



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

# ST. THOMAS

## THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### March 26, 2023



## 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."  
- Jn 11:25

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

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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, March 27

7:00 AM† Ellen Morrone  
5:30 PM Intention of Catherine Perez

#### Tuesday, March 28

7:00 AM In Thanksgiving to St. Anthony of Padua  
5:30 PM Intentions of Doria Diaz

#### Wednesday, March 29

7:00 AM† Ann Ruggiero  
5:30 PM For God's Blessing & Protection for  
Aneta Wilinski & Her Family

#### Thursday, March 30

7:00 AM† Reginald & Rose Festa  
5:30 PM† Gloria Touger

#### Friday, March 31

7:00 AM† Scott O'Hara  
5:30 PM† Fabio Biasuz  
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

#### Palm Sunday, Saturday Vigil, April 1

5:15 PM† Teresa Tartaglia **Celebrant**  
Fr. Mirek

#### Palm Sunday, April 2

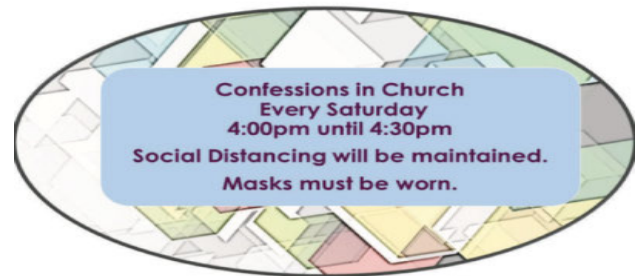
7:30 AM Special Intention Fr. Mirek  
9:00 AM† Connie Colosimo Fr. Mirek  
11:30 AM In Thanksgiving & in Thanks For  
the Return of Family Members to  
Church Fr. Ralph  
5:00 PM† Mary Jane Gardella Fr. Ralph

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP

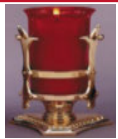
|                     | 2023                | 2022                |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>March 19</b>     |                     |                     |
| Collection          | \$3,802.00          | \$4,107.00          |
| On-Line             | \$2,370.00          | \$2,577.00          |
| Diocesan Assessment | <u>(\$1,567.00)</u> | <u>(\$1,636.00)</u> |
| Net Retained        | <u>\$4,605.00</u>   | <u>\$5,048.00</u>   |
| <br>                |                     |                     |
| Votives             | \$ 200.56           | \$ 269.00           |

### 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 2023 fiscal year, the annual Cathedral 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.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt  
Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
after the 9AM Family Mass  
Open to all children  
Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Bring your own collection  
basket or bag and come  
join the fun!



The Sanctuary Candle burns  
March 26<sup>th</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup>  
for the Festa, Verda, & Izzo Families.

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

Please remember in your prayers:

**Karen Markovich Lowry**

We extend our sympathy to her family & friends.



**ADORATION  
MONDAY NIGHT  
6PM - 8PM**

## FAST 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.

### Rectory:

Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski  
Pastor (ext. 12)

Rev. Ralph Segura  
Parochial Vicar (ext. 19)

### Office Hours:

Monday through Friday 9 - 4  
Closed 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



Mark your calendar: Holy Week, Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6PM, join Fr. Mirek for Soup, Garlic Bread, and a Lenten Presentation: *Pieta through the Ages*. Please join us as we pray and track the Art and Devotion known as a Pieta, telling the story of Blessed Mother's suffering at the Foot of the Cross. R.S.V.P. to the Parish Office by Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, so we order the proper amount of food.

**Youth Choir and Orchestra for Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023 at 9:00 AM Family Mass  
IN ORDER TO BETTER ACCOMMODATE THE YOUTH'S SCHEDULES AN ADDITIONAL  
DATE HAS BEEN ADDED**

Rehearsals have started for Youth Choir and Orchestra. Students in Grades 1-12 are welcome to participate. All rehearsals will take place in the Church. The schedule of rehearsals is as follows:

**NEW DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, OR THURSDAY MARCH 30:** Youth Choir and Instruments, 4:15-5:00  
Choose either Wednesday or Thursday to fit your schedule!

\*WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5: Youth Choir and Instruments, 4:15-5:00

\*The final rehearsal is on a Wednesday because Thursday, April 6 is Holy Thursday.

