

# December 31, 2023 WISHING YOU A HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR



# THE HOLY FAMILY

610-

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

- Lk 2:40

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass @2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

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, January 1

7:00 AM**†** NO MASS

9:00 AM**†** Matilda & Antonio DiMeglio

5:30 PM**†** NO MASS

Tuesday, January 2

7:00 AM**†** Jean Arcoite 5:30 PM NO MASS

Wednesday, January 3

7:00 AM NO MASS 5:30 PM NO MASS

Thursday, January 4

7:00 AM NO MASS

5:30 PM Intention of Denis Deda

Friday, January 5

7:00 AM**†** Victoria Baldino Driver 5:30 PM**†** Mass of Remembrance

Deceased

Sunday Vigil,	Celebrant					
5:15 PM <b>+</b>	Russell J. Fallo	Fr. Ralph				
Sunday, January 7						
7:30 AM <b>†</b>	Special Intention	Fr. Ralph				
9:00 AM <b>†</b>	Catherine Verda	Fr. Ralph				
11:30 AM <b>†</b>	Nancy Cannon	Fr. Mirek				
5:00 PM <b>†</b>	For Our Parishioners, Living &	Fr. Mirek				



The Sanctuary Candle burns December 31<sup>st</sup> through January 6<sup>th</sup> in memory of Linda Montana Silva

# Confession in Church Every Saturday 4:00pm until 4:30pm or by Appointment



ADORATION MONDAY NIGHT 6PM - 8PM

Rectory:

Rev. Miroslaw Śtachurski Pastor (ext. 12)

Rev. Ralph Segura Parochial Vicar (ext.19)

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 9 - 4 Closed Wednesday, Saturday, & Sunday Rectory Staff:

Cathy Lauder
Parish Secretary (ext. 10)

Finance Chair: Ulrike Schambeck (203) 434-6488

#### PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2023	2022
December 17 Collection On-Line Diocesan Assessment Net Retained	\$4,484.00 \$2,488.00 (\$1,506.00) \$5,466.00	\$3,978.00 \$2,572.00 (\$1,567.00) \$4,983.00
Net Retained	\$5,400.00	\$4,963.00
Votives	\$ 121.79	\$ 138.30

#### **Diocesan Assessment**

The assessment is used to cover the cost of Diocesan operations and schools. The formula is based on <u>all</u> gross receipts. For our 2024 fiscal year, the annual Cathedraticum Assessment is \$78,324. This equates to a weekly payment of \$1,506. This represents an annual decrease of \$3,148.00 from the prior year.



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION January 5<sup>th</sup> 7:30am to 5:00pm

The 2024 MASS BOOK is open without restrictions. Phone or email requests are welcome

#### —MASS OF REMEMBRANCE—

There will be a special mass for all deceased parishioners on **Friday, January** 5<sup>th</sup>, 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.



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Religious Ed Office:

(203) 866-1189 Patty Frattaroli, *DRE* stthomasreledoffice@gmail.com

> Parish Bookkeeper Monika Piascik

Facilities: Tito (Jose) Rivera Youth Ministry:

stthomasyg1@gmail.com
Elizabeth Squicciarino, Coordinator
Website:

Website.

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stthomasnorwalk@gmail.com

(203) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax

# **Now through January 31, 2024**

# 2023 Challenge Grant

The 2023 Challenge Grant is now in progress. Our benevolent family has agreed to match up to \$60,000 of your contributions. The gift envelopes have been mailed. If you did not receive one and wish to contribute, please call the office.

Thank you to all who already have pledged or donated!.



BOY SCOUT TROOP 222 WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO SUPPORTED THEIR ANNUAL WREATH SALE!



# Coming Soon

Our Food Pantry will be starting a "Needed Items List" in our bulletin. Just as there are some items that we are able to get free from different government sources or at a greatly reduced cost, there are some items we need to buy. That is where this listing will come in. Of course, you can still give items that aren't on the list.

NEED TO REGISTER WITH THE PARISH?
DO YOU NEED PROOF OF
SACRAMENTS?
A SPONSOR CERTIFICATE?
NEED TO SCHEDULE A BAPTISM.

NEED TO SCHEDULE A BAPTISM, OR A WEDDING?

THEN HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE.

All of these items are available by filling in the form on the website and emailing it to the office. Once received, we will let you know we have it and will call or email you when your request is completed.

If you are 18 and out of school, you should be registered by yourself, not with your parents.

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#### **High School Youth Group Meeting**

Our Youth Group meeting is rescheduled to **Sunday**, **January** 7<sup>th</sup>, **from 4:30pm - 6:00pm** in the Parish Center Loft . If you would like more information or want to be added to the Youth Group email list please contact Elizabeth Squicciarino, our Youth Group Coordinator, at stthomasyg1@gmail.com. ALL HIGH SCHOOL & JR. HIGH STUDENTS ARE WELCOME & BRING YOUR FRIENDS.



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#### A REFLECTION ON THE HOLY FAMILY BY POPE PAUL VI

Nazareth is a kind of school where we may begin to discover what Christ's life was like and even to understand his Gospel. Here we can observe and ponder the simple appeal of the way God's Son came to be known, profound yet full of hidden meaning. And gradually we may even learn to imitate him.

