

# 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 Barbeta, 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

July 25, 2010 . 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Masses for the Week**

**Sunday, July 25**

**Saturday, July 24**

5:00 pm Marco Cieri – Family

**Sunday, July 25**

7:30 am Frederick Balma – Friends

9:00 am Anna Korec – Family

10:30 am For the People of the Parish

12:00 pm Anne Sierchio & Francis Reboa – Family

**Monday, July 26**

7:30 am Michael Huetter – Friend

11:30 am Deceased Members of the Burns & Boyle Families – Son & Daughter

**Tuesday, July 27**

7:30 am Michael Huetter – Friend

11:30 am Brian English – Father & Family

**Wednesday, July 28**

7:30 am Josefa Gamboa – Friend

11:30 am Anita Laurenzi – Friend

**Thursday, July 29**

7:30 am Edna A. Carlos – Bequest

11:30 am Sally Anne Lazzaro – Friend

**Friday, July 30**

7:30 am Edna A. Carlos – Bequest

11:30 am Fred Roberts – Family

**Saturday, July 31**

8:30 am Sr. Paula De Rogatis – Sister

**Sunday, August 1**

**Saturday, July 31**

5:00 pm James Castrovilla – Family

**Sunday, August 1**

7:30 am Ann Murphy – Friend

9:00 am Sadie Davis – Friend

10:30 am Alvin Trautfetter – Wife

12:00 pm For the People of the Parish

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK:**

Katherine McShane, Halle Barrett,  
Kevin Sutton, Virginia Scully,  
Lisa Ricciardelli, Nancy Carini

**CANDLE INTENTIONS:**

**Church:** David Kossack



*17th Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*

*“And I tell you,  
ask and you shall receive;  
seek and you shall find;*

*knock and the door will be opened to you.”*

*(Luke 11:1-13)*

We are halfway through Luke, through Colossians, through summer, and halfway through Ordinary Time.

**FIRST READING:**

Abraham’s boldness and God’s justice meet in a dialogue of compassion. In his boldness Abraham fears provoking God’s anger, but he discovers only mercy. The God who draws near to his people to gain intimate knowledge of them rejoices in Abraham, who calls for justice for the innocent.

**RESPONSORIAL:**

In Psalm 138 the Church gives full voice to her faith that God hears and answers the prayer of the needy and of those who place their hope in him.

**SECOND READING:**

The letter to the Colossians points to Baptism as an invitation into the death and Resurrection of the Lord. We are given the gift of new life as the power of sin over us is nailed to the cross. In the waters of Baptism the gift of redemption, secured in the Lord’s death, transforms the life of the individual welcomed into the Church.

**GOSPEL:**

If there was ever a cosmic negotiation, it is the Lord’s Prayer. First, we praise God, and then we list our petitions: We need food, please. Oh, and forgiveness; and please do not make the temptations harder than we can bear. Amen.

In return, we offer the assertion that we also forgive those who do us wrong, and we are nowhere near as just as God. But Jesus knows we are not as good as our intentions. He adds the little story about the man who will not help his neighbor out of friendship but will capitulate in the end out of exasperation. That is more like us. We forgive those who wrong us because it is often more practical to do so. Even psychology tells us that we have a personal investment in forgiveness: It is the healthy choice, over the gradual descent into mental illness which comes from holding a grudge.

What makes God God is that God does not need a reason or motivation to forgive us. If we ask, if we seek, if we knock, we will be served. That is a cosmic negotiation worth pursuing.

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

## SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS ED & SACRAMENTS



***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

## ***Session Dates for Baptism 2010***

### **CATECHESIS PREPARATION**

St. Thomas Room in the Parish Center

September 12	1:00 p.m.
October 17	1:00 p.m.
December 5	1:00 p.m.

### **BAPTISM CELEBRATIONS**

August 15	1:30 p.m.
September 18	during the 5:00 p.m. mass
September 19	1:30 p.m.
October 3	1:30 p.m.
October 31	1:30 p.m.
November 21	1:30 p.m.
December 12	1:30 p.m.



## ***St. Thomas the Apostle School MOMMY & ME PLAYGROUP***

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish School would like to offer a free, weekly *Mommy & Me Playgroup* this Fall.

- ☺ The playgroup will serve children from 2 to 4 years of age.
- ☺ 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.
- ☺ Creation of this playgroup is dependent on the number of interested families.
- ☺ If you or a friend are interested in participating or if you have any questions, please call the school office at **973-338-8505**.

## WHY CHOOSE A CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION?

### **Excellence in Academic Achievement**

A Catholic education is a challenging education. High standards, strong motivation, effective discipline and an atmosphere of caring combine to foster excellence, and, a high quality of student performance is supported by the evidence.

- Catholic School students score significantly above the national averages on standardized testing.
- Research shows that because of a greater emphasis on homework and study, Catholic School students develop more effective writing skills.
- Catholic High School students attend post-secondary education at a rate in excess of 80% and are more likely to complete their program of studies.
- Catholic Schools have an excellent success rate in educating minority students.

