



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

ST. THOMAS

THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 19, 2023



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
- Jn 9:35

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

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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, March 20

7:00 AM† Maria Buono
5:30 PM† Hernando Diaz

Tuesday, March 21

7:00 AM† Jonathan Maher
5:30 PM† Janina Stachurska (1st Anniversary)

Wednesday, March 22

7:00 AM† Rory O'Dwyer
5:30 PM† Charlie Charles

Thursday, March 23

7:00 AM† Janina Stachurska (1st Anniversary)
5:30 PM† Virgilio Corea

Friday, March 24

7:00 AM† Alfred Palumbo, Sr.
5:30 PM† Peter Goldner, Jr.
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday Vigil, March 25

5:15 PM† Clare Beggan & Family

Celebrant
Fr. Ralph

Sunday, March 26

7:30 AM† Melanie Fieffe
9:00 AM† Betty Tillinghast
11:30 AM† Annette Festa
5:00 PM† For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased

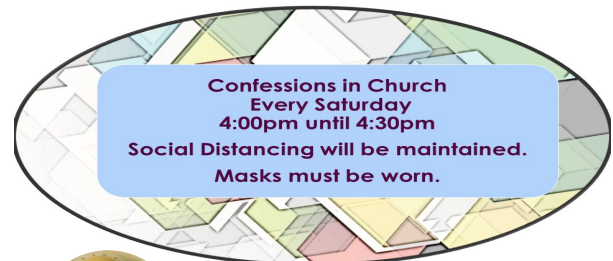
Fr. Ralph
Fr. Ralph
Fr. Mirek
Fr. Mirek

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2023	2022
March 12		
Collection	\$3,475.00	\$4,172.00
On-Line	\$2,338.00	\$2,552.00
Diocesan Assessment	<u>(\$1,567.00)</u>	<u>(\$1,636.00)</u>
Net Retained	<u>\$4,246.00</u>	<u>\$5,088.00</u>
Votives	\$ 141.70	\$ 147.00

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 2023 fiscal year, the annual Cathedralium Assessment is \$81,472. This equates to a weekly payment of \$1,567. This represents an annual decrease of \$3,600.00 from the prior year.



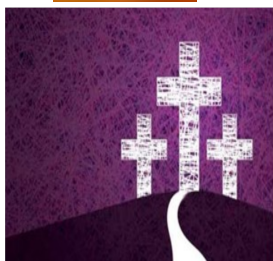
Pray the Rosary in the Church
Monday - Friday: 6:30am
Monday: 7:00pm
Saturday: 4:45pm



The Sanctuary Candle burns
March 12th through March 18th
for Mary Shahhein Dyson.



ADORATION
MONDAY NIGHT
6PM - 8PM



STATIONS OF THE CROSS
7:00PM
EVERY FRIDAY DURING
LENT

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Fast Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. Catholics over the age of 14 years are required to abstain from meat every Friday during Lent. All Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are required by Church law to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Only one full meal is permitted to persons in this age group on this day, plus two lighter meals.

We welcome the newly Baptized into the Parish Family of St. Thomas the Apostle.

Lainey Ford Williams
Congratulations to her parents,
family, & friends!

Rectory:

Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski
Pastor (ext. 12)

Rev. Ralph Segura
Parochial Vicar (ext. 19)

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday 9 - 4
Closed Saturday & Sunday

Rectory Staff:

Cathy Lauder
Parish Secretary (ext. 10)

Finance Chair:

Ulrike Schambeck
(203) 434-6488

Religious Ed Office:

(203) 866-1189
Mary Vladimirov, DRE
stthomasreledoffice@gmail.com

Parish Bookkeeper

Monika Piascik

Facilities:

Tito (Jose) Rivera

Youth Ministry:

stthomasyg1@gmail.com
Elizabeth Squicciarino, Coordinator

Website:

www.stthomasnorwalk.org

Like us on Facebook:

St. Thomas Norwalk

Instagram:

StThomasNorwalk

stthomasnorwalk@optonline.net

(203) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax

Mark your calendar: Holy Week, Wednesday, April 5th, at 6PM, join Fr. Mirek for Soup, Garlic Bread, and a Lenten Presentation: *Pieta through the Ages*. Please join us as we pray and track the Art and Devotion known as a Pieta, telling the story of Blessed Mother's suffering at the Foot of the Cross. R.S.V.P. to the Parish Office by Friday, March 31st, so we order the proper amount of food.

