

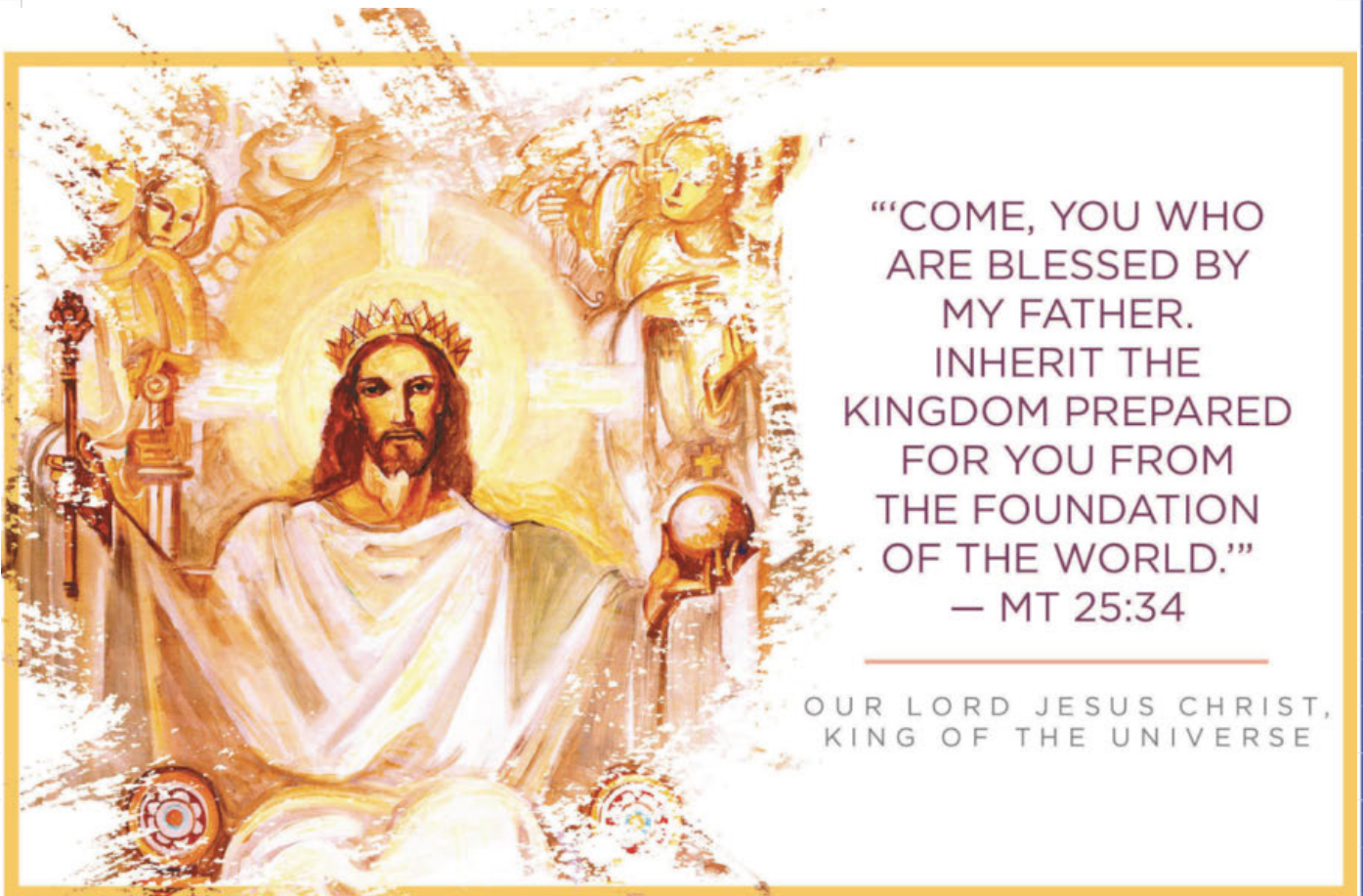


Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

ST. THOMAS

THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

November 26, 2023



“COME, YOU WHO
ARE BLESSED BY
MY FATHER.
INHERIT THE
KINGDOM PREPARED
FOR YOU FROM
THE FOUNDATION
OF THE WORLD.”
— MT 25:34

