



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

# ST. THOMAS

## THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**March 12, 2023**  
**Third Sunday of Lent**



*Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."*

Words by God ~ John 4:21

©LPI

**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 13

7:00 AM† All Souls  
5:30 PM† Mary Jane Gardella

#### Tuesday, March 14

7:00 AM† Betty O'Boy  
5:30 PM† Anna & Kazik Dec

#### Wednesday, March 15

7:00 AM† Joan Gardella  
5:30 PM† Paul Jarboe

#### Thursday, March 16

7:00 AM† Anna Maslowska  
5:30 PM† James Heber

#### Friday, March 17

7:00 AM† The Gray & Owens Families  
5:30 PM Intentions of the Michael Sweeney Family  
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

#### Saturday Vigil, March 18

5:15 PM† Linda & Louis Caruso **Celebrant**  
Fr. Mirek

#### Sunday, March 19

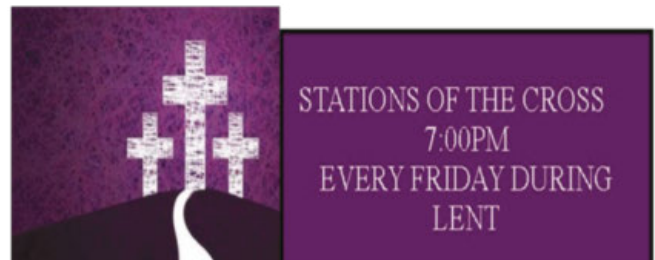
7:30 AM† For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased Fr. Mirek  
9:00 AM Intentions of Jose Luis Mejia Fr. Mirek  
11:30 AM† Giuseppe Passarelli & Giuseppe Lombardi Fr. Ralph  
5:00 PM† Ellen Lucas & Eileen Martin Fallon Fr. Ralph

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2023	2022
<b>March 5</b>		
Collection	\$5,098.00	\$4,934.00
On-Line	\$2,964.00	\$2,702.00
Diocesan Assessment	<u>(\$1,567.00)</u>	<u>(\$1,636.00)</u>
Net Retained	<u>\$6,495.00</u>	<u>\$6,000.00</u>
Votives	\$ 187.73	\$ 199.00
<b>Monthly Maintenance</b>		
Collection	\$1,539.00	\$1,266.00
On-Line	<u>\$1,258.00</u>	<u>\$1,020.00</u>
Total	<u>\$2,797.00</u>	<u>\$2,286.00</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 Cathedralricum 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.



The Sanctuary Candle burns  
March 12<sup>th</sup> through March 18<sup>th</sup>  
for Margaret G. Kelley.



ADORATION  
MONDAY NIGHT  
6PM - 8PM

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

Please remember in your prayers:

Joseph Murawski Thomas Hickey

We extend our sympathy to their families & friends.

**F**AST 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.

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

*Molly Rose Pennoyer*

*Congratulations to her parents,  
family, & friends!*

### 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

### Like us on Facebook:

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stthomasnorwalk@optonline.net

(203) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax



Everyone is cordially invited to a **Saint Patrick Dinner** sponsored by the **Jesus Meets Aristotle Group**, on this Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6PM. A traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner will be served in our Parish Center as we discuss ***"To BE or not to BE, did William Shakespeare predict the crisis of modern Metaphysic?"*** Hope you can join us for an evening of good food and critical thinking. R.S.V.P. to the Parish Office by Monday, March 13<sup>th</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**

Rehearsals will begin soon for Youth Choir and Orchestra to prepare to sing and play for Easter Sunday Mass! Students in Grades 1-12 are welcome to participate. All rehearsals will take place in St. Thomas the Apostle Church. The schedule of rehearsals is as follows:

THURSDAY, MARCH 16: Youth Instrument Rehearsal, 4:15-5:00

THURSDAY, MARCH 23: Youth Choir Rehearsal, 4:15-5:00

THURSDAY MARCH 30: Youth Choir and Instruments, 4:15-5:00

\*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.**


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.

## CT BISHOPS' CALL TO ACTION:

CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS

CT General Assembly:  
Assisted Suicide  
Senate Bill 1076

- Insurance companies will benefit from the cost savings—it is much cheaper to offer lethal drugs to patients in lieu of quality, long-term care or expensive life-saving treatment.
- This is not the practice of medicine, and our good doctors should not have to consider this option for their patients. If it were, the standard of care would not be changed for only this procedure.
- Patients should not be left alone at home or elsewhere to ingest untested, lethal drugs without a doctor, nurse, or witness present.
- Instead, policymakers should improve hospice care, palliative care, disability support services, and mental health care.
- The tragic consequences have come true in Canada—in 2021, over 10,000 Canadians died due to lethal prescriptions.
- International news reported the pressures faced by Canadians that took their own lives this way—fear of homelessness and lack of care.
- Suicide contagion is real. 1 in 3 U.S. teenage girls has contemplated suicide. States with assisted suicide laws are associated, on average, with a 6 percent increase in a state's total suicide rate.
- The Alzheimer's Association "deeply regrets" and is ending its relationship with Compassion & Choices.



↓

Your voices and testimony are needed now to stop these bills from becoming law.

Please Call or Email your State Legislators—**ASK THEM TO STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE.**

For more information and to find your legislators, please go to:  
[ctcatholicpac.org](http://ctcatholicpac.org)

CALL:

House Democrats: (860) 240-8500  
Senate Democrats: (860) 240-8600

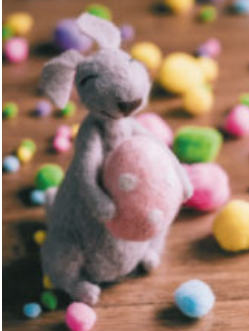
House Republicans: (860) 240-8700  
Senate Republicans: (860) 240-8800

↑

### 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 on either **Wednesday, March 29 OR Wednesday, April 5, both 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. This is open to parishioners age 18 and up and High School Students who currently sing with their school choir.



