

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

24 Westminster Road, West Hempstead, New York 11552

www.stthomasapostle.org



During this year of Mercy, the second graders from St. Thomas School participated in a Reconciliation service. A special thank you to Msgr. Maniscalco and Fr. Marcellus for helping us celebrate.

Photo : Mary Ann Pellegrino

Celebration of the Eucharist

Weekend: Saturday Evening 5 pm
 Sunday 9 am, 10:30 am, 12 pm and 6 pm

Weekday: (lower Church)

7:45 am daily, 9 am Tues., Thurs. & Sat.

Holy Day Eve: 7:30 pm, Holy Day: 7:45 am, 12:10 pm

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday: 3:30-4:30 pm, other times as requested

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Fridays after the 7:45 a.m. Mass until 2 p.m.

St. Thomas the Apostle Chapel

Hempstead Ave. & Nassau Blvd.

Celebration of the Eucharist

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11 am and 12:30 pm

Weekday: 9 am Mon., Wed., Fri.

Holy Day: 9 am, 7:30 pm

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 7, 2016



Parish Clergy

Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Maniscalco, *Pastor*

Rev. Noel Effiong, *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Marcellus Gorleku, *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Msgr. John A. Alesandro, *In Residence*

Rev. Msgr. Michael Barimah-Apau, *In Residence*

Rev. Alexander N. Iheonunekwu, *In Residence*

Deacon John Ford

Deacon Edward Cunningham

Deacon Jacques Philippeaux

Deacon Anthony D'Auria

Pastoral Team

Ray Rockensies, *Business Manager*

Valerie Gigante, *School Principal*

www.stthomasschool.net

Mary Ann Pellegrino, *Director of Religious Education*

Eileen Minutoli, *Asst. Director of Religious Education*

Irene Peplinski, *Director of Human Services*

Mary Rockensies, *Director of Youth Ministry*

Martha Pramnicks, *Director of Music*

Cindy Sobiesiak, *Director of Parish Growth*

Pastoral Council (E-mail: stthomasapostlepc@gmail.com)

Luann Viglione, *Chair*

Peter & Coleen Petersen

William & Karen Bowe

Richard Seery, Sr.

Mary Anne & James Denon

Megan Smith

Michael Harding

Haydee & Manuel Torres

Louis Imperioli

Robert York

Annemarie & Sean Lapham

Finance Council: William Daly, *Chair*

Development Committee: Brian Browne, *Chair*

Rectory
489-8585

Rectory Fax
292-2651

School
481-9310

Religious Education
538-7460

Human Services
538-7465

Youth Ministry
538-7467

PARISH MEMBERSHIP:

All who worship regularly with the St. Thomas Parish Community are members of our faith community. We urge new members to register at the Parish Office so we may better know and respond to your needs. Those leaving St. Thomas Parish are asked to inform the Parish Office in order to keep our records accurate.

CHAPEL USAGE:

Because the necessary support staff is not always available in the chapel, weddings and funerals are generally celebrated in the main church. The chapel may occasionally be used if the main church is unavailable or for some other serious reason. Because of the threat of winter storms, the chapel is not in use on weekdays from the week after Christmas through the first week of March.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Baptisms take place on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m. Parents must have an interview with one of the parish clergy and attend a Baptismal Preparation Class at least six weeks in advance of their preferred baptism date. The classes take place on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Parents should call the rectory to register for a class and interview. Parents who are not registered parishioners will be registered at the interview. Because of diocesan requirements, in the case of adoptions, parents should consult a priest or deacon in advance. A sponsor must be at least 16, confirmed and an active Catholic. If there are two sponsors, one must be a Godfather and one a Godmother. Private baptisms are not encouraged, but if allowed a celebrant from outside this diocese must provide a testimonial of good standing from his diocese or religious superior.

SACRAMENT OF PÉNANCE:

Celebrated every Saturday from 3:30 to 4:30 PM. Priests of the Parish are available any day (especially before Holy Days and First Fridays) to celebrate this Sacrament with you. Please call the Rectory for an appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Engaged couples are asked to arrange an appointment with one of the priests or deacons of the Parish at least SIX months prior to the desired wedding date. Reservations must be made by the couple ONLY.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

Celebrated at a Mass by the community twice a year, in the spring and the fall. If it is an emergency or if a person cannot attend the communal celebrations, please call the Rectory. Every Saturday morning at the 9:00 AM Mass, after Communion, those who are entering the hospital in the coming week can be anointed. Inform the celebrant BEFORE Mass begins.

VISITING THE SICK OR HOMEBOUND:

Please contact the Rectory if you would like Eucharist brought to a member of your family who cannot come to Church for any reason.

