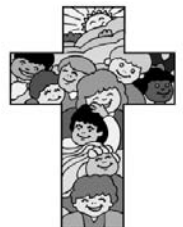
New Family Social, Wed., 9/10, at 7:30 p.m.
Opening School Liturgy, Mon., 9/15, at 11:30 a.m.

- Openings are still available grades Pre-K - 7
• Pre-K, full-day, and/or half-day sessions.
• FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

If you are interested, please call the School Office at (973) 338-8505.

Religious Education News

CCD classes will begin the week of September 22nd. Grades 5 through 8 will meet on Mondays and grades 1 through 4 will meet on Tuesdays from 3:40 - 5:00 each week. We need two teachers for Monday afternoons. We will provide training and guidance - no experience necessary. Please consider sharing your faith with a child. Call Tracey or Maria in the Religious Education office at 973-338-7400.



Parish Activities

"THIS WEEK"

Monday – 9/8

September Club – 11:30am in St. Peter

Thursday – 9/11

SCC Thursday – 7:00pm in St. Matthew

Friday – 9/12

SCC Friday – 7:00pm in St. Peter

STA SOCIETIES, MINISTRIES & EVENTS



*Feel good about yourself
Give blood*

*St. Thomas' Annual Blood Drive
Sunday, September 28, 2008
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Herron Hall*

Our blood banks are in need of all types of blood. Please consider this as your gift for life. Come to our blood drive and donate. We welcome our "regulars" and those of you who will be "first timer donors".

All donors must present signed or picture ID's and know their social security number.

Complimentary Cholesterol screening for all blood donors. For more information call the blood center of New Jersey at 973-676-4700. The following are some tips for a good donation experience.

BEFORE DONATING:

- Get a good night's sleep. Have a good breakfast or lunch. Eat iron-rich foods - beans, red meat, fish, poultry, iron-fortified cereals, raisins, prunes, etc. Drink extra water and fluids to replace the volume you will donate. Avoid tea, coffee, or other caffeinated beverages. Avoid fatty foods such as hamburgers, fries, or ice cream.

DURING DONATION:

- Relax. Wear clothing with sleeves that can be raised above the elbow. Show the staff any "good veins" that have been used successfully in the past to draw blood.

AFTER DONATION:

- Take the time to enjoy a snack and a drink afterwards. Immediately after donating, re-hydrate by drinking plenty of fluids over the next 24-48 hours. Avoid strenuous physical activity or heavy lifting for about five hours. If you feel light-headed after donating, lie down, preferably with feet elevated, until the feeling passes. Enjoy the good feeling that comes with knowing that you may have saved as many as three lives!

Right to Life

For a growing respect for the self-evident right to life of every human being, from conception to natural death;

We pray to the Lord



SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

WELCOME BACK!!!

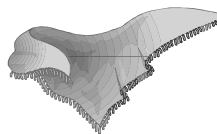
KICK-OFF MEETING SEPT. 7TH AT 7PM
MEETINGS EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT IN THE PARISH CENTER
FROM 7-9PM. ALL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH ARE WELCOME

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

9/17 TRUST NIGHT
9/20 PARISH PICNIC - WITH SQUARELASH
9/26 STEVE ANGRISANO CONCERT IN RIDGEFIELD PK.

EMAIL TIM DENNIN WITH ANY QUESTIONS tdennin@att.net

The Prayer Shawl Ministry



Our evening meetings will be held in the Parish Center on the first Wednesday of the month, Sept.3rd, Oct 1st and Nov 5th from 7 to 9 PM. The Sunday meetings are held the third

Sunday of the month, Sept.21st and Oct. 19th 1-3PM.

We have simple patterns for shawls, lap robes, scarves, hats and gloves. If you are interested in participating but do not know how to knit or crochet, there are members willing to help you get started. If you have questions or wish to give someone a shawl or lap robe, please contact Bernadette @ 973-893-0114 Alicia 973-473-6633 or Sister Arleen @ 973-338-9190.

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Wednesday, September 17, 2008
@ 7:30 p.m. in the St. Peter room**

The Holy Name Society
is sponsoring a presentation by...

