

# *St. Thomas the Apostle Church*

*Church Bulletin - Website Edition*

## **PALM SUNDAY**



**MARCH 16, 2008**

*Holy Week is a time marked by somber reflection,  
leading to glorious rejoicing.*

### **THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS**

*Monday, March 17, 2008*

**Lenten Penance Service • 3 PM ~ 9 PM • UC**

*Tuesday, March 18, 2008*

**Lenten Journey w/Deacon John • 9:30 AM • PC**

*Holy Thursday, March 20, 2006*

**9:00 AM Morning Prayer**  
**7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
**10:30 PM Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament &  
Night Prayer**

*Good Friday, March 21, 2006*

**9:00 AM Morning Prayer**  
**3:00 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion with  
Veneration of the Cross & Communion**  
**6:00 PM Walk to Calvary**  
**7:30 PM Evening Prayer & Veneration of the Cross**

*Holy Saturday, March 22, 2006*

**9:00 AM Morning Prayer**  
**11 ~ 12 Noon Confessions**  
**1:30 PM Blessing of the Easter Food**  
**8:00 PM EASTER VIGIL**



**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.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:**

The Sacrament of Baptism celebrates a person's entrance into the life of the Church and the community of believers. The Baptismal Team assists parents and godparents in their preparations for the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptisms take place on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 2:00 PM. Parents should contact the Rectory to set a date for the Baptismal Class which takes place on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM, in the Parish Center. Parents of ALL children to be baptized must be registered members of the parish and attend a class before their child will be baptized. Godparents should be confirmed Catholics in good standing in the Church. The date of baptism will be confirmed at the class.



**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: PENANCE -**

Celebrated every Saturday from 3:45 to 4:45 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.

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

- SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2008**  
5:00 PM Suzanne Fimbach (3rd Anniversary)
- SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008**  
9:00 AM Nicola, Giorgina & Agata Battaglia  
10:30 AM Members of Purgatorial Society and Margaret & Owen Kilgannon  
12:00 Nn Anthony Mauceri, Nicholas Cartolano, Alfred E. Ferrari and William Tunizzi  
6:00 PM Mary Storbeck
- CHAPEL:**  
7:30 AM Philip & Frances Evola  
9:30 AM Frances Lilly  
11:00 AM John F. Wallace, Jr.  
12:30 PM Frank Abbate
- MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2008**  
7:45 AM Intentions of Betty & Jack Tims (35th Anniversary)  
9:00 AM **CHAPEL:** Dorothy Ford  
3 PM ~ 9 PM **Communal Penance Service (Church)**
- TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008**  
7:45 AM James McCartney  
9:00 AM Margaret Collins
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008**  
7:45 AM Barbara & Jerome Carney  
9:00 AM **CHAPEL:** Elizabeth Easa
- THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2008 (Holy Thursday)**  
9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper  
10:30 PM Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament w/Night Prayer
- FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2008 (Good Friday)**  
9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
3:00 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion including Veneration of the Cross and Communion  
6:00 PM Walk to Calvary  
7:30 PM Evening Prayer & Veneration of the Cross (no Communion)
- SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2008 (Holy Saturday)**  
9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
11 AM ~ 12 Nn Confessions  
1:30 PM Blessing of the Easter Food  
8:00 PM Easter Vigil
- SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2008 (Easter Sunday)**  
9:00 AM Anthony Mauceri  
10:30 AM Members of Purgatorial Society and Edward Westman  
12:00 Nn Alfred Ferrari, Nicholas Cartolano, Mildred Feis, and Jeanne O'Neill
- CHAPEL:**  
7:30 AM Maria Si Mon Berger  
9:30 AM John Vitale  
11:00 AM Edward Jandovitz  
12:30 PM Anthony and Giovanna Buscaglia



**PLEASE NOTE**  
The deadline for Bulletin submissions is ten days prior to publication.



**BREAD AND WINE MEMORIAL**  
The Bread and Wine consumed during the week of March 16, 2008 ~ March 22, 2008 have been donated for

*Church: The Healing of  
BABY GRIFFIN BURKE*

*With love & prayers from  
Irene and Peter Santulli*

## A MESSAGE FROM MSGR. JIM

WEBSITE: [msgrlisante.org](http://msgrlisante.org)

Dear Friends:

I had a call from **Bishop Murphy** this week. And we discussed future assignments. He has asked me to become the Pastor of **Our Lady of Lourdes Parish** in Massapequa Park. I accepted the assignment and look forward to a new beginning getting to know the people of this parish dedicated to Our Lady. Please pray that I'll do a good job.

At the same time, the Bishop also shared with me that he is appointing **Monsignor Frank Maniscalco** to become the 6th Pastor of **St. Thomas the Apostle Parish**. I know Monsignor Maniscalco is delighted to be given a chance to lead this great parish. Please give him your enthusiastic support, and help him as you so often helped me.

A little bit about Monsignor Frank Maniscalco. As many of you know, he has been assisting us here at St. Thomas for over ten years. During those years he was working in Communications for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C., Monday through Friday. Then he'd head up to St. Thomas to help us out on week-ends. I know many of you enjoy his short Masses! And his very intelligent homilies. That brightness is a special gift he has. In fact, he's got a Doctorate from Fordham University. He's a good man, and a smart one!

