



# St. Thomas More Church

374 Middlesex Road • Darien, Connecticut • 06820

(203) 655-3303



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • JANUARY 16, 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](http://www.stmdarienct.org)

Saturday Vigil Mass .....4:30PM  
Sunday Masses .....7:30AM, 8:45AM, 10:00AM, 11:30AM & 5:15PM  
Confessions .....Saturdays 3:45PM-4:15PM  
Sundays 8:20AM-8:40AM & 4:45PM-5:15PM  
Baptisms .....Sundays 12:30PM (by appointment)  
Daily Masses .....Monday through Saturday 9:00AM  
Eucharistic Adoration.....Tuesdays 7:00PM-8:00PM (with Confession)  
First Fridays 10:00AM-4:45PM

### Parish Clergy

[office@stmdarienct.org](mailto:office@stmdarienct.org)

Rev. Paul G. Murphy, Pastor .....655-3303 ext 12  
Fr. Ignacio Ortigas, Parochial Vicar .....655-3303  
Rev. Mr. Gauthier Vincent, Deacon.....219-9275

### Parish Staff

[office@stmdarienct.org](mailto:office@stmdarienct.org)

Kelly Dupont, Pastoral Assistant .....655-3303 ext 24  
Mimi Flynn, Bookkeeper .....655-3303 ext 25  
Gigi Williams, Office Manager .....655-3303 ext 10

### Religious Education

[stmreled@gmail.com](mailto:stmreled@gmail.com)

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

### Happiness Preschool

[stmhappyschool@aol.com](mailto:stmhappyschool@aol.com)

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

### Youth Ministry

[yg@stmdarienct.org](mailto:yg@stmdarienct.org)

Paul Brunner, Coordinator .....655-3303

### Music Ministry

[music@stmdarienct.org](mailto:music@stmdarienct.org)

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

### Adult Religious Education

Jim Davis, RCIA.....[davis.jim1957@gmail.com](mailto:davis.jim1957@gmail.com)  
Maryann Knag, Tuesday Bible Study .....[mmknag@aol.com](mailto:mmknag@aol.com)  
Carmela Alberga, WWP .....[carmela.alberga@gmail.com](mailto:carmela.alberga@gmail.com)

### Outreach & Ministries

Women's Circle.....[womenscircle@stmdarienct.org](mailto:womenscircle@stmdarienct.org)  
Prayer Shawl Ministry, Patty Catino .....[paddyann42@gmail.com](mailto:paddyann42@gmail.com)  
Bereavement, Lillian Toll .....966-9367

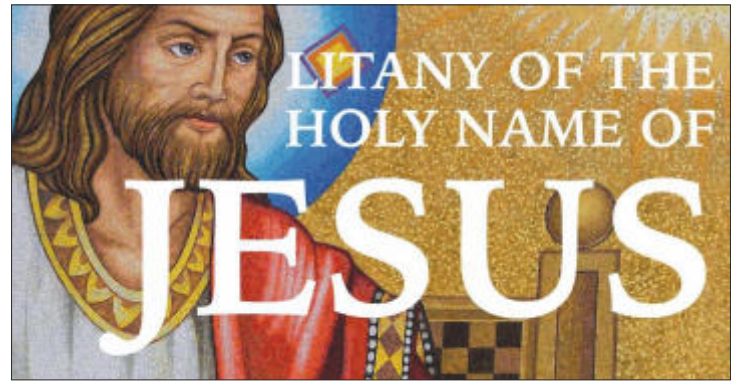
### Lay Leadership

Joseph D. Roxe, Parish Trustee .....655-9908  
Brian D. Young, Parish Trustee.....972-1178  
Mary Jo Dyer, Finance Council Chairperson ...[mjdyer6@gmail.com](mailto:mjdyer6@gmail.com)

### Other Contacts

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

## FROM THE RECTORY



A long standing piety in the tradition of the Catholic Church is devotion to the *Most Holy Name of Jesus*. The Feast of the *Most Holy Name of Jesus* is celebrated on January 3, and the entire month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name devotion.

