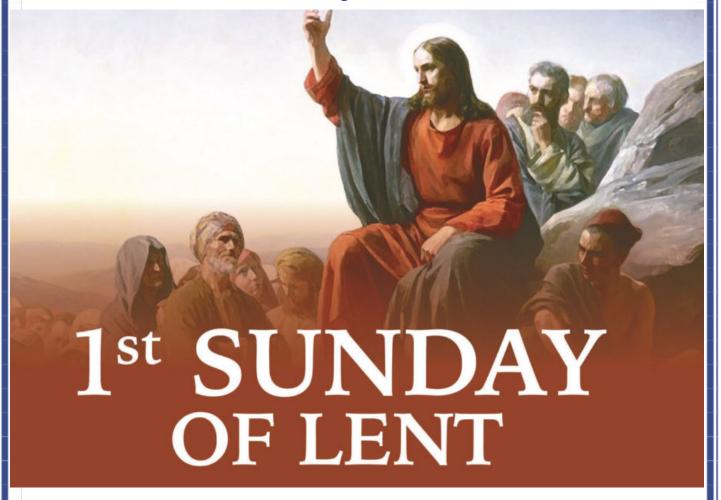


February 18, 2024



After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Words by God ~ Mark 1:14-15

Rev. Ralph Segura, Parochial Administrator
203 East Avenue Norwalk, CT 06855
(203) 866-3141 stthomasnorwalk.org

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK Family Mass Every Sunday at 9:00AM. Adoration Every Monday 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Daily Mass

Monday, February 19

7:00 AM**†** Michael Joseph O'Dwyer

5:30 PM **†** The Tartaglia & Rauccio Families

Tuesday, February 20

7:00 AM**†** Anna Daniele 5:30 PM NO MASS

Wednesday, February 21

7:00 AM**†** Special Intention

Thursday, February 22

7:00 AM NO MASS 5:30 PM**†** Michael Matteo

Friday, February 23

7:00 AM Frank M. De Bellis 5:30 PM**†** Anna Bonnadio

Sunday Vigil, Saturday, February 24

5:15 PM Gale McDonald

Sunday, February 25

7:30 AM**†** For Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased

9:00 AM**†** Salvatore DiDonna

11:30 AM**†** Giuseppe Passarelli, Giuseppe Lombardi, &

Serafina Maselli

5:00 PM **†** Barbara Jacobson



The Sanctuary Candle burns February 18th through February 24th in memory of Palma Sweet.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord, and Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them. Please remember in your prayers:

Carmella Pagliano

We extend our sympathy to her family & friends.

Confession in Church Every Saturday 4:00pm until 4:30pm or by Appointment

Rectory:

Rev. Ralph Segura Parochial Administrator (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

2024 2023

 February 11

 Collection
 \$3,896.00
 \$3,890.50

 On-Line
 \$2,674.00
 \$2,200.00

 Diocesan Assessment
 (\$1,506.00)
 (\$1,567.00)

 Net Retained
 \$5,064.00
 \$4,523.50

 Votives
 \$ 126.86
 \$ 190.23

Diocesan Assessment

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

The assessment is used to cover the cost of Diocesan operations and schools. The formula is based on <u>all</u> gross receipts. For our 2024 fiscal year, the annual Cathedraticum Assessment is \$78,324. This equates to a weekly payment of \$1,506. This represents an annual decrease of \$3,148.00 from the prior year.

BSTINENCE

Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. Catholics over the age of 14 years are required to abstain from meat every Friday during Lent.



PLEASE JOIN US FRIDAYS DURING LENT

7PM FEBRUARY 16 & 23 MARCH 1. 8. 15. 22. & 29

Youth Ministry:

stthomasyg1@gmail.com Elizabeth Squicciarino, Coordinator **Website:**

www.stthomasnorwalk.org

Like us on Facebook: St. Thomas Norwalk

Instagram: StThomasNorwalk

(203) 866-1219 Fax

Youth Singers and Instrument Players wanted! For: Easter Sunday, April 31, 2024, 9:00 AM Family Mass

Rehearsals will begin soon for Youth Choir and Orchestra to prepare to sing and play for Easter Sunday Mass on March 31, 2024! Students in Grades 1-12 are welcome to participate. All rehearsals will take place in St. Thomas the Apostle Church. The <u>Rehearsal Schedule</u> is detailed below and will be available in the parish bulletin and on the parish website. It is only necessary to attend one rehearsal each week.

