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ST. THOMAS

THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday of Lent

He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money-changers seated there.



Words by God ~ John 2: 14-15
Painting by James Tissot:
The Merchants Chased from the Temple

He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area.

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, March 8

- 7:00 AM † Rev. Edward A. Colohan
5:30 PM † Linda McCallum

Tuesday, March 9

- 7:00 AM † Luz Hidalgo
5:30 PM † Teresa Passarelli

Wednesday, March 10

- 7:00 AM † Alfred Mennino
5:30 PM † Louis Caruso

Thursday, March 11

- 7:00 AM † Lena Costello
5:30 PM † Living & Deceased Members of the Smith & Krawiecki Families

Friday, March 12

- 7:00 AM † Stephen Schlitt
5:30 PM Intentions of President Biden & Vice-President Harris
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil, March 13

- 5:15 PM † Grace Gillespie

Sunday, March 14

- 7:30 AM † Joseph (Skip) Armato
9:00 AM † Mary Malagisi
11:30 AM † Elizabeth Resasco
5:00 PM † For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased

Celebrant

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



*The Sanctuary Candle burns
March 7th through March 13th
for Linda Montana Silva.*

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

Please remember in your prayers:

Patrick Padula

We extend our sympathy to his family & friends.

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

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2021	2020
February 28		
Collection	\$4,887.00	\$4,415.27
On-Line	\$2,463.00	\$2,460.17
Diocesan Assessment	<u>(\$1,869.00)</u>	<u>(\$1,867.00)</u>
Net Retained	<u>\$5,481.00</u>	<u>\$5,008.44</u>
Votives	\$ 135.00	\$ 207.20

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 2021 fiscal year, the annual Cathedratum Assessment is \$89,705. This equates to a weekly payment of \$1,869. This represents an annual increase of \$104.00 from the prior year.



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



The 2021 MASS BOOK is open. All restrictions are now lifted. Please call or email the office to reserve your masses and candles for 2021.

F AST AND ABSTINENCE

Ash 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.



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour next Saturday night before bed.
Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 14th.

Religious Ed Office:

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

Kathryn Grieco, Secretary
General Office Email
ssthomasreledooffice@gmail.com

Facilities:

Tito (Jose) Rivera

R.I.S.E. Youth Ministry:

sthomasyyg@gmail.com

Website:

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(203) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax

LENTEN SEASON EVENTS

Help Stop State Sponsored Suicide

Politicians in Hartford are again considering assisted suicide legislation. The Public Health Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly is considering legalizing a form of suicide in our state commonly referred to as "aid-in-dying" or "physician-assisted suicide". The Committee has raised *House Bill 6425 "An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients"*.

Modern hospice care and the proper use of pain medications render suicide unnecessary, and we need to be mindful of the threat that a suicide mentality poses to vulnerable people and to people with disabilities.

Many people believe that a physician is deeply involved in this process. This is not true. The physician orders the mixture of medications, the patient must then consume the deadly cocktail of drugs without assistance. Many times without even a physician or nurse present.

We should never allow legislators to establish suicide as a solution to medical issues. Don't let the state persuade us that it's dignified for an ill person to sign their own execution order. Don't let the state create an environment where ill people will feel they have a "responsibility to die".

Catholic teaching condemns physician-assisted suicide because it, like murder, involves taking an innocent human life:

*Suicide is always as morally objectionable as murder. The Church's tradition has always rejected it as a gravely evil choice: To concur with the intention of another person to commit suicide and to help in carrying it out through so-called "assisted suicide" means to cooperate in, and at times to be the actual perpetrator of, an injustice which can never be excused, even if it is requested. Saint Augustine writes that "it is never licit to kill another: even if he should wish it." True "compassion" leads to sharing another's pain; it does not kill the person whose suffering we cannot bear. (John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life*, no. 66).*

TAKE ACTION:

Go to the website below, read more on the issue and then sign the petition to stop the legalization of assisted suicide in Connecticut

www.ctstopsuicide.org

Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference

Wednesday Evening Bible Study Is Back!

Join Fr. Mirek in the study of the formation of the Apostolic Church described in the Acts of the Apostles by Saint Luke. Our sessions will take place during Wednesdays of March, at 7PM. In order to comply with social distancing and COVID-19 safety guidelines, we will meet in the Gym of the Parish Center. You are kindly asked to park behind the old St. Thomas School and access thru the glass door. Study materials on the Acts of the Apostles will be provided. Hope many of you will join us!