Unfortunately experience teaches that not even our church parking lot at Mass time is safe from those who have no respect for the commandment, "Thou shalt not steal!" Please do not leave valuables in your car when you come to Mass. Thank you.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2016**
9:00 AM Phyllis Clough
5:00 PM Rose McGuinness
- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2016**
9:00 AM Mollie Perinelli
10:30 AM William Kerrigan and Members of Purgatorial Society
10:30 AM **Family Mass:** Maryse Jean-Louis
12:00 Nn Rodger Powell, Karen Casper, Michael Pangallo, Intentions of Keisha Diamond, Jamir James, Evante James, Gloria Ward and Dana Diamond
6:00 PM In Thanksgiving
- CHAPEL:**
7:30 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM Josephine Ceprini
11:00 AM Robert Tredger, Sr.
12:30 PM Frances Beer
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2016**
7:45 AM Benefactors of St. Thomas
9:00 AM Arnoldo Bolanos
- TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016**
7:45 AM Maureen Doyle (8th Anniversary)
9:00 AM Intentions of Paul & Sue Pelech
- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016 (Ash Wednesday)**
7:45 AM Benefactors of St. Thomas
12:10 PM Mass
6:00 PM Service
9:00 AM **Chapel:** Marcello Uva
5:30 PM Service
7:30 PM Benefactors of St. Thomas
- THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2016**
7:45 AM Uriel Sarria
9:00 AM Shirley Nolan
- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016**
7:45 AM Intentions of The Velazquez Family
9:00 AM Intentions of Mary Colombano (98th Birthday)
- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2016**
9:00 AM Amelia LaManna
5:00 PM Rose Hyland
- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2016**
9:00 AM Joan Gallagher
10:30 AM Alessandra Piscitelli and Members of Purgatorial Society
12:00 Nn Anthony Calia, Giovanna Buscaglia, Mauro Maietta, Maria Alcamo, Debra Koch and David Velez
6:00 PM Mary Poole
- CHAPEL:**
7:30 AM Katherine & Nat Masi
9:30 AM Peter J. Callahan
11:00 AM Joan Foote
12:30 PM Lourice Tinker



Weekend of January 31, 2016			
Church	Chapel	Faith Direct	TOTAL
10,227.00	5,283.00	3,455.00	18,965.00

Envelopes	TOTAL	Average	
614	16,694.00	27.19	
	2016	2015	Difference
Attendance	1652	1,468	184

Thank you, St. Thomas Parishioners, for your generosity!

Please consider making automated donations through **Faith Direct.**

BREAD AND WINE MEMORIAL
The Bread and Wine consumed during the week of January 31 — February 6, 2016 have been donated in memory of

Benefactors of St. Thomas Parish

With Love & Prayers from:
Your St. Thomas Family

A MESSAGE FROM MSGR. FRANK MANISCALCO

Dear friends,

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The potent symbol of the imposition of ashes is meant to arouse in our hearts and minds many thoughts and feelings some of which find expression in the two sets of words with which the ashes are bestowed: either, "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

In the case of the first, the words challenge us to see the receiving the ashes as definitely **not** a "one-off" – the solitary thing we do to observe Lent – but rather as our affirmation that this action begins a process. It is a declaration that for the 40 days of Lent we are choosing to enter into a vigorous program of spiritual renewal. By receiving the ashes, we are committing ourselves to emerging from Lent, with the help of God's grace, more holy, more Christ-like, more in love with God and our neighbor than when Lent began.

If that is not our purpose, then the ashes on our foreheads are not a blessing but a rebuke for our pretense at taking on ourselves the symbol of spiritual renewal when we don't intend to allow Lent to renew us at all. The words from the prophet Joel, which are read in the First Reading for Ash Wednesday, are a striking challenge to make sure we don't engage in merely external signs on repentance:

"Even now, says the Lord,
return to me with your whole heart,
with fasting, weeping and mourning:
Rend your hearts, not your garments,
and return to the Lord your God."

Rending one's garment was an ancient sign of anguish, pain or sorrow. Joel is referring to the sorrow the Israelite people should feel for failing to follow God's will, but he warns against an insincere, merely external show of sorrow. That's why he calls on them to rend their hearts and not their garments. They should feel a repentant sorrow to the depths of their beings. So too for us, receiving ashes should not be only an external sign – something that we do to show we know Lent has begun. Receiving ashes should be the beginning of our living Lent from beginning to end, endeavoring to grow spiritually and to be evermore faithful disciples of Christ whose Resurrection we celebrate when Lent has passed.

The other form of words for bestowing ashes, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," is a reminder of the limits of this present life. No one, no matter how rich, famous or powerful, will escape having to surrender all we have earned, accomplished or become in death. Death puts a limit on our enjoyment of the things of this world, and the bestowal of ashes at the beginning of Lent tells us that however substantial the things of this world seem, one day we will day have to let them all go, including life itself.

But the acknowledgement of this truth should not be accompanied by a morbid sense of dread, because Jesus, through his Resurrection, has revealed that God offers us an eternal, spiritual life that will not pass away. If we nourish this life and cultivate it with the same care that we often dedicate to the things of this world, then this spiritual life will blossom into eternal glory. So the somber words we may hear spoken at the beginning of Lent are intended not to depress us but to sober us up to a realization of what is truly important and to encourage us to choose the lasting treasure of God's friendship over fascination with the passing enticements of this world.

Continued ...

To give parishioners an opportunity for in-depth experience of Lent which will carry them through from the beginning of Lent to Holy Week, I am introducing our parish to the Paulist "**Living the Eucharist**" program. All parishioners can participate though:

-- praying for the success of the program using the prayer cards now available in the church/chapel;

-- reading and reflecting on bulletin inserts which will be provided each week beginning next Sunday, the First Sunday of Lent.

-- daily Lenten meditations found in the booklet *From Exodus to Easter*. A limited number of copies are now available in the church/chapel for pick up;

-- the fullest way to participate in the program is by joining one of the small group sessions which will begin this week and continue for six weeks. These sessions will provide an enriched understanding of and appreciation for the Eucharist and for the liturgies of the Sundays of Lent, including their scripture readings. The parish clergy and several of your fellow parishioners have volunteered to lead these meetings which will be held at a variety of times and places during the six weeks of Lent. Hopefully one of them will be convenient for you. The excellent participant materials will put you quickly at ease sharing and praying with fellow parishioners. There is still time to sign-up to provide you with an experience of a true spiritual journey through Lent.

In His peace,

Monsignor Frank Maniscalco
Pastor

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Message: Jesus invites us to share in his mission of announcing the kingdom of God. What is our response?

