



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

ST. THOMAS
THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 29, 2021 Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

**“Hear me, all of you,
and understand.**

**Nothing that enters
one from outside can
defile that person;
but the things that come out
from within are
what defile.”**

Words by God ~ Mark 7: 15
Picture by freenaturestock.com

Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski, Pastor
(203) 866-3141

203 East Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06855

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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

Daily Mass

Monday, August 30

7:00 AM Robert Graf
5:30 PM † Albert Krawiecki

Tuesday, August 31

7:00 AM Intentions of Mr. & Mrs. Brian McHugh & Family
5:30 PM Birthday Blessings for Patrick Maher

Wednesday, September 1

7:00 AM † Josephine, Lisa, & Lou Ferrante
5:30 PM † Thomas Brown (1st Anniversary)

Thursday, September 2

7:00 AM † Genevieve & William Cerutti
5:30 PM † Joan Gardella (2nd Anniversary)

Friday, September 3

7:00 AM In Honor of St. Joseph
5:30 PM † Mass of Remembrance

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil, September 4

5:15 PM † Alan Phelan

Sunday, September 5

7:30 AM †	Deceased & Living Members of the Audet & Perreault Families	Celebrant Fr. Ralph
9:00 AM †	Jeffrey Cutuli	Fr. Ralph
11:30 AM †	Antonietta DiMeglio	Fr. Ralph
5:00 PM †	For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased	Fr. Ralph



*The Sanctuary Candle burns
August 29th through September 4th
for Theresa Presser.*

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

Please remember in your prayers:

Kathleen Hauser

Elfriede Hoepfl

We extend our sympathy to their families & friends.

Celebrant
Fr. Ralph

Fr. Ralph

Fr. Ralph

Fr. Ralph

Fr. Ralph

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

2021 2020

August 22

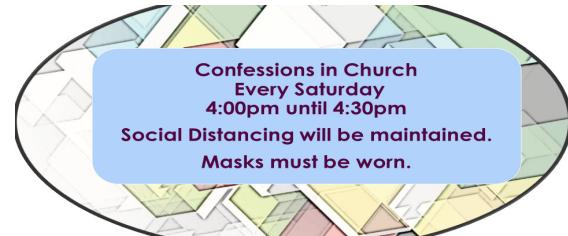
Collection	\$2,740.00	\$4,056.00
On-Line	\$2,538.00	\$2,456.00
Diocesan Assessment	<u>(\$1,636.00)</u>	<u>(\$1,869.00)</u>
Net Retained	<u>\$3,642.00</u>	<u>\$4,643.00</u>
Votives	\$ 90.00	\$ 62.00

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 2022 fiscal year, the annual Cathedricum Assessment is \$85,072. This equates to a weekly payment of \$1,636. This represents an annual decrease of \$4,633.00 from the prior year.

—MASS OF REMEMBRANCE—

The following parishioners have died in the month of August: Felix Peninpede, Fiorinda Palmieri and Jane Schmitt. There will be a special mass for them and for all deceased parishioners on Friday, September 3rd, 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.



The 2022 MASS BOOK is now open. Restrictions end Wednesday, September 1st. Phone or email requests may be made.



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION
September 3rd, 7:30am to 5:00pm

Rectory:

Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski
Pastor

Rev. Ralph Segura
Parochial Vicar

Office Hours:

Appointments 10-3 Monday through Thursday & Friday 10-12
Closed Saturday & Sunday

Rectory Staff:

Catherine Mulvehill
Business Manager

Cathy Lauder
Parish Secretary

Finance Chair:

Ulrike Schambeck
(203) 434-6488

Religious Ed Office:

(203) 866-1189
Michelle O'Mara, DRE
ssthomasnorwalkreled@gmail.com

Mary Vladimirov, Secretary
General Office Email
ssthomasreledooffice@gmail.com

Facilities:
Tito (Jose) Rivera

R.I.S.E. Youth Ministry:

sthomasyyg@gmail.com

Website:

www.ssthomasnorwalk.org

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(203) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax

Bible Study with Kevin Knight Resumes
with a Book Discussion
Friday, September 24th at 7:00pm in the
Monsignor Toomey Room

We will be discussing the book 'Learning to Pray' by Father James Martin. "A smart, wise, often side-splittingly funny master class in seeking God. Any spiritual seeker - from atheist to professional religious - will cherish this bravura tome from one of our great spiritual guides, in the lineage of C. S. Lewis, Henri Nouwen, Thomas Merton, Gandhi, and Mother Teresa. Hallelujah & amen!"

