



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

ST. THOMAS

THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent



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, December 12

7:00 AM† Lucille Applegate
5:30 PM† Paul Sibiski

Tuesday, December 13

7:00 AM† Evena, Guy, Fritz, & Rachel Dessances
5:30 PM Intentions of Luke Sweeney

Wednesday, December 14

7:00 AM† Joy Sinise
5:30 PM† Adrian Diaz

Thursday, December 15

7:00 AM† Brunot Family
5:30 PM† Theresa Passero

Friday, December 16

7:00 AM† All Deceased
5:30 PM† Domenico Mattera

Sunday Vigil, Saturday, December 17

5:15 PM† Jim Verda (2nd Anniversary)

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 18

7:30 AM† For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased
9:00 AM† Edward A. Seferian (1st Anniversary)
11:30 AM† Rose & Joseph Izzo
5:00 PM† Lester Platt

Celebrant

Fr. Mirek
Fr. Mirek
Fr. Mirek
Fr. Ralph
Fr. Ralph

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2022	2021
December 4		
Collection	\$4,302.48	\$5,314.00
On-Line	\$3,061.17	\$2,509.00
Diocesan Assessment	(\$1,567.00)	(\$1,636.00)
Net Retained	<u>\$5,796.65</u>	<u>\$6,187.00</u>
Votives	\$ 156.40	\$ 198.00
Monthly Maintenance		
Collection	\$1,432.00	\$1,386.00
On-Line	<u>\$1,158.00</u>	<u>\$1,019.00</u>
Total	<u>\$2,590.00</u>	<u>\$2,405.00</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 Cathedralium 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.

ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 21st,
and
Thursday, December 22nd,
6:00pm to 8:00pm



The Sanctuary Candle burns
December 11th through December 17th
for Rose & Joseph Izzo.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord, and
let perpetual light shine upon them.
Please remember in your prayers:

Francesco Cenatempo

We extend our sympathy to his family & friends.

Confessions in Church
Every Saturday
4:00pm until 4:30pm
Social Distancing will be maintained.
Masks must be worn.



Remember - your
shopping matters. Shop at
smile.amazon.com/ch/06-0653149
and Amazon donates to
St. Thomas the Apostle.

Now through January 31, 2023
2022 Challenge Grant

The 2022 Challenge Grant has started. Our benevolent family has agreed, once again, 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.

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

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stthomasnorwalk@optonline.net

(203) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax



Please bring your wrapped gift with tag attached back to the church no later than December 18th. If dropping off during the week, please bring to the Rectory Office.



2022 ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL
 We have raised 183 gifts worth \$46,179 bringing our parish to 73.53% of its \$62,800 goal. Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated. **Thanks to all who gave or pledged!**



FIGHT HUNGER WITH US!

We will receive a \$1 donation for every \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with the red circle sticker sold at our selected Stop & Shop in our selected month.

Benefiting Organization:
 St. Thomas St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry

Selected Month: **DECEMBER** Selected Stop & Shop: **380 Main Avenue Norwalk**

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Stamford Young Adult Mass & Social

stamfordyoungadultcatholics@gmail.com



Wednesday, December 14th
 Adoration and confessions start at 6pm
 Mass starts at 7pm
 St. John's Basilica (279 Atlantic St) Ages 18-35

Social Gathering at Bobby Valentine's after Mass.

During these difficult times, please remember to support our local bulletin advertisers. Make the back 2 pages of this publication your "go to place" for local business help. They can only help us if we continue to help them!

COMFORT & JOY
 ADVENT CONCERT

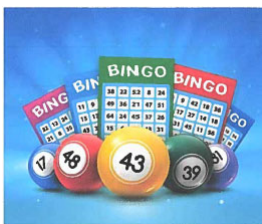
SATURDAY | DEC. 17 | 7PM
 ST. MATTHEW CHURCH
 NORWALK, CT | 06854

Steve Angrisano

Sarah Hart

THIS IS A FREE CONCERT OPEN TO ALL!
 A Meet & Greet will follow the concert with light refreshments served.
Spread the word for all to attend a fun family night!

MONDAY NIGHT BINGO



St. Ann's club
 16 Hendricks Avenue
 Norwalk
 Doors open at 5:30pm.
 First game at 6:45pm.
 Refreshments available to purchase.

REFLECTION FROM FR. RALPH

During this Advent, as we make our way through the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, especially chapters 1-39, the prophet gives harsh admonishment and stern warning regarding the relationship between God and the people of Israel. The prophet speaks to the religious leaders, the monarchs and aristocracy, as well as to the people in general. But hidden within what can be interpreted as very negative discourse, the prophet reveals the promise of the Messiah, the long-awaited liberator and redeemer of the people.

