



Norwalk, CT • Est. 1935

# ST. THOMAS

## THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent



*Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, “Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”*

Words by God ~ Luke 1:41, 42

Rev. Mirosław 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, December 20

7:00 AM† Anna & Jerry Tasco  
5:30 PM† Ralph Cicala

#### Tuesday, December 21

7:00 AM Intentions of the Michael Sweeney Family  
5:30 PM† Joseph Kovacs

#### Wednesday, December 22

7:00 AM† Souls in Purgatory  
5:30 PM† Jean Annase

#### Thursday, December 23

7:00 AM† Nicholas Annase  
5:30 PM† Martha & Michael Cicala

#### Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24

7:00 AM No Mass  
4:00 PM† Gladys Lilliedahl  
6:00 PM† Frank & Anna Bonaddio  
12Midnight† Carlos Rivera

#### Christmas, Saturday, December 25

7:30 AM† For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased  
9:00 AM† Joseph & Jennie Festa  
11:30 AM† Peter & Margaret Russo  
5:15 PM No Mass

#### Sunday, December 26

7:30 AM† Jim Verda  
9:00 AM† Matthew James Harbilas  
11:30 AM† William & Alberta McMahon, Jr.  
5:00 PM No Mass

#### Celebrant

Fr. Ralph  
Fr. Ralph  
Fr. Mirek

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP

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.



*The Sanctuary Candle burns  
December 19<sup>th</sup> through December 25<sup>th</sup>  
for Joseph & Jennie Festa.*

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR HOLIDAY HOURS

### Second Chance Thrift Store:

Closed Thursday Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday,  
December 25<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, Thursday,  
December 30<sup>th</sup>, & Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

### Food Pantry:

Closed Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup> &  
Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

### Parish & Rel Formation Offices:

Closed Friday December 24<sup>th</sup> &  
Closed 12 Noon Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

*MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

## Christmas Week Confession

Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, & Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm & 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

## Mass Schedule

### Christmas Eve

4:00 pm 6:00 pm 12 am Midnight

### Christmas Day

7:30 am 9:00 am 11:30 am

#### 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  
[stthomasnorwalkred@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasnorwalkred@gmail.com)

Mary Vladimirov, Secretary  
General Office Email  
[stthomasreledoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasreledoffice@gmail.com)

#### Facilities:

Tito (Jose) Rivera

#### R.I.S.E. Youth Ministry:

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

#### Website:

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

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(203) 866-3141

(203) 866-1219 Fax

**HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE  
STUDENTS INVITED TO SING WITH  
ADULT CHOIR AT  
11:30 AM CHRISTMAS MASS  
ONLY 1 REHEARSAL!**

Students in High School or college who would like to sing with our adult choir at **11:30 AM Christmas Mass** are welcome to come to a **rehearsal on Wednesday, December 22, from 7:30-8:30 PM**, in the church. Please email music director, Marge Kelley, at [musicalmmk@optonline.net](mailto:musicalmmk@optonline.net) with your name, age and voice part (soprano, alto, tenor or bass). Hope to see you at the December 22<sup>nd</sup> rehearsal!

**CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

The St. Thomas Adult Choir will present their annual Christmas concert at 11:30 PM on December 24<sup>th</sup> prior to Midnight Mass.  
Please join us!

**Financial Results for the Quarter Ended  
September 30, 2021**

The Parish quarterly financial report is now available on the Parish website in a PDF format at [stthomasnorwalk.org/financial-information](http://stthomasnorwalk.org/financial-information). Parishioners may request a hard copy of the report by emailing or calling the Rectory office.

**STUDENT SINGERS (Grades K-8)  
WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS FAMILY  
MASSES: 4:00 PM and 9:00 AM,  
ONLY 1 REHEARSAL, THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 23, FROM 3:30-4:45 PM,  
IN THE CHURCH!**

Sing at either the **4:00 PM Christmas Family Mass on December 24**, or the **9:00 AM Christmas Family Mass on December 25**. A **mask must be worn to participate**.

Due to Covid-19, this will be a simpler format from past years, allowing our students the opportunity to raise their voices in song for Christmas while also minimizing the amount of time spent in large group rehearsals. Students will sit with their families during Mass and will be called up to the piano to sing with either Miss Beth or Miss Angela for the opening hymn, 2 Communion hymns and the closing hymn. Parents: Please email music director, Marge Kelley, at [musicalmmk@optonline.net](mailto:musicalmmk@optonline.net) with the names and ages of children who will be participating. Please type Christmas Family Mass in the subject box. Song sheets will be available to take home for practice starting this weekend. I will also be working with the students in our Rel Ed program on the songs in the parish center during a portion of their class time between now and Christmas. I am looking forward to hearing our students sing in the church again!

**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" & "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. The main menu is located by clicking the 3 bars located on the homepage in the upper right-hand corner of the page. 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.

Confessions in Church  
Every Saturday  
4:00pm until 4:30pm  
Social Distancing will be maintained.  
Masks must be worn.

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## REFLECTION FROM FR. RALPH

The other day I realized that I needed more wrapping paper if I expected to enjoy a timely preparation for gift-giving this year and, since I needed to stop at a local store for a gift I want to give, I thought that I would look to see what was in stock so I could save some time. The display of paper in stock was huge, consisting of about six large boxes, roll after roll of paper standing upright, covering an area about three feet deep, and easily over fifteen feet long. Only in America! Now, since I prefer a more classic style for wrapping paper, to my disappointment, none of the paper available was what I was looking for, and not only that, with the seemingly inexhaustible supply of things to buy, the gift I had hoped for wasn't available either. Again, only in America! Needless to say, I did not leap for joy as did the infant John the Baptist in the Gospel.

