

Saint Thomas the Apostle

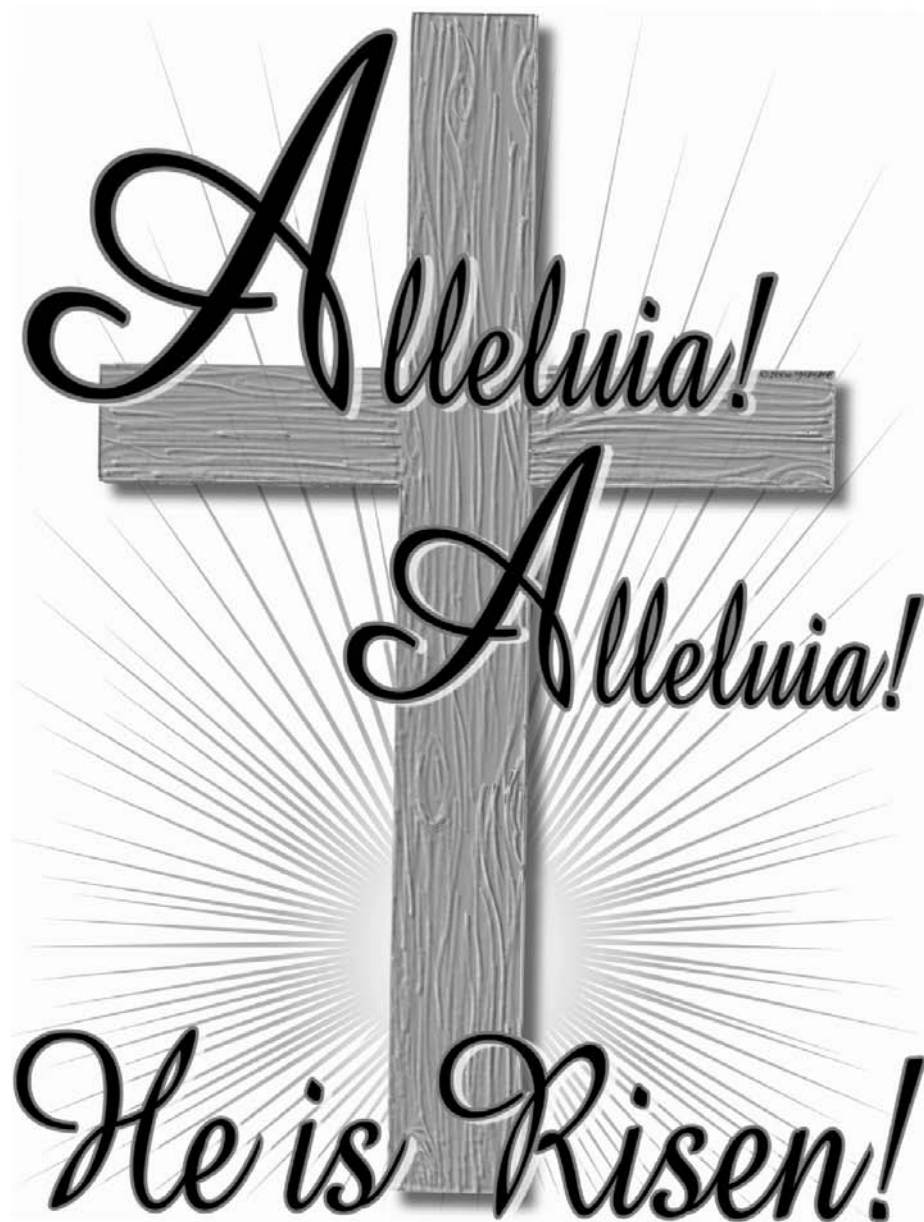
Roman Catholic Church

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 2009

Masses for the Week

Sunday, April 12

Saturday, April 11 HOLY SATURDAY **No a.m. Mass**

8:15 pm *Easter Vigil*

**Veronica Kievit - Husband
Josephine & Philip Coyle - Son
John Frade - Friend**

Sunday, April 12 EASTER SUNDAY

7:30 am For the People of the Parish

**9:00 am Joseph Bianchi and Ernest & Philomena
Cordasco - Family**

10:30 am Antonio Mangialavori - Daughter

12:00 pm Nicola Baccala - Friend

Monday, April 13

7:30 am Mr. Cavalero - Friend

11:30 am Judith Franco - Daughter

Tuesday, April 14

7:30 am Allen Carey - Friend

11:30 am Andrew Triano - Family

Wednesday, April 15

7:30 am John Bowen - Friend

11:30 am Philip Lipari - Wife

Thursday, April 16

7:30 pm Angelo Argondizza - Friend

11:30 am Andrew Molnar - Family

Friday, April 17

7:30 am Rose Nisivoccia (1st Anniv.) - Friend

11:30 am Gloria Chiapone - Friend

Saturday, April 18

8:30 am Jeffrey & Christine Fearon - Mother

Sunday, April 19

Saturday, April 18

5:00 pm Antoinette & Anthony Lubertazza - Daughter

Sunday, April 19

7:30 am Mary L. Basseur (10th Anniv.) - Husband

9:00 am For the People of the Parish

10:30 am Joseph Marafiote - Wife

12:00 pm Agnes McDonald - Family

PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

Harry Shaw, Franco & Fasone Families
Paul Strickland, Frank Korec

REST IN PEACE:

Joseph Mario Belcaro

CANDLE INTENTIONS:

Church: David & Donald Stefanelli
Rectory: David Kossack
Convent: Anna Saporito

EASTER

The Meaning



Easter calls us to grasp, on a deeper and more profound level, what it means to be a follower of the crucified and risen Christ. In the prayers and readings of the season, we are led each Sunday to a deeper understanding, for our lives, of what it means to be baptized into the death and Resurrection of Christ. We are called to deeper conversion—deeper immersion—into the mystery of our participation in Christ's Passover from death to life.

In our own experience of the sacraments of initiation, God's power and presence in Christ made us a new creation, his chosen sons and daughters, members of his eternal reign. Easter is the time to reflect on these mysteries of our faith and to meditate on their importance for our lives of faith in the world today. The liturgical life of the season—the readings, prayers, rites, devotions—allows us and calls us to this reality.

LECTIONARY

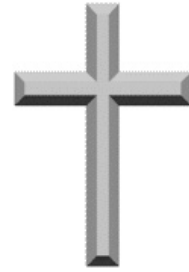
