



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

ST. THOMAS

THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 22, 2021 • Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Master, to whom shall we go?

***You have the words
of eternal life.***

John 6:68



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Rev. Mirosław 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, August 23

7:00 AM† Deceased Members of the Pagliano & Mennino Families
5:30 PM Intentions of Ileana & Silvana Alarcon

Tuesday, August 24

7:00 AM More Respect & Love for Jesus in the Holy Sacrament
5:30 PM† Elizabeth Licari

Wednesday, August 25

7:00 AM Intentions of Mary & Joseph Remlin
5:30 PM† Luis Rojas

Thursday, August 26

7:00 AM Intentions of Nancy Engel & Helen Teeman
5:30 PM† Bertha Ballard

Friday, August 27

7:00 AM† Joan Gardella
5:30 PM† James E. Hanford (4th Anniversary)

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil, August 28

5:15 PM† Rose Izzo

Celebrant
Fr. Ralph

Sunday, August 29

7:30 AM† Antonietta DiMeglio Fr. Ralph
9:00 AM† Robert J. LeBlanc, Jr. Fr. Ralph
11:30 AM† Carol Wilson Fr. Ralph
5:00 PM† Antonietta DiMeglio Fr. Ralph



*The Sanctuary Candle burns
August 22nd through August 28th
for James E. Hanford.*

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

Please remember in your prayers:

Jane Schmitt Maureen McHale Pasquale Cutrone, Jr.

We extend our sympathy to their families & friends.



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



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

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

2021

2020

August 15

Collection	\$4,186.00	\$2,791.00
On-Line	\$2,473.00	\$2,426.00
Diocesan Assessment	(\$1,636.00)	(\$1,869.00)
Net Retained	\$5,023.00	\$3,348.00

Votives

\$ 149.00 \$ 67.00

Assumption of Mary

Collection	\$ 961.00	\$ 367.00
On-Line	\$ 627.00	\$ 522.00
Total	\$1,588.00	\$ 889.00

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 Cathedralricum 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.

Is your child entering 1st grade this school year? Are you new to the parish with school aged children?

Then it's time to register for our Religious Formation Class. Please contact the Formation Office at (203) 866-1189 or email Michelle & Mary at stthomasreledoffice@gmail.com or go to our parish website homepage to get your form.

The 2022 MASS BOOK is now open. Only 2 Saturday Vigil/Sunday weekend masses may be booked and no more than 4 Sanctuary Candles until September 1, 2021. Phone or email requests may also be made.

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) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax

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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:

August

Selected Stop & Shop:

385 Connecticut Ave
Norwalk

STOP&SHOP

Bible Study with Kevin Knight Resumes
with a Book Discussion
Friday, September 24th at 7:00pm in the
Monsignor Toomey Room

We will be discussing the book 'Learning to Pray' by Father James Martin. *"A smart, wise, often side-splittingly funny master class in seeking God. Any spiritual seeker - from atheist to professional religious - will cherish this bravura tome from one of our great spiritual guides, in the lineage of C. S. Lewis, Henri Nouwen, Thomas Merton, Gandhi, and Mother Teresa. Hallelujah & amen!"*

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

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We still have Masses & Candles available for 2021. Please call or email the office to reserve your masses and candles.



2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

We have raised 164 gifts worth \$41,873 bringing our parish to 66.68% of its \$62,800 goal. Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all who have already given or pledged!

Save the Date

Diocesan Wedding
Jubilee Mass
Saturday, September 25
St. Matthew Parish
10:30 am or 1:00 pm.
Watch the bulletin for
registration information.

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.*

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Golfer Registration due by August 28th. For more information, go to their website at www.assembly2459.org or contact Ric Raffone at (203) 640-6482 or email ricraf@togroup.com.

REFLECTION FROM FR. RALPH

As you know, when hearing the readings at Mass, we are presented with a movement from the Old Testament to the Gospels. So, for example, we hear the narrative of the Israelites crossing the Red Sea, followed by their rebellion while Moses received the Ten Commandments, and in the Gospels, we hear the Sermon on the Mount, followed by Our Lord's cleansing of the leper. The same can be said for the weekday readings as well, and whether a weekend reading or a weekday reading, whether the Old Testament, the Gospels, or the Letters to the Churches, we can always make some connection that can help us to arrive to a deeper understanding of the sacred mysteries so that we can apply scriptures to our lives today.

So, this past Monday, in the first reading, we were given the narrative of what happened after the Israelites entered the promise land, and after the death of Joshua. At this point, the people soon forgot what God did for them, liberating them from their slavery to the Egyptians and all that God revealed to them through Moses, especially the Ten Commandments. They fell into pagan worship of idols, as well as various expressions of sorcery and witchcraft, even sacrificing their children to idols while they were still alive.

