



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

# ST. THOMAS

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## THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**December 3, 2023**  
**First Sunday of Advent**



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, December 4**

7:00 AM† Ellen Morrone  
5:30 PM† Carmine & Philomena Buono

**Tuesday, December 5**

7:00 AM† Joy Sinise  
5:30 PM NO MASS

**Wednesday, December 6**

7:00 AM† Dominelli & Bartuli Families  
5:30 PM NO MASS

**Thursday, December 7**

7:00 AM NO MASS  
5:30 PM† Joan, Edward, & Barbara Gillespie

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Friday, December 8**


7:00 AM† Carmela & William O'Boy, Sr.  
12:10 PM† Teresa Passarelli  
6:00 PM† Andrew Caruso

**Sunday Vigil, Saturday, December 9**

5:15 PM† John & Mary Bove

**Sunday, December 10**

7:30 AM† The Amato's: Arthur, Sr., Mary, Sharon, & Arthur, Jr., & the Rolland Family  
9:00 AM† For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased  
11:30 AM† Theresa Passero  
5:00 PM† RoseMary Sandomeno (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)



*The Sanctuary Candle burns  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> through December 9<sup>th</sup> in memory  
of Mario Laracca.*

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord,  
and Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.  
Please remember in your prayers:  
**Barbara Jacobson Dawn Grover**  
We extend our sympathy to their families & friends.

We welcome the newly Baptized into the  
Parish Family of St. Thomas the Apostle.  
**Jayden Thomas**  
Congratulations to his parents, family, & friends!

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

	2023	2022
<b>November 19</b>		
Collection	\$3,561.00	\$3,216.50
On-Line	\$2,513.00	\$2,583.00
Diocesan Assessment	(\$1,506.00)	(\$1,567.00)
Net Retained	<u>\$4,568.00</u>	<u>\$4,232.50</u>
Votives	\$ 99.82	\$ 216.00
<b>Retired Priests</b>		
Collection	\$ 957.00	\$1,191.00
On-Line	\$ 78.00	\$ 58.00
Total	<u>\$1,035.00</u>	<u>\$1,249.00</u>
<b>November 26</b>		
Collection	\$4,326.00	\$4,155.57
On-Line	\$2,332.00	\$2,232.00
Diocesan Assessment	(\$1,506.00)	(\$1,567.00)
Net Retained	<u>\$5,152.00</u>	<u>\$4,820.57</u>
Votives	\$ 105.79	\$ 138.05

**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 2024 fiscal year, the annual Cathedralium 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.

**Thank You!**  
The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry would like to thank all our parishioners for their gifts over the Thanksgiving holiday, especially of the needed stuffing & cranberry sauce.  
Your kindness & generosity is appreciated more than you know.

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
Holy Day of Obligation  
Friday ~ December 8  
Mass Times**  
**7:00am      12:10pm      6:00pm**

<p><b>Rectory:</b> Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski Pastor (ext. 12) Rev. Ralph Segura Parochial Vicar (ext. 19) <b>Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, &amp; Friday 9 - 4</b> Closed Wednesday, Saturday, &amp; Sunday</p>	<p><b>Rectory Staff:</b> Cathy Lauder Parish Secretary (ext. 10) <b>Finance Chair:</b> Ulrike Schambeck (203) 434-6488</p>	<p><b>Religious Ed Office:</b> (203) 866-1189 Carrie Saviano, DRE stthomasreledoffice@gmail.com <b>Parish Bookkeeper</b> Monika Piascik <b>Facilities:</b> Tito (Jose) Rivera</p>	<p><b>Youth Ministry:</b> stthomasyg1@gmail.com Elizabeth Squicciarino, Coordinator <b>Website:</b> www.stthomasnorwalk.org <b>Like us on Facebook:</b> St. Thomas Norwalk <b>Instagram:</b> StThomasNorwalk</p>
stthomasnorwalk@gmail.com	(203) 866-3141	(203) 866-1219 Fax	

ANNUAL WREATH SALE TO BENEFIT  
BOY SCOUT TROOP 222  
AFTER ALL MASSES DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>  
ONLY \$24.00!

Our Boy Scout Troop will be selling beautiful double sided balsam wreaths, decorated with a red velvet bow and pinecones - door sized \$24.

This is the only fundraiser for the troop. Proceeds are used to offset the costs for the boys' events during the year.

Orders are now being taken!

We will deliver, if requested, and can also deliver Thanksgiving weekend, if needed. Call Gwen at (203) 847-1794, to advance order or email to [glupinek@gmail.com](mailto:glupinek@gmail.com) with your information and Gwen will take care of your order. Please support our Boy Scout Troop with your purchase! For more information about Boy Scout Troop 222, please go to their web page at [troop222nowalk.scoutlander.com](http://troop222nowalk.scoutlander.com).



YOUTH CHOIR AND INSTRUMENT REVISED INFO

*Student Singers and Instruments wanted for Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Family Mass!*

It is not too late to sign up to sing or play an instrument for the Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Family Mass! Please go to the parish website to complete an online form and get the rehearsal schedule or speak with Music Director, Marge Kelley after the 5:15, 9:00 or 11:30 Masses to sign up.

