



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

ST. THOMAS

THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Merry Christmas!!



Rev. Ralph Segura, Pastor
(203) 866-3141
stthomasnorwalk.org

203 East Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06855
stthomasnorwalk@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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

Daily Mass

Monday, December 23

7:00 AM† John Viccar
5:30 PM In Thanks Giving

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

7:00 AM† Gladys Lilliedahl
5:30 PM NO MASS
12:00 AM† Catherine Verda

Christmas, Wednesday, December 25

7:30 AM Special Intention
9:00AM† For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased
11:30 AM† Filippo & Maria Mastroianni, Giuseppina, Maria, & Anna

Thursday, December 26

9:00 AM† Victoria Buono

Friday, December 27

7:00 AM† Claire Dunn
5:30 PM† Rev. Jose Luis Mejia

Sunday Vigil, Saturday, December 28

9:00 AM† Nicholas, Antoinette, & Jim Cianci
5:15 PM† Bridget & Michael O'Gara

Sunday, December 29

7:30 AM† For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased
9:00 AM† David Sweetman
11:30 AM† Antonio Marna
5:00 PM† Maria Mola (10th Anniversary)

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2024	2023
December 8		
Collection	\$3,284.87	\$4,323.00
On-Line	\$2,385.00	\$2,468.00
Diocesan Assessment	(\$1,547.00)	(\$1,506.00)
Net Retained	<u>\$4,122.87</u>	<u>\$5,285.00</u>
 Votives	 \$ 416.25	 \$ 151.43
Retired Religious		
Collection	\$1,044.00	\$ 869.00
On-Line	<u>\$ 109.00</u>	<u>\$ 563.00</u>
Total	<u><u>\$1,153.00</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,432.00</u></u>

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 2025 fiscal year, the annual Cathedralricum Assessment is \$80,448. This equates to a weekly payment of \$1,547. This represents an annual increase of \$2,124.00 from the prior year.

Christmas Confession
Monday, December 23rd
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM



*The Sanctuary Candle burns
December 22nd through December 28th in
memory of Linda Angotto & Gerry Forde.*

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord,
and let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.
Please remember in your prayers:

Anna Mennino

We extend our sympathy to their families & friends.

Confession in Church

Every Saturday

4:00pm until 4:30pm

CONSIDER JOINING THE SCOUTS! SCOUT TROOP 222

We welcome new members age 11 -17. Meetings are Thursdays, 7pm - 8:30pm, in the Parish Center gym and follow the school year calendar. We need at least 5 girls in order to have girls at the meetings. For more information about Troop 222, please call the office.

St. Thomas Annual Financial Statement is available on our website.

<https://stthomasnorwalk.org/financial-information>

If you would like a hard copy of the report, please call the office.

Rectory:
Rev. Ralph Segura
Pastor (ext.19)

Rectory Staff:
Cathy Lauder
Parish Secretary (ext. 10)

Religious Ed Office:
(203) 866-1189
Patty Frattaroli, DRE
stthomasreledoffice@gmail.com

Parish Bookkeeper
Monika Piascik

Facilities:
Tito (Jose) Rivera

Youth Ministry:
stthomasyg1@gmail.com
Elizabeth Squicciarino, Coordinator

Website:
www.stthomasnorwalk.org

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**Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, & Friday 9 - 4**
Closed Wednesday, Saturday, & Sunday

Finance Chair:
Ulrike Schambeck
(203) 434-6488

stthomasnorwalk@gmail.com

(203) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax



St. Thomas the Apostle Christmas Schedule All Are Welcome!

CHRISTMAS WEEK CONFESSION

SATURDAY • DECEMBER 21

4:00 P.M. ~ 4:30 P.M.

MONDAY • DECEMBER 23

6:30 P.M. ~ 7:30 P.M.

THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE • TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

3:30 P.M. PRELUDE - YOUTH CHOIR AND INSTRUMENTS

4:00 P.M. FAMILY LITURGY

11:30 P.M. CHRISTMAS CONCERT - ADULT CHOIR

12:00 A.M. MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

7:30 A.M., 9:00 A.M., & 11:30 A.M. (No 5:00 P.M. MASS)

THURSDAY • DECEMBER 26

9:00 A.M. ONLY (No 5:30 P.M. MASS)

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD (A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

NEW YEAR'S DAY • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2025

9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. (No 5:30 P.M. MASS)

*From a commentary on the Diatessaron by Saint Ephrem, Deacon
(Cap. 18, 15-17: SC 121, 325-328)*

To prevent his disciples from asking the time of his coming, Christ said: *About that hour no one knows, neither the angels nor the Son (Mt 24:36). It is not for you to know times or moments (Acts 1:7).* He has kept those things hidden so that we may keep watch, each of us thinking that he will come in our own day. If he had revealed the time of his coming, his coming would have lost its savor: it would no longer be an object of yearning for the nations and the age in which it will be revealed. He promised that he would come but did not say when he would come, and so all generations and ages await him eagerly.

Though the Lord has established the signs of his coming, the time of their fulfillment has not been plainly revealed. These signs have come and gone with a multiplicity of change; more than that, they are still present. His final coming is like his first. As holy men and prophets waited for him, thinking that he would reveal himself in their own day, so today each of the faithful longs to welcome him in his own day, because Christ has not made plain the day of his coming.

He has not made it plain for this reason especially, that no one may think that he whose power and dominion rule all numbers and times is ruled by fate and time. He described the signs of his coming; how could what he has himself decided be hidden from him? Therefore, he used these words to increase respect for the signs of his coming, so that from that day forward all generations and ages might think that he would come again in their own day.

Keep watch; when the body is asleep nature takes control of us, and what is done is not done by our will but by force, by the impulse of nature. When deep listlessness takes possession of the soul, for example, faint-heartedness or melancholy, the enemy overpowers it and makes it do what it does not will. The force of nature, the enemy of the soul, is in control.

When the Lord commanded us to be vigilant, he meant vigilance in both parts of man: in the body, against the tendency to sleep; in the soul, against lethargy and timidity.

Help Wanted

Our Food Pantry is in need of a volunteer on Friday mornings to assist with food deliveries. Must be able to lift 25 pound containers. If you are interested, please call the Food Pantry at (203) 866-1644. If no one answers, please leave a message. We will call you back!

NEW DAY BEREAVEMENT PROGRAM WINTER SESSION REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Tuesday afternoons 1:00 – 2:30pm
January 21 – March 18, 2025



Your loss may be recent or long ago.

We are here to help you on your journey to healing where you are invited to share your story, and to find comfort in a supportive, confidential environment.

God will support you in your sorrow, and He will walk with you as you begin your journey through loss to healing.

Meetings take place in a small-group confidential setting at:
St. Michael the Archangel Church
469 North Street
Greenwich

Meetings are led by trained bereavement facilitators. There is no charge.

St. Michael the Archangel Church is partnering with the Bereavement Initiative of the Fairfield County Catholic Cemeteries to offer this program. Please go to their website to submit a Program Inquiry Form or you can contact Carolyn Killian at 203-404-0023.

ctcemeteries.org/newday

Once the form is submitted, you will hear from one of our bereavement ministers regarding the next steps.



Birthright

Birthright is in need of gently worn *baby & maternity clothing*. Please call to arrange a drop off. They also need volunteers (especially Spanish speaking). Opportunities include friendship counseling, clerical, & clothing work.

Training is provided.

Please call for more information:

(203) 853-4872.

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 Penserga, 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
Sgt. Matthew Montanez, US Army
CPL Larry Joyce, US Marine Corps

2024 ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL

We have raised 180 gifts worth \$50,531 bringing our parish to 80.46% of its \$62,800 goal. Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all who have already given or pledged! To make a gift, or for more information, please visit 2024 Bishops Appeal.org, call (203) 416-1470, or scan with your phone.



