

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

August 30, 2020

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Whoever
wishes to come
after me must
deny himself, take
up his cross, and
follow me."*



Words by God ~ Matthew 16:24
Photo by Aaron Burden on Unsplash

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 31

- 7:00 AM † Genevieve & William Cerutti
5:30 PM Intentions of All Married & Engaged Couples

Tuesday, September 1

- 7:00 AM † Josephine, Louise & Lisa Ferrante
5:30 PM Intentions of Patrick

Wednesday, September 2

- 7:00 AM Intentions of Jesus Holmes Ocampo
5:30 PM † Anthony (Swing) Incerto, Sr.

Thursday, September 3

- 7:00 AM † John Pagliano
5:30 PM Intentions of Fr. Greg Markey

Friday, September 4

- 7:00 AM Intentions of Jesus Holmes Ocampo
5:30 PM † Poor Souls

Saturday, September 5

- 8:00 AM † Mass of Remembrance

Sunday Masses

Vigil, September 5

- 5:15 PM † Mark Fallo

Sunday, September 6

- 7:30 AM † Giuseppe Mazzella

- 9:00 AM † John Pagliano

- 11:30 AM For the Physical & Financial Well-Being
of All Affected by the Pandemic

- 5:00 PM † For Our Parishioners,
Living & Deceased

Celebrant

- Fr. Ralph



The Sanctuary Candle burns
August 30th through September 5th
for Genevieve & William Cerutti.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord, and
Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.
Please remember in your prayers:

Helen Onisko John Dorosh

We extend our sympathy to their
families & friends.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2020	2019
August 23		
Collection	\$4,056.00	\$4,468.49
On-Line	\$2,456.00	\$2,081.00
Diocesan Assessment	<u>(\$1,869.00)</u>	<u>(\$1,867.00)</u>
Net Retained	<u>\$4,643.00</u>	<u>\$4,682.49</u>
Votives	\$ 62.00	\$ 145.58

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.

—MASS OF REMEMBRANCE—

The following parishioner has died in the month of August: Rose Marie Cocchia. There will be a special mass for her and all deceased parishioners on Saturday, September 5th, at 8:00 a.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.



Pray the Rosary in the Church!

Monday - Friday: 6:30am

Monday: 7:00pm

Saturday: 7:30am & 4:45pm

We welcome the newly Baptized into the Parish Family of St. Thomas the Apostle.

Ryan Roosevelt St. Louis

Congratulations to his parents, family, & friends!



FIRST FRIDAY

ADORATION

September 4th

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
stthomasnorwalkreled@gmail.com

General Office Email
stthomasreledooffice@gmail.com

Facilities:
Tito (Jose) Rivera

R.I.S.E. Youth Ministry:

Cecy Gillen, Coordinator
sthomasqy@gmail.com

Website:

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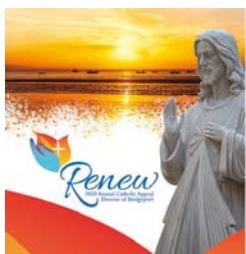
@StThomasNorwalk



If you would like to arrange a baptism, please call the office at (203) 866-3141. If this is your first baby, you will need to complete the Pre-Baptism class with one of our priests. We will work with you to find the best day and time to fit your schedule. The current mass guidelines concerning capacity and social distancing parameters will be followed at all baptisms as well.

WATCH FOR THE LAUNCH OF OUR NEW WEBSITE!

We are currently working on a new design format at a new web address. The new platform is geared for mobile applications (phones & tablets) with easier scrolling & viewing on smaller screens. Our new address will be stthomasnorwalk.ORG instead of .COM. Don't try it yet since the site is not open. Watch the bulletin for our official launch date.



2020 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

We have raised 146 gifts worth \$33,395 bringing our parish to 32.27% of its \$103,500 goal.

Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated. Thanks to all who have already given or pledged!



ALL NEW!!

WE NOW HAVE LIVE-STREAMING AVAILABLE AT THE ABOVE LINK FOR ALL CHURCH MASSES.

WELCOME TO THE 21ST CENTURY!!

2020/2021 Religious Formation Registration is now open. Check your email for important updates from the Formation Office.

