



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

ST. THOMAS

THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 10, 2023
Second 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 11

7:00 AM† Paul Sibiskie
5:30 PM† Joseph Furnari (1st Anniversary)

Tuesday, December 12

7:00 AM† Lucille Applegate
5:30 PM NO MASS

Wednesday, December 13

7:00 AM† Felicia Bartuli
5:30 PM NO MASS

Thursday, December 14

7:00 AM NO MASS
5:30 PM† Joy Sinise

Friday, December 15

7:00 AM† Antonio Rubbo, Maria Ciambrella, & Pasquale Rubbo
5:30 PM Intentions of Ileana & Silvana Alarcon, Terry Cain & Luis Cardenas

Sunday Vigil, Saturday, December 16

5:15 PM† Frank & Iolanda Smeriglio

Sunday, December 17

7:30 AM† James Verda (3rd Anniversary) Fr. Mirek
9:00 AM† For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased Fr. Mirek
11:30 AM† Linda Angotto & Gerry Forde Fr. Ralph
5:00 PM† Michael A. Sandomeno Fr. Ralph



*The Sanctuary Candle burns
December 10th through December 16th in
memory of Jill Sell.*

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

Please remember in your prayers:

Maria Elvia Carvajal Margo Lolzta Cox

We extend our sympathy to their families & friends.



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

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2023	2022
December 3		
Collection	\$3,451.00	\$4,302.48
On-Line	\$2,713.00	\$3,061.17
Diocesan Assessment	(\$1,506.00)	(\$1,567.00)
Net Retained	<u>\$4,658.00</u>	<u>\$5,796.65</u>

Votives \$ 125.33 \$ 156.40

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 2024 fiscal year, the annual Cathedralium 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.

St. Thomas Annual Financial Statement is now available on our website.

<https://stthomasnorwalk.org/financial-information>

If you would like a hard copy of the report, please call the office.

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

Confession in Church

Every Saturday

4:00pm until 4:30pm or

by Appointment

Rectory:

Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski
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

Religious Ed Office:

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

Parish Bookkeeper

Monika Piascick

Facilities:

Tito (Jose) Rivera

Youth Ministry:

stthomasyg1@gmail.com
Elizabeth Squicciarino, Coordinator

Website:

www.stthomasnorwalk.org

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stthomasnorwalk@gmail.com

(203) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax



Giving Tree



Please bring your wrapped gifts with tag attached to the church during any regularly scheduled mass *by this weekend, December 9th & 10th*. We need time to sort & deliver!!
 Thanks to all who have already returned their gifts.

REMINDER: 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. 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.**



Holy Land Bethlehem Artworks This Weekend

December 9th and 10th
 Beautiful hand-made olive wood religious articles made by Christian families in Bethlehem and Jerusalem will be available for purchase after all masses. This organization provides assistance to over 100 suffering families each week.

YOUTH CHOIR AND INSTRUMENT REVISED INFO

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

Week 3 Schedule: Choose your preferred day

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13: Youth choir and instrument rehearsal, 4:30-5:15

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14: Youth choir instrument rehearsal, 4:15-5:00

DRESS REHEARSAL: Friday, December 22, 4:00-5:00 PM: all instruments and singers

ADDITIONAL OPTION FOR HIGH SCHOOL SINGERS: High school singers may participate at either the Christmas Eve Family Mass on December 24, at 4:00 PM or the Adult Choir Christmas Mass on December 25, at 11:30 AM. Please fill out the youth choir form as directed above. A separate schedule will be provided to parents of students who wish to sing with adult choir. Adult choir rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:00.

Come sing with us!

