



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

ST. THOMAS

THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of LENT

"I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.'"

Luke 15:18-19



March 27, 2022

Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co. Inc. • Photos: © PD-Wikimedia, *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo • Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD.

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

Monday, March 28

7:00 AM† For the Souls in Purgatory
5:30 PM† Kurt Lametta

Tuesday, March 29

7:00 AM† Rev. Edward A. Colohan
5:30 PM† Darrell Dunn

Wednesday, March 30

7:00 AM† Rose & Reginald Festa
5:30 PM Intentions of Joseph & Mary Remlin & All Married Couples Who Want to Start a Family

Thursday, March 31

7:00 AM For Improved Health for Those Who Are Sick
5:30 PM† Living & Deceased Members of the Smith & Krawiecki Families

Friday, April 1

7:00 AM For the People of Ukraine & Peace in Their Country
5:30 PM† Mass of Remembrance
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 2

5:15 PM† Joseph & Jennie Festa

Sunday, March 27

7:30 AM† Sam DePinto
9:00 AM† Antonino Mirabile
11:30 AM† John Pagliano
5:00 PM† For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased



The Sanctuary Candle burns
March 27th through April 2nd
for Fran Tierney.

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

Please remember in your prayers:

Antonio Cappuccia Janina Stachurski

We extend our sympathy to their families & friends.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2022	2021
March 20		
Collection	\$4,107.00	\$2,656.00
On-Line	\$2,577.00	\$2,413.00
Diocesan Assessment	(\$1,636.00)	(\$1,869.00)
Net Retained	<u>\$5,048.00</u>	<u>\$3,200.00</u>
Votives	\$ 269.00	\$ 85.00

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 2022 fiscal year, the annual Cathedral Assessment is \$85,072. This equates to a weekly payment of \$1,636. This represents an annual decrease of \$4,633.00 from the prior year.



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

—MASS OF REMEMBRANCE—

The following parishioners have died in the month of March: Theresa Burnham and Ryan Dudek. There will be a special mass for them and for all deceased parishioners on Friday, April 1st, 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.



FIRST FRIDAY

ADORATION

April 1st

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
stthomasnorwalkred@gmail.com

Mary Vladimirov, Secretary
General Office Email
stthomasreledoffice@gmail.com

Facilities:

Tito (Jose) Rivera

R.I.S.E. Youth Ministry:

stthomasyg@gmail.com

Website:

www.stthomasnorwalk.org

Like us on Facebook:

St. Thomas Norwalk

Follow us on Twitter:

@StThomasNorwalk

stthomasnorwalk@optonline.net

(203) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax

GRADES K-8 SINGERS WANTED

Come sing at our 9:00 AM

Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Masses

Contact our Music Director, Marge Kelley, by email, musicalmmk@optonline.net, if you would like your child to participate in this youth choir event. Please put "St. Thomas Youth Choir" in the subject box. Rehearsals are Wednesday, March 30th, Wednesday, April 6th, & Wednesday April 13th, from 4:00-5:00 PM. Students will sit with their families during Mass and will be called to come up to sing 2-3 songs with Miss Beth at the piano.

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE SINGERS WANTED

Join us at the 11:30 AM Easter Sunday Mass

Add your voice to a joyful performance of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. Contact our Music Director, Marge Kelley, by email, musicalmmk@optonline.net, if you would like to participate with our adult choir. Please put "Youth Choir, 11:30 Easter Mass" in the subject box. The rehearsal with the adult choir is Wednesday, April 6th, from 7:30-8:30 PM. If you are unable to come that evening or you would like extra time to learn the music, there will be another rehearsal on Wednesday, April 13th, from 7:30-8:30 PM.



2022 ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL

We have raised 59 gifts worth \$12,560 bringing our parish to 20.00% of its \$62,800 goal. Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated. **Thanks to all who gave or pledged!**



The 2022 MASS BOOK is open. Please call or email the office to reserve your masses and candles.

Magnificat
A Ministry to Catholic Women

PRAYER BREAKFAST FOR CATHOLIC WOMEN

Saturday May 7th, 9:30-12:30

Ethan Allen Inn

21 Lake Ave. Extension Danbury

\$25.00 -Reservations Required By April 30th

The guest speaker, *Sister Frances Smalkowski*, will share her testimony and lifelong ministry and devotion to God.

No tickets will be sold at the door. For more information, please call Carol Flynn 203-775-3875 or email magnificatthmi@gmail.com.

Invitation is available in the Women's Ministry Section of the Diocese of Bridgeport website. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The St. Thomas St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry needs volunteers on Friday mornings from 9:00 - 11:00 to receive our food delivery from the CT Foodshare service. If you have some time to help, please call the Rectory at (203) 866-3141.

