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ST. THOMAS

THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH



**People will come
from the east
and the west
and from the north
and the south
and will recline
at table
in the kingdom
of God.**

Luke 13:29

Twenty-first

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 21, 2022

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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, August 22

- 7:00 AM † Annette Festa
5:30 PM † Louis Caruso

Tuesday, August 23

- 7:00 AM † Mennino & Pagliano Families
5:30 PM † Living & Deceased Members of the Smith & Krawiecki Families

Wednesday, August 24

- 7:00 AM Intentions of Donna Chiavegatto
5:30 PM † James E. Hanford (5th Anniversary)

Thursday, August 25

- 7:00 AM Intentions of Joseph & Mary Remlin & All Married Couples Who Want to Start a Family
5:30 PM † Dante Cortinovis

Friday, August 26

- 7:00 AM † Peter Baldino, Jr.
5:30 PM † Bertha Ballard

Sunday Vigil, Saturday, August 27

- 5:15 PM † Rose Izzo

Sunday, August 28

- | | | | |
|------------|---|-----------|-----------|
| 7:30 AM † | John Dominick | Celebrant | Fr. Ralph |
| 9:00 AM † | For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased | | Fr. Ralph |
| 11:30 AM † | Margaret & Carlo Paccini | | Fr. Mirek |
| 5:00 PM † | Gloria Ulloa | | Fr. Mirek |



*The Sanctuary Candle burns
August 21st through August 27th
for James E. Hanford.*



ADORATION
MONDAY NIGHT
6PM - 8PM

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

We extend our sympathy to his 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

stthomasnorwalk@optonline.net

Rectory Staff:
Michelle O'Mara
Pastoral Assistant (ext. 17)
stthomanorwalkpastoral@gmail.com

Cathy Lauder
Parish Secretary (ext. 10)

Finance Chair:
Ulrike Schambeck
(203) 434-6488

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

2022

2021

August 14

Collection	\$3,711.00	\$4,186.00
On-Line	\$2,275.00	\$2,473.00
Diocesan Assessment	<u>(\$1,567.00)</u>	<u>(\$1,636.00)</u>
Net Retained	<u>\$4,419.00</u>	<u>\$5,023.00</u>

Votives

Votives	\$ 134.82	\$ 149.00
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Monthly Maintenance (August 7)

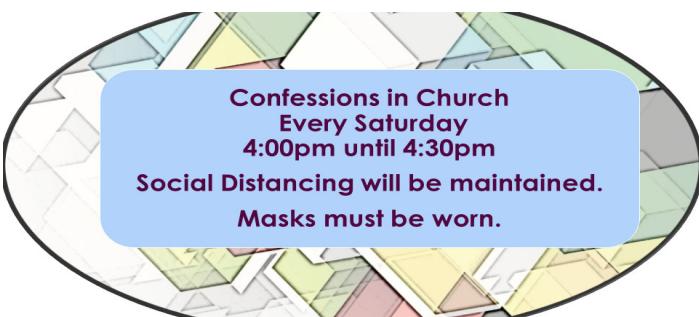
Collection	\$1,088.00	\$ 801.00
On-Line	\$1,755.00	\$1,109.00
Total	<u>\$2,843.00</u>	<u>\$1,910.00</u>

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 Cathedratum 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 2023 MASS BOOK is open.
Only 4 Saturday Vigil/Sunday weekend masses may be booked and no more than 6 Sanctuary Candles until November 1st.



Banns of Marriage

II
Wiktoria Piktel & Christopher Tremonte

I
Kayla Ann Cavanagh & Joseph Rivieccio

Religious Ed Office:

(203) 866-1189
Mary Vladimirov, DRE
stthomasreledoffice@gmail.com

Parish Bookkeeper

Monika Piascik

Facilities:

Tito (Jose) Rivera

R.I.S.E. Youth Ministry:

ssthomasq@gmail.com

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**2022 ANNUAL
BISHOP'S APPEAL**
 We have raised 167 gifts worth \$42,994 bringing our parish to 68.46% of its \$62,800 goal. Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated.
Thanks to all who gave or pledged!



Religious Formation classes will be begin on Sunday, September 11th. If you haven't already registered, please go to our website homepage & click on the religious education registration form to get started. Any problems, please call the office at (203) 866-3141.



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.

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Norwalk

We Stand With Christ Campaign Redemption

Total Pledged:	\$500,380
Total Collected (As of 7/3/22):	\$335,457 (67%)

To make a payment on your pledge, please visit GiveCentral.org/WSWC or call 203-648-9050.

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Are you between the ages of 21-39? Are you interested in fellowship with other Catholics? Come join us on Wednesday, September 14th for a special Mass sponsored by YCP! Adoration w/music & Confession will be offered before Mass starting at 6:00pm.

What: Young Catholic Professionals (YCP) Mass and Social

Where: Holy Name of Jesus Church (325 Washington Blvd, Stamford)

Date: Wednesday, September 14th at 7:00pm (Adoration w/music + Confessions start at 6pm)

Afterwards, please join us at Sign of the Whale for a rooftop social!

