



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

# ST. THOMAS

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## THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**December 17, 2023**  
**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 18

7:00 AM† Hernando Garcia  
5:30 PM† Michael & Martha Cicala

#### Tuesday, December 19

7:00 AM† Jennie Annase  
5:30 PM NO MASS

#### Wednesday, December 20

7:00 AM† Giuseppe Annetta  
5:30 PM NO MASS

#### Thursday, December 21

7:00 AM NO MASS  
5:30 PM Special Intention

#### Friday, December 22

7:00 AM Intentions of the Michael Sweeney Family  
5:30 PM† Mary Donofrio

#### Sunday Vigil, Saturday, December 23

5:15 PM† Ralph Cicala **Celebrant**  
Fr. Ralph

#### Sunday, December 24

7:30 AM† For the Perreault Family, Living & Deceased Fr. Ralph  
9:00 AM† Betty & Bill Buchele Fr. Mirek  
11:30 AM Intention of Catherine Perez Fr. Ralph  
5:00 PM No Mass

#### Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

4:00 PM† Elizabeth & Daniel Squicciarano Fr. Ralph  
Midnight† Hernando Diaz & Gilman David Fr. Mirek

#### Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

7:30 AM† Lucito T. Punzalan Fr. Mirek  
9:00 AM† The Sandomeno & Stenger Families Fr. Ralph  
11:30 AM† Nancy Cannon Fr. Mirek



*The Sanctuary Candle burns  
December 17<sup>th</sup> through December 23<sup>rd</sup> in  
memory of Linda Angotto & Gerry Forde*

We welcome the newly Baptized into the  
Parish Family of St. Thomas the Apostle.  
**Carson William Christensen**  
*Congratulations to his parents, family, & friends!*

#### 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 Piascik

#### Facilities:

Tito (Jose) Rivera

#### Youth Ministry:

stthomasyg1@gmail.com  
Elizabeth Squicciarino, Coordinator

#### Website:

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[stthomasnorwalk@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasnorwalk@gmail.com)

(203) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	2023	2022
<b>December 3, Monthly Maintenance</b>		
Collection	\$ 847.00	\$1,432.00
On-Line	\$1,401.00	\$1,158.00
Total	<u>\$2,258.00</u>	<u>\$2,590.00</u>

Due to early transmission to the printer for the Christmas Holiday, we do not have the collection figures in time for publication of the bulletin. We will report the collection in next week's issue.

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.*

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.

## Confession in Church

### Every Saturday

### 4:00pm until 4:30pm or

### by Appointment

Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski  
Pastor (ext. 12)

Rev. Ralph Segura  
Parochial Vicar (ext. 19)

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# St. Thomas the Apostle Christmas Schedule All Are Welcome!

## THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS MASSES

### CHRISTMAS EVE • SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

3:30 P.M. PRELUDE - YOUTH CHOIR AND INSTRUMENTS

4:00 P.M. FAMILY LITURGY

11:30 P.M. CHRISTMAS CONCERT - ADULT CHOIR

12:00 A.M. MIDNIGHT MASS

### CHRISTMAS DAY • MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

7:30 A.M., 9:00 A.M., & 11:30 A.M. (No 5:00 P.M. Mass)

### TUESDAY • DECEMBER 26

9:00 A.M. ONLY (No 5:30 P.M. Mass)

## THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD (NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

### NEW YEAR'S DAY • MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024

9:00 A.M. (No 5:30 P.M. Mass or Adoration)

#### PLEASE NOTE:

#### CHRISTMAS MASS OBLIGATION

CHRISTMAS IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION, AND, AS SUCH, THE CHRISTMAS MASS IS A DISTINCT MASS FROM THE PRECEDING SUNDAY CELEBRATION. YOU SHOULD ATTEND 2 MASSES, ONE FOR THE REGULAR SUNDAY OBLIGATION & ONE FOR THE CHRISTMAS OBLIGATION. YOU MAY CHOOSE TO ATTEND A CHRISTMAS EVE MASS (AFTER 4 P.M.) TO FULFILL YOUR SUNDAY OBLIGATION BUT YOU WILL THEN NEED TO ATTEND A CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TO FULFILL YOUR CHRISTMAS OBLIGATION. YOU MAY, OF COURSE, GO TO THE SATURDAY 5:15 P.M. VIGIL OR TO A SUNDAY MORNING MASS FOR SUNDAY.

IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO WISHES TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION DURING CHRISTMAS, PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY, (203) 866-3141

### The Season of Advent

Beloved, now is the acceptable time spoken of by the Spirit, the day of salvation, peace and reconciliation: the great season of Advent. This is the time eagerly awaited by the patriarchs and prophets, the time that holy Simeon rejoiced at last to see. This is the season that the Church has always celebrated with special solemnity.

We too should always observe it with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the mercy and love he has shown us in this mystery. In his infinite love for us, though we were sinners, he sent his only Son to free us from the tyranny of Satan, to summon us to heaven, to welcome us into its innermost recesses, to show us truth itself, to train us in right conduct, to plant within us the seeds of virtue, to enrich us with the treasures of his grace, and to make us children of God and heirs of eternal life.

Each year, as the Church recalls this mystery, she urges us to renew the memory of the great love God has shown us. This holy season teaches us that Christ's coming was not only for the benefit of his contemporaries; his power has still to be communicated to us all. We shall share his power, if, through holy faith and the sacraments, we willingly accept the grace Christ earned for us, and live by that grace and in obedience to Christ.

The Church asks us to understand that Christ, who came once in the flesh, is prepared to come again. When we remove all obstacles to his presence he will come, at any hour and moment, to dwell spiritually in our hearts, bringing with him the riches of his grace.

In her concern for our salvation, our loving mother the Church uses this holy season to teach us through hymns, canticles and other forms of expression, of voice or ritual, used by the Holy Spirit. She shows us how grateful we should be for so great a blessing, and how to gain its benefit: our hearts should be as much prepared for the coming of Christ as if he were still to come into this world. The same lesson is given us for our imitation by the words and example of the holy men of the Old Testament.

### YOUTH CHOIR AND INSTRUMENT REVISED INFO

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

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

### CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR HOLIDAY HOURS

#### Thrift Store:

Closed Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

#### Food Pantry:

Closed Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, & Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

#### Parish & Rel Formation Offices:

Closed Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, through Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>.

Reopening on Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

Closed on Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR



Birthright

**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.

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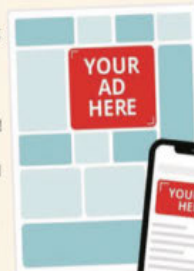
PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

#### 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!



Lisa Elliott  
(216) 325-6825 x6284  
LElliott@4ipi.com

**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](http://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  
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(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  
Food Pantry:**  
(203) 866-1644  
**HOURS**  
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
Tuesdays & Saturdays  
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**Birthright of  
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(203) 853-4872

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**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](http://www.stthomasnorwalk.org)

For more information, please contact  
Mrs. Denise Vuosa, Director of Admissions [admissions@ascsc.net](mailto:admissions@ascsc.net)

[www.allsaintsnorwalk.com](http://www.allsaintsnorwalk.com)

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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](mailto: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 <sup>st</sup> 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.



### ELECTRONIC GIVING

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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](mailto:joe.mccurdy@ctcemeteries.org)

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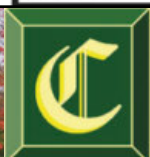
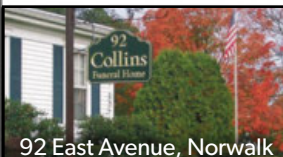


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