



St. Thomas More Church

374 Middlesex Road • Darien, Connecticut • 06820

(203) 655-3303



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD • JANUARY 9, 2022

Saint Thomas More Church

Parish Office Hours

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

Liturgical Schedule www.stmdarienct.org

Saturday Vigil Mass4:30PM
Sunday Masses7:30AM, 8:45AM, 10:00AM, 11:30AM & 5:15PM
ConfessionsSaturdays 3:45PM-4:15PM
Sundays 8:20AM-8:40AM & 4:45PM-5:15PM
BaptismsSundays 12:30PM (by appointment)
Daily MassesMonday through Saturday 9:00AM
Eucharistic Adoration.....Tuesdays 7:00PM-8:00PM (with Confession)
First Fridays 10:00AM-4:45PM

Parish Clergy office@stmdarienct.org

Rev. Paul G. Murphy, Pastor655-3303 ext 12
Fr. Ignacio Ortigas, Parochial Vicar655-3303
Rev. Mr. Gauthier Vincent, Deacon.....219-9275

Parish Staff office@stmdarienct.org

Mimi Flynn, Bookkeeper655-3303 ext 25
Kelly Dupont, Pastoral Assistant655-3303 ext 24
Gigi Williams, Office Manager655-3303 ext 10

Religious Education stmreled@gmail.com

Nikki Mitchell, Director.....655-3077 ext 15
Betsy Reilly, Administrative Assistant655-3077 ext 16
Lisa Scofield, Confirmation Coordinator.....655-6295 ext 21

Happiness Preschool stmhappyschool@aol.com

Maria Hillman, Director.....655-6053 ext 14
Geraldine Flynn, Administrative Assistant655-6053 ext 23

Youth Ministry yg@stmdarienct.org

Paul Brunner, Coordinator655-3303

Music Ministry music@stmdarienct.org

Galen Tate, Music Director/Organist.....655-3303 ext 19

Adult Religious Education

Jim Davis, RCIA.....davis.jim1957@gmail.com
Maryann Knag, Tuesday Bible Studymmknag@aol.com
Carmela Alberga, WWPcarmela.alberga@gmail.com

Outreach & Ministries

Women's Circle.....womenscircle@stmdarienct.org
Prayer Shawl Ministry, Patty Catinopaddyann42@gmail.com
Bereavement, Lillian Toll966-9367

Lay Leadership

Joseph D. Roxe, Parish Trustee655-9908
Brian D. Young, Parish Trustee.....972-1178
Mary Jo Dyer, Finance Council Chairperson ...mjdyer6@gmail.com

Other Contacts

Parish FAX655-6478
Religious Education & Happiness Preschool FAX.....655-8901
Parish E-mailoffice@stmdarienct.org
Parish Media (Website/Bulletin) .. STMDarienNEWS@aol.com



Save the Date!

Saint Thomas More's Annual Fundraiser

Cocktails & More

An evening to benefit our church and children

Saturday, March 12th Wee Burn Country Club



Invitation to Follow



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 8

9:00 AM Mary Monahan *Theresa Martin*
 4:30 PM Rick Stewart *Rosey Costello*

Sunday, January 9

Mass Online at 7:30AM

7:30 AM Jolene Murphy
 8:45 AM Doris Hellwig *Jim & Chris McCabe*
 10:00 AM Paul & Virginia Murphy
 11:30 AM William Maniscalco *The Seter Family*
 5:15 PM *The People of the Parish*

Monday, January 10

9:00 AM *The People of the Parish*

Tuesday, January 11

9:00 AM Gina Gladstone *Ann Cotter*

Wednesday, January 12

9:00 AM *The People of the Parish*

Thursday, January 13

9:00 AM Pete Blaine *The Class of 1991*

Friday, January 14

9:00 AM Timothy Murphy *Bill & Jane Waters*

Saturday, January 15

9:00 AM *Intentions of Elaine Harris* *Maria Pino*
 4:30 PM Rita & Francis McCauley *Rita Stone*

Sunday, January 16

Mass Online at 7:30AM

7:30 AM Gregory Hammond *His neighbors*
 8:45 AM John Katana & Family *Jo Mitchell*
 10:00 AM *The People of the Parish*
 11:30 AM Agnes Doherty *The Cope Family*
 5:15 PM

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 January 2	Actual	Budget	Variance
Weekly Offertory	\$15,731	\$21,029	-\$5,298
Month-to-Date Offertory	\$15,731	\$21,029	-\$5,298
FY-to-Date Offertory	\$562,084	\$561,265	\$819

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 putting our lives back together, and allowing ourselves to be put back together, when life doesn't turn out as we expected it to. This is quite simply the right book at the right time.

