

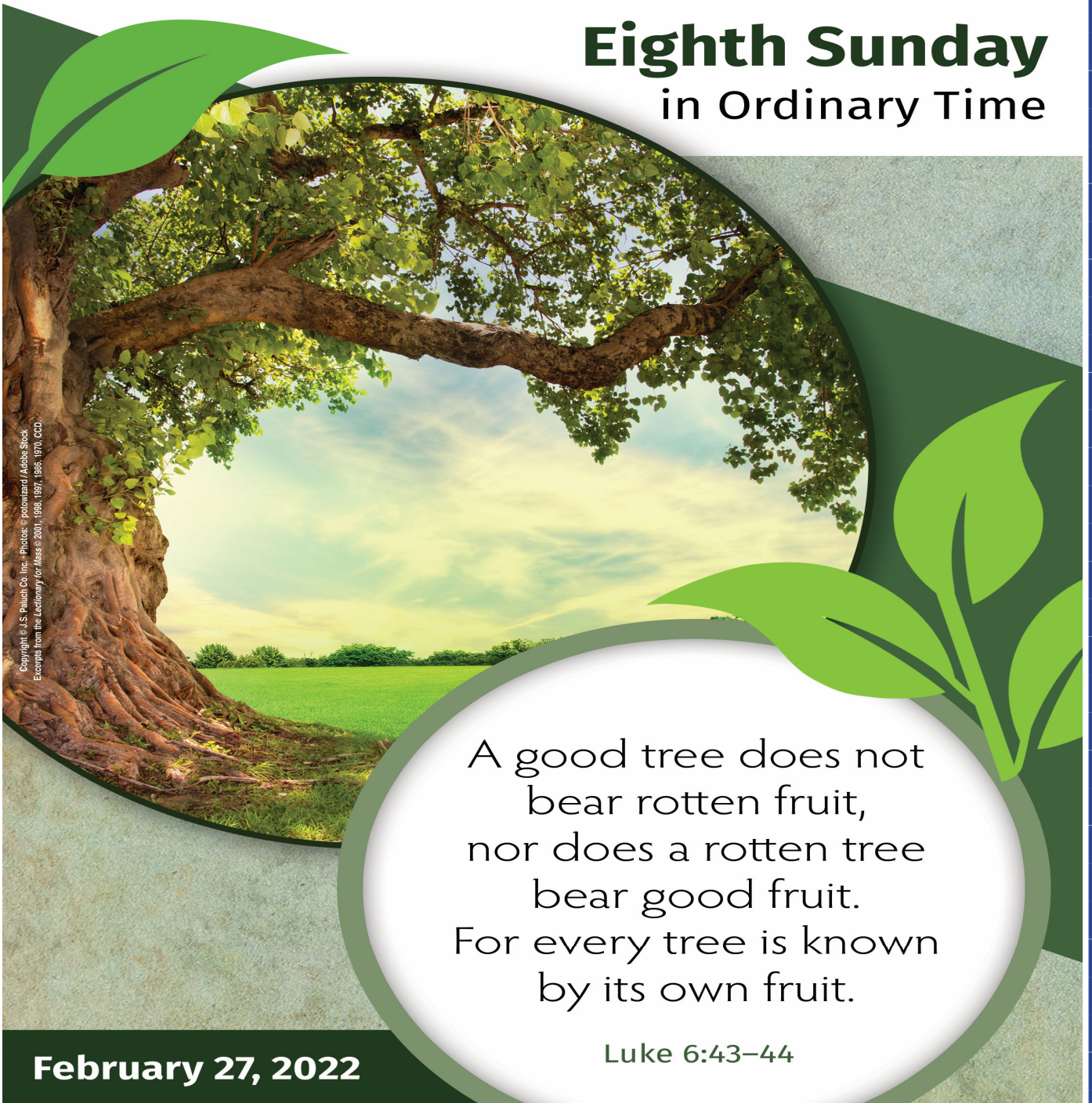


Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

ST. THOMAS

THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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A good tree does not
bear rotten fruit,
nor does a rotten tree
bear good fruit.
For every tree is known
by its own fruit.

