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
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 Baptism 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 PENANCE:
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.

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, 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.

Weekend of January 31, 2016

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

Please consider making automated donations through Faith Direct.

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 Perfiniti
10:30 AM William Kerrigan and Members of Purgatorial Society
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 Calla, 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

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
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 this life and cultivating 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.

“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.

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 through:

- 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 his 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 spring 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 to 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!”

Continued ...
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 weekend 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.

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.

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.
Please Pray for the Deceased of the Parish

Joseph Sgaramella
Joseph Policano


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.

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

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
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.

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.”

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
Summer Gaspard
Robert Gittens

Newly Inducted Members Grade 7
Morgan Binkis
Sylvia Blemur
Meghan Browne
Mason Carpentier
Erin Daly
Amanda Farrell
Kensil Flores
Devon Gomez
Joke Lang
Kiera Lapham

Jorge Grant

McKenzie Holloway
Catherine Roth
Madison Saverese

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 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.

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

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.
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.

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

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### BIG MONEY DAYS

- First day of the month: $50.00
- Last Friday of the month: $50.00
- St. Valentine’s Day (2/14): $100.00
- St. Patrick’s Day (3/17): $100.00
- Easter Sunday (3/27): $500.00
- Memorial Day (5/30): $100.00
- Flag Day (6/14): $100.00

### $5,725 in prizes!

- 147 Chances to Win!
- Prizes range from $25 to $500
- All tickets are eligible for all drawings
- Winners will be notified by mail
- Proceeds to benefit St. Thomas Parish

### Only $15.00 Donation PER ENTRY

Make check payable to St. Thomas the Apostle

**Pay Online Using PayPal**

Visit: [http://www.stthomasapostle.org](http://www.stthomasapostle.org)

Questions or concerns? E-mail: stthomasdevelopment@gmail.com

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Tear off at perforation and mail in the enclosed self addressed envelope.

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________

City: _____________________________ State: ______ Zip: ______

E-mail: ____________________________________________________________

**print clearly** Phone No: ____________________________________________
St. Thomas the Apostle’s
Annual Father/Daughter Dance

“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.)