

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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March 1, 2020 • First Sunday of Lent

Masses for the Week

Saturday, February 29

5:00 pm Joseph & Florence Kane – Family

Sunday, March 1

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

Monday, March 2

Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Concetta Toscano – Family

11:30 am Vincent & Ginnie Ricigliano - Sister

Tuesday, March 3

Lenten Weekday

St. Katherine Drexel, Virgin

7:30 am Karina Orellano – Friends

11:30 am Mary Margaret Tizzano – Bequest

Wednesday, March 4

Lenten Weekday

St. Casimir

7:30 am Fay De Lorenzo – Bequest

11:30 am Carol Franz – Friend

Thursday, March 5

Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Dylan A. Du Bois – Family

11:30 am Alice Smith – Friend

First Friday, March 6

Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Joanne Ellis – Family

11:30 am Walter Tiedemann – Family

First Saturday, March 7

Lenten Weekday

Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

8:30 am Joseph D'Angelo – Friend

5:00 pm For the People

Sunday, March 8

Second Sunday of Lent

7:30 am Louis & Patricia Occhetti – Family

9:00 am Eileen Maher – Friend

10:30 am Corrine Kane – Family

12:00 pm Carol Franz – Friend

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, James Battaglini,
Geraldine Nicolette, Victoria Pavlick,
Virginia Fallon, Nancy Salerno, Anna Fimagnari,
Beatrice Pasquale, Michael Cerbone, Carl Castellano

REST IN PEACE

Beatriz Menoria

SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS

CHURCH: Lillian Bieksha
RECTORY: Manuel Maspono

Gospel Reading - Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus fasts for 40 days in the desert and is tempted by the devil.



In each of the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), after Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. In Matthew, as in Luke, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture.

The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted.

Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.

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 23rd 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 \$16,524.

Budget Amount	Year to Date	Remaining Amount
\$892,300	\$570,571	\$321,729

The year to date amount is negative by \$24,293 as of week number 34 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

Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 7:00 pm

Confessions

Saturdays at 11am (except Holy Saturday, April 11)

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

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

*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 Center
March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1**

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

MEN'S SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION

ALL MEN are invited **Monday, March 9, 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	3/1	10:00a	RCIA (PC)
		10:30a	Mass – Children's Liturgy (PC)
		7:00p	Youth PST (PC)
M	3/2	11:30a	September Club (PC)
		3:40p	CCD (HH)
		6:00p	Club Den (HH)
		7:00p	Rosary (PC)
T	3/3	3:40p	CCD (HH)
		6:00p	Girl Scouts (HH)
		7:00p	Boy Scouts (G)
		7:00p	Adult Ed (PC)
W	3/4	4:00p	Bell Choir (PC)
		6:30p	Altar Server Training (CH)
		7:00p	Small Christian Community (PC)
Th	3/5	6:00p	Children's Choir (CH)
		6:00p	Cub Den Meeting (HH)
		7:00p	Mass for Our Country (CH)
		7:30p	Choir Adult (PC)
F	3/6	10:00a	Income Tax (PC)
		7:00p	Communion Gathering (HH)
		7:00p	Station of the Cross (CH)
Sa	3/7	11:00a	Confession (CH)
Su	3/8	10:00a	RCIA (PC)
		10:00a	Confirmation Class (School)
		10:30a	Mass – Children's Liturgy (PC)
		6:30p	Youth TNL (PC)

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.

Altar Server Training begins March 4, 2020

St. Thomas the Apostle is in need of children in grades 3 and up to serve at Mass. There will be training sessions to explain the roles and responsibilities as an Altar Server. Dates are March 4, March 11, March 18 and April 1 from 6:30PM- 8:00PM. There are training resources available online at <https://www.stachurchbloomfield.com/web/altar-servers> If you are interested or God is calling you to be an altar server, please leave your name, email and phone number in the collection basket or email altarservers@stachurchbloomfield.com by March 2, 2020.

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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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.

- **Womens' Commission Day of Reflection
Sat., March 7, 2020**

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

<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 Three

125	Jessica DeKnight	Saddle Brook	2985
150	Dave Parsons	Bloomfield	2317
100	John Kaplonski	Nutley	1849
125	Elena Triggiano	Nutley	1617
150	Richard Barrese	Bloomfield	2910

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 Hearnden 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.



St. Thomas the Apostle's Home & School Hosts 43rd Tiki Tray

Thursday, April 23rd Fiesta Wood-Ridge
Doors Open at 6pm

Ticket Price: \$50 per person

(Includes: 1 white sheet, dinner, dessert, coffee/tea)

Tickets go on Sale March 15th – March 27th

Please visit the school website www.staschoolnj.org and click on the TIKI TRAY button to purchase your tickets and pre-pack raffle tickets

**This event is open to person 21 years and older
There will be a cash bar**

**Any questions please email
homeschool@staschoolnj.org**



UPCOMING!

TNL on March 8th, 7-9pm
in St. Peter Room
For Teens in Grades 9-12

Save the date!

Middle School Service Night
March 13th, 6:30-8:00p
More information
coming soon!

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

U. S. CENSUS

The 2020 Census for the Federal Government will take place from mid-March through mid-May. Faith communities have been asked to help to reach out to parishioners to make people aware of the importance of this event. The U.S. Constitution mandates that a census of the population be conducted every 10 years. Census statistics are used to determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives and inform how state, local and federal lawmakers will allocate billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities every year for the next 10 years. The U.S. Census Bureau is ramping up its national recruiting efforts to hire up to 500,000 temporary, part-time census takers for the 2020 Census in communities across the country to reach its goal of more than 2 million applicants. The positions offer competitive pay, flexible hours, paid training, and weekly paychecks. To determine the pay rate in a specific area, learn more about these positions, or apply for one of the temporary jobs, visit 2020census.gov/jobs. Anyone age 18 and older, such as recent high school graduates, college students, veterans, retirees, military spouses, seasonal workers and people who are bilingual are highly encouraged to apply. People who already have jobs and want to earn extra income evenings and weekends are also encouraged to apply. The selection process begins this month, with paid training occurring in March and April. After paid training, most positions work between May and early July. For more information about the 2020 Census, visit the Census Bureau [website](http://www.census.gov).

St. Joseph Feast Day Celebration

A Novena will be held at St. Mary's Church, 17 Monsignor Owens Place, in Nutley from Tuesday, March 10th to Thursday, March 19th each night at 7 pm in the church. There will be a Solemn Mass on Thursday, March 19th at 7pm in the church. Following the Mass on March 19th, all are invited to the St., Joseph Altar, Table and Dinner to be held in Msgr. Walsh Hall. A limited number of tickets for the dinner will be sold at \$10 per person. You must have a ticket for admission and you can purchase it at the Parish Center Office during business hours.

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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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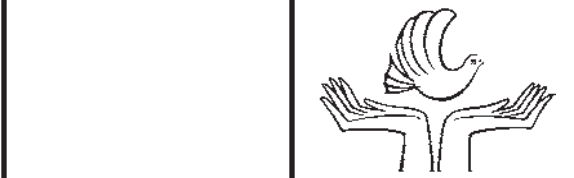
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