



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

ST. THOMAS
THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC
CHURCH

September 17, 2023

Catechetical Sunday

"Come to me all you who labor and are burdened"

(Matthew 11:28)

With these words from the Gospel, the Lord Jesus offers an invitation to follow Him and the promise that He doesn't want to add to our burdens; He wants to lighten them. This theme reminds us that the object of all catechesis is Jesus Himself. The role of the Catechist is, first of all, to be a disciple - one who draws close and rests in Jesus - and then to be a witness to others and a companion as they too come to know Jesus.

Today, we formally commission our Catechists and Aides for ministry to the community. Please pray today and throughout the year for our Catechists and Aides who work so diligently with our children. Pray also that the continued leadership and guidance given by Fr. Mirek Stachurski, Fr. Ralph Segura, and our Director of Religious Ed, Carrie Saviano, will give our children the support they need in all they do.

Chloe Ballard
Kevin Knight
Maria Sawicki

Ed Bocchino
Liliana Misiak
Kara Slattery

Chris Dobbins
Sebastian Misiak
Mary Vladimirov

Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski, Pastor

(203) 866-3141

203 East Avenue

Norwalk, CT 06855

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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

Daily Mass

Monday, September 18

7:00 AM† Rosa Matteo Padulo
5:30 PM† Matthew Harbilas

Tuesday, September 19

7:00 AM† Christina Steven
5:30 PM NO MASS

Wednesday, September 20

7:00 AM NO MASS
5:30 PM NO MASS

Thursday, September 21

7:00 AM NO MASS
5:30 PM† Michael Valiante

Friday, September 22

7:00 AM† Antonio Rubbo, Maria Ciambrella, &
Pasquale Rubbo
5:30 PM† Brian Horne

Sunday Vigil, Saturday, September 23

5:15 PM† Eric Goldner

Sunday, September 24

7:30 AM† For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased
9:00 AM† Robert LeBlanc, Sr.
11:30 AM† John Pagliano (3rd Anniversary)
5:00 PM† Elizabeth & Garrett O'Gara



The Sanctuary Candle burns
September 17th through September 23rd in
memory of the Festa, Verda, & Izzo Families.



Pray the Rosary in the Church
Monday - Friday: Before Any
Scheduled Morning Mass at 6:30am
Monday: 7:00pm Saturday: 4:45pm

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

Margarzt Lori

We extend our sympathy to her family & friends.

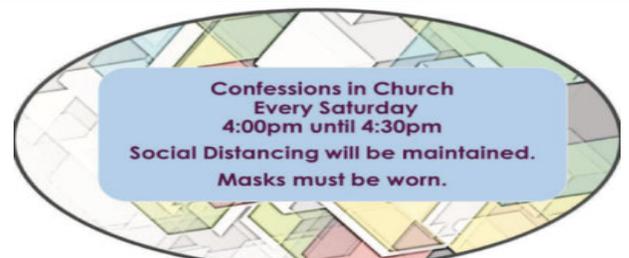
PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2023	2022
September 3		
Collection	\$3,590.00	\$4,003.73
On-Line	\$2,618.00	\$3,257.00
Diocesan Assessment	(\$1,506.00)	(\$1,567.00)
Net Retained	<u>\$4,702.00</u>	<u>\$5,693.73</u>
Votives	\$ 127.80	\$ 156.81
Monthly Maintenance		
Collection	\$1,162.00	\$1,574.00
On-Line	<u>\$1,253.00</u>	<u>\$ 626.00</u>
Total	<u>\$2,415.00</u>	<u>\$2,200.00</u>
September 10		
Collection	\$4,008.00	\$3,428.75
On-Line	\$2,439.00	\$2,572.00
Diocesan Assessment	(\$1,506.00)	(\$1,567.00)
Net Retained	<u>\$5,941.00</u>	<u>\$4,433.75</u>
Votives	\$ 246.28	\$ 205.15

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 2024 fiscal year, the annual Cathedralium Assessment is \$78,324. This equates to a weekly payment of \$1,506. This represents an annual decrease of \$3,148.00 from the prior year.

The 2024 MASS BOOK is now open without restrictions. Phone or email requests are welcome.