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

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, November 27

7:00 AM† Robert LeBlanc, Sr. (3rd Anniversary)
5:30 PM† Mariano David

Tuesday, November 28

7:00 AM† Deceased Relatives & Friends of
St. Thomas Parishioners
5:30 PM NO MASS

Wednesday, November 29

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

Thursday, November 30

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

Friday, December 1

7:00 AM Clifford Myers
5:30 PM Mass of Remembrance

Sunday Vigil, Saturday, December 2

5:15 PM† Conrad & Patricia Borgeson

Sunday, December 3

7:30 AM† For Our Parishioners, Living &
Deceased
9:00 AM† John Porada
11:30 AM† Cynthia Higgins
5:00 PM† Henry Simon



The Sanctuary Candle burns
November 26th through December 2nd in
celebration of the 50th Wedding Anniversary
of Maria & Javier Posada.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

December 1st 7:30am to 5:00pm

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord,
and let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.

Please remember in your prayers:

Lynn Zenda

We extend our sympathy to her family & friends.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2023	2022
November 12		
Collection	\$3,747.00	\$5,713.00
On-Line	\$2,450.00	\$2,182.00
Diocesan Assessment	<u>(\$1,506.00)</u>	<u>(\$1,567.00)</u>
Net Retained	<u>\$4,691.00</u>	<u>\$6,328.00</u>
Votives	\$ 170.33	\$ 195.72

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.

CONFESSION IN CHURCH

Every Saturday 4:00pm until 4:30pm
or by appointment

—MASS OF REMEMBRANCE—

The following parishioner has died in the month of November: Lisa Rooney. There will be a special mass for her and all deceased parishioners on **Friday, December 1st at 5:30 p.m.** 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.

Banns of Marriage

III

Madeline Harris & Richard Lewis

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:

stthomasyg1@gmail.com
Elizabeth Squicciarino, Coordinator

Website:

www.stthomasnorwalk.org

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(203) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax

ANNUAL WREATH SALE TO BENEFIT
BOY SCOUT TROOP 222
AFTER ALL MASSES DECEMBER 2nd & 3rd
ONLY \$24.00!

Our Boy Scout Troop will be selling beautiful double sided balsam wreaths, decorated with a red velvet bow and pinecones - door sized \$24.

This is the only fundraiser for the troop. Proceeds are used to offset the costs for the boys' events during the year.

Orders are now being taken!

We will deliver, if requested, and can also deliver Thanksgiving weekend, if needed. Call Gwen at (203) 847-1794, to advance order or email to glupinek@gmail.com with your information and Gwen will take care of your order. Please support our Boy Scout Troop with your purchase! For more information about Boy Scout Troop 222, please go to their web page at troop222nowalk.scoutlander.com.



Student Singers and Instruments wanted for Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Family Mass!

Please contact Music Director, Marge Kelley, if you would like your child to sing in the Christmas Choir (Grades 1-12) and/or play an instrument (Grades 5-12). Rehearsals will take place in the church following the schedule below.

Sign-up options:

- Parents can speak to Marge Kelley after the 5:15 PM, 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM Masses to complete a sign-up sheet and ask questions.
- Complete the online fillable PDF form available on our website homepage or provide the information required in the form and email to stthomasnorwalk@gmail.com typing Christmas Eve Family Mass in the subject line.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE: all rehearsals will take place in St Thomas the Apostle Church *Week*

1 Schedule: Choose one rehearsal; both rehearsals will cover the same music WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29: Youth choir and instrument rehearsal, 4:30-5:15 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30: Youth choir and instrument rehearsal, 4:15-5:00

Week 2 Schedule: Choose your preferred day

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6: Youth choir and instrument rehearsal, 4:30-5:15 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7: Youth choir and instrument rehearsal, 4:15-5:00

Week 3 Schedule: Choose your preferred day

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13: Youth choir and instrument rehearsal, 4:30-5:15 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14: Youth choir instrument rehearsal, 4:15-5:00

DRESS REHEARSAL: Friday, December 22, 3:00-4:00: all instruments and singers

ADDITIONAL OPTION FOR HIGH SCHOOL SINGERS: High school singers may participate at either the Christmas Eve Family Mass on December 24, at 4:00 PM or the Adult Choir Christmas Mass on December 25, at 11:30 AM. Please fill out the youth choir form as directed above. A separate schedule will be provided to parents of students who wish to sing with adult choir. Adult choir rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:00.