To sign up to sing or play: you can either speak with Marge Kelley after 5:15, 9:00 or 11:30 Masses or send an email to Marge at the following address: [margaretkelley24@gmail.com](mailto:margaretkelley24@gmail.com). typing St. Thomas Youth Choir or Orchestra in the subject line. Please provide your child's name, grade and whether he or she will be singing or playing an instrument. Please let Marge know as soon as possible if your child is participating so that sufficient music is prepared for the rehearsals. Thank you! **NOTE: MARGE WILL SIGN VOLUNTEER HOUR FORMS FOR REHEARSALS AND EASTER MASS FOR ANY STUDENT WHO SINGS OR PLAYS AN INSTRUMENT.**

**Sing the Hallelujah Chorus with St. Thomas the Apostle Church Adult Choir at Easter**

Do you enjoy singing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus but do not have the time to commit to be in our adult choir each week? Please consider joining us for either the 8:00 PM Easter Vigil Mass or the 11:30 AM Easter Sunday Mass to sing the Hallelujah Chorus. Only one rehearsal is required to participate, either **Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, OR Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM.** To sign up to sing: Please send an email to music director, Marge Kelley at the following address: [margaretkelley24@gmail.com](mailto:margaretkelley24@gmail.com). Add "St. Thomas, Hallelujah Chorus" in the subject line OR speak with Marge after the 5:15, 9:00 or 11:30 AM Masses. Open to parishioners age 18 and up and High School Students who currently sing with their school choir.



**Palm Sunday Weekend, April 1/2**  
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, April 3**  
Masses at 7:00 AM and 5:30 PM  
Adoration from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
Confessions from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**Tuesday, April 4**  
Masses at 7:00 AM and 5:30 PM  
Confessions from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**Wednesday, April 5**  
Masses at 7:00 AM  
No 5:30 PM

**Holy Thursday, April 6**  
*No Regularly Scheduled Masses*  
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 PM  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament immediately following until 11:00 PM

**Good Friday, April 7**  
*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, April 8**  
*No Regularly Scheduled Masses*  
Blessing of Easter Food at 11:30 AM  
The Easter Vigil at 8:00 PM

**Easter Sunday, April 9**  
Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM (*Family Mass*), 11:30 AM  
No 5:00 PM Mass

**Easter Monday, April 10**  
Mass at 9 AM  
No 5:30 PM Mass No Adoration



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

## REFLECTION FROM FR. RALPH

A fairly common question that many of us may have is: How can I best be like Jesus? During the past few weeks, the Sunday Readings provided a hint for us. On the First Sunday of Lent, we are presented with Our Lord's temptation by the devil in the wilderness. The Second Sunday of Lent, we read that Jesus is Transfigured before Peter, James, and John on what is traditionally known to be Mount Tabor. On the Third Sunday of Lent, we learn about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, and finally, on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, the Gospel provides us with the account in which Jesus heals the man born blind.

Now, we know that Jesus became like us in all things but sin, and we know too, that Jesus subjected Himself willingly to the Human Condition, and since He did so willingly according to the will of the Father, He did so with great, great love. Jesus entered into our state in life, so to speak, in the most intimate and fullest possible way to bring about in Himself the salvation of every soul that has come into the world. Yet, while Jesus did indeed walk among us to provide us with a most excellent example of how we are to respond to God's will through acts of charity for the sake of the poor and the sick, He also did so to provide us with, through the incarnation in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the very means through which we can actually become like Him. Jesus, who existed with the Father and Holy Spirit from before all ages, united Himself in His divinity with human flesh, becoming man and born into the world, so that all that He said and did to accomplish the will of the Father might become a reality not only in human history, but for us, and ultimately, within us.

So, thus far, as we have heard from the Gospels, Jesus subjected Himself to temptation; He revealed His glory and what awaits us at the Resurrection of the Dead; He teaches us that we must spend time with Him and listen to Him so that we may come to realize who He is; and finally, we learn that only Jesus can provide us with the light of grace so that we may see what He desires to reveal to us.