For information on other Catholic Young Adult events, please email info@ycpfairfieldcounty.com

REFLECTION FROM FR. RALPH

One of my favorite movies is the 1959 motion picture *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ*. In one of the more important scenes there is an exchange between Judah Ben-Hur, played by Charlton Heston, and Pontius Pilate, played by Frank Thring. In this scene, after knowing great suffering followed by great success, Judah Ben-Hur is called by Pontius Pilate to receive an encouraging message from his adopted father, a Roman Aristocrat and military leader informing him that he is a newly-recognized Roman citizen.

Now, Judah Ben-Hur, as well as his family, still smarting from considerable misfortune under Roman rule as an Israelite, expresses his great dissatisfaction with the current circumstances for himself, his family, and his people. This is a crucial moment for Judah Ben-Hur; either he accepts the privilege of becoming a Roman citizen under the influence of his adoptive father, which would bring with it every possible worldly benefit known at the time, or, he rejects it to return to his previous life and his people. Well, he rejects it, and he is clear about his utter disgust with the Roman Empire. Pontius Pilate then responds with these words: "*Where there is greatness, great government or power, even great feeling or compassion, error is also great. We progress and mature by fault. Perfect freedom has no existence. The grown man knows the world he lives in, and for the present, the world is Rome.*"

Now, none of this is historically true, but I think you understand. All of us have heard the expression that as disciples of Jesus Christ we are "*in the world, but not of the world.*" It's a saying that refers to what Jesus prayed to the Father in the Gospel of John regarding the future of His Church and His disciples: "*I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world* (Jn 17:14-16)." The meaning here is that, though we live in this world, our life is essentially centered in Jesus Christ, and our ultimate purpose in this life is to make our way to the Kingdom of Heaven.

When we consider the first reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, notice how the ancient author is familiar with various geographical locations. Tarshish, though its exact location is unknown, was most likely somewhere along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and is referred to as a port city of great prosperity and economic activity. Phut, either Libyan or Egyptian, at one time had plentiful amounts of Gold. Lud, most likely west of what we now know as Tel Aviv, Israel, is reported to be, at one time, a place of prominence regarding Jewish trade and scholarship. Mosoch, possibly located in either what we now know as modern-day Turkey or Armenia, provided brass and slaves to the city of Tyre. Finally, Javan, refers to the territory of what we now know as Greece.

Notice how there is uncertainty regarding the exact location of most of these territories and cities (though the prophet knew); but just the same, notice too, that they all at one time enjoyed prosperity and significance in the ancient world; yet, they declined or were conquered by other rival nations. This is the point of the ancient author. They represent power, prosperity, success and renown. We can find the same type of reference in other places in the bible, especially in the psalms. But there is something more significant for our purposes. It is obvious that the prophet is familiar with history, geographical locations, the various cultures of his time and their place in the order of things in regard to salvation history. In short, the ancient author is intelligent, well-informed and well-acquainted with the world in which he lives; but at the same time, he sees the divine purpose of God's plan in a way that makes it possible for him to understand that he and his people are "*in the world, but not of the world.*" He is able to read the signs of the times, and not just his own, but those before him, currently immediate to him, and the destiny that laid ahead of him with the ability to see the sacred design and will of God.

This is exactly the case for us today. The world continues to whirr all around us with influences, enticements, events, and most importantly of all, a shallow short-sighted view of who and what we are and of all that we are meant to be according to the will of God. It is true, there are many beautiful and good things we can see and do in this life, and we can certainly make a difference and contribute to our times for the good of others, but that doesn't mean that we are, at the same time, to compromise or relinquish the will of God, the truth of the Gospel, and more specifically, our way of life, worship and the teachings of the Church so that our identity is more commensurable with or palatable to the world. This is why Jesus said of us: "*they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world,*" and this is why in today's Gospel He says: "*Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.*"

We, all of us, are blessed with the gift of baptism, and consequently, we can enjoy the grace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we make our journey of faith and discern God's will in our lives as we strive to live in this world amidst these most confusing and difficult times. If we do, we'll have the same spiritual insight, the same prophetic vision as did the all the "holy ones" of the Old Testament, as well as the saints and the spiritual masters who have gone before us. We'll have the ability to see the world in a way that we could not otherwise. Rather than allowing ourselves to be influenced by a "worldly view" of life and reality, turning our heads to the right and to the left (Deut 5:32, 28:14; Prov 4:27), we will avoid the wide road that leads to destruction, and we will, as Jesus tells us "*enter through the narrow door,*" and at the proper time, at the end of the ages, we "*will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God* (Mt 7:13; Lk 13:24, 29)."

Father Ralph

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

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Robert Lametta
Christopher Jarboe

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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
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10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Saturdays

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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. If you cannot reach Sue, please call the office at (203) 866-3141.



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.

New 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

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

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.



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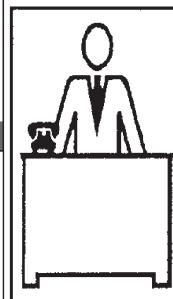
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