



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935  
**ST. THOMAS**  
**THE APOSTLE** CATHOLIC CHURCH

October 3, 2021 Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



Jesus said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not prevent them,

for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

Mark 10:14



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, October 4

- 7:00 AM In Celebration of Fr. Richard Murphy's Birthday  
5:30 PM † Andrea Padulo

#### Tuesday, October 5

- 7:00 AM Intentions of Anthony Bruno  
5:30 PM † Matthew James Harbilas (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)

#### Wednesday, October 6

- 7:00 AM † Cathleen J. Hagerty (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)  
5:30 PM † Isabel Sefton

#### Thursday, October 7

- 7:00 AM † William & Carmela O'Boy  
5:30 PM † Paul Douglas Hartzell

#### Friday, October 8

- 7:00 AM † Souls in Purgatory  
5:30 PM † Maria Longo

### Sunday Masses

#### Saturday Vigil, October 9

- 5:15 PM † Jose Batiller, Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)

#### Sunday, October 10

	Celebrant
7:30 AM †	Fr. Mirek
9:00 AM	Fr. Mirek
11:30 AM †	Fr. Ralph
5:00 PM †	Fr. Ralph



The Sanctuary Candle burns  
October 3<sup>rd</sup> through October 9<sup>th</sup>  
For a Special Intention.

## Banns of Marriage

III

Cherylynn Dass & Dennis Peter

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP

2021                    2020

#### September 26

Collection	\$4,360.00	\$3,441.50
On-Line	\$2,491.00	\$2,396.00
Diocesan Assessment	(\$1,636.00)	(\$1,869.00)
<b>Net Retained</b>	<b>\$5,215.00</b>	<b>\$3,968.50</b>
<b>Votives</b>	<b>\$238.00</b>	<b>\$ 73.00</b>

#### 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 Cathedratum 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.

## Jesus meets Aristotle Philosophy

I invite you to a philosophy lecture and dinner on Thursday, October 14, at 6:30pm in the Gym of our Parish Center. The topic: Differences between St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas and their implications on Catholic Doctrine and Philosophy. If you would like to discuss some of the fascinating ideas of these two Catholic Saints over a nice pasta and vino - please join us! Please R.S.V.P. to the office by Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, so we know how much food to order. Please call (203) 866-3141 or email stthomasnorwalk@optonline.net. All must wear masks regardless of vaccination status.



The 2022 MASS BOOK is now open. We still have Masses & Candles available for 2021. Please call or email the office to reserve your masses and candles.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord, and Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.  
Please remember in your prayers:  
*Donald Avery      Linda Spero*  
We extend our sympathy to their families & friends.

#### 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](mailto:ssthomasnorwalkreled@gmail.com)

Mary Vladimirov, Secretary  
General Office Email  
[ssthomasreledooffice@gmail.com](mailto:ssthomasreledooffice@gmail.com)

Facilities:  
Tito (Jose) Rivera

R.I.S.E. Youth Ministry:  
[stthomasqy@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasqy@gmail.com)

Website:  
[www.ssthomasnorwalk.org](http://www.ssthomasnorwalk.org)

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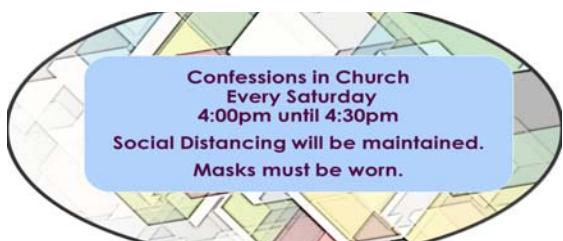
(203) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax

## FR. MIREK'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Dear Friends! I am very happy to invite you again to join the next SESSION of Bible Study on Wednesday evenings, @ 7 pm beginning with Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, for a period of 4 to 5 weeks in the Toomey Room. This time, I would like to invite you to study *Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans*. Questions and answers given by Saint Paul about the Salvation offered through Jesus Christ, topics of justification, metanoia, hope, faith, but also mosaic law, Jewish-Christian relations, and any many others. Please, join us if your schedule allows. All must wear masks regardless of vaccination status.

We have installed an Air Scrubber system in the church to filter and clean the air flowing through our HVAC system.



## SYNODAL WAY

As many of you are aware, Pope Francis mandated, that every diocese in the world participate in the XVI Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome, in October 2023. As a result of this invitation, Bishop Caggiano asked each pastor to choose FOUR DELEGATES to participate in our diocesan portion of the global process. There will be an orientation session and commissioning ceremony on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, from 9am to 11am at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Weston, CT. If any of you would be interested in joining our team of 4 DELEGATES to participate in the Pope's initiative, please let Fr. Mirek know. Call the office at (203) 866-3141 or email us at [stthomasnorwalk@optonline.net](mailto:stthomasnorwalk@optonline.net).



