

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

Holy Days:
7:30, 11:30am & 7:00pm

Holidays: 8:30am

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 23, 2020 • Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses for the Week

Saturday, February 22

5:00 pm Linda Cronin – Family

Sunday, February 23

7:30 am Michael & Agnes DeBliss – Family

9:00 am Yolanda Faraone – Family

10:30 am For the People

12:00 pm Patrick DeLora – Family

Monday, February 24

Weekday

7:30 am John Lucas – Daughter

11:30 am Noel McCarthy

Tuesday, February 25

Weekday

7:30 am Eleanor & Angelo Gonnella – Son

11:30 am Mario Lucciola – Family

Wednesday, February 26

Ash Wednesday

7:30 am Eugene Motsch, Sr.

11:30 am Gerald Rotunda – Family

7:00 pm Lois A. Lang – Bequest

Thursday, February 27

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

7:30 am Jerry Rotunda – Family

11:30 am Louis F. Cesaro

Friday, February 28

Friday after Ash Wednesday

7:30 am Tom Gonzales – Wife

11:30 am Mary Shelesky – Family

Saturday, February 29

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

8:30 am Maria Pia Sciara – Friend

5:00 pm Joseph & Florence Kane – Family

Sunday, March 1

First Sunday of Lent

7:30 am Santa O'Brien – Friend

9:00 am Anthony Meola, Jr. – Family

10:30 am Anthony Aversa – Family

12:00 pm For the People

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Anyone requesting a prayer shawl or lap robe for a person in need is asked to call the parish center.



Deacon Al Tizzano, Kelly Spill,
James Battaglino, Geraldine Nicolette,
Victoria Pavlick, Virginia Fallon,
Nancy Salerno, Anna Fimagnari, beatrice Pasquale

REST IN PEACE

Matthew Florczak, Joseph Matliacano, Phylis Manion

SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS

CHURCH: Angelo & Eleanor Gonnella
RECTORY: Mary Merkl

Gospel Reading - Matthew 5:38-48

My command to you is: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors.



The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at “an eye for an eye” as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God’s kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbor are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God’s love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word telos, which is probably better translated here as “complete.” We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

View this bulletin online at:

<http://stachurchbloomfield.com/bulletin>

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

Shining the Light of Christ.

The video can be seen on the sites below;

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

www.stachurchbloomfield.com

Facebook: Saint Thomas the Apostle Church

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 February 16th 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 \$15,647.

| Budget Amount | Year to Date | Remaining Amount |
|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| \$892,300 | \$554,047 | \$338,253 |

The year to date amount is negative by \$23,321 as of week number 33 in our current budget year.

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK 2020 LENTEN REGULATIONS

1. The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted, **and two (2) smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.** Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

2. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially", or as a whole, is a serious obligation.

3. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.

4. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, March 1st to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, June 7th.**

*Canon 920, §1. *All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.*

Our 2021 Mass Book will open on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, from 9:30am until 1:00pm. From that time, until April 20, 2020, you may reserve one weekend Mass and three daily Masses for your loved ones. This will help ensure that everyone has a fair and equal opportunity to get the Mass they desire. After April 20th, there will be no restrictions on Mass reservations. No Masses will be reserved by phone.

Lent 2020

Ash Wednesday

February 26th

Masses at 7:30 & 11:30am, 7:00pm

Prayer Service at 4:00

Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 7:00 pm

Confessions

Saturdays at 11am

Communal Penance Service

Catholic Parishes of Bloomfield (Sacred Heart, St. Valentine, and St. Thomas the Apostle) will have Communal Penance Service with confessions at **St. Valentine Church Monday, March 30th at 7:00 p.m.**



Passion Palm Sunday

April 5th

Saturday, April 4th

Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Solemn Blessing of Palms

Sunday, April 5th, Masses at

7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,

and 12 noon (Palms distributed at all Masses.)



Don't Miss Our Triduum

Holy Thursday, April 9th

(No morning Mass/

No morning prayer)

7:30 p.m.

Mass of the Lord's Supper

11:00 p.m. Night Prayer (Church closes after this service)



Good Friday, April 10th

(No Masses, Church will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

3:00 p.m. Celebration of

Our Lord's Passion & Death

with Holy Communion

7:00 p.m. Living Stations of the Cross

Presented by St. Thomas Youth Group



Holy Saturday, April 11st

(No morning Mass;

No 5:00 p.m. Mass)

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:15 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

(Satisfies Easter Sunday

Obligation)

Easter Sunday, April 12th

Masses at 7:30, 9:00, 10:30am & 12 noon



**COMING SOON
CHECK YOUR MAIL
READ THE BULLETIN**

STA "300 Club"

St. Thomas the Apostle and your Finance Committee invite you and your friends to participate in our "300 Club". You will find that this Club is better than State Lotteries, Casino Slots, or Bingo. Your participation in this year's "300 Club" raffle is not only exciting for you, but it is an investment in the future of your parish. This year's raffle proceeds will go toward various building repairs. Here is how it works...

