

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK	PARISH STEWARDSHIP			
Family Mass Every Sunday at 9:00AM.	2024 2023			
Adoration Every Monday 6:00PM - 8:00PM Daily Mass Monday, November 18 7:00 AM + Reginald Festa 5:30 PM + Katherine Ferrari Tuesday, November 19 7:00 AM In Celebration of Michelle Charlton's Birthday 5:30 PM NO MASS Wednesday, November 20 NO MASS	November 10Collection\$3,894.98\$3,747.00On-Line\$2,605.00\$2,450.00Diocesan Assessment $($1,547.00)$ $($1,506.00)$ Net Retained $$4,952.98$ $$4,691.00$ Votives\$111.59\$170.33Diocesan AssessmentThe assessment is used to cover the cost of Diocesan operations and schools. The formula is based on <u>all</u> gross receipts. For our 2025 fiscal year, the annual Cathedraticum Assessment is \$80,448. This equates to a weekly payment of			
Thursday, November 217:00 AMNO MASS5:30 PM+David Webster	\$1,547. This represents an annual increase of \$2,124.00 from the prior year.			
Friday, November 22 7:00 AM+ Joan Gardella 5:30 PM For Our Country & All in Political Life Sunday Vigil, Saturday, November 23 5:15 PM+ Fred Hill (5 th Anniversary)	<i>ELECTRONIC GIVING</i> is available through our parish website: www.stthomasnorwalk.org. Your use of electronic giving saves the parish money and helps keep our volunteers & staff safe.			
Sunday, November 24 7:30 AM+ Living & Deceased Members of the Perreault & Audet Families 9:00 AM+ Souls in Purgatory 11:30 AM+ Anna Bonnadio 5:00 PM+ Souls in Purgatory	PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 MASS ON THANKSGIVING, NOVEMBER 28 th , & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29 th , AT 9:00AM. HOLIDAY HOURS The Parish Offices will be closed Wednesday, November 27 th , & reopen on Monday, December 2 nd , at 9:00am.			
The Sanctuary Candle burns November 17 th through November 23 rd for the Intention of Margaret Amato to Our Lady of Fatima.	 The Food Pantry will be closed on Saturday, November 30 & Tuesday, December 3rd. The Thrift Store will be closed on Wednesday, November 27th, & Thanksgiving. They will reopen on Saturday, November 30th, for their regular business hours. 			
ADORATION MONDAY NIGHTS 6PM - 8PM	Confession in Church Every Saturday 4:00pm until 4:30pm Or by Appointment			
MASS OF THANKSGIVING Thanksgiving Day 9:00am Mass is a great way to start your holiday. Come give praise & thanks for all that God has given us as a parish and individually. Blessed bread for your dinner table will be provided for each family.	Pray the Rosary in the Church Monday - Friday: Before Any Scheduled Morning Mass at 6:30am Monday: 7:00pm Saturday: 4:45pm			

be provided for each family.

Rectory: Rev. Ralph Segura Pastor (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

3087 **Religious Ed Office:**

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

Monika Piascik

Facilities: Tito (Jose) Rivera

stthomasnorwalk@gmail.com

(203) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax

Youth Ministry:

stthomasyg1@gmail.com

Elizabeth Squicciarino, Coordinator Website:

www.stthomasnorwalk.org

Like us on Facebook:

St. Thomas Norwalk

Instagram:

StThomasNorwalk

Student Singers and Instruments wanted for Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Family Mass! All rehearsals will take place in St Thomas the Apostle Church

Let's have a festive 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Mass this year with music provided by our talented student singers and instrument players! Please contact Music Director, Marge Kelley, if you would like your child to sing in the Christmas Choir (Grades 1-12) or play an instrument (Grades 5-12). Rehearsals will take place in the church following the schedule below.

To sign up: Parents can speak to Marge Kelley after the 5:15 PM, 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM Masses to complete a paper copy of the sign-up sheet and to ask questions. OR

Parents can complete the online form or provide the information required in the form and email to margaretkelley24@gmail.com typing Christmas Eve Family Mass in the subject line.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

Parents may choose either the Wednesday or Thursday rehearsal each week. The same music will be covered at both rehearsals.

WEDNESDAYS: DECEMBER 4TH, 11TH and 18TH from 4:30-5:15 PM OR THURSDAYS: DECEMBER 5TH, 12TH and 19th from 4:30-5:15 PM **DRESS REHEARSAL:** Monday, December 23, 4:00-5:00: all instruments and singers

YOUTH INSTRUMENTS REHEARSALS: will be by individual appointment with Music Director Marge Kelley at a mutually agreeable time. Instrument players will join the Youth Choir for dress rehearsal on Monday, December 23, 2024 from 4:00-5:00 PM. Children who wish to play an instrument for the 4:00 PM Family Mass should be 10-18 years of age, currently taking lessons on their instrument either at school or with a private teacher and have at least two years of playing experience.