The devotion is rooted in Sacred Scripture. It reminds us that the Archangel Gabriel instructed both the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph to name their son, Jesus, which means, "God will save His people from their sins". The naming of Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy of Isaiah, "Behold the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us'" (Is 7:14). St. Paul wrote to the early Christian community in Philippi, "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven, on earth and under the earth." (Phil. 2:10).

In the 15th c. two Franciscan priests, St. Bernardino of Siena and St. John of Capistrano, promoted and popularized the devotion. At the conclusion of their homilies during parish missions they displayed on a plaque the letters "IHS" in gold, representing the first three letters of the name of Jesus using the Greek alphabet. In a very short span of time the devotion spread widely throughout the Church, the IHS monogram began to be displayed in many churches and homes as an object of devotion. Holy Name Societies were established in many parishes. Eventually, the Jesuits took the monogram as their emblem, adding a small cross over the "H" and 3 nails below it.

There are many ways Catholics express their devotion to the *Most Holy Name of Jesus*. The most widely practiced is the tradition of Catholics making a quick slight bow of their heads when they hear or say the name of Jesus, especially during Mass. Another devotion is to display an image of the IHS in churches and homes. The original plaque used by St. Bernardino of Siena continues to be venerated in the church of Santa Maria in Aracoeli, in Rome.

I recommend that all of us, as a way of expressing our devotion to the *Most Holy Name of Jesus*, include a daily recitation of the *Litany of the Most Holy Name of Jesus* throughout the month of January. The litany can be found easily on the internet or our St. Thomas More Parish website.

"*Holy Name of Jesus, have mercy on us.*"

God bless,  
Fr. Paul



# SAVE THE DATE!

Saint Thomas More's Annual Fundraiser

# Cocktails & More "Spring Fling"

An evening to benefit our Parish and Preschool

# New Date! Friday, April 22nd

Wee Burn Country Club

Invitation to Follow



## MASS INTENTIONS

### 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 Teddy Balkind

### Monday, January 17

9:00 AM The People of the Parish

### Tuesday, January 18

9:00 AM Alice Costello Rosey Costello

### Wednesday, January 19

9:00 AM Marion Karas Cathy & Alexa Barrett

### Thursday, January 20

9:00 AM Gina Gladstone Susan & Joe Spain

### Friday, January 21

9:00 AM The People of the Parish

### Saturday, January 22

9:00 AM The People of the Parish  
4:30 PM Anthony Farinacci The Wiley Family

### Sunday, January 23

Mass Online at 7:30AM

7:30 AM Peggy van Munching Marilyn & Steve Hart  
8:45 AM Doris Hellwig Kathy & Andy Saulitis  
10:00 AM Charlie Ternan Bridget Lattimer & Family  
11:30 AM The People of the Parish  
5:15 PM Teddy Balkind The Lattimer Family

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

## STEWARDSHIP

### Offertory

Contributions for January 9	Actual	Budget	Variance
Weekly Offertory	\$14,302	\$21,029	-\$6,727
Month-to-Date Offertory	\$30,034	\$42,059	-\$12,025
FY-to-Date Offertory	\$576,387	\$582,295	-\$5,908

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:stmlectorem@gmail.com)) for more information.

## TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



The STM Tuesday Morning Bible Study continues in hybrid fashion. We are studying the Book of Psalms (74 to 150). All are welcome. Come try us out! We meet in-person from 9:30AM to 11:00AM in the Rectory Annex. Visit [stmduenct.org/bible](http://stmduenct.org/bible) for a link to participate on Zoom.

Meeting dates are:

- January 18 & 25
- February 1, 8 & 15
- March 8, 15, 22 & 29
- April 5, 19 & 26
- May 3, 10 & 17

For more information, contact Maryann Knag at [mmknag@aol.com](mailto:mmknag@aol.com) or (203) 213-4809.

## ONLINE GIVING STATUS CHECK UP



We have been made aware that a number of recurring online gifts, set up by existing online givers, have been suspended primarily as a result of expired credit cards, or changes to card numbers. These cards may have expired or changed numbers up to 12 months ago, but giving may only have been suspended recently.

We are asking all existing online givers to please check the status of your current contributions. If your giving has been inadvertently suspended, you can log in to your account to make any necessary updates by scanning this QR code.



Our sincere thanks to all who sustain our parish via online giving.

If you do not currently give online but would like to do so, you may also click the link above to set up an account.