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



Our Faith Formation Department would like some Teen Volunteers to assist with the Kindergarten & 1st Grade classes. Classes are from 10:15 to 11:30 every Sunday. Any time you can give us would be GREATLY appreciated. Please contact Faith Formation at (203) 866-8911 or by email: stthomasreleoffice@gmail.com.

Rectory:

Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski
Pastor (ext. 12)

Rev. Ralph Segura
Parochial Vicar (ext. 19)

**Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, & Friday 9 - 4**

Closed Wednesday, Saturday, & Sunday

Rectory Staff:

Cathy Lauder
Parish Secretary (ext. 10)

Finance Chair:
Ulrike Schambeck
(203) 434-6488

Religious Ed Office:

(203) 866-1189
Carrie Saviano, DRE
stthomasreleoffice@gmail.com

Parish Bookkeeper
Monika Piascick

Facilities:
Tito (Jose) Rivera

Youth Ministry:

stthomasnyg1@gmail.com
Elizabeth Squicciarino, Coordinator

Website:
www.stthomasnorwalk.org

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stthomasnorwalk@gmail.com

(203) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax

JOIN BISHOP CAGGIANO FOR THE



ANNUAL YOUNG ADULT
Mass & Social

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

ST. MATTHEW PARISH
 216 Scribner Avenue, Norwalk

5:30 PM
 Rosary and reflection

6:00 PM
 Mass with Bishop Caggiano

A social with refreshments will follow Mass

RSVP at youngadultmass.eventbrite.com

**THOSE WHO SING,
 PRAY TWICE!**

If you like to sing, please consider joining our Parish Choir. We have our regular rehearsals on Sunday at 11:00am & sing at the 11:30am Mass. We have special rehearsals for Christmas & Easter typically on Wednesday evenings leading up to the holiday. For more information, speak to Marge Kelley, our Music Director, after the 5:15pm, 9:00am, or 11:30am Mass OR send an email to margaretkelley24@gmail.com.

One In Christ – The 2023 Bishop’s Appeal

If you have not yet responded to the Appeal, please reflect upon the importance of your support to ministry and outreach that relies upon the charity of everyone in the Diocese of Bridgeport. The challenge is immediate and far-reaching, but the solution is within our reach! To make a gift, or for more information, please visit us at 2023BishopsAppeal.org, call (203) 416-1470, or scan with your phone.



We have raised 148 gifts worth \$63,610 bringing our parish to 101.29% of its \$62,800 goal. Thanks to all who have participated! Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated.

**JOIN THE SCOUTS!
 SCOUT TROOP 222**

We welcome new members age 11 -17. Meetings are Thursdays, 7pm - 8:30pm, in the Parish Center gym. We need at least 5 girls in order to have girls at the meetings. We follow the school year calendar. For more information about Scout Troop 222, please go to our web page: troop222norwalk.scoutlander.com.

2023 ST. JEROME NORWALK RAFFLE

Proceeds to offset the cost of replacing the Rectory Roof

**Online through Our Sunday Visitor (OSV).
 No account is needed. Visit our website at www.stjeromenorwalk.org and click the top banner OR use your smartphone and the QR code below!**

1st Prize: \$10,000	5th Prize: \$500
2nd Prize: \$2,000	6th Prize: \$500
3rd Prize: \$500	7th Prize: \$500
4th Prize: \$500	8th Prize: \$500

Drawing: Sunday, October 8, 2023
 St. Jerome R. C. Church
 23 Half Mile Road, Norwalk, CT 06851

TICKETS \$50.00

Ticket holders need not be present to win. Winner responsible for applicable taxes.



Only 1,200 tickets will be sold!

Bloom Baby Bloom

For the month of **September**, when you buy a \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet at our designated Stop & Shop, we'll receive \$1!



Benefiting Organization
St. Thomas St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

At this Stop & Shop Location
385 Connecticut Avenue, Norwalk CT

REFLECTION FROM FR. RALPH

Last Sunday, September 10th, we began catechesis of the young disciples here at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish through the Religious Education Department. It is a vital time during the year in which we, as the People of God, prepare our sons and daughters for the many challenges they will face in this life, as well as preparation for the Glory of God in the life to come. As you know, the parents of our parish love their children, and desire the best possible for them.

