

St. Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church

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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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Masses for the Week

Sunday, December 3

- 7:30 am Kathleen Cahill – Friend
- 9:00 am Robert Dennin – Friend
- 10:30 am Tomas DeGennaro & Paula Krahn - Family
- 12:00 pm Emmanuel Arnetta – Friend

Monday, December 4

- 7:30 am George J. Lucariello – Friend
- 11:30 am Peter Fagan – Family

Tuesday, December 5

- 7:30 am Special Intention
- 11:30 am Mary Margaret Tizzano – Bequest

Wednesday, December 6

- 7:30 am Esterina & Silvester Fusco – Family
- 11:30 am Fred & Catherine Winters – Bequest

Thursday, December 7

- 7:30 am Patrick Hagerty – Family
- 11:30 am For the Protection of Babies in the Womb

Friday, December 8

- 7:30 am Orsolina DiMichele & Imaculata Fuscaldo
- 11:30 am Brendan Boyle – Bequest
- 7:30 pm Dominga & Luis Go – Daughter

Saturday, December 9

- 8:30 am Marie & Kathleen Lataro – Family

Sunday, December 10

Saturday, December 9

- 5:00 pm Joseph Sawicki, Sr. – Family

Sunday, December 10

- 7:30 am For The People
- 9:00 am Michael Moretti – Family
- 10:30 am Samuel Battista – Family
- 12:00 pm Virginia & Carmine Ricciardi – Family



In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Virginia Fallan, Arnold Burrus,
Dorothy Koplonski, Nancy Salerno, Mary Stark

REST IN PEACE

Celeste Decotiis, Eileen Walsh,
Katherine Ducat, Eleanor Fazzi

SANCTUARY CANDLES

Church: Patricia Ann Pellegrino
Rectory: Lataro Family
Convent: Paula & Peter Parfinik

View this bulletin online at:

<http://stachurchbloomfield.com/bulletin>



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 November 26 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 \$18,814

Budget Amount	Year to Date	Remaining Amount
\$856,000	\$374,811	\$481,189

The year to date amount is positive by \$5563 as of week number 22 in our current budget year.

SIMBANG GABI 2017 SCHEDULE

Friday, December 15 – 7PM
OUR LADY OF THE LAKE, VERONA

Saturday, December 16 – 7PM
ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE, BLOOMFIELD

Sunday, December 17 – 5PM
HOLY FAMILY, NUTLEY

Monday, December 18 – 7PM
SACRED HEART, BLOOMFIELD

Tuesday, December 19 – 7PM
ST. ANTHONY, BELLEVILLE

Wednesday, December 20 – 7PM
ST. VALENTINE, BLOOMFIELD

Thursday, December 21 – 7PM
HOLY NAME, EAST ORANGE

Friday, December 22 – 7PM
ST. MARY, NUTLEY

Saturday December 23 – 7PM
ST. PETER, BELLEVILLE

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.

Monthly E-Newsletter

Want to stay current on events, articles and pictures of what is happening here at Saint Thomas the Apostle? Then sign up for our monthly *Enewsletter* by going to: STChurchBloomfield.com look in the "Quick Links" for the *sign up*. Stay current, stay informed.

Mass Schedule for Christmas Season at St. Thomas the Apostle Church



RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) SCHEDULE

Saturdays, December 9th, 16th, & 23rd at 11:00 a.m.
(St. Thomas the Apostle Church)

Monday, December 11th, 7:30 p.m.

Reconciliation Service at Sacred Heart Church
with Individual Confessions heard by the Priests from the Churches of St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Valentine & Sacred Heart Church.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24th Christmas Eve

4:00pm (Herron Hall – School)

Christmas Music Prelude and Mass

4:00pm (Church) Christmas Music Prelude and Mass

6:00pm (Church) Mass

10:30pm (Church) Concelebrated Mass with Music
Prelude at 10:00pm. **(No Midnight Mass)**

Monday, December 25th (Christmas Day)

8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

(All Masses with traditional Christmas Carols)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Monday, January 1st (New Year's Day)

8:30am only

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

(Annual "Bell Sunday")

Saturday, January 6th - 5:00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 7th - 7:30, 9:00, & 10:30am

12 noon with Bell Choir

(Children's Epiphany Pageant following 12 noon Mass)

HOLIDAY SEASON BULLETIN DEADLINES

DECEMBER 24th BULLETIN

Deadline: 5pm on Monday December 11th

DECEMBER 31st BULLETIN

Deadline: 5pm on Monday December 18th

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:

December 4, January 8, February 5,
March 5, April 9, May 7, June 4

Meetings follow in the Parish Center



Prayer Shawl Ministry

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, premie 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 Betsy @973-893-2441 or contact Alicia at 973-473-6633 or aliciaavons@gmail.com.

