

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

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Rev. Charles J. Miller, M. Div., Pastor
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Antonio T. Sarento, M.Div.
In Residence: Rev. John F. Gordon, M.Div., V.F.

PERMANENT DEACONS:

Deacon Albert H. Tizzano • Deacon Thomas J. Coyle • Deacon Brian J. Murphy
Deacon Dennis J. Besida, Retired

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 Hann

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:
Mr. Michael Petrillo

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

FINANCE CHAIRMEN:
James McKittrick, 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

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November 5, 2017 • Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses for the Week

Sunday, November 5

- 7:30 am For The Faithful Departed
- 9:00 am Eleanor Gonnella – Family
- 10:30 am Frank O’Sullivan – Family
- 12:00 pm Thomas & Rose De Gennaro – Family

Monday, November 6

- 7:30 am For The Faithful Departed
- 11:30 am Frank O’Sullivan – Family

Tuesday, November 7

- 7:30 am Lola Raimo – Bequest
- 11:30 am For the Faithful Departed

Wednesday, November 8

- 7:30 am For The Faithful Departed
- 11:30 am Elaine Aiello – Friend

Thursday, November 9

- 7:30 am Ah How Lee – Family
- 11:30 am For The Faithful Departed

Friday, November 10

- 7:30 am For The Faithful Departed
- 11:30 am Marie Reilly – 7th Anniv. – Daughter

Saturday, November 11

- 8:30 am For The Faithful Departed

Sunday, November 12

Saturday, November 11

- 5:00 pm Josephine Battista – Family

Sunday, November 12

- 7:30 am Anne & Joseph Dukiet – Family
- 9:00 am For The People
- 10:30 am Dorothy Collins – Family
- 12:00 pm Johanna & Edmund Dovidas – Family



Today’s Gospel continues to elaborate on the tension between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees. Our Lectionary sequence at this point, however, is not quite a continuous reading of Matthew. In between last week’s reading from Matthew and this week’s, we find Jesus’ question to the Pharisees about the Messiah being “David’s son.” Having concluded a series of dialogues with the Pharisees and other religious leaders, Jesus now directs his words to the crowds, warning them not to follow the example of the scribes and Pharisees.

The scribes and Pharisees were teachers of the Mosaic Law. They were entrusted with its interpretation and, thus, were influential in determining Jewish practice. In order to appreciate the conflict that is evident in this passage, we must understand that Jesus was basing his teachings on the same laws and traditions available to the Pharisees. Both were interpreting the Law of Moses in order to better adapt it to contemporary Jewish life. The differences between their teachings, therefore, are often highlighted and amplified by Matthew.

This part of Matthew’s Gospel reflects aspects of the conflict between his Christian community and Pharisaic Judaism. Matthew’s Church is thought to have included many Jewish Christians who may not have believed that a break with the synagogue was necessary to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus tells the crowd that it is correct to do and observe what the scribes and Pharisees teach; it is their example that is to be avoided, namely, their love of being honored and exalted. Hence, the Gospel reflects the tension of an active internal debate within the early Church.

Jesus references two aspects of Jewish spiritual life prescribed by the Law of Moses. *Phylacteries* are small boxes which contain Scripture verses that are placed on the left forearm and forehead. *Tassels* refer to the fringes worn on the corners of a person’s garments; the tassels help to remind those who wear them to keep the commandments.

The warning Jesus gives against seeking places of honor in the community was directed as much toward the Christian community as the named Jewish leaders. Indeed, it is a warning that resonates with us today. Christian leadership is a call to service for the glory of God; those who would be leaders among us must, like Jesus, be servants of all.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Mary Stark,
Nancy Salerno, Robert Kelly

REST IN PEACE

Rev. Daniel A. Danik,
Gilbert Sprague

SANCTUARY CANDLES

Church: Eleanor Gonnella

View this bulletin online at:

<http://stachurchbloomfield.com/bulletin>



From the Pastor's Desk.....

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to the 70+ young people of our parish who have just celebrated their Confirmation. They are now full members of our parish family and we invite them to join us in being a sign of God's presence and kingdom for the communities in which we live.

We offer a special word of gratitude to Mr. Tim Dennin and those who assisted him on our Confirmation Team for using their faith, time and talent to help prepare those confirmed for this important step in their lives.

INCREASED GIVING

Our Sunday and Holyday collections are the lifeblood of our parish programs and ministries. Our recent *Increased Giving Campaign* was necessitated by a shortfall in these collections causing a significant budget deficit.

I am happy to be able to inform you that due to the success of the campaign and the resulting collection increase our budget for this year is likely to be balanced and positive.

I want to thank the individuals and families of St. Thomas the Apostle for your generous and faith-filled response to this need. Your response through the years is one of the many reasons why St. Thomas the Apostle continues to be such a successful and supportive Catholic faith community.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE



The main source of operating funds for St. Thomas is our weekly / holyday offertory collections. The information below will show where the Parish is as of October 22 compared to the budget amount for the year.

The break even date is June 30, 2018. The amount needed each week is \$16,784 and the amount collected last weekend was \$15,981

Budget Amount	Year to Date	Remaining Amount
\$856,000	\$296,641	\$559,359

The year to date amount is negative by \$5,471 as of week number 18 in our current budget year.