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Just as there are some items that we are able to get free from different government sources or at a greatly reduced cost, there are some items we need to buy. This is how this list is generated. Of course, you can still give items that are not on the list. Please leave after hours **non-perishable** donations in the bin outside the pantry.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY PERISHABLES IN THE DROP BOX.

Coffee Tea

9oz to 12oz Box of Cereal

Shampoo	Tooth Paste	Paper Towel
Bar Soap	Toilet Paper	Facial Tissues

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE ANSWERED OUR REQUESTS! YOU HAVE REALLY HELPED OUR COMMUNITY NEEDY.

REMINDER: No priest will ever send you an email asking for a purchase of gift cards or anything else. These are scam emails & should be moved to your spam folder. Please do not respond to these emails. **If you are ever unsure of anything please do not hesitate to call the office or ask Fr. Ralph after mass.**

Go to our website & click on "Events in Our Diocese" for more happenings at our diocesan churches.

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Pray the Rosary in the Church

Monday - Friday:

Before Any Scheduled Morning Mass at 6:30am

Monday: 7:00pm

Saturday: 4:45pm

Trustees:

Robert Lametta
Christopher Jarboe

Finance Council:

Rev. Ralph Segura
Bill Austin
Hugh Gartland
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 Chance Thrift Shop

(203) 318-9817

HOURS

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Tuesdays & Thursdays
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Wednesdays
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Saturdays

St. Vincent de Paul

Food Pantry:

(203) 866-1644

HOURS

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Tuesdays & Saturdays
Only

Birthright of Norwalk:

(203) 853-4872

Catholic Charities:

(203) 416-1307

2024 Challenge Grant

The Challenge Grant is back. Our benevolent family has, once again, agreed to match up to \$60,000 of your contributions. The gift envelopes will be arriving soon if you haven't received it already. If you are not on our mailing list and wish to contribute, please call the office.

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PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS IN NEED OF PRAYER

If you would like to add or removed a name 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:

TimDebbie Reddock	James Amrich	Theresa Buono	Linda Lima	Merina Deluc	George Travers
Pearl Futo	Robert Parmalee	Mike Torres	Emily Calabrese	Anne Edwards	Phil Tavella
Jack Cade	Constance Williams	Skip Bossone	Marie Silver	Grace DeMilo	Hamilton Family
Gary Livia	Peggy McDonald	Kimberly Frataloni	Jeanette Ralston	Pam Simso	Anthony Bruno
Julia Cade	Marianne Schambeck	Cathy Sinica	Richard Berg	Jeannetta Torres	Angela McCrae
Jeannie Maxwell	Michele Mola-Gulemi	Richard Barton	Antonio Vescio	Diane Turek	Debbie Poruban
Vicki	Betty Lou Heffernan	Joan Kennedy	Chuck Scott	Jackie Hamilton	Denise Cassin
Ginny DeMarco	1 st Sgt. Joe Toscano (Ret.)	Alessandro Fornara	David R.	John Lima	Paul Rohan
Mike D.	Nancy G.	Jackson P.	Holly Sanders	Robert Podlaski	Jeff Mallory
Michelle Vittorio	Andy Tao	Steve C.	Stefanie Sena	MaryAnn P.	Liz Fox
Vinnie McMahon	Heather Ribellino	Susan Swick	Frank & Ellen Tuttle	Aidan Kane	Mary Anne Lagana
David Franco	Laura Wade	Joe Garrity	Tim Cole	Tim Brosnan	



DID YOU KNOW...you must complete your Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy 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 OCIA (Order of Christians Initiation for Adults) program is for you!! Just call the parish office at (203) 866-3141 for more information.

Procedure for Baptisms & Weddings

Please go to the homepage of our website, click on Parish Registration and Sacramental Requests. Choose the fillable form that you need and follow the instructions at the top of the webpage. 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

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.

**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



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