While providing a stimulating and demanding education, Catholic Schools give students a high level of individualized attention and personal sharing. This commitment is reinforced by participation in programs for advanced students and also for those experiencing difficulties in reading, writing, and math.

### **Family and Community**

**A Catholic School recognizes the parents and family as primary educators and joins with them to form a living community of shared visions.**

- Catholic Schools help students understand that each person is unique and valuable.
- Catholic Schools join with the family to help students understand their special place in the family, the Church, and society.
- Catholic Schools encourage family input and involvement in the ongoing education of their children. Research shows that such a partnership results in higher attendance rates and lower dropout rates.
- Catholic Schools strive to create a special bond among the students, the home, the school, and the church, so that all share the strong sense of community.

Every child shares in an educational environment filled with love and concern -- a community joining together to help create a better world.

### **SUMMER-BREAK PRAYER**

Lord, what about you and me?

I don't want to forget you  
just because I'm off my normal school-year routine.  
Keep close to me, Lord, and remind me  
that my relationship with you  
should never take a break.

**STA SOCIETIES, MINISTRIES & EVENTS**

**“THIS WEEK”**

**Monday – 7/26**

September Club – 11:30am in St. Peter

**Thursday – 7/29**

SCC Friday – 6:30pm in St. Peter  
SCC Thursday – 7:00pm in St. Matthew

**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.

**LAST WEEKEND COLLECTION: \$17,731**  
**AMOUNT BUDGETED: \$20,500**

**ELECTRONIC GIVING**

Want to skip writing checks to St. Thomas each week? Sign up for our electronic giving program. Once a month your gift to the parish is automatically charged to your designated credit or debit card. It's convenient and secure. Call the parish center to request information.

**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.

“We are all called to do something beautiful for others.”  
-Mother Teresa



**RIGHT TO LIFE**

For persons diagnosed with a terminal illness, that the love of our Lord will be evident in the tender care they receive from family and caregivers;

*We pray to the Lord*

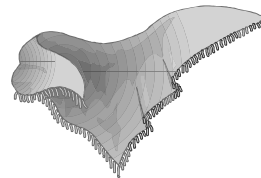


**ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA**

*Founder of the Jesuits*  
*Feast Day: July 31, 2010*

Spanish nobility. Youngest of twelve children. Page in the Spanish court of Ferdinand and Isabella. Military education. Soldier, entering the army in 1517, and serving in several campaigns. Wounded in the leg by a cannonball at the siege of Pampeluna on 20 May 1521, an injury that left him partially crippled for life. During his recuperation the only books he had access to were *The Golden Legend*, a collection of lives of the saints, and the *Life of Christ* by Ludolph the Carthusian. These books, and the time spent in contemplation, changed him.

On his recovery he took a vow of chastity, hung his sword before the altar of the Virgin of Montserrat, and donned a pilgrim's robes. Lived in a cave from 1522 to 1523, contemplating the way to live a Christian life. Pilgrim to Rome and the Holy Land in 1523, where he worked to convert Muslims. In 1528 he began studying theology in Barcelona, Alcalá, and Paris, receiving his degree on 14 March 1534. His meditations, prayers, visions and insights led to forming the *Constitutions* of the *Society of Jesus* on 15 August 1534; it received papal approval in 1541. Friend of James Lainez, Alonso Salmerón, Nicholas Bobadilla, Simón Rodríguez, Blessed Peter Faber, and Saint Francis Xavier, the group that formed the core of the new *Society*. He never used the term *Jesuit*, which was coined as an insult by his opponents; the *Society* today uses the term with pride. He traveled Europe and the Holy Lands, then settled in Rome to direct the Jesuits. His health suffered in later years, and he was nearly blind at death.



**Prayer Shawl Ministry**  
**will resume meeting**  
**September 19 at 11:30 AM**  
**at the Parish Center**

We welcome all who wish to work and pray with us. The Ministry has several lightweight shawls and lap robes. Please contact us if you wish to give a shawl over the summer. Alicia @ 973-473-6633  
Sister Arleen @ 973-338-9190

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

## HOLY NAME SOCIETY ANNUAL RETREAT

THE MEN'S RETREAT AT SAN ALFONSO RETREAT HOUSE, WHERE GOD AND SEA COME TOGETHER, IS SET FOR SEPTEMBER 24-26.



THE THEME FOR THE 2010 WEEKEND RETREAT IS: THE YEAR OF ST. LUKE, GOD'S COMPANION.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN SPENDING THIS MOST ENJOYABLE AND SPIRITUALLY SIGNIFICANT WEEKEND AT THE NEW JERSEY SHORE SHOULD CONTACT FRANK HELMSTETTER AT 973-338-5872.

