



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC  
CHURCH

November 7, 2021

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

*This poor widow put in  
more than all the other  
contributors to the treasury.*

Mark 12:43



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Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD.

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, November 8

- 7:00 AM † William & Carmela O'Boy  
5:30 PM † All Souls

#### Tuesday, November 9

- 7:00 AM † Rose Festa  
5:30 PM † Robin Smith & James Adgerson

#### Wednesday, November 10

- 7:00 AM † Deceased Members of the Tirella Family  
5:30 PM Intentions of Ileana & Silvana Alarcon

#### Veterans Day, Thursday, November 11

- 7:00 AM † For Our Living & Deceased Veterans  
5:30 PM † Paul Douglas Hartzell

#### Friday, November 12

- 7:00 AM † Deceased Relatives & Friends of St. Thomas Parishioners  
5:30 PM † Caterina Mattera

### Sunday Masses

#### Saturday Vigil, November 13

- 5:15 PM † Maureen McHale

#### Sunday, November 14

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 7:30 AM † Sandra Ballard                          | Fr. Ralph |
| 9:00 AM † For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased | Fr. Ralph |
| 11:30 AM † Jimmy Louis                            | Fr. Mirek |
| 5:00 PM † Graham Greathead                        | Fr. Mirek |

### Celebrant

Fr. Ralph

Fr. Ralph

Fr. Mirek

Fr. Mirek



*The Sanctuary Candle burns November 7<sup>th</sup> through November 13<sup>th</sup> for Arthur, Mary, & Sharon Amato, and the Rolland Family.*

### 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.

### Office Hours:

*Appointments 10-3 Monday through Thursday & Friday 10-12  
Closed Saturday & Sunday*

**Rectory:**  
Rev. Miroslaw Stachurski  
Pastor

Rev. Ralph Segura  
Parochial Vicar

**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:**  
[sthomasyyq@gmail.com](mailto:sthomasyyq@gmail.com)

**Website:**  
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(203) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP

2021                    2020

### October 31

Collection	\$3,475.00	\$2,657.00
On-Line	\$2,684.00	\$2,645.17
Diocesan Assessment	(\$1,636.00)	(\$1,869.00)
Net Retained	<u>\$4,523.00</u>	<u>\$3,433.17</u>
Votives	\$182.00	\$ 234.00

### 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 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.



**The 2022 MASS BOOK** is open.  
Please call or email the office to reserve your masses and candles.  
*We do not have any masses or candles available for this year.*



PRAISE & ADORE

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

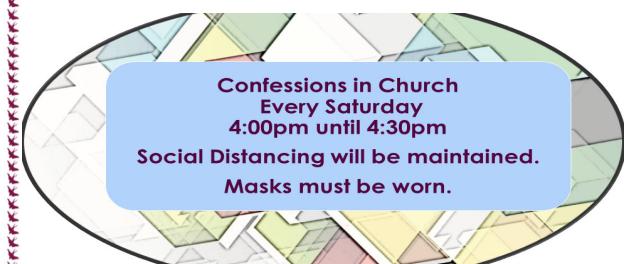


Pray the Rosary in the Church

Monday - Friday: 6:30am

Monday: 7:00pm

Saturday: 4:45pm



## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY MEETING

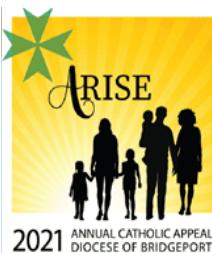
The next Prayer Shawl meeting is Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm in the Small Meeting Room. Our shawls are free gifts meant to warm, comfort and embrace. To request a shawl, would like to knit or crochet a shawl or need more information about our ministry, please call Vicki Remson, (203) 847-8196 or the Rectory, (203)866-3141.

## Jesus meets Aristotle Lecture on Philosophy and Catholicism humbly invites you to a dinner and lecture with the topic: "From the Big Bang to Gulag and Auschwitz; What went wrong?"

Let's take a look: The Patron Saint of our Diocese of Bridgeport could not voice it in better way; In Book X Ch. 4 of His *Confessions*, St. Augustine reasons in such a serene way about the mystery of God: "*Who is that God I love? I asked the earth, and that answered me: I am not it (...). I asked the sea and the depths, and the creeping things (...), I asked the fleeting winds and the whole air (...), I ask the heavens, then sun, and moon and stars: No, we are not the God you seek! (...) who are you then, I asked, who is that God I seek? He made us, they all answered (...)*".

Why then does so much evil exists in the world? Why do innocent people suffer? How come such a wonderful Universe could host such ungrateful beings? How does the complexity of our Micro and Macro - Cosmos not serve as a proof for the existence of God?

These and many more questions we will be discussed at the Jesus meets Aristotle Pre-Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner on **Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**. We will start serving dinner at **6:30PM** and will follow with the lecture at **7PM** in the Gym of our Parish Center. Please call or email the office to make a reservation by November 12<sup>th</sup> so we know how much food to order. All are welcome!



