



# St. Thomas More Church

374 Middlesex Road • Darien, Connecticut • 06820

(203) 655-3303



**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • SEPTEMBER 5, 2021**

9:00AM to 1:00PM Friday

Parish FAX .....655-6478  
Religious Education & Happiness Preschool FAX.....655-8901  
Parish E-mail .....**office@stmdarienct.org**  
Parish Media (Website/Bulletin) .. **STMDarienNEWS@aol.com**

Cover: **Christ Healing a Deaf Man** by Domenico Maggiotto (18th c.)

## ST. THOMAS MORE

*Family Photo Days*

SATURDAY, SEPT. 25TH WEED BEACH

SUNDAY, SEPT. 26TH TILLEY POND

Register at: [stmdarienct.org/familyphoto](http://stmdarienct.org/familyphoto)

## 10 MINUTE FAMILY MINI SESSIONS

\$50 SITTING FEE

(TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO STM)

Digital Image Prices:

\$40 for one image

\$100 for four images

\$200 for the Gallery



## A PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOPE



*Heavenly Father, we remember before you this weekend those whose lives were lost in the catastrophic events of September 11, 2001, and for all those whom we love but no*

*longer see. We give thanks to you for the selfless courage of those brave souls who ran into burning buildings and who labored in the rubble; may their courage be to us a witness of what is possible when we are guided by love and dedication to our fellow human beings.*

*We pray today for the continued healing of all those suffering emotional and physical scars. May your spirit breathe new breath into clouded lungs, new life into troubled minds, and new warmth into broken hearts, so that all may feel wrapped in your loving embrace. May we move from suffering to hope, from brokenness to wholeness, from anxiety to courage, from death to life, from fear to love, and from despair to hope.*

*Guide our feet and inspire us with hope in the way of peace. May we receive this gift, so that we might become instruments of your peace in this world, knowing all people as equally loved, lovingly created, children of God.*

*Amen.*

## MASS INTENTIONS

## Saturday, September 4

9:00 AM The People of the Parish  
4:30 PM Susanna Chudy Jo Mitchell

## Sunday, September 5

Mass Online at 7:30AM

7:30 AM Msgr. Paul Langsfeld The Sommer Family  
8:45 AM Theodore George Sheridan, Jr. Vincent & Dolores Fanning  
10:00 AM The People of the Parish  
11:30 AM Judy Holding Pat & Ab van den Broek  
5:15 PM Joan Mahoney Bill & Karen Dunn

## Monday, September 6

9:00 AM Sister Eileen Cunningham Rita Stone

## Tuesday, September 7

9:00 AM Sean Riordan Betty & Sean Queally

## Wednesday, September 8

9:00 AM Thomas Costello Rosey Costello

## Thursday, September 9

9:00 AM George Sheridan Marie O'Connell

## Friday, September 10

9:00 AM Intentions of Karol Tyburski

## Saturday, September 11

9:00 AM Eileen Pomponi Meghan Lynch  
4:30 PM Jonathan Connors Rosey Costello

## Sunday, September 12

Mass Online at 7:30AM

7:30 AM Pete Barnes Rosey Costello  
8:45 AM Vincent & Hedwig Jagodzinski Jim & Hope Jagodzinski  
10:00 AM Joseph Chudy & Joseph, Jr. Jo Mitchell  
11:30 AM Mary Catherine & Jim Malone Their Family  
5:15 PM The People of the Parish

With the full return to Worship, we are pleased to share that we have weekend and weekday times available for Mass Intentions over the summer months, and for the remainder of 2021.

To request a Mass Intention for the faithful departed, please contact Gigi Williams in the Parish Office at: (203) 655-3303 or [office@stmdarienct.org](mailto:office@stmdarienct.org).

## STEWARDSHIP

## Offertory

Contributions for August 29	Actual	Budget	Variance
Weekly Offertory	\$18,903	\$15,000	\$3,903
Month-to-Date Offertory	\$78,442	\$75,000	\$3,442
FY-to-Date Offertory	\$147,206	\$141,000	\$6,206

## WE WELCOME OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED



**George Brian Jesseau**  
**Reagan Karen Verrone**

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES UPDATE

As attendance expands at weekend celebration of the Mass, in line with the CDC, State and Diocesan Guidelines, we welcome back our liturgical ministers as they resume their participation in the liturgy of the word and distribution of Holy Communion.