Living Stones Campaign Update

Our Goal is \$1,127,416 Pledged Amount \$416,104 Collected to date \$247,658. First \$100,000 goes to Diocese. STA received \$72,578.56 to date. Amount spent to date on stairs and ice melt system is \$71,320.

Increased Weekly Giving Program

Our Increased Weekly Giving Program is coming to a close. We would like to commend all parishioners for their concern for our parish.

If you have not returned your response envelope, please do so at the first opportunity.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Because of Thanksgiving, our next gathering will take place Sunday, November 12th at 11:30 am in the Parish Center

If you can knit or crochet we need your help.

Patients being cared for at the Villa Marie Claire hospice and palliative care center receive a Prayer shawl upon admission. We have been invited to participate in this project to help meet the demand.

We also keep a supply of shawls and lap robes for those who are in special need of prayers. We make chemo hats, preemie hats and blankets. Our prayerfully made items are available just by contacting the Parish Center, Betsy or Alicia.

I now reach out to all crafters to consider helping us with these projects. Our Ministry can provide you with the guidance for this prayerful activity. If you wish to help with these projects please call Alicia at 973-473-6633—email aliciavons@gmail.com or call Betsy @973-893-2441.

To learn more about our Ministry, please consider joining us at our next gathering.

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

HOLIDAY SEASON BULLETIN DEADLINES

NOVEMBER 26TH BULLETIN

Deadline: 5pm on Monday November 13th

DECEMBER 24TH BULLETIN

Deadline: 5pm on Monday December 11th

DECEMBER 31ST BULLETIN

Deadline: 5pm on Monday December 18th

Men's Scripture Reading and Reflection

ALL MEN are invited Monday November 6 at 7:30pm in the St. James Room.

Join a group of ordinary men and spend 90 minutes reflecting on the Sunday Scripture Readings for the coming week.

We will also be reading from the work of Saint Ambrose one of the four original Doctors of the Church.

We'll discuss Church teaching within the readings and learn something of what was going on at that time.

Share the extraordinary Word of God and together we can learn more about our beautiful Catholic faith.

Boy Scout Troop 22 Celebrating its 75th Anniversary



With a special Court of Honor,
November 12th

12:00 pm in Herron Hall.

Alumni and friends are invited to attend, share stories and memorabilia. (Cost, \$12 for a light lunch.)

For more information, please contact
troop22bloomfield@gmail.com
or 973-338-0097.

"Care for Our Common Home" Discussion Group will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Matthew Room on the following Thursday:

December 7

Please join us to discuss measures we can take to live the spirit of Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudate Si*.

For more information, please call
Joyce Cupoli: 973-699-7268

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Senior High Youth Group News

Meetings every Sunday night
in the Parish Center
From 7-9pm

All High School Youth are Welcome

For more info: Contact Tim Dennin at tdennin@live.com

All Are Invited to Pray the Rosary

The Rosary Society will meet in the Church to pray the Rosary at 7pm on the following days:

November 6 (Mass for deceased Rosarians)
December 4, January 8, February 5,
March 5, April 9, May 7, June 4

Meetings follow in the Parish Center



**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH
SUPPORT GROUP FOR THOSE
GRIEVING THE
DEATH OF A LOVED ONE**



We invite you to join us for a series of four sessions of mutual sharing & support in a spiritual, caring, confidential setting.

Our Mission:

- Provide a Christ-centered group experience
- Offer spiritual & emotional support a caring, compassionate, confidential atmosphere

2017 session dates:

Sundays 12:00 noon– 1:15 p.m.

November 12 and

November 19

(12:00 – 1:30 p.m. – Presentation by Anna Graziano)

Meetings held:

Saint James Room

Presentation with Anna:

Saint Peter Room

Registration required for meetings.

Please contact Parish Center - 973-338-9190

All calls are confidential.

***Christmas Cookies
for St. Augustine Soup Kitchen***

With your help, the Beyond Cornerstone Service Ministry continues to provide most welcome monthly meals at the St. Augustine soup kitchen.

As an added treat, the coordinators of the December 3rd visit would like to fill goodie bags with Christmas cookies and candies. We appreciate that this is a busy time of year, but sure could use your help. Please consider baking a roll of slice and bake cookies (NO NUTS PLEASE) to help fill the bags. Place the cookies in a zip lock bag or any disposable container and drop them at the church on Sunday morning, November 26th. We will have a table in the back of the church after every Mass.

Any questions? Please contact Joanne jrhcsci@aol.com, Jane janemre9@gmail.com or Ellie rjc189@optonline.net

Many thanks for your continuing support through donations, prayers and service. Your contributions make all of this possible!

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Ministry of Spiritual Direction
St Thomas Apostle Parish
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Centering Prayer Group

*Be still, and know
that I am God.*
Psalm 46:10

Wed Nov 1st and 8th,

Tues Nov 14

10:00am - 11:30am

55 Ketner St.

Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of experiencing God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer enables us to experience an ever-deepening intimacy with God and the practical caring for others that flows from this relationship.

All Are Welcome

Register at (973) 338-9538

Please try to arrive at 9:50

Take this time as a way of preparing your heart to be open to the Grace of God before the busy season begins.

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.



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