

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

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 & 7:00pm

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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February 2, 2020 • The Presentation of the Lord

Masses for the Week

First Saturday, February 1

5:00 pm For the People

Sunday, February 2

7:30 am Louis & Patricia Occhetti – Family

9:00 am Marie Raimo – Bequest

10:30 am Andrea Hogan – Friends

12:00 pm Rosa Rios

Monday, February 3

Weekday (Fourth Week in Ordinary Time)

St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop

7:30 am Gerardo R. Rotunda – Friend

11:30 am Mary Fagan – Family

Tuesday, February 4

Weekday

7:30 am Victoria Petracco – Friends

11:30 am Josephine Zimmerman

Wednesday, February 5

St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

7:30 am Catherine Wolf – Friend

11:30 am Deceased Members of Milan & Vallenga Families – Friend

Thursday, February 6

St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

7:30 am Tudor Ellis – Family

11:30 am Mary Margaret Tizzano – Bequest

Friday, February 7

Weekday

7:30 am Sonny & Emilie Celis – Family

11:30 am Robert Tom – Spouse

First Saturday, February 8

Weekday

St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin; BVM

8:30 am Carmen Voraide Aviles Vazquez – Family

5:00 pm Brendan Boyle – Bequest

Sunday, February 9

The Presentation of the Lord

7:30 am For the People

9:00 am Elizabeth Kyle – Family

10:30 am Jennie La Ferriere – Friends

12:00 pm Peg Wohlbold – Family



This Monday, February 3rd, is the Memorial for St. Blaise. The blessing of the throats will take place at the 7:30am and 11:30am Masses that day.

Gospel Reading - Luke 2:22-40 Simeon recognizes the infant Jesus as the promised Messiah.



Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple. The Presentation, which is celebrated 40 days after Christmas, is not mentioned in the other Gospels. Only Luke tells the story, most likely because he writes for Gentile Christians who are not familiar with the Jewish rite of presentation and purification. In addition, the intent of Luke's Gospel is to show that God's promise to Israel, fulfilled in Jesus, extends to Gentiles.

Luke recognizes Joseph and Mary as faithful Jews who bring Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Here they present their firstborn son to the Lord. Jesus is thus consecrated as required by the Law of Moses. Present in the temple at this time are Simeon and Anna. Both are awaiting the restoration of God's rule in Israel.

Simeon had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see Christ the Lord, the Messiah, before he died. The holy man immediately recognized the infant Jesus as the promised Savior, a "light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." Anna also recognized Jesus as the fulfillment of the promise of redemption and spoke about him to all.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Eva Zaca, Victoria Pavlick,
Gracie Vidal, Lucia Avalone, Nancy Salerno,
Virginia Fallon, Audrey Delefeti,
Daniel Chagnon, William Frunzi, Gloria Delefeti,
Deacon Al Tizzano, Kelly Spill

REST IN PEACE

Rev. Joseph Fu, Rev. Robert J. Cio,
Amand & Danny Russo, Frances Kissel

SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS

CHURCH: Susan De Furia

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 26th 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 \$14,703

Budget Amount	Year to Date	Remaining Amount
\$892,300	\$505,981	\$386,319

The year to date amount is negative by \$18,899 as of week number 30 in our current budget year.

This week at STA stachurchbloomfield.com

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

Day	Date	Time	Event and location (refer to key)
Su	2/2	9:00a 10:00a 10:30a	BSA Sunday (CH) RCIA (PC) Mass – Children's Liturgy (PC)
M	2/3	11:30a 3:40p 7:00p 7:30p	September Club (PC) CCD class (HH) Communion Parents (HH) Music Ministry (CH)
T	2/4	3:40p 6:00p 7:00p	CCD (HH) Girl Scouts (HH) Boy Scouts (G)
W	2/5	4:00p 7:00p 7:00p	Bell Choir (PC) Communion Parents (HH) Small Christian Community (PC)
Th	2/6	7:00p 7:30p	Mass For Our Country (CH) Choir Adult (PC)
F	2/7	9:00a 6:30p	Income Tax (PC) Youth Group (PC)
Sa	2/8	11:00a 1:30p	1 st Penance (CH) 1 st Penance (CH)
Su	2/9	10:00a 10:30a 1:00p 7:00p	RCIA (PC) Mass – Children's Liturgy (PC) Baptism Preparation (PC) Youth PST (PC)