Steve Politi



**Sports writer of the Newark Star-Ledger,
just returned from 2008 Summer
Olympics in Beijing, China!**

Steve will share his experiences in covering the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing and the NY Giants victory over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLII, as well as other baseball and basketball events.

There will be a Q & A session immediately following the presentation. For more info, please call Don Powers at (973) 667-5791.



**2nd Annual
St. Thomas Picnic Carnival**

Saturday, September 20th, 2008 2pm to 7pm
Rain Date- Sunday, Sept. 21st, 2008, same hours

GREAT DEALS!

ALL DAY RIDE TKTS FOR THOSE OVER AGE 8: \$20
BUY IN ADVANCE AT \$15

ALL DAY RIDE TKTS FOR AGES 7 & UNDER: \$10
BUY IN ADVANCE AT \$7

RIDES:

Section obstacle course, 22 ft dual lane slide, miniature golf, 3 in 1 sports center, moonwalk, and sea of balls.

GAMES:

Carnival tents for 8 carnival games with prizes - 1000 small and 1000 medium plush. Also sand art, the popular dunk tank and bingo under the tent.

FOOD:

From Vinnie's Pizza - Pizza, sandwiches (meatball & egg-plant parm, sausage & peppers) Pasta (penne vodka & ravioli), Soda & Water

From Philippine community - Hot dogs, burgers, etc.

From our entertainment company - ice cream, popcorn, snowball ice cones, cotton candy.

Also available - Zeppoles

We will have \$1 tkts for games & food (same color)

There will be different prices, example 2 tkts for pizza or 1 tkt for water etc. so buy multiple tkts.

ADVANCE SALE TICKETS FOR FOOD & GAMES

15 tickets for \$10

Picnic day face value example: 10 tkts for \$10

ADVANCE SALE TICKETS TO BE SOLD...

After Masses on Sat, Sept 6th and Sunday, Sept 7th
after 9:00 am, 10:30 am and 12:00 noon Masses.

OTHER: Large tent with tables for 100 people -eating and bingo. Tent for purchase of ride tkts, food and game tkts, 50/50 raffle cash purchase, Candy-cash, Beer-cash, Bingo-cash.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to work the games, some of the rides, the cash booth, bingo, raffles and soda & water.

CALL PAUL ALONGI 973-338-4665
OR PARISH CENTER 973-338-9190.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY ANNUAL RETREAT



HOLY NAME SOCIETY RETREATANTS WILL BE ENJOYING THE SPIRITUALITY AND HOSPITALITY OF THE SAN ALFONSO RETREAT HOUSE FROM OCTOBER 24, TO OCTOBER 26, 2008.

ALL MEN OF ST. THOMAS PARISH ARE INVITED TO SPEND THIS WEEKEND WITH US. THE COST IS \$160 WHICH INCLUDES ROOM AND MEALS.

A \$25.00 DEPOSIT IS REQUIRED BY SEPTEMBER 12, 2008.
ANYONE INTERESTED SHOULD CONTACT RICH BEVERE AT (973) 338-6444.



CUB SCOUTS - PACK 22 SIGN-UPS

All 1st - 5th grade boys are invited to our Pack meeting Sept. 25th, 2008. The meeting will be at Herron Hall in St. Thomas school at 7:00 p.m.

THE BLOOMFIELD DEPT. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SVCS.

ANNOUNCES THAT A REPRESENTATIVE FROM NJ FAMILYCARE WILL BE IN THE NURSING DIVISION FROM 9:30AM-11:30AM WEDNESDAYS IN SEPTEMBER DURING CHILD HEALTH CLINIC.

THEY WILL BE TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR UNINSURED BLOOMFIELD RESIDENTS WITH CHILDREN.

BLOOMFIELD NURSING DIVISION - 973-680-4058

September 11th Reflection

*We remember them...
in the rising sun and in its going down.*

*We remember them...
In the blowing of the wind and the chill of winter.*

*We remember them...
When we are weary and in need of some strength.*

*We remember them...
When we are lost and sick of heart.*

*We remember them...
When we have joys we yearn to share.*

*We remember them...
So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us...*

As we remember them.