On behalf of the St Thomas More Parish Community, we would like to thank all of our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Readers for their ongoing service.

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC) is a lay member of the faithful who has been appointed to help distribute Holy Communion when a sufficient number of ordinary ministers (clergy) are not present, available or when the celebrant (priest) has determined that pastoral need requires their help based on the size of congregation celebrating Mass. Parishioners are commissioned to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion after completing the mandated diocesan training. We are currently in need of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at all Masses.

### Liturgy of the Word: Readers

When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in His word, proclaims the Gospel. The one who serves as a reader in Liturgy of the Word during Mass is the person designated to proclaim Sacred Scripture (with the exception of the Gospel). This person would also proclaim the psalm response (in the absence of a cantor), and the Universal Prayer or, as it is commonly known, the Prayer of the Faithful (in the absence of a deacon). Parishioners are trained and commissioned to serve as readers at Mass.

Please contact the Parish Office ([office@stmdarienct.org](mailto:office@stmdarienct.org)) or Anne and Jim Davis ([stmlectorem@gmail.com](mailto:stmlectorem@gmail.com)) for more information and to sign up for these vital ministries.

## ST. THOMAS MORE RCIA UPDATE



**RCIA**  
*A Journey In Faith*

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which non-Catholic adults become fully initiated into the Catholic Church. The RCIA serves the unbaptized and those baptized in another Christian tradition, as well as baptized Catholics who have not received the sacraments of the Eucharist or Confirmation. Those interested in learning more about the RCIA program should contact the Parish Office and Jim Davis (via email at [davis.jim1957@gmail.com](mailto:davis.jim1957@gmail.com)).

## SOUP KITCHEN THANKS

Many, many thanks to Jinx Aliprandi, Eileen Fleming, Cath Highton, Amy and Charlie Howe, Sue Mattison, Robert and Deborah McMullan, Camille and Greg Andriunas, Jim Sullivan, Laura Grozier and Charlie Brown for your help with providing lunch for our guests at New Covenant Center in Stamford on Saturday, August 21. Your cooking, delivering and packaging were truly appreciated by all guests who received a to-go meal. Anyone interested in assisting with the monthly lunch we provide to New Covenant Center, please contact us...we are always looking for help, especially with casseroles (recipes provided). Email either Karen Dunn ([kmdunnct@gmail.com](mailto:kmdunnct@gmail.com)) or Gretchen Brown ([browncgcp@aol.com](mailto:browncgcp@aol.com))

## TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Join us in the Rectory Annex beginning Tuesday, September 14 from 9:30AM to 11:00AM for a study of the book of Psalms. Meeting dates to follow are September 21 and 28; October 5, 12, 19 & 26; November 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 and December 7, 14 & 21.

Meetings are led by Maryann Knag, MAT, MAR, a trained catholic Bible scholar who teaches under the Magisterium. For questions and more info, contact Maryann at (203) 213-4809 or [mmknag@aol.com](mailto:mmknag@aol.com).

We look forward to seeing you and sharing the Word with you. Heaven knows we have so much on our hearts and minds to pray about! Visit [stmdarienct.org/bible](http://stmdarienct.org/bible) for more information and a Zoom link remote option.

## WALKING WITH PURPOSE



Are you stretched and would like a way to refuel and be refreshed while making authentic connections with others? Would you like to have a better understanding of your faith and learn more about God? Walking with Purpose is a woman's Catholic Bible study that aims to bring women to a deeper, more personal relationship with Christ by offering

personal study and small group discussions that link our everyday challenges with solutions given to us through the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church.

Do you desire lasting and abiding friendships? Do you want to move beyond the past hurts of relationships gone wrong? **Reclaiming Friendship: God's Plan for Deep Connection** was written for any woman who wants a true and deep connection that lasts. Explore what it takes to stay close for the long haul, what to look for in a friend, and how to navigate toxic relationships. There is a way to protect your heart without closing yourself off from future intimacy. The key is found in discovering God's plan for friendship, which was meant to be a foretaste of Heaven.

In a world plagued by loneliness, you are invited to encounter God personally through Scripture. Let God reshape how you see and experience intentional relationships, deal with your past friendship wounds, and become a woman who is capable of the lifelong bond of true friendship.