GIFT CARD SCAM ALERT: *Please beware*

of fraudulent emails or text messages claiming to be from a pastor or a representative of the archdiocese asking you to purchase gift cards to help the poor or sick. Such fraudulent activity should be reported to the State of New Jersey Cyber Crimes Unit at (609) 584-5051, ext. 5664, or online at www.njsp.org/division/investigations/cyber-crimes.shtml

Please feel free to call the parish or school office to validate the authenticity of any suspicious email claiming to be from our priests or staff.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Make a joyful sound unto the Lord!

REHEARSALS
THURSDAYS AT 8 PM

Children's Choir helps lead Worship at the 10:30am Mass on the last Sunday of each month. Contact Dr. Molina for more info - pmolinak@gmail.com

1st grade through 8th grade students welcomed

Summer CCD teachers needed! We are delaying the registration for Summer CCD because of a shortage of teachers in all grades. Please consider helping out, even if you can only teach a few days. Classes run from June 29th to July 10th. No experience necessary! If interested, please call Tracey at 973-338-7400 or email at rclan1@verizon.net. Thanks!

ST. THOMAS CHURCH

CALL FOR NEW CHOIR MEMBERS

"To Sing is to Pray Twice"
St. Augustine

REHEARSALS
THURSDAYS @ 7:30 PM

Adult Choir helps lead worship at either the 9AM or 10:30AM Masses on Sunday.
Contact Dr. Molina for more info - pmolinak@gmail.com

All Are Welcome

Men's Scripture Reading and Reflection

ALL MEN are invited Monday, February 10, 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.

St. Thomas the Apostle Home & School Association is Hosting a Fundraising Event at



56 Broad St., Bloomfield, NJ (973) 337-5783
Monday, February 17th – 5:00p-9:00p

15% of sales will be donated to our organization.
DINE-IN and PICK-UP only



Save the Date
St. Thomas the Apostle's
Home & School Hosts
43rd Tiki Tray
Thursday, April 23rd
Fiesta Wood-Ridge



More information to follow
Any question please email
statrickytray@gmail.com

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.

FREE TAX SEMINAR SAT. FEB 8, 2020 9-11 am ST. THOMAS PARISH CENTER

A retired CPA (parishioner) will discuss: the new 2019 Federal & NJ State Tax law changes for filing your Individual (1040) returns; the new tax form 1040-SR (for seniors); review the 2018 tax law changes; and also will provide tax tips for everyone preparing their individual 1040 returns. Sponsored by St. Thomas Holy Name Society.

Living the 3 T's

By sharing your Time, Talent, & Treasure

"...if you have faith the size of a mustard seed.. Nothing will be impossible for you." (Mt 17:20)

Jesus' assurance should encourage us that even the smallest amount of time, treasure, and talent, given generously, with great confidence in Him, can effect amazing results--even against seemingly impossible odds. In that spirit, and in honor of the Infant Jesus' Presentation forty days after His birth (celebrated with the blessing of candles on February 2), let us consider this mustard-seed faith-action. Using whatever spiritual and material 3 T's we can contribute, let us work and pray, entrusting the end of the culture of death to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to her all Powerful Infant Son, Jesus!.

FUNERAL SUPPORT MINISTRY

Our new ministry to support families in their time of grief has been formed. However, we are in need of more volunteers to join this important ministry. If you are available on weekday mornings and would like to help please call the parish center and leave your name and phone number or speak with Fr. Larry after one of the Masses this weekend. Thank you.

