

# 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. Philip A. Sanders, S.T.B. • Rev. Andrew N. Onyemaobi, M.Div., M.A.  
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

**Masses for the Week**

**Sunday, December 27**

Saturday, December 26

5:00 pm Deceased Members of Ofsak & Russo Families – Family

Sunday, December 27

7:30 am Esterina & Silvester Fusco – Family  
9:00 am For the People of the Parish  
10:30 am Joseph Stevens – Daughter & Family  
12:00 pm Kevin Younkins – Uncle

Monday, December 28

7:30 am Joseph Pietrowski – Daughters  
11:30 am Patrick Russillo – Sister

Tuesday, December 29

7:30 am Barbara Sabatino – Friend  
11:30 am DeRogatis & Lepore Families – Family

Wednesday, December 30

7:30 am Angeline Frunzi – Friend  
11:30 am James McGarry – Friend

Thursday, December 31

7:30 am John Horan – Friend  
11:30 am Glenn J. Stickles – Friend  
4:00 pm Joseph Bianchi and Ernest & Philomena Cordasco – Family

Friday, January 1, 2010 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

7:30 am Samuel L. Alvino – Friend  
11:30 am Barbara Spagnoli – Brother

Saturday, January 2

8:30 am Anna Sierchio & Mary Rispo – Family

**Sunday, January 3**

Saturday, January 2

5:00 pm Jean Powers – Family

Sunday, January 3

7:30 am For the People of the Parish  
9:00 am Marie & Charles Pisarcik – Family  
10:30 am Ted Wohlbold – Wife  
12:00 pm Georgette Nader – Friend

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



This liturgical feast has been on the church calendar about a hundred years, often on different dates. It is a “devotional” or “idea” feast that was inaugurated by Holy Family associations. Every-thing we know about the Holy Family, which is not much, comes from the Gospel accounts read over the three years. It

celebrates the unity and love so evident in the family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus.

**FIRST READING:** Honor and respect are proposed by Sirach as the proper and holy manner of caring for one’s parents. The person who lives in this manner is blessed with the ear of God in prayer. Care for an aging parent is an act of kindness that is blessed with the mercy of God.

**RESPONSORIAL:** In Psalm 128 the church announces in song the blessings of fruitful labor and prosperous family life for those who walk in God’s way.

**SECOND READING:** The letter to the Colossians speaks to the blessings and manner of life that mark the community of faith. Since God has chosen us as his own, our lives should mirror the compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience of God. As we live in love and in gratitude seeking to do everything in the name of Jesus, all of our relationships will be marked by the mutual care of self-emptying love.

**GOSPEL:** Luke portrays a very difficult conversation between Jesus and Mary. Jesus remained behind in the temple to be about his Father’s business while Mary was filled with anxious concern about her Son’s safety and wellbeing. Jesus and Mary were both seeking to be faithful to the call God entrusted to them. Their difficult conversation centered on those fundamental calls and resolved itself in the harmony and peace of life in Nazareth.

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK:**

Christine Stile-Mazzeo, Theresa Ferreri, Patricia DeMarco  
Noelle Angela, Ryan Joseph, Frank Korec

**CANDLE INTENTIONS:**

**Church:** James Spasato   **Convent:** David Kossack  
**Rectory:** Robert Clarke

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

**Christmastime Masses Continue**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

Thursday, December 31, 2009 – 4:00pm (Vigil Mass)  
Friday, January 1, 2010 – 7:30am – 11:30am

**SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY**  
**(Annual “Bell Sunday”)**

Saturday, January 2, 2010 – 5:00pm Vigil Mass  
Sunday, January 3, 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am & 12pm  
(Children’s Epiphany Pageant following 12noon Mass)

## SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS ED & SACRAMENTS



**OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW FAMILIES**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 10:00 A.M.**  
Please come and explore our school and see for yourself what a wonderful place STA School is to enroll your child.

Pre K3 through 8th 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



**ATTENTION STA ALUMNI**

Please check out the Alumni Registration page on our website [www.stthomastheapostlenj.com](http://www.stthomastheapostlenj.com).

