



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

ST. THOMAS

THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

January 2, 2022



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The Epiphany

OF THE LORD

*Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,
"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."*

Matthew 2:1-2

Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski, Pastor

(203) 866-3141

203 East Avenue

Norwalk, CT 06855

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Family Mass Every Sunday at 9:00 am.
Adoration Every Monday 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Daily Mass

Monday, January 3

7:00 AM Intentions of John Everson
5:30 PM † Harold & Anne Starkey

Tuesday, January 4

7:00 AM † Maureen McInerney
5:30 PM Intentions of the Michael Sweeney Family

Wednesday, January 5

7:00 AM Intentions of Michael & Litsa Ryan
5:30 PM † Pasquale Tartaglia & Sandy Ballard

Thursday, January 6

7:00 AM All those Living in Poverty
5:30 PM † Paul Douglas Hartzell

Friday, January 7

7:00 AM † Andrés Elias Ferrer
5:30 PM † Mass of Remembrance

Saturday, January 8

5:15 PM † In Loving Memory of Jane Schmitt **Celebrant** Fr. Ralph

Sunday, January 9

7:30 AM † For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased Fr. Ralph
9:00 AM † Lawrence Gallacher Fr. Ralph
11:30 AM † Catena Bemonte Fr. Mirek
5:00 PM † Kevin Colby Fr. Mirek

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2021	2020
December 19		
Collection	\$3,915.00	\$2,072.00
On-Line	\$2,884.00	\$2,518.00
Diocesan Assessment	<u>(\$1,636.00)</u>	<u>(\$1,869.00)</u>
Net Retained	<u>\$5,163.00</u>	<u>\$2,721.00</u>
Votives	\$258.00	\$ 125.10

Diocesan Assessment

The assessment is used to cover the cost of Diocesan operations and schools. The formula is based on all gross receipts. For our 2022 fiscal year, the annual Cathedralium Assessment is \$85,072. This equates to a weekly payment of \$1,636. This represents an annual decrease of \$4,633.00 from the prior year.

—MASS OF REMEMBRANCE—

The following parishioners have died in the month of December: Norma Gardella, Theresa Passero and Mary Jane Carpenter. There will be a special mass for them and for all deceased parishioners on **Friday, January 7th, at 5:30 PM** in the church. Family members and friends are encouraged to attend. If you would like information about the ministry, please contact Jane Eichwald at (203) 838-4590.



The Sanctuary Candle burns
January 2nd through January 8th
for Domenico Cappuccia.



FIRST FRIDAY

ADORATION

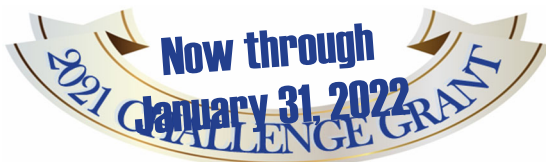
January 7th

7:30am to 5:00pm

Confessions in Church
Every Saturday
4:00pm until 4:30pm
Social Distancing will be maintained.
Masks must be worn.



The 2022 MASS BOOK is open.
Please call or email the office to
reserve your masses and candles.



The 2021 Challenge Grant has started. Our benevolent family has agreed to match up to \$60,000 of your contributions. The gift envelopes have been mailed. If you did not receive one and wish to contribute, please call the office.

Rectory:

Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski
Pastor

Rev. Ralph Segura
Parochial Vicar

Office Hours:

Appointments 10-3 Monday through
Thursday & Friday 10-12
Closed Saturday & Sunday

Rectory Staff:

Catherine Mulvehill
Business Manager

Cathy Lauder
Parish Secretary

Finance Chair:

Ulrike Schambeck
(203) 434-6488

Religious Ed Office:

(203) 866-1189

Michelle O'Mara, DRE
stthomasnorwalkred@gmail.com

Mary Vladimirov, Secretary
General Office Email
stthomasreledoffice@gmail.com

Facilities:

Tito (Jose) Rivera

R.I.S.E. Youth Ministry:

stthomasrq@gmail.com

Website:

www.stthomasnorwalk.org

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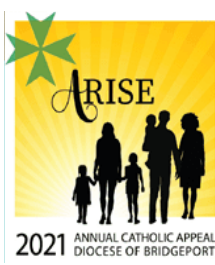
Click **HERE** to **ENTER TO WIN** or visit www.allsaintsnorwalk.com
 * See official rules and more details on our website

Birthright is in need of gently worn *baby and maternity clothing*. Please call to arrange for a drop off. They also need volunteers (especially Spanish speaking). Opportunities include friendship counseling, clerical, and clothing work. Training is provided. Please call the Norwalk Chapter for more information:
 (203) 853-4872.

Join the Scouts!
SCOUT TROOP 22
 We welcome new members age 11 -17. Meetings are Thursdays, 7pm - 8:30pm, in the Parish Center gym. We need a minimum of 5 girls in order to have girls at the meetings. For more information about Scout Troop 222, please go to their web page:
troop222norwalk.scoutlander.com.

