

# 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

Address: 60 Byrd Avenue, Bloomfield, NJ 07003 • Website: [www.stachurchbloomfield.com](http://www.stachurchbloomfield.com)

Facebook: Saint Thomas the Apostle Church Twitter: @stachurchnj

Parish Center Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm. Friday 9am-1pm & 2pm-5pm, Saturday 9am-1pm

Rev. Lawrence J. Fama, Pastor

Rev. Charles J. Miller, Pastor Emeritus

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

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

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

Michael Petrillo

DIRECTOR OF LITURGICAL  
MUSIC MINISTRIES

Dr. Patricio Molina

ASSISTANT LITURGICAL  
MUSIC MINISTERS

Kimberley Mesiti

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE FOR FAMILY  
& ADULT FORMATION MINISTRIES

Robert P. Miller

COORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Quinn Furnald

TRUSTEES

Bernadette Lipoma

James McKittrick

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**

**First Saturday, January 11**

5:00 pm Brendan Boyle – Bequest

**Sunday, January 12**

**Baptism of the Lord**

7:30 am Louis & Patricia Occhetti – Family

9:00 am For the People

10:30 am Barbara Ellmer – Husband

12:00 pm Ted Wohlbold – Family

**Monday, January 13**

**Weekday (First Week in Ordinary Time)**

7:30 am Dorothy Kaplonski – Friend

11:30 am Victoria Rooney – Husband

**Tuesday, January 14**

**Weekday**

7:30 am Louis & Lucy De Falco – Bequest

11:30 am Stephen Wesner – Family

**Wednesday, January 15**

**Weekday**

7:30 am Lottie Szajkowski – Family

11:30 am Brendan Boyle – Bequest

**Thursday, January 16**

**Weekday**

7:30 am Lois A. Lang – Bequest

11:30 am Lorraine Kozar – Friends

**Friday, January 17**

**St. Anthony, Abbot**

7:30 am Dr. Jack & Jois Adessa – Friends

11:30 am Francis J. Smith – Son

**Saturday, January 18**

**Weekday**

**BVM**

8:30 am Josefina "Penny" Munoz – Friend

5:00 pm Carmela Lucariello – Friend

**Sunday, January 19**

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30 am Santa O'Brien – Friend

9:00 am Tom Cannizzo – Friend

10:30 am For the People

12:00 pm Leonard Williams – Family

**Gospel Reading - Matthew 3:13-17**

The Spirit of God comes upon Jesus as he is baptized by John.



The baptism of Jesus is attested to in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The account that appears in Matthew is the only one to include the dialogue between Jesus and John, however. Another difference in Matthew's presentation of this event is the announcement made by the voice from heaven, which says, "This is my beloved son . . ." In Mark and Luke, this voice addresses itself to Jesus: "You are my beloved son . . ."

The baptisms that John performs prefigure Christian Baptism. John baptizes for repentance from sin. In accepting this baptism, Jesus unites himself with all sinners even though he is sinless. In Matthew's Gospel, John the Baptist distinguishes his practice of baptism from the Baptism that the Messiah brings: "I am baptizing you with water . . . He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11).

The baptism of Jesus is another manifestation of Christ, another epiphany. Christ's baptism inaugurates his mission. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians.

This Sunday marks a transition from the Christmas season to Ordinary Time. In a way, today's feast is the high point of the Christmas season. Before Jesus' birth, angels announced to Mary and to Joseph who Jesus would be. At his birth, the shepherds and the Magi recognize Jesus as the Messiah. At his baptism, Jesus accepts that he is God's son and inaugurates that mission.

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK**



Anne Marie Olson, Virginia Fallon,  
Dolores Ferris, Phyllis Manion, Eva Zaca,  
Victoria Pavlick, Gracie Vidal, Lucia Avalone,  
Grace Toscano, Nancy Salerno, Frances Kissel

**REST IN PEACE**

Rev. Ward Moore, Dolores Gumbars,  
Angeline Mistretta, John Nosti, James M. Graziano

**SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS**

CHURCH: Benjamin Martinez, Sr.