Our schedule is flexible & we are happy to work with yours!

Amen™

THE FREE CATHOLIC PRAYER APP

Peace of mind isn't only attainable; it's in your hands. Amen is the free Catholic app that brings you beautiful prayers, faithful meditations, and nourishing Scripture to draw your mind, body, and soul to rest in God. Grow in the peace of our Lord with Amen today.

The Catholic prayer app for these forty days and throughout the year!

For more information, go to their website at amenapp.org/.

Go to our website Homepage or Useful Links page for a link to their website.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE



SECOND CHANCE



THRIFT STORE

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

TUESDAY 10AM - 3PM

WEDNESDAY 12PM - 4PM

THURSDAY 10AM - 3PM

SATURDAY 10AM - 1PM

**REASONABLY PRICED, GENTLY
USED ITEMS FOR YOUR
PERSONAL & HOUSEHOLD USE.**

Located at the Parish Center

208 East Avenue

*Enter Parish Center driveway from Prowitt Street
Entrance is first red door on the right*

(203) 852-9899

*Remember - your
shopping matters. Shop at
smile.amazon.com/ch/06-0653149
and Amazon donates to
St. Thomas the Apostle.*

REFLECTION FROM FR. RALPH

We are all familiar with the basic Catholic doctrine that we are made in the “image and likeness of God.” But what does that mean, exactly? Consider the following from the Catechism of the Church:

“The human person participates in the light and power of the divine Spirit. By his reason, he is capable of understanding the order of things established by the Creator. By free will, he is capable of directing himself toward his true good. He finds his perfection *“in seeking and loving what is true and good”* (Gaudium et Spes, no. 15).” By virtue of his soul and his spiritual powers of intellect and will, man is endowed with freedom, an *“outstanding manifestation of the divine image”* (Ibid, no. 17).” By his reason, man recognizes the voice of God which urges him *“to do what is good and avoid what is evil”* (Ibid, no. 16).” Everyone is obliged to follow this law, which makes itself heard in conscience and is fulfilled in the love of God and of neighbor. Living a moral life bears witness to the dignity of the person (CCC 1704-1706).”

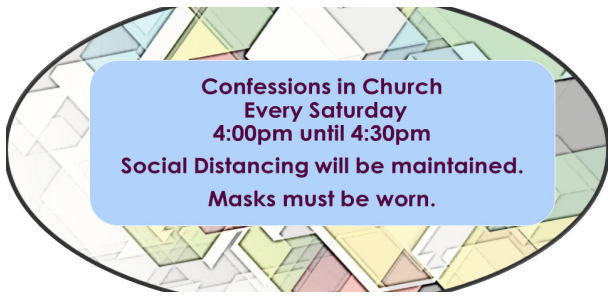
In summary, we have an intellect and will, as you know, and we can therefore, because of how God made us, in virtue of our immortal souls, the spiritual life, and a well-formed conscience regarding moral truths, know and love what is good according to God’s will by knowing and loving God and neighbor. Another way that we are His image and likeness is that we can create. We can create new life in the state of marriage when a husband and wife give and receive of themselves to each other, and we can also give and receive of ourselves when we perform works of mercy and charity to those in need. Finally, we are called to do this with true freedom - freedom of the will and not with the mere license that is so commonly promoted in our time. We can know, love, create, give, and receive just as the three persons of the Most Holy Trinity do, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

But there’s another way that we can be or live in the image and likeness of God, and it’s probably the most difficult of all. We can forgive. We can forgive others, and we can even forgive ourselves. In the Gospel for this weekend, through the parable of the Prodigal Son, Jesus teaches us that as we practice repentance and penance during this time of Lent, as we seek forgiveness for our sins, we can also consider the forgiveness of others. This can be very difficult, especially if any one of us has been greatly harmed by someone we’ve trusted or a family member.

At first glance, we are often struck at the father’s eagerness to receive the son who was rebellious, self-centered, disrespectful, taking for granted all that he had from his father. This is understandable. It’s an aspect clearly presented in the parable, and after all, do we not seek to be received by our heavenly Father? And why not? Jesus has promised as much. But along with this, we are presented with another son who was angry and unforgiving of both his brother and father - his brother, for abandoning him to do all the work by himself, and his father for not recognizing the sacrifices he made while his brother was away enjoying himself, and, for letting him get away with it.