Questions? Please contact the Parish Office at 203-655-3303

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS THANK YOU



As of January 15, 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

## 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. **Starting Saturday, January 15th**, bins will be placed outside the Parish Hall 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 small men and women like to layer.) Dark colors are preferred.
- Durable pants. Large sizes are preferred, waist sizes between 32 and 48 and above, with inseam size marked. Blue jeans are preferred over khakis. Men's sizes, but a few pairs of women's pants welcome.
- Socks. NEW Tube socks. White or dark.
- Thermal Long Underwear. Large sizes.
- 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. A few pairs of women's briefs needed.
- 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 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) .

#### **\*\*ALTERNATE WAYS TO SUPPORT THE MIDNIGHT RUN**

**NEW PURCHASE ITEMS VIA OUR AMAZON WISHLIST** - visit [STMDarienCT.org/Midnight](http://STMDarienCT.org/Midnight) for link

**2 WAYS TO MAKE A MONETARY DONATION - WE WILL SHOP FOR MISSING ITEMS**

Find the online giving form link at [STMDarienCT.org/Midnight](http://STMDarienCT.org/Midnight) or 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](mailto:YG@STMDarienCT.org) if you can donate a meat loaf or chicken soup.
- 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 Djionas  
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

### Catholic Church Steeple & Spires



*What is the real meaning of the steeple?* - noun. a tall ornamental tower that forms the superstructure of a church, temple, etc. such a tower with the spire above it, any spire or pointed structure.

*What is the origin of a steeple?* -

The origins of steeples have been traced back to several different traditions. Church steeples can be traced back thousands of years to Egypt and pagan worship.

*Largest Catholic Church Steeple* - Rouen Cathedral (as pictured). Rouen Cathedral has the tallest steeple and the widest western façade. Rouen Cathedral is at Place de la Cathédrale, 76000 Rouen, France. The site is located on the north bank of the River Seine, overlooking Île Lacroix arena.

*What is a church spire?* - A spire is a tall, slender, pointed structure on top of a roof or tower, especially at the summit of church steeples. A spire may have a square, circular, or polygonal plan, with a roughly conical or pyramidal shape. Spires are typically built of stonework or brickwork, or else of timber structure with metal cladding, ceramic tiling, shingles, or slates on the exterior.

*What is the purpose of a church spire?* - The spire is most commonly used, and particularly in Gothic cathedrals and churches it symbolized the heavenly aspirations of church builders, as well as offering a visual spectacle of extreme height.

One thought is that the vertical lines of the steeple helped to visually enhance the lines of the church, directing the viewer's eyes vertically toward the heavens, and to God, and thus help keep the people in a heavenly frame of mind coming into worship.

### *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, Signups and Permissions can be found at: [stmdarienct.org/youthgroup](http://stmdarienct.org/youthgroup).

### January 2022

Sun. 23 - 12:30PM-2:00PM Ice Skating - Twin Rinks Stamford  
5:15PM Mass (Mass volunteers needed)  
Sat./Sun. 29 & 30 - Souper Bowl of Caring weekend  
Sun. 30 - 5:15PM Mass & YG Meeting

### February 2022

Fri. 4 - 7:00PM-9:00PM Midnight Run clothing sorting  
Sat. 5 - 9:00AM-11:00AM Midnight Run food prep  
Sun. 6 - 5:15PM Mass (No YG but Mass volunteers needed)  
Sun. 13 - 5:15PM Mass (No YG...enjoy the Super Bowl)  
Sun. 20 - 5:15PM Mass (No YG)  
Sun. 27 - 5:15PM Mass & YG Meeting

## EXHIBIT ON EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES



Blessed Carlo Acutis, the Italian 15-year-old who documented Eucharistic miracles around the world before dying of leukemia, is cause for sainthood before the Vatican. 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.

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.

WHENEVER WE TAKE A STEP  
TOWARDS *Jesus*, WE COME TO  
REALIZE THAT HE IS ALREADY THERE,  
WAITING FOR US WITH *open arms*.  
How good IT FEELS TO COME BACK  
TO HIM WHENEVER WE ARE LOST!  
- Pope Francis



WILLIAM J. FESSLER, DDS



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