One of the most extraordinary things about God's interaction with his human family is his desire to communicate with us through one another. In the Hebrew Scriptures, we see this in the call he gives to a variety of men to be prophets whom he authorizes to speak to his people in his name, "Thus says the Lord." The marvelous vision described in the first reading is God's call to Isaiah to be a prophet. At prayer in the Temple Isaiah has an awe-inspiring vision of God's glory filling the Temple. He is terrified because he is unworthy to see the greatness of God. However, he is purified by the action of one of God's angels, and when he hears God asking his heavenly court who shall be sent to announce his word, Isaiah springs into action, crying out, "Here I am! Send me!" The Gospel passage seems at first far removed from the glory of the Temple. Jesus is preaching at the seashore. Seeing some fishermen finishing up after an unsuccessful fishing expedition, Jesus asks them to try again. When the results this time are spectacularly successful, Peter has the same sense of unworthiness that Isaiah had in the Temple in the presence of divine power and authority. But he is selected by Jesus to join him in his mission. Through our baptisms, we too have received the call to spread God's word. It is his choice not ours, and we should respond as both Isaiah and Peter did by joining in the mission of spreading the word of the coming of God's kingdom.

Parish Question for Reflection: Do I allow feelings of unworthiness keep from announcing God's word to others?

Parish Intention: May the grace of our baptism inspire each of us to respond to God's call to bring his word to others with the enthusiasm of Isaiah's "Here I am, Send me!"

Year of Mercy Activities at St. Thomas

- At one of the side altars in the church, chapel and lower church, there will be a **"Mercy Basket"** in which you can place petitions asking God for his merciful intervention in your life or the life of someone you know. You might also consider putting in equivalent petitions of Thanksgiving for answered prayers. The basket will be emptied once a month to make room for new or renewed petitions. Each weekend's Prayer of the Faithful at Mass will include a petition covering all the requested prayers in the "Mercy Basket." Slips of paper with the Jubilee Logo will be available near the basket for you to write your petitions.
- After Christmas, the Giving Tree will be replaced by a **Mercy Tree** which will contain cards suggesting various actions inspired by the Corporal and Spiritual Works of mercy. We hope that each week end the Mercy Tree will be cleared by parishioners willing to do these acts of mercy.
- After Communion at each weekend Mass the celebrant will lead the congregation in a **post-Communion prayer**, done in responsorial psalm format, using one the psalms designated as **"Psalms of Mercy"** for the Jubilee.
- The Sacrament of Penance on several Saturdays during the year will be celebrated with individual confessions as part of a **Communal Penance Service** from 3 to 4:30 p.m.
- One of the Hours of the **Divine Office** will be celebrated as part of selected weekend Masses.
- **Eucharistic Adoration** will be extended to 4 p.m. on the non-First Fridays.
- Although independent of the Year of Mercy but wholly consistent with it, the Paulist Fathers **Living the Eucharist** program, which centers on small groups meeting throughout Lent focused on the Sunday readings, will be offered for our parishioner's participation. This will take the place of the usual Lenten Mission.

SUNDAY MASS CELEBRANTS Weekend of February 14, 2016	
CHURCH	
5:00 PM	Fr. Marcellus
9:00 AM	Msgr. Michael
10:30 AM	Fr. Marcellus
12 Noon	Msgr. Maniscalco
6:00 PM	Msgr. Strynkowski
CHAPEL	
7:30 AM	Fr. Noel
9:30 AM	Fr. Noel
11:00 AM	Msgr. Alesandro
12:30 PM	Fr. Callan
THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.	

SAVE THE DATE

*Bishop Murphy is happy to announce
that there will be a*

**Diocesan Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to
the
Basilica of the National Shrine
of the Immaculate Conception**
Washington, D.C.

Saturday, September 24, 2016

More information will be coming soon.
Please watch your bulletin and diocesan website.

St. Thomas the Apostle eNews

Would you like to receive occasional emails with parish news, reflection questions, Catholic trivia, and other information? Then sign up today for St. Thomas eNews! Just send an email to STAeNews@yahoo.com with your last name and the word "subscribe" in the subject line, and you'll be added to our mailing list.

TENDING YOUR GRIEVING HEART - VALENTINE'S DAY WORKSHOP -

Valentine's Day can be a particularly difficult time for someone who has lost a loved one. Intended to celebrate love, this day can bruise an already grieving heart. Please join the Bereavement Specialists of Good Shepherd Hospice for a free workshop offering encouragement, education, coping strategies and support. The Workshop will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at Mercy Medical Center, 1000 N. Village Ave., Rockville Centre, NY from 7PM-8:30PM. Seating is limited. Registration is required. Please call (631) 465-6262.

Beginning Monday, Dec. 28, all weekday Masses will be in the lower church on Westminster Road. Weekday Masses in the chapel will resume on Monday, March 14. There will be Ash Wednesday Masses and services in the chapel on Feb. 10. While the Friday 9 a.m. Masses are celebrated in the Lower Church, Eucharistic adoration will begin after the 9 a.m. Mass.

The 2016 calendars donated by the Barnes-Sorrentino Funeral Home will be distributed at the Sunday Masses and not by mail. Distribution will begin the weekend of Dec. 12-13 and limited to one calendar per household. Please call the rectory if you cannot pick up your calendar at church, and arrangements will be made to get calendars to these households.

HUMAN SERVICES

humanservicesta@optonline.net

Thank you for your ongoing support of the pantry. Needed this week:

mayo, mustard, ketchup, toilet tissue, paper towels, oatmeal, tomato sauce.

