



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

ST. THOMAS
THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 13, 2020

The Third Sunday of Advent



*John the Baptist said:
"I am 'the voice of one crying out
in the desert,' " Make straight the
way of the Lord."*

Words by God ~ Mark 1:23

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, December 14

- 7:00 AM † Antonio, Maria, & Pasquale Rubbo
5:30 PM † Bernadette Arena

Tuesday, December 15

- 7:00 AM † William & Carmela O'Boy
5:30 PM † Rev. Edward A. Colohan

Wednesday, December 16

- 7:00 AM † Catherine Vigilante
5:30 PM † Domenico Mattera

Thursday, December 17

- 7:00 AM † Sr. Catherine Sheehy, RSM
5:30 PM † Stephen Haywood

Friday, December 18

- 7:00 AM † Cathy Vartuli
5:30 PM † Hernando Garcia

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil, December 19

- 5:15 PM † Cynthia Higgens

Sunday, December 20

- | | | |
|------------|--|-----------|
| 7:30 AM † | The Perreault & Audet Families,
Living & Deceased | Fr. Mirek |
| 9:00 AM † | Joseph Kovacs | Fr. Mirek |
| 11:30 AM † | Dominick Nicolia | Fr. Ralph |
| 5:00 PM † | For Our Parishioners, Living &
Deceased | Fr. Ralph |

Celebrant

Fr. Mirek

Fr. Mirek

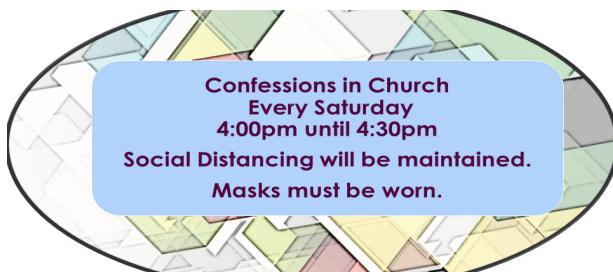
Fr. Mirek

Fr. Ralph

Fr. Ralph



*The Sanctuary Candle burns
December 13th through December 19th
for Rose & Joseph Izzo.*



PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2020	2019
December 6		
Collection	\$3,632.00	\$6,179.05
On-Line	\$2,516.00	\$2,256.00
Diocesan Assessment	<u>(\$1,869.00)</u>	<u>(\$1,867.00)</u>
Net Retained	<u>\$4,279.00</u>	<u>\$6,568.05</u>
Votives	\$ 98.00	\$ 201.00
Maintenance		
Collection	\$ 410.00	\$1,303.00
On-Line	<u>\$ 866.00</u>	<u>\$ 856.00</u>
Total	<u>\$1,276.00</u>	<u>\$2,159.00</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 2021 fiscal year, the annual Cathedraticum 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.

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

Please remember in your prayers:
Charles French Mary Jane Coolis

We extend our sympathy to his family & friends.

THE THRIFT STORE IS CURRENTLY
BEING PREPARED FOR OPENING
SOMETIME AFTER THE 1st OF THE
YEAR WITH ALL THE NECESSARY
PRECAUTIONS IN PLACE.

WATCH THE BULLETIN & OUR
WEBSITE FOR MORE
INFORMATION REGARDING
PRE-OPENING DONATION DROP
OFFS & OUR GRAND REOPENING
SCHEDULE!



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
ssthomasnorwalkreled@gmail.com

Kathryn Grieco, Secretary
General Office Email
ssthomasreledooffice@gmail.com

Facilities:

Tito (Jose) Rivera

R.I.S.E. Youth Ministry:

Cecy Gillen, Coordinator
ssthomasq@gmail.com

Website:

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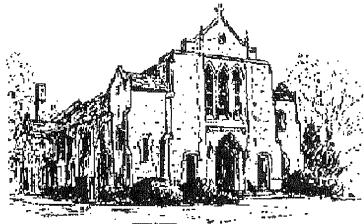
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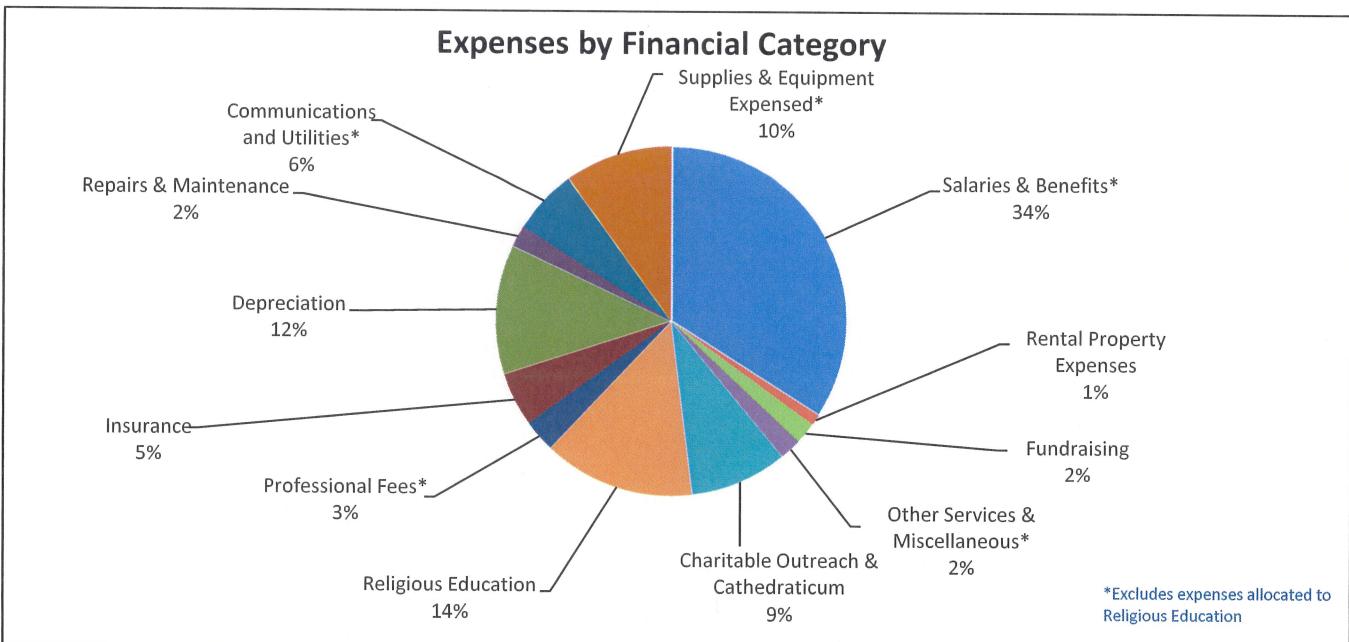
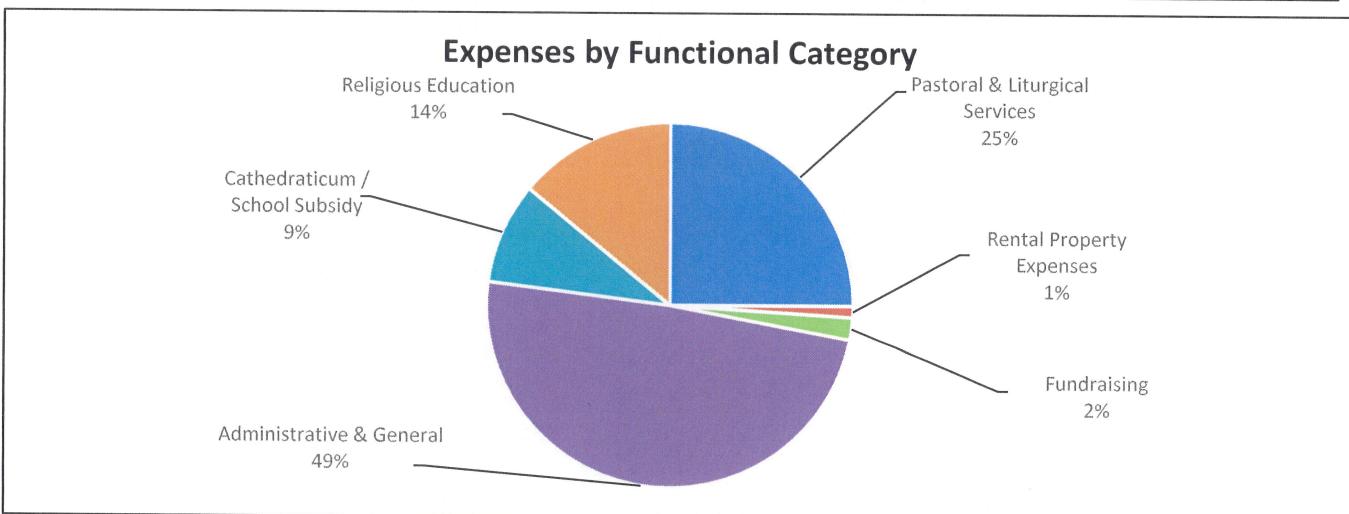
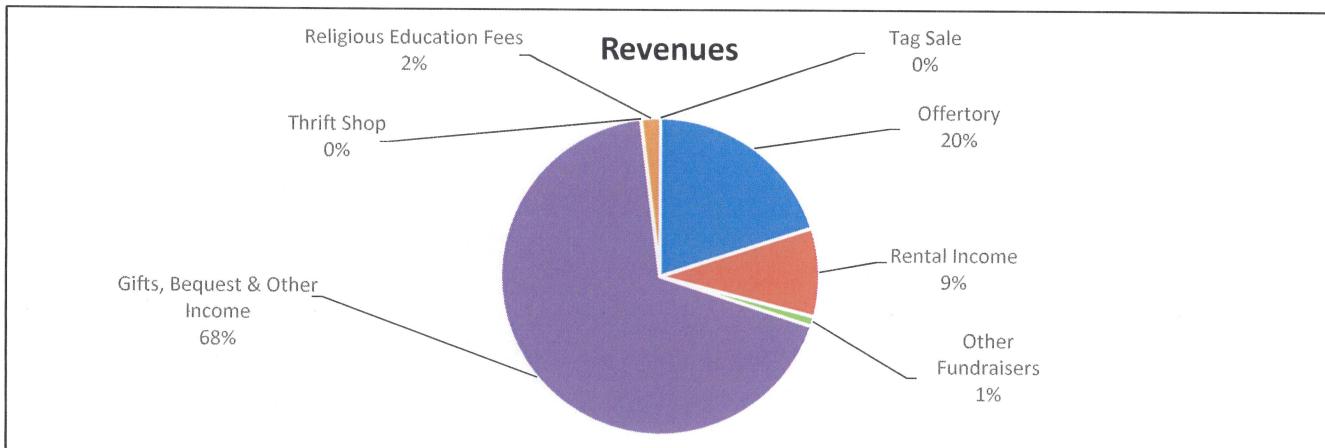
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish



Financial Results for the Three Months Ended September 30,

	2020	2019
Revenues:		
Offertory	\$ 87,339	\$ 102,606
Rental Income	40,602	39,228
Religious Education Fees & Grants	8,960	20,788
Gifts, Bequest & Other Income	290,591	9,938
Tag Sale	-	18,446
Thrift Shop	-	9,426
Other Fundraisers	3,435	7,108
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 430,927</u>	<u>\$ 207,540</u>
Expenses:		
Administrative & General	\$ 119,905	\$ 92,606
Pastoral & Liturgical Services	60,813	58,920
Religious Education	32,797	36,048
Cathedralicum/School Subsidy	22,425	22,398
Fundraising	4,994	7,598
Rental Property Expenses	1,375	2,249
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 242,309</u>	<u>\$ 219,819</u>
Excess (Deficit) of Revenues over Expenses	<u>\$ 188,618</u>	<u>\$ (12,279)</u>
Unrestricted Cash at End of Period (Sept 30)	<u>\$ 605,486</u>	<u>\$ 433,186</u>
Restricted Funds at End of Period (Sept 30)	<u>\$ 476,052</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Cash Used for Capital Projects during Period	<u>\$ 90,572 (a)</u>	<u>\$ 2,711 (b)</u>
(a) Rectory Renovations	\$ 43,000	
Church Live Streaming System and Equipment	20,203	
PC Fire Alarm System	9,669	
Church Roof Ridge Cap	8,500	
Awnings	6,000	
PC Renovations	3,200	
	<u>\$ 90,572</u>	
(b) Gym Loft Renovation	\$ 1,301	
PC Networking	1,410	
	<u>\$ 2,711</u>	