## Tickets for the 2010 Calendar Raffle are on sale!

You should have received your tickets in the mail by now. Additional tickets are available on the desk in the Parish Center or by calling Gen Pezzino at 973-771-0463. All proceeds from the Raffle will go directly to benefit the educational programs of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish School.

## 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.

**December 20<sup>th</sup> Collection will be in Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> bulletin.**  
**AMOUNT NEEDED PER WEEK: \$20,500**

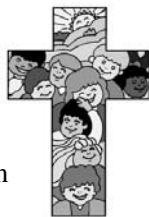
### PLANNED GIVING

Here are some other ways you can help Saint 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 Saint Thomas the Apostle Church.

A bequest in your will assure 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 Ave., Bloomfield, NJ 07003**. Make Saint 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 Saint Thomas the Apostle Church.

### Religious Education News

Our Summer CCD program will run from Tuesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00-12:30 each day. Children in grades 3 - 8 are eligible. **Space is very limited.** The program is only available to our parish families.



No notices will be sent home about Summer Registration. An announcement will be made in the church bulletin some-time in January when registration packages become available. Please do not call the Religious Education Office until the announcement has been placed in the bulletin.

We need summer teachers for grades 3, 6, 7, & 8 – if interested please call the Religious Education Office at 338-7400. Please note if you volunteer to teach in our summer program, your children are automatically accepted into the program.

### VBS

If you have children ages 4-12, mark your calendars for our popular Vacation Bible School program. It will run from Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup> 'til Friday, July 2, 9:00-12:00 each day. We need volunteers to help out for the whole week – Confirmation Candidates are welcome. Please watch the bulletin for further information and registration forms.

CCD Christmas recess ends January 3<sup>rd</sup>. ALL classes will resume the week of January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Please remember that children in grades 1-7 are only allowed six absences and if your child is close to that mark you should call the Religious Education Office.

A happy & healthy New Year to all of our students, families, volunteers, and teachers.

### 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.



### 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.**



Thank you for supporting the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. In order for our parish to receive a rebate, we must exceed our goal in funds collected by December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have an outstanding balance on your pledge, please make sure to send it in before the deadline. If you have not yet made your gift, please complete your gift envelope as soon as possible and either send it directly to the Archdiocese of Newark or turn it in at the parish center.



**RIGHT TO LIFE**

For those who are lonely or estranged from their families: that they may find consolation and healing during this Christmas season;

*We pray to the Lord*

**RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE**

**The Respect Life Committee needs your help!**

The Respect Life Committee needs disposable diapers and baby supplies. Also Aspirin, Tylenol, ibuprofen, bar soap and used sheets and towels. The latter items are for a container going to Cuba in January.

God bless and thank you for your generous support!

**JOB SEEKERS GROUP**

Looking for a job? Come to a meeting of the St. Thomas the Apostle job seekers on the first and third Thursdays of every month at 7:30 pm in the Parish Center where you will get a chance to network, get some advice, and pray with other members of the parish who are searching for a job. If you're not looking for work, but are looking for a good worker, come to one of our meetings and you'll meet plenty of them!

For additional information, send an email to: [workministry@stachurchbloomfield.com](mailto:workministry@stachurchbloomfield.com)

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

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

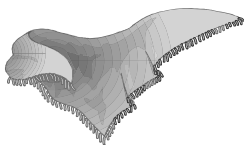
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

01/10/10 KICK-OFF MEETING

**50 IN 15 PASTA**

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

***The Prayer Shawl Ministry***



We will meet Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 11:30-2PM. We meet in the Parish Center. If you cannot attend the meeting but wish to participate please contact Alicia.

We're in need of shawls measuring *at least* 22" x 60". If you have any questions please contact the Ministry: Bernadette at 973-893-0114, Sister Arleen at 973-338-9190, or Alicia at 973-473-6633

**GIVING TREE December 13<sup>th</sup> '09**



Dear Friends,

On this Feast of the Holy Family, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to you and your families for your wonderful support in our Giving Tree project. Many families, both here in our parish and in other parishes within our diocese, have received these gifts.

