



St. Thomas More Church

374 Middlesex Road • Darien, Connecticut • 06820

(203) 655-3303



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT • DECEMBER 11, 2022

Saint Thomas More Church

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

Liturgical Schedule 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 to Saturday 9:00AM | Rosary at 8:30AM
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. Sunil Pereira, Parochial Vicar655-3303
Rev. Mr. Gauthier Vincent, Deacon.....219-9275

Parish Staff office@stmdarienct.org

Mimi Flynn, Bookkeeper655-3303 ext 25
Gigi Williams, Office Manager655-3303 ext 10

Religious Education stmreled@gmail.com

Nikki Mitchell, Director655-3077 ext 15
Betsy Reilly, Administrative Assistant655-3077 ext 16
Lisa Schofield, Confirmation Coordinator655-6295 ext 21

Happiness Preschool stmhappyschool@aol.com

Maria Hillman, Director655-6053 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

RCIA, Jim Davisdavis.jim1957@gmail.com
Tuesday Bible Study, Maryann Knag.....mmknag@aol.com
WWP, Carmela Albergacarmela.alberga@gmail.com

Outreach & Ministries

Women's Circle, Andrea Martorana...womenscircle@stmdarienct.org
Prayer Shawl Ministry655-3303
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-mail.....office@stmdarienct.org
Parish Media (Website/Bulletin)..... STMDarienNEWS@aol.com

FROM THE RECTORY

The season of Advent is a time when we, the faithful, prepare ourselves to welcome Christ. In the fullness of time God sent his only Son into the world. Jesus is Emmanuel, "God with us".

The Blessed Virgin Mary was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, conceived, and gave birth to a son. God become man, so that through Jesus Christ all men and women could become like God. Jesus is not only God made man, He is also humanity in its perfection.

In our humble efforts to welcome Christ and to grow in holiness, I encourage all of us to spend time in prayer. Talk with Jesus and reflect upon His life. In particular, I recommend the "Little Blue Book" of Daily Advent reflections. They can be found in the church narthex.

Also, make time for a quiet visit to the church to pray silently before the tabernacle. There you are in the Real Presence of our Savior in the Eucharist. Or, join us for our weekly Tuesday evening hour of Adoration, Confession and Benediction from 7:00PM to 8:00PM.

As we prepare for the celebration of Christmas, we set our eyes not only on Bethlehem. We also gaze into eternity. We celebrate the joy of Christmas with the hope and peace that it leads us to eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

God Bless, Fr. Paul

ADVENT WREATH MAKING 2022

Over 50 families participated in the Advent Wreath event this year. There were take-home kits and an in-person Workshop, which included tempting munchkins & cocoa. A big thank you to event Chair Julia Sheaffer and her wonderful team of elves including Megan Davolos and the 8th Grade Volunteers Sarah Ryan, Sofia Bambina, Michaela O'Brien and Ellie Byrne. Visit stmdarienct.org/wreath for our complete photo album.



Cover: The Sermon of St. John the Baptist - by Pieter Brueghel the Elder (1566)

BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICK - DEC 17

BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICHOLAS

Registration is now closed. Scan the QR code to join our waitlist.

Enjoy breakfast, activities, and a story from St. Nicholas

SATURDAY DECEMBER 17
STM PARISH HALL
9:00AM - 10:30AM

MORE MUSIC CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saint Thomas More Church & Connecticut Chamber Choir present

Carols & More Sunday December 18 2022 3:00PM Free Admission

Featuring **BENJAMIN BRITTEN** Ceremony of Carols and works by Alice Parker, John Rutter & David Willcocks

Rita Costanzi, harp
Galen Tate, organ
Michael A. Ciavaglia
Artistic Director & Conductor

Join us next Sunday at 3:00PM as we present our annual Christmas Concert featuring our Adult Choir, soloists and Connecticut Chamber Choir. This joint program features Benjamin Britten's celebrated Ceremony of Carols with harpist Rita Costanzi and organist Galen Tate, conducted by Dr. Michael Ciavaglia. Additional works by Alice Parker, John Rutter and the always-favorite carol settings of David Willcocks complete the program with enthusiastic audience participation! For more information on this free concert, visit stmdarienct/moremusic.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 10		
9:00 AM	Janis Atha	The Schofield Family
4:30 PM	Michael & Ignatz Chudy	Jo Mitchell
Sunday, December 11		
Mass Online at 8:45AM		
7:30 AM	Camille di Martino	Anthony di Martino
8:45 AM	The People of the Parish	
10:00 AM	Caroline & Stanley Tyburski	Mariola & Mark Kaminski
11:30 AM	Henning Everett Drugge	The King Family
5:15 PM	Robert & Cate Arrix	The Arrix Family
Monday, December 12		
9:00 AM	William Jones	The Hart Family
Tuesday, December 13		
9:00 AM	Mercedes Heyerman	Betty & Bob Pascal
Wednesday, December 14		
9:00 AM	Billy Perley	Rosey Costello
Thursday, December 15		
9:00 AM	Margaret Byrne	Cathy Barrett
Friday, December 16		
9:00 AM	Mike & Angela du Preez	Mariola Kaminski
Saturday, December 17		
9:00 AM	Margaret "Marge" Scully	The Lattimer Family
4:30 PM	M. Theresa Gardell	Annmarie & Tom Ryan
Sunday, December 18		
Mass Online at 8:45AM		
7:30 AM	Allan Mitchell	Jo Mitchell
8:45 AM	Margaret, Eric & Joseph Sam	Jo Mitchell
10:00 AM	The People of the Parish	
11:30 AM	Vincenza Cassata	The Cassata Family
5:15 PM	Charlie Ternan	The Lattimer Family