**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 January 5<sup>th</sup> compared to the budget amount for the year. The break-even date is June 30, 2020. The amount needed each week is \$17,496 and the amount collected last weekend was \$18,340.

<b>Budget Amount</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Remaining Amount</b>
<b>\$892,300</b>	<b>\$460,286</b>	<b>\$432,014</b>

**The year to date amount is negative by \$12,106 as of week number 27 in our current budget year.**

**Christmas collection \$68,059 vs. Budget \$68,000**

**HELP NEEDED**

We are looking to create a "Parish Center Guild" whose members would fill in at the reception desk to answer the phones and door when staff members are sick. Please call Mary at the Parish Center and leave your name and phone number if you are interested in this ministry.

**THANK YOU**

**This week at STA** [stachurchbloomfield.com](http://stachurchbloomfield.com)

Location key: (CH) Church (PC) Parish Center (G) Gym (HH) Herron Hall

Day	Date	Time	Event and location (refer to key)
Su	1/12	10:00a	RCIA (PC)
		10:30a	Mass – Children’s Liturgy (PC)
		1:30p	Baptism Sacrament (CH)
		7:00p	Youth Group (PC)
M	1/13	3:40p	CCD (HH)
		6:00p	Cub Scouts (HH)
		7:30p	Men’s Scripture (PC)
T	1/14	3:40p	CCD (HH)
		6:00p	Girl Scouts (HH)
		7:00p	Boy Scouts (G)
W	1/15	7:00p	Small Christian Community (PC)
Th	1/16	6:00p	Cub Scouts (HH)
		7:00p	Women’s Beyond (PC)
		7:30p	Choir Adult (PC)
F	1/17	5:00p	Cub Scouts (HH)
		7:20p	Small Christian Community (PC)
Sa	1/18	11:00a	Confession (CH)
Su	1/19	8:00a	Blood Pressure Screening (PC)
		9:00a	Hospitality (PC)
		10:00a	RCIA (PC)
		10:30a	Mass – Children’s Liturgy (PC)
		11:30a	Prayer Shawl (PC)

**From the Pastor’s Desk...**

Dear Parish Family,

As we begin our New Year I would like to say thank you for your generosity and support this Christmas season. As you can see in our Stewardship of Treasure update we were able to meet our budget amount for Christmas and reduce our weekly deficit. I would like to thank our money counting teams. Each week a different team of parishioners spends time on Sunday and Monday mornings preparing the deposit for the collections to which you generously give as your Stewardship of Treasure. I thank them for their Stewardship of Time and Talent in this important ministry within our parish.

- Fr. Larry

**MEMORIAL DONATION AVAILABLE**

If you would like to memorialize a new white Deacon Dalmatic and/or a Rose-colored deacon stole please call Fr. Larry at the Parish Center. Rose vestments will be used on the 3rd Sunday in Advent and the 4th Sunday in Lent.

**SCAM**

There is a scam email going around demanding payment by cash or gift card. Please know that the clergy and staff of our parish will never make a request such as this.

**THANK YOU**

...to all who dropped off gifts to our rectory and parish center over the last couple of weeks. You helped to make our Christmas just a little brighter, (especially while we were working!). Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated!

- Fr. Larry and staff.

**STA School**

invites parishioners to submit



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throughout the year in the

**collection box located in the vestibule.**

Please check for expiration dates and visit [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com) for a list of participating products. Each Box Tops coupon is worth 10 cents for our school!

## Parish Stewardship Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

My parish is composed of people like me; **I help make it what it is.**

It will be friendly, **if I am.**

**Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.**

It will do great work, **if I work.**

**It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.**

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, **if I invite and bring them.**

It will be a parish of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a parish with a noble spirit, **if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.**

Therefore, with Your help, O God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all things that I want my parish to be.

Reprinted from the September 2019 issue of *One Family in Mission* newsletter, courtesy of the Office of Parish Stewardship, Diocese of Rockville Centre.



## **NEW HOLY WATER DISPENSER**

Thanks to the generosity of Angelique and Roland Sharps we have a brand new holy water dispenser. It is located in the niche on the north side of the church near the Reconciliation Room.

You are welcome to bring in bottles to take some of the water home to use to bless your homes and your family.

