

St. Thomas More Church

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



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD • JANUARY 2, 2022

Saint Thomas More Church

Parish Office Hours 9:00AM to 3:00PM Monday - Thursday 9:00AM to 1:00PM Friday

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Liturgical Schedule	www.stmdarienct.org
Saturday Vigil Mass	4:30PM
Sunday Masses7:30AM, 8:45A	M. 10:00AM, 11:30AM & 5:15PM
Confessions	Saturdays 3:45PM-4:15PM
Confessions	0AM-8:40AM & 4:45PM-5:15PM
BaptismsSi	undays 12:30PM (by appointment)
Daily MassesM Eucharistic AdorationTuesdays	onday through Saturday 9:00AM
Eucharistic AdorationTuesdays	7:00PM-8:00PM (with Confession)
	First Fridays 10:00AM-4:45PM
Parish Clergy Rev. Paul G. Murphy, Pastor	office@stmdarienct.org
Rev. Paul G. Murphy, Pastor	655-3303 ext 12
Fr. Ignacio Ortigas, Parochial Vicar	655-3303
Rev. Mr. Gauthier Vincent, Deacon	219-92/5
Davida Staff	
Parish Staff	office@stmdarienct.org
Gigi Williams, Office Manager	655-3303 ext 10
Mimi Flynn, Bookkeeper	655-3303 ext 25
Delicious Education	-4
Religious Education	stmreied@gmail.com
Nikki Mitchell, Director Betsy Reilly, Administrative Assistant	
Lisa Scofield, Confirmation Coordinator	
Lisa Scotterd, Confirmation Coordinator	033-0273 EXT 21
Hanniness Preschool	stmhannyschool@aol.com
Happiness Preschool Maria Hillman, Director	655-6053 ext 14
Geraldine Flynn, Administrative Assis	stant 655-6053 ext 71
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Youth Ministry	vg@stmdarienct.org
Paul Brunner, Coordinator	655-3303
Music Ministry Galen Tate, Music Director/Organist.	music@stmdarienct.org
Galen Tate, Music Director/Organist.	655-3303 ext 19
Adult Religious Education Jim Davis, RCIA	
Maryann Knag, Tuesday Bible Study.	mmknag@aol.com
Carmela Alberga, WWP	carmela.alberga@gmail.com
Outreach & Ministries	
Women's Circlewon	nenscircle@stmdarienct.org
Prayer Shawl Ministry, Patty Catino	
Bereavement, Lillian Toll	966-9367
Lay Landarship	
Lay Leadership Joseph D. Roxe, Parish Trustee	/FE 0000
Brian D. Young, Parish Trustee	
Mary Jo Dyer, Finance Council Chair	berson midver6@gmail.com
riary jo byer, rindrice council chair	personinjuyer owginian.com
Other Contacts	
	655-6478
Religious Education & Happiness P	
Parish Madia (Mahaisa/Pullasia)	CTMD NEWC

Parish Media (Website/Bulletin).. STMDarienNEWS@aol.com

FROM THE RECTORY



On behalf of Fr. Ignacio, Deacon Gauthier and the entire staff of St. Thomas More Parish, I wish all of our parishioners a Joyous New Year, filled with many of God's blessings.

Perhaps we might include, along with our other New Year's resolutions, a determined effort to

grow closer to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, and to commit ourselves to participating more actively in the life of our parish, in 2022. That participation could take the form of a renewed practice of attending Mass on Sunday and frequenting the sacrament of confession. You might consider volunteering for one of our many liturgical and service ministries. Or, you could decide to cultivate your spiritual life and understanding of our Catholic faith by attending the Men's Ministry, the women's Walking with Purpose or our Bible Study.

If you are a high school aged student I hope you will join us for our youth group Masses at 5:15PM on Sundays, and be part of our many Youth Ministry activities.

I would ask all of our parishioners to please refer to our parish website for a list of these and many more of our ministries for one that might appeal to you.

Before turning toward 2022, I want to express my gratitude to all of you for the shared blessings of St. Thomas More Parish throughout 2021. Surely it was a year that will be remembered. But with Christ at the helm, our faith as our keel, and by working and praying together we have persevered. I have every confidence 2022 will bring us to more peaceful waters.

Invoking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and St. Joseph, to whom Pope Francis dedicated 2021, I ask God to bless you and your families.

Fr. Paul

Tuesday Evening Adoration with Benediction and Confession

Join us this Tuesday, January 4 and 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, January 7, 2022

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.