Now, it is not far at all from the basic teachings of the Church that parents have a responsibility in regard to their children; and in fact, while the Church, at the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the primary institution, shall we say, that is entrusted with handing on the faith, parents have a responsibility over and above the Church itself. As we read in the Catechism of the Church: *“Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule (CCC 2223).”*

Further, according to the Catechism, family life is, along with the practice of the faith and worship of the parish, among the basic means and contexts in which the young disciples of the parish are to be formed according to the will of God: *“The home is well suited for education in the virtues (ibid).”*

But this is no simple or easy task, especially when considering the times in which we live. It seems that all of us, and this includes our sons and daughters, are constantly challenged to live the Catholic Faith as revealed to us through Our Lord Jesus Christ; and this includes attending Mass on a regular basis, avoiding exposure to the numerous enticements of the World; and moreover, this demand is not exclusive to sins and vices of a serious nature. In fact, the extracurricular activities of family life, even though they may be good in their own way, can provide distractions and temptations that take priority over the basic and necessary responsibilities consistent with participation in the life of the parish.

As indicated in the Catechism of the Church, just as parents have a particular role in reference to the ministry of the Church in regard to the formation of their children, there are, as difficult as it is, personal challenges that they must strive to overcome: *“This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery – the preconditions of all true freedom. Parents should teach their children to subordinate the “material and instinctual dimensions to interior and spiritual ones (ibid).”*

In short, the parents of St. Thomas Parish must have access to the means necessary to fulfill their responsibility to see to it that their children receive sufficient and proper catechetical formation, and their own formation as well, so that what God intends for them and their children will prevail over the secular demands that the world constantly imposes on them.

In all this there is a particular mission for all of us at St. Thomas Parish. Indeed, we must pray for them, support them, and continue to give good example so that the life, faith, worship, evangelization, and charity of our parish may inspire both the confidence and desire to persevere in their discernment and struggles as they participate in the education and formation of their sons and daughters. May we be blessed throughout this catechetical cycle with the wisdom and grace God provides so that we have done all we can for our young families here at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

John Ralph

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

SEPT 27 - NOV 5, 2023

Join the Fall 2023 Campaign by visiting the location nearest to sign up.

Bridgeport Location

Public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood
4697 Main St. | Bridgeport, CT
For more information and to sign up for vigil hours visit
www.40daysforlife.com/bridgeport

Danbury Location

Public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood
44 Main St. | Danbury, CT
For more information and to sign up for vigil hours visit
www.40daysforlife.com/danbury

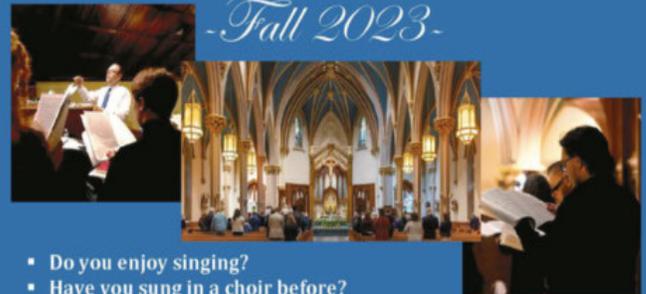
Stamford Location

Public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood
35 Sixth St. | Stamford, CT
For more information and to sign up for vigil hours visit
www.40daysforlife.com/stamford



DIOCESAN MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

- Fall 2023 -



- Do you enjoy singing?
- Have you sung in a choir before?
- Are you looking to enrich your involvement in the Church?
- Would you like to be part of a new community of faith, friendship and music?

If so,

COME SING WITH US!

DIOCESAN JUBILEE CHOIR: The Diocesan Jubilee Choir will sing for the 70th Anniversary Mass of the founding of the Diocese of Bridgeport on Saturday, October 21 at St. Augustine Cathedral. Rehearsals will be held on Monday evenings from 7-8:30pm at the Cathedral starting on September 18.

CATHEDRAL CHOIR: The Cathedral Choir will sing for the weekly 10am Bishop's Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral starting in mid-September. The choir will rehearse from 9-10am each Sunday prior to the Mass, and occasional weeknight evenings as announced.