In his many years of service to the Diocese of Rockville Centre, Monsignor Maniscalco has worked as an Associate Pastor at St. William the Abbott Parish in Seaford. Then as diocesan Director of Religious Education. Then as Editor of The Long Island Catholic, before heading to Washington, D.C. for thirteen years to assist the American Bishops. For the past year, he has lived here at St. Thomas as a resident Priest, while acting as Respect Life Coordinator for the diocese. I've had the privilege of knowing Monsignor Frank for over twenty years. He is a genuinely good guy. He's kind and he's prayerful. He's knowledgeable and he's generous with his time and talent. He knows this community by observing so much of our life together over these past twelve years. I think you will find him a very dedicated Pastor. I should also mention that as a man who advises the Bishop on governmental concerns, I think he'll be equally open to being a voice for justice in the civic community. And at this point in our community, that's very important.

My good-bye Mass will be held at the main Church on **Sunday, June 22** at 12 noon. A parish reception will follow in Monsignor Joseph A. Smith Auditorium. Please try to come if you can. And we'll also, on that date, welcome our new Pastor here at St. Thomas the Apostle.

Even with these changes, life goes on. And we need to get on top of some special financial concerns. So by now you should have received the folder encouraging you to secure a memorial in support of the new **Church and Chapel organs**. Please think seriously about helping us out. The organs are in place and they are a major improvement. Now let's get them paid off! Thanks.

Chaircouple **Frank and Lucille Cazzetto** have also begun the organization of the **2008 Catholic Ministries Appeal**. Our parish goal is slightly under one hundred thousand dollars. Please pray and consider how you might get involved in this important charitable work.

You know I like to thank people here. So this week, I want to give special thanks to **Gary Nudelman** of **Turnpike Cleaners**. We've been doing our annual vestment cleaning recently and bringing our parish vestments over to Gary Nudelman. He cleans everything for St. Thomas the Apostle, and he does it all for free. Thank you Gary and all the good folks at Turnpike Cleaners!

Let me make clear a change in the Holy Week schedule. We normally have a communal **Penance Service** on the Monday of Holy Week. This year, we're joining the rest of the diocese in another kind of approach. Instead of one hour in the evening, we're offering continuous confessions from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m. Priests will be in the Church and available to hear your confessions for six hours. Please find the time on Monday to come in and prepare for Easter by embracing this healing sacrament.

On the welcome home side of things, I'm happy to tell you that **Father Matthew Blockley** will return to us during Holy Week from his home in Manila. We warmly welcome this good priest back to his St. Thomas the Apostle family.

Have a great week.  
In His Love,



Monsignor Jim Lisante, Pastor

## SHARING OUR BLESSINGS

One of the most familiar Gospel passages is the story of the Good Samaritan. It is an example of kindness, of generosity and of compassion, one that models the need to give without restraint or restriction. "Whatever else you spend I will repay," says the Good Samaritan to the innkeeper. It is the very essence of open-ended giving that we are called to emulate.

What is often overlooked about this parable is that it is also about courage. Since the Samaritans and Jews had no interaction with one another, the Samaritan broke social barriers to offer his help. The rigid class and religious constraints of the day took second place to love for neighbor. The Good Samaritan conquered his fear of censure or reprisal and had the courage to care and the courage to give.

Too often each day, even for our best intentions, we operate out of fear. Fear of what people will say, of making ourselves vulnerable, of "outside the box" thinking. We are afraid to increase our weekly offering in case it impacts our lifestyle. We are afraid that being active in the parish would seem ridiculous to our friends. We are afraid that our gifts aren't "sacred enough" to be used in church; that if we can't sing in the choir, teach in Religious Ed or be a liturgical minister, our gifts aren't useful. We are afraid that St. Thomas doesn't need our talents or that someone else would do it better.

Too often we are satisfied to do good works which, though worthwhile, don't really cost us anything. Ones that require no risk, no sacrifice, no courage. As we enter Holy Week, though, we are called to a journey that requires all of those traits. On the road to Calvary nothing can be held back, there is no room for complacency or fear or limits. We are challenged to share our blessings in new and creative and, yes, even risky ways and *become* the Good Samaritan we have only read about before.

*Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little; when we arrived safely because we have sailed too close to shore. Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of the things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life. Stir us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas, where storms will show your mastery, where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes and to push us into the future in strength, hope, courage and love. Amen.*

### WEEKLY OFFERING

#### Sharing Our Blessings

Weekly Goal	
to Meet Operating Expenses:	<b>\$20,000.00</b>
Offering ( <i>March 9, 2008</i> )	\$18,905.00
Over/Under Goal:	- \$ <b>1095.00</b>

**This Monday, March 17th is the Diocesan Day of Reconciliation.** The Lenten Penance Service previously scheduled for 7:30 PM **WILL NOT TAKE PLACE.** However, priests of the parish will be available for confessions from **3 PM ~ 9 PM** in the Main Church.

**VISIT THE ST. PATRICK'S ALTAR  
& PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

*We, the joy-filled Catholic community of St. Thomas the Apostle, are united in faith and drawn to the life-giving sacrifice of the Eucharist. Through worship, ministry and education we foster spiritual growth and Christian values. As a parish family, we share with and encourage each other through the many times of our lives. With open hearts and helping hands we respond to the needs of our community and the world.*

**HUMAN SERVICES**

► The West Hempstead/Franklin Square Association of Girl Scouts is organizing the **Twelfth Annual Community Food Drive** in celebration of Girl Scout's 95th Anniversary.

Barrels are placed in the Church and Chapel until **March 16th**. **Long Island Cares, Inc.** will pick up food as well as St. Thomas and distribute it to those in need. We thank you for all you do.