FIRST READING: The First Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles—all our readings will be drawn from the New Testament from now until Pentacost. Peter speaks these words after hearing the amazing account of Cornelius, a centurion who sought Peter out in obedience to the instruction of an angel. Peter's speech is something like a catechetical instruction to Cornelius and the other Gentiles, who will soon be baptized. It recounts the whole Gospel: how Jesus "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38), how he was put to death, how God raised him to life, and how Peter and the others were witnesses of his resurrection. The address ends with an invitation to believe in Christ, who is not dead, but alive.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Responsorial Psalm 118 is the jubilant song of a risen people. Christ is the stone rejected by the builders, who has become the cornerstone. The psalm refrain—"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad"—echoes the words which the *Exsultet* sang again and again: "This is the night!" The Resurrection of the Lord is not a matter of *then*, but *now!*

SECOND READING: There are two options for the Second Reading. The passage from Colossians emphasizes our participation in the Resurrection of Christ and the responsibility that comes with new life. Since Christ is risen, we too must "seek what is above" (Colossians 3:1).

In the passage from 1 Corinthians, Paul uses Passover imagery. In the Jewish calendar, the feast of Passover was immediately followed by the feast of Unleavened Bread, in which all the old bread was thrown away, and only new, unleavened bread was eaten. Now that "our pascal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed" (1 Corinthians 5:7), we too need to clear out the old yeast—"the yeast of malice and wickedness"—and start fresh with the "unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (5:8). The words "let us celebrate the feast" (*ibid.*) have been interpreted as a sign that even in the earliest years, Christians were celebrating the Passover in light of Christ's Resurrection.

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.

We also offer our words of affirmation and encouragement to the adults in our R.C.I.A. process, who are preparing for full membership in the Catholic Church and to celebrate the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. We pray that you may continue to experience in us a community of love and true concern.

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.

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

**Coffee and Conversation**

Everyone is invited downstairs to the Parish Center after the 9 or 10:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, April 19, for some good coffee and conversation. The Home and School Association will be our hosts.



**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**



We will report on the offertory collections in next week's bulletin.

**If you donate through our Electronic Giving Program:** Please note that if you are considering making a special gift to St. Thomas for Easter, the automatic withdrawal this weekend will only be for your regular weekly amount. Anything you wish to contribute over and above that will have to be made by cash or check in an Easter envelope. We apologize for any inconvenience.

**SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS ED & SACRAMENTS**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**\* IMPORTANT DATES \***

***FIRST EUCHARIST PRACTICES***

Every child making First Holy Communion **MUST** attend practice. All practices for children receiving First Eucharist are from 3:45-5:00PM in the church as scheduled below:



| COMMUNION DATE:     | PRACTICE DATE: |
|---------------------|----------------|
| April 25 5:00 Mass  | April 20       |
| April 26 9:00 Mass  | April 20       |
| April 26 10:30 Mass | April 22       |
| April 26 12:00 Mass | April 23       |
| May 2 8:30 Mass     | April 28       |
| May 2 5:00 Mass     | April 27       |
| May 3 9:00 Mass     | April 27       |
| May 3 10:30 Mass    | April 29       |
| May 3 12:00 Mass    | April 30       |

**\*\*All Banners due on the day of your child's practice\*\***

**St. Thomas the Apostle School  
2009 Calendar Sweepstakes Winners!**

**Winners for the week of April 5th Hill be announced in next week's bulletin.**

**STA SOCIETIES, MINISTRIES & EVENTS**

**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.

**Volunteers Wanted**

The Wellness Ministry is looking for volunteers to occasionally run an errand or drive a parishioner to the store or doctor's appointment. The commitment is small. The reward is great. If you are interested, please call the parish center and leave your name and number on the Wellness line at extension 20.

**"THIS WEEK"**

**Monday – 4/13**

September Club – 11:30am in St. Peter  
Respect Life Holy Hour - 7:30pm in Church

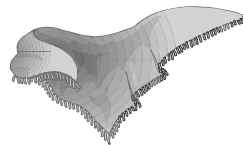
**Thursday – 4/16**

SCC Thursday – 7:00pm in St. Matthew

**Friday – 4/17**

SCC Friday – 7:00pm in St. Peter

***The Prayer Shawl Ministry***



Our next meetings are scheduled for Wednesday evenings May 6<sup>th</sup> and June 3rd from 7 PM to 9 PM and Sunday afternoon, April 19<sup>th</sup>, May 17<sup>th</sup> and July 19th from 1PM. to 3 PM We wish to thank all of our members who have continually supported us by prayerfully using their talent. Our project to make baby items suitable for children up to 2 years old is very successful. We now have some lovely laps and shawls. Keep them coming. If you wish to give someone a shawl, please contact the Ministry. All are welcome to work and pray with us. If you have any questions call Bernadette 973 893-0114, Sister Arleen 973-338-9190 or Alicia 973-473-6633.

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

## Sixth Annual Faith and Family Conference



St. Thomas the Apostle will hold its sixth annual Faith and Family Conference on Saturday, May 2, in the Parish Center from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This year's theme is *The Mission of Marriage: Heaven on Earth*.

Our guest speaker will be Mr. Bill Donaghy. Bill has done missionary work in Haiti, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic, as well as parish and young adult ministry in the United States. He has a Masters in Systematic Theology and teaches at Malvern Prep in Philadelphia and is an adjunct professor at Immaculata University. For more information about Bill and his work go to his website [www.missionmoment.org](http://www.missionmoment.org).

### SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

MEETINGS EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT IN THE PARISH CENTER FROM 7-9PM. ALL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH ARE WELCOME

4/12 EASTER SUNDAY - NO MEETING

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

4/19 SENIOR NIGHT I  
4/26 SENIOR NIGHT II  
5/3 SENIOR NIGHT III

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT TIM DENNIN AT [tdennin@att.net](mailto:tdennin@att.net)

## ~ ~ September Club Travel ~ ~



The September Club welcomes you to a bus ride on April 15<sup>th</sup> to: **Renault Winery** with lunch and wine tasting and then on to **Atlantic City** for more fun. For more information please call Jean 973-777-2278.

*You are invited*

### Cornerstone Women Mark your Calendars!

An invitation goes out to all who have taken part in the Women's Cornerstone retreats in the past,

- Cornerstone I "Windows of Hope"
- Cornerstone II "Imagine"
- Cornerstone III "Journey Together"
- Cornerstone IV "Be Still and know that I am your God"

We are having a wine and cheese gathering Friday evening, May 15<sup>th</sup> in Herron Hall at St. Thomas the Apostle School. More information will follow.

### Archdiocese of Newark Anniversary Masses

It is an annual tradition to honor the couples in the Archdiocese who are celebrating five, twenty-five, fifty or more years of marriage. These liturgies are celebrated by Archbishop John J. Myers held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.