**CANDY WANTED!**

The Rel. Ed Dept. is collecting individually wrapped small candies to put in our plastic eggs for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt to be held on Palm Sunday. Please leave your donation in the bin at the Rectory side door in the church by Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Photo by freestocks on Unsplash

## REFLECTION FROM FR. RALPH

In the Gospel for this week, we are presented with a beautiful account of God's mercy and love, His desire to reach out to all of us, even those who either reject what we believe or have yet to know the mystery of Jesus Christ and the redemption that God offers to the world.

Now, the Samaritans were a people whose ancestors were not deported by the Assyrians during the conquest of the Northern Kingdom in 721 B.C. Also, the Samaritan people came about, if you will, through the intermarriage between the Israelites who remained in the Northern Kingdom and the Assyrians themselves, thereby generating a Jewish-Gentile identity, people, culture, way of life, and worship. Further, the Samaritans had their own temple, their own copy of the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament, and their own religious system. Also, the Samaritans believed that the proper place to worship was Mt. Gerizim rather than the Temple in Jerusalem; the place where Moses instructed the Israelites to offer blessings upon their entrance into the Promise Land; and consequently, there was tension among the Jews and Samaritans as to where the proper place of worship should be (Dt 11:29-30 and 27:12-13).

It was in this region and under these circumstances that Jesus chose to reveal God's invitation to all the world, and that God calls even those one may least expect; and he does this by interacting not only with a people who were adversaries of His own, but with a woman, unattended by a man, in a place that was commonly utilized in a public way - a woman who had a questionable personal background.

Perhaps we can say that there are two basic issues for our consideration. First, there is the element of water. Water, as you know, had, and has even now, a very significant place in the Great Plan of Salvation. We find water at the dawn of creation, and water was the source of life, refreshment, and prosperity among the patriarchs. Water became the central, natural element during the Exodus; and finally, of course, water became the very vehicle for God's grace, so to speak, in regards to the sacramental nature of Our Lord's ministry, as well as the life and worship of all those who would be baptized into the Church, into His body, into His community of faith on earth.

Second, it is through an encounter and conversation with Jesus Himself in which it is possible for anyone to come to understand and know who Jesus actually is. Notice the development of key terms as we make our way through this Gospel reading. First, the woman at the well addresses Jesus as a "jew." Then she calls Him "sir" indicating a higher degree of respect. Then she calls Jesus a "prophet." Then in the text itself we are introduced to the term "Messiah," and then finally "Christ." It is as if when someone speaks with Jesus, as well as through the Word of God itself, the true identity and mission of Jesus Christ as the Son of God is made known and realized. As we read in the Catechism of the Church: "Christ's whole earthly life - his words and deeds, his silences and sufferings, indeed his manner of being and speaking - is Revelation of the Father (CCC 516)."

The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well teaches us that it is through a conversation with Jesus that we can come to know Him and God's will for us, and that we can come to realize more personally our vocation in Jesus Christ. This time in Lent is an opportunity for us to strive to look for Jesus and listen to Him. What is subtle yet also significant in this Gospel is that this encounter took place while the Samaritan woman was simply going about her daily duties, and Jesus is always present to us too, throughout any given day, at any given moment, so that we can speak with Him and learn from Him.

*Fr. Ralph*

## Prayer for Life

MASS AND ROSARY WALK

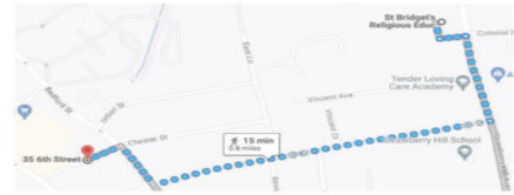


SATURDAY MARCH 18

**8AM** MASS AT ST. BRIDGET OF IRELAND  
278 STRAWBERRY HILL AVE. STAMFORD, CT

ROSARY PROCESSION TO  
PLANNED PARENTHOOD

**10AM** COFFEE, HOT CHOCOLATE,  
DONUTS, AND FELLOWSHIP!



"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you invited me in." - Matthew 25:35

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Bridgeport, CT 06606

### One In Christ – The 2023 Bishop's Appeal Your gifts at work

Your gift supports the Institute for Catholic Formation's efforts to reach children and adolescents in their journey to know Christ through parish and school sacramental and catechetical programs.

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

**We have raised 39 gifts worth \$9,391 bringing our parish to 14.95% 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 Penserga, US Army  
LCDR Scott C. Penoyer, 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  
(203) 847-3881  
139 West Rocks Road  
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**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**

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**Catholic  
Charities:**  
(203) 416-1307

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FATHER SUDHIR DSOUZA  
SGT. SAL CALISE  
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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)



CONNECTICUT  
**MARCH FOR LIFE**

Wednesday, March 22, 2023  
Rally - 12:00pm  
March - 1:00pm

Connecticut State Capitol  
210 Capitol Ave.  
Hartford, CT 06106



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

**Find a bus trip near you**  
The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring reduced fares for round-trip bus rides from locations throughout Connecticut. Use the QR code or visit [rally.co/ct-march-for-life](http://rally.co/ct-march-for-life) to find buses in your area.  
Enter the promo code found at checkout for a discounted price. Discounts are limited and first-come, first-served.

Visit [ct.marchforlife.org](http://ct.marchforlife.org) for more information.

## 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

is available through our parish website:

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

Your use of electronic giving saves the parish money and helps keep our volunteers & staff safe.



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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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