### 2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

We have raised 177 gifts worth \$45,338 bringing our parish to 72.19% of its \$62,800 goal. Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated. **Thanks to all who have already given or pledged!**

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. Please call to reserve your space.**

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear St. Thomas the Apostle Parishioners,

**"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."** (See Matt 6:19)

Just this last Monday and Tuesday, the Catholic World celebrated the Solemnity of All Saints and All Souls. How seriously all these countless, saintly men and women took the words of Jesus Matthew's Gospel; "**where your treasure is, there also will your heart be**". The Patron Saint of Our Diocese of Bridgeport couldn't sum it up in better way: "**You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.**" (See Confessions, Book 1, St. Augustine of Hippo). Let's take a quick look at some of the truths and even logical implications connected with our belief in the Communion of Saints. In our Catholic tradition, we often describe the Church, Our Mother, as a Heavenly Jerusalem, in **THREE stages**: As a **Pilgrim Church** - all of us who struggle as soldiers of Christ against sin, evil, the devil (please see Ephesians 6:12). The Second Stage is a Suffering Church or Church Penitent sometimes also called **Church Expectant** - all the souls that have been judged worthy of eternal life, but are still in need of purification, hence the time allotted in Purgatory. And finally Stage Three, called the **Church Triumphant** - with all those blessed ones to be declared worthy of the Beatific Vision of the Heavenly Father. Now, with a little bit better understanding that we are The Communion Of Saints, let's ask some more questions: Why do we pray for our deceased loved ones? Why do we have such celebration , the All Saints and Commemoration of All Souls? Why do we dedicate the month of November to praying for the dead? Why do we have funeral Masses?

First of all, we do all these things because we believe in the power of prayer. We believe that our continual entreaty to God to bring our loved ones to peace will prepare them to bear the fullness of His Love in heaven. Then, we pray because we believe in love. We believe that true love, the love that flows from God and returns to Him, true love remains forever. We sincerely loved the members of our family, our friends and all who have died. And we love them still. Some of these loved ones (their immortal souls, that is) are fully united to Him now. They are the Saints, be they canonized by the Church, babies and little children, or older children, teens and adults all who died with lives so pure, so sincere, that they are ready to endure the blaze of His Love. Some of our loved ones are not ready to enter into His Presence. Just like an arm broken many years ago still hurts when the weather changes, the deceased who is forgiven his or her sins still suffers the result of the sin that they have committed. They are dependent on the prayers of their loved ones still on earth to prepare them to receive the fire of God's love. That is why, during the celebration of so called All Souls, we pray that the Lord heals the wounds of all who are not yet ready to enter into the fullness of His presence. May they be healed. May any part of their lives that have been closed to Love be completely open to the Presence of God. **Eternal Rest grant unto them o Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them...**

Fr. Mirek Stachurski

The Confirmation Class of 2021 would like to thank Bishop Frank Caggiano, Fr. Carlos Mesquita, our Master of Ceremony, our Pastor, Fr. Mirek Stachurski, our Parochial Vicar, Fr. Ralph Segura, our Altar Servers, Lorenzo Zullo, Robert Boucher, Ryan Jouanno, & Juliette Jouanno, our wonderful choir, along with our Music Director, Ms. Marge Kelley, our Sponsors, parents, families, & all who assisted us on our pilgrimage of faith. A special thank you to our Secretary of Religious Education, Mary Vladimirov, & our Director of Religious Education, Michelle O'Mara. You all made our Confirmation night a beautiful experience for all in attendance. You make it all look easy & we appreciate all you do for us.

MALTA HOUSE  
HOPE FOR LIFE



After over 25 years of residing at the parish center, Malta House has moved to their new location behind ASCS on West Rocks Road. We would like to wish them all the best in their new larger capacity home.

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 a minimum of 5 girls in order to have girls at the meetings. For more information about Scout Troop 222, please go to their web page at [troop222norwalk.scoutlander.com](http://troop222norwalk.scoutlander.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  
PO2 Edward Skeen, US Navy  
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**

**DID YOU KNOW....you must complete your Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, & Confirmation) in order to be a sponsor for Baptism & Confirmation? If you have not been confirmed then read the letter below for a special diocesan program designed to help you with the process!**



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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: All Pastors and Faith Formation Leaders  
FROM: Patrick Donovan  
DATE: October 25, 2021  
RE: Adult Confirmation Workshop

How many times are you faced with someone who wishes to be a sponsor, has been asked to be a Godparent, or is preparing for marriage only to discover that the individual lacks Confirmation. Even though he/she goes to Mass every Sunday, being Confirmed in their faith did not happen. The reasons are many, but what matters now is finding a solution.

On November 13, 2021, The Institute for Catholic Formation will be hosting a workshop for those adults (18 and over) who are practicing Catholics who lack only Confirmation (i.e., they have received Baptism and First Holy Communion). This workshop will serve as immediate preparation for the sacrament and those who participate will be permitted to join Bishop Caggiano at one of his upcoming celebrations of Confirmation. We will host another in the spring in advance of Pentecost Sunday.

We will begin by discussing the paperwork necessary and assist participants in requesting Baptismal certificates and making the appropriate connections with parish leaders. The rest of the day will focus on an overview of the sacrament, a discussion on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and suggestions for being missionary disciples once they are confirmed.

Please consider sharing this information in your parish bulletins and on your parish websites. If your parish already has an avenue to form adults who lack Confirmation (outside RCIA), please continue to offer that opportunity. Since many parishes do not have a program for adults in this position, we wanted to fill that void.

Registration is open and there is no cost. Please visit this link to learn more and to register.  
<https://formationreimagined.org/event/adult-confirmation-fall2021/>

**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

**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  
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10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Saturdays  
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**St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry:**  
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**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](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
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	Alessandro Fornara	Anthony Bruno
Jack Cade	Joe M.	Greg N.			

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  
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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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[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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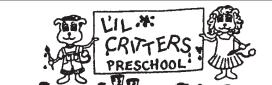
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