



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

ST. THOMAS

THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

January 5, 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI

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, January 6

7:00 AM† All Souls
5:30 PM † Anthony Fraulo

Tuesday, January 7

7:00 AM† Joan Gardella
5:30 PM NO MASS

Wednesday, January 8

NO MASS

Thursday, January 9

7:00 AM NO MASS
5:30 AM† Ralph Festa, Jr.

Friday, January 10

7:00 AM† Janet Sideleau
5:30 PM† Intentions of Dennis & Mary Grimaldi,
Their Children & Grandchildren

Sunday Vigil, Saturday, January 11

5:15 PM† Lawrence Gallacher

Sunday, January 12

7:30 AM† Rory O'Dwyer (2nd Anniversary)
9:00 AM† Maria Mastroianni &
Angelina Vescio (1st Anniversary)
11:30 AM† Rose & Bill Close
5:00 PM † For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased



*The Sanctuary Candle burns
January 5th through January 11th
in memory of Carlos Rivera.*

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

Deacon T. Emmet Murray

We extend our sympathy to his family & friends.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2024	2023
December 22		
Collection	\$4,208.53	\$8,690.00
On-Line	\$2,400.00	\$2,558.00
Diocesan Assessment	(\$1,547.00)	(\$1,506.00)
Net Retained	<u>\$5,061.53</u>	<u>\$9,742.00</u>
Votives	\$ 209.65	\$ 260.96

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.

THOSE WHO SING, PRAY TWICE!

If you like to sing, please consider joining our Parish Choir. We have our regular rehearsals on Sunday from 10:45 to 11:15am & 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.



Holy Hour for Vocations
Second Thursday of every month
7:00-8:00pm, St. Theresa Church
5301 Main Street Trumbull

Sponsored by the Lay Dominicans, Our Lady of Fatima Fraternity. All are welcome to attend. For more information about the Lay Dominicans, please contact Mrs. Michelle Rowe, O.P. Formation Director, by phone, (203) 218-6882, or email, orapronobis20@gmail.com.

Catholic Charities New Outlook Counseling is here to help!

They offer quick appointments and provide counseling services in both English and Spanish. Whether you're seeking support for yourself or a loved one, their professional team is ready to assist. Reach out today for compassionate care. Contact them at 203-743-4412 or visit ccfairfield.org.

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

Youth Ministry:

stthomasyg1@gmail.com
Elizabeth Squicciarino, Coordinator

Website:

www.stthomasnorwalk.org

Like us on Facebook:

St. Thomas Norwalk

Instagram:

StThomasNorwalk

Parish Bookkeeper

Monika Piascik

Facilities:

Tito (Jose) Rivera

**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

Now through January 31, 2025

2024 Challenge Grant

The Challenge Grant is currently in progress. Our benevolent family has, once again, agreed to match up to \$60,000 of your contributions. The gift envelopes have gone out. If you have not received one & wish to contribute, please use this form or take a donation card located at the entrances of the church. Thanks to all of you have already pledge or donated.



2024-2025 RECIPIENTS



\$2,851,855
awarded



1,319
students



\$64,605
avg. family income

**Bishop's Scholarship Fund Applications
Open February 1, 2025**

Foundations in Education is pleased to announce that applications to the Bishop's Scholarship Fund open February 1st.

Families who have a child currently enrolled or are new applicants in a Diocesan-sponsored Catholic elementary school are eligible to apply for 2025-2026 tuition assistance for Grades K-8.

Apply online via the FACTS Grant & Aid, www.FACTSmgt.com/aid, and complete all questions relating to Bishop's Scholarship Fund.

Deadline: March 15-currently enrolled families, April 15-new families

For more information, visit www.foundationsineducation.org.



FOUNDATIONS IN EDUCATION



*I am pleased to support our
2024 Challenge Grant !*

(Please Print)

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Envelope #: _____

Please indicate the total amount of your participation below:

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$75 ___ \$100

___ \$150 ___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___ \$_____

**Choose from one of the following options
(existing independent on-line givers may use
their account to participate):**

Payment Enclosed

Cash _____ or Check # _____
(Make checks payable to St. Thomas the Apostle Church)

OR

Complete the following:

Credit Card: ___ Visa ___ Master Card

#: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVV _____

OR

ACH Option: ___ Checking ___ Savings

Acct # _____ Routing# _____

Installment Schedule:

\$ _____ monthly for _____ months
(up to 6 months)

Signature _____

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!

