



Saint Thomas More Church

374 Middlesex Road • Darien, Connecticut • 06820

(203) 655-3303



The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time • July 3, 2016

Saint Thomas More Church

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

Liturgical Schedule

Saturday Vigil Mass.....4:30PM
Sunday Masses..... 7:30AM, 8:45AM, 10:00AM Family Mass
11:30AM & 5:15PM
Confessions.....Saturdays 3:45PM - 4:15PM
Sundays 8:15AM - 8:45AM & 4:45PM - 5:15PM
Baptisms.....Sundays 12:30PM (by appointment)
Daily Masses (Monday - Saturday) 9:00AM
Eucharistic Adoration.....First Fridays 10:00AM - 5:00PM
Parish Center Chapel

Parish Staff office@stmdarienct.org

Rev. Paul G. Murphy, *Pastor*655-3303 ext 12
Rev. John Connaughton, *Parochial Vicar*655-3303 ext 18
Anna Bauts, *Business Manager*655-3303 ext 25
Patty Catino, *Administrative Assistant*.....655-3303 ext 10

Religious Ed. (K-5) stmreled@gmail.com

Mary Ellen O'Connor, *Director*.....655-3077 ext 16
Anne Davis, *Administrative Assistant*.....655-3077 ext 17

Religious Ed. (6-Confirmation) msc@stmdarienct.org

Jennifer Sommer, *Coordinator*655-6295
Betsy Reilly, *Administrative Assistant*.....655-6295 ext 21

Youth Ministry yg@stmdarienct.org

Susan Lattimer655-3077 ext 24

Music Ministry music@stmdarienct.org

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

Happiness Pre-School stmhappyschool@aol.com

Maria Oliveira, *Director*.....655-6053
Geraldine Flynn, *Administrative Assistant*.....655-6053 ext 23

Adult Education

Jim Davis, *RCIA*davisja@optonline.net
Maryann Knag, *Bible Study*mmknag@aol.com

Bereavement

Lillian Toll, *Director*966-9367

Fellowship and Outreach

Katie Murphy, *Women's Circle*kekmurphy@yahoo.com
Patty Catino, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*office@stmdarienct.org

Lay Leadership

Joseph D. Roxe, *Parish Trustee*655-9908
Brian D. Young, *Parish Trustee*.....972-1178
James Sullivan, *Finance Council Chairperson*556-3005

Other Contacts

Parish FAX655-6478
Religious Ed. / Preschool FAX655-8901
Parish E-mailoffice@STMDarienCT.org
Website.....STMDarienCT.org
Bulletin EditorSTMDarienNews@aol.com

STM 50TH ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2015
Advent & Launch of the St. Thomas More Jubilee

DECEMBER 20, 2015 - 3:00PM
Handel's *Messiah* with the St. Thomas More Choir

JANUARY 11-20, 2016
Pilgrimage to Holy Land

FEBRUARY 2016
Parish Survey

FEBRUARY 22, 23 & 24, 2016
Spiritual Renewal Presentations with Bishop Keenan

APRIL 23, 2016
St. Thomas More 50th
Anniversary Gala Dinner Dance

MAY 15, 2016
Parish Barbeque - Celebrating 50 Years!

SEPTEMBER 17, 2016 - 4:30PM
Parish 50th Anniversary Mass on Parish Great Lawn

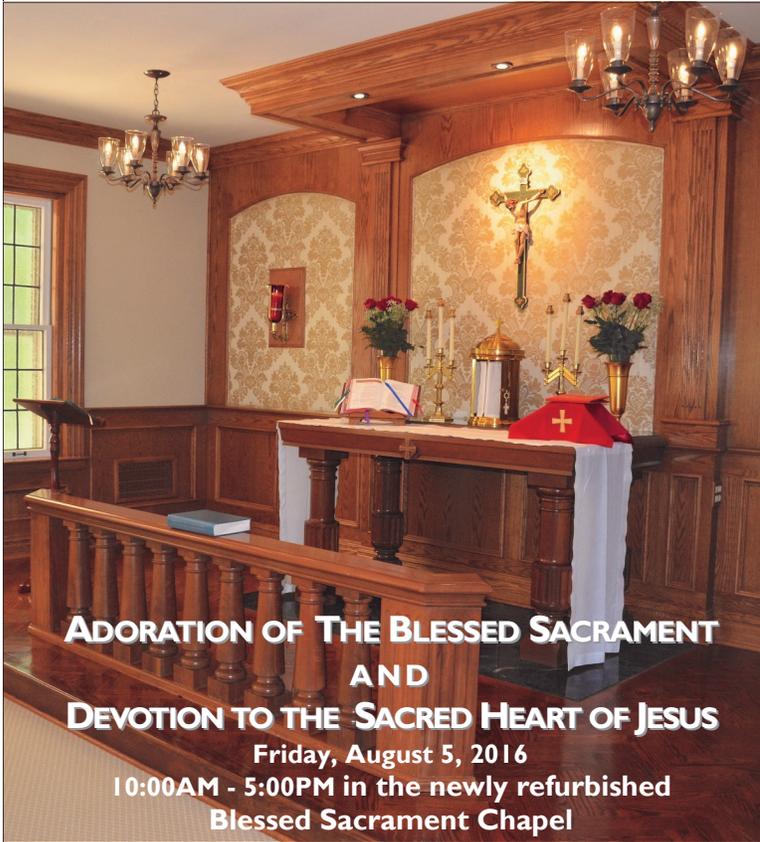
OCTOBER 13, 2016
Prayer & Reflection on Family & Faith
Bishop Frank Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport



