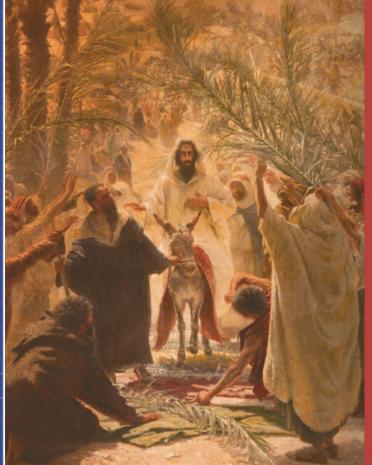
Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935 ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH March 24, 2024



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. - Mk 11:7-8

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

Rev. Ralph Segura, Parochial Administrator 203 East Avenue Norwalk, CT 06855 (203) 866-3141 stthomasnorwalk.org_d

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK		PARISH STEWARDSHIP		
	ly Mass Every Sunday at 9:00AM. on Every Monday 6:00PM - 8:00PM	March 17 Collection	2024 \$4,616.00	2023 \$3,802.00
Daily Mass Monday, March 25 7:00 AM Intention of Bertony G. Brunot 5:30 PM NO MASS Tuesday, March 26 7:00 AM † Rose & Reginald Festa 5:30 PM NO MASS Wednesday, March 27 7:00 AM Intentions of the Michael Sweeney Family Holy Thursday, March 28 7:00 AM NO MASS		On-Line Diocesan Assessmen Net Retained Votives	\$2,730.00 (\$1,506.00) \$5,840.00 \$ 142.61	\$2,370.00 (\$1,567.00) \$4,605.00 \$ 141.70
		Diocesan Assessment The assessment is used to cover the cost of Diocesan operations and schools. The formula is based on <u>all</u> gross receipts. For our 2024 fiscal year, the annual Cathedraticum 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.		
7:30 PM The Supper of the Lord Good Friday, March 29 7:00 AM + NO MASS 3:00 PM Passion of the Lord 5:30 PM + NO MASS 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross		Confession in Church Every Saturday 4:00pm until 4:30pm or by Appointment		
	y, Easter Sunday Vigil, Saturday, March 30 NO MASS Easter Vigil	TH	TIONS IE CRC	SS
<mark>Э</mark>	The Sanctuary Candle burns 1arch 24 th through March 30 th in memory of Elenora L Hans Ergele.		7PM Ebruary 16 & Ch 1, 8, 15, 22	

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

We extend our sympathy to her family & friends.

EASTER FOOD BLESSING 11:00AM HOLY SATURDAY

Rectory: Rev. Ralph Segura Parochial Administrator (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 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 Like us on Facebook: St. Thomas Norwalk Instagram: StThomasNorwalk

stthomasnorwalk@gmail.com

(203) 866-3141

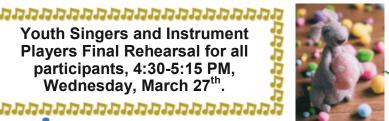
(203) 866-1219 Fax

Youth Singers and Instrument Players Final Rehearsal for all participants, 4:30-5:15 PM, Wednesday, March 27th.

E in Christ

2024 Bishop's Appeal

DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT



Thank you to all who donated candy & goodies for our egg hunt! As always, you really came through for us!!

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. We are currently accepting hams for the Easter Holiday. Please bring them to the Pantry during regular hours on Tuesdays or Saturdays (10am - 11:30am) no later than Tuesday, March 26th. If you can not come during these hours, please call the Pantry at (203) 866-1644. Leave a message and someone will call you back to make arrangements. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY PERISHABLES IN THE DROP BOX. 9oz to 12oz box of cereal 14oz to 18oz peanut butter Paper Towels Shampoo Tooth Paste

Toilet Paper **Facial Tissues** THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE ANSWERED OUR REQUESTS! YOU HAVE REALLY HELPED THE NEEDY IN OUR COMMUNITY.

WHAT IS THE BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD?

The blessing of the Easter foods is a tradition dear to the hearts of every Polish family. Being deeply religious, they are grateful to God for all His gifts of both nature and grace. As a token of this gratitude, they have the food of their table sanctified with the hope that spring, the season of the Resurrection, will also be blessed by God's goodness and mercy. Baskets containing a sampling of Easter foods are brought to church to be blessed on Holy Saturday. The basket is traditionally lined with a white linen or lace napkin and decorated with sprigs of boxwood (bukszpan), the typical Easter evergreen.