The 2025 Mass book is open. If you have special dates that you would like to book, please call, email, or stop in the office with your requests soon as the book is filling up quickly.

Confession in Church

Every Saturday 4:00pm until 4:30pm

*From a Sermon by Saint Leo the Great, Pope
(Sermo 3 in Epiphania Domini, 1-3. 5: PL 54, 240-244)*

The loving providence of God determined that in the last days he would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ.

A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith. His descendants are therefore compared with the array of the stars. The father of all nations was to hope not in an earthly progeny but in a progeny from above.

Let the full number of the nations now take their place in the family of the patriarchs. Let the children of the promise now receive the blessing in the seed of Abraham, the blessing renounced by the children of his flesh. In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not in Judea only, but in the whole world, so that *his name may be great in all Israel*.

Dear friends, now that we have received instruction in this revelation of God's grace, let us celebrate with spiritual joy the day of our first harvesting, of the first calling of the Gentiles. Let us give thanks to the merciful God, *who has made us worthy*, in the words of the Apostle, *to share the position of the saints in light, who has rescued us from the power of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son*. As Isaiah prophesied: *the people of the Gentiles, who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and for those who dwelt in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned*. He spoke of them to the Lord: *The Gentiles, who do not know you, will invoke you, and the peoples, who knew you not, will take refuge in you*.

This is *the day that Abraham saw, and rejoiced to see*, when he knew that the sons born of his faith would be blessed in his seed, that is, in Christ. Believing that he would be the father of the nations, he looked into the future, *giving glory to God, in full awareness that God is able to do what he has promised*.

This is the day that David prophesied in the psalms, when he said: *All the nations that you have brought into being will come and fall down in adoration in your presence, Lord, and glorify your name*. Again, *the Lord has made known his salvation; in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice*.

This came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognize and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ.

Dear friends, you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

From a Sermon by St. Leo the Great, Pope, The Liturgy of the Hours, Vol. 1, Advent and Christmas Season, Catholic Book Publishing Co., NY 1975, pp. 560-561.

**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.



**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.

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 185 gifts worth \$51,011 bringing our parish to 81.23% 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.

Catholic203.com

@catholic_203

A networking group designed for 18 to 35 year olds, both single and married. Scan to see what we are all about.



Veritas
CATHOLIC NETWORK

1350 AM | 103.9 FM

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play



Please remember to support our bulletin advertisers. Make the back 2 pages of this publication your "go to place" for business help. They can only help us if we continue to help them!

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



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.



ELECTRONIC GIVING
is available through our parish website:
www.stthomasnorwalk.org.

Your use of electronic giving saves the parish money and helps keep our volunteers & staff safe.

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday January 26: 12-2PM



**GIVE YOUR
CHILD FUEL FOR
THE FUTURE**

PRE-K 3 TO 8TH GRADE

REGISTER AT ALLSAINTSNORWALK.COM

139 West Rocks Road Norwalk



ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

Lauralton Hall

**Celebrating 120 years
of educating
smart, confident
young women!**

200 High St, Milford | LauraltonHall.org | 203.877.2786

ST. ANN'S CLUB MONDAY NIGHT BINGO

(except holidays)

16 Hendricks Avenue

Doors open at 5:30pm

First game at 6:45pm

Refreshments available to purchase.



THE CATHOLIC ACADEMY
OF STAMFORD
Pre-K - 8th Grade
Academic Excellence
Nurturing Environment
Personalized Learning

Visit us!
Open House
1/26/25
12pm - 2pm



Experience the Difference!
info@CasCt.org

www.CasCt.org

(203) 322-6505

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:

Tim/Debbie 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 Fratloni	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	Mary Chaloupa
Ramona Bouffard	Joan Malkin	Joan Milone	Christine DiCorato		



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