So, as we fast, pray, and give alms during this time, we can strive to consider forgiving others as we seek to repent and do penance for our sins. Again, not an easy task, especially without God’s grace and God’s love. Lord knows that after the past few years it couldn’t hurt. I leave you with this quote from St. Peter Chrysologus: *“There are three things, my brethren, by which faith stands firm, devotion remains constant, and virtue endures. They are prayer, fasting and mercy. Prayer knocks at the door, fasting obtains, mercy receives. Prayer, mercy and fasting: these three are one, and they give life to each other. Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. Let no one try to separate them; they cannot be separated. If you have only one of them or not all together, you have nothing. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others you open God’s ear to yourself.”* (From a sermon by Saint Peter Chrysologus, Bshop, The liturgy of the Hours, Vol. II, Lent Season-Easter Season, Catholic Book Publishing Co., NY, 1976, p. 231.)

Fr. Ralph



Confessions in Church
Every Saturday
4:00pm until 4:30pm
Social Distancing will be maintained.
Masks must be worn.

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Norwalk	
We Stand With Christ Campaign Redemption	
Total Pledged:	\$500,370
Total Collected (As of 3/21/22):	\$328,308.44 (66%)
To make a payment on your pledge, please visit GiveCentral.org/WSWC or call 203-648-9050.	

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

During these difficult times, please remember to support our local bulletin advertisers. Make the back 2 pages of this publication your "go to place" for local business help. They can only help us if we continue to help them!

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.



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

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. **Pre-Baptism classes are the 3rd Saturday of every month. Please call to reserve your space.**



Birthright

Birthright is in need of gently worn *baby and 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 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.**

MEMORIAL MASS OR FUNERAL

We are scheduling Memorial Masses for those who died during the virus period. Anyone who wishes to arrange for a Memorial Mass is asked to call the office in order to plan the mass. If you would like a full funeral mass, please let your funeral home know your wishes so they can contact us to schedule. We will continue to have graveside only service as an option.

Trustees:
Robert Lametta
Christopher Jarboe

Finance Council:
Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski
Bill Austin
Hugh Gartland
Thomas Gorzkowski
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
(203) 847-3881
139 West Rocks Road
Norwalk

**The Second
Chance Thrift Shop**
(203) 852-9899
HOURS
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Tuesdays & Thursdays
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Wednesdays
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Saturdays

**St. Vincent
de Paul**

Food Pantry:
(203) 866-1644
HOURS
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Tuesdays & 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.

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	Walter Cortese
Pearl Futo	Robert Parmalee	Jill Bowman	Emily Calabeese	Anne Edwards	Linda Lima
Mike	Constance Williams	Mike Torres	Marie Silver	Grace DeMilo	Merina Deluc
Gary Livia	Peggy McDonald	Skip Bossone	Jeanette Ralston	Pam Simso	George Travers
Julia Cade	Marianne Schambeck	Kimberly Fratoloni	Rick Azillo	Jeannetta Torres	Phil Tavella
Jeannie Maxwell	Michele Mola-Gulemi	Michael Walsh	Richard Berg	Diane Turek	Hamilton Family
Vicki	Betty Lou Heffernan	Richard Barton	Antonio Vescio	Jackie Hamilton	Anthony Bruno
Kathleen Dominick	Cathy Sinica	Kathleen Ford	Chuck Scott	John Lima	Angela McCrae
Greg N.	Joe M.	Joan Kennedy	Joanna Marvin	Ken Schulman	Kathy D
Jack Cade	Donny Cassavechia	Nancy G.	Vinny Massaro	Alessandro Fornara	Jim Charest
Dawn Grover	1 st Sgt. Joe Toscano (Ret.)	Debbie Poruban	Denise Cassin	Jackie Capobianco	

**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
is available through our parish website:
www.stthomasnorwalk.org.
Your use of electronic giving saves the parish
money and helps keep our volunteers & staff safe.

**Grow Your Business,
Advertise Here.**

Support Your Church & Bulletin.

Free professional ad design & my help!

email: sales@jspaluch.com



www.jspaluch.com

LIL' CRITTERS PRESCHOOL!

 Gay Cavanagh, Director
 10 Lewis St., Norwalk
 847-4220

TRIPLE S CARPET & DRAPERY CLEANERS

 337 Westport Avenue
 Norwalk 847-8000

*Protecting Seniors
Nationwide*



Medical Alert System

\$29.95/Mo. billed quarterly



- One Free Month
- No Long-Term Contract
- Price Guarantee
- Easy Self Installation

For Information ... Call

800.524.0263

If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!

24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!

- ✓ Ambulance Solutions as Low as **\$19.95** a month
 - ✓ Police ✓ Fire
 - ✓ Friends/Family
- FREE Shipping
 FREE Activation
 NO Long Term Contracts



This Button SAVES Lives!
 As Shown GPS,
 Lowest Price Guaranteed!



"I have peace of mind... Mom remains independent."