Cover: The Adoration of the Magi by Matthias Stom (c. 1630)

2021 STATE OF THE PARISH REPORT



The State of the Parish Report was published and mailed earlier this month. All parishioners should have received a mailed copy and it is also available in the Narthex and on the parish website (scan the QR code below). This report includes the current pastoral and financial status of our parish. Together, united in prayer, abounding in service and generous in our financial support we have much to be grateful for in calling St. Thomas More Parish our spiritual home.

Last year we launched our multi-year parish mission of *Building Our Community of Faith and Service*. In spite of another challenging year, we have done more than persevere. We have thrived. It is evident in almost every aspect of parish life. From new family registrations, to pre-school enrollment, to sacraments received, to Mass attendance - we are setting records across the board. Just recently, the Women's Circle held our first parish social since the pandemic began, and the Wine Tasting event was completely sold out a week early! It is such a joy to be back together again and to be welcoming so many new parishioners as active participants in the life of our parish.

Our increasing numbers and all of our ever-expanding ministries means we make full use, day and night, of our campus facilities. The Annex, the building between the rectory and the Church, is booked 5 nights a week. Happiness Preschool occupies every available classroom in our school building during the day, and Religious Education and our Youth Ministry use all the same spaces 4 afternoons during the week and on Sundays. On many evenings, the lights are on in the Parish Office building hosting the various councils and ministry meetings. Even the Great Lawn has provided tented meeting space during the Covid pandemic.

All of our buildings are in need of some level of capital investment. We have begun a thorough needs assessment, and are formulating a strategic plan to ensure our facilities keep pace with demand. Some of these investments will be financed by the St. Thomas More Fund. This Fund,



or parish savings account, was launched in 2012, and through the generosity of our parishioners over the years has grown to \$550,000. I have two requests this year. Please consider giving to the St Thomas More Fund by making a one-time gift or regularly participating in the monthly collection. My second request is for the offertory. Last year at this time we were in the middle of an increased offertory program. Your response to that initiative was exceptional. Our offertory collection has rebounded and while we are not at our historical contribution levels, we are improving. Many of you made one-time gifts to the offertory at this time last year. I would greatly appreciate you considering doing the same again this year.

I am extraordinarily grateful for your sharing with me in the work Christ has given all of us to do, "Go out and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the end of time." (Mt 28:19-20)

Yours in Christ, Fr. Paul

MASS INTENTIONS

	Saturday, January I		
9:00 AM	Joan Rogers	Donna Rohs	
4:30 PM	Alfred Andreoli	Barbara Wakefield	
	Sunday, January 2	Mass Online at 7:30AM	
7:30 AM	Carolyn Federer	Laura & Tim Grozier	
8:45 AM	Suzanna Mitchell Donovan Daniel Donovan	Jo Mitchell	
10:00 AM 11:30 AM	Eileen Hanford The People of the Parish	The Murphy Family	
5:15 PM	Florence & Otto Koll	The Williams Family	
	Monday, January 3		
7:30 AM	Bridget, Monica & Jeremiah Lyons		
	Tuesday, January 4		
9:00 AM	Terrance & Anne Murphy		
	Wednesday, January 5		
9:00 AM	Charles R. Collins	Bill & Jane Waters	
	Thursday, January 6		
9:00 AM	Virginia Quinn	Rosey Costello	
	Friday, January 7		
9:00 AM	Elizabeth McDermott	Rosey Costello	
	Saturday, January 8		
9:00 AM 4:30 PM	Mary Monahan Rick Stewart	Theresa Martin Rosey Costello	
	Sunday, January 9	Mass Online at 7:30AM	
7:30 AM 8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Jolene Murphy Doris Hellwig Paul & Virginia Murphy	Jim & Chris McCabe	
11:30 AM 5:15 PM	William Maniscalco The People of the Parish	The Seter Family	
To the second of Administration Country Countr			

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

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory

Contributions for December 26	Actual	Budget	Variance
Weekly Offertory	\$65,476	\$65,118	\$358
Month-to-Date Offertory	\$156,850	\$157,618	-\$768
FY-to-Date Offertory	\$539,395	\$540,236	-\$841

WE WELCOME OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED

Robert Sawyer Ingraham Thomas Mack Ingraham

OFFERTORY COUNTERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to assist with the weekly Offertory Count. Counters meet Monday mornings from 9:30AM for approximately 90 minutes. If you are available and would like more information, please contact the Parish Office 203-655-3303 or office@stmdarienct.org

LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED

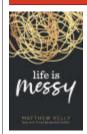
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

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. Contact Anne and Jim Davis (stmlectorem@gmail.com) for more information.