As always, items can be brought to Mass and left in the brown baskets at both the Church/Chapel or to HS or the Rectory. Please remember to pray for our homeless brothers and sisters trying to survive in this frigid weather...

Have a blessed week,
Irene Peplinski



St. Thomas Family Mass Committee would like to thank **7-Eleven** in West Hempstead for sponsoring the reception after our monthly Family Mass today. We are grateful to **7-Eleven** for generously donating a variety of pastries, coffee, milk, butter, cream cheese, and paper goods. **Thank you for your kind support.**

Faitma/Lourdes/Nevers/Paris Catholic Pilgrimage

September 12 - 22, 2016, Fr. Alessandro da Luz, Spiritual Director of Our Holy Redeemer in Freeport is hosting a Jubilee Year of Mercy Catholic Pilgrimage to 2 Nights Fatima/1 Night Spain/ 2 Nights Lourdes/1 Night Nevers/ 2 Nights Paris/Daily Mass. Air from JFK / Breakfast & Dinner Daily. For a flyer or more information call Cathie or Mike Milano 631-569-2620

An Evening of Celtic Music

Benefit for

St. Anthony's High School Celtic Friars Pipe Band

Featuring:

Celtic Friar Pipe Band
Iona College Pipe Band
Friar Show Choir
The Bob Morris Irish Band
Irish Dancers
Irish Sing-along

February 27th, 2016

7:00 PM, St. Anthony's HS Auditorium

\$20 IN ADVANCE, \$25 AT DOOR

For more information, call:
St. Anthony's Alumni Office



Please Pray for the Deceased of the Parish



Joseph Sgaramella

Joseph Policano



Catherine Arlotta * Elvira Bogatic * Deborah Boha *
Richard Bombardieri * Flora Brown * Leonard Cagno *
Rose Calapai * Donald Carter * Gerard Catapano *
Stephen Cavallo * Taylor Dattoli * Bradyn D'Agostino *
Deacon Anthony D'Auria * Daphne Davis-Irabor * Keisha Diamond *
Keith D'Ornellis * Rosemarie Kane Dorsty * Anne Dunne * Patricia Langan-Dunne * Walter Ellensohn * Irene Faller * Agnes Farrell *
Cecilia Finelli * Gigi Geller * Justin Gentile * Gerald R. Gentile * Flo Gioffe * Francine Giulikas * Betty Goetz * Eileen Grabler * Enza Grimaudo * Jim Harman * Mark Herbert, Jr. * Jamir James * Linda Jennings * Norma Jespersen * Carl Johnson, Sr. * Josephine Justic * Patrick Kenny * Victor Keuhhas * Amanda Kuck * Jacqueline LaRocca * Baby Erin Larson * Linda * Cecelia Lisante * Donna Marie * Nadiria Martin * Joan McComb * Julia McEntee * Charles Melchiorre * Al Menendez * Christopher Michael * Jean Minutoli * Suzanne Mistretta * Vincent Mistretta * Vincent E. Mistretta * Jennie Mistretta * Mary Molloy * Suzanne Montalbano * Catherine Mullin * Michael Nuzzi * Bertha Ortiz * John Penalzoza * Michael Petito * Ann Pizzi * Rocco Pomatico * Maria Pramnieks * Marybeth Reitz * Diane Rizzo * Regina Robinson * Dr. William T. Robinson * Joseph Saccone * Fran Saccone * Jennifer Spano * Remigio Tan * Clara Tombler-Long * Emedio Torre * Carmella Torre * Frank Torre * Dan Trezza * Fred Vordermeier * Gary P. Vosganian * Brigid Quinn Wagner * David Webb * George Yuhas

PLEASE NOTE: Names for the sick list will appear for three consecutive weeks. If you would like to have someone placed on the sick list, please call the Rectory at 489-8585.

If you are homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call Human Services at 538-7465.

Please pray for the safe return of

Natale Franco • Miguel A. Flaquer • Mark E. Satira • PFC James Morrison
Justina Medina • Lt. Col. John Lehane, USMC • Cpl. Kieran Grogan, USMC
PFC Matthew Sirianni • Sgt. James A. Conklin • Sgt. Joseph Giordano, USMC

Members of St. Thomas the Apostle Church stationed in Iraq & Afghanistan

Lt. Col. Thomas Brennan • Lt. Commander Peter J. Eberhardt

Staff Sgt. Joseph D. Marciano • Capt. Timothy Miller USMC

Spec. Kenneth Albarran • Sgt. Erich McCartney • Kris Kleffman

Major Patrick Sweeney • Lt. Col. Paul Sweeney

Sgt. Matthew R. Schmidt • Sgt. Christopher McKay

Joseph Della Ratta PFC • Capt. Anthony Caruso • Capt. Emily Ladd

1 Lt. Dennis Valdez • Cpt. Joseph Munger • Major Christian M. Capece, USMC
have returned home safely.

The families wish to thank you for your prayers,
and ask that you please continue to pray. God Bless You All.



Thank you for visiting
St. Thomas the Apostle Church.
If you have enjoyed your time with us
and would like to make a donation,
simply scan the attached QR Code
for a one time donation.
Thank you!

Our Lady of Fatima Pilgrim Statue

Through The Legion of Mary

Awaits your invitation ...

Not everyone can go to Portugal and visit the Shrine of Fatima, but everyone in St. Thomas Parish can have the Statue of Our Lady in their home. Would you like to know more about her apparitions at Fatima?

We welcome her into your home with prayers and rosary. She stays in your home one to two weeks. She is our Mother! To schedule a visit, please call Grace at (516) 489-6886.