In the Gospel, we are presented with the young man who practiced the worship of his faith perfectly, both in regard to ritual observance and the moral law of Moses, including the Ten Commandments. But, in his encounter with Jesus, he attempted to know more, to go further, and it is commonly observed among scripture scholars that his efforts were questionable; in short, he tried to both impress Jesus and justify himself.

In both cases mentioned above, what we can say, in principle, is that we have examples of what happens when we cannot go any further in the life that God calls us. The Israelites were willing to follow God into the promise land, and the young man was willing to observe the Law of Moses to the letter, but when challenged to persevere when things became too much, so to speak, in reality, more than what they expected, they were not willing to go any further.

Now in the Gospel for this weekend, we find ourselves hearing the narrative just after and the words of Our Lord known as "the bread of life discourse" in the Gospel of John. Jesus is beginning to speak more clearly regarding the mystery of the eucharist, and because what He was saying required understanding and faith well beyond what was possible for some of the people listening to him, as well as they were not humble enough to learn more, they no longer followed Him (as a footnote, if they followed Jesus from that moment to His most sorrowful passion, death, resurrection, and continued as disciples in the ancient church, they would have attended the first Masses ever celebrated).

So, it is at this point that we are introduced to the "hard sayings" of Jesus. As the people said themselves: "This is a hard saying; who can accept it?" Let us consider a few of what can be considered the "hard sayings" of Jesus in the Gospels:

Matthew 5:48

"Be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect."

Matthew 8:21

"Another of his disciples said unto him, Lord suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, *follow me; and let the dead bury the dead*"

Matthew 10:34

"Do not think that I am come to bring peace on earth; I came not to bring peace, but a sword."

Matthew 10:37

"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me."

John 8:24

"That is why I told you that you would die in your sins. For unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

Matthew 5:29-30

"If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into hell."

And there are many more. So, as we continue to make our journey of faith, we will be called further than we ever thought, and considering what our culture insists on imposing upon us, our families, and especially our children, in absolute conflict with the teachings of the church and what we know to be true, especially in regard to the practice of our faith and in conflict with nature and common sense, through legislative action against our freedom of will, which is a gift from God, we need to ask ourselves which sayings are harder, what the world demands or what God reveals?

Father Ralph

2021 PRAYER SERVICE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE AS MINORS

Friday August 27th, 2021 6:30 P.M. at

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Church

138 Candlewood Lake Road

Brookfield, CT 06804

A special prayer service for family members and friends of victims of child sexual abuse by clergy and by others will be held. The prayer service is being coordinated by family members of victims together with a community of survivors and the Office of Safe Environment of the Diocese of Bridgeport. Father Shawn Jordan, Father Larry Carew and Deacon Joseph Cann will lead the service. Open to family members of victims and all those who have been impacted by sexual abuse as a minor by clergy and by others. Our community of family members is called HUGS which stands for Hope Understanding Guidance and Support.

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 Penserger, 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

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St. Thomas the Apostle
Catholic Formation • Norwalk, CT

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is now open for all Kindergarten - 8th Grade/ Confirmation Students!!

An email link was sent to all previously enrolled students by Religious Formation. Please fill in one form for each child to be enrolled as soon as possible so that we can plan our classroom & catechist needs. *If you are new to the parish or have a child entering the 1st grade, please email Michelle or Mary at stthomasreledoffice@gmail.com for a registration link or go to our website homepage. Kindergarten is a new optional program with no fees.*

Payment is due in full by September 30th through the online giving link provided.



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John Stoops

Room To Grow Preschool:

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

All Saints School:

Mrs. Linda Dunn,
Principal
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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. 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 Calabeese	Anne Edwards	Linda Lima
Mike	Robert Parmalee	Mike Torres	Marie Silver	Grace DeMilo	Linda Spero
Terry Rooney	Constance Williams	Skip Bossone	Jeanette Ralston	Tony Cappuccia	Merina Deluc
Gary Livia	Peggy McDonald	Kimberly Fratoloni	Rick Azillo	Jeannetta Torres	Pam Simso
Julia Cade	Marianne Schambeck	Michael Walsh	Richard Berg	Diane Turek	George Travers
Jeannie Maxwell	Michele Mola-Gulemi	Richard Barton	Antonio Vescio	Jackie Hamilton	Phil Tavella, Jr.
Vicki	Betty Lou Heffernan	Cathy Sinica	Kathleen Ford	Chuck Scott	Hamilton Family
Kathleen Dominick	Chris Rohleder	Joan Kennedy	Joanna Marvin	Ken Schulman	Chuck Corbo
Janina Stachurski	Donny Cassavechia	Gordon R.	Vinny Massaro	Wayne Embry, Jr.	John Lima
Anthony Bruno	Jack Cade	Joe M.	Greg N.	Pete L.	Nancy G.

**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



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