

St. Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church

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Rev. Lawrence J. Fama, Pastor

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Antonio T. Sarento, M.Div.

In Residence: Rev. John Gordon, V.F.

Weekend Assistant: Rev. Thomas Cembor

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:

Kimberley Mesiti.

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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July 14, 2019 • Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses for the Week

Sunday, July 14

Saturday, July 13

5:00 pm Joseph Powers – Family

Sunday, July 14

7:30 am For the People
 9:00 am James Nutile – Friend
 10:30 am Badyal Family - Friend
 12:00 pm Deceased Members of McGovern Family – Family

Monday, July 15

7:30 am Ruth Keegan – Friends
 11:30 am Carl Tuosto – Family

Tuesday, July 16

7:30 am Sheila Go - Aunt
 11:30 am Kevin Zima – Family

Wednesday, July 17

7:30 am Joan Lubrido – Family
 11:30 am Mary Margaret Tizzanno – Husband

Thursday, July 18

7:30 am Salzatore Alfano – Family
 11:30 am Antonetta Rotunda – Family

Friday, July 19

7:30 am Bernadette Sudol – Cousin
 11:30 am Joseph Tocci – Friends

Saturday, July 20

8:30 am Joseph Reagan – Friend

Sunday, July 21

Saturday, July 20

5:00 pm Deceased members of Klem & Macik Families - Family

Sunday, July 21

7:30 am William Perrelli – Friend
 9:00 am For the People
 10:30 am Gil Sprague & Nick Salerno – Spouse
 12:00 pm Marchiano Family – Family

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Barbara Lorenzo, Jean Mazza,
 Dorothy Spera, Nancy Salerno



REST IN PEACE

Josephine Russo
 Joan Hann

CANDLE INTENTIONS

CHURCH: Maryann Garner
 RECTORY: Allen Maslowski

View this bulletin online at:

<http://stachurchbloomfield.com/bulletin>

Background on the Gospel Reading *Luke 10:25-37*

As Jesus continues his journey to Jerusalem, he is confronted by a scholar of the law who wants to test him. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, Jesus is asked about the greatest commandment. Here, in Luke's Gospel, the lawyer asks what we must do to inherit eternal life. In the other two Gospels, Jesus answers the question by quoting Deuteronomy 6:5, on loving God with all your heart, and Leviticus 19:18, on loving your neighbor. Here Jesus asks the expert to answer this question, "What is written in the law?" The man is caught and responds with Deuteronomy 6:5. This verse is one of the most important prayers in Judaism, and it was said twice a day in Jesus' time. Love of God and love of neighbor are what is required for eternal life. Jesus' response is simple, "Do this and you will live."

Having been shown up by Jesus, the lawyer tries another question: Who is my neighbor whom I must love like myself? In the society of Jesus' time, with its distinctions between Jews and Gentiles, men and women, clean and unclean, this was a trick question. Jesus responds with one of the most beautiful of all the parables, the Good Samaritan. It is found only in Luke's Gospel.

The road from Jerusalem to Jericho descends 3,300 feet in just 17 miles. Its narrow passes made it an easy place for bandits to wait for travelers. The traveler in this parable is identified only as "a certain man." After an attack, the man is left for dead, naked and bleeding on the side of the road. A priest comes along, but rather than helping, as one might expect, he moves to the other side of the road. Another religious person comes along, a Levite who assists in the Temple. His reaction is the same as the priest's. Both of them choose to not even find out if the man is alive. A third person comes along. The listeners would probably expect him to be an Israelite. This would make the parable a criticism of the religious leadership. Instead he is a Samaritan, an Israelite's most hated neighbor. Samaritans were descendents of Jews from the northern part of the country, who had intermarried with Gentiles and did not worship in Jerusalem. The Samaritan not only goes over to the injured man but cleans his wounds, puts him on his own animal, takes him to an inn to recover, and promises to pay all his expenses. The hated enemy is the compassionate neighbor in this parable.

Jesus has demolished all boundary expectations. It is not social definitions such as class, religion, gender, or ethnicity that determines who is our neighbor. A neighbor is a person who acts with compassion toward another. The point becomes not who deserves to be loved as I love myself, but that I become a person who treats everyone with compassion.