Mother of Christ Crusade by John E. Cassidy, Bishop of Fall River
Apparition of the Angel of Fatima to the three children

"I am the Angel of Peace, Pray with me! My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you. I beg pardon of you for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love you."

3x Pray this way, the Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplication."

A Gift of Prayer



*Besides the tradition
of prayer
for our deceased
loved ones,
an announced Mass
intention
is a wonderful way
to recognize*

- a birthday
- a wedding anniversary
- the anniversary of an ordination or entrance into religious life
- some other special occasion
- or simply to let those you love know that they are in your prayers.

Except for the last days of Holy Week, Mass is said every day for special intentions.

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**Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney
Founder of the Knights of Columbus
August 12, 1852 - August 14, 1890**



Remember to pray the Holy Rosary daily for Christians around the world who continue to face persecution. Please visit christiansatrisk.org to learn more about "our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted, tortured and killed for their faith in Jesus." (Pope Francis) Through the Knight's Christian Refugee Relief Fund we have distributed more than \$5 million to support Christians in the Middle East. Please help raise awareness of this continuing genocide of Christians in the Middle East.

UPCOMING EVENTS/SAVE THE DATES:

FREE THROW CONTEST:

Thanks to all the boys and girls who participated in the Free Throw Contest and congratulations to the winners in each age bracket! Good luck to you as you compete in the District level contest!

MAUREEN NOLAN/KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIP:

Thanks to all the candidates who submitted an application. We will publish the winners of the scholarship when they are selected.

MARCH 4-6 – ST. THOMAS MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT AT BISHOP MOLLOY RETREAT

HOUSE:

Come join some of your parishioners at this rewarding weekend retreat! See upcoming bulletins for more information.

If you have any questions or would like to join our organization, please contact George Nieves or our Grand Knight, Manny Torres at: GrandKnight11588@gmail.com or visit our website at www.KofC11588.org

Vivat Jesus

St. Thomas the Apostle

MATURE SINGLES

The next meeting will be held on
Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016 at 12:00 Noon

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL

National Junior Honor Society at STA School

Congratulations to the STA National Junior Honor Society on a beautiful induction ceremony on the evening of January 21st. We are so proud of the 27 new members and grateful to our existing members for all their hard work and dedication to our school. A special thank you to Major Benjamin H, Middendorf, our honored guest, who spoke poignantly about the importance of living a life of service in the US Marine Corps. STA couldn't be any prouder!!

Newly Inducted Members Grade 8

Shane Ahlers	McKenzie Holloway
Summer Gaspard	Catherine Roth
Robert Gittens	Madison Saverese
Jorge Grant	

Newly Inducted Members Grade 7

Morgan Binkis	Brielle Manuel
Sylvia Blemur	Kylie McShea
Meghan Browne	Grace Miller
Mason Carpentier	Ava Nielsen
Erin Daly	Ariana Pertuz
Amanda Farrell	Reilly Porzio
Kensil Flores	Frank Rizzo
Devin Gomez	William Rachek
Jake Lang	Kailyn Swift
Kiera Lapham	Arianna Torres

St. Thomas School Class Acts

S. Cathy's Kindergarten Class Acts 2016

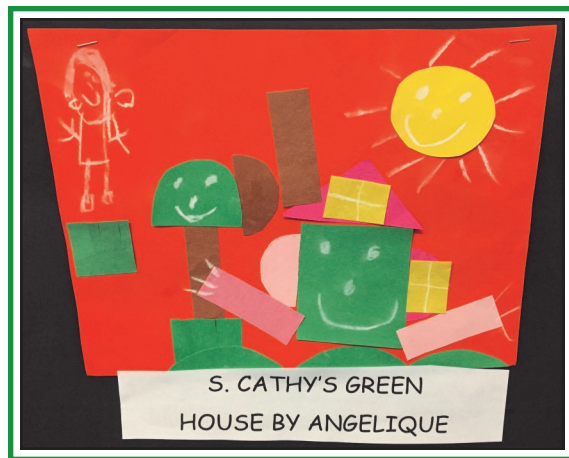


It may be cold and snowy outside but by S. Cathy's Kindergarten classroom here at St. Thomas it is warm with activity and fun.

We celebrated Catholic Schools Week focusing on the theme of CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: COMMUNITIES OF FAITH, KNOWLEDGE AND SERVICE. The opening liturgy helped set the tone for all we try to do on a daily basis with the support of the parish community. We

welcomed all to our open house that followed.

Continued . . .



Our classroom projects were a reflection of the curriculums of the various subjects we have recently covered. We read about Dr. Martin Luther King and his dream. As a man of great faith in the Lord, he wished all of God's children to be treated equally. Each child spent time on creating their own dream which was shared with all.

Our penguins were a result of learning about the Arctic and Antarctic and the similarities and differences between these Polar Regions. Using water color paints, the children created their own designs on a pair of mittens as we talked about the winter weather. Who knew the blizzard was on the way?

In our hallway, OUR WORLD OF SHAPES came to life as we finished our study of two dimensional figures. The imagination of each child was easily seen as they named their creation.

We have had great experiences with our Grade 8 buddies—writing to Santa and creating Valentines for Vets. It is wonderful to have the class of 2016 come back “downstairs” to give witness to the wonderful school community here at St. Thomas! We wish them good luck and great success in their high school years.

Our program would not be successful with the support of our parents. Their presence at various activities—our ABC Feast, the Polar Express experience, Breakfast with Santa and all the ways they volunteer on pizza days and so many other times are a sign of their commitment to our school.. Of course, the children are always glad to see their Mom or Dad and I am most grateful for ALL the sacrifices they make every day.