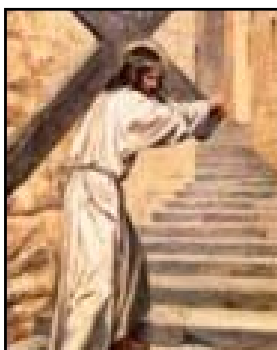
► We wish to thank all those who contributed canned goods etc. to the Girl Scout food collection for the poor. As ever, you certainly were most generous. The Drive will end on **March 16**. We thank the Girl Scouts for their wonderful efforts as we look forward to this drive each year.

Our gratitude, also goes out to those who shared in the **LIVING TREE**. Your specified items on the leaves have been coming in to Human Services and we want you to know how much we appreciate your generosity. Your faithfulness helps us to help others and makes our job that much easier. I want to thank **Caren Batzer** who each year plans and prepares the leaves on the tree in both the Church and the Chapel. Thank you, Caren.

As you travel during these days of Lent in preparation for the beautiful day of the Resurrection of the Lord, may you and your families be blessed in many ways for all that you do! Thank you.

**Maria Milone**

**St. Thomas  
Knights of Columbus**



Please join the friends and families of the St. Thomas Knights of Columbus for our annual Good Friday Procession on March 21st. We are meeting at 5:30 in the Msgr. Smith Auditorium and the procession is from 6 to 7 p.m.



*Please Pray for the  
Deceased of the Parish*



**Please Pray For The Sick, Especially:**

*Timothy Michael Cluess, Jr. • Nina Adamo • Cecelia Lisante • Baby Thomas Cicalese • Baby Julia Roessner • Baby Rebecca Hyde • Rocco Letteri • Allesandra Bass • Peter LaFranca • Baby Joseph Richard Hopkins • Barbara Wyatt • John Harold • Edith Renda • Frank Gallipoli • Vincent Lovaglio • Fran Saccone • Alex Miller • Margaret Morfesi • Warren Leslie • Juan Alicea • Giuseppe Cavuoti • Dennis Kimmel • Byrne Family • George Nelson • Rita Rentos • Gerry Pangallo • Michael Bluemke • Rosa Occhini • Laura Lavelle • Genevieve Pellegrino • Maria Paolucci • Michael Papa • John Jost • Michael Schroeder • Tony & Elvira Bogatic • Michael Scolpino • Charlotte Soluri • Janet Soluri • Richard Johnson • Rosemary Calisi • Mercedes Boschen • Christopher Michael • Joan Z. Merseles • Kathy Vigre • Bob Tredger • Valerie Caulfield • Nilda Navarro • Jean Konowicz • Margaret Kanowicz • Francis Bochicchio • Eccillia Mongelli • Jennifer Schafer • Joseph Giaccone • Francis Giaccone • Jerry Ceravolo • Katherine Mazarakis • Helen Malashevich • Mary Allen • Michael Nuzzi • Frank Torre • Alice Ducharme • Antoinette Colarossi • Jeanette Gigantiello • Michael DeDomenico • Jerry Quinn • Anthony Rossi • Fosca Cipolla • Angelo Caizzo • Carmella Labollita • Joanne Capatano • Lorraine Ferritti • Kate Pedigo • Melissa • Mary Ruggiero • Baby Ashton Slade • Helen Philbin Slade • Catherine Mogavero • Joseph Vigotty • Valerie Venturelli • Baby Andrew Frank • Sal Mirando • Freddy Labollita • Robert Schuster • Helen Melnik • Cono D'Alto • Dennis Biancanullo • Ignaz Magdis • Cathy Stephan • Matthew C. Drexler • Frank Quinci • Christine Doherty • Clemens Martin • Nicole Goldstein • John Russo • Margaret Mascalco • Marie Marrara • Joanne Pace • John Cartier • Virginia Messina • Alexa Paige • Grace Bevans • Marie J. Lutz • Marian McIntyre • Kevin Acer • Bernadine Kalkolf • Jacqueline LaRocca • Joseph Keating • Joseph Matthews • Tommaso Vellucci • Debbie Russo • Baby Massimo Miot • Thomas Brady • Lucille Redican • Loretta Szilagye • Julia Blumke • Brady Baylis • William Cloghessy • Ignazio Rizzo • Michael Bieniek • Genevieve Pellegrino*

**PLEASE NOTE:** *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  
**JOEL MARCELLA, LCPL. • LT. COL. THOMAS BRENNAN  
 MIGUEL A. FLAQUER • MARK E. SATIRA**  
 Members of St. Thomas the Apostle Church stationed in Iraq & Afghanistan  
**LT. PETER J. EBERHARDT • CAPT. JOHN LEHANE, USMC  
 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. JOHN LAUTEN • KEITH ILENDIA  
 CAPT. ANTHONY CARUSO**  
 have returned home safely from Iraq. The families wish to thank you for your prayers, and ask that you please continue to pray. God Bless You All.

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE:**

**Second Time:** Christopher Spana of Blessed Sacrament and Jill Bonfiglio of St. Thomas • Joseph Lubrano and Jaclyn Galjanic of St. Thomas

**BAPTISM:** We welcome the following little christians into the St. Thomas the Apostle Community:

*Jayne Hannon Singleton \* Andrew Hanna Gionta  
 Megan Felicity Rodriguez \* Matthew Aiden Sgroi  
 Madison Abi-Aoun*



## OUR LADY OF FATIMA PILGRIM STATUE THROUGH THE LEGION OF MARY

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 of Fatima visit their home for a week. Once you do, you will be glad of it, for she gives you peace and comfort. *She is Our Mother!*

Please call **Grace Martello (516) 489-6886**, leave your name, phone number and I will get back to you. Thank you.