PHOTOS FOR STM 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Photos that capture special occasions here over the past 50 years are needed so we can create beautiful montages to celebrate the Parish's Jubilee year. Email them to: stmdariennews@aol.com. Please use the highest resolution possible when scanning. If you would like us to scan them, kindly drop them off at the Parish Office with your name and email address on the envelope so we can return them to you. Call 655-3303 or email admin@stmdarienct.org.

OUR BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL



**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
AND
DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS**
Friday, August 5, 2016
10:00AM - 5:00PM in the newly refurbished
Blessed Sacrament Chapel

On the Feasts of Saint Thomas More and St. John Fisher (June 22), we celebrated the rededication and blessing of our newly refurbished Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Grateful thanks to our contributors, and to Martha Reed Murphy who helped with the designs, and our master craftsmen, Javier Sanchez and Victor Tierrandentro.

**STEWARDSHIP
Offertory**

We are very grateful to all the St. Thomas More parishioners who so generously support our Parish. Below is our weekly report on Offertory collections along with some selected contribution data.

- In the month of May, 488 families or 33.7% of registered families contributed to the offertory.
- May's collections were \$4.6k or 5.4% above the prior year and \$0.1k above budget.
- Cumulatively, our offertory is **(4.7%)** or **(\$54.0k)** below budget for the fiscal year through May. We have one month remaining in the fiscal year to address this shortfall.
- Currently 271 families contribute regularly through online giving and we encourage all Parish families to prayerfully consider this important giving option. For information on the Online Giving Program, please visit our Parish website.

Blessings for June 26	Actual	Budget	Variance
Weekly Offertory	\$17,7474	\$21,501	(\$3,754)
Month-to-Date Offertory	\$101,523	\$86,003	\$15,520
FY-to-Date Offertory	\$1,174,725	\$1,212,806	(\$38,081)

The above chart details our weekly, monthly and fiscal year-to-date offertory contributions. Also, please remember St. Thomas More Parish in your estate planning.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 2

9:00 AM Annabella Lang *Phil Gallo*
4:30 PM William Menangers *Bill & Jane Waters*

Sunday, July 3

7:30 AM Nicholas DeMaio Sr. *Ed Carabillo*
8:45 AM June L. Foley *The Foley Family*
10:00 AM Dr. Clifford Evans *Maryann & Paul Knag*
11:30 AM Rosemary Boucher *Tom & Josephine Minogue*
5:15 PM Joan Flaherty *The Cassidy Family*

Monday, July 4

9:00 AM James Dubrowsky *George & Pat Chieffi*

Tuesday, July 5

9:00 AM Josephine Addonsio *Phil Gallo*

Wednesday, July 6

9:00 AM Sean Flynn *The O'Reilly Family*

Thursday, July 7

9:00 AM Eleanore Vecchia *The FitzPatrick Family*

Friday, July 8

9:00 AM Joan Sorgi *Gerry & Ann Hannon*

Saturday, July 9

9:00 AM Philip Beichert *Laura & Tim Grozieer*
4:30 PM William R. Golden *The Gieson Family*

Sunday, July 10

7:30 AM Anne & Paul Murray *Karen Casey*
8:45 AM Adam Fernand *Mary Lupinacci*
10:00 AM Catherine Broisma *Kathleen Willcox*
11:30 AM Robert R. Foley *The Foley Family*
5:15 PM Richard Coyle *Kathy Fagner*



COMMUNION TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND

If you know of a family member or close friend who, due to illness or physical limitations, cannot attend Sunday Mass and would like to receive the Eucharist, call the parish office to arrange a home visit by a priest or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

WE WELCOME OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED

**Gwyneth Rose Haller
Boris Michael Vladimitov**

LECTORS NEEDED



Interested in becoming a Lector? Please contact Jim Davis for training details and additional info at: stmlectorem@gmail.com

ADULT RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Walking With Purpose

Walking with Purpose is a Catholic women's Bible study that aims to bring women to a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ by offering personal study and small group discussion that link our everyday challenges and struggles with the solutions given to us through the teachings of Christ and the Roman Catholic Church.