We began this month by checking out our friend, the Groundhog, as he predicted the coming weather in the coming weeks. We had our throats blessed as we remembered St. Blaise, patron saint of those in need of healing especially for illnesses of the throat. The rest of the month will include the celebration of the 100TH Day of School, Valentine's Day and Black History month and the presidents who we honor in February. Most importantly, we will learn the about holy season of Lent in preparation for the Feast of Easter.

No matter what the day, there is always GOOD NEWS as we celebrate the wonderful Kindergarten children here at St. Thomas the Apostle School.

Last Chance
to
Sign Up for a
Living the
Eucharist Group!



Renew your faith through
Living the Eucharist
this Lent by joining one of the small groups
which will meet weekly
Beginning tomorrow, February 8

Call the Parish Office at 516-489-8585 by Monday morning
to sign up for one of the following groups:

Mon. 3:30pm	Tues. 1:30pm	Wed. 1:30pm	Thurs. 7:30pm	Sat. 10:30am
Tues. 9:30am	Wed. 10:30am	Thurs. 3:00pm	Fri. 7:30pm	Sat. 12:30PM

*Please note that space in each group is limited.
Groups will be filled on a first come, first served basis.*

**May the Lord bless you abundantly
throughout this Year of Mercy!**

Confirmation Preparation for Adults

*“And they
were all filled
with the
Holy Spirit...”
(Acts 2:4)*



In the Sacrament of Confirmation, baptized Catholics receive the Holy Spirit to help them become more like Christ and be strengthened in bearing witness to him.

Adults who have not yet received this sacrament may decide to do so for any number of reasons. For example, they might be prompted by something that happens in their lives – an engagement, a birth, a move, a death, etc. Or it could be on their minds for a long time before they feel ready to do something about it. They might be preparing their children for the sacraments and decide that the time is right for them as well. Or perhaps they feel they have finally reached a point where they can focus on their spiritual lives.

If you or someone you know has been baptized and received Eucharist in the Catholic Church but never received the Sacrament of Confirmation, now may be the time. Confirmation preparation sessions for Catholic adults (18 and older) will be held on Monday evenings beginning February 22. Anyone interested should make an appointment to meet with Cindy Sobiesiak before February 17 to discuss the details.

Is this the year for you or someone you love? Contact Cindy at 516-489-8585 or Cindy.StThomas@live.com with any questions or to schedule your appointment.

Special Announcement about the Living the Eucharist Program

The *Living the Eucharist Program* will take the place of the parish mission this Lent.

Parishioners are also invited to participate in Small group sessions of up to 10 participants each, beginning during the week of February 7th, the week of Ash Wednesday, and continuing for six weeks. The goal of these sessions is an enriched understanding of and appreciation for **the Eucharist in general and for the liturgies of the Sundays of Lent in particular, including their Scripture readings, through discussion, reflection and prayer.** The parish clergy and several of your fellow parishioners have volunteered to lead these meetings which will be held at a variety of times and places during the six weeks of Lent. Hopefully one of them will be convenient for you. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the excellent participant materials will help you quickly find yourself at ease sharing and praying with fellow parishioners.

Sunday January 31 will be “Sign-up Sunday” for the small group sessions. Please consider doing so.

The whole Parish can participate through

Bulletin inserts which will be provided each week of Lent for our parishioners’ spiritual enrichment and

Daily Lenten meditations found in the booklet *From Exodus to Easter*. 600 hundred copies will be available in the church & chapel. A small donation to defray their expense is appreciated if you take a copy.

During the Easter Season **an event similar to last year’s Eucharistic Congress** will be held, praying to God to set the seal of his Holy Spirit on the program.



*You are invited to participate in
“Living the Eucharist”
at St. Thomas the Apostle.*

This Lenten spiritual renewal program will provide our parish with opportunities to grow in our faith through:

- † learning more about the Eucharist*
- † participating more actively in Sunday Mass*
- † living the Eucharist each day as disciples of Jesus*

*Please consider taking part by
joining a small group this Lent.
More details and sign-up information
will be available in January.*



What Catholics Believe

(A Refresher Course for Adults)

- ◇ *Were you old enough to drive yourself to the last religion class you attended?*
- ◇ *Do you feel confident answering questions about our Catholic faith?*
- ◇ *Have you ever looked at the basic teachings of Catholicism with the eyes of an adult?*

If you answered “no” to any of these questions, you are invited to take another look at what Catholics believe.

Come to the Parish Library at 7:30pm on Mondays*
to discuss these topics:

February 22:	<i>Who Is Jesus?</i>
February 29:	<i>God Calls Us</i>
March 7:	<i>Loving God & Neighbor</i>
March 14:	<i>Sin & Freedom</i>
March 21:	<i>The Death & Resurrection of Jesus</i>
April 4:	<i>Faith & Prayer</i>
April 11:	<i>The Eucharist</i>
April 18:	<i>Three Persons, One God</i>
April 25:	<i>The Church of Christ</i>
May 2:	<i>The Holy Spirit</i>

All Are Welcome!

*In the event of inclement weather, please call the parish office at 516-489-8585 to make sure evening activities have not been canceled.