### PREPARATION

- A suitable place in your home where our Blessed Mother's statue will be put.
- A decorative table cover, candles, flowers and other desired objects have been placed there.
- Our Blessed Mother (symbolized by her image) is brought into your home with love, reverence and prayers by two members of the Legion of Mary.
- You may invite family and friends if you wish.
- At the end of the week when we pick up her statue farewell prayers are said.

The Parish of **St Agnes Cathedral** would like to welcome all to a mass for special needs children and their families. It will be held on **Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>** at **5:00 pm** in the lower hall of the school. This will be the first of our monthly **"Special Needs"** Masses especially for families with children who have developmental disabilities. Families with special needs children often find it difficult to attend weekly mass together. This Mass will give these families the opportunity to celebrate God's presence in their lives together. All are invited to come and to be a part of this special liturgy.

## St. Thomas the Apostle CLASS ACTS

**7th Grade Social Studies, Reading, and ELA Teacher  
Mr. Robert Windorf**

During the past several months, our Seventh grade students have been quite busily engaged in a variety of challenging and exciting projects. They began the year creating numerous arts and crafts projects related to Portugal's Era of Exploration during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries for our Catholic Schools Week International Fair. During February, my homeroom students were selected as reporters for *Newsday's* Kidsday features that will appear in early June. For this exciting project, they wrote articles, conducted surveys, created recipes, puzzles, mazes, and fashion designs, attended the International Toy Fair, and interviewed famous Broadway and TV actresses. In addition, two students, Stephanie Pierre and Kathryn Tomitz, submitted original poetry to the annual Nassau Reading Council's Young Authors Contest. Under the guidance of Mrs. Ellen Vogel, twelve students are currently preparing for the annual Diocesan Mock Trial Competition, which will occur during May at St. John's University. Furthermore, as you read this, four Seventh grade students will begin practicing their speeches for our Annual Oratorical Contest that will be held during May. Finally, during April, the students will be participating in the annual Social Studies Olympiad exam competition. This exam, administered by the local chapter of the National Social Studies League, includes a variety of multiple-choice questions on ancient, medieval, and modern history, politics, economics, and geography. We are extremely proud of our students and please join us to wish them much success in all their exciting endeavors. Thank you!

## This Week at . . . ST. THOMAS

### SUNDAY, March 16, 2008

12 Noon RCIA Retreat—PC  
3 PM—10 PM Mature Singles—CC  
Youth Group—Gym/Caf/Aud

### MONDAY, March 17, 2008

6 PM—10 PM Youth Group—Gym/Caf/Aud  
7 PM—10 PM RCIA—LMR/PC

### TUESDAY, March 18, 2008

9:30 AM Deacon John—PC  
6 PM—10 PM CYO Basketball—Gym

### WEDNESDAY, March 19, 2008

9 AM—12 Noon Knitting—PC  
6 PM—10 PM CYO Basketball—Gym  
6:45 PM—9 PM BSA—cc

### HOLY THURSDAY, March 20, 2008

### GOOD FRIDAY, March 21, 2008

### HOLY SATURDAY, March 22, 2008

## St. Thomas the Apostle CLASS ACTS

### Grade 6 ~ Mrs. Buchholtz

This past week the 6<sup>th</sup> grade was visited by Aristotle, Pericles, Plato, Socrates, Homer, Alexander the Great, and his father Phillip II. They were interviewed via the students' research. This role playing was acted out in "Talk Show" form. This was a great way to learn about these great men from ancient Greece.

On Friday, March 7 the entire 6<sup>th</sup> grade will visit the Philadelphia Museum of Art via a video conference. The video conference titled "Day and Knights" will inform the class about the armor that the knights wore during the Medieval Times. This introduction will lead us into the study of medieval history.

On April 8 we will visit Medieval Times in New Jersey. Here we will enjoy a medieval feast, no utensils, please. During the feast we will enjoy jousting, horses that are beautifully trained, and other festivities that the knights enjoyed during this time period.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade enjoys going through a time machine of many ancient cultures as well as medieval times. We are looking so forward to "Days and Knights" as well as our trip to Medieval Times.

## Knights of Columbus

### March Calendar

16	Distribute Palm at 9:30 am Mass	9:30am	Chapel
21	Good Friday Way of the Cross	5:30pm	Church parking lot
23	Easter Sunday		
25	Social Meeting	7:30pm	Chapel Center
29	St. Patrick's Day Party	7pm-11pm	Msgr. Smith Aud.
30	Divine Mercy Sunday Mass & Service	12pm	Church & LC
30	Blood Drive	8:30-2pm	Msgr. Smith Aud

**BAPTISMS: For the month of March will be on March 9th and March 30th (not March 23rd ~ Easter Day)**

## Youth Group News:

**Sunday, March 16th: Grade 8 Meeting 7:15 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Monday, March 17th: Senior High Meeting from 7 to 9 p.m.**

Now through March 17 the Youth Group invites all our Parish and Youth Group families to purchase an Easter Lily plant in "Celebration of Life" as part of the Easter floral display. A special dedication label will be placed on each Easter Lily plant before it is placed in the Church/Chapel Altar. A "Celebration of Life" may represent a birth in the family; the celebration of a loving event; Christ is Risen. **Please see bulletin for an order form**, address an envelope to the "YOUTH GROUP", and drop off at the Rectory or bring to a Youth Group Meeting. If you have any questions, please call the youth center at 538-7467. Thank you.