DO YOU LIKE TO KNIT OR CROCHET?

Please consider joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Our next meeting is this **Thursday, November 30th, at 7:00pm**, in the Small Meeting Room. If you would like more information please call Vicki Remson at (203) 847-8196, or the Parish Office, or go to our website and click on Parish Life, Ministries.

FROM A HOMILY WRITTEN IN THE SECOND CENTURY

Brethren, we ought to regard Jesus Christ as God and judge of the living and the dead. We should not hold our Savior in low esteem for if we esteem him but little, we may hope to obtain but little from him. Moreover, people who hear these things and think them of small importance commit sin, and we ourselves sin if we do not realize what we have been called from, who has called us, and to what place, and how much suffering Jesus Christ endured on our account.

How then shall we repay him? What fruit can we bear that would be worthy of what he has given us? For how many benefits are we not in his debt! He has enlightened our minds; he has called us sons as a father does; he saved us when we were about to perish. How then shall we praise him, how repay him for his gifts? Spiritually blind, we worshiped stones and pieces of wood, gold and silver and bronze, things made by men, and our whole life was death. Darkness enfolded us, and nothing but gloom met our eyes. Then, by his will, we escaped from the cloud that enveloped us and recovered our sight. For he saw our many errors and the damnation that awaited us, and knowing that apart from him we had no hope of salvation, he pitied us, and in his mercy saved us. He called us when we were not his people and willed us to become his people.

Rejoice, O barren woman who never bore a child; break into shouts of joy, you who never knew a mother's pangs; for the deserted wife shall have more children than she who has a husband. When he says: *Rejoice O barren woman who never bore a child*, he is speaking of us, for our Church was barren until children were given her. When he says: *Break into shouts of joy, you who never knew a mother's pangs*, he means that we should not grow weary like women in labor, but tirelessly and in all simplicity offer our prayers to God. He declares that *the deserted wife shall have more children than she who has a husband*, because faith has now made our people who seemed to have been deserted by God more numerous than those who were thought to possess him.

Another text says: *I have come not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance*, for it is those who are perishing who must be saved. It is a great and wonderful work to uphold those who are falling, rather than those who already stand firm. Christ willed to save people who were in danger of losing their souls, and he has been the salvation of many. When we were on the point of perishing, he came and called us.

The Liturgy of the Hours, Vol. IV, Ordinary Time, Weeks 18-34, *From a Homily Written in the Second Century*, Catholic Book Publishing Co, NY, 1975, pp. 502-504.



Giving Tree

TAKE A TAG & THE SUGGESTION LIST or USE YOUR IMAGINATION!
Please bring your wrapped gifts with tag attached to the church during any regularly scheduled mass **by Sunday, December 10th**. We need time to sort & deliver!!

GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday is a global philanthropic movement that takes place annually on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. Unlike Black Friday and Cyber Monday, *Giving Tuesday* is all about giving back. For this year's *Giving Tuesday*, November 28th, please consider supporting the future of our Catholic church: our seminarians and young adult ministry!

To learn more and make a gift, click on the QR code or visit www.bridgeportdiocese.donorsupport.co/page/GivingTuesday.



Thank you!

Holy Land Bethlehem Artworks December 9th and 10th

Beautiful hand-made olive wood religious articles made by Christian families in Bethlehem and Jerusalem will be available for purchase after all masses. This organization provides assistance to over 100 suffering families each week.

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



**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: troop222.norwalk.scoutlander.com.

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!

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

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ST. ANN'S CLUB MONDAY NIGHT BINGO
(except holidays)
16 Hendricks Avenue
Norwalk
Doors open at 5:30pm First game at 6:45pm
Refreshments available to purchase.

Birthright is in need of gently worn *baby & 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 for more information: (203) 853-4872.

Congratulations to Our Parishioners Who
Will Be Celebrating Their Anniversary!

December 30th 50 Years

Maria & Javier Posada

If you have something to celebrate and would like to share it with your parish family, please contact the office by email or phone. Photo by Sandy Millar on Unsplash

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	Steve C.	Patricia M.
Stefanie Sena	Jim Bogdany	Paul F.	David R.	Lisa Rooney	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.



ELECTRONIC GIVING

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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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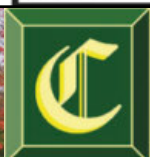
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