**REHEARSAL SCHEDULE: all rehearsals will take place in St Thomas the Apostle Church**

*Week 2 Schedule: Choose your preferred day*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6: Youth choir and instrument rehearsal, 4:30-5:15

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7: Youth choir and instrument rehearsal, 4:15-5:00

*Week 3 Schedule: Choose your preferred day*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13: Youth choir and instrument rehearsal, 4:30-5:15

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14: Youth choir instrument rehearsal, 4:15-5:00

***DRESS REHEARSAL: Friday, December 22, 4:00-5:00 PM: all instruments and singers***

***ADDITIONAL OPTION FOR HIGH SCHOOL SINGERS:*** High school singers may participate at either the Christmas Eve Family Mass on December 24, at 4:00 PM or the Adult Choir Christmas Mass on December 25, at 11:30 AM. Please fill out the youth choir form as directed above. A separate schedule will be provided to parents of students who wish to sing with adult choir. Adult choir rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:00.

## FROM A CATECHETICAL INSTRUCTION BY ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BISHOP

We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom.

In general, whatever relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden coming, like that of rain on fleece, and a coming before all eyes, still in the future.

At the first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second coming he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming he endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming he will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels. We look then beyond the first coming and await the second. At the first coming we said: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*. At the second we shall say it again; we shall go out with the angels to meet the Lord and cry out in adoration: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*.

The Savior will not come to be judged again, but to judge those by whom he was judged. At his own judgment he was silent; then he will address those who committed the outrages against him when they crucified him and will remind them: *You did these things, and I was silent*.

His first coming was to fulfill his plan of love, to teach men by gentle persuasion. This time, whether men like it or not, they will be subjects of his kingdom by necessity. Malachi the prophet speaks of the two comings. *And the Lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple*: that is one coming.

Again he says of another coming: *Look, the Lord almighty will come, and who will endure the day of his entry, or who will stand in his sight? Because he comes like a refiner's fire, a fuller's herb, and he will sit refining and cleansing*.

These two comings are also referred to by Paul in writing to Titus: *The grace of God the Savior has appeared to all men, instructing us to put aside impiety and worldly desires and live temperately, uprightly, and religiously in this present age, waiting for the joyful hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ*. Notice how he speaks of a first coming for which he gives thanks, and a second, the one we still await.

That is why the faith we profess has been handed on to you in these words: *He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end*.

Our Lord Jesus Christ will therefore come from heaven. He will come at the end of the world, in glory, at the last day. For there will be an end to this world, and the created world will be made new.

The Liturgy of the Hours, Vol. I, Advent Season – Christmas Season, From a Catechetical Instruction by St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop, Catholic Book Publishing Co, NY, 1975, pp. 142-144.



**Giving Tree**

GIFT REQUEST  
Jan 2-12

TAKE A TAG & THE SUGGESTION LIST or USE YOUR IMAGINATION! Please bring your **wrapped gifts with tag attached** to the church during any regularly scheduled mass **by Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**. We need time to sort & deliver!!



### Holy Land Bethlehem Artworks Next Weekend

**December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>**

Beautiful hand-made olive wood religious articles made by Christian families in Bethlehem and Jerusalem will be available for purchase after all masses. This organization provides assistance to over 100 suffering families each week.

### *Come sing with us!*

The DIOCESAN CHOIR sings regularly for special liturgical events.

Rehearsals are held on Monday evenings from 7-8:30pm at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport.

For further information, contact the Diocesan Director of Music Ministry, Dr. Bill Atwood or visit [www.bridgeportdiocese.org/diocesan-choir/home/](http://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/diocesan-choir/home/)

Email:

[William.atwood@diobpt.org](mailto:William.atwood@diobpt.org)

| Phone: 203.368.6777 X 22

**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



**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: [troop222.norwalk.scoutlander.com](http://troop222.norwalk.scoutlander.com).

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**Room To Grow  
Preschool:**  
(203) 831-8200  
Nancy Cook-Owens,  
Director

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Mrs. Linda Dunn,  
Principal  
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Saturdays

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**ST. ANN'S CLUB MONDAY NIGHT BINGO**  
(except holidays)  
16 Hendricks Avenue  
Norwalk  
Doors open at 5:30pm First game at 6:45pm  
Refreshments available to purchase.

**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 for more information: (203) 853-4872.

Congratulations to Our Parishioners Who  
Will Be Celebrating Their Anniversary!  
**December 10th 50 Years**

**Maria & Raffaele  
Migliaccio**

If you have something to celebrate and would like to share it with your parish family, please contact the office by email or phone.

Photo by Sandy Millar on Unsplash

## 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
Ginny DeMarco	Nancy G.	Joanna Marvin	Ken Schulman	Holly Sanders	Vinny Massaro
Mike D.	Elizabeth Malerba	Alessandro Fornara	Jim Charest	Steve C.	Patricia M.
Stefanie Sena	Jim Bogdany	Jackson P.	David R.	Robert Podlaski	

**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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If you are concerned about your end of life plans, searching for the sacred ground of a Catholic cemetery, or have loved ones buried in one of our 14 Diocese cemeteries, now might be a good time to begin planning for yourself or other family members.

While talking about the issue is not easy, pre-need planning makes your wishes clear, reduces costs and helps your family avoid difficult decisions at a time of loss and grief.

Start your plans now by contacting Joe McCurdy  
our Director of Operations and a St. Thomas the Apostle parishioner  
at 203-610-3414 or [joe.mccurdy@ctcemeteries.org](mailto:joe.mccurdy@ctcemeteries.org)

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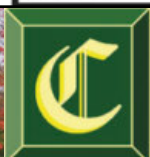
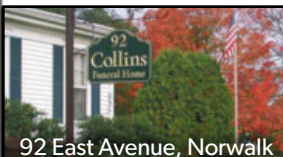


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