Thank you to **Joann Huber** and **Jim Joyce** for assisting with carpooling to the Ronald McDonald House. And thank you to our senior high members for preparing a delicious meal.

**ATTENTION PARENTS: Youth Group's Adult Fundraiser**  
Tickets are now on sale for a "NIGHT OF COMEDY" at the **Governor's Comedy Cabaret & Restaurant** in Levittown on **Thursday, April 17, 2008**. This is our only adult fundraiser. There is a 2-beverage minimum per person (and a dinner menu is available). Tickets are \$20 per person donation. Tickets are available to purchase on **Sunday, April 6th from 10 am to 1 pm** in the **Monsignor Smith Lobby**. **You may also call Jackie at 486-4369 for tickets.**

Attempts have been made to deliver The Wiz DVD's. If you have not picked up your copy, please call the youth center. Thank you.

### MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>: **EASTER SUNDAY-Youth Center is closed.**  
Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>: Youth Center is closed.  
Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>: Grade 6 & 7 Meeting  
Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>: Senior High Meeting

### APRIL CALENDAR

Friday, April 4th: Children's Carnival for Grades K-5 in the Cafeteria/Gymnasium from 7 to 9 p.m.  
Sunday, April 6th: Grade 8 Meeting.  
Monday, April 7th: Senior High Meeting.  
Sunday, April 13th: Grades 6 & 7 Meeting.  
Monday, April 14th: Dinner with the Pastor in the Parish Center. The Youth Center is closed 4/14.  
Thursday, April 17th: **"A Night of Comedy"** Adult Fundraiser at 7 p.m. @ Governor's Comedy Cabaret & Restaurant.  
Sunday, April 20th: Grade 8 Meeting.  
Monday, April 21st: The Youth Center is closed.  
Sunday, April 27th: Grades 6 & 7 Meeting.  
Monday, April 28th: Senior High Meeting.

If you have any questions, please call the Youth Center at 538-7467 or email youthgroupstthomas@hotmail.com.

When unable to pick up a bulletin, visit [www.stthomasapostle.org](http://www.stthomasapostle.org).

Wishing all our members and their families a very blessed Easter!  
Mrs. Rockensies

## GOOD FRIDAY SILENT VIGIL

On Friday, March 21st from 10:30 a.m. ~ noon, the Long Island Coalition for Life invites all pro-lifers to join our Good Friday Silent Vigil in Defense of Life in front of Nassau University Medical Center at 2201 Hempstead Turnpike (Rt. 24), East Meadow. This is a Face the Truth witness to move hearts and minds toward a greater respect for all human life. Signs will be provided. For information call (631) 243-1435.

## COMMUNITY NEWS . . .

### Do You Like to Sing?

Join us on Wednesday mornings (10 am ~ 12 pm) at the Cathedral Post, Woodlawn Road. Sing-a-longs, visits to local hospitals and nursing homes. Please call: Carrie at 481-3097.

### To the Friends of St. Thérèse

If you wish to reverence the first class relic of St. Therese it will be available after the 9 AM Mass on the second Saturday of each month at the shrine.

**Do you like to sing & harmonize?** Visit the award-winning greater-nassauchorus.org or call 631-591-1107. You'll be glad you did!

## St. Vincent de Paul

*Today is Palm Sunday and the beginning of the holiest of Christian weeks. Let us pray for the grace to take up our own cross and to follow Jesus through death to new life.*

**Please support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the poor as they carry their cross of suffering and pain.**

**FOR RENT:** West Hempstead. Fully furnished, 2nd floor apartment. Private entrance. Full bath, light cooking. No smoking/pets/children. Suitable for single woman. Sec/Ref. \$800 mth, plus utilities. Call: **(516) 489-5941**

**FOR SALE:** Stunning Lrg. 3 bdrm. Colonial, W.Hempstead/Cathedral Grdns. LR w/dbl sided fpl, Frml DR, Sunrm/Den, EIK, fin basement w/family rm, fin. Attic, 2 full bths, 2 car garage, 4-zone heating, in-grnd sprinklers, on 60 x 100 lot SD 27. Call Gerri Moran. LSA 718-819-4012.

**FOR RENT:** West Hempstead apartment, private entrance. Kitchen, bath, bedroom/living area. Brand new ceramic tiles, big closets. No smoking/pets. Suitable for single professional. \$1000 mth includes all. Call 516-292-2524.

**FOR RENT:** Furnished 2 bedroom, kitchen, living room, 2nd floor, private entrance. Prefer religious nun or woman. 10 minutes from Church, 5 minutes from Chapel. Call (516) 825-2951.

The **Class of 1975** will be gathering at Pompeii Restaurant, Hempstead Ave on March 21<sup>st</sup> for happy hour (open bar) and buffet. This will be a smaller reunion and we are inviting anyone interested from any graduating year to contact **Joe Mauro** at [joe@irsauktion.com](mailto:joe@irsauktion.com). Depending on the turnout the price should be about \$60 each.

# Catholic Ministries Appeal

## Supporting the Community Around Us

**GOAL: \$95,681.00**

The Catholic Ministries Appeal calls upon us each year to help support the vital and critical ministries of our Church. One of these areas is Catholic Charities.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES** of the Diocese of Rockville Centre provides a wide range of services to approximately 60,000 Long Islanders each year, as it strives to bring God's healing love to the poor and vulnerable among us.

