

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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Fax: 596-3735

March 15, 2020 • Third Sunday of Lent

Masses for the Week

Saturday, March 14

5:00 pm Brendan Boyle – Bequest

Sunday, March 15

7:30 am For the People

9:00 am Jean Powers – Family

10:30 am Thomas Vangieri – Family

12:00 pm Charles Graham – Parents

Monday, March 16

Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Joseph Strazza – Friend

11:30 am Joseph Danoi – Family

Tuesday, March 17

Lenten Weekday

St. Patrick, Bishop

7:30 am Frank O'Sullivan – Family

11:30 am Joseph Strazza – Friend

Wednesday, March 18

Lenten Weekday

St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:30 am Josephine & Dominick Tortorello – Bequest

11:30 am Timothy Michael Hartigan – Friend

Thursday, March 19

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30 am Joseph & Josephine Raimo – Bequest

11:30 am Brant Patrich – Family

Friday, March 20

Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Diane Rispoli – Friend

11:30 am Mary Margaret Tizzano - Bequest

Saturday, March 21

Lenten Weekday

8:30 am Denis Drobnick – Family

5:00 pm Maryann Garner – Friend

Sunday, March 22

Fourth Sunday of Lent

7:30 am Jennifer Lauritano – Friend

9:00 am For the People

10:30 am Veronica Meluzio – Friend

12:00 pm Thomas McGovern – Family

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

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



Nancy Salerno, Anna Fimagnari,
Beatrice Pasquale, Deacon Al Tizzano,
Michael Cerbone, Carol Locurcio,
Daniel Chagnon, Margaret Gentiles, Virginia Fallon

REST IN PEACE

Eleanor Malgeri

SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS

CHURCH: Joseph Strazza
RECTORY: Mary Lou Gilchrist

Gospel Reading - John 4:5-42

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." With no running water, the daily trip to the well by the women of the community was of paramount importance. The women of the town would have traveled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands."

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people.

The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

View this bulletin online at:

<http://stachurchbloomfield.com/bulletin>

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

Watch the video, *Shining the Light of Christ*, at:

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

www.stachurchbloomfield.com

and on 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 8th 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 \$16,476.



Budget Amount	Year to Date	Remaining Amount
\$892,300	\$607,569	\$284,731

The year to date amount is negative by \$22,287 as of week number 36 in our current budget year.

EASTER BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE MONDAY MARCH 30th at 5pm

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.*

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

**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



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

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.

MEN'S SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION

ALL MEN are invited **Monday, March 23, 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 2 . "What must I do to inherit Eternal Life?"** narrated by Fr. Dave Pivonka. Come and share the extraordinary Word of God and together learn more about our beautiful Catholic faith.

**BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING MARCH 15th 8-12
IN THE PARISH CENTER**

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	3/15	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)
M	3/16	11:30a	September Club (PC)
		12:00p	Eucharistic Adoration (CH)
		3:40p	CCD (HH)
		6:00p	Club Den (HH)
		7:30p	Life Holy Hour (CH)
T	3/17	3:40p	CCD (HH)
		6:00p	Girl Scouts (HH)
		7:00p	Boy Scouts (G)
		7:00p	Adult Ed (PC)
W	3/18	4:00p	Bell Choir (PC)
		6:30p	Altar Server Training (CH)
		7:00p	Small Christian Community (PC)
Th	3/19	6:00p	Cub Den Meeting (HH)
		6:00p	Children's Choir (CH)
		7:30p	Choir Adult (PC)
F	3/20	10:00a	Income Tax (PC)
		7:00p	Station of the Cross (CH)
		7:20p	Small Christian Community (PC)
Sa	3/21	11:00a	Confession (CH)
Su	3/22	10:00a	Confirmation Class (School)
		10:00a	RCIA (PC)
		10:30a	Mass – Children's Liturgy (PC)
		6:30p	Teen Night (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

Next weekend at all Masses we will have a special blessing for all couples expecting a child both by childbirth and adoption.