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Quarterly Financial Report
Analysis of Revenues and Expenditures: 7/1/20 - 9/30/20



Christmas Mass Attendance

Please remember that each Mass will have a limited number of Parishioners allowed. Our current capacity is 70 people. There will be a sign in sheet at the entry door for each person's name (including all children) & phone number, i.e., don't sign in as Mr. & Mrs. Once the sheet is filled no one else will be allowed into the church. Family members may sit together in any designated pew.

Masks must be worn & social distancing must be maintained, especially while standing in line for the receipt of Communion.



St. Thomas the Apostle

203 East Avenue

Norwalk, CT 06855

(203) 866-3141

stthomasnorwalk.org

All Are Welcome!! Christmas Schedule

Christmas Week Confession

Monday, December 21st, Tuesday, December 22nd,
& Wednesday, December 23rd

4:00 pm ~ 5:00 pm & 6:00 pm ~ 7:00 pm

Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm 6:00 pm 10:00 pm 12 am Midnight

Christmas Day: 7:30 am 9:00 am 11:30 am 1:00 pm

PLEASE HELP LIGHTEN OUR LOAD!

Please use your parish offertory envelope or write your envelope # on any loose checks. This will greatly cut down on the entry time of the Parish Offertory every week.

*If you don't know your number, please call the office
(203) 866-3141.*

HAVE YOU DROPPED YOUR LANDLINE FOR A CELL PHONE?

DID YOU ADD OR CHANGE AN EMAIL ADDRESS?

Please let us know of any changes to your contact information so our records will be correct and we will be able to contact you, if necessary. Please notify the Parish Office when you change your address, phone number, cell phone number and/or email address so that we can have the most up to date way to reach you should the need arise. Call us at (203) 866-3141 or send us an email with your current information. Thank you.

REFLECTION FROM FR. RALPH

For us, as Catholics, this time of year is among the two most sacred and hopeful in the Liturgical Calendar of the Church; while at the same time, this year, is one of the most difficult, certainly in recent memory. Many people are dealing with financial uncertainty, the sickness or loss of a beloved family member, impediments to spending time with the people that they love, observing and celebrating the holidays, the shorter, colder and windy days, the various conflicts of opinion that abound; not to mention the long to-do lists or numerous sticky notes staring us in the face. Indeed, it's a lot to deal with.

Yet, just the same, as difficult as it may be, and perhaps more difficult than ever, we are called to lend ourselves, if you will, to the simple beauty and mystery of God entering into the world as one of us to accomplish and fulfill the redemption of humanity.

Perhaps one of the most important questions then is: What are we hearing? We must admit, that the clatter in the air is resounding and constant, and it seems to ring strong not only in the newspapers, magazines, on television and the internet, but unfortunately, in our very ears, making its way into our lives, our hearts, minds, and worst of all, our souls.

It is as if, not only are we in the midst of that “voice crying out in the desert,” but a voice coming from within us, and it can’t be that God intends that it prevail over us for the sake of ruin. The “voice crying out,” of which John the Baptist refers, is found in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 40, verse 3, and this quote is followed with the exhortation to “prepare the way of the Lord,” followed thereafter with a messianic promise in verses 10-11.

Notice that John the Baptist himself is preaching and witnessing the words of the great prophet Isaiah, whose prophecy stands among the first of the prophetic books in the Bible, a text that is rich with admonition, warning, revelation of God and God’s will; but at the same time, ultimately revealing the promise of Christ who is to come.

In fact, reading and praying through the entire Book of Isaiah, we can see that there are clear references to the coming of Christ within the context of a troubled people with a very difficult, and even one can say, negative history; a promise hidden deep within the text—mysterious and sacred.

Do we not find ourselves in troubled times? Are we not a troubled people? Are the circumstances in which we find ourselves complicated, noisy, distracting and negative? Does it not seem that we are making our way across a barren wasteland, seeking consolation, peace, rest, and a simple drink of water that satisfies? Indeed, we are in the very same circumstances that the prophet speaks to, that John the Baptist speaks to, and that the times in which we find ourselves speak to.