Those services are designed to help people with many of their most critical needs, such as helping a senior citizen find safe and affordable housing, providing a disadvantaged family with access to nutritious food and health care, or be developing residential services for children and adolescents who suffer from serious emotional difficulties.

You have received a pledge card from the Bishop. We ask you to please consider making a pledge. Your support, no matter the size of the gift, is essential to the success of this Appeal. You may send your gift directly to the diocese. If you prefer you may put it in the collection basket or drop it off at the rectory. No payment is required at this time. Reminders will be sent from the diocese.

We thank you.

**St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Ministries Appeal Committee**  
**Frank Gazzetto, Lucille Gazzetto, Genevieve Broschardt,**  
**Larry Doyle, Elaine Harman**

### Gospel Matthew 26:14--27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

This gospel is a reading of the passion (or suffering) of Christ. On this Sunday we are reading it "according to Matthew." We see Jesus betrayed by two of his friends, Judas and Peter, and by the crowd. We see him mocked and beaten by the soldiers who laughingly "honor" him as King of the Jews.

Wounded, crowned with thorns, and dying a little more each step of the way, Jesus carries his cross to Calvary. His suffering is so great that he wonders if even God has left him to die alone. Still Jesus willingly gives up his spirit. With the centurion we pray: "Clearly, this was the Son of God!"

### Discussion Questions for Gospel

Jesus offered his entire life and his entire self to the Father, including his suffering and death. He did this voluntarily. Even though he was God, he chose "the lowest place" out of love. We, like Jesus, suffer because we are human. People still suffer, here in our own country and around the world. Can you name some of the ways and some of the reasons why people suffer today? What does Jesus want us to do about human suffering? (Think about the parable of the Good Samaritan.) Think of one way your and your group could help lessen human suffering in some way. Then do so, in the name of Jesus.



## Altar Servers Corner

### Servers Still Needed for Easter Vigil:

We still have openings for those who would like to serve at the Easter Vigil. Please leave a message at the Rectory if you are able to serve.

**Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 8:00 PM Mass – 3 servers needed**

### Rehearsal Schedule for Triduum Services:

Below is the rehearsal schedule for those of you who volunteered to serve on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and/or the Easter Vigil. We will also be calling you this week to remind you. Attendance at rehearsals is mandatory!

**Holy Thursday – 3:00 PM Rehearsal – Main Church**  
**Good Friday – 9:30 AM Rehearsal – Main Church**  
**Easter Vigil – 2:00 PM Rehearsal – Main Church**

Each rehearsal will last 1 hour.

### Holy Week at Saint Thomas:

This week, we journey with Jesus through His suffering, death, and glorious resurrection. Please take a moment to read the insert in this week's bulletin outlining the Holy Week events taking place in our parish. If your schedule permits, please plan on joining us. I promise you a grace filled experience.

Altar server teams for next weekend's masses (Easter Sunday) are:

<u>Church:</u>	<u>Chapel:</u>
8:00PM Easter Vigil	7:30AM Volunteers
9:00AM Team 9	9:30AM Team 29
10:30AM Team 11	11:00AM Team 30
12:00PM Team 19	12:30PM Team 31
6:00PM No Mass	

Thanks for all that you do!  
 Rob

Questions, comments, suggestions?  
 Contact Rob Kaminski at the Rectory (489-8585) or via our e-mail address: [staaltarservers@optonline.net](mailto:staaltarservers@optonline.net)

On Sunday, March 30th (4:30 ~ 9 PM), Bishop Philip Boyce, Bishop of Raphoe, Co. Donegal, Ireland, will host a social evening of Irish music and culture in Cannon's Blackthorn located at: 49 No. Village Ave., RVC. Bishop Boyce will be visiting Long Island to attend this year's St. Patrick's Day celebrations in RVC and is looking forward to meeting many of Ireland's sons and daughters that live on the Island.

### Spring Career Fair in Rockville Centre

There will be a Fall Career Fair, Tuesday, March 25 at the Best Western in RVC. Job seekers are invited to meet with employers from a variety of industries including healthcare, banking and finance, sales and marketing, retail and law enforcement. Business attire is requested and all are asked to bring plenty of resumes. Free admittance. (10 am ~ 3 pm). Christine Burns (516) 293-2379 x222.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL  
**2nd Annual Father / Daughter Dance**  
**“A NIGHT TO REMEMBER”**

**SUNDAY APRIL 20, 2008**  
**4 PM TO 8 PM**

**O’CONNELL GARDENS HALL**

*A date with the special girl and the Dad in her life*

**DO NOT WAIT ~**

**Tickets are Guaranteed to Sell Quickly!**

Little ladies, grades K-8 and their escorts – be it Dad, Grandpa, or Uncle will enjoy an elegant evening of dinner, dancing, and many other activities, including raffles, and American Girl Dolls. A complimentary corsage and boutonniere will be given.

Additionally, we will be having dance lessons from Mary Ann Brandt, and an expanded show from Miss Laura’s Bodies in Motion.

Black Tie Optional  
 (Sorry, No Moms Allowed!)

COUPLE: \$85.      Father: \_\_\_\_\_  
                          Daughter: \_\_\_\_\_  
                          Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Add'l. Adult: \$50.      Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Add'l. Child: \$20.      Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
                          Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider taking out an ad in the journal to tell the young lady(s) in your life how much you love her. As you, know the success of this event is dependent upon your goodwill and generosity.