Here we can learn to realize who Christ really is. And here we can sense and take account of the conditions and circumstances that surrounded and affected his life on earth: the places, the tenor of the times, the culture, the language, religious customs, in brief, everything which Jesus used to make himself known to the world. Here everything speaks to us, everything has meaning. Here we can learn the importance of spiritual discipline for all who wish to follow Christ and to live by the teachings of his Gospel.

How I would like to return to my childhood and attend the simple yet profound school that is Nazareth! How wonderful to be close to Mary, learning again the lesson of the true meaning of life, learning again God's truths. But here we are only on pilgrimage. Time presses and I must set aside my desire to stay and carry on my education in the Gospel, for that education is never finished. But I cannot leave without recalling, briefly and in passing; some thoughts I take with me from Nazareth.

First, we learn from its silence. If only we could once again appreciate its great value. We need this wonderful state of mind, beset as we are by the cacophony of strident protests and conflicting claims so characteristic of these turbulent times. The silence of Nazareth should teach us how to meditate in peace and quiet, to reflect on the deeply spiritual, and to be open to the voice of God's inner wisdom and the counsel of his true teachers. Nazareth can teach us the value of study and preparation, of meditation, of a well-ordered personal spiritual life, and of silent prayer that is known only to God.

Second, we learn about family life. May Nazareth serve as a model of what the family should be. May it show us the family's holy and enduring character and exemplify its basic function in society: a community of love and sharing, beautiful for the problems it poses and the rewards it brings, in sum, the perfect setting for rearing children—and for this there is no substitute.

Finally, in Nazareth, the home of a craftsman's son, we learn about work and the discipline it entails. I would especially like to recognize its value—demanding yet redeeming—and to give it proper respect. I would remind everyone that work has its own dignity. On the other hand, it is not an end in itself. Its value and free character, however, derive not only from its place in the economic system, as they say, but rather from the purpose it serves.

In closing, may I express my deep regard for people everywhere who work for a living. To them I would point out their great model, Christ their brother, our Lord and God, who is their prophet in every cause that promotes their well-being.

The Liturgy of the Hours, Vol. I, Advent Season - Christmas Season, From an Adress by Pope Paul VI, Catholic Book Publishing Co, NY, 1975, pp. 426-427.

# NEW YEAR HOLIDAY HOURS Parish & Rel Formation Offices: Closed on Monday, January 1st MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

#### **HELP WANTED!!**

A long-time parishioner is looking for a housekeeper to come once every other week. Needs vacuuming and other normal heavier cleaning done. She can do the rest. Please call the office for more information.

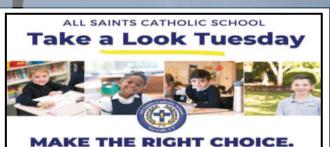
#### Free to a Good Home!

One of our wheelchair bound parishioners is getting a new motorized wheelchair. He would like to pass on his older model to someone in need. Please call the office for more information.



#### **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
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# JOIN THE SCOUTS! SCOUT TROOP 222

We welcome new members age 11-17. Meetings are Thursdays, 7pm - 8:30pm, in the Parish Center gym. We need at least 5 girls in order to have girls at the meetings. We follow the school year calendar. For more information about Scout Troop 222, please go to our web page:

troop222
norwalk.scoutlander.com.

**No** priest will ever send you an email asking for a purchase of gift cards or anything else. These are scam emails & should be moved to your spam folder.

**REMINDER:** 

Please do not respond to these emails. If you are ever unsure of anything please do not hesitate to call the office or ask one of the priests after mass.

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## ! Hugh Gartland Linda O'Shaughnessy Ulrike Schambeck

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**Finance Council:** Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski Bill Austin

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) 318-9817 HOURS

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10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Tuesdays & Saturdays Only

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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 wegiesi@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

4:00 - 4:30 PM Saturdays: 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	Debbie Reddock	James Amrich	Theresa Buono	Linda Lima	Merina Deluc
Pearl Futo	Robert Parmalee	Mike Torres	Emily Calabrese	Anne Edwards	George Travers
Jack Cade	Constance Williams	Skip Bossone	Marie Silver	Grace DeMilo	Phil Tavella
Gary Livia	Peggy McDonald	Kimberly Frataloni	Jeanette Ralston	Pam Simso	Hamilton Family
Julia Cade	Marianne Schambeck	Cathy Sinica	Rick Azillo	Jeannetta Torres	Anthony Bruno
Jeannie Maxwell	Michele Mola-Gulemi	Richard Barton	Richard Berg	Diane Turek	Angela McCrae
Vicki	Betty Lou Heffernan	Kathleen Ford	Antonio Vescio	Jackie Hamilton	Debbie Poruban
Kathleen Dominick	1 <sup>st</sup> Sgt. Joe Toscano (Ret.)	Joan Kennedy	Chuck Scott	John Lima	Denise Cassin
Ginny DeMarco	Nancy G.	Joanna Marvin	Ken Schulman	Holly Sanders	Vinny Massaro
Mike D.	Elizabeth Malerba	Alessandro Fornara	Jim Charest	Steve C.	Patricia M.
Stefanie Sena	Jim Bogdany	Jackson P.	David R.	Robert Podlaski	Michelle Vittorio

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

HOSPICE 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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