ALL ARE WELCOME!!



Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries

All those celebrating 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, or 50+ anniversary are invited to gather at St. Matthew's parish on Saturday, September 25, at either 10:30 am or 1:00 pm for a Mass celebrated by Bishop Caggiano. Space is limited to four guests.

To register, please email the first name of both bride and groom, your email, and your wedding date to weddingjubilee@diobpt.org or call Barbara at (203) 416-1641.

Please check the parish website for the latest updates to traffic on East Avenue & the surrounding area. We will post all announcements given to us as they are received.

**LABOR DAY
MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 6th**

All Parish Offices are Closed

One Mass - 9:00am

No Monday Night

Adoration

Enjoy the last unofficial day of summer!!



We still have Masses & Candles available for 2021. Please call or email the office to reserve your masses and candles.



2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

We have raised 164 gifts worth \$41,873 bringing our parish to 66.68% of its \$62,800 goal. Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all who have already given or pledged!

**DO YOU LIKE TO KNIT OR CROCHET?
OUR PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY IS BACK!!**

Please consider joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry. We supply the materials - you supply the Love!! We meet once a month (usually on a Thursday) for about an hour to pray over the completed shawls and to pick up supplies. Our next meeting is Thursday, September 9th, at 7:00pm, in the Small Meeting Room of the Parish Center. 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.



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

REFLECTION FROM FR. RALPH

It is quite evident that in the Old Testament God gave the Israelite people a way of life consisting of specifics for worship and acts of charity. In fact, there are 613 commandments in total involving worship, domestic issues, legal matters, interaction with converts, as well as moral conduct. So, the question remains, why is it in this Gospel for this weekend Jesus teaches what seems to be in opposition to what the Israelite people were doing when He preached?

With this question in mind, we find ourselves asking another: why did the Jewish faith have to change at all if God revealed it to them in the first place? With more careful consideration, what I have proposed is actually the wrong question. The more proper consideration involves what was old and is now new. The answer to all of the above can be found in the revelation that developed in both the Old and New Testaments overall, especially in regard to the prophetic books and the Gospels. The short answer is that, overtime, what God sought to do was prepare a people through whom the promised Messiah would come.

Now, this is quite extensive and involved, but generally speaking, we can see that the Old Testament and New Testament consist of a journey, a movement, through time, through history, a calling forth, if you will, that involves promise and fulfillment. At first, there are signs of this in the most obvious way. So, for example, God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, and he was. God promised the people that He would lead them to a promise land, and He did.

Then there is what we know as “prefiguration”. For example, the crossing of the Red Sea prefigures baptism, the Manna in the desert prefigures the eucharist, and any sacrifice offered prior to the coming of Christ prefigured the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. In fact, water, blood, wheat, and wine, all of which are presented throughout the Old Testament were elements that we now know have their highest possible purpose and fullest meaning in the great Plan of Salvation.

But then there are more subtle or “hidden” ways that God slowly revealed His will over time. For example, we can consider certain figures and realities that are only fulfilled in Jesus Christ. There is, in the Old Testament, what is known as a “type”. A shepherd is a “type,” a king is a “type,” or even Moses as the “lawgiver” is a “type,” and when Jesus came, He revealed the ultimate fullness of a king, shepherd, and lawgiver. Further, Jesus is the fullness of any type in The Old Testament not only because of what He said and did, but because He actually is the king, shepherd, lawgiver, and bridegroom of the Church, the entire human family, the world, and creation itself.

