



St. Thomas More Church

374 Middlesex Road • Darien, Connecticut • 06820
(203) 655-3303



TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

WELCOME BACK TO ST. THOMAS MORE!

9:00AM to 1:00PM Friday



Cover: **Communion of the Apostles** by Luca Signorelli (1512)

TUESDAY EVENING ADORATION WITH BENEDICTION AND CONFESSION

Join us every Tuesday evening in the Church at 7:00PM for an hour of Adoration followed by Benediction. Confessions will also be heard during the hour.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION



Friday, October 1, 2021

Join us for Adoration in the Church from 10:00AM-4:45PM next Friday. At 4:45PM, following the Litany to the Sacred Heart, we celebrate Benediction before reposing the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. To be with Him will reassure you that because of his glorious resurrection you have nothing to fear. To adore Jesus in the Eucharist is to receive and enjoy the gift of his eternal real presence. The Eucharist is Jesus' gift of himself to us. He is truly there in the tabernacles of the world in the form of simple bread

consecrated into his sacred body, blood, soul and divinity. From there he offers us the comfort of his company and the gift of his love. Spending time with Him will remind you that he loves you so much he willingly laid down his life for you.

A Catechist's Prayer

Loving God, I begin this new catechetical year with gratitude for Your generous gifts of wisdom, grace, joy, and forgiveness. You are calling me to share these gifts with those I teach and especially to help them love and revere Your sacrament of Reconciliation. Open my eyes and my heart that I might be worthy to proclaim Your gospel teaching — to give generously and freely to both "the first and the last." You also forgive in the same way. May the children I teach, through my preparation and example, experience the richness and power of Your tender mercy and forgiving love. I ask, in the name of Jesus Christ my teacher and guide, that I might, as a catechist, respond wholeheartedly to this and all the challenges of this new teaching year.

Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 25

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

Sunday, September 26 *Mass Online at 7:30AM*

7:30 AM Joseph Costello *Rosey Costello*
8:45 AM Jane Powers *Bill and Mary Rooney*
10:00 AM Elizabeth M. Feeney *Kathleen Willcox*
11:30 AM *The People of the Parish*
5:15 PM Patricia Dailey *The Hart Family*

Monday, September 27

9:00 AM Msgr. Frank Costello *Rosey Costello*

Tuesday, September 28

9:00 AM John Slattery *Marilyn Hart*

Wednesday, September 29

9:00 AM Joan Baldwin *Jim & Hope Jagodzinski*

Thursday, September 30

9:00 AM Sean Riordan *Agnes Sheridan*

Friday, October 1

9:00 AM Scott Dansker *Lisa & Marc Heissan*

Saturday, October 2

9:00 AM Mary McConnell *Jim & Hope Jagodzinski*
4:30 PM Michael Stamm *The Giesen Family*

Sunday, October 3 *Mass Online at 7:30AM*

7:30 AM *The People of the Parish*
8:45 AM Martin Francis Hayes IV *The Kuras Family*
10:00 AM Kathleen Fogarty *Christine Munro*
11:30 AM Richard Lionel Angers *The Family*
5:15 PM Jane Powers *The Hellman Family*

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.

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory

Contributions for September 19	Actual	Budget	Variance
Weekly Offertory	\$16,468	\$17,500	-\$1,032
Month-to-Date Offertory	\$46,559	\$52,500	-\$5,941
FY-to-Date Offertory	\$193,765	\$193,500	\$265

WE WELCOME OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED



Emily Reese Condon

Cole Anthony Meagher

NEW DAY BEREAVEMENT BEGINS OCT 6



Why is it so unbearable for us when that dear one dies! Is there any way to cope and learn to feel that life can be good again...peaceful, joyful? "New Day" provides the necessary steps we all have to take so we can once again reach that time we need in our life. If you are bereaved because of the loss of a loved one, you need to give yourself some time to work through the natural process of grieving. "New Day" is a program in which you can deal with this pain in a confidential atmosphere of care and understanding.