Luke 6:43–44

February 27, 2022

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, February 28

7:00 AM† Rachel Dessances
5:30 PM Intention of Jaques

Tuesday, March 1

7:00 AM Intentions of Jonathan Maher
5:30 PM In Honor of the Blessed Mother

Ash Wednesday, March 2

7:00 AM† Ellen Morrone
12:05 PM Special Intention
5:30 PM † Domenico Cappuccia
7:00 PM † Lou Marcario

Thursday, March 3

7:00 AM Graces for the Dessances Family
5:30 PM † Eileen Infurchia (4th Anniversary)

Friday, March 4

7:00 AM† Raffaele Mattera
5:30 PM† Mass of Remembrance
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 5

5:15 PM† Elaine Sheehan

Celebrant
Fr. Ralph

Sunday, March 6

7:30 AM† For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased Fr. Ralph
9:00 AM† Brittany Reith Fr. Ralph
11:30 AM† Catena Bemonte Fr. Mirek
5:00 PM† Gregoire Dumas Fr. Mirek

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2022	2021
February 20		
Collection	\$3,976.00	\$2,580.00
On-Line	\$2,587.00	\$2,433.00
Diocesan Assessment	(\$1,636.00)	(\$1,869.00)
Net Retained	<u>\$4,927.00</u>	<u>\$3,144.00</u>
Votives	\$ 172.00	\$ 129.00

Diocesan Assessment

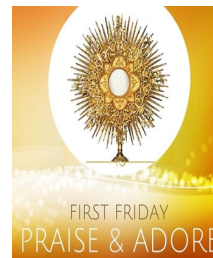
The assessment is used to cover the cost of Diocesan operations and schools. The formula is based on all gross receipts. For our 2022 fiscal year, the annual Cathedral Assessment is \$85,072. This equates to a weekly payment of \$1,636. This represents an annual decrease of \$4,633.00 from the prior year.

—MASS OF REMEMBRANCE—

The following parishioners died in the month of February: Frank Dragan and Terry Rooney. There will be a special mass for them and all deceased parishioners on Friday, March 4th, 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.



The Sanctuary Candle burns
February 27th through March 5th
for Terry Rooney.



**FIRST FRIDAY
ADORATION**
March 4th
7:30am to
5:00pm

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

Please remember in your prayers:

*Antonino Mirabile Iliana Guillen
Terry Rooney*

We extend our sympathy to their
families & friends.



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

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

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(203) 866-1219 Fax



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

Calling All Campers!

Family Fun Night
Friday, March 4th, 6-9PM
Only \$10 Per Child

We are planning an exciting night of religious themed scavenger hunts and escape rooms, with cheese pizza dinner. Drop the kids off at 6pm with pickup at 9pm at the Parish Center Gym.

RSVP REQUIRED BY FEBRUARY 27th
Contact the Religious Formation office for registration info.

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.

Jesus Meets Aristotle Lecture and Dinner With Fr. Mirek St. Patrick's Day Dinner Thursday, March 10, at 6PM R.S.V.P. by Friday, March 4th

Dear Friends,

It is already that time of the year here at St. Thomas The Apostle Parish when we again offer an opportunity to participate in ongoing formation in our faith, tradition, and critical thinking. I invite you all to consider joining us in our Parish Center for another Philosophy lecture, this time accompanied by St. Patrick and all the goodies he brings for dinner every year. In addition to a delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner, we will discuss the philosophical propositions of LOGOS by the ancient Greek Philosopher, Heraclitus, and compare them with Saint John and the LOGOS of His Gospel.

I hope to see many of you!

Fr. Mirek



My Dear Friends in Christ, "A Bridge Home" is the theme of the 2022 Bishop's Appeal, formerly called the Annual Catholic Appeal, and it highlights hope, renewal, and evangelization in our diocese. The Appeal invests in services that continue to engage those in their faith and build a strong bridge to so

many who are struggling. Now it is more important than ever to reunite our Church, affirm our faithful and welcome others back.

I am grateful for your support this past year as we continue to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic and we once again gather within our parishes, homes, and communities. This is possible because of your faith and generosity.

The Diocese of Bridgeport has a long tradition of providing programs that serve those in need and prepare for the future of our Catholic faith. This year's Appeal goal is \$8.1 million and remains unchanged from last year.

I personally invite you to join with me in making a gift and building "A Bridge Home," one living stone at a time. We have been through much together as a family in faith, and we have much to look forward to because we are a people of hope. I pray for God's blessings on you and your family.

