



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935
ST. THOMAS
THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent



Be vigilant at all times...

Words by God ~ Luke 21:36

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 29

7:00 AM Intentions of Mary & Joseph Remlin
5:30 PM † Mariano David

Tuesday, November 30

7:00 AM † Joy Sinise
5:30 PM † Stan & Mildred Mazurowski

Wednesday, December 1

7:00 AM † William & Carmela O'Boy
5:30 PM † Clifford Myers

Thursday, December 2

7:00 AM In Thanksgiving For Health of Mind,
Body, & Soul
5:30 PM † Martha Goldner

Friday, December 3

7:00 AM † Palma Sweet
5:30 PM † Mass of Remembrance

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil, December 4

5:15 PM † Charles French (1st Anniversary)

Celebrant

Fr. Mirek

Sunday, December 5

7:30 AM † Joy Sinise
9:00 AM † John Porada
11:30 AM † Teresa Passarelli
5:00 PM † For Our Parishioners, Living &
Deceased

Fr. Mirek

Fr. Mirek

Fr. Ralph

Fr. Ralph



The Sanctuary Candle burns
November 28th through December 4th
for Linda Spero.

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

Please remember in your prayers:

Elaine Sheehan Margaret Incerto

Andrew Fratina

We extend our sympathy to their
families & friends.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Due to early transmission to the printer for the Thanksgiving 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.

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

Carina Genevieve Rabito

Congratulations to her parents, family, & friends!



—MASS OF REMEMBRANCE—

The following Parishioners have died in the month of November : Elaine Sheehan, Margaret Incerto, and Andrew Fratina. There will be a special mass for them and all deceased parishioners on Friday, December 3rd, at 5:30pm in the church . Family members and friends are encouraged to attend.

If you would like information about the ministry, please contact Jane Eichwald at (203) 838- 4590.

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:

ssthomasnorwalk@gmail.com

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ANNUAL WREATH SALE TO BENEFIT
SCOUT TROOP 222 AFTER ALL MASSES
THIS WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 27th & 28th,
ONLY \$20.00!

Our Scout Troop will be selling beautiful double-sided balsam wreath, decorated with a red velvet bow and pinecones, door sized \$20.

This is the only fundraiser for the troop. Proceeds are used to offset the costs for the boys' events during the year.

Orders are now being taken until
December 7th

Orders will be delivered by a Scout. If a no-contact delivery is preferred, just tape an envelope to the door with a check made out to: Troop 222. Please call (203) 847-1794 or email to gulpinek@gmail.com with your information and Gwen will take care of your order.

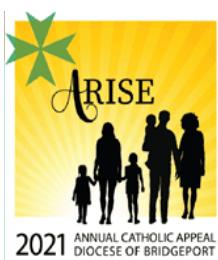
Please support our Scout Troop with your purchase!

For more information about Scout Troop 222, please go to their web page at troop222nowalk.scoutlander.com.



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!!!...
PICK A TAG FROM OUR ANNUAL GIVING TREE
FOR OUR **SENIOR CITIZENS!**

TAKE A TAG AND TAKE THE FLYER WITH GIFT SUGGESTIONS (OR USE YOUR IMAGINATION).
BRING YOUR GIFT BACK WITH TAG ATTACHED
BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12th.



2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

We have raised 186 gifts worth \$46,123 bringing our parish to 73.44% of its \$62,800 goal. Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated. Thanks to all who have already given or pledged!



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

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
SECOND CHANCE THRIFT STORE
OPEN FOR BUSINESS
TUESDAY & THURSDAY
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Enter Parish Center driveway from Prowitt Street
Entrance is first red door on the right
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REFLECTION FROM FR. RALPH

With this first Sunday of Advent, as we begin preparation for the Christmas mystery, we all realize that there are so many things we need to do. Here is a “bucket list,” commonly available online for 2021:

- Take a funny family Christmas photo.
- Kiss under the mistletoe.
- Set up a living room campout by the Christmas tree.
- Have a Christmas music dance party.
- Write a letter to Santa.
- Make treats for neighbors.
- Do a random act of kindness.

Now, there are so many suggestions similar to what is indicated above, and the list is seemingly inexhaustible. Further, the presentation of what is suggested is actually quite clever, in that, we can begin with Black Friday (no surprise there), and there are suggestions for what we can do, each week, right up to Christmas Eve. I must admit that what is suggested on every bucket list is, generally speaking, family oriented, heartwarming, and not in any way harmful or sinful.