Thanks to all those who gave their time on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, to sort and pack the gifts.

Sincerely, St. Thomas Staff



**Children's Epiphany Pageant**

**Jan. 3, 2010 after 12:00 noon Mass**

**There's still time for your child to participate in the Epiphany pageant!**

Bring your child to dress rehearsal Sat. Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00 noon in Church.

***Session Dates for Baptism 2009-2010***

**CATECHESIS PREPARATION**

St. Thomas Room in the Parish Center

January 24, 2010	1:00 p.m.
March 28	1:00 p.m.
May 16	1:00 p.m.
June 13	1:00 p.m.

**BAPTISM CELEBRATIONS**

January 10, 2010	1:30 p.m.
January 31	1:30 p.m.
February 14	1:30 p.m.
April 11	1:30 p.m.
April 17	during 5:00 p.m. Mass
May 2	1:30 p.m.

**MEN'S CORNERSTONE – MARCH 12 and 13, 2010**

"The strength, the courage, the wisdom and especially the patience to deal with life's everyday trials suddenly became easier to ask for and accept."

– Richard Sefcik

## 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.

The Institute for Christian Spirituality, Center for Workplace Spirituality, *presents the workshop...*

### ***Finding Work & Managing Your Career in Tough Economic Times,***

**Saturday, January 30, 2010** - St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Parish Center, St. Peter's Room, Bloomfield, NJ, Mass at 8:30am (optional), 9:30a – 12:30p (light breakfast will be served), *Topics of discussion will include:*

- Proactive job-hunting: what really works?
- Networking: the #1 way to find work!
- What you should be doing to manage your career while still employed
- Resumes: what type is best for you?
- Reinvigorating a long job-search
- Points for mature job-seekers
- AND...where is God in all this?

Please join us for a time of prayer and reflection on the meaning of work in our lives and learn the best ways to find work in today's job market; learn what you should be doing to sustain your career, even while you are working... all discussions are confidential.

***Know that you are not alone...***

*This workshop will be facilitated by Julie V. Burkey, MAPM, Director of the Center for Workplace Spirituality at Seton Hall University where she is also an adjunct professor. Julie has led numerous workshops on issues of employment; previously, she spent many years in her own business as an executive search consultant to major industrial companies.*

**Kindly RSVP by January 22, 2010 to  
workministry@stachurchbloomfield.com**



### **NEW ALTAR SERVER TRAINING**

Jan. 28 & 29, 2010  
Feb 4 & 5, 2010

All server training will be held in Church at 3:45 p.m. Students must attend one of the January dates and one of the February dates.

Additional training sessions may be scheduled.

If interested, please call the parish center by January 18<sup>th</sup> at 973-338-9190.

### ***St. Thomas the Apostle's Men's and Women's Cornerstone Retreat***



**To all Men and Women  
who have attended a  
Cornerstone retreat!**

**Will you come and join  
us for a prayer service?**

Prayer service will be held in church on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

We will be praying for those men and women who will be attending the Cornerstone retreats this coming March.

Watch the bulletin for more details!

### **Ministry of Spiritual Direction**

### **NEW YEAR NEW BEGINNINGS RETREAT DAY**

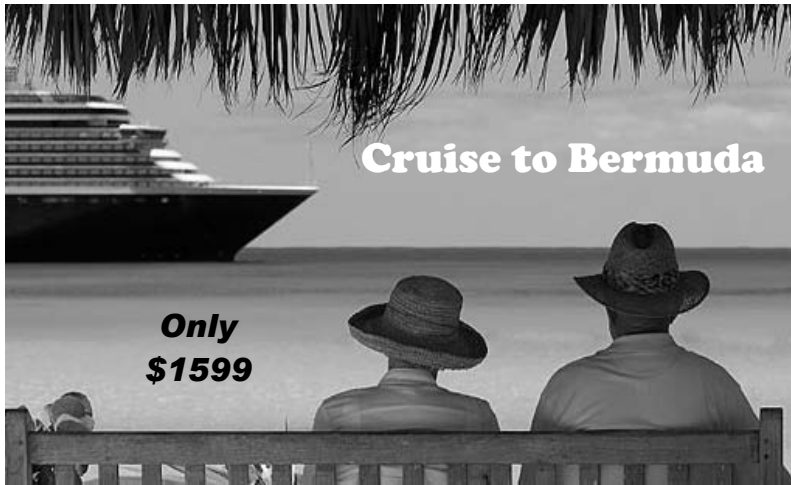
**Guided Retreat for Men & Women  
Saturday, January 9, 2010  
9:00am - 4:00pm in the Parish Center**