Some of the topics that are addressed in the program include:

- Understanding the aspects of your loss
- Taking the necessary steps to adapt to your loss
- The journey from sadness to peace and joy
- Creating cherishable memories
- The spiritual journey of grief

Created by Maureen O'Brien O.P., St. Thomas More Church has offered this nine-week program in the spring and fall, regularly since the mid-1990s. It is offered to our parishioners and to all faiths in Darien and our neighboring communities. "New Day" is appropriate for individuals dealing with the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, relative, colleague or beloved friend. Certified and trained thanatology facilitators will conduct the seminar. They are not counselors; rather they are people who have also experienced grief in their lives and are able to move with the group through the tasks of grief. The program is totally confidential, and the privacy of all are protected.

This fall, we begin our Wednesday 7:30PM meetings on October 6 through December 1 in the Rectory Annex, learning how to manage the challenges of complete, successful mourning. Trained bereavement counselors, with you and others, will work out these important steps. There is no cost for this program, however, registration is required. For information on how to join the seminar and the particulars of the program, please call Lillian Toll at 966-9367 or the Parish Office at 655-3303.

ST. THOMAS MORE RCIA UPDATE

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).

Visit stmdarienct.org/rcia for a complete list of meeting dates and topics.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us in the Rectory Annex on Tuesdays 9:30AM to 11:00AM for a study of the book of Psalms. Meeting dates this fall continue through December 21. Our leader is 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. We look forward to seeing you and sharing the Word with you. Visit 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 to register, view our syllabus and obtain a study guide. If you have any questions, email Carmela Alberga: carmela.alberga@gmail.com. Sessions are on Thursday mornings and evenings September 30 through November 18.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES NEEDED

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The 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 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.

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) or Anne and Jim Davis (stmlectorem@gmail.com) for more information and to sign up for these vital ministries.

ST. THOMAS MORE ADULT CHOIR RESUMES



Our St. Thomas More Adult Choir resumes leading the music at our Sunday 11:30AM Mass soon! We have monthly rehearsals to overview music for the coming weeks and typically rehearse at 10:00AM on Sunday mornings before the the 11:30AM Mass.

We encourage anyone interested in joining to contact music@stmdarienct.org to find out more about this long-standing and rewarding ministry of St Thomas More Parish.

AROUND THE DIOCESE



Diocese of Bridgeport Fall 2021 Campaign - Protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide campaign for an end to abortion! Through prayer, fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for

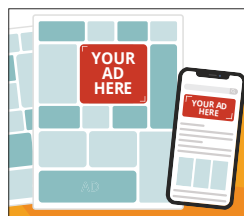
Life has inspired more than 1,000,000 volunteers! Please join us at one of the two vigil sites in the Diocese, Bridgeport and Danbury. For the Bridgeport location information visit 40daysforlife.com/Bridgeport or contact Barbara at bgrabows@aol.com.

For the Danbury location information visit 40daysforlife.com/Danbury or contact Sharon and Peg at Danbury40DFL@protonmail.com

Columbiette Rosary Membership Drive

Please join the Columbiettes, "Fr. Myron V. Miller Council 5833 Auxiliary" of the Knights of Columbus for a recitation of the Rosary followed by an informational meeting on Monday, October 4 at 7:00PM at St. Gabriel Church, 914 Newfield Avenue in Stamford. During the meeting you can learn about the Columbiettes and their charitable works. Refreshments will be served. All women from any Catholic Parish who are 18 years of age or older are welcome to join us. Please reserve your place with Columbiette Dolores at 203-968-1978 to let us know to expect you.

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.



Malta House Mystery WHODUNIT?

Dinner Experience!

Thurs. Oct. 28, 6pm
Serafina at
the Italian Center, Stamford

Join Malta House

For a *mysterious* night of fun and laughs as we bring you an interactive dinner show where **EVERYONE** is part of the fun!

Tickets on Sale Now

Tickets Include: Sit-down dinner, beer and wine, plus an interactive dinner experience!

Individual Ticket: \$85 • Double Ticket: \$150 • Table of 8: \$500

Sponsorships

Sponsorships available ranging from \$1,000 up to \$5,000. Benefits include: Digital marketing, social media, on-site exposure, tickets to attend the event—and more!