Youth Choir and Orchestra for Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023 at 9:00 AM Family Mass

Rehearsals will begin soon for Youth Choir and Orchestra to prepare to sing and play for Easter Sunday Mass! Students in Grades 1-12 are welcome to participate. All rehearsals will take place in St. Thomas the Apostle Church. The schedule of rehearsals is as follows:

THURSDAY, MARCH 16: Youth Instrument Rehearsal, 4:15-5:00

THURSDAY, MARCH 23: Youth Choir Rehearsal, 4:15-5:00

THURSDAY MARCH 30: Youth Choir and Instruments, 4:15-5:00

*WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5: Youth Choir and Instruments, 4:15-5:00

*The final rehearsal is on a Wednesday because Thursday, April 6 is Holy Thursday.

To sign up to sing or play: you can either speak with Marge Kelley after 5:15, 9:00 or 11:30 Masses or send an email to Marge at the following address: margaretkelley24@gmail.com. typing St. Thomas Youth Choir or Orchestra in the subject line. Please provide your child's name, grade and whether he or she will be singing or playing an instrument. Please let Marge know as soon as possible if your child is participating so that sufficient music is prepared for the rehearsals. Thank you! **NOTE: MARGE WILL SIGN VOLUNTEER HOUR FORMS FOR REHEARSALS AND EASTER MASS FOR ANY STUDENT WHO SINGS OR PLAYS AN INSTRUMENT.**

Room to Grow Preschool

A PROGRAM OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES



"More than just a preschool"

Room to Grow Preschool is a state licensed and nationally accredited facility that provides high quality care and education for children ages 3 to 5 years old. Registration is open to ALL Norwalk residents. Enrollment spots are available on a sliding fee scale based on family income. The center is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Call (203) 831-8200 now to find out how to enroll your child.

CT BISHOPS' CALL TO ACTION:

CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS

CT General Assembly:
Assisted Suicide
Senate Bill 1076

- Insurance companies will benefit from the cost savings—it is much cheaper to offer lethal drugs to patients in lieu of quality, long-term care or expensive life-saving treatment.
- This is not the practice of medicine, and our good doctors should not have to consider this option for their patients. If it were, the standard of care would not be changed for only this procedure.
- Patients should not be left alone at home or elsewhere to ingest untested, lethal drugs without a doctor, nurse, or witness present.
- Instead, policymakers should improve hospice care, palliative care, disability support services, and mental health care.
- The tragic consequences have come true in Canada—in 2021, over 10,000 Canadians died due to lethal prescriptions.
- International news reported the pressures faced by Canadians that took their own lives this way—fear of homelessness and lack of care.
- Suicide contagion is real. 1 in 3 U.S. teenage girls has contemplated suicide. States with assisted suicide laws are associated, on average, with a 6 percent increase in a state's total suicide rate.
- The Alzheimer's Association "deeply regrets" and is ending its relationship with Compassion & Choices.



Your voices and testimony are needed now to stop these bills from becoming law.

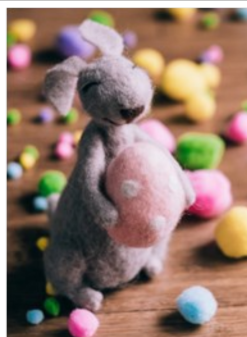
Please Call or Email your State Legislators—**ASK THEM TO STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE.**

For more information and to find your legislators, please go to: ctcatholicpac.org

CALL:

House Democrats: (860) 240-8500
Senate Democrats: (860) 240-8600

House Republicans: (860) 240-8700
Senate Republicans: (860) 240-8800



CANDY WANTED!
The Rel. Ed Dept. is collecting individually wrapped small candies to put in our plastic eggs for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt to be held on Palm Sunday. Please leave your donation in the bin at the Rectory side door in the church by Sunday, March 26th.

Photo by freestocks on Unsplash

Sing the Hallelujah Chorus with St. Thomas the Apostle Church Adult Choir at Easter

Do you enjoy singing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus but do not have the time to commit to be in our adult choir each week? Please consider joining us for either the 8:00 PM Easter Vigil Mass or the 11:30 AM Easter Sunday Mass to sing the Hallelujah Chorus. Only one rehearsal is required to participate on either Wednesday, March 29 OR Wednesday, April 5, both at 7:30 PM.