It seems as though one has precedence over the other, that is to say, doom and gloom supersede the promise and hope that the people of Israel have been waiting for throughout their very difficult history. Further, said promise and hope is seemingly sparse, inserted here and there among a long-winded ever-present chastisement. Though unlikely, this dynamic serves as a sign of hope. Something like a flicker of light found deep within a darkness that pervades all things.

Though difficult to see, perhaps we can, in our time, identify with this proportion not only in regard to the current situation(s) of our culture, but in our own lives as well? And if not, that can serve us just as well. For either we can notice the glimmer of hope that we see among so much that is not good, or, if unnoticed altogether, maybe we need to look a little harder, or better yet, deeper.

This is the challenge for us during this Advent Season. We need to look more deeply to see that gift of God in this time as something that seems elusive, or we need to be more honest with ourselves so that we recognize that the good that can be found anywhere, or in our own lives, or in any one of us, ultimately, comes from God; and not only this, we can realize that whatever good that we can find is intended not only for the entire human family, but for each one of us.

One of the themes we can see coming from the prophet has to do with a renewal, even a rebirth of creation. Along with what seems like sparse reference to the Messiah, the prophet is constantly referring to nature, natural things, and a time of growth, healthy abundance, and a land, a place, that is stable, fertile, productive, and beautiful. There is no accident to this. Recall that in the beginning, after God made all things, God made us as the final testament to what God ultimately intends for all that exists; an abiding, ever present, personal encounter and relationship with God, in the glory of God. Ultimately, God seeks nothing less than the reversal of our tragic fall in the garden of Eden.

So, God promises, even through the created order, to restore things to what God intended from the beginning, and this renewal in nature is not an end in itself, it's a sign of what God has in store for each one of us. God seeks to restore us to grace. God seeks to renew and even recreate us in our hearts, minds and souls. This is why thus far we are given New Testament readings that involve a prophet and a call to repentance and conversion.

So, as we notice the glimmer of lights and bright colors, the opportunity for good works and generosity, and, as we busy ourselves with so many good things, and finally, as we might find ourselves anxious or disturbed perhaps by a sudden or unexpected change in our plans and schedules, or please God, no, some misfortune or tragedy, let us not lose sight of the subtle yet beautiful mystery that is before us. Let us, to the best of our ability, along with the help of God's grace, keep in mind what Jesus tells us this weekend: "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you (Mt 11:10)." *Fr. Ralph*

**It's not too late for students to sing or play an instrument at the 4:00 PM Mass on
Christmas Eve! There are only 2 rehearsals left!**

If you would like your child to sing in the Christmas Choir (Grades 1-12) or play an instrument (Grades 5-12), please speak to Music Director Marge Kelley after the 5:15 PM, 9:00 AM or 11:30 AM Masses this weekend or send an email to margaret-kelley24@gmail.com typing Christmas Eve Family Mass in the subject line and providing the following information: student name, grade, age and whether they are singing in the youth choir or what instrument they will play in the youth orchestra. Please provide a parent cell phone number that I can have on file for emergency purposes during rehearsals and I will then share mine in return. We hope we will have a large number of our talented students willing to participate this year! I will also be working with students in Grades 1-8 on the music during Religious Education classes on December 11 and December 13.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE: All rehearsals will take place in St Thomas the Apostle Church

Week 3 Schedule: choose your preferred day
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14: youth choir and instrument combined rehearsal, 4:15-5:00 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15:
youth choir instrument combined rehearsal, 4:15-5:00

DRESS REHEARSAL: Friday, December 23, 3:30-4:30: all instruments and singers.

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 Pensergera, 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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Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski
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Hugh Gartland
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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
Norwalk

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Saturdays

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HOURS
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Only

**Birthday of
Norwalk:**
(203) 853-4872

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

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. The main menu is located by clicking the 3 bars located on the homepage in the upper right-hand corner of the page. 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

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.

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



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	Jackie Capobianco	Joan Kennedy	Chuck Scott	John Lima	Debbie Poruban
Dawn Grover	1 st Sgt. Joe Toscano (Ret.)	Nancy G.	Joanna Marvin	Ken Schulman	Denise Cassin
Vinny Massaro	Josephine Mola Buckley	Alessandro Fornara	Jim Charest	Joe M.	Holly Sanders
Stefanie Sena	Elizabeth Malerba	Alyssa Collier			

**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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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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