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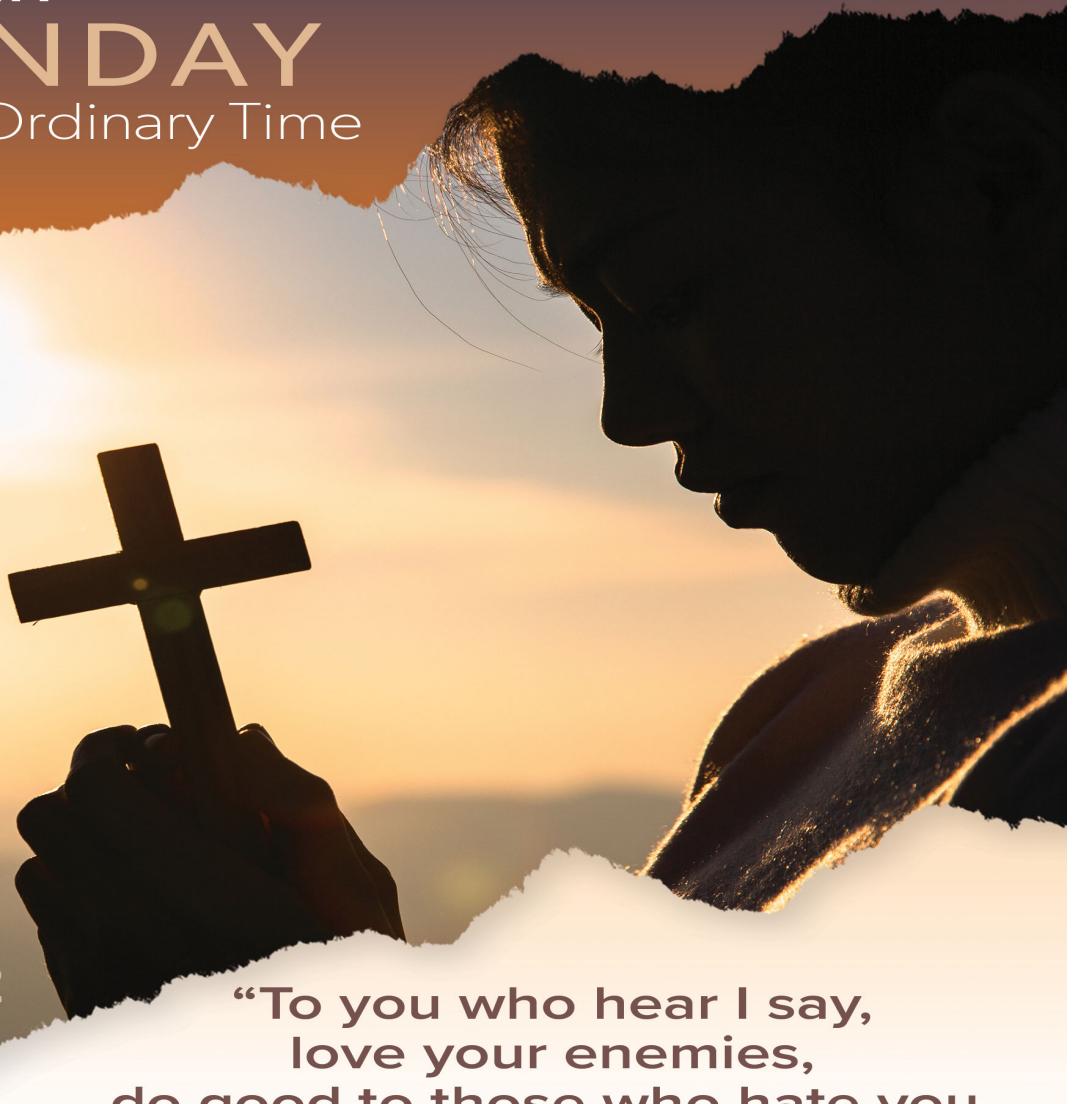
ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC
CHURCH

Seventh
SUNDAY
in Ordinary Time

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FEBRUARY
20
2022



**“To you who hear I say,
love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you,
pray for those who mistreat you.”**

Luke 6:27

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, February 21

7:00 AM Intentions of Alice Teresa Maher
5:30 PM † Joseph Kovacs

Tuesday, February 22

7:00 AM † Thomas Fiermonte
5:30 PM † Matthew Alyward

Wednesday, February 23

7:00 AM † Frank M. De Bellis (16th Anniversary)
5:30 PM † John Francis Hennessy

Thursday, February 24

7:00 AM † Rachel Dessances
5:30 PM † Giuseppe Passarelli

Friday, February 25

7:00 AM Intentions of Joseph & Mary Remlin &
All Married Couples Who Want to Start a
Family
5:30 PM † Giuseppe Lombardi

Saturday, February 26

5:15 PM † Rafael Segura

Sunday, February 27

7:30 AM † Marie Joyce
9:00 AM † Msgr. Henry E. Flanagan
11:30 AM † Filippo & Maria Mastroianni
5:00 PM † For Our Parishioners, Living &
Deceased



*The Sanctuary Candle burns
February 20th through February 26th
for Jean Montana.*

The 2022 MASS BOOK is open. Please call or
email the office to reserve your masses and candles.