SOUP KITCHEN THANKS

Many thanks to Jinx Aliprandi, the Andriunas family, Cath Highton, 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 January 5, 2021

Geraldine Barston
Victoria Lombardi & Csanad Bodnar
Rick and Cathy Burkhardt

Bob Byrnes

Christopher & Anne Carpiniello

Anna Chase

Laurie & Brian Conroy

Ann Cotter

Christine Daly

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

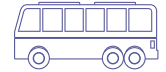
John & Laurie Tomaszewski

Georgina Ventre

David & Mercedes Yika-Nacarino



STM 30TH ANNUAL MIDNIGHT RUN (THIS YEAR REMOTE!) SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022



Winter's cold has set in and the Youth Group will be helping MidnightRun.Org to serve the homeless in New York City soon. **Starting Saturday, January 15th**, bins will be placed outside the Parish Hall and in the back of the church where we kindly ask that you drop off any donations of the following items **before Friday, February 4th**.

Many thanks in advance for your support!

CLOTHING NEEDED: (PLEASE - ADULT WINTER CLOTHING ONLY)

- Warm Coats. Large and extra large sizes, even as small men and women like to layer. Dark colors are preferred.
- Durable pants. Large sizes are preferred, but will sort into waist sizes between 32 and 48 and above, with inseam size marked. Blue jeans are preferred over khakis. Mostly men's sizes, but women's pants needed as well.
- Socks. NEW Tube socks. White or dark.
- Thermal Long Underwear. Large sizes. Any color.
- Hooded sweatshirts & sweatshirts. Large and extra large. Dark colors preferred. Hooded sweatshirts are especially useful.
- Long sleeve shirts & sweaters. Medium through Extra Large.
- Underpants. NEW Jockey style. Sizes 32 through 46. They need a few pairs of women's briefs as well.
- Hats. Knit & warm for winter.
- Gloves. Ski gloves clipped in pairs or knit gloves rolled together. Dark colors.
- Shoes and boots. Sizes 9 through 14. Lightly worn sneakers or athletic shoes (no spikes), soft-soled shoes and work boots are preferred.
- Backpacks, Blankets & Sleeping Bags
- Toiletries: TRAVEL SIZE & NEW soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, washcloths, plastic razors, shaving cream, deodorant, lip balm, feminine hygiene products (small size only).

***Monetary donations will also be accepted so we can shop for missing items.** Please make checks payable to St. Thomas More with memo "Midnight Run" and give to the Parish Office or place in the offertory bin at Mass.*

FOOD DONATIONS:

- Meat Loaf/Loaves for Sandwiches
- Prepare Servings of Chicken Soup
- Please email YG@STMDarienCT.org if you can donate a meat loaf or chicken soup. Recipe will be emailed to you.
- Meat loaves and soup can be dropped off outside the Parish Hall between 9:30am and 1pm on Thursday, Feb. 3 & Friday, Feb. 4.

2022 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mass Attendance

For grades 1 & 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.

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
James 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. 9 - 5:15PM Mass & YG Meeting

Sun. 16 - 5:15PM Mass (No YG)

Sun. 23 - 5:15PM Mass

12:30PM-2:00PM Ice Skating - Twin Rinks Stamford



Sat./Sun. 29 & 30 - Souper Bowl of Caring weekend

Sun. 30 - 5:15PM Mass & YG Meeting

Sun. Feb 6 - 5:15PM Mass (No YG)

EXHIBIT ON EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES



When Fran Bifulco of St. Jude Church heard about Blessed Carlo Acutis, the 15-year-old who documented Eucharistic miracles around the world before dying of leukemia, something stirred in her heart. She began researching the Italian teenager, whose cause for sainthood is before the Vatican, and learned about the exhibit he created, which has been viewed in

dozens of countries across five continents and in thousands of parishes and university campuses.

Through her efforts, the Vatican International Exhibit of Eucharistic Miracles, designed and created by Acutis, will be on display at St. Jude Church, 707 Monroe Turnpike on Saturday, January 22 from 1:00PM - 6:00PM and on Sunday, January 23 from 8:00AM - 2:00PM.

Because of his intense love of the Blessed Sacrament, he used his computer skills to document Eucharistic miracles throughout the centuries. He spent four years on the project, which was made into an exhibit after his death and has been received praise throughout Europe and the United States.

Bifulco said that Acutis, who was born in England and raised in Italy, was an ordinary teenager with a special love for Jesus. He played soccer, enjoyed computer games and doing practical jokes. He was declared blessed on October 10, 2020 after a miracle in Brazil was attributed to his intercession, and in a short time, he has earned the nicknames of "God's influencer," "Cyber-apostle of the Eucharist" and the "First Millennial Saint."

As an amateur computer programmer, Acutis was able to catalog the miracles before he died, and they can be found on a website he designed: miracolieucaistici.org. The website has been translated into 17 languages, including Vietnamese and Swahili.

The exhibit consists of 159 panels with photographs and historical descriptions that provide a virtual visit to the places where the miracles occurred and prove that Jesus is really and truly present, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Blessed Sacrament.