The Archdiocese of Newark - Respect Life Office WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU HEAL

Are you suffering from an abortion experience? Do you have feelings of guilt and anxiety? Do you suffer from depression? There is Hope! Rachel's Vineyard Retreats: rachelvineyard.org

- May 8-10, 2020
- September 11-13, 2020

Have you endured physical, emotional, sexual, and/or spiritual abuse? Find healing through a retreat facilitated by mental health professionals, and centered on Jesus Christ! Grief to Grace: griefftograce.org

- January 19-24, 2020
- September 13-18, 2020

For more information contact the Respect Life Office: Cheryl.Riley@rcan.org 973-497-4350 or Patricia.Decker@rcan.org 973-497-4348

*All inquiries are confidential

**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.

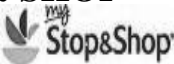
FUNERAL SUPPORT MINISTRY

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STA HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION WILL BE SELLING

SHOP RITE and STOP & SHOP

GIFT CARDS

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

ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:

Feb 2nd & 9th, Mar 1st, 15th & 29th

THE CARDS CAN BE USED AT ANY SHOP RITE/STOP & SHOP & FOR ALL YOUR PURCHASES!

THERE IS NO COST TO YOU!

YOU RECEIVE 100% CASH VALUE & STA SCHOOL EARNS 5% OF EVERY SALE!

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

Make sure to check your mail for a letter from Cardinal Tobin launching this year's Archdiocesan Annual Appeal: *Shining the Light of Christ.*

<https://www.rcan.org/video>



WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

On Sunday, February 9th, we will celebrate World Marriage Day. Accordingly, we will be giving a special blessing to all married couples at weekend masses; especially those who are celebrating significant

anniversaries this year. If you are celebrating your first anniversary, or your 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th, or more years of marriage in 2020, please call Barbara at the Parish Center by Tuesday, Feb. 4th and provide us with your names, the date of your marriage, a contact phone number, and which mass you plan on attending so we can be prepared to acknowledge your special anniversary. The following anniversary liturgies will be celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows: April 19, 2020 3:00pm 5 years & 25 years and May 3, 2020 3:00 pm 50 years Please call Barbara at the Parish Center to register by April 1st.

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION AND TAX ASSISTANCE

The Holy Name Society continues to provide free federal and state income tax preparation and assistance for seniors and disabled members of St. Thomas the apostle parish. To be eligible for this service, you must be a registered member of St. Thomas, at least 62 years of age or disabled, not actively employed and require no more forms and schedules than those listed below.

Income tax returns will be prepared by experienced tax preparers volunteering their time and talent in the spirit of stewardship.

Income tax returns will be limited to the following forms and schedules: (no business or individual rental forms)

- Federal forms 1040 and 1040sr (for seniors)
- Federal schedules: a,b,d,r,1,2,3,4 and 5
- NJ state form 1040nj
- NJ schedule b
- NJ forms ptr 1 and ptr 2 (senior property tax freeze)

The tax preparation process for each individual or married couple will include an interview, review of your 2018 return and turnover of your tax related documents. Completed returns will be available in about one week.

Tax preparers will be available in the parish center every Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon beginning February 7, 2020 through April 3, 2020.

The tax team has been keeping up with the changes included in the new tax laws beginning with 2018 income tax filing. We would be happy to discuss any federal and/or state tax concerns you may have to assist you in your personal preparation.

Christ in the Eucharist Part Eight - What is Transubstantiation

In our discussion of the Eucharist, we have been arguing that once the bread and wine are consecrated at Mass with the words of the priest "...this is my body...this is my blood, they are no longer bread and wine, but truly the body and blood of Christ. This is certainly a miracle and in the end we can only say that it is by the power of the Holy Spirit that this change occurs. But over the centuries the church has developed a language to help us understand, to some degree, how we can actually be consuming the body and blood of Christ, yet have it be in the form of bread and wine. Catholics call this change of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, *Transubstantiation*.