**Reclaiming Friendship**, our six-lesson Bible study, is ideal if you:

- Are lonely and desire lasting friendships
- Need to know and understand what it means that God created each of us in His image
- Crave an authentic community, the kind in which we experience His joy and goodness

Visit [stmdarienct.org/wwp](http://stmdarienct.org/wwp) to register, view our syllabus and obtain a study guide. If you have any questions, email Carmela Alberga: [carmela.alberga@gmail.com](mailto:carmela.alberga@gmail.com). Sessions are on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings September 30 through November 18.

## HAPPINESS PRESCHOOL

# AFTERNOON 2<sup>S</sup> PROGRAM



Saint Thomas More Happiness Preschool  
is now offering an afternoon drop off  
2s program

Please contact the Director, Maria Hillman  
at [stmhappyschool@aol.com](mailto:stmhappyschool@aol.com)  
or call (203)655-6053 for more information.



- 3-day program on  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and  
Thursdays
- 12 noon to 2:45pm
- Beginning September 2021

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### Lourdes in a Day



All, especially the sick, handicapped and frail are welcome to join us for Washing in the Water of Lourdes, Mass, Sacrament of the Sick, Confessions, Adoration, Benediction and the Rosary. Talks for the Malades and the Caregivers we will delivered along with a complimentary lunch. Saturday, September 18, 2021 from 9:30AM to 3:00PM at St. Peter Claver Church, 47 Pleasant Street in West Hartford. Contact Mark Sullivan at 860-523-1405 or [slvnchrth@gmail.com](mailto:slvnchrth@gmail.com) for questions and to make a reservation.

### Save the date for Diocesan Blue Mass - September 19

The Annual Diocesan Blue Mass honoring fire, police and rescue workers will be held on Sunday, September 19, 10:30AM at St. Catherine Church, Riverside. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will be the main celebrant along with diocesan priests who serve as police and fire chaplains in Fairfield County.

### Wedding Anniversaries in our Diocese

All those celebrating 25 years of marriage to 50+ years of marriage are invited to gather at St. Matthew's Parish on Saturday, September 25, 2021 at either 10:30AM or 1:00PM for a Mass celebrated by Bishop Caggiano. Register at: [formationreimagined.org/event/celebrating-wedding-anniversaries](http://formationreimagined.org/event/celebrating-wedding-anniversaries).

### Malta House Golf Marathon



Please join us from sunup to sundown on September 27 at Innis Arden Golf Club and play as many holes as you can! For non-golfers, there will also be a miniature golf "mini-thon" at Norwalk Cove Marina, so there is something for everyone!

For more information or to RSVP, please email Kathleen Rowland at [krowland@maltahouse.org](mailto:krowland@maltahouse.org) by September 17 or call (203) 857-0088.

**2021 AETNA GOLF CLASSIC**

*An event to benefit Catholic Charities of Fairfield County*

**The Patterson Club**  
1118 Cross Highway | Fairfield, Ct 06824

**September 20, 2021**  
Event Co-Chairs: Bill Tommami and Jon Vaccarella

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**ENJOY A COMPLETE PROGRAM OF SPECIAL EVENTS**

- 18 holes of golf, including cart, format (best ball)
- One caddy per foursome
- Food throughout the day with open bar - top shelf liquor
- Hand-rolled cigars
- Putting competition on the practice green
- On course contests include: Putting Contest, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, & Hole-in-One

Register to become a sponsor at: [www.ccfairfield.org/event/golfclassic/](http://www.ccfairfield.org/event/golfclassic/)  
or contact Amy Zajac: (203) 416-1336 • [azajac@ccfc-ct.org](mailto:azajac@ccfc-ct.org)

### Seeking After School Program Director

St. Aloysius is looking to hire an After School Program Director. The daily program runs from 2:30PM-5:30PM in the school building and will include a snack, homework assistance and recreation time. Please see details below and contact our Principal, Mr. Michael Marasco ([mmarasco@sasnct.org](mailto:mmarasco@sasnct.org)) if you are interested.