The 2021 Challenge Grant has ended. We are happy to report that thanks to your generosity the challenge was met, garnering a grand total of \$69,347. Our Challenge Grant family will be matching \$60,000 of the money collected.

Thank you to all who were able to participate and to our generous family who made it all possible.

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
Mary Vladimirov, Secretary
General Office Email
ssthomasreledooffice@gmail.com
Facilities:
Tito (Jose) Rivera

R.I.S.E. Youth Ministry:
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(203) 866-1219 Fax

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2022	2021
February 13		
Collection	\$2,674.00	\$2,326.00
On-Line	\$2,560.00	\$2,383.00
Diocesan Assessment	<u>(\$1,636.00)</u>	<u>(\$1,869.00)</u>
Net Retained	<u>\$3,598.00</u>	<u>\$2,840.00</u>
Votives	\$ 143.00	\$ 130.00

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 Cathedraticum 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.

We welcome the newly Baptized into the Parish Family of St. Thomas the Apostle.

*Andrea Robin Ruiz Olivia Elizabeth Ruiz
Alexandra Victoria Ruiz
Isabel Leonor Juwonoputro*

Congratulations to their parents, families & friends!



Tomorrow, Monday, February 21st,
the Parish Offices are Closed.



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



DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

Your Gift to the 2022 Bishop's Appeal supports future priests...

Future priests of the Diocese of Bridgeport receive their formation at seminaries chosen by the Bishop to best suit the needs of the seminarian and of the diocese. Preparation for the Priesthood takes anywhere from six to eight years, depending on the age and educational background of the man when he enters. All seminarians complete graduate level studies in theology before ordination. Our seminarians will become the priests who will preach the Gospel and administer the Sacraments in your parish, and who will accompany and guide you and your family through the joys and sorrows of this world to Eternal Life. Your prayers and financial support to the Bishop's Appeal help ensure that we have the well-formed priests we need to praise God and to save souls. Thank you for your gift.

Ways to give to "A Bridge Home" campaign:

~ Online Giving

Make your gift and pledge payments online at bridgeportdiocese.org/aca/donate/

~ Credit Card Gifts

Use your MasterCard, Visa, Discover, or American Express card to make your Appeal gift and take full advantage of your cardmember benefits.

~ Check

Make checks payable to the Bishop's Appeal. Please do not send cash.

2022 Annual Bishop's Appeal

Diocese of Bridgeport

238 Jewett Avenue

Bridgeport, CT 06606-2892

~ Text to Give

To make a gift via text messaging, text the word APPEAL to (475) 241-7849.

Message & data rates may apply.



My Dear Friends in Christ,
“**A Bridge Home**” is the theme of the 2022 Bishop's Appeal, formerly called the Annual Catholic Appeal, and it highlights hope, renewal, and evangelization in our diocese. The Appeal invests in services that continue to engage those in their faith and build a strong bridge to so

many who are struggling. Now it is more important than ever to reunite our Church, affirm our faithful and welcome others back.

I am grateful for your support this past year as we continue to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic and we once again gather within our parishes, homes, and communities. This is possible because of your faith and generosity.

The Diocese of Bridgeport has a long tradition of providing programs that serve those in need and prepare for the future of our Catholic faith. This year's Appeal goal is \$8.1 million and remains unchanged from last year.

I personally invite you to join with me in making a gift and building “**A Bridge Home**,” one living stone at a time. We have been through much together as a family in faith, and we have much to look forward to because we are a people of hope. I pray for God's blessings on you and your family.

Faithfully in Christ,

Frank Caggiano

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport

For more information, please go to our website homepage for a video presentation by Bishop Caggiano and a PDF version of the Diocesan brochure.

Calling All Campers!
Family Fun Night
Friday, March 4th, 6-9PM
Only \$10 Per Child

We are planning an exciting night of religious themed scavenger hunts and escape rooms, with cheese pizza dinner. Drop the kids off at 6pm with pickup at 9pm at the Parish Center Gym.

RSVP REQUIRED BY FEBRUARY 27th

Contact the Religious Formation office for registration information.

REFLECTION FROM FR. RALPH

When we consider the technological advances made, let's say, in the past five years, I think that we can agree that what we have seen is nothing short of astonishing. Further, it seems that the recent developments in the area of surgical procedures are well beyond what we thought possible twenty years ago. I have experienced this personally myself, and we all know someone who has had a complicated procedure far less invasive than what surgery used to involve. Now, to clear the air, putting it simply, the Catholic Church embraces the various scientific disciplines, if ethical, among the many gifts we possess that make it possible to improve the human condition.

However, with that said, as Catholics and as people of faith we are called to discern and use the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit which we receive at baptism (strengthened at confirmation) so that we can contribute something positive to the human condition, while at the same time, we can most fully participate in the great Plan of Salvation. There are, as you know, seven gifts of the Holy Spirit we receive as mentioned above: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude or perseverance, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. They enable us to discern more deeply the existence of God, they make it possible for us to grasp the realities of our life and existence with full meaning and purpose, and they help us to think and act in a way that is of a higher order so that the way in which we live is with right judgement according to God's will.