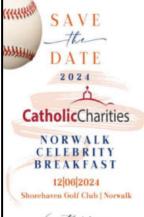
ADDITIONAL OPTION FOR HIGH SCHOOL SINGERS: High school singers may participate at either the Christmas Eve Family Mass on December 24, at 4:00 PM or the Adult Choir Christmas Mass on December 25, at 11:30 AM. Please fill out the youth choir form as directed above. A separate schedule will be provided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

ANNUAL WREATH SALE TO BENEFIT BOY SCOUT TROOP 222 AFTER ALL MASSES November 30th & DECEMBER 1st **ONLY \$25.00**

Our Boy Scout Troop will be selling beautiful double sided balsam wreaths, decorated with a red velvet bow and pinecones - door sized \$25. 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! We can deliver, if requested. Wreaths will be available the week of Thanksgiving. Text Kim at (203) 981-0437 or email kimwholey@gmail.com for any orders or questions.

Please Support Our Boys with your Purchase! For more information about Boy Scout Troop 222 please text or email Kim.



featuring RON DARLING Former NY Mets pitcher & current MLB commentator



The Tree with the tags will be up on the weekend of November 23rd & 24th. Please bring your wrapped gifts with tag attached to the church during any regularly scheduled mass by Sunday, December 8th. We need time to sort & deliver!!

<u>A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR</u>

Now that the Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport has called me to shepherd the People of God at St. Thomas Parish—a little about me. I was born in the City of Norwalk in 1962, and I was baptized at St. Joseph's Church. Afterwards, my family relocated just behind the Norwalk Hospital. Accordingly, I received First Communion and Confirmation at St. Mary's Church on West Ave.

Now, though my family had a Catholic background, we really didn't practice the Faith of the Church at home. Also, my family life when I was young was very difficult. So, once I was Confirmed, and this was not exclusive to my family, involvement with the Church dwindled over time. In fact, by the time I was 15 years old, in my immediate neighborhood, a considerable amount of families stopped going to Church on Sundays, something resembling what we see today.

As I got older, I increasingly entered into the ways of the World to a point in which my fairly weak formation in Catholicism left a mere scant memory of the Catholic Faith, and it eventually never came to mind. I began to live a life without God; and any consideration of anything beyond or higher than what the World had to offer, though there were good things, was altogether neglected for many years afterward. Most importantly of all, that which God gave me, my very soul, was left unattended and subject to influences that could only bring about great harm—and it did.

But one day, as soon as I opened my eyes, I knew that there was something missing. In fact, more than that, something was wrong. I knew the life I was living was something that I could no longer live, or at least, the way I felt needed immediate resolve. Suddenly, seemingly out of nowhere, I remembered St. Mary's Church in Norwalk, where I received the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation, which was immediately followed with the thought that I needed to go there. So I called, and after speaking for a few minutes with a priest, I was advised to simply "go to Confession and come to Mass on Sunday." So I did. I went to Confession the following Saturday and went to Mass the next day. Very, very quickly my life changed. The people, the places where I went, and the way that I lived was literally replaced, shall we say, by a new way of life.

Soon, I became involved with Parish Life, made new friends, and began to learn about Catholicism. I began to learn things that I never could have imagined, and soon I realized that I never could, or would, because the things I came to know are not of the imagination-they are revealed; revealed through the Ministry of the Church, revealed and understood at first however imperfectly, through grace; and finally, revealed through the witness and example of the People of God.

To keep it short, I recall some years after, on a busy day, as I drove past St. Mary's Church, I realized that I drove past St. Mary's Church innumerable times without the slightest idea of what was taking place in the House of God; wonderful and mysterious things that became a great gift and blessing in my life—they saved my life!

You know the rest of the Story, I became a Catholic priest, and now the Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport is calling me to be the Pastor of St. Thomas Church, and it is an honor that gives rise to much reflection. My time with you thus far has been an experience that could not have come about without God, and without you. Anything from being with you at Mass to a single soul coming into the Church to pray (one of my favorites), the love of my family, especially my siblings, and of course, the divine assistance of God, has led me to this moment and any good there is in my life. Please pray for me as I do for you, and may we continue together, as a people of faith, to witness the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the World! Praise be to God Our Father through Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit! Fithen Rlack



Holy Hour for Vocations Second Thursday of every month 7:00-8:00pm, St. Theresa Church

August 8th September 12th **October 10th** November 14th December 12th Please join us. Bring a friend. All are welcome.



Sponsored by the Lay Dominicans, **Our Lady of Fatima Fraternity** St. Theresa Church. 5301 Main Street, Trumbull

For more information about the Lay Dominicans, contact Mrs. Michelle Rowe, O.P. **Formation Director** orapronobis20@gmail.com 203 218 6882

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 Navy Spc. Daniel Gonzales, US Army MIDN 4/C Tatiana V. Arias, US Navy Sgt. Matthew Montanez, US Army CPL Larry Joyce, US Marine Corps

2024 ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL We have raised 176 gifts worth \$45,668 bringing our parish to 72.72% of its \$62,800 goal. Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated. **Thanks to all who have already given or pledged! To make a gift, or for more information, please visit 2024 Bishops Appeal.org, call (203) 416-1470, or scan with your phone.**



GRADES 7TH - 12TH STUDENTS RELIGIOUS FORMATION REGISTRATION **Registration is now open!**

We are now offering Religious Formation/Education for **7th - 12th grade students** who desire to join the Catholic faith and a method for Catholics to complete their reception of the initiation sacraments.