*"Rise up, be off to the potter's house;  
there I will give you my message."*

Jeremiah 18:2

**Please Register by Jan 7  
Anna Graziano – (973) 338-9538  
Offering  
Light Continental Breakfast  
Bag a Lunch  
Offering \$25**



St. Thomas the Apostle Parish  
**A CRUISE TO BERMUDA**  
 Sailing on Holland America's *MS Veendam*  
 June 27, 2010

Interested!  
 Call the Parish Center and Ask for  
 a Full-Color Brochure  
 With all the details

**973-338-9190**

Mon – Fri 9:00am to 5:00pm / Sat 9:00am to 1:00pm

**INCLUDED:**

- Roundtrip Transport to Ship's Pier in NYC
- Seven Luxury Days and Nights in a beautiful Outside Stateroom
- All Meals with Elegant Dining – Afternoon Tea – Midnight Buffet
- 24 Hour Room Service – In Room Movies
- 2 Days in Hamilton, Bermuda
- 2 Days in St. George, Bermuda
- Relaxing Days at Sea with Las Vegas Style Casino
- Nightly Broadway Style Entertainment – Dancing
- Meet the Captain & Tour Group Cocktail Receptions
- Gala Farewell Dinner Party
- Also Available:
  - Spa – Gym Fitness Center – Internet Café – Culinary Arts Center – Beauty Salon – Duty Free Shops – Cocktail Lounges – Indoor and Outdoor Pools – Optional Land Tours with Guides

**THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR INNER-CITY CHILDREN  
 2010 SFIC Basketball Festival**

For the past six years The Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children has sponsored a High School Basketball Festival as a way to raise funds and awareness for our mission. We have assembled some of the top teams in the state to compete in the 2010 SFIC Basketball Festival.

Revenue from ticket sales of our Basketball Festival will go directly into our General Scholarship Fund which currently supports over 1,700 students with partial-tuition scholarships.

**Boys – Sunday, January 10  
 Kean University, Union, NJ**

**12:15 pm** St. Benedict's Prep vs. Our Savior New American

**2:00 pm** St. Anthony HS vs. NIA Prep

**3:45 pm** St. Patrick HS vs. Trenton Catholic HS

**5:30 pm** St. Peter's Prep vs. Hudson Catholic HS

**Girls – Sunday, January 17  
 Paramus Catholic HS, Paramus, NJ**

**3:15 pm** St. Anthony HS vs. Benedictine Academy

**4:45 pm** Paramus Catholic HS vs. Mother Seton HS

**6:15 pm** Marist HS vs. Mt. St. Dominic Academy

For more information, visit [www.sfichoops.com](http://www.sfichoops.com)  
 or call (973) 497-4279

***Beatitudes***  
*for Friends of the Aged*

*Blessed are they who understand my faltering step  
 and palsied hand.*

*Blessed are they who know that my ears today  
 must strain to catch the things they say.*

*Blessed are they who seem to know that my eyes  
 are dim and my wits are slow.*

*Blessed are they who looked away when coffee  
 spilled at table today.*

*Blessed are they with a cheery smile who stop to  
 chat for a little while.*

*Blessed are they who never say, "You've told that  
 story twice today."*

*Blessed are they who know the ways to bring back  
 memories or yesterdays.*

*Blessed are they who make it known that I'm  
 loved, respected, and not alone.*

*Blessed are they who know I'm at a loss to find  
 the strength to carry the cross.*

*Blessed are they who ease the days on my journey  
 Home in loving ways.*

*~ Esther Mary Walker*