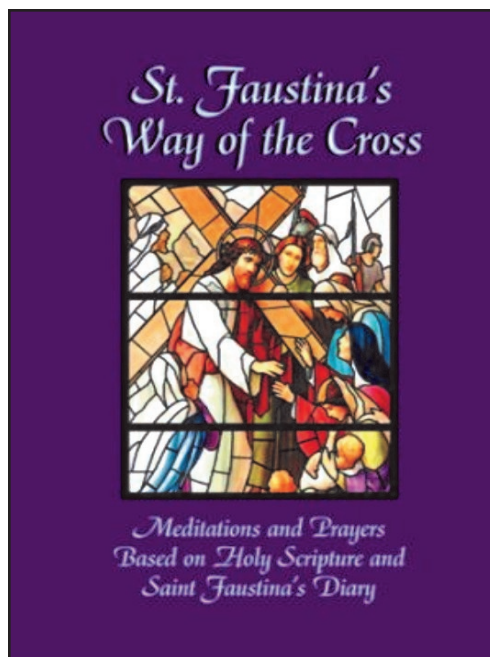


On SuperBowl Weekend, February 6/7, 2016, St. Thomas the Apostle Religious Education and School Confirmandi will be at the doors of the Church and Chapel collecting \$1.00 donations to feed the hungry as part of the Soup-Er Bowl of Caring

All donations collected go to the Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN) to feed the hungry.

Thank you for your generosity!

*The St. Thomas the Apostle Divine Mercy Ministry
presents...*



Friday, February 19, 2016

**Confessions 6:30-7pm*

**Stations of the Cross begins 7:00pm*

**Divine Mercy Holy Hour to follow 7:30-9:00pm*

St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Lower Church
24 Westminster Rd
West Hempstead, NY 11552
For more info: 516-538-0180

St. Faustina found tremendous solace in meditating on the Lord's Passion- especially at the three o'clock hour. In her Diary, Jesus told her, " **My daughter, try to make the Stations of the Cross in this hour, provided your duties permit it.**"(Diary, 1572)

Take this time to reflect on *The Stations of the Cross* and how they relate to your life.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish
and
St. Thomas the Apostle Council No. 11558



MEN'S RETREAT

Weekend of March 4 - 6

Bishop Molloy Retreat House
invites the men of St. Thomas the Apostle
to participate in a retreat the weekend of March 4
The retreat opens with dinner at 7pm on Friday
and concludes with Mass at 11am on Sunday.

This is a "Retreat" from everyday "busyness"
Held at a spiritual center where the soul can be nurtured.
It is conducted by **Passionist Priests** proclaiming
the great signs of God's love.

The retreat is open to people from near and far
who seek refuge from day to day turmoil and look for
Rest, Renewal and Redemption.
It is our intent to emphasize each of these facets.

For further information, please call a Parish Coordinator

Claude Madrazo 516-481-5040
Larry Doyle 516-978-0966

Joe Fitzgerald 516-538-4550
Manny Torres, GK 917-418-5398

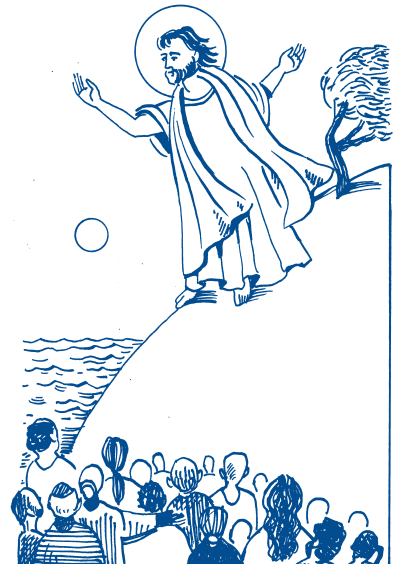
or

Bishop Molloy Retreat House 718-739-1229
(secure overnight parking)

+++

*"Come to me
all who labor and are heavy laden
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest
for your souls."*

+++



MOLLOY COLLEGE PRESENTS

Catholics, Capitalism, and Climate

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Cardinal Peter Turkson

President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

Primary Contributor to the Recent Encyclical

Laudato Si

(Praise Be to You: On Care for Our Common Home)

PANEL DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW

MODERATED BY:

Fr. James Martin
Editor-at-large,
America magazine

February 17, 2016 at 2 p.m.

Molloy College | Madison Theatre

1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre

Event is free, but reservations are recommended. For more information, or to make a reservation, please contact Molloy College's Office of Advancement at 516.323.4600 or event@molloy.edu





The IRA *Charitable Rollover* is back and is now permanent!

What's called a rollover is actually a "qualified charitable distribution" that can be made to our Parish.

If...

1. You are at least 70 1/2 years old on the date you make your gift
2. Your IRA is a traditional or Roth
3. You don't exceed your personal maximum of \$100,000 per year in qualified charitable distributions

You will not have to report your distribution as income. It will be free of federal and New York State income tax, and it will count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD).

The best way for you to start is with your IRA custodian. Tell them you want to make a "qualified charitable distribution". In most cases you will only have to fill out a simple form.

VERY IMPORTANT!! Your gift must go directly from your IRA to the Parish. If you receive the money first then you'll be taxed on it like any other distribution.

Example: Mrs. Connors, age 76, has \$125,000 in a traditional IRA and would like to contribute \$5,000 to her Parish in 2016. Upon hearing of the Charitable IRA Rollover opportunity, she directs the custodian of her IRA to transfer this amount not later than December 31, 2016 directly to the Parish as a 2016 gift. She will not be subject to income tax on her \$5,000 qualified charitable distribution.

Further information can be found at [facebook.com/DRVCCMA](https://www.facebook.com/DRVCCMA).

This information is not intended and should not be construed as legal, tax or investment advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney, tax advisor or investment professional.