What is transubstantiation? In order to understand transubstantiation, it is important to understand a few terms. All things are composed of two parts, the accidents (i.e. the physical properties) and the substance (i.e. the nature or spiritual properties). Humans have both substance and accidents. Our height and weight, color of hair and eyes, etc., are the accidents which give us our physical appearance. These accidents can all change. We can lose hair, change our weight, even lose limbs, all without changing who we really are as human beings. Our substance, what we can't see, indicates who we are and what we can do. We have a human substance or nature that enables us to reason and do things which are exclusive to humans. We can't live underwater because it is not in our nature to do so. So while it is possible for us to change our physical appearance (i.e. our accidents) we cannot change our human nature (i.e. our substance).

How does this relate to the Eucharist? At Mass, it is not the physical appearance or accidents of the bread and wine that change, but the substance of the bread and wine that changes into the substance of the body and blood of Christ. This change occurs because it is the powerful words of Christ in the consecration that make the change happen. So it is truly Christ present in the appearance of bread and wine. We receive Christ in his totality, body, blood, soul and divinity. While the term transubstantiation was not decided upon until the Fourth Lateran Council (1215), the belief was held in the early church. For example, St. Ambrose (4th cent.) writes regarding the change of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ: "Be convinced that this is not what nature has formed, but what the blessing has consecrated. The power of the blessing prevails over that of nature, because by the blessing nature (substance) itself is changed...Could not Christ's word, which can make from nothing what did not exist, change existing things into what they were not before? It is no less a feat to give things their original nature than to change their nature."

- Bob Miller

WELLNESS MINISTRY
FEBRUARY 16, 2020 8a TO 12p
BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING
ST THOMAS PARISH CENTER



UPCOMING!

- Peer Servant Team Meeting 2/9, 7-8:30pm St. Peter Room
- TNL 2/23, 7-9pm in St. Peter Room For Teens Grades 9-12

Save the date for our next BOLD Middle Event
"SOAP 4 HOPE"

Making Toiletry Kits for the homeless.

For all middle school students!

February 7, 2020 St. Peter Room 6:30-8:00 PM!

Email/txt with Sign-Ups and info coming soon! Already interested? Let us know at StThomas@boldym.com

Adults and Young adults interested in volunteering with Youth Ministry please contact Q Furnald

ENJOY THE SUPER BOWL!

Questions, please contact Q Furnald StThomas@boldym.com

Ladies and Gentlemen Mark your calendars!

- **Men's Catholic Conference**
Saturday, February 29, 2020
- **Womens' Commission Day of Reflection**
Saturday, March 7, 2020

Both at Seton Hall University. Check the posters and fliers at the church doors or go to:

<https://www.rcan.org/mens-commission> or

<https://www.rcan.org/offices-and-ministries/womens-commission>

A message from...



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The physical and mental health of the Archbishop emeritus John Joseph Myers has suffered a serious decline.

After a recent visit with his family in central Illinois, Archbishop Myers decided to remain in the region of his birth where he is receiving specialized care and can be visited by his family as well as the clergy of the Diocese of Peoria.

I ask all the faithful in our Archdiocese to pray for Archbishop Myers that the mercy of God comfort and strengthen him in this moment of fragility. If you would like to write to him, his address is: Pleasant View, 505 College Ave. Ottawa, IL 61350

The Archdiocese has begun preparation for the sale of his retirement residence in Hunterdon County. After members of his family have collected his personal possessions, the home and property will be sold and the funds will be returned to the Archdiocese.

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,
Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.

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What's My Name?

The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

#WHATSMYNAME

In Remembrance of Samantha Josephson

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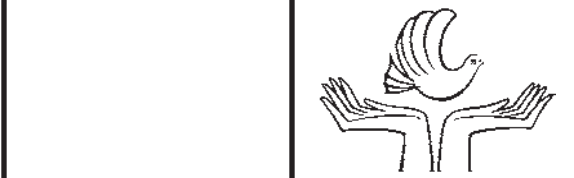
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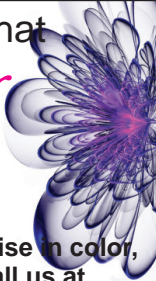
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