The bible study, **Keeping in Balance**, is a 22 session course, focusing on creating balance within.

Do you feel pulled in many directions? Do you find it hard to balance the demands placed on your time? Is it difficult to manage all the details thrown your way? According to Richard Swenson, M.D., we have "more and more of everything, faster and faster." Unfortunately, this can leave us feeling frazzled and out of control. God wants to support and help us so that we can be our best in every season of our lives. **Keeping in Balance** will take us on a journey throughout Scripture as we discover the relevance of Old and New Testament wisdom to our daily challenges. Join us as we explore biblical ways that we can manage life's pace and pressure while living with calm and steadiness. A lifestyle of health and holiness awaits.

We meet on Thursday mornings from 9:30AM-11:00AM in the Parish Hall. Our sessions will start September 29 and end March 30. Drop your kids off at childcare (Yes! we have childcare), have a nice breakfast, and discuss the week's study with other women that long for a deeper connection to their faith.

For more information, please contact Kelly Frank at kellytalking@gmail.com.

Men's Ministry Group

The Men's Ministry group meets on Saturdays at 7:00AM in the Rectory Annex. The group, led by Fr. Paul and Fr. John, was created to give men an opportunity to explore what it means to be a Catholic today. Through scripture and group discussion we work to better understand how our faith can play a meaningful role in our lives today. For more info contact: Stephen Muecke (stephenmuecke@gmail.com) Mark Cappelli (mcappelli495@optonline.net) or Jim Johnsen (james.johnsen@gmail.com).

Prayer Shawl

Special thanks to Gretchen Brown, Clare Joy and Janet Oliveri for your beautiful creations of shawls, and teddy bears! The most amazing thing about our creations is

that they are a "tangible" evidence of our prayers. However, we need your help! Many of our members are unable to attend our meetings, so they create their shawls, teddy bears, etc., at home. This is a blessing! The purpose of our ministry is to always have a prayer shawl, blanket or teddy bear available for your request. If you have an interest in joining our ministry even if you cannot attend our meetings, please call our Parish Office for additional information: 655-3303



Soup Kitchen Thanks

Many thanks to Amy Howe, Deidre Leone-Kearney, Sue Mattison, Robert and Mollie McMullan, Julie Callery, Tricia Conley, Jim Sullivan, Susan Davidson, Claudia Sullivan, Mary Ann Loh, Gerry O'Connell and grandsons Quintin, Mike Bossidy, and Nick Marciano who chopped, baked and help serve a delicious Beef Woogie luncheon to our guests at the New Covenant Center Cafe on Saturday, June 18. Your kindness made a difference in the lives of all who attended.

STM Welcome Ministry

The Welcome Committee will hold its first meeting for the upcoming Fall Season September 8 at 7:00PM in the Parish Conference Room. If you would like to be a part of this new Ministry, please call Patty at the Parish Office at 655-3303.



STM HAPPINESS PRESCHOOL

Happiness Preschool has a few openings for September. Please call Maria Oliveira, the Director, for information and to schedule a tour at 655-6053. We have a Mommy and Me Program, Three Year Old, Four Year Old and Pre-K program as well as many enrichment and after school programs!



AROUND THE DIOCESE

Project Rachel Healing Ministry

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy come begin your healing journey and experience God's love and mercy! For those suffering from the experience of a past abortion. Offering opportunities for Entering Canaan Days of Prayer and Healing and ongoing support with Monthly Gatherings. For further information call our confidential phone line at 416-1619 or email projectrachel@diobpt.org.

Principals and Teachers Needed

The Diocese of Bridgeport seeks transformational Catholic School principals and teachers to evangelize, form, advance, and lead our school communities. Our Diocesan Catholic Schools serve 9,000 students in 28 elementary schools, 5 secondary schools and 1 school for students with special needs. In comparison to national norms, diocesan students are on average at or above grade level in reading, language and math. 98% of 8th graders are admitted to the high school of their choice. 99% of all high school seniors are college bound. Please visit the Careers Page of www.DioocesofBridgeportCatholicSchools.org to review Open Positions.



Donations Needed

The Saint Joseph's Parenting Center kitchen in Stamford is in dire need of some gently used dishtowels, glass casseroles, and almost new plastic tablecloths for serving supper to those attending the parenting classes. If you are willing to donate any of these items please drop them off at the Religious Ed office in the Education building Monday through Thursday from 10:00AM until 5:00PM. Your help is greatly appreciated.