- The blessed foods and their symbolic meanings are:
- Egg (pisanka) Symbol of life and rebirth.
- Sausage (kielbasa) or ham All types of pork were forbidden under the dietary code of the Old Testament (Leviticus 11.7). The coming of Christ was seen as exceeding the old law and the dietary items now became acceptable (Mark 7.19).
- Paschal lamb It can be made of butter, cake or even plaster. It is the centerpiece of the meal. Christ is seen as the "Lamb of God."
- Horseradish/pepper Symbolize the bitter herbs of the Passover and the Exodus.
- Salt Joins bread in Polish tradition as a sign of hospitality.
- ◆ Bread Christ has been called "the Bread of Life."
- Vinegar Symbolizes the gall given to Christ at the crucifixion.
- Wine Symbolizes the blood of sacrifice spilled by Christ at the crucifixion.

2024 ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL We have raised 47 gifts worth \$8,810 bringing our parish to 14.03% 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 BishopsAppeal.org, call (203) 416-1470 or scan with your phone.





208 East Avenue Enter Parish Center driveway from Prowitt Street

Entrance is first red door on the right

(203) 318-9817

ST. ANN'S CLUB MONDAY **NIGHT BINGO** (except holidays) 28 **16 Hendricks Avenue** Doors open at 5:30pm

FROM A SERMON BY SAINT ANDREW OF CRETE, BISHOP (ORATIO 9 IN RAMOS PALMARUM: PG 97, 990-994)

Let us go together to meet Christ on the Mount of Olives. Today he returns from Bethany and proceeds of his own free will toward his holy and blessed passion, to consummate the mystery of our salvation. He who came down from heaven to raise us from the depths of sin, to raise us with himself, we are told in Scripture, *above every sovereignty, authority, and power, and every other name that can be named,* now comes of his own free will to make his journey to Jerusalem. He comes without pomp or ostentation. As the psalmist says: *He will not dispute or raise his voice to make it heard in the streets.* He will be meek and humble, and he will make his entry in simplicity.

Let us run to accompany him as he hastens toward Jerusalem, and imitate those who met him then, not by covering his path with garments, olive branches or palms, but by doing all we can to prostrate ourselves before him by being humble and by trying to live as he would wish. Then we shall be able to receive the Word at his coming, and God, whom no limits can contain, will be within us

In his humility Christ entered the dark regions of our fallen world and he is glad that he became so humble for our sake, glad that he came and lived among us and shared in our nature in order to raise us up again to himself. And even though we are told that he has now ascended above the highest heavens—the proof, surely, of his power and godhead—his love for man will never rest until he has raised our earthbound nature from glory to glory, and made it one with his own in heaven.

So let us spread before his feet, not garments or soulless olive branches, which delight the eye for a few hours and then wither, but ourselves, clothed in his grace, or rather, clothed completely in him. We who have been baptized into Christ must ourselves be the garments that we spread before him. Now that the crimson stains of our sins have been washed away in the saving waters of baptism and we have become white as pure wool, let us present the conqueror of death, not with mere branches of palms but with the real rewards of his victory. Let our souls take the place of the welcoming branches as we join today in the children's holy song: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the king of Israel.*

HOLY WEEK THE WEEK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD. JOIN US AS WE WORSHIP

St. Thomas the Apostle Church 203 East Avenue Norwalk, Connecticut 06855 (203) 866–3141 Palm Sunday Weekend,

March 23/24

Confessions: Saturday: 4:00 - 4:30 PM Vigil for Palm Sunday at 5:15 PM Sunday Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM (Family Mass.), 11:30 AM, and 5:00 Pm

Monday, March 25

Mass at 7:00 AM (No 5:30 PM Mass and Adoration) Confession from 3:00pm to 9:00pm at st. Matthew Church

Tuesday, March 26

Mass at 7:00 AM (No 5:30 PM Mass) Confession from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Wednesday, March 27 Mass at 7:00 AM (No 5:50 PM Mass)

Holy Thursday, March 28

No Regularly Scheduled Masses Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 PM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Immediately following until Midnight