**JOURNAL:** (Check One)  
 Full Page:      \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Half Page:      \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Quarter Page:      \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**MESSAGE:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**SEATING IS LIMITED (TABLES of 10- 12)**

*Please seat us with:*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

For additional information: 483-9422 or 485-7505



**St. Thomas the Apostle School**  
**“Come Experience the Miracle”**

**St. Thomas School**

Announces

**FULL DAY PRE-KINDERGARTEN**

**8AM-2:45PM**

**AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM 2:45-5:30PM**

Visit our Pre-school through Grade 8 Classes

*Tomorrow’s Technology in Today’s Classroom*

- \*Smart Boards\*Digital Cameras\*Scanners\*
- \*Videoconferencing\*Distance Learning\*
- \*Web Cameras\*Digital Microscopes\*
- \*Cultural Arts\*After School Program\*Clubs\*
- Art\*Music\*Physical Ed.\*Library
- Media Center\*Computer\*Spanish

12 Westminster Road  
 West Hempstead, NY 11552  
 516-481-9310  
 www.stthomasschool.net

Middle States Association of Colleges and  
 Schools Accreditation



# St. Thomas School Spring Flower Sale

## PRICE PER FLAT \$12.50 / 48 PLANTS

### FLOWER VARIETIES & COLORS:

**IMPATIENS:** WHITE, RED, CORAL, LIGHT PINK,  
LAVENDER, DARK PINK, VIOLET &  
MIXED COLOR.

**BEGONIAS:** (Bronze-Leaf) WHITE, RED, PINK.

**MARIGOLDS:** YELLOW, ORANGE, BRONZE.  
(Growth Height: 10—12”).

**ALL FLATS MUST BE PRE-PAID FOR BY CHECK**  
AND ORDERED USING THE TEAR-OFF BELOW.  
ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO:  
“ST. THOMAS PARENTS CLUB”  
AND RETURNED TO THE RECTORY or SCHOOL:

YOU MAY PICK-UP YOUR ORDER IN THE  
SCHOOL AUDITORIUM ON **THURSDAY, MAY 8th** (afternoon)  
and **FRIDAY, MAY 9th** (8:30 AM to 2:30 PM)  
ALL PROFITS BENEFIT ST. THOMAS SCHOOL! THANK YOU!!  
ANY QUESTIONS ... CALL LINDA NEMECK @ 486-2867.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

~> **NOTE: ALL FLATS ARE COMPLETE COLORS**  
~ **NO MIXING PLEASE** ~

	<u>FLOWER VARIETY</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
(A)	_____	_____	_____
(B)	_____	_____	_____
(C)	_____	_____	_____
(D)	_____	_____	_____
(E)	_____	_____	_____
(F)	_____	_____	_____

**Deacon John**  
St. Thomas Parish Center  
**TUESDAYS**  
**March 18, 2008**

After a chance for coffee and bagels, Deacon John will lead us in Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours. Following that, we will have talks by Fr. Michael Himes (“A Lenten Journey” DVD) or Stations of the Cross videos, and the morning will conclude with the recitation of the Rosary. All will end no later than 11:30.

**K of C Good Friday Procession**  
**March 21st at 5:30 in the Auditorium**  
**procession is from 6 to 7 p.m.**



**Knights of Columbus**  
St. Thomas the Apostle Council

**Irish Night**  
**Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 11:00PM**

Msgr. Smith Auditorium

Live Entertainment brought to you by  
**“Shamrock”**

Corned beef and Cabbage  
Beer, Soda, Wine, Coffee, Tea  
Irish Soda Bread at the tables  
Bring a dessert for the dessert table!!!

Admission  
\$20 Per Adult ▪ \$40 Per Couple  
\$50 per Family (children under the age of 16)

RSVP by Monday March 24  
Megan and Brendan Smith (516) 486-0449  
bgsmith@optonline.net

Alice and Brian Browne (516) 486-3965  
bbrowne420@aol.com



# ***HOLY WEEK AT ST. THOMAS***

## **Palm (Passion) Sunday**

Today is the sixth and last of the Sundays of Lent. We know it also by other names. It is called Palm Sunday because the first thing that we do when we gather this day is to take up palms and tell the story of how Jesus once came into the holy city, Jerusalem, riding over a carpet of branches, cheered by people waving branches. Today is also known as Passion Sunday because the gospel story read today is always the account of Jesus' passion as told by Matthew, by Mark, or by Luke. Today also marks the beginning of the days we call Holy Week.

### **Blessing of Palms at all Masses:**

Saturday at Church -- 5:00 PM

Sunday at Church -- 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, Noon, & 6:00 PM

Chapel - 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, & 12:30 PM

**Monday** - Masses: 7:45 AM (Church), 9:00 AM (Chapel)

**Tuesday** - Masses: 7:45 AM, 9:00 AM (both in Church)  
"Breakfast & A Lenten Journey with Deacon John":  
after the 9:00 AM Mass (Parish Center)

**Wednesday** - Masses: 7:45 AM (Church), 9:00 AM (Chapel)



## **The Easter Triduum**

The three days -- Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday -- are more like one long day commemorating the paschal mystery of Christ's dying and rising. The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday begins the Easter Triduum, the most sacred moment in the church's life. The Rubrics (the rules of conduct for liturgies) in the Sacramentary tell us that only one Mass may be celebrated in a parish on Holy Thursday. This Mass is to be in the evening. On Good Friday, the Celebration of the Lord's Passion should only be done once. The sacrifice of the Mass is not celebrated on Holy Saturday; a Mass is celebrated as part of the Solemn Vigil at night. As there are many people at St. Thomas who wish to gather to pray together during the mornings of the last three days of Holy Week, we will have Morning Prayer on each of these days. Holy Communion may not be distributed at Morning Prayer. It may be distributed only at the main liturgy of the day. Morning Prayer usually lasts 25-30 minutes. Please plan to join us in Morning Prayer for any and all of these three days.