St. Thomas the Apostle  
Catholic Formation • Norwalk, CT

All Saints Fall Festival  
139 West Rocks Road  
[www.all saints norwalk.com](http://www.all saints norwalk.com)  
Sunday, October 17  
12 noon to 3 pm

Join us for some family fun at our popular Fall Festival! It will be held outside on the front lawn. Featuring food trucks, crafters and vendors, pony rides and a petting zoo, "Touch-a-Truck", flowers, pumpkins, games and other surprises!

COME JOIN THE FUN!!

## RELIGIOUS FORMATION CLASSES ARE BACK IN SESSION!

Please direct all correspondence to Mary at [stthomasreleddoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasreleddoffice@gmail.com).

Be sure to check your email weekly for any correspondence from us. Please check your spam or junk folder to be sure our emails are getting to you.

## Lauralton Hall Shadow Visits

8th grade girls are invited to spend a day at Lauralton in their Shadow Program. You'll experience a "day in the life" at Lauralton including attending classes, having lunch in the dining hall, studying in the library, and navigating the hallways with a current student.

To schedule your visit, please go to:  
[www.lauraltonhall.org/admissions/visit-lauralton](http://www.lauraltonhall.org/admissions/visit-lauralton)



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



Fairfield College  
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A Jesuit, Catholic School of Excellence

Fairfield Prep is a Catholic, Jesuit high school for boys located on the campus of Fairfield University. To learn more about Fairfield Prep and the admissions process please join us for our in-person Open House on Sunday October 3 (1:00 or 2:00 pm) or Saturday November 20 (9:00 or 10:00 am). Please pre-register for the Open House by creating an admissions account at [www.fairfieldprep.org/apply](http://www.fairfieldprep.org/apply).

Questions? Please call the Fairfield Prep Admissions Office at (203) 254-4210.

## REFLECTION FROM FR. RALPH

The readings for this weekend provide us with a very rich and deep reference for the sacred mystery of marriage. Arguably, regarding the current culture in which we live, this is one of the most immediate considerations for us as Catholics, and as disciples of Jesus Christ. Marriage, family, sexual identity and morality are subject to an array of interpretations, and there is expectation that the Church should change its teaching and its way of life.

So, though quite extensive, I thought we should consider a few basic points that can help us to understand what we believe as disciples of Jesus Christ and why we believe that our faith-tradition on this matter is not subject to the influence and interpretation of what has become so popular in our culture; for if it is, then our identity and mission in the world as disciples of Jesus Christ will be subject to the same interpretations and influences.

But before we go any further, the issue of sin and judgement will not be discussed, and, regarding what follows, I leave it to you to honestly discern God's will for your life and your vocation according to His will.

First, consider the following from the Catechism of the Church: "*The entire Christian life bears the mark of the spousal love of Christ and the Church. Already Baptism, the entry into the People of God, is a nuptial mystery; it is so to speak the nuptial bath, which precedes the wedding feast, the Eucharist. Christian marriage in its turn becomes an efficacious sign, the sacrament of the covenant of Christ and the Church. Since it signifies and communicates grace, marriage between baptized persons is a true sacrament of the New Covenant.*" (CCC 1617) As we can see, marriage stands among the seven sacraments that Jesus gave us, and it is intimately bound with the sacred mystery of the union between Christ and His Church. Also, consider this from the Catechism elsewhere: "*On the threshold of his public life Jesus performs his first sign - at his mother's request - during a wedding feast. The Church attaches great importance to Jesus' presence at the wedding at Cana. She sees in it the confirmation of the goodness of marriage and the proclamation that thenceforth marriage will be an efficacious sign of Christ's presence.*" (CCC 1613)

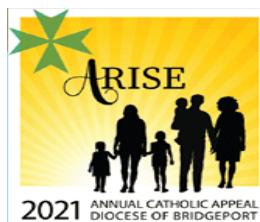
This union between Christ and His Church, which essentially involves the incarnation, life, death, and resurrection of Christ, the very means through which we are all redeemed, is a sign of the union we all share with Jesus Himself as those redeemed and as His disciples. Consequently, marriage, in fact all the sacraments (especially the Eucharist) are in every way and to the deepest extent necessarily related and foundational to our entire way of life as Catholics. They are the primary source of sanctifying grace, the grace that gives us life, the grace that gives us freedom, the grace that saves us, the grace through which we receive God's love, and the sacraments are the most intimate and sacred means through which Jesus is personally involved with the ministry of the Church and our personal lives. Finally, it is the grace of the sacraments that make it possible for us to live according to the teachings of the Church.

Now, as we have discussed before, the scriptures are very profound and mysterious. We know that God revealed His will for all of us very slowly over time, and there are hidden prophetic mysteries that could not be fully understood until all things were fulfilled in Jesus Christ. So, when we hear this weekend from the reading from the book of Genesis that God said: "*it is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him,*" (Gn 2:18) can we say that this not only holds true for marriage between one man and one woman, but also regarding our vocation to partner with Jesus Himself as He continues His mission in the world? Could that be the ultimate prophecy hidden within the voice of God spoken so long ago? After all, not everyone is called to marriage, but every soul that comes into the world is called to union with Jesus Christ through His Church, and everyone is called to participate in the Great Plan of Salvation. Is not the most suitable partner, as we make our journey of faith in this life, Jesus Christ Himself?