Tickets and sponsorships available at
www.maltahouse.org/mystery

For questions, please contact events@maltahouse.org or call 203-556-9695

Fairfield Prep Open House 2021



Fairfield Prep is a Catholic, Jesuit high school for boys located on the campus of Fairfield University. To learn more about Fairfield Prep and the admissions process please join us for our in-person Open House on Sunday October 3 (1:00PM or 2:00PM session) or Saturday November 20 (9:00AM or 10:00AM session). We ask guests to pre-register for Open House, to properly manage the size of the event. To register for Open House please create (or log into) your admissions account at fairfieldprep.org/apply.

Holy Child (Rye NY) All-School Open House



Join us on October 16 from 10:00AM to 1:00PM to see our beautiful campus on a tour led by admission ambassadors. Meet faculty members at our academic & extracurricular fair and speak with Holy Child girls about schoolwork, sports, extracurriculars and how to balance it all. Three one-hour timeslots are available. Space is limited! Register today! Visit holychildrye.org/admission.



Online Giving

Enroll at: from Our Sunday Visitor

stmdarienct.org/onlinegiving

or call the Parish Office
Thank You For Your Support!

2021/2022 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In Class Students

Covid Guidelines

- Children will use hand sanitizer when they enter
- Masks will be worn by all students, staff and catechists at all times regardless of vaccination status.
- Class sizes are limited to 10 students and spacing will be maximized to 3 feet as much as possible.

Please keep your child home if they exhibit any signs of illness.

Arrival and Dismissal

We want to keep your kids safe! Our parking lot gets very busy with up to 100 kids coming and going at the same time. Please read the below guidelines and help us keep our children safe.

Due to construction issues the initial drop and pick up procedures are in place till October 1, 2021:

Do not park along the side of the building. Please park in the parking lot to pick up your children.

Grades 1 & 2

Park your car in the parking lot. The School Entrance at is located at door A (the one with pillars). Parents in grades 1-2 should walk their children to their classroom door and pick them up at their classroom door.

Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

Park your car in the parking lot. The School Entrance at is located at door A (the one with pillars). Students will be dismissed from Entrance A and proceed to the parking lot for pick up.

- **BE ON TIME.** Life happens but please do not make a habit of late drop offs and early dismissals.
- A note must be given to the director stating an early dismissal. The parent **MUST** come to the door to sign out their child.
- Please drive slowly and go all the way around to the church parking lot and drop your children off at the new school entrance.
- Please be patient and be kind while navigating our parking lot.
- Reminder to not leave young children unattended in your car.

After October 1, children will be dismissed from the door facing the church. **Children may NOT walk around the corner of the building to be picked up.**

Home Based Students

Book-Bag Pick Up Schedule

Monday, September 20 to Thursday, September 23 from 1:30PM to 3:30PM in School Building Entrance A

- Book bags with textbooks, syllabus and additional materials will be provided.
- Please follow the syllabus each week and ensure that the chapter work is complete
- Take chapter tests and Unit Reviews on-line
- Ensure that the work has been submitted (as it is sent to the office & used for attendance and verification of work completed)

How To Use ALIVE IN CHRIST

1) Go to the Alive in Christ Website:

aliveinchrist.osv.com/parish

2) Click on the Student and Family Tab

- 1) Now click on SEND EASSESSMENT found on the top
- 2) You will now be asked to sign in or register
- 3) You will create your own username and use a family email
- 4) Create a password

- 1) Select your child's grade
- 2) Select the Unit
- 3) Select the Chapter you want to take a test in
- 4) Fill in the child's name that will be taking the test and input child's grade in the 'class'

- 1) Now input the recipient email
- 2) Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 use: **stmrel-6@stmdarienct.org**

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** to register. If you have any questions, contact Paul Brunner at **yg@stmdarienct.org**.

SCHOOL PRAYERS

A Student's Prayer - St. Thomas Aquinas

Come, Holy Spirit, Divine Creator, true source of light and fountain of wisdom! Pour forth your brilliance upon my dense intellect, dissipate the darkness which covers me, that of sin and of ignorance. Grant me a penetrating mind to understand, a retentive memory, method and ease in learning, the lucidity to comprehend, and abundant grace in expressing myself. Guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to successful completion. This I ask through Jesus Christ, true God and true man, living and reigning with You and the Father, forever and ever. Amen.

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.

WILLIAM J.
FESSLER, DDS



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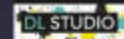
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