WEEK 1: Youth Instrument Rehearsal, 4:30-5:15 PM, Wednesday Feb. 28 OR Thursday, Feb.29

WEEK 2: Youth Choir & Instruments, 4:30-5:15 PM, Wednesday, March 6 OR Thursday, March 7

WEEK 3: Youth Choir & Instruments, 4:30-5:15 PM, Wednesday, March 13 OR Thursday, March 14

WEEK 4: Youth Choir & Instruments, 4:30-5:15 PM, Wednesday, March 20 OR Thursday, March 21.

WEEK 5: Final Rehearsal for all participants, 4:30-5:15 PM, Wednesday, March 27.

(I cannot offer a Thursday rehearsal option on the final week because it is Holy Thursday.)

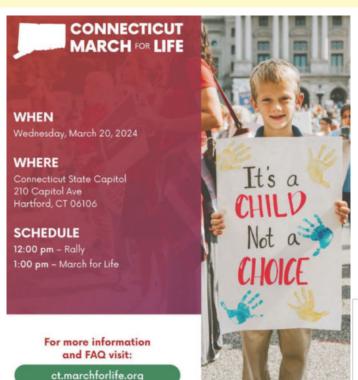
<u>To sign up to sing or play</u>: see Music Director, Marge Kelley for a paper sign-up form after the 5:15, 9:00 or 11:30 AM weekend Masses OR complete the fillable pdf form that will be available on the parish website and send it to Marge Kelley's email address, margaretkelley24@gmail.com.

<u>STUDENTS NEEDING VOLUNTEER HOURS</u>: please consider joining the Youth Choir or playing an instrument for Easter Sunday! I will be happy to sign forms each week at rehearsal and again on Easter Sunday. You will receive a full hour credit for the 45 minute rehearsal. Students playing an instrument can also log practice time at home and show it to me for additional hours.

REMINDER:

No priest will ever send you an email asking for a purchase of gift cards or anything else. These are scam emails & should be moved to your spam folder.

Please do not respond to these emails. If you are ever unsure of anything please do not hesitate to call the office or ask one of the priests after mass.







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.





FROM A LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS BY SAINT CLEMENT I, POPE AND MARTYR (CAP. 7, 7-8, 3; 8, 5-9, 1;13, 1-4; 19, 2: FUNK 1, 71-73, 77-78)

Let us fix our attention on the blood of Christ and recognize how precious it is to God his Father, since it was shed for our salvation and brought the grace of repentance to all the world.

If we review the various ages of history, we will see that in every generation the Lord has offered the opportunity of repentance to any who were willing to turn to him. When Noah preached God's message of repentance, all who listened to him were saved. Jonah told the Ninevites they were going to be destroyed, but when they repented, their prayers gained God's forgiveness for their sins, and they were saved, even though they were not of God's people.

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the ministers of God's grace have spoken of repentance; indeed, the Master of the whole universe himself spoke of repentance with an oath: As I live, says the Lord, I do not wish the death of the sinner but his repentance. He added this evidence of his goodness: House of Israel, repent of your wickedness. Tell the sons of my people: If their sins should reach from earth to heaven, if they are brighter than scarlet and blacker than sackcloth, you need only turn to me with your whole heart and say, "Father", and I will listen to you as a holy people.

In other words, God wanted all his beloved ones to have the opportunity to repent and he confirmed this desire by his own almighty will. That is why we should obey his sovereign and glorious will and prayerfully entreat his mercy and kindness. We should be suppliant before him and turn to his compassion, rejecting empty works and quarreling and jealousy which only lead to death.

Brothers, we should be humble in mind, putting aside all arrogance, pride and foolish anger. Rather, we should act in accordance with the Scriptures, as the Holy Spirit says: The wise man must not glory in his wisdom nor the strong man in his strength nor the rich man in his riches. Rather, let him who glories glory in the Lord by seeking him and doing what is right and just. Recall especially what the Lord Jesus said when he taught gentleness and forbearance. Be merciful, he said, so that you may have mercy shown to you. Forgive, so that you may be forgiven. As you treat others, so you will be treated. As you give, so you will receive. As you judge, so you will be judged. As you are kind to others, so you will be treated kindly. The measure of your giving will be the measure of your receiving.