DYNAMIC CATHOLIC



We are happy to be able to make available the book, Life is Messy, by Matthew Kelly. This book is about putting our lives back together, and allowing ourselves to be put back together, when life doesn't turn out as we expected it to. Based on his own heart-wrenching personal journals, Matthew shares how the worst three years of his life affected him, by exploring this question: Can someone who has been broken be healed and

become more beautiful and more lovable than ever before? If you'd like a copy, they will be available on the table in the Narthex of the Church beginning this weekend. Please help yourself.

Life is messy. It isn't a color within the lines exercise. It's a wild and outrageous invitation full of uncertain outcomes. The mess of life is both inevitable and unexpected. It is filled with delightful mysteries and frustrating predicaments. In our disposable culture, we throw broken things away. So, what will we do with broken people, broken relationships, broken institutions, broken families, and of course, our very own broken selves? We are all broken and wounded This book is about

together, when life doesn't turn out as we expected it to. This is quite simply the right book at the right time.

RCIA RITE OF ACCEPTANCE & WELCOME



11:30AM Mass on November 21. Dustin lesseau and Peter Hamernick were welcomed into the St. Thomas More community of faith and recognized for their ongoing efforts and intention to join the Catholic celebration of Initiation at next y

encourage and support them as they continue their faith formation. Pictured left to right: Barry Schofield (spoor for Peter Hamernick), Peter Hamernick, Dustin Jesseau, and Maryann Okelly (sponsor for Dustin Jesseau) holding baby George Jesseau.

ANGEL TREE THANK YOU

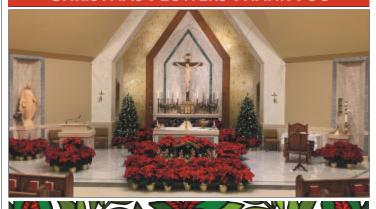
Thank you to all who were Angels for our annual Angel Tree Giving Project. Because of your generosity, Women's Circle fulfilled more than 200 individual wishlists and distributed over 1,500 gifts to families from DOMUS, St. Joseph-St. Ladislaus Parish in Norwalk, St. Vincent De Paul in Derby and St. Charles Borromeo in Bridgeport. We could not have done this project without the incredible leadership from Sarah Lubeley and Laura Bremer along with their committee: Olivia Cavasina, Stefanie Desai, Meghan Egan, Jennifer Falk, Alyssa Giannini, Gina Gromelski, Erin Kelleher, Adrienne Kelly, Emily Koch, Kathryn Maki, Trish McCollagh, Beth Morgan, Joan Post, Paola Sardoni, Julia Sheaffer, Sarah Wilson and Molly Young. A final thank you to Nikki Mitchell, Betsy Reilly and Maria Hillman for sharing their space with us too!



SOUP KITCHEN THANKS

The RCIA Rite of Acceptance and Many thanks to Jinx Aliprandi, the Andriunas family, Cath Highton, Welcoming was celebrated at the Amy and Charlie Howe, Jim Johnsen, Erin and Brad Kelleher, Megan McCarthy, Robert and Deborah McMullan, Laura Grozier, Jim Sullivan, Susan Davidson, Cathie Flanagan, and Janet Lucas all of whom generously provided a wonderful luncheon for our guests at New Covenant Center on Saturday, December 18. Their efforts along with those of the Religious Education students, who provided festive gift bags to go with the lunch, were truly enjoyed by all of our guests on a cold, rainy December afternoon. 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 (recipe provided). Karen Dunn (kmdunnct@gmail.com) and Gretchen Brown (browncgcp@aol.com).