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FREQUENTLY
 We update our website as things change in our parish & diocese. There are many useful links on our "Senior Info" & "Useful Links" pages. We have an interactive Google Calendar where you can add to your personal calendar with a simple click on the item. Most questions can be answered by visiting the website. The main menu is located by clicking the 3 bars located on the homepage in the upper right-hand corner of the page. If you know of any organization that may be useful to our community, please contact the office so we may add it to our website upon approval.

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Norwalk	
We Stand With Christ Campaign Redemption	
Total Pledged:	\$499,110
Total Collected (As of 12/1/21):	\$281,287 (56.36%)
To make a payment on your pledge, please visit GiveCentral.org/WSWC or call 203-648-9050.	



2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
 We have raised 190 gifts worth \$46,578 bringing our parish to 74.17% of its \$62,800 goal. Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated. **Thanks to all who gave or pledged!**

WHO WERE THE MAGI?

We really don't know the names of the magi because the Bible doesn't tell us. In fact, the Bible is silent on how many wise men visited Jesus. However, tradition has it that the three wise men who came to seek and honor the infant Jesus were named Gaspar, Balthasar, and Melchior.

The Magi


The three wise men, also known as magi, were men belonging to various educated classes. Our English word magician comes from this same root. But these wise men were not magicians in the modern sense of sleight-of-hand performers. They were of noble birth, educated, wealthy, and influential. They were philosophers, the counselors of rulers, learned in all the wisdom of the ancient East. The wise men who came seeking the Christ child were not idolaters; they were upright men of integrity.

They had apparently studied the Hebrew Scriptures and found there a clear transcript of truth. In particular, the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament must have claimed their attention, and among these they found the words of Balaam: "A Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel" (Numbers 24:17) They certainly were acquainted with the prophecy of Micah: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel" (Micah 5:2; see also Matthew 2:5, 6). They probably also knew and understood the time prophecy of Daniel regarding the appearance of the Messiah (see Daniel 9:25, 26) and came to the conclusion that His coming was near.

On the night of Christ's birth, a mysterious light appeared in the sky which became a luminous star that persisted in the western heavens (see Matthew 2:1, 2). Impressed with its import, the wise men turned once more to the sacred scrolls. As they tried to understand the meaning of the sacred writings, they determined to go in search of the Messiah. Like Abraham, they knew not at first where they were to go, but followed as the guiding star led them on their way.

Gifts of the Three Wise Men

The tradition that there were three wise men arose from the fact that the Bible mentions three gifts, gold frankincense and myrrh according to Matthew 2:11. However, the Bible doesn't say how many wise men made the journey to see the baby Jesus. The unfounded idea that they were also kings came from the imagery of Isaiah 60:3. <https://www.bibleinfo.com/en/questions/what-were-names-three-wise-men>



A HUGE THANK YOU to the Giving Tree Ministry for continuing our tradition of remembering our beloved senior citizens at Christmas. And to you, our parishioners, that helped make this year an overwhelming success. Because of you, we donated gifts to almost 180 Norwalk Seniors. While most people are focused on children during the holidays, it is easy to forget our senior citizens. This yearly tradition helps St. Thomas the Apostle remember and thank our seniors who have retired from their duties but still play a vital role in our parish and Norwalk community. The staff at their housing facilities have expressed how much the seniors will cherish your gifts this year due to the struggles of the last few years. Thank you to Fr. Mirek and Fr. Ralph for allowing this tradition to continue, bringing joy to our own community. Also, our staff, Tito Rivera, Catherine Mulvehill, and Cathy Lauder for their assistance with gathering our gifts. Thank you to Alessandra Legaspi, Fred, Marizza, and David Diaz for their behind-the-scenes time and effort. Special thanks to Michelle Diaz for all her hard work, organizational skills, and energy. Thank you to Michelle O'Mara, Mary Vladimirov, John Deacy, and our Religious Formation students for organizing and crafting their handmade cards. Lastly, a very big thank you to Michelle Botero who donated her 23 handmade-with-love shawls/blankets as well as our own Prayer Shawl Ministry for their very generous donation of shawls.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year!

Congratulations to Our Parishioners Who Have
Recently Celebrated Their Anniversary!

NOVEMBER 29TH 74 YEARS
HENRY & MARGE SIMON

If you have something to celebrate and would like to share it with your parish family contact the office by email or phone.

Photo by JESHOOOTS.COM on Unsplash



Remember - your shopping matters. Shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/06-0653149 and Amazon donates to St. Thomas the Apostle.

PRAY For Our Men and Women Serving our Country



Theresa Cole, US Marine Corps
Mike Lupinacci, US Marine Corps
CW5 Sgt. Douglas Ortiz, Jr., US Army
Sfc. Ramil Pensergera, US Army
LCDR Scott C. Pennoyer, US Navy
Tech Sgt. Daniel Scofield, US Air Force
UT2 PO2 Edward Skeen, US Navy
SSG Sgt. Jesse Skeen, US Army
Spc. Daniel Gonzales, US Army
MIDN 4/C Tatiana V. Arias, US Navy
PFC Matthew Montanez, US Army
PFC Larry Joyce, US Marine Corps

During these difficult times, please remember to support our local bulletin advertisers. Make the back 2 pages of this publication your "go to place" for local business help. They can only help us if we continue to help them!