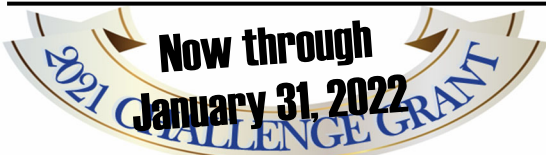
Afterwards, I went to a local well-known pharmacy to pick up a few things there, and of course, as usual, I went during the worse possible moment. The line was long, and there was only one person working the register. It was hard for all of us; but especially for the poor employee who had to tend to so many people at once by herself, and during lunch hour, no less! Smart move, Fr. Ralph. As I made my way back to St. Thomas, with more undone than I had anticipated, I was reminded of all the folks who were trying to find what they needed, or wanted, in the midst of the hustle and bustle of traffic, I was struck with those few simple words from Our Lord Himself: *"What do you seek?"*. (Jn 1:38)

I provide this anecdote of a basic experience easily had during Advent, first, because I am sure that you can identify with it quite readily, and second, because it correlates quite well with what we hear in the first reading from the Book of the prophet Micah: *"But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah least among the clans of Judah, From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; Whose origin is from of old, from ancient times"*. (Mi 5:1) This is the very quote, many scholars contend, that the Magi referred to, leading them to the land of Israel to give due honor to a newborn king who would rule the world with justice, truth and wisdom. As leaders of great stature and learning, they had humility and wisdom well above and beyond most others, and that is what gave them the pause to seek whatever was mysterious, prophetic, profound, and life changing.

We, for our part have the scriptures, the fullness of revelation, and the gifts of faith and grace through our baptism. So, certainly we can seek, in the midst of so many things to do, that one thing that really matters: our redemption in and through Jesus Christ. Just as we may find ourselves easily disappointed, impatient, overworked, and, at times, overwhelmed, we can as easily take a moment to recall why we are doing all that we are trying to do as we prepare for Christmas.

Now, of course, there will be moments when this is easier said than done, or at least, we will feel that way. Sometimes, we will not necessarily be leaping for joy, as did John the Baptist in the womb of St. Anne; but we can make our way according to God's will as did the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the midst of all that she had to contend with, she made the journey of faith out of love because she knew *"something greater than Solomon is here"*. (Mt 12:42) She was able to make the ascent to the highest and the best, just as the Magi did, and we can too. We must remember that, though like Mary, not being of kingly stature as were the Magi, we are called to participate in the Great Plan of Salvation, elevated by the grace of God and the hope of the Gospel to the throne of Almighty God - each of us, in our own way. We may not see it all the time, but it can happen for us if we seek it out. So, as we strive to resolve what is yet undone for Christmas Day, may we look for that one, single, simple moment of consolation in Jesus Christ, confident in what we read in the Book of the Prophet Micah: *"his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be our peace"*. (Mi 5:3b-4a, or Mi 5:4b-5a)

*John Ralph*



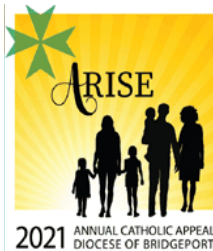
The 2021 Challenge Grant has started. Our benevolent family has agreed to match up to \$60,000 of your contributions. The gift envelopes have been mailed. If you did not receive one and wish to contribute, please call the office.

### All Saints Catholic School Now Accepting New Student Applications For Next Year

Applications are now being accepted for NEW student enrollment in Preschool and Kindergarten for the 2022 - 2023 school year. "Take a Look Tuesday" Open House is held every week by appointment. Parents are on hand to give tours and answer questions. If interested in finding out more about ASCS school, and you are not able to make it on Tuesdays, please contact the Admissions Director, Mrs. Denise Vuoso, to set up an appointment for a tour at another time. Email: [admissions@ascs.net](mailto:admissions@ascs.net) or Call: 203-847-3881 Ext 1.

**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



**2021 ANNUAL  
CATHOLIC APPEAL**

We have raised 189 gifts worth \$46,268 bringing our parish to 73.68% of its \$62,800 goal. Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated. **Thanks to all who gave or pledged!**

*ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE*  
**SECOND  
CHANCE  
THRIFT STORE**  
OPEN FOR BUSINESS  
**TUESDAY & THURSDAY**  
**10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**  
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**(203) 852-9899**

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.***

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

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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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Tuesdays & Saturdays  
Only

**Birthright of  
Norwalk:**  
(203) 853-4872

**Catholic  
Charities:**  
(203) 416-1307

**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.

## 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 Calabeese  | 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        | John Lima       |
| Kathleen Dominick | Joe M.                                  | Joan Kennedy       | Joanna Marvin    | Ken Schulman       | Anthony Bruno   |
| Janina Stachurski | Donny Cassavechia                       | Nancy G.           | Vinny Massaro    | Alessandro Fornara | Angela McCrae   |
| Greg N.           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sgt. Joe Toscano (Ret.) | Debbie Poruban     | Denise Cassin    | Jack Cade          | Kathy D         |

**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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William P. Skidd  
Andrew D. Skidd  
William G. Lahey