This weekend, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, and we can be confident that, if we subject ourselves to what we have considered thus far, Jesus will not leave us to ourselves in death. Though we are called to respond to the will of God and practice what Jesus reveals to us throughout our lifetime, we strive, in a special way, to practice that to which we are called even now during our observance of Lent. We will be tempted, and Jesus will, if we call upon Him in our worship at Mass and through prayer, continue to show Himself to us just as He really is; He will always make Himself available to us even in our most basic needs to live and in the midst of our daily duties; He will always be the source of grace to us through the sacraments of the Church, enlightening our minds and souls; and He will, through His power, raise us up to a new life of faith, not only for the sake of the life to come, but in this time, during our observance of Lent, so that we may be prepared for the Joy of Easter Sunday.

*F. Ralph*

MAGNIFICAT a Ministry to Catholic Women  
20th Anniversary Prayer Breakfast  
Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:30-12:30  
\$25.00 per person. Reservations required by April 8<sup>th</sup>  
No tickets at the door.  
Ethan Allen Hotel ~ 25 Lake Avenue ~ Danbury CT

Guest speaker, Fran Fraleigh Karpiej, OFS, will share her testimony and lifelong ministry and devotion to God. For more information, please call Carol Flynn 203-775-3875 or email [magnificatthmi@gmail.com](mailto:magnificatthmi@gmail.com). Tickets are available on Eventbrite.



High School Youth Group  
Our Youth Group will be meeting in the Parish Center Loft on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</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 [stthomasyg1@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasyg1@gmail.com).  
**ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME & BRING YOUR FRIENDS.**

### 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! Please consider the following options when deciding upon the best way to support the Bishop's Appeal this year:

- Make an automatic monthly recurring gift until you inform the Diocese to adjust or discontinue.
  - Make a pledge and spread out your payments over 5 or 10 months
  - Check if your employer will match your gift through the Corporate Matching Gift Program
  - Contribute a gift of appreciated stocks or securities
- 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 48 gifts worth \$15,241 bringing our parish to 24.27% of its \$62,800 goal. Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated. Thanks to all who gave or pledged!***





**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 Pensergera, 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

**Trustees:**  
Robert Lametta  
Christopher Jarboe

**Finance Council:**  
Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski  
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  
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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)

**Room to Grow Preschool**  
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Room to Grow Preschool provides high quality care and education for children ages 3 to 5 years old. Registration is open to ALL Norwalk residents. Enrollment spots are available on a sliding fee scale based on family income. The center is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Call (203) 831-8200 now to find out how to enroll your child.

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
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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     | Jim Sweet                               | Debbie Reddock     | James Amrich     | Theresa Buono    | Linda Lima      |
| Pearl Futo        | Robert Parmalee                         | Mike Torres        | Emily Calabeese  | Anne Edwards     | Merina Deluc    |
| Jack Cade         | Constance Williams                      | Skip Bossone       | Marie Silver     | Grace DeMilo     | George Travers  |
| Gary Livia        | Peggy McDonald                          | Kimberly Fratoloni | Jeanette Ralston | Pam Simso        | Phil Tavella    |
| Julia Cade        | Marianne Schambeck                      | Cathy Sinica       | Rick Azillo      | Jeannetta Torres | Hamilton Family |
| Jeannie Maxwell   | Michele Mola-Gulemi                     | Richard Barton     | Richard Berg     | Diane Turek      | Anthony Bruno   |
| Vicki             | Betty Lou Heffernan                     | Kathleen Ford      | Antonio Vescio   | Jackie Hamilton  | Angela McCrae   |
| Kathleen Dominick | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sgt. Joe Toscano (Ret.) | Joan Kennedy       | Chuck Scott      | John Lima        | Debbie Poruban  |
| Dawn Grover       | Josephine Mola Buckley                  | Nancy G.           | Joanna Marvin    | Ken Schulman     | Denise Cassin   |
| Vinny Massaro     | Elizabeth Malerba                       | Alessandro Fornara | Jim Charest      | Karen B.         | Holly Sanders   |
| Stefanie Sena     | Jim Bogdany                             | Paul F.            | David R.         | Steve C.         | Mike D.         |

**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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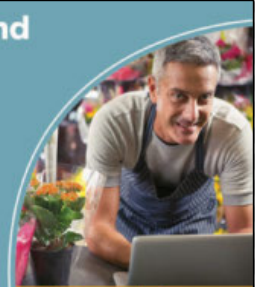
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Gay Cavanagh, Director  
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If you are concerned about your end of life plans, searching for the sacred ground of a Catholic cemetery, or have loved ones buried in one of our 14 Diocese cemeteries, 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

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