- 2:00PM to 6:00PM everyday school day (except half days)
- Practicing Catholic
- Organized, responsible, and flexible
- 18 years of age or older
- Would need to do Virtus Training and Livescan

## NEW CONSTRUCTION



Pardon our appearance over at the St. Thomas More Education Center. Concrete footings have been poured for our ramp entrance.

Further improvements will feature:

- A handicap ramp with a wider landing
- New railings and rebuilt stairs are being constructed
- New entrance doors, with handicap accessible push-button electronic door openers
- Additional exterior lighting will be added for better visibility and safety around the entrance

## CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING



Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Robin Ungaro from LPI, our bulletin printer, is working to secure new ads for our church. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and website.

Contact Robin at 203-747-5671 or [rungaro@4lpi.com](mailto:rungaro@4lpi.com).

## 2021/2022 FAITH FORMATION IMPORTANT DATES

Registration Ends **September 9**  
Classes Begin **September 19**

### Faith Formation Office Hours

Monday to Thursday - 9:00AM to 5:00PM

**Nikki Mitchell, Director**  
stmreled@gmail.com or 203-655-3077

**Betsy Reilly, Assistant Grades 1-8**  
readmin6-9@stmdarienct.org or 203-655-6295



### Program Options

- Classroom Based "Traditional" Instruction - Grades 1 to 8
- Home Based Learning - Available to non-sacramental preparation years only (grades 3, 4, 5 & 6)

### Tuition Assistance

If you believe that you will need tuition assistance or a payment plan please complete the form found on our website now prior to registration, or contact the office with any questions.

Please refer to our website for registration forms:

**[stmdarienct.org/registration](http://stmdarienct.org/registration)**

**Registration Ends – September 9, 2021**

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord God, Creator of body and mind and heart; you have sent the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge to guide your people in all their ways.

At the beginning of this new school year, in this time of uncertainty and anxiety, we implore your mercy.

Bless and protect our students, teachers, staffs, their families, and especially our teachers, staff and administrators. Give wisdom to the decision makers, be they in our schools or in our homes.

Expand the horizons of our minds, and deepen our commitment to seek the truth of your ways. Enliven our faith to reach out to those in need, particularly those isolated and lonely.

In these days when so much has changed, help us to trust in the love of your Son Jesus, our Divine Teacher, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Amen.

## BECOMING A CATECHIST

Please consider becoming a catechist - here are some of the details and our specific needs:

- One-hour/week
- 24 weeks/year
- Small class size – 10/class
- All materials provided

### 1st Grade

Monday 4:15-5:15 – 1 catechist needed

### 2nd Grade

Sunday 8:45-9:45 – 1 catechist needed

Monday 4:15-5:15 – 1 catechist needed

Wednesday 4:15-5:15 – 2 catechists needed

Thursday 4:15-5:15 – 1 catechist needed

### 3rd Grade

Wednesday 4:15-5:15 – 1 catechist needed

### 4th Grade

Wednesday 4:15-5:15 – 1 catechist needed

### 5th Grade

Monday 4:15-5:15 – 1 catechist needed

Thursday 4:15-5:15 – 1 catechist needed

### 6th Grade

Thursday 4:15-5:15 – 1 catechist needed

### 7th Grade

Tuesday 6:30-7:30 – 2 catechists needed

### 8th Grade

Monday 6:00-7:00 – 2 catechists needed

**As a reminder all catechists with enrolled children qualify for a \$200 reduction on tuition - please contact the office for further information and to register as a Catechist!**

## CATECHIST AIDES NEEDED FOR 2021-22

### High School Students Volunteer Opportunity

Each year we welcome approximately 20 High School young men and women as Catechist Aides in our Religious Education department. It is a wonderful, spiritual and fulfilling endeavor. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Betsy Reilly in the Faith Formation office: 203-655-3077 or [stmre7-8@stmdarienct.org](mailto:stmre7-8@stmdarienct.org). You can select a time and day which best suits your schedule!

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS



High Schoolers are invited to grow in faith and serve others in need. Join fellow teens at Mass and Meetings on Sundays.

Visit [stmdarienct.org/youthgroup](http://stmdarienct.org/youthgroup) to register on or after September 8. If you have any questions, contact Paul Brunner at [yg@stmdarienct.org](mailto:yg@stmdarienct.org).

WILLIAM J.  
FESSLER, DDS



William J. Fessler D.D.S.  
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