Actions speak louder than words: let your words teach & your actions speak. - St. Anthony of Padua

Pray the Rosary in the Church
Monday - Friday: 6:30am
Monday: 7:00pm
Saturday: 4:45pm



**ADORATION
MONDAY NIGHT
6PM - 8PM**

If you would like to arrange a baptism, please call the office at (203) 866-3141. If this is your first baby, you will need to complete the Pre-Baptism class with one of our priests. *Pre-Baptism classes are the 3rd Saturday of every month. Please call to reserve your space.*

Trustees:
Robert Lametta
Christopher Jarboe

Finance Council:
Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski
Bill Austin
Hugh Gartland
Thomas Gorzkowski
Linda O'Shaughnessy
Ulrike Schambeck

Parish Council:
Ed Bocchino
Tom Donaher
Joe Dudek
Glenn Iannaccone
Ann Jacoby
Christopher Jarboe
John Stoops

**Room To Grow
Preschool:**
(203) 831-8200
Nancy Cook-Owens,
Director

All Saints School:
Mrs. Linda Dunn,
Principal
(203) 847-3881
139 West Rocks Road
Norwalk

**The Second
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MEMORIAL MASS OR FUNERAL

We are scheduling Memorial Masses for those who died during the virus period. Anyone who wishes to arrange for a Memorial Mass is asked to call the office in order to plan the mass. If you would like a full funeral mass, please let your funeral home know your wishes so they can contact us to schedule. We will continue to have graveside only service as an option.

SACRAMENTS

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday: 10:00am to 3:00pm Friday: 10:00am to 12 Noon

Prayer Requests!

Please contact the St. Thomas Prayer Ministry. Call Sue Wegiel at (203) 838-4088 with your prayer request or email her at wegiesj@hotmail.com. If you cannot reach Sue, please call the office at (203) 866-3141.

Baptisms or Weddings

Please call the Rectory during regular weekday business hours for more information or to make arrangements. To reserve the church for your desired wedding date, please contact the parish office at least 9 months to 1 year in advance.

Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Rectory anytime.

Reconciliation

Saturdays: 4:00 - 4:30 PM Weekdays: By appointment



DID YOU KNOW...you must complete your Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, & Confirmation) in order to be a sponsor for Baptism & Confirmation? Do you, or someone you know, want to join the Catholic church? Then the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) program is for you! Just call the Faith Formation Office at (203) 866-1189 for more information.

PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS IN NEED OF PRAYER

If you would like to be added to or removed from this prayer list, please email or call the office.

Please pray for the sick of our parish that may be restored to health and that all who ASSIST and CARE for them will be given the strength to continue their Christian service. Please remember the following in your prayers:

Carm Pagliano	Jim Sweet	Debbie Reddock	James Amrich	Theresa Buono	Walter Cortese
Pearl Futo	Lou Marcario	Jill Bowman	Emily Calabeese	Anne Edwards	Linda Lima
Mike	Robert Parmalee	Mike Torres	Marie Silver	Grace DeMilo	Merina Deluc
Terry Rooney	Constance Williams	Skip Bossone	Jeanette Ralston	Tony Cappuccia	Pam Simso
Gary Livia	Peggy McDonald	Kimberly Fratoloni	Rick Azillo	Jeannetta Torres	George Travers
Julia Cade	Marianne Schambeck	Michael Walsh	Richard Berg	Diane Turek	Phil Tavella
Jeannie Maxwell	Michele Mola-Gulemi	Richard Barton	Antonio Vescio	Jackie Hamilton	Hamilton Family
Vicki	Betty Lou Heffernan	Cathy Sinica	Kathleen Ford	Chuck Scott	John Lima
Kathleen Dominick	Joe M.	Joan Kennedy	Joanna Marvin	Ken Schulman	Anthony Bruno
Janina Stachurski	Donny Cassavechia	Nancy G.	Vinny Massaro	Alessandro Fornara	Angela McCrae
Greg N.	1 st Sgt. Joe Toscano (Ret.)	Debbie Poruban	Denise Cassin	Jack Cade	Kathy D

**The Food Pantry is open
Tuesdays & Saturdays
10:00 AM to 11:30 AM.**

Donations are now being accepted during regular hours or leave NON-PERISHABLE items in the bin at the food pantry entrance.

Questions? Call them at
(203) 866-1644



The Connecticut Hospice, Inc., Homecare Volunteers Needed

The Connecticut Hospice, Inc. is accepting applications for new volunteers! Our patients and families are in need of your care and support. If you have an interest in companionship, light housekeeping or making meals, please contact Joan Cullen, Director of Volunteers at (203) 315-7510.



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