## **Pre-Cana Informational Meeting**

If you're looking for a great way to spend some quality time with your spouse why not join our Pre Cana team? We are looking for table leaders, administrative helpers, speakers, etc. No experience necessary! If interested please come to our Informational meeting in the Parish Center on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. See you there!

## **SPECIAL INTENTIONS**

Our 2020 Mass book is almost filled. When it is filled there will be no more Masses available until we open the 2021 Mass book in early 2020. We will give you a 3-week notice in the bulletin.

There are other ways to remember your loved ones here at St. Thomas. We have Memorial candles, including the Sanctuary Lamps in the church and in the Rectory chapel.

If you would like to have a Mass said for your loved one quickly, we offer "off-site" Masses which will be said at the Archdiocesan Center by Fr. John Gordon, by the prison ministry, and at St. John Vianney in Rutherford by one of our retired priests.

**A New Year** - a time to look back and to look forward  
The beginning of a New Year is a good time to look back at what we have done and given to the Church. It is also a very good time to plan for what we will do for the Lord and others this year. There are many ways you can give. You can donate your Time and Talents to one of the many ministries here at St. Thomas the Apostle. They are always in need and looking for good people to help out: at Mass as an usher or greeter, or perhaps a Lector, or with Religious Education or Feeding the hungry. There are also many other areas of ministry you could join. Of course you can always give a gift of cash or check or perhaps some stocks or bonds or an unneeded insurance policy. Your gift can help Saint Thomas the Apostle Church continue its mission - to spread God's Love and mercy, by serving His people. What will you do for the Lord this New Year?

*When they saw that the star had stopped,  
They were overwhelmed with joy. Matthew 2:10*

*Behold the awe and wonder  
of this glorious season.  
Happy Epiphany!*



**THE STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF  
SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL**

Join us as we celebrate  
**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

Opening Liturgy: January 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.

Open House: January 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

New Family Registration begins January 27<sup>th</sup>

[www.staschoolnj.org](http://www.staschoolnj.org)

## **Living the 3 T's**

**By sharing your Time, Talent, & Treasure**

**"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8)**

*The beginning of a New Year is a good time to look back at what you have done and given to the Church. It is also a very good time to plan for what you will do for the Lord and others this year.*

## **Men's Scripture Reading and Reflection**

ALL MEN are invited Monday, January 13, 2020 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 and discussing some of the Challenges to our Catholic Faith. We will be reading Bishop Robert Barron's Letter to a Struggling Church. Come and share the extraordinary Word of God and together learn more about our beautiful Catholic faith.

**NEW TO OUR PARISH?  
WELCOME!!**

**PARISH MEMBERSHIP;** New Parishioners are request to register in the Parish as soon as possible. Please notify the Parish Office of any changes in address or phone number.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I wish to receive a registration form

\_\_\_\_ I have an address change

\_\_\_\_ I am moving out of the Parish

Please cut out and return to Parish office or drop in the collection basket.

*Congratulations  
to those who were joined  
in Holy Matrimony*

*They are no longer two...  
but one.*



*Necole Gambino and Joseph Mattia  
Mara Kievit and Michael Nicastro*

**Beyond Cornerstone Service Visits to  
St. Augustine Soup Kitchen**

**There will be a meeting on Thursday, January  
16th at 7 PM in the Parish Center**

Thanks to dedicated men and women of our parish, we have been able to prepare and serve approximately 125 meals on the last Sunday of each month for the past year. We hope to continue this most welcome service during the up and coming year. If you wish to participate either as a team leader or team participant, by cooking or serving, please attend this meeting. We will be planning our 2020 visits.

Each visit costs approximately \$500. We rely on donations. To donate you may do so by check, payable to St. Thomas Parish. Please be sure you note on the check that it is for "Cornerstone Soup Kitchen" and indicate on the envelope that it is for the SOUP KITCHEN c/o Alicia vonS. Put it in the collection basket or drop it off at the Parish Center.