• Those who want to join the Catholic Church through Baptism, or Profession of Faith.

• Those who were baptized Catholic as infants but never received religious education, Confirmation, or First Eucharist.

GO TO OUR WEBSITE TO ENROLL

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults For Adults 18+(Not attending High School) Registration is now open for OCIA!

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the process for adults who desire to join the Catholic faith and for those seeking more information on the Catholic Church. OCIA can also be a method for Catholics to complete their reception of the initiation sacraments.

- Non-Catholics who want to find out more about the Catholic Faith.
- Those who want to join the Catholic Church through Baptism, or Profession of Faith.
- Those who were baptized Catholic as infants but never received religious education, Confirmation, or First Eucharist.

Go to our website & lick on "Events in Our Diocese" for more happenings at our diocesan churches.

Catholic203.com

🖸 @catholic_203

A networking group designed for 18 to 35 year olds, both single and married. Scan below to see what we are all



Trustees: Robert Lametta Christopher Jarboe

Finance Council:

Rev. Ralph Segura 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

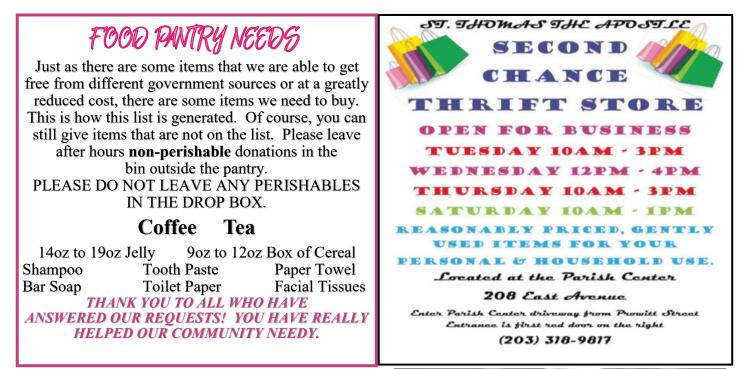
The Second Chance Thrift Shop (203) 318-9817 **HOURS** 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM Wednesdays 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Saturdays

St. Vincent de Paul 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





SEMINARIAN & VOCATIONS DRIVE

SUPPORT OUR SEMINARIANS & YOUNG MEN CALLED TO THE PRIESTHOOD

A Blessing and a Challenge

Our diocese is witnessing an extraordinary blessing—a remarkable surge in vocations. Over the past decade, our number of seminarians has more than doubled! After six priests ordained in 2023, we are thrilled to welcome 11 new seminarians this year, bringing our total to 33. This blessing, however, comes with a challenge. Each seminarian's education costs more than \$60,000 per year, and we anticipate total formation costs will rise to \$3 million per year within five years. Bishop Caggiano has announced a special drive to fund these rising costs. Will you give to support our future priests? www.bridgeportpriest.org/give



PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS IN NEED OF PRAYER If you would like to add or removed a name 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:

Debbie Reddock	James Amrich	Theresa Buono	Linda Lima	Merina Deluc	George Travers
Pearl Futo	Robert Parmalee	Mike Torres	Emily Calabrese	Anne Edwards	Phil Tavella
Jack Cade	Constance Williams	Skip Bossone	Marie Silver	Grace DeMilo	Hamilton Family
Gary Livia	Peggy McDonald	Kimberly Frataloni	Jeanette Ralston	Pam Simso	Anthony Bruno
Julia Cade	Marianne Schambeck	Cathy Sinica	Richard Berg	Jeannetta Torres	Angela McCrae
Jeannie Maxwell	Michele Mola-Gulemi	Richard Barton	Antonio Vescio	Diane Turek	Debbie Poruban
Vicki	Betty Lou Heffernan	Joan Kennedy	Chuck Scott	Jackie Hamilton	Denise Cassin
Ginny DeMarco	1 st Sgt. Joe Toscano (Ret.)	Alessandro Fornara	David R.	John Lima	Paul Rohan
Mike D.	Nancy G.	Jackson P.	Holly Sanders	Robert Podlaski	Jeff Mallory
Michelle Vittorio Vinnie McMahon	Andy Tao Heather Ribellino	Steve C. Susan Swick	Stefanie Sena Frank & Ellen Tuttle	MaryAnn P. Aidan Kane	Liz Fox Mary Anne Lagana
David Franco	Laura Wave	Joe Garrity			



DID YOU KNOW...you must complete your Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy 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 OCIA (Order of Christians Initiation for Adults) program is for you!! Just call the parish office at (203) 866-3141 for more information.

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**

To reserve the church for your destrea 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 4:00 - 4:30 PM Weekdays:

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.

Saturdays:

7.501 11

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



By appointment

Ad info. 1-800-477-4574 • Publication Support 1-800-888-4574 • www.4lpi.com St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Norwalk, CT 03-4048