Both choirs are open to singers of High School age and older. Prior musical experience and the ability to read music is helpful, but not required. All adult participants must be in full compliance with the Diocesan Safe Environments Policy, including Virtus Certification.

For further information, contact the Diocesan Director of Music Ministry, or visit www.bridgeportdiocese.org/diocesan-choir/home/
Dr. Bill Atwood | Email: William.atwood@diobpt.org | Phone: 203.368.6777 X 22

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
PFC Matthew Montanez, US Army
PFC Larry Joyce, US Marine Corps



SPREAD THE WORD! The Diocese of Bridgeport has a tuition assistance program partially funded through the Annual Bishop's Appeal. Visit their website for more information: foundationsineducation.org.

Trustees:
Robert Lametta
Christopher Jarboe

Finance Council:
Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski
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

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Saturdays

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...AND MORE!

Join Us!
Sunday, October 15
139 West Rocks Road
Norwalk, CT
12-3pm

visit www.allsaintsnorwalk.com for details

*DO YOU LIKE TO
KNIT OR CROCHET?*

Please consider joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry. We supply the materials - you supply the Love!! We meet once a month for about an hour to pray over our completed shawls and to pick up supplies. Our next meeting is **Thursday, September 28th, at 7:00pm**, in the Small Meeting Room. If you would like more information please call Vicki Remson at (203) 847-8196, the Parish Office at (203) 866-3141, or go to our website and click on Parish Life, Ministries.

**Inter-Parish
Youth Group**
October 1st
Meeting From 4 to 6
at All Saints
Catholic School

Open to all 7th and 8th graders. Meetings will be monthly at ASCS. Keep your children active in their faith. Call or email Faith Formation (203) 866-8911 or stthomasreledoffice@gmail.com.

ST. PHILIP CHURCH

Fall Festival

Saturday, Sept 23rd 9a - 4p

FREE ADMISSION, RAIN OR SHINE

**Crafts • Raffle Baskets
Baked Items • Games
Rides • Face Painting
Tag Sale Room • Food**

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SACRAMENTS

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday: 9:00am to 4:00pm

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.

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



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	Debbie Reddock	James Amrich	Theresa Buono	Linda Lima	Merina Deluc
Pearl Futo	Robert Parmalee	Mike Torres	Emily Calabrese	Anne Edwards	George Travers
Jack Cade	Constance Williams	Skip Bossone	Marie Silver	Grace DeMilo	Phil Tavella
Gary Livia	Peggy McDonald	Kimberly Fratoloni	Jeanette Ralston	Pam Simso	Hamilton Family
Julia Cade	Marianne Schambeck	Cathy Sinica	Rick Azillo	Jeannetta Torres	Anthony Bruno
Jeannie Maxwell	Michele Mola-Gulemi	Richard Barton	Richard Berg	Diane Turek	Angela McCrae
Vicki	Betty Lou Heffernan	Kathleen Ford	Antonio Vescio	Jackie Hamilton	Debbie Poruban
Kathleen Dominick	1 st Sgt. Joe Toscano (Ret.)	Joan Kennedy	Chuck Scott	John Lima	Denise Cassin
Dawn Grover	Nancy G.	Joanna Marvin	Ken Schulman	Holly Sanders	Vinny Massaro
Mike D.	Elizabeth Malerba	Alessandro Fornara	Jim Charest	Frank Longo	Patricia M.
Stefanie Sena	Jim Bogdany	Paul F.	David R.	Steve C.	Jackson P.
Ginny DeMarco					

**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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If you are concerned about your end of life plans, searching for the sacred ground of a Catholic cemetery, or have loved ones buried in one of our 14 Diocese cemeteries, now might be a good time to begin planning for yourself or other family members.

While talking about the issue is not easy, pre-need planning makes your wishes clear, reduces costs and helps your family avoid difficult decisions at a time of loss and grief.

Start your plans now by contacting Joe McCurdy our Director of Operations and a St. Thomas the Apostle parishioner at 203-610-3414 or joe.mccurdy@ctcemeteries.org

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