Let these commandments and precepts strengthen us to live in humble obedience to his sacred words. As Scripture asks: Whom shall I look upon with favor except the humble, peaceful man who trembles at my words?

Sharing then in the heritage of so many vast and glorious achievements, let us hasten toward the goal of peace, set before us from the beginning. Let us keep our eyes firmly fixed on the Father and Creator of the whole universe, and hold fast to his splendid and transcendent gifts of peace and all his blessings.

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.

SPREAD THE WORD!

The Diocese of Bridgeport has a tuition assistance program partially funded through the Annual Bishop's Appeal. Visit their website for more information: fundations in education.org.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Just as there are some items that we are able to get free from different government sources or at a greatly reduced cost, there are some items we need to buy. This is how this list is generated. Of course, you can still give items that are not on the list. Please leave after hours non-perishable donations in the bin outside the pantry.

9oz to 12oz box of cereal 14oz to 18oz peanut butter Shampoo Tooth Paste Paper Towels Toilet Paper Facial Tissues

ST. ANN'S CLUB MONDAY NIGHT BINGO (except holidays)

16 Hendricks Avenue
Doors open at 5:30pm First game at 6:45pm
Refreshments available to purchase.

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 Sqt. 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

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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.



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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 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

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Only

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Catholic Charities: (203) 416-1307

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Spring 2024 Campaign February 14 – March 24, 2024

Through peaceful prayer, fasting, and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired more than 1,000,000 volunteers and saved thousands of lives. Please consider signing up for 1 hour with a friend or as a parish group and help change hearts and minds this Lent. See the following for location and sign-up information.

Bridgeport: 4697 Main Street (at the public right of way), Campaign Leader: Barbara Grabowski -

bgrabows@aol.com

For more information or to sign up for hours visit: https://

www.40daysforlife.com/en/bridgeport

Danbury: 44 Main Street (at the public right of way)

Campaign Leader: Don Mallozzi don.r.mallozzi@gmail.com

For more information or to sign up for hours visit: https://

www.40daysforlife.com/en/danbury

Stamford: 35 Sixth Street (at the public right of way)

Campaign Leader: Monika Twal stamford40daysforlife@gmail.com

For more information or to sign up for hours visit: https://

www.40daysforlife.com/en/stamford

CATECHISTS NEEDED for Grades 1, 4 & 5

We are in need of volunteer Catechists to teach our next year's 1st, 4th, & 5th graders. Sundays, September - May 10:00 am - 11:45 am Class Times: 10:15 am - 11:30 pm Completion of Virtus online training required. To volunteer or for more information please call the Rel. Formation office: (203) 866-1189.



ADORATION MONDAY NIGHT 6PM - 8PM



Pray the Rosary in the Church Monday - Friday: Before Any Scheduled Morning Mass at 6:30am Monday: 7:00pm Saturday: 4:45pm



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ELECTRONIC GIVING

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.

Joan Cullen, Director of Volunteers at (203) 315-7510.





The Connecticut Hospice, Inc., Homecare Volunteers Needed

HOSPICE 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

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:

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
Kathleen Dominick	1 st Sgt. Joe Toscano (Ret.)	Alessandro Fornara	David R.	John Lima	Patricia M.
Ginny DeMarco	Nancy G.	Jackson P.	Holly Sanders	Vinny Massaro	Robert Podlaski
Mike D. Michelle Vittorio	Elizabeth Malerba Vinnie McMahon	Steve C. Carolyn Hill	Stefanie Sena	Jim Bogdany	Paul Rohan



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.

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

Prayer Requests!

Please contact the St. Thomas Prayer Ministry. Call Sue Wegiel at (203) 838-4088 with your prayer request or email her at wegiesi@hotmail.com. If you cannot reach Sue, please call the office at (203) 866-3141.

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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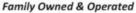
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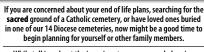


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