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

STEWARDSHIP

Contributions for December 4	Offertory		
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Weekly Offertory	\$19,262	\$24,000	-\$4,738
Month-to-Date Offertory	\$19,262	\$24,000	-\$4,738
FY-to-Date Offertory	\$420,680	\$485,000	-\$64,320

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Serving the Lord on the altar is a special ministry of the church. The New Altar Server Ministry is open to all grammar school students, 4th grade and older. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Sunil Pereira at 203-655-3303 Ext 18 or pereiraims@yahoo.com.

HOMEBOUND AND SICK VISITS

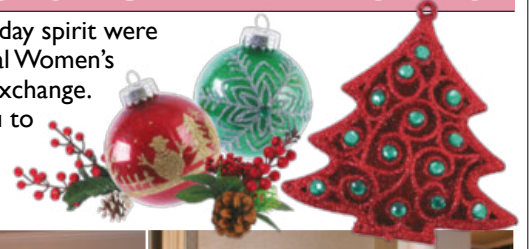
If you or someone you know is sick, in hospital or homebound, and wish(es) to receive Holy Communion or Anointing of the Sick, please contact Fr. Sunil Pereira at (203) 655-3303 Ext 18 or pereiraims@yahoo.com.

ANNUAL PARISH TREE LIGHTING



WOMEN'S CIRCLE ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

Fellowship and holiday spirit were shared at the annual Women's Circle Ornament Exchange. A special thank you to Cara Rachinsky for hosting this wonderful event!



GAUDETE SUNDAY - DECEMBER 11



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The word "Gaude" is Latin for "Rejoice." In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.



ST. THOMAS MORE

THE LITTLE BLUE BOOK

SIX-MINUTE DAILY REFLECTIONS
FOR THE
2022-2023 ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASONS

PICK UP YOUR COPY IN THE NARTHEX

Our Christmas Masses & Holy Day Schedule

Christmas Eve Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord Saturday • December 24, 2022

4:00PM Mass (Church and Parish Hall)
6:00PM Family Mass* (Church)
10:00PM Mass (Church)

Please note there is no 9:00AM Daily Mass on Christmas Eve

Christmas Day The Nativity of the Lord Sunday • December 25, 2022

7:30AM Mass (Church)
8:45AM Mass* (Church)
10:00AM Family Mass (Church)
11:30AM Mass (Church)

Please note there is no 5:15PM Mass on Christmas Day

Solemnity of Mary Holy Mother of God Saturday • December 31, 2022 Sunday • January 1, 2023 Regular Weekend Mass Schedule (Church)

*Visit stmdarienct.org/massonline for the livestream of these Masses



DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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Elementary Schools (K-8)

All Saints School (Norwalk)
allsaintsnorwalk.com

Assumption School (Fairfield)
assumptionfairfield.org

Catholic Academy of Stamford
catholicacademystamford.org

Greenwich Catholic School
gcsct.org

Our Lady of Fatima (Wilton)
olfacademy.org

St. Aloysius School (New Canaan)
sasncct.org

St. Thomas Aquinas School (Fairfield)
stasonline.net

High Schools & Independent Schools

Cardinal Kung - 8-12 (Stamford)
cardinalkungacademy.org

Fairfield College Prep for Boys
9-12 (Fairfield)
fairfieldprep.org

Laurelton Hall Academy for Girls
9-12 (Milford)
lauraltonhall.org

Mater Salvatoris College Prep
K-12 (Stamford)
stamford.matersalvatoris.org

Notre Dame School - 8-12 (Fairfield)
notredame.org

Sacred Heart Academy for Girls
K-12 (Greenwich)
shgreenwich.org

St. Catherine Academy for Special Education - Ages 5-21 (Fairfield)
stcatherineacademy.org

Villa Maria School for Special Education - K-9 (Stamford)
villamariaschool.org

AROUND THE DIOCESE

11-DAY PORTUGAL PILGRIMAGE

WITH BISHOP FRANK J. CAGGIANO

Fatima, Aljustrel, Valinhos, Batalha, Nazare, Tomar, Lisbon, Évora, Sintra, Cascais, and the Papal Greeting and Mass with the Holy Father during World Youth Day Celebrations

July 26 - August 7, 2023

YOUR PILGRIMAGE INCLUDES:

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- + English-speaking guide
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Monastery of Santa Maria da Vitória, Batalha, Portugal



Pena National Palace, Sintra, Portugal

Pilgrimage Price:
\$3,599 per person double
Single Supplement \$750

\$700 deposit due at time of registration, with balance due by May 1, 2023.