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.



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

We invite you to join us this *Advent Season* for a viewing of a Video "*How to cope for the Holidays*" in a spiritual, caring, confidential setting.

Our Mission:

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

Date & Time: December 10 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Location: Saint Thomas Room

Registration required.

Please contact Parish Center - 973-338-9190

All calls are confidential.

STA HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
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Brenda Vasquez-Brown @ 862.452.5444
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Breakfast with Santa 2017

Saturday December 16th

9:30 a.m.

Herron Hall



Adults: \$12.00 Children: \$6.00
Children 3yrs and under are Free

*Hot Breakfast from Hot Bagels Abroad
DJ, raffles & fun for children of all ages!!!
Bring your own camera for pictures with Santa!*

REGISTRATION IS EASY!
RSVP by December 11th

Go to the School Website www.staschoolnj.org.
Pay for your tickets using the **BUY NOW** button and
bring your receipt to the breakfast.

**** (No reservations will be taken after
December 11th or at the door) ****

Have a question?
Contact Christine Licciardello
#973-303-2112

CHRISTMAS TREES

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED
FOR THE PLACEMENT
OF THE CHRISTMAS TREES
IN CHURCH**

**ON SATURDAY
DECEMBER 16th AT 9 AM**

**Please help carry in and erect
our Christmas Trees
We can't do it without your help!!**

For more info or to rsvp call
Jim Gasparini @ 973-338-9190 ext. 111
or email @ jwgasparini@aol.com

We have a gift for you as you leave mass today

The Little Blue Book for Advent. It is a quick reference - a daily opportunity to hear God's Word and engage in reflective prayer. It reminds us of the *great gift* of eternal life obtained for us by Jesus' birth, life and ultimate sacrifice on the cross.

Care For Our Common Home

The **December 5** meeting is cancelled.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 7pm in the Parish Center.**

During this holy season, Catholic Climate Covenant reminds us that we need to examine our attitudes toward gift giving and over consumption and connect the demands of our faith with care for creation and the poor.

It is time to examine the quality of three integrated relationships for an authentic Christian life: with God, with one another and with our earth. Let us together make this Christmas one where our focus is where it truly matters.

Men's Scripture Reading and Reflection

ALL MEN are invited **Monday, December 4**, at 7:30pm in St. James room.

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

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.

Wellness Ministry Blood Pressure Screening



Sunday, December 10
8am – 12 noon
Parish Center

The September Club

of St. Thomas the Apostle Church was founded in 1970 to meet the needs of Seniors to socialize.

In addition to regular meetings with activities, we sponsor special events and trips. If you would like to join us for some fun and fellowship, call Roz Frunzi at 973-785-0576 for more information or contact her via email at rozybabe1@aol.com.

2017 - 2018 Meeting Dates

Dec 4th & Dec 11th
 Jan 8th, 22nd, & 29th
 Feb 5th, 12th, & 26th
 March 5th, 12th, & 19th
 April 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th
 May 7th, 14th, & 21st
 June 4th, 11th, & 18th

The September Club meets on Mondays from 11:30 until 2:30pm in the St Peter's Room of the Parish Center and is open to all seniors (55+). You are welcome to visit a meeting any time, just call Roz so we can introduce you and order for you if it's a Monday we're serving lunch.



STA School

Invites parishioners to join in its

Spring Box Tops Drive through December 10th

To submit Box Tops coupons:
 check for the expiration dates
 clip Box Tops coupons along dotted line
 collect them in an envelope or plastic Ziploc sandwich bag
 submit envelope to the box dedicated to this collection in the vestibule of the church

Visit www.btfе.com and click on "participating products" to find a list of products with coupons.

Each Box Tops coupon is worth 10 cents for our school!

Children's Epiphany Pageant

Epiphany Sunday, January 7, 2018
Immediately following the 12 noon Mass
 For parish children ages 4-11

PRACTICE DATES:
REHEARSAL SAT. DEC 16th
In the Church
1pm til about 1:45 -Parent must stay!
[costumes distributed / explained]
Carol practice sheets given out!

DRESS REHEARSAL:
SATURDAY, JAN 6th 1pm – 1:45pm
Parent must stay!

Please bring all costumes to this rehearsal

Please fill out and bring form below to
 Dec. 16th rehearsal –or
 Drop off to parish center

Child's Name: _____

Age: _____

School Grade: _____

____ I would like to help with the pageant performance.

Parent/Guardian

Name _____

PHONE DURING

DAY _____

[cell preferred]

Email [parent] during

day _____



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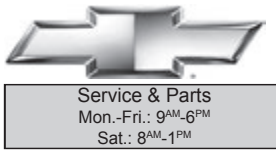


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