However, there are two issues of concern that should be noted. First, after browsing through a few websites that offer suggestions in preparation for Christmas, I noticed that the presentations are structured from week to week, culminating in a final, daily, checklist for the last few days before Christmas Eve. Does this sound familiar? It struck me that what we’re dealing with is a culturally secularized cadence that actually borrows from our centuries-old observance of Advent. At the same time, so to emphasize what is secular and what is borrowed, not one bucket list mentions God, the incarnation or the birth of Jesus Christ. Out of numerous options offering a list of things to do, only one mentioned going to Church.

Now, please do not take me to be a scrooge, but with all the things that we can and should do in preparation for Christmas, we must be sure that, with all that we will do (and this is, of course, exclusive to the good things), we do not overlook the most important thing of all. Consider this quote from St. Cyril of Jerusalem:

“We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom. In general, whatever relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden coming, like that of rain on fleece, and a coming before all eyes, still in the future.

At the first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second coming he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming he endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming he will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels. We look then beyond the first coming and await the second. At the first coming we said: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. At the second we shall say it again; we shall go out with the angels to meet the Lord and cry out in adoration: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” (From a Catechetical Instruction by St. Cyril of Jerusalem, The Liturgy of the Hours, Advent Season-Christmas Season, First Sunday of Advent, Catholic Book Publishing Co., NY, 1975, p. 142-143)

Now, we know that there is always available to us, another coming, arrival or advent of Jesus Christ; one that falls between the two mentioned above; and that is the coming of Christ into our hearts, minds, and souls, through the grace and power of God in the Holy Spirit. With all the things that we will do and all the preparations we will make during the next few weeks of Advent, to give and receive to and from each other, our family, friends, and those we don’t even know, may we prepare to receive Jesus Christ - the gift of God - greater than any gift we will give or receive during these next few weeks of Advent and throughout the Christmas Season. Perhaps the most important thing we can do during Advent is let God do what we can’t. God has only one thing on His bucket list, and that’s to give what God can give. Perhaps the most important thing that will be done during Advent is not what we will do, but what God will do. *Father Ralph*



The 2021 Challenge Grant has started. Our benevolent family has agreed to match up to \$60,000 of your contributions. The gift envelopes have been mailed. If you did not receive one and wish to contribute, please call the office.

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**



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESSE OF BRIDGEPORT

238 Jewett Avenue • Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606 • 203-416-1352 • FAX: 203-371-8323

November 28, 2021

My Dear Friends in Christ:

I am writing to share important information about a new initiative regarding financial reporting at the parish, school and diocesan levels.

According to the diocesan Parish Finance Manual that was issued last year, every parish and diocesan school is required to report annually the results of their financial activities for the fiscal year ending June 30. In order for uniformity and consistency in reporting, the diocesan Finance Office has now created a standardized template that will be used going forward by all parishes and diocesan schools throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport. The Diocese and its related entities will also use the same template to issue their annual financial reports on the same day that the parishes and schools make their reports.

I have determined that the first Sunday of December every year will be known as "**Accountability Sunday**." On that day, this reporting will occur, and every parish and school, as well as the Diocese and its related entities will publish their annual financial reports simultaneously. This year, "Accountability Sunday" will fall on **Sunday, December 5, 2021**.

In short, the purpose of "Accountability Sunday" is to ensure financial transparency, to communicate to all parishioners and donors that good stewardship is being practiced and to provide a standard report that is consistent and straightforward. Individual reports will be made accessible via either parish bulletin or parish websites, school websites and the diocesan website. This new method of reporting comes after many months of preparation and is intended to ensure that the financial transparency already in place will be manifest in a new and more uniform presentation.

As we take this historic step, I wish to thank you for your continued support and generosity. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your families, especially as we begin this holy season of Advent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Frank J. Caggiano

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport



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.**

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
Norwalk

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Saturdays
Call to schedule your donation drop-off appointment.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry:
(203) 866-1644
Hours
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
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	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	Joe M.	Joan Kennedy	Joanna Marvin	Ken Schulman	John Lima
Janina Stachurski	Donny Cassavechia	Nancy G.	Vinny Massaro	Alessandro Fornara	Anthony Bruno
Greg N.	1 st Sgt. Joe Toscano (Ret.)	Debbie Poruban	Denise Cassin	Jack Cade	Angela McCrae

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



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in companionship, light housekeeping or making meals, please contact
Joan Cullen, Director of Volunteers at (203) 315-7510.



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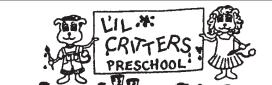
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