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS THANK YOU



As of December 27, 2021

Geraldine Barston

Victoria Lombardi & Csanad Bodnar

Rick and Cathy Burkhardt

Bob Byrnes

Christopher & Anne Carpiniello Anna Chase Laurie & Brian Conroy

Ann Cotter
John & Susan Davidson
Henry & Suzanne Domenici
Deane & Nancy Dray
Peter & Kathleen Eder
Connie Falso
James & Alison Feeley

Sam & Rose Gesualdi Nanvy Kelly Michael & Deborah Latham

Susan & Bill Lattimer Peter & Beth Luongo James Lyons Silloo Madan

John & Katherine Mancini John & Katherine McGrath Robert & Jessica Murphy John & Kelly Murphy

Robert & Victoria Patton James & Katie Petit Judith Runnette

Bruce & Janet Sargent Mary Beth Savage Stephen & Carol Summerton

Gary & Debra Swenson Ronald & Donna Sylvestri John & Anna Tamburro Sean & Kathleen Timmeny



HAPPINESS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2021

Here are some scenes of our wonderful Christmas music performances by our 3s 4s and PreK led by our music teacher Mr. Donald Stevens!



MORE MUSIC ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Congratulations to our singers and soloists from St. Thomas More and the Connecticut Chamber Choir on their program last Sunday "Awake The Voice! Over 150 attended the More Music annual concert to hear Vivaldi's Magnificat, works by Mendelssohn and Rutter as well as participate in rousing Christmas carols with string orchestra and organist Galen Tate. We especially thank Dr. Michael Ciavaglia, conductor, for his skilled direction and leadership of all the musicians in a wonderful concert that stirred our minds and brought the Christmas season closer to our hearts!



Special thanks to our brass quartet (left to right) Mike Boschen, Sam Jones, Josh Frank and John Rojak for enhancing our Christmas liturgies with their festive music!

2022 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our office will reopen and classes resume on January 3.

Mass Attendance

For grades I & 2 and 7 & 8 - A sign-in book is located in the Narthex. If you attend another church please indicate that in the book the next time you come to St.Thomas More.



Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year
Your Religious Education Team:
Nikki Mitchell, Lisa Schofield and Betsy Reilly

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Cooper Artiano Ella Artiano Nathan Barrett Aedan Bishai Patrick Bishai John Blouin Maeve Butler Ryan Carre Ava Cesare Lillian Christian Aiden Clifford Mary Craft Grace Cusack Lillian Davenport Isabel Djiounas Peter Dunkin Ryan Fisch Carter Garibaldi Reagan Godfrey

Elise Hanson Rebecca Harper Brady Harwick Connor Hillock Henry Hughes Kendall Kaschel Michael Kramer Emma Langer Luke LaVine Serena Liddell lames Limoges Katherine Livengood Margaret Luth James Meade Emerson Miller Henry Muecke Andrew Nyarady Blakely Nyarady Catherine O'Grady

Sydney Panda Wesley Panda Shane Piasecki Emily Rizzi Joseph Rizzi Landon Roe Lily Ryan Emma Saunders **Brady Schaller Daniel Simoes** Kevin Sweeney Nicholas Torti **Brendon Tufts** Wyatt Tuohy Leon Visi Margaret Whidden Julianne White Amy Wyson

A Prayer for our Reconciliation Candidates

Loving God help us to teach our children that you love us totally and unconditionally. Help us to encourage our children to grow in love and to learn how to say sorry, knowing that you always forgive. Give us the courage to pray with our children and to share our faith with them as we journey together. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Following the 5:15PM Mass, the Youth Group meets from 6:15PM to 7:45PM in the Parish hall. All high schoolers are welcome to join at any time and are encouraged to come to the events on the YG calendar. The YG Calendar & Registration Form can be found at: stmdarienct.org/youthgroup.

January 2022

Sun. 2 - Mass & No YG

Sun. 9 - Mass & YG Meeting

Sun. 16 - Mass & No YG

Sun. 23 - Mass & Ice Skating at Twin Rinks Stamford

Sun. 30 - Mass & YG Meeting



Over 40 high schoolers gathered to decorate gingerbread houses at the annual Youth Group Christmas Party. The students worked in teams and voted on their favorite house. Congratulations to the winning team of Jake Vairo, Kristin Kennedy and Sam Barlow. The students also shared Christmas joy by donating diapers and baby wipes to the St. Joseph's Parenting Center in Stamford. Thank you to everyone for your continued commitment and service.



Former Youth Group students home from college for the holidays enjoyed Sunday morning Mass with Father Murphy. Thank you to Tommy Hellman for rallying his friends. We look forward to making this an annual Home For The Holidays Mass with breakfast to continue our connections made through the years.



William J. Fessler D.D.S. 116 East Avenue Norwalk, CT. 06851 P: 203 838 3939 | F: 203 866 0406 email: admin@wfesslerdds.com



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