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

**Thursday, August 5:**

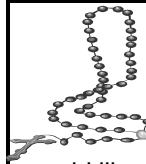
### Staying Healthy at no cost to you!

Whether in a job search, starting a new position, or busily working, in today's competitive job market it is more important than ever to practice habits that will keep you strong, healthy, and at your very best. Dr. Samuel Sbarra will review proven methods that everyone can implement on their own and at no cost. Learn ways to better manage this stressful time and turn it into a springboard for a stronger future.

Dr. Sbarra has been in private practice for 23 years. In addition he is an adjunct professor at Essex County College.

### Note:

We will be having our networking meeting on August 19 and will resume our meetings on Thursday, September 16 with a great motivational program from one of our well-respected parishioners... details to follow - you won't want to miss it!



## Rosary Society Gift Shop

Items from the gift shop are available for sale. Merchandise is available for First Holy Communion, Confirmation, gifts, etc. If you would like to view an item or make a purchase please e-mail [STA\\_Rosary\\_Shop@comcast.net](mailto:STA_Rosary_Shop@comcast.net) or call Mary Ellen DeCotiis at 973-893-9625, Bernadette Lipoma at 973-893-0114 or Rosalie Mescall at 973-893-8186.

## Our lives are busy...

...but the purpose of our lives is all about relationships - with God as well as with each other. To neglect our relationships, especially with those who are close to us, is to not exercise good stewardship.

We must give our relation-ships proper time and attention - just like the gardener giving proper time and attention to his garden. Some ideas for tending the garden of our relationships:

- † Send a card to someone who is in need of support.
- † Invite some friends over that you haven't seen in a while.
- † Sign up for a Marriage Encounter weekend. It's a great stewardship of your marriage.
- † Visit the homebound, especially any relatives, friends or parishioners.
- † Tell someone that they are gifted - compliment them on their talents.

Our relationships can be a lot of work, but they are crucial for our survival.

## God, Father of All Humanity



Let us celebrate

**"The Feast of the GOD THE FATHER"**  
**August 8, 2010 (Sunday)**

- 12:00 p.m. Holy Mass**
- 1:00 p.m. Consecration to God our Father  
Formal Chaplet & Litany**
- 2:00 p.m. Fellowship (Parish Center)**

**For information, please Gary Ilustrisimo  
973.338.8011 or visit our website:  
[www.twoheartsnj.com](http://www.twoheartsnj.com)**

## SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNE

Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
and  
Grandparents of Jesus  
Mon, July 26, 2010



In the scriptures, Matthew and Luke furnish a legal family of Jesus, tracing ancestry to show that Jesus is the culmination of great promises. His mother's family is not only neglected, but we know nothing factual about them except that they existed. Even the names of Joachim and Anne come from a legendary source written more than a century after Jesus died.

The heroism and holiness of these people, however, is inferred from the whole family atmosphere around Mary in the Scriptures. Whether we rely on the legends about Mary's childhood or make guesses from the information in the Bible, we see in her a fulfillment of many generations of prayerful persons, herself steeped in the religious traditions of her people.

The strong character of Mary making decisions, her continuous practice of prayer, her devotion to the laws of her faith, her steadiness at moments of crisis, and her devotion to her relatives - all indicate a close-knit family that looked forward to the next generation even while retaining the best of the past.

Joachim and Anne - whether these are their real names or not - represent that entire quiet series of generations who faithfully perform their duties, practice their faith, and establish an atmosphere for the coming of the Messiah, but remain obscure.

**Comment:** This is the feast of "grandparents". It reminds grandparents of their responsibility to establish a tone for generations to come. They must make the traditions live and offer them as a promise to little children. But the feast has a message for the younger generation as perspective, depth of experience, and appreciation of life's profound rhythms are all part of wisdom not to be taken lightly or ignored.

**Quote:** "The family is the foundation of society. In it the various generations come together and help one another to grow wise and to harmonize personal rights with the other requirements of social life."

*Feel good about yourself - - Give blood*



*St. Thomas' Annual  
Blood Drive  
Sunday,  
September 26, 2010  
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 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".

Juice, bagels, and snacks will be served.

All donors must present signed or picture ID's and know their social security number. Please eat a meal before you donate.

For more information call the blood center of New Jersey at 973-676-4700.

### *10 Reasons to Donate Blood*

- Blood transfusions save lives.
- There's no substitute for human blood.
- Every three seconds someone needs a blood transfusion.
- About 60 percent of the population is eligible to donate blood, yet less than five percent do.
- A pint of blood, separated into components, can help up to three people.
- You'll make your community a safer place.
- Fulfills your desire to "give back" to the community.
- You'll receive a mini physical (blood pressure, temperature, iron level).
- You'll learn your blood type.
- It's safe, simple, and it saves lives.

### *Reporting Abuse...*

The Archdiocese takes very seriously any and all allegations of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the Archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform us immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse.

Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at (201) 407-3256.