In the first reading this weekend, we can see a certain kind of wisdom in David, when, though he could, he did not kill Saul because he had a sense of what was of God, even though both he and Saul were imperfect men. In the second reading, St. Paul helps us to understand that though we are natural, God chose to work through our state of life and being through the power of His spirit, inviting us to a spiritual way of living for the sake of the life to come. Finally, in the Gospel of Luke this weekend (Lk 6:20-49) known as the Sermon on the Plain, as well as in the Sermon on the Mount found in the Gospel of Matthew (Matt 5-7), by way of His preaching, Jesus teaches us how we are to live and how we can improve the human condition by beginning with what is well above and beyond temporal, domestic, and financial means.

Jesus challenges us to begin with and within our hearts, our minds, and most importantly, within the depths of our souls. Considering that we tend towards, in fact, we strive for, greater learning and knowledge in whatever good we do through our intellects and the more practical disciplines of which we have advanced so impressively, as Catholics and as people of faith, we must also strive for what God has revealed to us, what God gives us, and what we need before anything else - the grace and power of God. As St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Cistercian monk and abbot reminds us: "*Let us look for the food which does not perish - our salvation. Let us work in the vineyard of the Lord to earn our daily wage in the wisdom that says: the field is the world. Let us work in it and dig up wisdom, its hidden treasure, a treasure we all look for and want to obtain.*" From a sermon by Saint Bernard, abbot, the Liturgy of the Hours, Vol. III, Ordinary Time, Weeks 1-17, Catholic Book Publishing Co., NY, 1972, p. 203.

Father Ralph



Lauralton Hall presents Irish Night featuring the Highland Rovers Band, Fairfield Gaelic Pipe Band, and Brennan-Lucey Irish Step Dancers on Saturday, March 5th, at 7:30 pm (doors open at 6:45 pm) at Lauralton Hall, 200 High Street, Milford. Coffee, tea, and dessert will be provided. Bring your own beverages, ice, and snacks. \$25 per person, age 21 and over event. Tickets available at www.lauraltonhall.org/irishnight.

For more information, email
IrishNight@lauraltonhall.org.



YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS

YCP is excited to announce that the nation's largest Young Professional Catholic Network is establishing a chapter right here in Fairfield County! Please Join us, alongside Bishop Frank Caggiano at Holy Spirit Parish (Stamford, CT), **Saturday March 19th at 7PM** for the Chapter's official Launch Party! RSVP for free at www.tinyurl.com/fairfieldcounty

YCP is a national organization whose mission is to inspire young adults in all professions to Work in Witness for Christ by hosting events that foster Catholic identity, encourage community, and inspire action.

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
PFC Larry Joyce, US Marine Corps**

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!



Birthright

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



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.**



MEMORIAL MASS OR FUNERAL

We are scheduling Memorial Masses for those who died during the virus period. Anyone who wishes to arrange for a Memorial Mass is asked to call the office in order to plan the mass. If you would like a full funeral mass, please let your funeral home know your wishes so they can contact us to schedule. We will continue to have graveside only service as an option.

Trustees:
Robert Lametta
Christopher Jarboe

Finance Council:
Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski
Bill Austin
Hugh Gartland
Thomas Gorzkowski
Linda O'Shaughnessy
Ulrike Schambeck

Parish Council:
Ed Bocchino
Tom Donaher
Joe Dudek
Glenn Iannaccone
Ann Jacoby
Christopher Jarboe
John Stoops

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Nancy Cook-Owens,
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Saturdays

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry:
(203) 866-1644
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Tuesdays & 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.

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	Robert Parmalee	Jill Bowman	Emily Calabrese	Anne Edwards	Linda Lima
Mike	Constance Williams	Mike Torres	Marie Silver	Grace DeMilo	Merina Deluc
Terry Rooney	Peggy McDonald	Skip Bossone	Jeanette Ralston	Tony Cappuccia	Pam Simso
Gary Livia	Marianne Schambeck	Kimberly Frataloni	Rick Azillo	Jeannetta Torres	George Travers
Julia Cade	Michele Mola-Gulemi	Michael Walsh	Richard Berg	Diane Turek	Phil Tavella
Jeannie Maxwell	Betty Lou Heffernan	Richard Barton	Antonio Vescio	Jackie Hamilton	Hamilton Family
Vicki	Cathy Sinica	Kathleen Ford	Chuck Scott	John Lima	Anthony Bruno
Kathleen Dominick	Joe M.	Joan Kennedy	Joanna Marvin	Ken Schulman	Angela McCrae
Janina Stachurski	Donny Cassavechia	Nancy G.	Vinny Massaro	Alessandro Fornara	Kathy D
Greg N.	1 st Sgt. Joe Toscano (Ret.)	Debbie Poruban	Denise Cassin	Jack Cade	Jim Charest
Dawn Grover	Jackie Capobianco				

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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