The DIOCESAN CHOIR sings regularly for special liturgical events. Rehearsals are held on Monday evenings from 7-8:30pm at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport. For further information, contact the Diocesan Director of Music Ministry, Dr. Bill Atwood or visit www.bridgeportdiocese.org/diocesan-choir/home/

Email:

William.atwood@diobpt.org
 Phone: 203.368.6777 X 22



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MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear St. Thomas Parishioners,

It has been a while since I communicated with all of you in more formal way, mostly due to my sabbatical leave. As I came back to the United States last week, I realized very quickly how much I have missed being here and how much I missed all of you. Many things have happened in our parish during the end of the summer and in the fall, and as I am getting updated on everything again. It is a most humbling experience to realize how devoted, committed, and how generous you all are to St. Thomas Parish. I would like to thank our parish staff, under the leadership of our own Fr. Ralph, for running all parish operations so smoothly while I was gone, Thank You!

As we have mentioned throughout the liturgies of last weekend, Advent is given to us each year for a reason. In my humble opinion, the Season of Advent as it exists in the XXI century, could very well help us to better understand the meaning of a joyful, expectant vigil. Each year, faithfully, we relive the great mystery of the Nativity, but even more so, Advent each year affords us the opportunity to reflect on how well we are prepared for the Second Coming of Christ at the end of times. Let's make this Advent meaningful, as many of us do every year, so we embrace the Nativity with joyful hearts, and Christ Jesus embraces us once again as His faithful followers.

I pray for you and your families, my friends, every Sunday here during our Liturgies at St. Thomas The Apostle Church and every day in private, for your wellbeing, for Guardian Angel protection over you, for your children and grandchildren so they always make you proud, for your elderly parents, that Mary our Mother comforts them every day in their many suffering and often loneliness, I pray asking God to prepare us all in better ways to receive that great Light of Jesus at Christmas this year again.

fr. miron

AVAILABLE NOW!
PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

The Support of Your Business is Greatly Appreciated
Lisa Elliott from LPI, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. It is the support of the business community that helps to make our church thrive. Please consider purchasing a print and/or digital ad as your participation makes our bulletin successful, and you attract customers!

Church bulletin advertising is a cost-effective way to advertise 52 times per year and show support for your local community; in turn, parishioners will support you!

Digital advertising allows your business to be front and center to anyone who visits a church profile page on ParishesOnline.com — that's approximately 500,000 page views per month!

LPI Lisa Elliott
(216) 325-6825 x6284
LElliott@lpi.com

Congratulations to Isabella Ortiz a Parishioner in the Fifth Grade at All Saints School. Isabella is a member of the Rinkettes Synchronized Skating team of Shelton. Her team recently won the gold medal at the Boston Synchronized Skating Classic.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

SECOND CHANCE THRIFT STORE

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Birthright is in need of gently worn *baby & 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 for more information: (203) 853-4872.

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



**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.

Trustees:
Robert Lametta
Christopher Jarboe

Finance Council:
Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski
Bill Austin
Hugh Gartland
Linda O'Shaughnessy
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

**The Second
Chance Thrift Shop**
(203) 318-9817
HOURS
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Tuesdays & Thursdays
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Wednesdays
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Saturdays

**St. Vincent
de Paul
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HOURS
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Tuesdays & Saturdays
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**Birthing of
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Whether you're entering college or navigating marriage and family, if you are 18-35ish, we have communities and events **designed for you.** From networking happy hours, Bible studies, service work, worship, and socials, there is something for everyone.

Please remember to support our bulletin advertisers. Make the back 2 pages of this publication your "go to place" for business help. They can only help us if we continue to help them!

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", "Events in Our Diocese", & "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. **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

For more information, please contact
Mrs. Denise Vuosa, Director of Admissions admissions@ascsc.net

www.allsaintsnorwalk.com

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**ST. ANN'S CLUB MONDAY NIGHT BINGO
(except holidays)**
16 Hendricks Avenue
Norwalk
Doors open at 5:30pm First game at 6:45pm
Refreshments available to purchase.

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.

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	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 Fratoloni	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 st 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	

**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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If you are concerned about your end of life plans, searching for the sacred ground of a Catholic cemetery, or have loved ones buried in one of our 14 Diocese cemeteries, now might be a good time to begin planning for yourself or other family members.

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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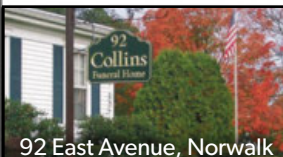


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