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ADVERTISING SPONSORS NEEDED FOR OUR BULLETIN

Our parish bulletin is one of our main communication tools to our parish members. It provides inspirational words from Fr. Paul, Mass intentions, news and events for the week ahead. We are thankful that this crucial communication piece is provided to our parish at no cost thanks to the generous advertising support of our parishioners and community-minded businesses. Please let us know if you can help. Sponsors of our bulletin recognize the tremendous value of connecting with our Church family, who in turn respond by supporting our sponsors! If you would like to advertise in the weekly bulletin, please contact Robin Ungaro at (203) 747-5671 or rungaro@4lpi.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00AM to 3:00PM
Phone: 203-655-3077

Nikki Mitchell, Director - DRE@stmdarienct.org
Betsy Reilly, Assistant - REadmin6-9@stmdarienct.org

Confirmation Class 2022 - Sessions II & III

Please note these important dates and times. Attendance is required at Confirmation Sessions.

Fr. Sunil Talk

For Students Only
 Monday, December 12
 6:00PM to 7:00PM in the Church

Confirmation Retreat

**For Students Only*
 Saturday, February 4
 12:15PM to 4:15PM in the Parish Hall

**Families to join students for the 4:30PM Mass in the Church*

Last Class Dates - Grades K through 8

Sunday, December 11
Monday, December 12
Tuesday, December 13
Wednesday, December 14
Thursday, December 15

(Below left) **Religious Education grades 5 to 8** were asked to choose from the following words their Christmas Wish - Peace, Hope, Love or Joy.

(Below right) **Religious Education grades kindergarten to 4** were asked to trace their hand and then cut out to make an Advent Wreath.



Christmas Outreach Religious Education grades 3 to 8. Working in conjunction with Person-to-Person, the students decorate Christmas bags, which will then be filled with gifts by P-to-P. Kathleen Kaufman, 3rd grade Catechist, spearheaded this project. She is pictured here with her daughters, Madeline & Emma.



CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children in Grades 2 through 5 are invited to join us for our annual Christmas Eve Choir that sings at the 6:00PM Mass in the Church on Saturday, December 24. Three 45-minute rehearsals have been scheduled in the Church for:



- **Monday, December 19 at 4:15PM**
- **Wednesday, December 21 at 4:15PM**
- **Thursday, December 22 at 4:15PM**

Space is limited, so reserve a spot for your young singer by scanning the QR code or visit:

stmdarienct.org/childrenschoir



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The St. Thomas More Tree Lighting on Sunday night was a spectacular event which celebrated Christ, Mary and put everyone in the holiday spirit. The SHUperman from Sacred Heart University sang some old favorites like "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" while parishioners gathered on the Rectory Lawn. Father Paul welcomed everyone and announced St. Nicholas who lit the beautiful tree. After prayers and more carols, the Youth Group hosted everyone into the festively decorated Annex for pizza and sweets. A special thank you to Galen Tate and the SoundChasers for coordinating the music and the lights which add the perfect touch to this wonderful event.

On Sunday, December 18 the Youth Group will have its annual Christmas Party and Gingerbread house "competition". Please see the emailed Sign-Up Genius to so we have enough supplies for everyone.

At regular meetings, Youth Group members attend the 5:15PM Mass on Sunday, sitting together, and then head over to the Parish Hall for pizza, an activity and fellowship. If you can't make Mass, please join us in the Parish Hall at 6:15PM. Meetings end at approximately 7:45PM. To sign-up for Youth Group go to **stmdarienct.org/yg** for our Calendar and Registration Form.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Sunday, December 11 - Mass & YG Meeting
- Sunday, December 18 - Mass & YG Christmas Party & Gingerbread Houses
- Sunday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary (No Youth Group)
- Sunday, January 8 - Mass & YG Meeting
- Wednesday, January 11 - 7:00PM planning meeting for Mustard Seed (Parish Hall)
- Sunday, January 16 - MLK Day (No Youth Group)
- Sunday, January 22 - Mass & YG Meeting
- Sunday, January 29 - Mass & YG Meeting

Youth Group Alumni Breakfast

Sunday, December 18 (In the Annex following the 11:30AM Mass.)

Please Note

- In mid-January, we will start to collect for **Midnight Run** which will be on February 11. As you clean out closets, please consider donating items for this great cause.

WILLIAM J. FESSLER, DDS



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

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