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ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:

**Jan 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>,**

**Mar 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>**

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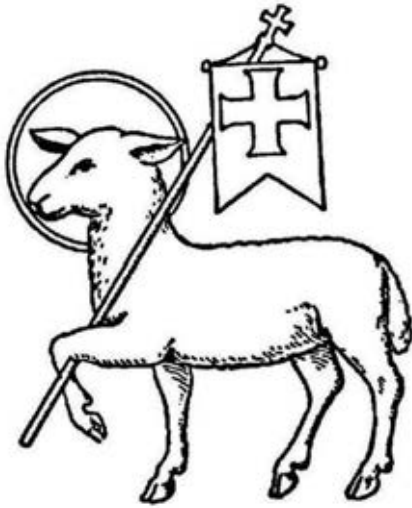
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QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL  
Brenda Vasquez-Brown @ 862.452.5444  
**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Sunday, Jan 19, 2020  
8am to 12 noon  
In the Parish Center



**Christ in the Eucharist**  
**Article Five**  
**The Passover Lamb**



Last week we looked at how the Eucharist was prefigured in the sacrificial offering of Israel, particularly the Thanksgiving Sacrifice called the *Todah*. Likewise, we said that the Passover was the communal Thanksgiving Sacrifice of Israel. This leads to our present discussion of what the Passover celebrated and how it foreshadows Christ present in the Eucharist.

The celebration of Passover is a commemoration of Israel's Exodus from slavery in Egypt. Prior to the Israelites being set free, a series of plagues fell upon the Egyptians. The tenth plague was the death of the first born son in each Egyptian household. The story of the tenth plague, found in Exodus 12, is preceded by the Lord's instruction on how the Israelites could be saved from being victims of the plague themselves. The Israelites were to do four things to prevent the death of their own sons: acquire a lamb; slaughter a lamb without breaking its bones; sprinkle the blood of the lamb on the doorposts and lintels of their shelters; eat the lamb.

This final instruction on eating the Lamb is not insignificant. If one did not eat the lamb, then they too would fall victim to the plague of death as well. It was the consumption of the lamb that saved them from death and brought life. The Israelites literally consumed that which died in their place.

In John's Gospel (1:29), John the Baptist proclaims Jesus to be the "Lamb of God." The allusion John the Baptist makes about Jesus is clearly a reference to Jesus as the Passover lamb. There are two ways that St. John the evangelist describes Jesus as the Passover lamb pronounced by

the Baptist, both of which occur at Jesus' passion and death. First, the evangelist tells us that Jesus was sentenced to death about noon on the day prior to Passover (John 19:14). It was at this very moment when the priests in the temple would begin to slaughter the lambs for the Passover celebration the next day. Second, when the Roman soldiers are breaking the legs of those who were crucified with Jesus, the evangelist notes that when the soldiers came to Jesus he had already died, so they did not break his legs (John 19:32-36). This comment is an allusion to the prescription that any lamb for the Passover sacrifice should not be offered if it has any broken bones (Exod. 12:46).

The relationship of this Passover imagery to the Eucharist we celebrate at Mass is clear. When we recite the "Lamb of God" at Mass prior to receiving communion, we are recognizing that what we are about to receive is not simply bread, but Jesus who was sacrificed on Calvary as the perfect Passover offering. The Israelites did not receive the Eucharist, but they did consume the lamb that died in their place. In this way, we eat as they did. We consume that which died in our place that we might live. Many believe the Eucharist to be simply a symbol of Christ. But a symbol is unable save us from death. Only by eating the flesh of the one perfect sacrifice, the Lamb of God offered on Calvary, may we be brought to eternal life (John 6:54).

- Bob Miller

**St. Thomas the Apostle**  
**Calendar Raffle**

**THERE'S STILL TIME!!!**

**\$\$\$ \$\$\$ \$\$\$ \$\$\$ \$\$\$ \$\$\$**

The STA Home & School Association continues its annual Calendar Raffle. 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 3, 2020 and run through April 30, 2020. Prizes range from \$100 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](mailto:mggilfillan@yahoo.com) or at (646) 584 8187. Checks or money orders can be made out to STA Home & School Association. **Deadline for purchasing tickets is January 31, 2020.**

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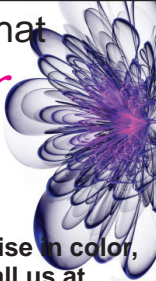
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