CHILDREN'S BULLETIN ON OUR WEBSITE

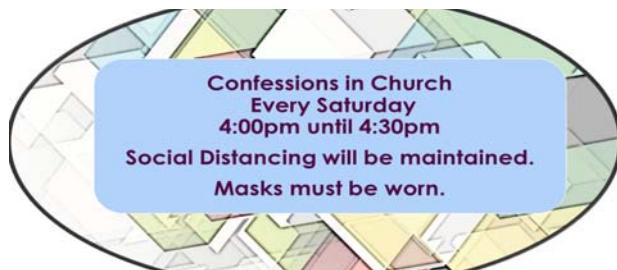
Go to the Bulletin tab on the menu bar for a printable PDF children's bulletin.

www.stthomasnorwalk.com

Please note the time change for Confession. This is a permanent change.

**RECTORY OFFICE IS NOW OPEN
YOU MUST CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT!**

Catherine & Cathy will be splitting office hours. Please call for an appointment (or maybe we can assist you by phone) so that we can adhere to the protocols set forth by the state. (203) 866-3141



LABOR DAY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH
All Parish Offices are Closed
One Mass - 9:00am
No Monday Night Adoration
Enjoy the last unofficial day of summer!!

REFLECTION FROM FR. RALPH

Charles Ponzi, an Italian immigrant born in Longo, Italy, arrived in Boston on November 15, 1903. His ancestors were at one time well-to-do, but after falling on hard times, he subsequently arrived in Boston with only \$2.50 in his pocket. After struggling in the U.S. he made his way to Montreal, Quebec, where, while working at a bank that eventually failed, he learned that he could make a lot of money by misrepresenting the value of anything bought and sold to clients.

Without finding any lasting success in Montreal, he returned to Boston and sought to offer potential financial opportunities to people he knew in Europe. During this endeavor, he received correspondence from a company in Spain and came across what is known as an International Reply Coupon (IRC). Now, the coupons made it possible for someone to send mail to someone else in another country, and with the coupon, there would be no need for the receiver to pay any fees for stamps to reply to the original sender.

Now, what Ponzi realized, since stamps were far less expensive in Italy than the U.S., considerable profit could be made if someone was to purchase numerous coupons in Italy, and somehow sell them in the U.S.; which was totally untrue, since, any potential benefit could be had only through the process of actually mailing something using a coupon.

In any event, he eventually found investors based on the above-mentioned falsehood, and the money rolled in quickly, and, much like a pyramid scheme, he would pay off previous investors (and, of course, himself) with money invested by newly deceived investors. Soon, he was taking in millions. Eventually, realization of his “Ponzi Scheme” by knowledgeable and reputable individuals in finance lead to the collapse of his company.

Perhaps our first thought is in regard to Ponzi’s deceitful and criminal behavior, and that’s true; but what’s more pertinent to us, in regards to our readings for this weekend is this: it was not only his ability to deceive others that made it all possible. What was equally important and necessary was the readiness and willingness of others to make a quick profit and thereby be so easily deceived by him. They were deceived, yes, to be sure; but they were just as easily attracted to what Ponzi had to offer them, and not in any way or sense in what can be said in regard to what God offers us.

With all this in mind, let us consider the term “duped” as it is used by the prophet Jeremiah in the first reading. In English it takes on the sense the he was fooled or deceived; while at the same time, he realizes in a vocational sense that his calling involved what he never could have imagined in the way of persecution. But in the Hebrew, the meaning is actually “enticed,” and not in any sense in regards to any negative desires or the passions. Because of God’s power, divinity, sacred design and truthfulness, as well Jeremiah’s understanding of the fulfillment of all things in God and his openness to discern his vocation, Jeremiah simply could not resist the call to be a prophet for the people of Israel.

In light of what we have considered thus far, we can ask ourselves a variety of very important questions. Why do we come to Church? Is it because it is something we’ve always known? Is it because it’s a family tradition? Is it because we exclusively fear damnation? Is it because we are deeply moved by the mystery of it all? Is it due to an appreciation of God’s goodness and love? Overall, what it is that actually entices us to practice the Catholic faith?

