

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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December 17, 2017 • Third Sunday of Advent

Masses for the Week

Sunday, December 17

- 7:30 am Catherine Sabella – Family
- 9:00 am For The People
- 10:30 am Pauline Ferrara – Friend
- 12:00 pm Joanne & Peter Wojtach – Family

Monday, December 18

- 7:30 am Theodore Spieczynski – Friends
- 11:30 am Mary & Fred Roberts – Daughter

Tuesday, December 19

- 7:30 am Lucretia Bosset – Family
- 11:30 am Mary Margaret Tizzano – Bequest

Wednesday, December 20

- 7:30 am Mary Rogalcheck – Mother
- 11:30 am Michael Melograno – Family

Thursday, December 21

- 7:30 am Frances Cetrulo – Family
- 11:30 am Rose Mele – Family

Friday, December 22

- 7:30 am Joal Reilly – Friend
- 11:30 am Patsy Cardone – Brother

Saturday, December 23

- 8:30 am John Lucas – Family

Sunday, December 24

Saturday, December 23

- 5:00 pm Elizabeth Dennin – Family

Sunday, December 24

- 7:30 am Donald W. Freed – Friend
- 9:00 am Emily & Henry Paradiso - Family
- 10:30 am For the People



This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

**THERE WILL BE NO 12 NOON MASS
ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 24TH**

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Mary Stark

REST IN PEACE

Louis J. Monaco, Julia M. Tullo

SANCTUARY CANDLES

Church: Sal (Sam) , Kathleen & Marie Lataro

Rectory: Otto Weber

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 December 10 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 \$17,661

Budget Amount	Year to Date	Remaining Amount
\$856,000	\$415,114	\$440,886

The year to date amount is positive by \$9170 as of week number 24 in our current budget year.

SIMBANG GABI 2017 SCHEDULE

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

HOLIDAY SEASON BULLETIN DEADLINES

DECEMBER 31st BULLETIN

Deadline: 5pm on Monday December 18th

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.

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



RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 23rd at 11:00 a.m.
(St. Thomas the Apostle 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 & 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)

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.

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:

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

Meetings follow in the Parish Cent



Beyond Cornerstone Ministry

Our Christmas visit to St. Augustine's soup kitchen was a big success. We extend a special thanks to all who baked cookies. They were a special treat.

Please join us in prayer for the poor and needy Lord God,
You came to give honor to the least, those forgotten, overlooked and misjudged.
You came to give first place to the last, those left behind, misunderstood and undervalued.
You came to give a warm welcome to the lost, those who are orphaned, abandoned and destitute.
Help us to be your ears to listen to their cries.
Help us to be your voice speaking out for love and acceptance.
Help us to be your feet walking beside those in need.
Help us to be your hands to clothe, feed and shelter them.
You came for the least, the lost and last of this world.
Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

Anyone wishing to participate in this Ministry is welcome at our next meeting February 7th at 6:30 in the St. Peter's room at the Parish Center.

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January 7th & 21st

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St. Thomas the Apostle parish will present all 10 episodes of the "Catholicism" film series on 10 consecutive Thursdays, 7:30pm – 9:00pm, beginning January 11th through March 15th, 2018. Each session will include prayer and discussion. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Brian Murphy at 973-454-7289.

Congratulations to Paul Alongi:

**Recipient of the
"Msgr. Cornelius J. Boyle Award" and our
Holy Name Society
"Man of the Year"**

The Essex- West Essex Federation of the Holy Name Societies has announced that Paul Alongi of St. Thomas has been selected as the recipient of the distinguished Msgr. Cornelius Boyle award.

Paul, who has contributed so much to our parish, and our parish Holy Name Society Man of the Year will be honored at a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin on Saturday, January 27, 2018, 6 p.m., at the Cathedral Basilica. Followed by a reception across the street at the Archdiocesan Center on Clifton Ave, Newark.

The per-person cost for the reception is \$40. Kindly drop-off your check payable to "St. Thomas the Apostle" in the Holy Name mail slot at the parish Center by December 10th or mail it to John Nellegar, 55 Birch St., Bloomfield, NJ 07003 so that it arrives by that date.
For questions, email John at jnellegar2004@yahoo.com

**Men's Scripture
Reading and Reflection**

ALL MEN are invited **Monday, January 8**, at 7:30pm in St. James room.

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.

Care For Our Common Home

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.

**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 until 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 _____

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

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.

Food Pantry

There is a Food Pantry at St. Thomas, established to serve the needs of parishioners and need. The goal of the program is to provide help to individuals and families who, for many do not have enough to eat. If you are in this situation simply contact the Parish Center and we'll do our best to assist you. If you know of a parishioner that you feel may have this need, please make them aware of the program and have them contact us.

Food Collection Sunday is usually the third Sunday of each month, when our parishioners generously drop off Grocery store gift cards in the collection basket in an envelope marked "food pantry" and leave food at the church doors for those in need.



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.

PARISH INFORMATION

Did you know FOR ST. THOMAS PARISH

Registration

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.

How Do I Arrange a Wedding?

Archdiocesan policy requires that arrangements be made with a Parish Priest at least one year before the wedding date. Arrangements can be made by calling the Parish Center, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. You should be a registered parishioner of St. Thomas in order to be married here.

"Time of Marriage"

Well in advance of making other arrangements for your wedding, the time of your marriage should be arranged with one of the Parish Priests.

'Directives'

You should consult one of the parish priests concerning the current Church law when a Catholic is marrying a person of another faith. All procedures for Marriage Preparation must still be followed,

In preparation for Marriage here at Saint Thomas, you would ask you to be willing to follow the norms set by Canon (Church) Law, Archdiocesan and Parish Policy.

Baptisms

We remind you to contact the parish at least three months prior to the Baptism of your child.

We have scheduled various dates for Baptisms during the year. These schedules are published in the Bulletin and are available at the Parish Center.

Baptism is a community celebration. Individual Baptisms are normally performed only in case of necessity.



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