

St. Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church

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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 Thomas J. Coyle • Deacon Brian J. Murphy
Deacon Dennis J. Besida, Retired • Deacon Albert H. Tizzano, 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 9, 2018 • Second Sunday of Advent

Masses for the Week

Sunday, December 9

Saturday, December 8

5:00 pm Joseph Sawicki, Sr. – Family

Sunday, December 9

7:30 am Angelo & Eleanor Gonnella – Family

9:00 am For the People

10:30 am Thomas V. DeGennaro & Paula Krahn – Family

12:00 pm Marie & Kathleen Lataro – Family

Monday, December 10

7:30 am Peter K. Funesti – 30th Priestly Anniversary – Friend

11:30 am Samuel Battista – Daughter

Tuesday, December 11

7:30 am Catherine Sadlak – Bequest

11:30 am Virginia & Carmine Ricciardi – Family

Wednesday, December 12

7:30 am Orsilina DiMichele & Imaculata Fuscaldo – Family

11:30 am Vincent Lupo, Jr. – Friend

Thursday, December 13

7:30 am Sister Paula DeRogatis – Family

11:30 am Brendan Boyle – Bequest

Friday, December 14

7:30 am Eleanor Nye – Family

11:30 am Eleanor Nye – Family

Saturday, December 15

8:30 am Ryna Joseph – Son

Sunday, December 16

Saturday, December 15

5:00 pm Catherine Sabella – Family

Sunday, December 16

7:30 am Salvatore & Antionetta Rotunda – Family

9:00 am Minnie Cimo – Family

10:30 am For the People

12:00 pm Carolina S. Roc – Family

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Nancy Salerno, Barbara Nater,
Maci Bernardo, Virginia Fallan,
Tori Mathisen, Grace Seber

REST IN PEACE

George Szep

SANCTUARY CANDLES

Church: Angelo & Eleanor Gonnella

Rectory: Victor Villafranca

View this bulletin online at:

<http://stachurchbloomfield.com/bulletin>



This week and next, our Gospel readings invite us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. To affirm this, Luke quotes at length from the prophet Isaiah. John baptizes for repentance and for forgiveness of sins, preparing the way for God's salvation.

The three Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke—attest to the importance of the baptism of John in preparing for Jesus. Only the Gospel of Luke, however, extends the connection between these two men to their birth. The first two chapters of Luke's Gospel contain the Infancy Narrative, which tells about the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. These stories set the stage for the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in chapter 3.

The evangelist Luke is the author of the Gospel that bears his name, and he also wrote the Acts of the Apostles as a continuation of the story of Jesus and the Church. In these two works, Luke's sense of time and history emerges. He identifies three epochs of salvation history: the time before Christ, the time of Christ, and the time of the Church and the Holy Spirit. In today's Gospel reading, as elsewhere, John the Baptist is presented as the figure who bridges the time before Christ and prepares the way for Christ's own ministry.

In today's Gospel we also note Luke's attention to political and historical detail. Luke shows that salvation is for all people and situated in world events. Therefore, Luke lists the political and religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Salvation is understood as God's breaking into this political and social history.

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, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did.

From the Pastor's Desk.....

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to the 80+ young people of our parish who have just recently 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 parish's *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 last year was very close to being balanced. This was achievable due to your consistent support each and every week.

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 December 2nd compared to the budget amount for the year. The break-even date is June 30, 2019. The amount needed each week is \$17,242 and the amount collected last weekend was \$18,059

Budget Amount	Year to Date	Remaining Amount
\$896,600	\$381,294	\$515,306

The year to date amount is negative by \$15,272 as of week number 23 in our current budget year.

SIMBANG GABI 2018 SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 15 – 7PM
ST. THOMAS the APOSTLE, BLOOMFIELD

Sunday, December 16 – 5PM
HOLY FAMILY, NUTLEY

Monday, December 17 – 7PM
ST. ANTHONY, BELLEVILLE

Tuesday, December 18 – 7PM
OUR LADY of the LAKE, VERONA

Wednesday, December 19 – 7PM
ST. MARY, NUTLEY

Thursday, December 20 – 7PM
HOLY NAME of JESUS, EAST ORANGE

Friday, December 21 – 7PM
OUR LADY of MT. CARMEL, NUTLEY

Saturday, December 22 – 7PM
ST. VALENTINE, BLOOMFIELD

Sunday December 23 – 7PM
ST. PETER, BELLEVILLE

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION in 2018/2019

Adoration will be held on:

Dec 17th, Jan 28th, Feb 25th,
Mar 25th, Apr 22nd,
May 20th, June 24th

Schedule:

11:00 a.m. Holy Rosary
11:30 a.m. Holy Mass
12:00p.m. Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament
3:00 p.m. Chaplet of Divine Mercy
3:30 p.m. Holy Rosary
6:00 p.m. Angelus
7:30 p.m. Respect for Life Holy Hour