In the end, what is certain, as we hear in the Gospel, we are not being deceived. God is honest with us about the invitation to respond to our vocation as disciples of Jesus Christ. We know that it isn’t always easy and none of us are perfect; but we also know that we can trust what God reveals to us. True, we may find ourselves being admonished from time to time as did St. Peter; but we also enjoy the honest, clear and simple revelation of what we must do to follow Jesus in word and deed so that we may reap the reward of eternal life. There are no deceptions or schemes at work in God’s sacred design for us.

So, may we all continue to worship, pray, and strive to live the Catholic faith the best that we can, and strive to understand God’s will for us with honesty, humility and gratitude, keeping in mind what Jesus says to us in the Gospel today: “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”

2021 Mass Book

Due to the virus, the Mass book for next year has not opened yet. Watch for the date in the bulletin. We anticipate it will open in the early fall.



Masses are still available for this year. They are mostly weekday masses but there are still a few weekend masses available. If you would like a mass said for your intention, please call the office during regular business hours. The stipend is \$10.00.

PRAY For Our Men and Women Serving our Country

Cdr. Dan Caldwell, US Navy
Theresa Cole, US Marine Corps
Mike Lupinacci, US Marine Corps
Lt. 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

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 is currently closed and not accepting donations at this time.

St. Vincent de Paul

Food Pantry:
(203) 866-1644
HOURS
6:30 PM - 8 PM
Wednesday &
Thursday

Closed
Sunday, Monday,
Tuesday, Friday &
Saturday

Birthright of Norwalk:
(203) 853-4872

Catholic Charities:
(203) 416-1307



Bible Study with Kevin Knight

Please join us in reading the book *The Alchemist* by Paulo Cohelo. We will meet on Friday, September 25th, at 7:30 pm, to discuss the book (likely via Zoom). The book is relatively short, 208 pages. Here is what is written on the back cover of this book:

"Paulo Coelho's enchanting novel has inspired a devoted following around the world. This story, dazzling in its powerful simplicity and soul-stirring wisdom, is about an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried near the Pyramids. Along the way he meets a Gypsy woman, a man who calls himself king, and an alchemist, all of whom point Santiago in the direction of his quest. No one knows what the treasure is, or if Santiago will be able to surmount the obstacles in his path. But what starts out as a journey to find worldly goods turns into a discovery of the treasure found within. Lush, evocative, and deeply humane, the story of Santiago is an eternal testament to the transforming power of our dreams and the importance of listening to our hearts."

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.**

PARISH EMAIL UPDATE

We are now using Constant Contact for bulk email communication. If Gmail is your provider then our emails will go into your Promotions tab.

You can get our emails in your main email by going to Promotions, right click the email without opening it, click Move to Tab, then click Primary. That tells Gmail that it is in the wrong folder and, going forward, it will filter to your primary inbox.

If you no longer want to receive the parish emails, just go to the bottom and click "Unsubscribe". You will no longer receive any emails from the parish.

If you are a Religious Formation family, you must not unsubscribe because you will not receive important emails from the Religious Formation office. In this case, call or email the office if you would like to be removed from the general parishioner email list.

If you are not receiving our emails & would like to, send us an email from the address you would like added and we will add it to our listing.

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

The Food Pantry is open this week

Wednesday From
6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, and

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



ADORATION
MONDAY NIGHT
6PM - 8PM



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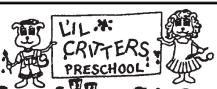
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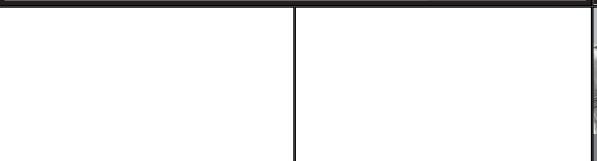


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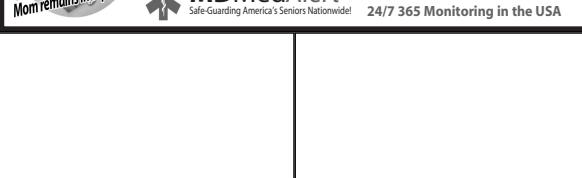
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