The Mystery of the Shroud of Turin Wednesday of Holy Week, March 31 6PM

One of many ways to better prepare to celebrate Holy Week and Easter, is to learn more about Christ Jesus and to pray more. Therefore, you are cordially invited to join us for a workshop on the Mystery of the Shroud of Turin – the Silent Witness of the Resurrection. We will talk, discuss, reflect, and pray about all the mysteries surrounding the Shroud of Turin. All that, as we share a Lenten bowl of Lentil Soup with garlic bread. Please come and pray with us! In order to comply with social distancing and COVID-19 safety guidelines, we will meet in the Gym of the Parish Center. Please park behind the old St. Thomas School and access through the glass door. Please call the office to let us know you will be there so that we will have the proper amount of food. Hope to see you there!

Jesus Meets Aristotle Lecture and Dinner is Back! This time with St. Patrick's Day dinner! Thursday, March 18, at 6PM

We are very happy to welcome all of you to a Philosophy lecture and dinner again. The topic of our reflection will be: *What could we learn about Marxism and Leninism from "Animal Farm" by George Orwell and from "Master and Margarita" by Mikhail Bulgakov?* Please join us for a safe, socially distanced St. Patrick dinner. A traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner will be served at 6PM and our lecture will begin at about 6:30PM in the Gym of our Parish Center. Please park behind the old St. Thomas School and access through the glass door. We will serve wine, beer and soft drinks and, if you prefer something more traditional with St. Patrick's Dinner, please feel free to BYOB. Please call the office to let us know you will be there so that we will have the proper amount of food. Hope to see many of you!

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear St. Thomas Parishioners,

The Third Sunday in Lent seems to be the one I can relate to, for some reason, year after year. It happens that it often falls during a very busy time for our parish operations; and I am so very happy we are busy. Even with the pandemic restrictions this year, in addition to all of our regular liturgies and activities, I am looking forward to our Confirmation Classes with this year's Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation. After our last class, to which almost a 100% of students came in person, I am very hopeful that our young men and women will take to heart the importance and grace associated with such a joyful Sacrament. My friends, it is a fantastic group of 8th Graders, and I hope as we prepare them for the Sacrament of Confirmation this Fall, we will have a beautiful group of Disciples for Christ going out into the World and being witnesses to Christ's Love and His Gospel.

Our Liturgy of the Word bring us the story of Moses and His people receiving the tablets with God's Law; the Ten Commandments. For almost 3,500 years that awesome Law given to us by the Almighty governs generations of people of faith. In its essence, the Ten Commandments help us to be better persons; they might seem to be very restrictive, but think about it; Jesus speaks to us so eloquently; it's not what's external that makes us unclean, the most important aspect is what is being born in the human heart; and the outcome of it. In other words, every decision I make will determine either whether I choose to stay good and to be connected to God's sanctifying grace, or to sin and therefore jeopardize my eternal salvation. That's where the Ten Commandments could do us a great service; to be our guide, to control in us what needs to be controlled, to challenge us to be better a person every day. Today, more than ever, we need to fight back against the idea that the Ten Commandments are merely 10 suggestions. The blurred lines distorting the very fiber of our families, local community, and society in general, did not just appear out of the blue. It is a longer process of watering down our morals, our justice, our sense of right from wrong. We can remedy such a dangerous downward spiral by standing up to it with a strong expression our beliefs, letting our faith show forth; after all, we do have a great example to follow in Jesus from today's Gospel, as He cleanses His own Temple in Jerusalem.

Fr. M. Voszka

S

We have added an additional YouTube channel that is connected to the camera in our Parish Center Gym. Simply go to our parish website homepage (<https://stthomasnorwalk.org/>), scroll down to the 'S' with the blue background and follow the directions. The church YouTube link is also on the homepage as an 'S' with a purple background.



Birthright

Birthright is in need of gently worn **maternity and baby clothing**. Please call (203) 853-4872 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

- ♥
- ♥ Planning a wedding? Congratulations!!
- ♥ Call the office to secure your date. We are having ceremonies with all current COVID guidelines in place. We also live-stream your ceremony for those who can't be with you or don't feel comfortable with participating in person. **You need to contact the office at least 9 months prior to your chosen date.**
- ♥

The Food Pantry is open

Saturday From 10 AM to Noon.

