



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

# ST. THOMAS

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## THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

May 28, 2023



## PENTECOST SUNDAY

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." - Jn 20:21

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

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Rev. Mirosław 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

#### Memorial Day, Monday, May 29

7:00 AM† For Our Deceased Veterans  
5:30 PM† No Mass, No Adoration

#### Tuesday, May 30

7:00 AM† Ann Teinert  
5:30 PM† Cecilia David

#### Wednesday, May 31

7:00 AM† Sean Honohan  
5:30 PM† Sr. Mary Gillian

#### Thursday, June 1

7:00 AM† In Celebration of Patrick & Maura Maher's  
38<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
5:30 PM† Andrew Cianciullo

#### Friday, June 2

7:00 AM NO MASS  
5:30 PM† Mass of Remembrance

#### Sunday Vigil, Saturday, June 3

5:15 PM† Antonia Codipietro

#### Celebrant

Fr. Mirek

#### Sunday, June 4

7:30 AM† Henry Simon Fr. Mirek  
9:00 AM† For Our Parishioners, Living &  
Deceased Fr. Mirek  
11:30 AM† Victoria Ann Buono Fr. Mirek  
5:00 PM† Bob Benzinger Fr. Mirek



*The Sanctuary Candle burns  
May 28<sup>th</sup> through June 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Intention  
of the Lage Family.*

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

Please remember in your prayers:

James Sweet Jean Speranza Stephen Baynes  
Donna Gustafson Miller

We extend our sympathy to their families & friends.



May is the Month of Mary!!  
Pray the Rosary at home & in the Church  
Monday - Friday: 6:30am  
Monday: 7:00pm Saturday: 4:45pm

#### 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  
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

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stthomasnorwalk@optonline.net

(203) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2023	2022
<b>May 21</b>		
Collection	\$4,025.00	\$3,126.00
On-Line	\$2,386.00	\$2,435.00
Diocesan Assessment	(\$1,567.00)	(\$1,636.00)
Net Retained	<u>\$4,844.00</u>	<u>\$3,925.00</u>
Votives	\$ 146.50	\$ 148.00
<b>Catholic Communication Campaign</b>		
Collection	\$ 802.00	\$ 578.00
On-Line	\$ 83.00	\$ 180.00
Total	<u>\$ 885.00</u>	<u>\$ 758.00</u>
<b>Ascension Thursday</b>		
Collection	\$ 619.00	\$1,170.00
On-Line	\$ 155.00	\$ 508.00
Total	<u>\$ 774.00</u>	<u>\$1,678.00</u>

#### 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 Cathedralicum 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.

Are you entering  
Kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> Grade?

Then, now's the time to start your religious education, too. Please contact the Religious Formation Office for more information or go to our website for a link to our registration page. Classes are on Sundays starting in September. Kindergarten is not required but serves as an introduction and is free to all.

Phone: (203) 866-1189

Email: stthomasreledoffice@gmail.com

#### —MASS OF REMEMBRANCE—

There will be a special mass for all deceased parishioners on **Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 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.

Upon the recommendation of Bishop Caggiano, St. Thomas the Apostle will implement the following changes as of June 1, 2023:

1. The parish office hours will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9am to 4pm. The office will be closed on Wednesdays.
2. All weekday masses that are already booked will be celebrated accordingly, however, no new masses will be booked for June and July. This will enable our parish to have only one full-time priest beginning in the early part of the new year.
3. Therefore, starting June 1<sup>st</sup> the weekly mass schedule will be posted at the entrances to the church, in the bulletin, and on our website. All these changes are already on our website parish calendar.
4. Beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>, the weekday Mass schedule will be as follows:

Monday:	7:00am	5:30pm
Tuesday:	7:00am	NO 5:30pm The church will be closed at 4:00pm
Wednesday:	NO MASSES	The church will be open from 9 to 4 for private prayer
Thursday:	NO 7:00am	5:30pm The church will be opened at 9:00am for private prayer
Friday:	7:00am	5:30pm

If you have a scheduled Mass for a time when Mass will not be celebrated, someone from the office will be calling you to reschedule that Mass.

Thank you for your patience during this transition.

## Help Wanted

Our Food Pantry is in need of volunteers. We especially need Spanish speaking people to assist with our Spanish community. If you are interested, Please call the Food Pantry at (203) 866-1644. If no one answers, please leave a message. We will call you back!

### 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! To make a gift, or for more information, please visit us at [2023BishopsAppeal.org](http://2023BishopsAppeal.org), call (203) 416-1470 or scan with your phone.

*We have raised 110 gifts worth \$30,965 bringing our parish to 49.31% of its \$62,800 goal. Thanks to all who have participated!*



The Parish Offices will be closed Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, in honor of Memorial Day. The Thrift Store & Food Pantry will also be closed on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be 1 Mass at 7:00am. No 5:30pm Mass or Adoration.

*Did you know? Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time. PLEASE SAY A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO DIED IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY! GOD BLESS AMERICA!!*

## The First Memorial Day?

Memorial Day was born out of necessity. After the American Civil War, a battered United States was faced with the task of burying and honoring the 600,000 to 800,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who had died in the single bloodiest military conflict in American history. The first national commemoration of Memorial Day was held in Arlington National Cemetery on May 30, 1868, where both Union and Confederate soldiers are buried.

Several towns and cities across America claim to have observed their own earlier versions of Memorial Day or “Decoration Day” as early as 1866. (The earlier name is derived from the fact that decorating graves was and remains a central activity of Memorial Day.) But it wasn’t until a remarkable discovery in a dusty Harvard University archive in the late 1990s that historians learned about a Memorial Day commemoration organized by a group of Black people freed from enslavement less than a month after the Confederacy surrendered in 1865.