If we were to change the definition of marriage, if we were to change with the times, if we were to change what we believe, if we were to change what God has revealed to us, if we were to change all of the above, would we not too, redefine our union with Jesus according to our own will and design, and consequently, would we not then change our identity just as easily as the world insists on changing the identity of every person, every word, every meaning, every reality that we know to be true from the beginning? Further, if we were to do so, would we be doing His work in the world according to the will of the Father? This is all for your consideration. Mine too.

So, as we continue to discern God's revelation, God's will, God's truth, God's love, all that God has spoken to us about who we really are, and all that God calls us to be and do in the name of His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, may we keep in mind what Jesus Himself tells us today: "*Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate.*" (Mk 10:9)

Father Ralph



### 2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

We have raised 169 gifts worth \$42,393 bringing our parish to 67.50% of its \$62,800 goal. Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated. **Thanks to all who have already given or pledged!**

### THE LEARNING ACADEMY AT ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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### PRAY For Our Men and Women Serving our Country

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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  
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  
PFC Larry Joyce, US Marine Corps**



**ADORATION  
MONDAY NIGHT  
6PM - 8PM**

Pray the Rosary Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm  
with the Fr. Myron V. Miller Council 5833

Auxiliary Columbiettes

The St. Gabriel Church and Hall,  
914 Newfield Avenue, Stamford

Stay for an informational meeting to learn about  
the Columbiettes organization.

Open to all Catholic woman 18 years or older.

Refreshments will be served.

Please R.S.V.P. to Dolores at (203) 968-1978.

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SEPT 22- OCT 31, 2021

Join us for the next life-saving campaign in Danbury!  
Will you speak for those who cannot speak for  
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visit [40daysforlife.com/danbury](http://40daysforlife.com/danbury)

Contact: Sharon & Peg  
[Danbury40DFL@protonmail.com](mailto:Danbury40DFL@protonmail.com)



September 22 - October 31  
**40 DAYS FOR LIFE.**

**HELP SAVE LIVES!**

Protect mothers and children by  
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an end to abortion! Through prayer,  
fasting, peaceful vigils and community  
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inspired more than 1,000,000  
volunteers!

With God's help, here are the  
proven results of 26 coordinated  
campaigns:

- 18,855 babies saved from  
abortion
- 221 abortion workers  
converted
- 112 abortion centers closed

Take part in 40 Days for Life in  
our community:

- **Vigil location:** Sidewalk at  
entrance to Commerce Park  
4697 Main St. Bridgeport  
(Planned Parenthood is located  
within Commerce Park)
- **Vigil hours:** 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Local contact:** Barbara  
[GraciosaB@arrows.org](mailto:GraciosaB@arrows.org)
- **Learn more** and sign up for  
prayer times by visiting the link  
below.

<https://www.40daysforlife.com>



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 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of  
every month.**

**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  
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(203) 831-8200  
Nancy Cook-Owens,  
Director

**All Saints School:**  
Mrs. Linda Dunn,  
Principal  
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139 West Rocks Road  
Norwalk

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10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
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(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](mailto: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	Lou Marcario	Jill Bowman	Emily Calabrese	Anne Edwards	Linda Lima
Mike	Robert Parmalee	Mike Torres	Marie Silver	Grace DeMilo	Merina Deluc
Terry Rooney	Constance Williams	Skip Bossone	Jeanette Ralston	Tony Cappuccia	Pam Simso
Gary Livia	Peggy McDonald	Kimberly Frataloni	Rick Azillo	Jeannetta Torres	George Travers
Julia Cade	Marianne Schambeck	Michael Walsh	Richard Berg	Diane Turek	Phil Tavella, Jr.
Jeannie Maxwell	Michele Mola-Gulemi	Richard Barton	Antonio Vescio	Jackie Hamilton	Hamilton Family
Vicki	Betty Lou Heffernan	Cathy Sinica	Kathleen Ford	Chuck Scott	Chuck Corbo
Kathleen Dominick	Chris Rohleder	Joan Kennedy	Joanna Marvin	Ken Schulman	John Lima
Janina Stachurski	Donny Cassavechia	Nancy G.	Vinny Massaro	Wayne Embry, Jr.	Anthony Bruno
Jack Cade	Joe M.	Greg N.	Alessandro Fornara		

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



**Birthright**

Birthright is in need of gently worn **baby and maternity clothing**. Please call to arrange for a drop off.

Birthright is also in need of 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



**ELECTRONIC GIVING**  
is available through our parish website:  
[www.stthomasnorwalk.org](http://www.stthomasnorwalk.org).

Your use of electronic giving saves the parish money and helps keep our volunteers & staff safe.

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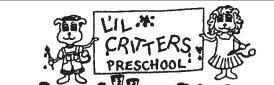
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