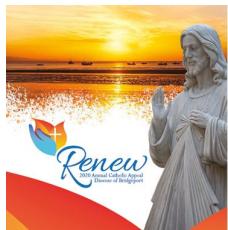
With all that said, however, we have the hope of one single, simple promise from God; though not always and easily heard in the midst of so much noise; that God is with us and speaks to us even now, and the voice we listen for is the word of God, Jesus Christ. As St. Augustine tells us:

“John is the voice, but the Lord ‘is the Word who was in the beginning.’ John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives forever”

May we continue to listen for what God desires to say to us, the voice that speaks the words that endures and will endure, prevailing over all things, in our hearts, minds and souls in and through Jesus Christ.

(The St. Augustine quote is from the *Liturgy of the Hours, Vol. 1, 3rd Sunday of Advent, p. 261.*)

Father Ralph



2020 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

We have raised 166 gifts worth \$37,193 bringing our parish to 35.94% of its \$103,500 goal. Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated. Thanks to all who have already given or pledged!

The Food Pantry is open

Saturday From 10 AM to 12 Noon.

Donations are now being accepted during regular hours or leave in the entrances of the church.

Questions? Call them at
(203) 866-1644

Closed on Saturday, December 26th.



PRAY For Our Men and Women Serving our Country

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

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.



Sunday Family Rosary

Every Sunday at 7:30 pm, the Diocese of Bridgeport is conducting Sunday Family Rosary. They would like to have one family from each parish and school lead the rosary, which will guarantee that the schedule would be set for many, many months to come.

Please visit www.formationreimagined.org and click the praying hands image at the top of the screen. Once you sign up to lead, you will receive a confirmation email with complete details.

No registration is necessary for families who simply wish to join in prayer each week at 7:30 pm. If you have any questions, please email Rosary@diobpt.org.

REMOTE RELIGIOUS FORMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

Sunday

Grade 1: 10:15-11:30 am

Monday

Grade 2: 4:15-5:15 pm

Grade 3: 5:15-6:15 pm

Grade 4: 6:15-7:15 pm

Tuesday

Grade 7: 6:15-7:30 pm

Wednesday

Grade 5: 6:15-7:15 pm

Grade 6: 5:15-6:15 pm

The next digital version of the missalette is not available to our parishioners. We do, however, have the actual missalette available for pick up during regular office business hours. Please call the office before coming - (203) 866-3141.

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

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
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.

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 Pagliano	Carol Smyth	Karen Miller	Debbie Reddock	Theresa Buono	Walter Cortese	James Amrich
Pearl Futo	Jim Sweet	Lou Marcario	Jill Bowman	Anne Edwards	Linda Lima	Emily Calabrese
Lynn Lockwood	Ken Pelzolt	Robert Parmalee	Carol Vallee	Grace DeMilo	Linda Spero	Marie Silver
Terry Rooney	Skip Bossone	Mike Torres	Constance Williams	Tony Cappuccia	Irene Brennan	Jeanette Ralston
Gary Livia	Kimberly Frataloni	Peggy McDonald	Lorraine Magazeno	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	Antonio Vescio
Jeannie Maxwell	Cathy Sinica	Diane Turek	Richard Berg	Chuck Scott	Hamilton Family	Kathleen Ford
Trisha Jackson	Thomas Calka	Msgr. Thomas Powers	Phil Tavella, Jr.	Ken Schulman	Chuck Corbo	Joanna Marvin
Vicki	Julia Cade	Mary Malagisi				



ADORATION
MONDAY NIGHT
6PM - 8PM



The 2021 MASS BOOK is open. Only 2 Saturday Vigil/Sunday weekend masses may be booked and no more than 4 Sanctuary Candles until February 1.



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



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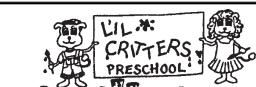
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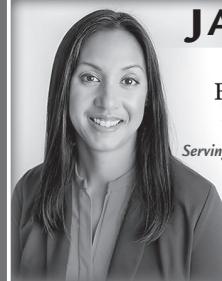
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