Donations are now being accepted during regular hours or leave in the entrances of the church.

Questions? Call them at
(203) 866-1644



PRAY For Our Men and Women Serving our Country

Cdr. Dan Caldwell, US Navy
Theresa Cole, US Marine Corps
Mike Lupinacci, US Marine Corps
LCDR James Lyons, US Navy
CW5 Sgt. Douglas Ortiz, Jr., US Army
Sfc. Ramil Penserga, US Army
LCDR Scott C. Pennoyer, US Navy
Pfc. Connor Reinsch, US Marine Corps
Maj. Brian Remson, US Army
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

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

At this time, Michelle O'Mara, DRE,
is available by appointment only.
Please email Michelle at
stthomasnorwalkreled@gmail.com
to arrange the meeting.

REMOTE RELIGIOUS FORMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

Sunday
Grade 1: 10:15-11:30 am
Monday
Grade 2: 4:15-5:15 pm
Grade 3: 5:15-6:15 pm
Grade 4: 6:15-7:15 pm
Tuesday
Grade 7: 6:15-7:30 pm
Wednesday
Grade 5: 6:15-7:15 pm
Grade 6: 5:15-6:15 pm

CHILDREN'S BULLETIN ON OUR WEBSITE

Go to the Bulletin tab on the menu
bar for a printable PDF children's
bulletin.

www.stthomasnorwalk.org.

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



Pray the Rosary in the
Church!

Monday - Friday:

6:30am

Monday: 7:00pm

Saturday: 4:45pm



Trustees:
Robert Lametta
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Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski
Bill Austin
Hugh Gartland
Thomas Gorzkowski
Linda O'Shaughnessy
Ulrike Schambeck
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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**
is currently closed
and not accepting
donations at this
time.

**St. Vincent
de Paul
Food Pantry:**
(203) 866-1644

HOURS
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Saturdays Only

**Birthright of
Norwalk:**
(203) 853-4872

**Catholic
Charities:**
(203) 416-1307

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



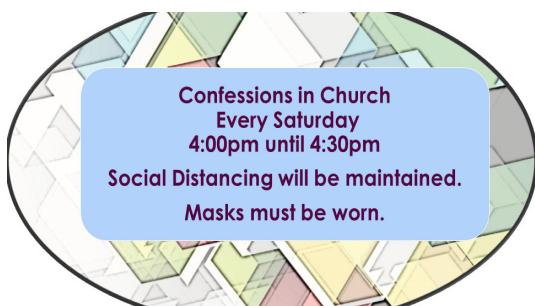
DID YOU KNOW....you must complete your Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation) in order to be a sponsor for Baptism & Confirmation? Do you, or someone you know, want to join the Catholic church? Then the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) program is for you! Just call the Faith Formation Office at (203) 866-1189 for more information.

PARTICIPANTS 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	Carol Smyth	Karen Miller	Debbie Reddock	Theresa Buono	Walter Cortese	James Amrich
Pearl Futo	Jim Sweet	Lou Marcario	Jill Bowman	Anne Edwards	Linda Lima	Emily Calabrese
Lynn Lockwood	Ken Pelzolt	Robert Parmalee	Carol Vallee	Grace DeMilo	Linda Spero	Marie Silver
Terry Rooney	Skip Bossone	Mike Torres	Constance Williams	Tony Cappuccia	Irene Brennan	Jeanette Ralston
Gary Livia	Kimberly Frataloni	Peggy McDonald	Lorraine Magazeno	Jeannetta Torres	Pam Simso	Rick Azillo
Julia Cade	Michael Walsh	Marianne Schambeck	Merina Deluc	Voroschak Family	George Travers	Helga Garnett
Jeannie Maxwell	Richard Barton	Michele Mola-Gulemi	Betty Lou Heffernan	Jackie Hamilton	Rich Seekamp	Antonio Vescio
Trisha Jackson	Cathy Sinica	Diane Turek	Richard Berg	Chuck Scott	Hamilton Family	Kathleen Ford
Vicki	Joan Kennedy	Chris Rohleder	Phil Tavella, Jr.	Ken Schulman	Chuck Corbo	Joanna Marvin



ELECTRONIC GIVING
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