CALL NOW! 800.809.3352

MDMedAlert
 Safe-Guarding America's Seniors Nationwide
 GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection
 Nationwide, No Land Line Needed
 EASY Set-up, NO Contract
 24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA

FINDaPARISH.com

**The Most Complete Online
National Directory
of Catholic Parishes**

CHECK IT OUT TODAY!

Call Today!

Toll Free 1.877.801.8608



Gerri Flewellyn • Director
 131 Strawberry Hill Ave.
 866-8933

✂ Please Cut Out This "Thank You Ad" and Present It
 The Next Time You Patronize One of Our Advertisers

Thank You

Thank you for advertising in our church bulletin.
 I am patronizing your business because of it!



Your ad could be in this space!

Life Matters



For more information go to
www.usccb.org/respectlife



**Touch a Life,
Forever.**

Serra for Priestly Vocations



EAST AVENUE SHELL



STAR WASH CAR WASH
 216 East Ave., Norwalk
 838-5955

DEVINE BROS.



"Let our family take care of your family"

A/C & 24/7 Heating Services • Propane, Diesel & Heating Oil Delivery

Redi-Mix Concrete, Mason & Landscape Materials

203-866-4421 www.devinebrosinc.com



ED'S GARAGE DOORS
 SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
 136 WATER ST., NORWALK, CT 06854
 TEL (203) 847-1284
www.edsgaragedoors.com

MANFREDI jewels

Greenwich • New Canaan
manfredijewels.com

Offering Fine Timepieces & Jewelry

ELECK AND SALVATO ELECTRIC, INC.

Four Fitch St East Norwalk
203-838-1900
www.EleckAndSalvato.com

ONE PARISH

Download Our Free App or Visit
<https://www.oneparish.com>

Grow in your faith,
find a Mass, and
connect with your
Catholic Community
with OneParish!



Norwalk Cove Marina, Inc.

48 BEACH ROAD,
EAST NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 06855
203-838-2326 • FAX: 203-838-9756



Rex Marine Center

144 Water Street, Norwalk, CT 06854
Ships Store 831-5236
Service & Storage 831-5234



JACKIE AUSTIN

REALTOR®

BERKSHIRE | New England
HATHAWAY | Properties
HomeServices

Serving Norwalk, Westport, Fairfield, Weston & beyond

jackieaustin@bhhsne.com

Direct: 203-722-3078

Office: 203-227-5117

20 Wilton Road, Westport, CT 06880

jackieaustin.bhhsneproperties.com

ACCURATE AUTO REPAIR

Vincent & Cosmo Scicchitano

8 Fitch St. 854-0338
(Across from Church)



Need help with
Medicare choices?
Turning 65?
Let us help you.

Donald A. Cafero, CLU, ChFC
Insurance Broker

203-856-4237

Medicare Information at

Catholic Cruises and Tours and The Apostleship
of the Sea of the United States of America
Take your FAITH on a JOURNEY.
Call us today at 860-399-1785 or email
eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com

(CST 211796-70) www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com

"Family Owned & Operated Since 1912"

Pre-Need Counseling Available
Cremation & Traditional Services

Magner Funeral Home, Inc.

Michael J. Magner • James P. Magner, Jr. • Melissa D. Heaphy • William D. Tiani

12 Mott Avenue, Norwalk

www.magnerfuneralhome.com

203-866-5553

www.Medicare65forU.com



Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!

Sign up here:

www.jspaluch.com/subscribe

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.



Consider
Remembering
Your Parish in
Your Will.

For further information,
please call the Parish Office.

838-5032

838-0088

COTALING'S AUTO BODY

Complete Auto Body Services

130 Connecticut Ave., Norwalk

Get this
weekly bulletin
delivered by
email - for FREE!

Sign up here:

www.jspaluch.com/subscribe

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.



catholicmatch®

Connecticut



CatholicMatch.com/myCT



DO YOU HAVE SALES EXPERIENCE? ARE YOU WELL
NETWORKED IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?

J.S. PALUCH COMPANY

NATIONAL PUBLISHER OF CHURCH BULLETINS

- Full Time Positions Available with Excellent Earning Potential!
- Medical Benefits, 401K, Life & AD&D Insurance Available
- Excellent Commission Compensation Program

Interested? Call Kay Leane 1.800.621.5197 x2823

or Email Resume to RECRUITING@JSPALUCH.COM

www.jspaluch.com

EARN MONEY!
DO GOOD! MAKE A
POSITIVE IMPACT!



Collins Funeral Home

Preplanning & Cremation Services

(203) 866-0747 www.collinsfh.com

Directors:

William A. Skidd
William P. Skidd
Andrew D. Skidd
William G. Lahey