When Jesus asks the lawyer who was the neighbor in the story, the lawyer can't bring himself to say it was the Samaritan. All he says is that it was "the one who treated him with mercy." Jesus' response was similar to that of the first discussion: "Go and do likewise." The lawyer, and we, know what is right. The key is to do it.

From the Pastor's Desk...

This is the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. I thank you for your warm welcome, kind words, expressions of support, and promise of prayers. I am very grateful!

As I wrote last weekend, I hope to get to know you better and for you to get to know me. To help with that, here is the next part of my journey of how I get to be writing this column.

After my ordination on May 30, 1992, I was assigned to St. Philomena in Livingston. At St. Phil's I was involved in many areas of the parish including all liturgical ministries and the ministry to the homebound. I was also involved with the many activities of Aquinas Academy (the parish school) and our parish youth group. In 1998 my six year term came to an end and I was assigned to St. Mary Church in nearby Rutherford, where I ministered for one year with our former parochial vicar, Fr. Michael Kreder, who is the pastor with whom I served., along with Fr. John Gordon who was a parochial vicar there at the time.

In 1999 I left St. Mary to become Parochial Vicar of St. Helen in Westfield (where St. Thomas' homegrown son, Fr. Michael Saporito is Pastor). During my time there I was involved in many of the over 65 active ministries. I began a few of my own including the Spiritual Life Committee, Greeter Committee, and the Funeral Mass Support Ministry.

In 2007 I was appointed Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace in Maywood. During my 12 years there I enjoyed working alongside the parish family, and saw the parish grow by a few hundred families, and the ministries increase from just a few to more than 20. I take with me many happy memories of my time in Maywood, including having Fr. Anton (who was in the seminary at the time) serve at our Confirmation Mass in 2013.

My 12 years at OLQP came to an end a few weeks ago. On May 24th I received a call from Cardinal Tobin appointing me as your Pastor.

I look forward to working and walking with you on our journey of life and journey of faith, and our learning from each other. I find that each day is filled with many opportunities from which to learn. I look forward to sharing my ministry with you in the months and years ahead. There is a saying from St. Teresa of Calcutta that I want to share with you:

“What you can do, I cannot. What I can do, you cannot. But together we can do something beautiful for God.”

This saying helped me during my seminary years and has been my unofficial motto during my last 27 years as a priest, and it is how I would like to begin my ministry here at St. Thomas. I look forward to sharing mine with you and inviting you to continue to use yours as we, together, do something beautiful for God.

I thank you for your Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure, and for all you do for our parish.

Love,



Fr. Larry

PARISH CENTER SUMMER HOURS



July 1st through Labor Day

Mondays – Thursdays 9 am – 5pm
Fridays 9 am – 1pm
Saturday 9 am – 1pm

September Club News

During the summer months of July and August the September Club holds four informal Meetings. You bring your lunch, and the Club provides iced tea and lemonade. We get together just to chat or play cards or board games. Meeting time is the usual 11:30 am until 2:30pm. You're welcome to drop in if you're around. Formal Meetings resume on September 9th (always the Monday after Labor Day Monday).

Informal Summer Meeting Dates:

July 8th  July 22nd
August 12th August 26th

The September Club is open to all seniors 55 years of age and older. In addition to regular meetings, we sponsor special events and trips. Call Roz Frunzi at 973-785-0576 for more information or contact her via email at rozybabe1@aol.com.

Summer Safety Tip: Heat Exhaustion

When the body loses excessive water and salt, usually due to sweating, heat exhaustion can occur. According to the [free NSC First Aid Quick Reference app](#), signs and symptoms include:

- Sweating
- Pale, ashen or moist skin
- Muscle cramps (especially for those working or exercising outdoors in high temperatures)
- Fatigue, weakness or exhaustion
- Headache, dizziness or fainting
- Nausea or vomiting
- Rapid heart rate

Uncontrolled heat exhaustion can evolve into heat stroke, so make sure to treat victims quickly:

- Move victims to a shaded or air-conditioned area
- Give water or other cool, nonalcoholic beverages
- Apply wet towels, or have victims take a cool shower

Heat Stroke Seek medical help immediately if someone is suffering from heat stroke. Signs include:

- Body temperature above 103 degrees
- Skin that is flushed, dry and hot to the touch; sweating has usually stopped
- Rapid breathing
- Headache, dizziness, confusion or other signs of altered mental status
- Irrational or belligerent behavior
- Convulsions or unresponsiveness

Immediately take action:

- Call 911
- Move the victim to a cool place
- Remove unnecessary clothing
- Immediately cool the victim, preferably by immersing up to the neck in cold water (with the help of a second rescuer)
- If immersion in cold water is not possible, place the victim in a cold shower or move to a cool area and cover as much of the body as possible with cold, wet towels
- Keep cooling until body temperature drops to 101 degrees
- Monitor the victim's breathing and be ready to give CPR if needed

DO NOT:

- Force the victim to drink liquids
- Apply rubbing alcohol to the skin
- Allow victims to take pain relievers or salt tablets

Living the 3 T's
By sharing your Time, Talent, & Treasure

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life," (John 3:16)

Through the Sacraments of the Church, God continues to give us His Son. Each time we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus is a good time to thank Him for the gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure that He has given to us, and to look back at what we have done thus far with these gifts. It is also a good time to ask Him how we may be more generous going forward.

New to our parish?
Welcome!

PARISH MEMBERSHIP: New Parishioners are requested to register in the Parish as soon as possible. Please notify the Parish office of any changes in address and phone number.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

CHECK:

- I wish to receive a registration form.
- I have a change of address
- I am moving out of the parish.

Please cut out and return to the Parish Center or place in the collection basket.

PARISH INFORMATION
FOR ST. THOMAS PARISH
Did you know?

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 or Deacon 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 or Deacons.

'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 2019 year. All Baptisms are on Sundays at 1:30pm on the following dates; 7/21, 8/18, 9/22, 10/20, 11/17, 12/15

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

Praying with Children

Blessings and Family Prayers (con't)

Mealtime Blessings

The importance of gathering for family meals cannot be overstated. Not only are meals important for providing daily nourishment, but they are also occasions for strengthening our spirits by connecting with the people who are most central to our lives.

Meals are natural occasions for prayers of blessing. We pray in thanks to God for his goodness to us. We ask God to bless our food and make our lives a blessing to others. Pray together Grace Before Meals and Grace After Meals. Mealtime can also be an opportunity to ask family members to name the good things that God has shared with them throughout the day and to pray together in thanksgiving.

Blessings at Family Celebrations

Each family has its own cycle of special occasions and celebrations. Over the years, you will plan many family birthday parties, anniversaries, and celebrations of the sacraments. These occasions are also opportunities for prayers of blessing. Be intentional about taking these opportunities for prayer and look for other occasions to celebrate and pray together as a family. Among the occasions to consider as opportunities for family prayer and celebration include the feasts of the Church year, the anniversary of your child's Baptism, New Year's Day, and the start of a new school year.

Blessings in Times of Transition and Difficulty

God walks with us through the challenges and difficulties of life. Prayers of blessing call forth God's protection and remind us of God's faithfulness. We can ask for God's blessing when we make decisions, large and small, and pray for family members and friends who are discerning life choices, about new jobs, college choices, vocation to marriage, or religious life. We can pray for God's blessings when we move to a new home. We can ask God to bless those who are sick and offer prayers of blessing together when family members are sick. And we pray for God to bless those who are near death and those who have died.

Family Connection for today's Gospel Reading
Luke 10:25-37

The parable of the Good Samaritan



Families rely on selfless love. Parents show love for their children not just when it's convenient, but whenever their children's needs must be met. Imagine if the members of a family were concerned only with their own needs. How quickly things would fall apart!

In the story of the Good Samaritan, we learn about someone who went out of his way to care for the needs of another. He recognized the victim as his brother and accepted responsibility for him. Talk about the responsibilities of each member of the family. Share how you, as parents, care for the needs of everyone in the family even when it's inconvenient. Ask your children to share times when they did chores and helped the family even when it was not convenient.

Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Luke 10:25-37. Talk about how the Samaritan went out of his way to care for the needs of the victim. Make a commitment as a family to follow the example of the Good Samaritan. Explain that the more you learn to accept responsibility for each other's needs at home, the more you'll be able to accept responsibility for the needs of others in the world..

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