This can be said in the same regard to certain values and qualities, such as wisdom, truth, virtue, and love. According to the teaching of the Church, Jesus was not only wise, loving or virtuous; Jesus is not only the very source of all that is of the highest possible order, but the very thing itself - Jesus is wisdom, love, and virtue itself. Finally, as we make our way through the prophetic books, especially in the chronological order that they appeared in history (not as they are presented in the Bible), the promised Messiah and the revelation of God’s will is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Finally, we must be very careful of what we think of the Israelite leaders and people. We must remind ourselves that the pharisees, scribes, and elders were devout Israelites, and Jesus too, observed every aspect of the Law of Moses perfectly. It’s just that the time came for a New Covenant and the New law, that is, the Law of Grace, and many of the Israelite people either rejected Jesus, or did not understand His mission. As St. Paul tells the first gentile converts regarding the Jewish people (and this holds for us today): “if God did not spare the natural branches (the Jews), He may not spare you either.” (Rom 11:21, interpolation mine)

So, let us be grateful that we have come to know the mystery of salvation, for all those who, throughout the ages and even in our day, gave and give the martyrs blood sacrifice, what we enjoy through the ministry of the Church, the scriptures and her tradition, the saints and spiritual masters, the devotions we observe and the prayers we say, and of course, what the Church teaches, keeping in mind what the apostle James tells us: “*Dearest brothers and sisters: All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change. He willed to give us birth by the word of truth that we may be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls.*”

Father Ralph

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.

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
PO2 Edward Skeen, US Navy
Sgt. Jesse Skeen, US Army
Ens. Jessica Remson, US Navy
Spc. Daniel Gonzales, US Army
MIDN 4/C Tatiana V. Arias, US Navy
PFC Matthew Montanez, US Army

Trustees:
Robert Lametta
Christopher Jarboe

Finance Council:
Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski
Bill Austin
Hugh Gartland
Thomas Gorzkowski
Linda O'Shaughnessy
Ulrike Schambeck
Marge Simon

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
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Hours
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Tuesdays & Thursdays
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Saturdays
Call to schedule your donation drop-off appointment.

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. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

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Starting September 26th • Sundays 10:15 - 11:30 • Ages 4-6
email: stthomasreledoffice@gmail.com or 203-866-1189



St. Thomas the Apostle
Catholic Formation • Norwalk, CT

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is now open for all Kindergarten - 8th Grade/ Confirmation Students!!

An email link was sent to all previously enrolled students by Religious Formation. Please fill in one form for each child to be enrolled as soon as possible so that we can plan our classroom & catechist needs. *If you are new to the parish or have a child entering the 1st grade, please email Michelle or Mary at stthomasreledoffice@gmail.com for a registration link or go to our website homepage. Kindergarten is a new optional program with no fees.*

Payment is due in full by September 30th through the online giving link provided.

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Mrs. Denise Vuoso, Director of Admissions admissions@ascsc.net



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SACRAMENTS

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday: 10:00am to 3:00pm Friday: 10:00am to 12 Noon

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.

Baptisms or Weddings

Please call the Rectory during regular weekday business hours for more information or to make arrangements. 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 Paglano	Jim Sweet	Debbie Reddock	James Amrich	Theresa Buono	Walter Cortese
Pearl Futo	Lou Marcario	Jill Bowman	Emily Calabrese	Anne Edwards	Linda Lima
Mike	Robert Parmalee	Mike Torres	Marie Silver	Grace DeMilo	Linda Spero
Terry Rooney	Constance Williams	Skip Bossone	Jeanette Ralston	Tony Cappuccia	Merina Deluc
Gary Livia	Peggy McDonald	Kimberly Frataloni	Rick Azillo	Jeannetta Torres	Pam Simso
Julia Cade	Marianne Schambeck	Michael Walsh	Richard Berg	Diane Turek	George Travers
Jeannie Maxwell	Michele Mola-Gulemi	Richard Barton	Antonio Vescio	Jackie Hamilton	Phil Tavella, Jr.
Vicki	Betty Lou Heffernan	Cathy Sinica	Kathleen Ford	Chuck Scott	Hamilton Family
Kathleen Dominick	Chris Rohleder	Joan Kennedy	Joanna Marvin	Ken Schulman	Chuck Corbo
Janina Stachurski	Donny Cassavechia	Gordon R.	Vinny Massaro	Wayne Embry, Jr.	John Lima
Anthony Bruno	Jack Cade	Joe M.	Greg N.	Pete L.	Nancy G.

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



Birthright

Birthright is in need of gently worn **baby and maternity clothing**. Please call to arrange for a drop off.

Birthright is also in need of 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



ELECTRONIC GIVING
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www.stthomasnorwalk.org.

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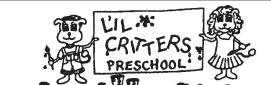
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