**ONLY 300 TICKETS AVAILABLE!!!
Tickets are \$100 each.**

Prizes are as follows:

- 1st Prize: \$10,500 or 35% of tickets sold**
- 2nd Prize: \$ 3,000 or 10% of tickets sold**
- 3rd Prize: \$ 1,500 or 5% of tickets sold**

**Raffle to be held on Thursday, May 28, 2020
at St. Thomas Church.**

Volunteers Needed

St. Thomas is in need of individuals who could launder Eucharistic Purificators **once every 12 weeks.**

A simple task with Abundant Blessings!

If interested, contact: John Rennie at 973-338-4615

PARISH CENSUS

Just as our country is conducting a 2020 census, it is time for our parish to do the same. If any of your family information has changed please contact the parish center. If you are not registered please be sure to fill out a registration form. Forms are available at the Parish Center and at <http://www.stachurchbloomfield.com>.

MEN'S SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION

ALL MEN are invited **Monday, February 24 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.** Come and share the extraordinary Word of God and together learn more about our beautiful Catholic faith.

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 | 2/23 | 10:00a 10:30a 12:30p 7:00p | RCIA (PC) Mass – Children's Liturgy (PC) Pre Cana (PC) Youth TNL (PC) |
| M | 2/24 | 11:30a 12:00p 3:40p 6:00p 7:30p 7:30p | September Club (PC) Eucharistic Adoration (CH) CCD (HH) Club Den (HH) Life Holy Hour (CH) Men's Scripture (PC) |
| T | 2/25 | 3:40p 6:00p 7:00p | CCD (HH) Girl Scouts (HH) Boy Scouts (G) |
| W | 2/26 | 4:00p 7:00p | Bell Choir (PC) Small Christian Community (PC) |
| Th | 2/27 | 6:00p 6:00p 7:30p | Children's Choir (CH) Cub Den Meeting (HH) Choir Adult (PC) |
| F | 2/28 | 9:00a 7:20p 7:30p | Income Tax (PC) Small Christian Community (PC) Station of the Cross (CH) |
| Sa | 2/29 | 11:00a | Confession (CH) |
| Su | 3/1 | 10:00a 10:30a 6:30p | RCIA (PC) Mass – Children's Liturgy (PC) Youth PST (PC) |

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION in 2018/2019

On Monday February 24th there will be an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after the 11:30am Mass. This is an opportunity to spend time with the Lord in silence.



There is a signup sheet next to our petition book facing the confession room. Please fill out the form indicating the time you think you can attend.

The Adoration will conclude with *Respect for Life Holy Hour* that will start at 7:30pm. All are invited.

Another New Ministry

We are looking for people to help to say the prayers at the cemetery following a funeral Mass. This is not always possible for one of the clergy (Fr. Larry, Fr. Anton, or Deacon Brian) to do as there is the 11:30 Mass Monday through Saturday, 11:00 confessions on Saturdays, and other parish commitments. Your presence at the cemetery will be one that represents our entire parish family to the family that is going through the loss of a loved one. Training will take place for anyone interested. Please see Deacon Brian or call the parish center if you are interested.

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.



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

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QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL

Brenda Vasquez-Brown @ 862.452.5444

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

2020 ANNIVERSARY LITURGIES

The following anniversary liturgies will be celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark;

- April 19, 2020 3:00pm 5 years & 25 years
- May 3, 2020 3:00 pm 50 years

Please call the Parish Center to register by April 1st.

Ladies and Gentlemen Mark your calendars!

- **Men's Catholic Conference Sat., Feb. 29, 2020**
- **Womens' Commission Day of Reflection Sat., 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>

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.

The Baptismal Font

Back in the 1999 the Parish had a capital campaign called 'Remembering, Believing, Growing, The St. Thomas Way'. The monies raised were for various projects in our school, rectory, convent, and for the renovation of our church. There was also money donated only to be used for the renovation of the Baptismal Font, part of the architectural plans. However, it was not enough to complete the project at that time and the money was set aside. We have just received a generous donation for the completion of the project. This gift was made in memory of Frank and Rose Rennie. Therefore, we will begin the project the week of March 2nd. The water will flow continuously from our font into an octagon pool located directly behind it. The marble being used for the project is from the original pulpit and altar rails that were dismantled and stored during the renovation. It should take approximately two weeks to complete. Many thanks to our generous parishioners!

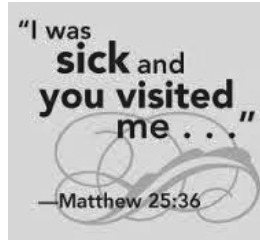
Calendar Raffle Winners!

Week Two

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------|------------|------|
| 100 | Oneeka Parillon | Belleville | 3254 |
| 125 | Sheri Quattrocchi | Lodi | 0526 |
| 150 | Nancy Anne Kelley | Clifton | 0772 |
| 250 | Jill Caruso | Belleville | 0979 |
| 100 | Rev. Steven D'Andrea | Wallington | 2175 |

REMINDER

A MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE THIS TUESDAY, FEB 25TH AT 7PM IN OUR PARISH CENTER, FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST WHO VISIT THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND.



