

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 8, 2020 • Second Sunday of Lent

Masses for the Week

First Saturday, March 7

5:00 pm For the People

Sunday, March 8

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

Monday, March 9

Lenten Weekday

St. Frances of Rome, Religious

7:30 am Mark Palermo – Friend

11:30 am John Rizzo – Family

Tuesday, March 10

Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Edward Ginter – Niece

11:30 am Edward Eltzholtz (3rd Anniversary) – Wife

Wednesday, March 11

Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Lois A. Lang – Bequest

11:30 am Linda Cronin – Family

Thursday, March 12

Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Patricia Nash – Family

11:30 am Michelina Adubato – Friend

Friday, March 13

Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Mary Lou Gilchrist – Husband

11:30 am Iris & Al Arrigone – Friend

Saturday, March 14

Lenten Weekday

8:30 am James Martine – Friend

5:00 pm Brendan Boyle – Bequest

Sunday, March 15

Third Sunday of Lent

7:30 am For the People

9:00 am Jean Powers – Family

10:30 am Thomas Vangieri – Family

12:00 pm Charles Graham – Parents

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 Battaglino,
Geraldine Nicolette, Victoria Pavlick,
Virginia Fallon, Nancy Salerno,
Anna Fimagnari, Beatrice Pasquale,
Michael Cerbone, Carol Locurcio

REST IN PEACE

Barbara Ann Momberger, Lisa Mahan, William Frunzi,
Carl Castellano, Jean Marcheel, Josefina Zimmermann

SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS

CHURCH: Patrick Little
RECTORY: John Mortensen

Gospel Reading - Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain in the presence of Peter, James, and John.



THE TRANSFIGURATION

For the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert to his Transfiguration. Each year on the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday of Lent each year, we hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is told in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In each of those Gospels, the Transfiguration follows Jesus' first prediction of his death and his teaching about the costs of discipleship. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, his Resurrection.

On a mountain in today's reading, a voice affirms that Jesus is God's Son in words reminiscent of the voice at Jesus' baptism. In addition, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the mountain connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word.

The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples: Peter, James, and John. In Matthew's Gospel, those disciples are among the first whom Jesus calls. The three men are identified as an "inner circle" among Jesus' disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before his arrest.

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 March 1st 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 \$16,160.

Budget Amount	Year to Date	Remaining Amount
\$892,300	\$591,093	\$301,207

The year to date amount is negative by \$21,267 as of week number 35 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 10th from 9:30am until 1:00pm. From that date, until April 20th 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. **Parish Center opens at 9am.**

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 or Confessions;
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

WELCOME TO OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED

*We welcome our newly Baptized,
with our prayers and good wishes,
into our Community of Faith...*



Andi Rose Cifelli

Parents: Dana (Tortorello) & Dante Cifelli

Ruby Diaz

Parents: Maria (Castillo) & Felix Diaz

Michael Christian Hodgman

Parents: Brittany (Helm) & Michael Hodgman

Thomas Stanislaw Oliva

Parents: Edyta (Walega) & Thomas Oliva

Katie Riley Wegman

Parents: Kloudya (Molina) & Brian Wegman

Volunteers Needed We are in need of individuals who could launder Eucharistic Purificators **once every 12 weeks. A simple task with abundant blessings! Please call John Rennie at 973-338-4615**

Religious Ed News

Prayer Partner handprints are being distributed at all the masses this weekend. Please take a handprint and pray for our children as they get closer to their first time receiving Jesus!

Summer CCD registration is now open. We are accepting students who will be entering grade 1 in the fall or grades 3-8. Because it is a sacrament year, students entering grade 2 in the fall must attend year-round classes. Classes run from 8:45 to 12:45 each day from June 29th to July 10th. Registration is online at stachurchbloomfield.com

Confirmation classes will be on Sunday, March 8, 15, and 22 in the school. Classes will run from 10:00 to 12:00 each week. Students should meet in Herron Hall each week with their books. The retreat will be Sunday, March 29th – all candidates will meet at the 12:00 mass in the church.

Altar server training will continue in March on Wednesday evenings, the 11th and 18th, in the church from 6:30-8:00.

Lenten Penance dates for Home Study students and Summer CCD students are Tuesday, March 17th at 3:45 in the church and Monday, March 23rd at 3:45 in the church. Attendance will be taken.

Spiritual Direction Committee

LENT RETREAT IN EVERYDAY LIFE BASED ON THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST IGNATIUS
WEDNESDAYS 7:30pm – 9:15pm Parish Center
March 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. We will also watch Metanoia - Episode 1 "Who do you say I am?" narrated by Fr. Dave Pivonka. 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	3/8	10:00a	RCIA (PC)
		10:00a	Confirmation Class (School)
		10:30a	Mass – Children's Liturgy (PC)
		6:30p	Youth Teen Night Live (PC)
M	3/9	11:30a	September Club (PC)
		3:40p	CCD (HH)
		6:00p	Club Den (HH)
		7:30p	Men's Scripture (PC)
T	3/10	3:40p	CCD (HH)
		6:00p	Girl Scouts (HH)
		7:00p	Boy Scouts (G)
		7:00p	Adult Ed (PC)
W	3/11	4:00p	Bell Choir (PC)
		6:30p	Altar Server Training (CH)
		7:00p	Small Christian Community (PC)
Th	3/12	6:00p	Children's Choir (CH)
		7:30p	Choir Adult (PC)
F	3/13	10:00a	Income Tax (PC)
		6:30p	Youth Group MS (PC)
		7:00p	Station of the Cross (CH)
		7:20p	Small Christian Community (PC)
Sa	3/14	11:00a	Confession (CH)
Su	3/15	8:00a	Blood Pressure Screening (PC)
		9:00a	Hospitality (PC)
		10:00a	RCIA (PC)
		10:00a	Confirmation Class (School)
		10:30a	Mass – Children's Liturgy (PC)
		11:30a	Prayer Shawl (PC)
		6:30p	Peer Servant Team (PC)