Saint Thomas the Apostle 2016 - Cash Calendar Sweepstakes

February 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<u>5</u> \$50	<u>6</u> \$25
<u>7</u> \$75	<u>8</u> \$25	<u>9</u> \$25	<u>10</u> \$25	<u>11</u> \$25	<u>12</u> \$25	<u>13</u> \$25
<u>14</u> \$100	<u>15</u> \$25	<u>16</u> \$25	<u>17</u> \$25	<u>18</u> \$25	<u>19</u> \$25	<u>20</u> \$25
<u>21</u> \$75	<u>22</u> \$25	<u>23</u> \$25	<u>24</u> \$25	<u>25</u> \$25	<u>26</u> \$50	<u>27</u> \$25
<u>28</u> \$75	<u>29</u> \$25					

March 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<u>1</u> \$50	<u>2</u> \$25	<u>3</u> \$25	<u>4</u> \$25	<u>5</u> \$25
<u>6</u> \$75	<u>7</u> \$25	<u>8</u> \$25	<u>9</u> \$25	<u>10</u> \$25	<u>11</u> \$25	<u>12</u> \$25
<u>13</u> \$75	<u>14</u> \$25	<u>15</u> \$25	<u>16</u> \$25	<u>17</u> \$100	<u>18</u> \$25	<u>19</u> \$25
<u>20</u> \$75	<u>21</u> \$25	<u>22</u> \$25	<u>23</u> \$25	<u>24</u> \$25	<u>25</u> \$50	<u>26</u> \$25
EASTER } <u>27</u> \$500	<u>28</u> \$25	<u>29</u> \$25	<u>30</u> \$25	<u>31</u> \$25		

April 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<u>1</u> \$50	<u>2</u> \$25
<u>3</u> \$75	<u>4</u> \$25	<u>5</u> \$25	<u>6</u> \$25	<u>7</u> \$25	<u>8</u> \$25	<u>9</u> \$25
<u>10</u> \$75	<u>11</u> \$25	<u>12</u> \$25	<u>13</u> \$25	<u>14</u> \$25	<u>15</u> \$25	<u>16</u> \$25
<u>17</u> \$75	<u>18</u> \$25	<u>19</u> \$25	<u>20</u> \$25	<u>21</u> \$25	<u>22</u> \$25	<u>23</u> \$25
<u>24</u> \$75	<u>25</u> \$25	<u>26</u> \$25	<u>27</u> \$25	<u>28</u> \$25	<u>29</u> \$50	<u>30</u> \$25

May 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>1</u> \$75	<u>2</u> \$25	<u>3</u> \$25	<u>4</u> \$25	<u>5</u> \$25	<u>6</u> \$25	<u>7</u> \$25
<u>8</u> \$75	<u>9</u> \$25	<u>10</u> \$25	<u>11</u> \$25	<u>12</u> \$25	<u>13</u> \$25	<u>14</u> \$25
<u>15</u> \$75	<u>16</u> \$25	<u>17</u> \$25	<u>18</u> \$25	<u>19</u> \$25	<u>20</u> \$25	<u>21</u> \$25
<u>22</u> \$75	<u>23</u> \$25	<u>24</u> \$25	<u>25</u> \$25	<u>26</u> \$25	<u>27</u> \$50	<u>28</u> \$25
<u>29</u> \$75	<u>30</u> \$100	<u>31</u> \$25				

June 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<u>1</u> \$50	<u>2</u> \$25	<u>3</u> \$25	<u>4</u> \$25
<u>5</u> \$75	<u>6</u> \$25	<u>7</u> \$25	<u>8</u> \$25	<u>9</u> \$25	<u>10</u> \$25	<u>11</u> \$25
<u>12</u> \$75	<u>13</u> \$25	<u>14</u> \$100	<u>15</u> \$25	<u>16</u> \$25	<u>17</u> \$25	<u>18</u> \$25
<u>19</u> \$75	<u>20</u> \$25	<u>21</u> \$25	<u>22</u> \$25	<u>23</u> \$25	<u>24</u> \$50	<u>25</u> \$25
<u>26</u> \$75	<u>27</u> \$25	<u>28</u> \$25	<u>29</u> \$25	<u>30</u> \$100		

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*St. Thomas the Apostle's
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***"A NIGHT TO REMEMBER"**
A Special Night with Your Special Girl*

*Sunday, February 28th, 2016 * 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm *
The Inn at New Hyde Park*

*Little ladies, grades Nursery through 8th and their escorts
– be it Dad, Grandpa or Uncle – will enjoy an elegant evening of
dinner and dancing, a special tribute to the 8th grade girls
& **AWESOME** raffles that everyone will love!!!
(Sorry – No Moms allowed!) (Formal Attire Kindly Suggested)*

COUPLE: \$90.00

DAUGHTER: _____ Grade: _____

FATHER: _____

ADDITIONAL CHILD: \$30.00

NAME: _____ Grade: _____

ADDITIONAL ADULT: \$60.00

NAME: _____

Seating is limited/tables of 8-12. Please seat us with: _____

Kindly RSVP In A Timely Fashion By Friday, Feb. 12th, 2016

COUPLE ___ x \$90.00 _____

Add'l Adult ___ x \$60.00 _____

Add'l Child ___ x \$30.00 _____

TOTAL: _____

Please make check payable to:

St. Thomas the Apostle Parents Club

Attn: Father/Daughter Dance

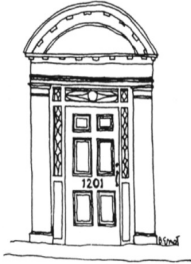
12 Westminster Rd., West Hempstead, N.Y. 11552

For additional information, contact Lori Lang, 593.4034 or Lisa Garcia, 347.224.2155

Family Donations, Group Donations or Class Donations towards a Raffle Prize are Greatly Appreciated!

o Yes, I Would Like to Donate a Raffle Item. (Please describe on the back or call us for ideas.)

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