Back in 1996, David Blight, a professor of American History at Yale University, was researching a book on the Civil War when he had one of those once-in-a-career eureka moments. A curator at Harvard’s Houghton Library asked if he wanted to look through two boxes of unsorted material from Union veterans.

“There was a file labeled ‘First Decoration Day’,” remembers Blight, still amazed at his good fortune. “And inside, on a piece of cardboard, was a narrative handwritten by an old veteran, plus a date referencing an article in The New York Tribune. That narrative told the essence of the story that I ended up telling in my book, of this march on the racetrack in 1865.”

The racetrack in question was the Washington Race Course and Jockey Club in Charleston, South Carolina. In the late stages of the Civil War, the Confederate army transformed the formerly posh country club into a makeshift prison for Union captives. More than 260 Union soldiers died from disease and exposure while being held in the racetrack’s open-air infield. Their bodies were hastily buried in a mass grave behind the grandstands.

When Charleston fell and Confederate troops evacuated the badly damaged city, those freed from enslavement remained. One of the first things those emancipated men and women did was to give the fallen Union prisoners a proper burial. They exhumed the mass grave and reinterred the bodies in a new cemetery with a tall, whitewashed fence inscribed with the words: “Martyrs of the Race Course”.

And then on May 1, 1865, something even more extraordinary happened. According to two reports that Blight found in The New York Tribune and The Charleston Courier, a crowd of 10,000 people, mostly freed slaves with some white missionaries, staged a parade around the racetrack. Three thousand Black schoolchildren carried bouquets of flowers and sang “John Brown’s Body.” Members of the famed 54th Massachusetts and other Black Union regiments were in attendance and performed double-time marches. Black ministers recited verses from the Bible.

If the news reports are accurate, the 1865 gathering at the Charleston racetrack would be the earliest Memorial Day commemoration on record. Blight excitedly called the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture at the College of Charleston, looking for more information on the historic event. “I’ve never heard of it,” they told me,” says Blight. “This never happened.” But it was clear from the newspaper reports that a Memorial Day observance was organized by freed slaves in Charleston at least a year before other U.S. cities and three years before the first national observance. How had this been lost to history for over a century? “This was a story that had really been suppressed both in the local memory and certainly the national memory,” says Blight. “But nobody who had witnessed it could ever have forgotten it.”

Blight kept digging for more information, but the only other mention he found of the racetrack event was in a 1916 correspondence sent from a women’s Civil War historical society in New Orleans to its sister chapter in Charleston, asking about a big parade of freed slaves on a horse track at the end of the war. “I regret that I was unable to gather any official information in answer to this,” wrote the Charleston society’s president. “That’s such a telling statement,” says Blight. “The woman who wrote that letter may not have known about it, but the fact that she didn’t, tells the story.”

In time, the old horse track and country club were torn down, and thanks to a gift from a wealthy Northern patron, the Union soldiers’ graves were moved from the humble, white-fenced graveyard in Charleston to the Beaufort National Cemetery. By the time Blight was rummaging through the Harvard archives in 1996, the story of the first Memorial Day had been entirely forgotten. Or perhaps not entirely.

After his book *Race and Reunion* was published in 2001, Blight gave a talk about Memorial Day at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, and after it was finished, an older Black woman approached him.

“You mean that story is true?” the woman asked Blight. “I grew up in Charleston, and my granddaddy used to tell us this story of a parade at the old racetrack, and we never knew whether to believe him or not. You mean that’s true?”

For Blight, it’s less important whether the 1865 commemoration of the “Martyrs of the Race Course” is officially recognized as the first Memorial Day. “It’s the fact that this occurred in Charleston at a cemetery site for the Union dead in a city where the Civil war had begun,” says Blight, “and that it was organized and done by African American former slaves is what gives it such poignancy.” BY: DAVE ROOS <https://www.history.com/news/memorial-day-civil-war-slavery-charleston>



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 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

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 Christopher Jarboe

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 Bill Austin  
 Hugh Gartland  
 Linda O'Shaughnessy  
 Ulrike Schambeck

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 Tom Donaher  
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 Glenn Iannaccone  
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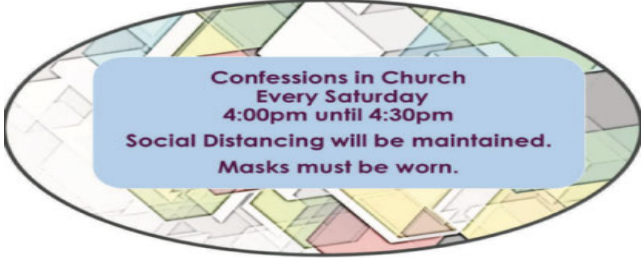
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 (203) 416-1307

**High School Youth Group**  
 Our Youth Group will be meeting in the Parish Center Loft on next Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30pm - 6:00pm. The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month will be an organizational meeting to plan the month's event. If you would like more information or want to be added to the Youth Group email list please contact Elizabeth Squicciarino, our Youth Group Coordinator, at stthomasyl@gmail.com.  
**ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME & BRING YOUR FRIENDS.**

**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](http://www.stthomasnorwalk.org)



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## 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](mailto: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 <sup>st</sup> Sgt. Joe Toscano (Ret.)	Joan Kennedy	Chuck Scott	John Lima	Denise Cassin
Dawn Grover	Josephine Mola Buckley	Nancy G.	Joanna Marvin	Ken Schulman	Holly Sanders
Vinny Massaro	Elizabeth Malerba	Alessandro Fornara	Jim Charest	Frank Longo	Mike D.
Stefanie Sena	Jim Bogdany	Paul F.	David R.	Steve C.	Patricia M.
Eileen Remlin	Ann Marie M				

**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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