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



RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) SCHEDULE

Saturdays, December 15th, & 22nd at 11:00 a.m.
(St. Thomas the Apostle Church)

Monday, December 10th, 7:30 p.m.
Reconciliation Service at St. Valentine Church

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

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, 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)

Tuesday, 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

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

7:30am & 11:30am

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

(Annual "Bell Sunday")

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

Sunday, January 6th - 7:30, 9:00, & 10:30am

12 noon with Bell Choir

(Children's Epiphany Pageant following 12 noon Mass)

Men's Scripture Reading and Reflection

ALL MEN are invited **Monday, December 17** 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 also be reading the great Christian Apologetic, CS. Lewis' *Mere Christianity* and discuss Church teachings within these readings.

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



BAKE BUY OR BORROW

The Beyond Cornerstone Soup Kitchen Ministry is planning a New Year Party at St Augustine on Sunday December 30th. Our Christmas cookie drop from last year was a tremendous success due to your great generosity. If we could again impose upon you this year it would be greatly appreciated. Slice and bake, prepared cookie mix, from scratch or store bought- whatever you can manage- will be collected Saturday December 22nd and Sunday December 23rd in the vestibule of the church or the Parish Center. Please be sure the cookies are in disposable containers or wrapping, as we will be unable to return containers. Thanks so much for your participation!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The ministry meets in the St. Peter Room from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. usually on the third Sunday of each month through June 2019.

Scheduled dates are as follows:

December 16, January 20,
February 17, March 17,
April 28 (because of 4th Sunday of Easter),
May 19, and June 23

Next meeting: November 18, 11:30 a.m. in the St. Peter Room (Parish Center)

CHRISTMAS TREES

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR
THE PLACEMENT OF THE
CHRISTMAS TREES IN CHURCH
ON SATURDAY
DECEMBER 15th 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

The September Club of St Thomas the Apostle Church meets weekly from mid-September through mid-June. In addition to regular meetings with activities, we sponsor parties, special events, and trips. The Club meets on Mondays from 11:30am until 2:30pm in the St Peter's Room of the Parish Center and is open to all seniors (55+).

If you would like to join us for some fun and fellow-ship, call Roz Frunzi at 973-785-0576 for more informa-tion or contact her via email at rozybabe1@aol.com.

2018 - 2019 Meeting Dates

Dec 10th, Jan 7th, 14th, & 28th, Feb 4th, 11th, & 25th,
March 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th April 1st, 8th, & 29th,
May 6th, 13th, & 20th, June 3rd & 10th

Godly Goods



Gift Shop

Open Sundays

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Located in the Parish Center

HOLIDAY SEASON BULLETIN DEADLINES

DECEMBER 23rd BULLETIN

Deadline: 5pm on Monday December 10th

DECEMBER 30th BULLETIN

Deadline: 5pm on Friday December 14th

JANUARY 6th BULLETIN

Deadline: 5pm on Friday December 21st

STA HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION WILL BE SELLING SHOP RITE & STOP & SHOP GIFT CARDS

10:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.

On the following Sundays



Jan 6th & 20th,

Feb 3rd & 17th, Mar 3rd & 31st



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QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL
Brenda Vasquez-Brown @ 862.452.5444
or Arlete Delgado @ 862.368.7388

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Senior High Youth Group News

Meetings every Sunday night in the Parish Center
from 7-9pm. All High School Youth are Welcome!



STA Calendar Raffle

It's that time of year!



The STA Home & School Association is holding its annual Calendar Raffle. The proceeds will directly support the education programs at St. Thomas the Apostle School. We ask for a \$10.00 donation for each raffle ticket. The raffle will begin February 1, 2019 and run through April 30, 2019. Prizes range from \$50 to \$1,000. You can pick up raffle tickets at the STA School Office, the STA Parish Center, or you can order them from Michele Gilfillan at mggilfillan@yahoo.com or at (646) 584 8187. Checks or money orders can be made out to STA Home & School Association. All tickets and purchases are due by January 31, 2019.

The raffle tickets make a great Christmas gift or stocking stuffer for college students, grandparents, and friends!

All are invited to Pray the Rosary

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

January 7, February 4,
March 4, May 6, June 3



Meetings follow in the Parish Center

WELLNESS MINISTRY

HEALTH TIPS FOR THE COLD SEASON

- Wash hands frequently
- Cover your cough
- Avoid crowded places
- Stay home if you are feeling sick
- Stay warm and dress up appropriately
- Drink plenty of water
- Get your flu and/or pneumonia vaccine
- Visit your doctor regularly

BP SCREENING

Sunday December 16, 2018.

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



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

Our Mission:

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

Sunday, December 16, 11:45 – 1:00 p.m.
Preparing for Advent - We Remember
Meetings held: Saint James Room

Registration required. Please contact Parish Center -
973-338-9190 **All calls are confidential.**



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