To sign up to sing: Please send an email to music director, Marge Kelley at the following address: margaretkelley24@gmail.com. Add "St. Thomas, Hallelujah Chorus" in the subject line OR speak with Marge after the 5:15, 9:00 or 11:30 AM Masses. This is open to parishioners age 18 and up and High School Students who currently sing with their school choir.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear St. Thomas Parishioners,

Each year, the Holy Season of Lent is set apart for all the followers of Christ as a source of help and discipline to better ourselves with the difficult task of following Jesus' Gospels. Through fast, prayer, and almsgiving we are encouraged to connect vertically, with Heaven, where our hope and promise is already awaiting us with Christ, that is, an everlasting life, but at the same time we are asked to connect horizontally, with our families, friends, and even total strangers at times, to put our faith in Christ and His Resurrection into practice. The Liturgy of the Word for each consecutive Sunday in Lent is set up in such a way as to form a kind of sequence, with the story of Christ being tempted in the desert on the First Sunday in Lent, then with an incentive to all believers of what is to come during the Transfiguration account during the Second Sunday in Lent. Then, last weekend you might remember, we meditated on the Living Water Jesus offers to the woman of Samaria, and, with this weekend, the healing of a blind man, and the next with the story of Lazarus, we circle through very specific blueprints of Salvation History. On such a journey, speaking literally – the journey of my lent and Yours, when through self - discipline and prayer, we try to experience the healing effects of Metanoia – that is, the conversion of one's heart. Speaking figuratively; the ascent to the Holy Mountain of God, His Holy dwelling, and the Mystery of a New Life thru Resurrection, almost always leads thru the Hills of Calvary, hard labor, a number of disappointments and through an unknown. And for these reasons, Holy Mother Church faithfully gives Her children an appropriate time of preparation for the Wedding Feast of the Paschal Lamb. Let us encourage one another on our journey of faith, to grow always stronger in our faith in pursuit of Life Eternal.

fr. Mervin



Make your Loaves & Fishes donation TODAY!

ONLINE:
Give directly to
Loaves & Fishes at
<https://bit.ly/3DFPqRl>



CHECK BY MAIL:
Make your check payable to
"Catholic Charities".
Mail to:
Catholic Charities
ATT: Finance/L&F Campaign
238 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

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 the completed shawls and to pick up supplies. Our next meeting is this **Thursday, March 23rd, 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 at (203) 866-3141, or go to our website and click on Parish Life, Ministries.

MAGNIFICAT a Ministry to Catholic Women
20th Anniversary Prayer Breakfast
Saturday, April 22nd, 9:30-12:30
\$25.00 per person Reservations required by April 8th
No tickets at the door.
Ethan Allen Hotel~25 Lake Avenue~Danbury CT

Guest speaker, Fran Fraleigh Karpiej, OFS, will share her testimony and lifelong ministry and devotion to God. For more information, please call Carol Flynn 203-775-3875 or email magnificatthmi@gmail.com. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.

One In Christ – The 2023 Bishop's Appeal
Your gifts at work

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 the Diocese of Bridgeport. The challenge is immediate and far-reaching, but the solution is within our reach! Please consider the following options when deciding upon the best way to support the Bishop's Appeal this year:

- Make an automatic monthly recurring gift until you inform the Diocese to adjust or discontinue.
- Make a pledge and spread out your payments over 5 or 10 months
- Check if your employer will match your gift through the Corporate Matching Gift Program
- Contribute a gift of appreciated stocks or securities

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 39 gifts worth \$9,391 bringing our parish to 14.95% of its \$62,800 goal. Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated. Thanks to all who gave or pledged!

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

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

**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

Angel Benefit

AWARDS DINNER AND AUCTION

THE ITALIAN CENTER 1620 NEWFIELD AVE. STAMFORD

April 29, 2023

HONOREES

SISTER SALLY NORCROSS, CND
FATHER SUDHIR DSOUZA
SGT. SAL CALISE
FOUNDATIONS IN EDUCATION
TEACHERS AND STAFF

*Celebrating the past, present and
future of All Saints Catholic School*

VISIT WWW.ALLSAINTSNORWALK.COM FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFO

**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. We have also added buttons for pages at the top of the homepage. **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.**
www.stthomasnorwalk.org



Birthright

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 the Norwalk Chapter for more information: (203) 853-4872.



CONNECTICUT MARCH FOR LIFE

Wednesday, March 22, 2023
Rally – 12:00pm
March – 1:00pm

Connecticut State Capitol
210 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106



Find a bus trip near you



The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring reduced fares for round-trip bus rides from locations throughout Connecticut. Use the QR code or visit rally.co/ct-march-for-life to find buses in your area.



Enter the promo code found at checkout for a discounted price. Discounts are limited and first-come, first-served.

Visit ct.marchforlife.org for more information.

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



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.