Good Friday, March 29

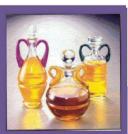
No Regularly Scheduled Masses Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 PM (Main Service) Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM

Holy Saturday, March 30

No Regularly Scheduled Masses Blessing of Easter Food at 11:00 AM The Easter Vigil at 8:00 PM

Easter Sunday, March 31

Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM (Family Mass), and 11:30 AM No 5:00 PM Mass





Chrism Mass rch 28, 2024

Thursday, March 28, 2024 10:00am Saint Augustine Cathedral

399 Washington Avenue Bridgeport



The 2025 MASS BOOK will open on Thursday, April 4th, *from 10am until 1pm.* Only 2 Saturday Vigil or Sunday weekend masses may be booked and no more than 4 Sanctuary Candles until May 12th. No phone or email requests until Friday, April 5th.

BSTINENCE



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.

PRAY For Our Men and Women Serving our Country



EXPERIENCE THE ALL SAINTS DIFFERENCE

Enrolling now for 24-25 - Pre-K to 8th Grade

"You can feel the difference the minute you step through the doors of All Saints. We made the switch last year and haven't looked back."







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: <u>troop222</u> norwalk.scoutlander.com.



© @catholic_203

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



PART-TIME JOB OPENING. BIRTHRIGHT OF GREATER NORWALK NEEDS A NEW DIRECTOR AND ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS. DIRECTOR POSITION WILL BE PAID PART-TIME approximately 12 to 18 hours per week. Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service offering free pregnancy testing, friendship, and practical support. Our guiding principle: It is the RIGHT of every pregnant woman to give BIRTH and the RIGHT of every child to be BORN. Training will be provided at our office located at 71 East Avenue, Suite E, Norwalk by the Birthright Regional Consultant for CT. Call Mary at (860) 328-0464 for more information. Thank you.



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.



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



ST. MARY PARISH DISCIPLES 4 LIFE ADUILT RETREAT

You are invited to be part of St. Mary's Disciples 4 Life Parish Retreat! This personal retreat is open to all adult men and women. Lent is the perfect time to grow more deeply in our faith and get closer to our Lord.

"Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest," Matthew 11:28

The weekend schedule includes talks on spirituality, reconciliation, the Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and quiet time. Make a decision to change your life today!

Friday, April 5 - Sunday April 7

Starts Friday at 7:00 PM and concludes Sunday, after the 5:00 pm Mass in the Church.

Seton-Neumann Center, Danbury, CT

Rooms are single person occupancy, unless specifically requested otherwise.

Please contact Marilyn Kain at kainma56@gmail.com or (203) 994-7808 for more info or with any questions.

Reservations accepted on a first-come, first served basis. Reservations are limited, so don't delay.

------(Tear Here) ------

Please complete the following, include a check for \$150 per person payable to St. Mary Parish, and return to

St. Mary Parish Attn: D4L 55 Catoonah Street Ridgefield, CT 06877

Name:		E-mail Address		
Address:		Phone Number		
City:	State	Zin		

Parish: St. Mary Other:

A confirmation letter with more details will be mailed to you one week before the retreat.

Team members: Dianne Doyle, Paul Janerico, Marilyn & George Kain, Dorian Peckham, Cathy & Tom Savoca, Kip Schibli, Carol Schirm and Lynn Tidgwell.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY April 7, 2024 Please join us at 3:00 pm for an hour of prayer and devotions in Church.



THE LEARNING ACADEMY AT ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH A MILD TO MODERATE LEARNING DISABILITY IN AN ACADEMICALLY RICH AND FAITH-FILLED ENVIRONMENT.



Peace of mind isn't only attainable: it's in your hands. Amen is the free Catholic app that brings you beautiful prayers, faithful meditations and nourishing Scripture to draw your mind, body and soul to rest in God. Go to amenapp.org to get started!

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:

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 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	Patricia M.
Mike D.	Nancy G.	Jackson P.	Holly Sanders	Vinny Massaro	Robert Podlaski
Michelle Vittorio Vinnie McMahon	Elizabeth Malerba Carolyn Hill	Steve C. Bob A.	Stefanie Sena MaryAnn P.	Jim Bogdany Jeff Mallory	Paul Rohan Andy Tao



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.

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.

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.

Reconciliation 4:00 - 4:30 PM Weekdays: By appointment

Saturdays:

- 4:30 PM

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