She said that ever since Acutis made his first Holy Communion he was in love with the Eucharist and received it as often as possible, in addition to praying the rosary every day because of his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Acutis loved Assisi and would often go there. In the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi, he used his money to buy sleeping bags, which he distributed to the homeless living on the streets.

He died of leukemia in 2006 at 15, and his body was interred at Assisi. It was later exhumed and put in a tomb in the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Assisi. His heart, which is considered a relic after his beatification, is in a reliquary in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi.

"Carlo was well-aware that the whole apparatus of communications, advertising and social networking can be used to lull us, to make us addicted to consumerism and buying the latest thing on the market, obsessed with our free time, caught up in negativity," the pope wrote. "Yet he knew how to use the new communications technology to transmit the Gospel, to communicate values and beauty."

WILLIAM J. FESSLER, DDS



William J. Fessler D.D.S.
116 East Avenue
Norwalk, CT. 06851

P: 203 838 3939 | F: 203 866 0406
email: admin@wfesslerdds.com

THIS SPACE IS
AVAILABLE



HOFFMAN ENERGY

Heating Oil for Home & Business

- Home Energy Audits • Electricity Savings
- Heating/AC Sales & Service
- Diesel Fuel • Propane
- Chimney Cleanings

www.hoffmanfuel.com
Hod.99 203-396-5579

*Mention
this ad
and
receive a
\$50.00
sign on
bonus!*

**SUPPORT YOUR
LOCAL PARISH.**

Buy a bulletin ad space today!



RELIABLE OIL & HEAT COMPANY

"HOMETOWN SERVICE SINCE 1922"

HOD #2201, U.C. #S1 3D1979

Heating & Cooling Experts:

- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Heating & A/C Service Plans
- Boiler, Furnace and Hot Water
- Oil Purchasing Plans
- Heater Repairs and Installations
- Oil Tank Protection Plans

Serving Lower Fairfield County

(203) 324-2141 | reliableoilandheat.com

MATH TUTOR

Elementary,
Algebra I & II, Geometry
Test Prep: ACT, SSAT/ISEE

In Home & Online Sessions

Lorraine Hurley, MA
lehurley@yahoo.com

203-605-7767

NEVER MISS A BULLETIN !

Sign up to have our weekly parish bulletin
emailed to you at www.parishesonline.com



**GROW YOUR
BUSINESS AND
SUPPORT YOUR
COMMUNITY**

Advertise Here!



CONTACT US AT 800.477.4574

LET US PLACE
YOUR AD HERE.

**McCullagh
cpa**

Trisha McCullagh

Parishioner & CPA
trisha.mccullagh.cpa@gmail.com

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!

ADVERTISE HERE NOW!

Contact **Robin Ungaro** to place an ad today!
rungaro@4LPi.com or **(800) 477-4574 x6447**



EDWARD
LAWRENCE
FOUR GENERATIONS
FUNERAL HOME

2119 POST ROAD, DARIEN
203-655-6127
www.lawrencefuneralhome.com

WE'RE HIRING

AD SALES EXECUTIVES

BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION. WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Work-Life Balance
- Full-Time with Benefits
- Serve Your Community
- Paid Training
- Some Travel



Contact us at: careers@4lpi.com | www.4lpi.com/careers

PALMER'S



PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE
COMMUNITY FOR 100 YEARS

WWW.PALMERSDARIEN.COM

There's Always
Something Cooking At:



401 Westport Avenue,
Norwalk, CT 06851
203-847-2471
www.aitoro.com



(203) 323-0339



NOW OFFERING
SINGLE STREAM RECYCLE

The Right Care, Right at Home®

Services We Provide

- Light Housekeeping
- Bathing Assistance
- Daily Health Reminders
- Hourly or Live-In Services
- Ambulation Assistance
- Meal Preparation

Right at Home Darien
203.202.9488
www.rightathome.net/darien



SUPPORT OUR
ADVERTISERS!



dfi Serving Lower Fairfield
County Since 1945

Dominick

Your One Call For Comfort
FUEL • HEATING • COOLING • PROPANE
Green Fuels, Dependable Service and
The Finest Energy Efficient Equipment.
Indoor Air Quality Solutions
Service & Maintenance Savings Plans
203-866-5836 | 203-655-8255
Dominickcomfort.com

THIS SPACE IS
AVAILABLE

Call LPI at
1.800.477.4574
for more
information.

FREE AD DESIGN

WITH PURCHASE OF THIS SPACE

CALL 800.477.4574

R. ROSAS
LANDSCAPING

203-962-3401

Fall/Spring Clean-ups, Gutters,
Lawn Mowing, Snow Plowing,
Painting, Junk Removal
~Family Owned Business~
Rosnerrosas@gmail.com

STAND OUT

with a PREMIUM DIGITAL AD
on PARISHESONLINE.COM



CONTACT US AT 800-477-4574

We've Missed You!

Welcome Back to Mass



Stay connected to our faith community no matter where you are
by signing up to get our bulletin delivered straight to your email!

www.ParishesOnline.com