- May 31 50 Anniv. (Essex & Union Counties)
- June 7 50 Anniv. (Bergen & Hudson Counties)
- June 14 25<sup>th</sup> and 5th Anniversaries (All 4 Counties)

All Masses will be celebrated at 3:00 p.m.

**To register, call the Parish Center at (973) 338-9190**

## Women and Heart Disease

**Heart disease is the leading cause of death for all women in NJ and our country. In fact, more women than men die of heart disease. The good news is that 80% of heart disease can be prevented if women know their risks and take steps to reduce these risks.**

**The Wellness Ministry and the St. Thomas Home and School Assoc. invite all women, but especially pre-menopausal women in their 30's, 40's and 50's to attend.**

**Women and Heart Disease presented by St. Joseph's Women's Heart Center  
April 23, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at STA School in Herron Hall**

### BLOOMFIELD RESIDENTS

**Bloomfield Nursing Division is offering the following. Appointments required, please call 973-680-4058.**

#### PAP SMEAR & MAMMOGRAPHY SCREENING

TUES., MAY 19, 9:00 A.M.-12 NOON  
FREE TO UNINSURED WOMEN AGE 40 AND OVER.

#### BONE DENSITY SCREENING

FOR WOMEN AND MEN  
TUESDAYS, APRIL 28, MAY 26, JUNE 30  
10:00 A.M. - 12 NOON  
BONE DENSITY - \$10 (\$8 FOR THOSE OVER AGE 55)

#### SKIN CANCER SCREENING

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 12 NOON - 2:00 P.M.  
Free confidential skin cancer exam for those without a dermatologist.

#### BODY FAT/ BODY MASS INDEX SCREENING

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 10:00 A.M. - 12 NOON  
Learn your body fat percentage & BMI score  
NO CHARGE / NO REGISTRATION



## Right to Life

For all who are tempted to sin against life, that they might turn from darkness and embrace the infinite love and light of God;

*We pray to the Lord*

## *Prayer for Life*

*Through the workings of the Spirit, Father, we turn to You to open our minds through wisdom, our hearts through love, to better understand to support all those whose lives are affected by misunderstanding of the sacredness of life.*

*May we see in them an extension of Your love for all peoples of the world. Bless our efforts on their behalf. Give us the grace to persevere in the face of opposition, discouragement, and apathy, so that one day soon all will be saved to experience and to share the beauty, the goodness, and the happiness of Your great gift of life.*

*Amen*



## LACORDAIRE ACADEMY

### **Spring Cleaning?**

**Donate Used Books for a Great Cause  
- Educating Young People!**

Lacordaire Academy is accepting donations of gently-used hardcover, paperback and audio books for its annual book sale to benefit technology upgrades at the Academy. *It's So Easy!* Think of us during spring cleaning and drop off your books any time under the covered porch at the front door of the high school—155 Lorraine Ave., Upper Montclair. Lacordaire's Annual Used Book Sale will take place Thursday-Sunday, May 14-17, 2009. For more information, contact Teresa at [LacoBookSale@msn.com](mailto:LacoBookSale@msn.com).

## **Did you know**

### **REGISTRATION FOR ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH**

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.



**Queen of Peace High School Theater Presents:**



**Fri, April 24  
Sat, April 25  
Fri, May 1  
Sat, May 2**

Professional Orchestra and Costumes at  
Queen of Peace High School  
191 Rutherford Place, North Arlington, NJ

Tickets \$10 - Curtain 8:00 p.m.

For tickets, call 201-998-8227 x39

Order forms and playbill ad forms available at  
[www.qphs.org](http://www.qphs.org)



## **Moving?**

**Please let us know.**

Within the parish –  
to update new address  
Out of parish –  
to discontinue mailings

**Please call the Parish Center at (973) 338-9190.**

## **THE GIFT OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTION**

**A Spiritual Director Helps You:**

- grow in intimacy with God
- when struggling with your faith, God, the Church
- express life's struggles, pains, joys, and gratitude to God
- notice God's response and desire to you deeper into God's heart
- face and work through decisions, transitions and challenges
- bring those secrets often held in our heart to healing
- through the pain of abortion issues, grieving, sadness, confusion
- Spiritual Direction can help another in finding other ways to pray when prayer has become difficult or dry.

**Spiritual Direction affirms God's unconditional love and acceptance of all people regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, or economic status.**

*Call: Anna Graziano, cSD (973) 338-9538  
All calls and appointments confidential*