# HOLY THURSDAY

## Morning Prayer 9:00 AM in the Church

Holy Thursday brings the end to Lent. On this night we begin the Three Days that are the center of our year. These Three Days we call the Easter Triduum. We should try to make these Three Days different from all the days of the year. Although we are only required by the Church to fast on Good Friday, we are invited to fast from Holy Thursday night until after the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. Try to make Good Friday and Holy Saturday free for prayer and reflection and preparation and silence. The Church is getting ready. Make plans to take part in the various liturgies and other gatherings from now until after the Vigil on Saturday night.

## The Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 PM in the Church



A family of St. Thomas Parish carries in the sacred oils that were blessed at St. Agnes Cathedral by Bishop Murphy that morning. Bells are rung throughout the entire singing of the "Gloria," including bells brought by people attending this liturgy. After the homily, the priest who is presiding washes the feet of twelve parishioners. Following communion, the Blessed Sacrament is carried through the church in procession. It is then brought to the altar of reservation (the Holy Family Altar). Following a period of prayerful silence, the congregation may depart in silence. But since adoration takes place at this time, parishioners are invited to "watch" in front of the Blessed Sacrament until the conclusion at 10:30 PM with Night Prayer. You may attend at your own convenience. The altar in the main church is stripped immediately after mass.

**NOTE:** The singing of the "Gloria," at the liturgies on Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil, is probably the most joyful sound at any liturgy in the church year. At St. Thomas, the full choir sings and the assembly joins in the refrain. The church bells ring throughout, and the altar bells are also rung during the refrain.

Again this year, we would like to invite you to ring bells too, during these times. If you have small bells at home, please bring them to the Liturgy on Holy Thursday night and to the Easter Vigil. You would then ring them during the refrains of the "Gloria," during these liturgies. The bells should have soft sounds (not of the cowbell type) and should have a muffler such as a cloth, so that they are not heard at other times during these liturgies.

# GOOD FRIDAY

**Morning Prayer** 9:00 AM in the Church

**Celebration of the Lord's Passion** 3:00 PM in the Church

After the reading of the Passion and a short homily, ten general intercessions are offered. Then there is the Veneration of the Cross, where all are invited to venerate by kissing, touching, or genuflecting before the cross. Communion is distributed with hosts consecrated at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. After the liturgy, all leave in silence.



**Walk to Calvary on the Way to the Cross** 6:00 PM at the Church

The Knights of Columbus will again sponsor a processional march called "A Walk to Calvary on the Way to the Cross." This will take place beginning at the church with the gathering at 5:45. It will go through the streets close to the church, while participants will say prayers and sing hymns. All are invited to join. It is expected to end at 7:00 at the Church, in time for participants to gather for –

**Evening Prayer & Veneration of the Cross** 7:30 PM in the Church

Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, "The Prayer of the Church" will quietly take place and be followed by Veneration of the Cross. Communion will not be distributed in the evening. You are asked to remember that this is a very sacred time. It is important that we show respect by our complete silence throughout.

# HOLY SATURDAY

**Morning Prayer** 9:00 AM in the Church

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon in the Church

**Blessing of the Easter Food** 1:30 PM in the Church

**THE EASTER VIGIL** 8:00 PM in the Church

**At the Easter Vigil** – We gather in the church in darkness, but a new fire is lit and the light from that fire is passed from one to another of the whole assembly as we light the whole church with our candles. (Candles are distributed as you enter.) We recount salvation history in the readings from the Old Testament. Again, as on Holy Thursday, bells are rung (including yours, if you have brought any) during the entire singing of the "Gloria."

After the homily, the Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation takes place. This is where the catechumens renounce evil, profess the faith of the Church, are baptized and anointed. All of us renew our baptism. Easter begins and we are ready for 50 days of rejoicing. The liturgy continues with the Liturgy of the Eucharist and concludes with the choir singing the "Hallelujah Chorus" from *The Messiah* by Handel.

## EASTER SUNDAY



Mass on Easter Day is the most splendid and exuberant celebration of the Church year. For this is the Sunday of Sundays, the center and foundation of our faith. As Saint Paul said, "If Christ be not risen, your faith is vain" [I Cor. 15:14, 17]. And families who attend Mass on Easter Day join millions of Christians all over the world in joyous affirmation of our redemption through the love of Christ. At Easter Mass, we traditionally renew our baptismal vows and accept the challenge to integrate the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection into our own lives; to live without judgment, with forgiveness and with complete faith in eternal life. Although the Easter Vigil and Mass fulfills the obligation for Easter Mass, the Easter Day celebration is a highlight that many will not want to miss, and it is permissible to attend both and to receive communion at each.

### **EASTER SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:**

Church: 9:00, 10:30, and 12:00 NOON - **(NO 6:00 PM MASS)**

Chapel: 7:30, 9:30, 11:00, and 12:30 PM

The Easter Triduum ends with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday

*May the blessings and grace of this Holy Season be with you  
and your loved ones.*

***HAPPY AND JOYOUS EASTER!***