Upcoming Parish Events:

March 21/22 Expectant Couples Blessing at Masses
March 26 Evening of Reflection Fr. Vinny Fortunato
April 25/26 & May 2 First Communions
May 3 May Crowning
May 9-13 Parish Mission Fr. Michael Sullivan

NEW TO OUR PARISH? WELCOME!!

PARISH MEMBERSHIP; New Parishioners are requested to register in the Parish as soon as possible. Please notify us of changes in address or phone number.

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Phone _____

Email _____

___ I wish to receive a registration form

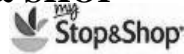
___ I have an address change

___ I am moving out of the Parish

Please send to Parish office or drop in collection basket.

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QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL

Brenda Vasquez-Brown @ 862.452.5444

NEW MEMORIALS

In order to accommodate more requests to memorialize loved ones sooner rather than later, we are opening up memorials of Bread and Wine beginning March 1st. Your loved one can be memorialized for an entire week with a donation of \$20 for the bread and wine that is used at all Masses that week. The names will appear in the bulletin on the Sunday beginning the week of the memorialization.

**EASTER BULLETIN
SUBMISSION DEADLINE
MONDAY MARCH 30th at 5pm**

SAVE THE DATE: LENTEN EVENING OF REFLECITON

On Thursday, March 26th, Fr. Vinny Fortunato, O.F.M. Cap, will be here to present an "Evening of Reflection". This will be held in the church at 7 pm. All are invited to come and hear from our special guest who will help us to reflect and prepare ourselves for the Easter Season and beyond.

WELLNESS MINISTRY

MARCH 15th 8am TO 12noon
BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING
ST THOMAS PARISH CENTER



**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 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 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!

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.

Calendar Raffle Winners!

Week Four

100	Efrin Petipit	Bloomfield
125	Ronald Burgers, Jr.	Little Falls
150	Barbara Gilfillan	Mahwah
100	Patricia Hopkins	Bloomfield
125	Jenn Stern	Bloomfield

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 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.

St. Thomas the Apostle's

Home & School Hosts 43rd Tiki Tray

Thursday, April 23rd 6pm Fiesta Wood-Ridge

\$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

THANK YOU

Our Pre-Cana was held February 22nd-23rd and was a huge success. Our couples commented on how happy they were to have come, and only wished that it could have been longer. (Leave them wanting more...) A very special thank you goes out to all of our volunteers who worked hard in the planning, preparing, and executing of all that went on:

Bob Miller, Jack Franz, Mary Ellen & Pat DeCotiis, Jennifer & Andrew DeCotiis-Mauro, Frank & Rosalie Mescall, Barbara & Ernie Albanese, Tracey & Greg Hann, Joe & Maddie Ornegri, Cora & Romy Galano, Paul & Wendy Baytan, Dan & Melanie Bitecola, Laura & Joe Milano, Father Anton, and Deb & Rocco Nole.

Welcome back to the second half of the 2019-2020 school year here at St. Thomas the Apostle.

Our students from grades PK3 through 8th have had a year thus far of strong challenging academics, numerous after school activities (Drama, Chess, STEM, Robotics, and Athletics), performed in concerts, and have held many informational and educational field trips.

Our students joined with the rest of the St. Thomas community on Ash Wednesday at 11:30am mass to take part in the beginning of Lent. As we prepare during the Easter Season lessons are filled with Catholic Identity and Values to help enhance and ultimately foster the knowledge within our students and their faith.

Our students in the 8th Grade have officially begun the final countdown towards graduation, with several more activities waiting in front of them. This year for the first time we will be holding our National Junior Honor Society Ceremony in our church at 7pm on March 19th. Students who have been nominated have excelled at Academics, Leadership and Service.

We welcome you in for tours of the school and see all of the wonder that is St. Thomas the Apostle. A list of events that will be taking place can be found on our website, Facebook page, and hanging in the church on flyers once they are printed and ready to go. You will begin to see information regarding our numerous events such as the Tricky Tray (April 23rd) and Bunny Breakfast (April 4th) as well for the entire community to share in.

There is always opportunity for people to come in and assist in the day to day activities at St. Thomas the Apostle, please contact our office at 973-338-8505 or via email at staoffice@staschoolnj.org for more information.

Mr. Michael Petrillo M.Ed.

Principal, St. Thomas the Apostle School

St. Thomas the Apostle School congratulates the following alumni who made the Honor Roll at Paramus Catholic High School

Principal's List

Dalialah Aballo
Jamie Bonfante
Laura Conigliari
Nathaniel Courtney
Tristan Courtney
Sean Hopkins
Aidan Salandy
Colin Salandy
Karl Sales
Angeles Selecky
Emma Soma
Alexis Strollo

First Honors

Cheryl Bitecola
Gianna Nader

Second Honors

Erin Fitzpatrick
Justin Nader
Michael Pasquale
Brenna Sherman

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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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