Eucharistic Lecture Series

From Passover Lamb to Risen Christ: Catholic Teaching on the Eucharist

With the crisis in the church over the lack of understanding of Christ's true presence in the Eucharist, St. Thomas the Apostle's ministry of Adult Formation will sponsor a lecture series covering all aspects of the Eucharist from its biblical foundation to Eucharistic spirituality. Lectures include:

- March 3: The Flesh of the Lamb: The Eucharist in the Bible (Robert Miller)
- March 10: The Eucharist: Beyond Signs and Symbols (Christopher Cimorelli)
- March 17: Transubstantiation: Thomas Aquinas on the Eucharist (Frank Miller)
- March 24: The Priesthood and the Mass (Maura Hearden Fehlner)
- March 31: The Effects of the Eucharist on the Soul (Rev. John Gordon)

Lectures are every Tuesday in Lent from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the St. Peter room of the Parish Center. Cost is \$5 at the door for individual lectures or \$20 to preregister for all 5 lectures. For more information or to register, please call Bob Miller in the parish center at 973.338.9190 x135. All payments accepted at the door.

Spiritual Direction Committee St Thomas the Apostle Parish

LENT RETREAT IN EVERYDAY LIFE BASED ON THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST IGNATIUS

**WEDNESDAYS 7:30pm – 9:15pm Parish
Feb. 26 (Ash Wed), March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1**

*Registration Very Helpful
Anna – (973) 338-9538*

Congratulations to all the children who made their First Penance on Saturday,, February 8th. Please keep them in their prayers as they continue to prepare for the First Communion.

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Adams, Kyle</i> | <i>Hughes, RJ</i> |
| <i>Agapito, Elizabeth</i> | <i>Jones, Colin</i> |
| <i>Aiello, Madison</i> | <i>La Monica, Madelyn</i> |
| <i>Aiello, Mia</i> | <i>Luna, Leonardo</i> |
| <i>Allen., Aidan</i> | <i>Luque, Sophia</i> |
| <i>Babula, John</i> | <i>Magda, Henryk</i> |
| <i>Bailey, Abigail</i> | <i>Maher, Elsie</i> |
| <i>Barro, Angelin</i> | <i>Marri, Shannon</i> |
| <i>Becker, Antonia</i> | <i>Massiello, Alexandra</i> |
| <i>Bento, Aiden</i> | <i>McCann, Grayson</i> |
| <i>Bernhard, Joseph</i> | <i>McCann, Morgan</i> |
| <i>Brown, Henry</i> | <i>McWaters, Daniel</i> |
| <i>Cassata, Samantha</i> | <i>Mendoza, Chris</i> |
| <i>Catala, Michael</i> | <i>Misner, Emma</i> |
| <i>Combes, Sydney</i> | <i>Moore, Colin</i> |
| <i>D'Alessio, Christopher</i> | <i>Moorman, Christopher</i> |
| <i>D'Ambrosi, Valentina</i> | <i>Paulino, Camilla</i> |
| <i>Damiano-Cruise, Ella</i> | <i>Radigan, Jamie</i> |
| <i>D'Angelo, Makayla</i> | <i>Rogers, Sabina</i> |
| <i>Del Purgatorio, Chloe</i> | <i>Rondello, Sofia</i> |
| <i>Dela Rosa, Jonah</i> | <i>Sabatelli, Miles</i> |
| <i>Determann, Eve</i> | <i>Salandra, Francesca</i> |
| <i>Dubinin, Olivia</i> | <i>Salas, Alex</i> |
| <i>Eckhard, Jan</i> | <i>Salas, Michael</i> |
| <i>Estrada, Lucas</i> | <i>Scaperotta, Samantha</i> |
| <i>Feliciano, Jason</i> | <i>Stec, Vincent</i> |
| <i>Fernandez, Bryan</i> | <i>Szecs, Olivia</i> |
| <i>Fernando, Caleb</i> | <i>Tenesaca, Hayley</i> |
| <i>Fernando, Kiran</i> | <i>Tenesaca, Michele</i> |
| <i>Fischer, Lily</i> | <i>Toal, Erin</i> |
| <i>Gencarelli, Luciano</i> | <i>Torres, Desani</i> |
| <i>Gugluizza, Jayne</i> | <i>Trinidad, Arianna</i> |
| <i>Heaney, Victoria</i> | <i>Valdovinos, Alejandro</i> |
| <i>Horner, James</i> | <i>Villorente, Jeremiah</i> |

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE SEPTEMBER CLUB Trips Open for Reservations

"The Celtic Angels" 7:00pm at the Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown Sun. March 8th preceded by Prefix Dinner at the Grasshopper Off The Green Restaurant. \$100.00 per person includes ticket to performance, dinner, bus transportation, & all gratuities. Bus departs St Thomas at 3pm. \$25 due upon Sign-Up & \$75 Balance by February 24th

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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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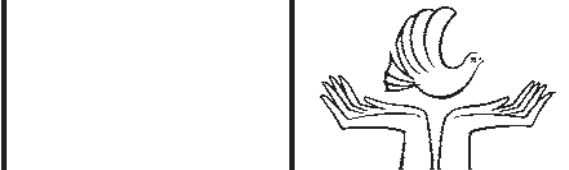
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