Faithfully in Christ,

Frank Caggiano

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport

For more information, please go to our website homepage for a video presentation by Bishop Caggiano and a PDF version of the Diocesan brochure.

DO YOU LIKE TO KNIT OR CROCHET? JOIN THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We supply all the materials at our meetings and discuss if there have been any special requests made. The next meeting is Thursday, March 24th, at 7:00pm, in the Small Meeting Room. Come meet our group and pick up your supplies!

Our shawls are free gifts meant to warm, comfort and embrace. To request a shawl or if you would like more information about our ministry, please call Vicki Remson, (203) 847-8196 or the Rectory, (203) 866-3141 or go to our website & click on Parish Ministries .

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear St. Thomas the Apostle Parishioners,

Several years ago, I had the privilege to celebrate my niece's First Holy Communion in a beautiful church called Our Lady of the Chapel in Brussels, Belgium. As is each First Holy Communion, this one was absolutely beautiful, and after the Mass I took my time to go in front of one of the side altars in that church and pray. This ancient church in Brussels was Pieter Breughel the Elder (1525 – 1569) parish church, and it is the church of his final rest. The great artist is buried there, underneath the side altar in one of the side chapels, with an epitaph honoring his parents created by one of his sons. Among the many reasons that Pieter Breughel the Elder is important to me is his numerous works of art. One painting in particular, completed in 1568, is called *The Blind Leading the Blind*. The artist, in the way particular to the Renaissance, gives each man on his painting a different ocular affliction, all painted with a realism that allowed identification of their conditions by later experts. And in addition to all the "Milk and Honey" for the art enthusiast, the painting is based on the "cut and paste" operation of Saint Luke, as the evangelist places Saint Matthew's passage about the blind leading the blind in his own Gospel. (Please compare Luke 6:39 with Matthew 15:14.) Each and every time I look at Pieter Breughel's painting, I pray I am not the one; you know, the blind leading others. It's not easy to be a Catholic Priest in 2022. Saying yes to the task, answering my calling to the priesthood many years ago, I would have never imagined that decades later, as a pastor, I would have to deal with the challenges and difficulties many of us priests need to address today. And on a top of it, how one changes or transforms such situations into opportunities, maybe even life-giving projects and changes? I can only think of one way of doing it: **Ora et Labora** – says it all, the famous Saint Benedict statement. (See The Rule of St. Benedict.) Trust to that the Holy Spirit worked through far worse scenarios in the past. Like we hear in this weekend's Gospel: *"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil..."* (Luke 6:43-45). So, let's BE GOOD, let's produce much good out of the storage of our hearts.

fr. Mirek

Wednesday Evening Bible Study With Fr. Mirek March 9th - March 30th in the Parish Center Toomey Room at 7pm

Dear Friends;

This Lent I would like to invite you for a journey through EXODUS; we will study not only the Book of Exodus but, in addition, I would like us to consider the following, as we learn: The Book, The Time, The People. Then, maybe we could see: My personal EXODUS, and what could be the consequences of such: The Tabernacle, The Law, The Temple and the way of living. All necessary materials will be provided.

I hope to see many of you! Fr. Mirek

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March

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**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 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
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Nancy Cook-Owens,
Director

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(203) 866-1644

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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	Tony Cappuccia	Pam Simso
Julia Cade	Marianne Schambeck	Kimberly Fratoloni	Rick Azillo	Jeannetta Torres	George Travers
Jeannie Maxwell	Michele Mola-Gulemi	Michael Walsh	Richard Berg	Diane Turek	Phil Tavella
Vicki	Betty Lou Heffernan	Richard Barton	Antonio Vescio	Jackie Hamilton	Hamilton Family
Kathleen Dominick	Cathy Sinica	Kathleen Ford	Chuck Scott	John Lima	Anthony Bruno
Janina Stachurski	Joe M.	Joan Kennedy	Joanna Marvin	Ken Schulman	Angela McCrae
Greg N.	Donny Cassavechia	Nancy G.	Vinny Massaro	Alessandro Fornara	Kathy D
Dawn Grover	1 st Sgt. Joe Toscano (Ret.)	Debbie Poruban	Denise Cassin	Jack Cade	Jim Charest
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.



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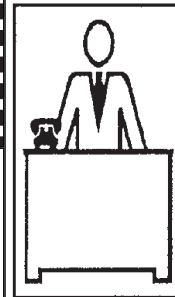


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