Attention Teens and Young Adults! WE ARE IN NEED OF singers for our one-time-only choir performing at the Living Stations of the Cross, presented by the youth of our parish on Good Friday. For more information, please contact Patricio Molina at pmolinak@gmail.com

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

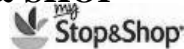
I have an address change

I am moving out of the Parish

Please send to Parish office or drop in collection basket.

STA HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION WILL BE SELLING

SHOP RITE & STOP & SHOP GIFT CARDS



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

Apr 19 & 26 and May 3, 17, & 31
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**YOU RECEIVE 100% CASH VALUE & STA
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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 opened up memorials of Bread and Wine on March 1st. Your loved one can now 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.

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.

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.

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!

Girl Scout Troop 20204 of
St Thomas the Apostle School
will be having their

Annual Girl Scout Cookie sale.

Sunday, March 22, 2020 9:45am-1pm
(church entrances/exits)

\$4 Per box and \$5 for S'mores and Toffee-tactics.
Proceeds go towards all troop projects.

Calendar Raffle Winners!

Week Five

150	Renato Tuason	Bloomfield	1150
100	Oneeka Parillon	Belleville	3261
125	Juan Carlos Alvarez	Clifton	1822
150	Paul Migliori	Wayne	1627
100	Dawn Nelson	Nutley	2934

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 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 SEPTEMBER CLUB'S 2020 TRIPS

April & May Trips Open for Reservations

"Sister Act" 7:00pm at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn April 23rd (Thursday) preceded by Prefix Dinner at La Cucina Di Clemenza Restaurant. \$100.00 Per Person includes Ticket to Performance, Dinner, Bus Transportation, & all Gratuities. Bus will depart St Thomas at 3pm. Minimal Walking. Join us for this fun show. \$25 due upon Sign-Up & \$75 Balance by March 30th. (Minimum 39 to run & Maximum 53)

Noon Prefix Lunch at Carmine's Restaurant in NYC & Visit to Hudson Yards

May 14th (Thursday) Following Lunch we will stop at Hudson Yards (upscale shopping) & the climbable (also has elevator) sculpture called "The Vessel" that affords great views of the waterfront. \$101.00 per Person includes Lunch, Bus Transportation, & all Gratuities. Bus will depart St Thomas at 10am. Moderate walking at Hudson Yards, but distance & pace up to you. Join us to dine at one of the premier Italian restaurants in NYC. \$20 due upon Sign-Up & \$81 Balance by April 17th. (Minimum 39 to run & Maximum 40-50)

Call Fran Gardella at 848-448-4335 or email her at fgardella@hotmail.com to get the individual Information Sheets that have a stub at the bottom to be returned with your deposit to reserve your spot on a trip.

Breakfast with THE EASTER BUNNY

St. Thomas the Apostle Home & School Hosts
Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
Saturday, April 4th at 9:00 am / Herron Hall
Join the Easter Bunny for Breakfast & Other Fun
Activities

*Easter Egg Hunt *50/50 *Photos with the Bunny *DJ *
Games

RSVP by March 26th

Registration is easy, log onto the school website
www.staschoolnj.org and click on the
"Bunny Breakfast" button

Adults \$15

Children 3 to 12 \$10

Children 2 and Under Free

No registration will be taken after March 26th

Any questions email homeschool@staschoolnj.org

STA Home and School Association

Fund Raiser

Invites you to



Angelo's



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303 Broad St. Bloomfield, NJ 07003

973-429-8505

Join us on Wednesday, March 18th for a
Restaurant Fundraiser!

Simply present the voucher below for either your
Dine-In or **TAKE OUT** Lunch or Dinner order and
20% of your bill will be donated to
St. Thomas the Apostle School.

We hope to see you there!

**Please present this for your Dine-In or TAKE OUT
order on March 18th and 20% of your check will
be donated to support St. Thomas the Apostle
School. Thank you!**

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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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