STM MISSION TRIP TO JAMAICA: Thank You for the Mission Trip Donations

The STM Mission Trip volunteers would like to thank all the Parishioners for their generous donations of items from the "Share the Love" list. The teen volunteers packed the items to take to Jamaica for the Mustard Seed Communities. The teens also packed 300lbs of non-RX supplies generously donated by Americares. The Americares donations were coordinated by parishioner Tricia Gordon, the Americares Medical Outreach Associate Director. We are also very grateful for the financial contributions from Parishioners toward the Mission Trip. Thank you again for your prayers and support! We will share our experiences after our return.



(above) Fr. Paul, Fr. John & Mission Trip team with Monsignor Ramkissoo, the founder of Mustard Seed Communities. The team painted dorm rooms and did demolition work in large bathroom at the MSC apostolate Mary's Child.

(top right) Father John celebrated his 40th birthday at Mustard Seed Communities apostolate Sophie's Place on June 28.

(right) Morning prayer and circle time at Sophie's Place, home to 22 beautiful children with mental and physical disabilities such as cerebral palsy and autism.



Mustard Seed Communities has focused on abandoned children with disabilities primarily because these children are among the most vulnerable and defenseless in any society. Since 1978, MSC has provided care and shelter for children living with varying degrees of disabilities.

Children with disabilities are routinely abandoned in the countries where Mustard Seed Communities operates.

The children of MSC have disabilities that include cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism, epilepsy, blindness, developmental delays, scoliosis, microcephaly, progeria and others. Our objective is to provide these children with a safe and healthy place to live, where they have care and therapy. MSC's purpose is to advance the moral, mental and physical well being of children with disabilities.

Therapy is a key component of caring for children with disabilities.

Our children with physical disabilities are assessed individually. MSC staff then devises a personal care plan with specific goals for each resident. A minimum of one half hour each day is spent in direct one-on-one contact with every resident. The rest of their time is spent on more passive activities such as correct positioning that does not require constant supervision.

Activities in the therapy department include Passive Range of Motion, Active Assisted Range of Motion and Active Range of Motion Exercises, stretching, massages, self-feeding, tactile stimulation, positioning, vestibular stimulation, assisted ambulation, cognitive therapy, coordination and multisensory stimulation.

MSC strives to ensure that no person is ever abandoned twice.

In Jamaica, there are no facilities - governmental or otherwise - available to take care of individuals with mental and physical disabilities after the age of 18. The vision for Jacob's Ladder is to fill this void by providing 500 adults with mental and physical disabilities with a home where they can live out their lives in a safe and nurturing environment. Our apostolates that house adult residents aim to provide a place where they can learn skills and apply them directly in their daily lives. Our caregivers work with the residents and help them develop a sense of responsibility.

SAINT THOMAS MORE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Jesus Christ is our way, our truth and our life.

It is to this goal that all of our prayers and efforts are dedicated.

Religious Education Office Hours • Office is now closed for summer break. Will re-open in late August.

KINDERGARTEN – GRADE 5 NEWS

Religious Education Registration 2016 - 2017

Current RE families were mailed Registration 2016-2017 packets and we have been accepting all registrations since May 23. As the office is now closed, RE Registrations should be mailed to the RE office throughout the summer and will be processed in order of receipt.

We maintain small classes for the benefit of the students and catechist and classes fill on a first come, first served basis. Please mail your paperwork in ASAP. It will be easier to make changes in August if you are already enrolled.

New parishioners with children in Kindergarten - Grade 8 and high school students preparing for Confirmation should please peruse the STM website (www.stmdarienct.org) under Education for information and forms. Please do not hesitate to ask for help: stmreled@gmail.com. We are happy to do so and will respond promptly.

Monday: All Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are presently filled to capacity! We look forward to meeting our new families and welcoming one and all to Saint Thomas More!

In an ongoing effort to practice an "attitude of gratitude"...

Shed Grace

Dear Lord, please shed your grace
Upon our nation and this day;
May we ever walk in brotherhood
And keep the Christian way.

May we live in harmony,
Each race, each creed we know;
Crown our lives with tolerance,
Lead the path that we should go.

From one shore to another
Each bell of freedom rings;
Fill the rafters of our churches
With the joy that freedom brings!

Keep us ever mindful, Lord,
Of blessings that you give;
Help us work together on
This earth on which we live.

Helen Kitchell Evans



Reminder to our families who travel during the summer: you can always find a Mass -www.masstimes.org to find Catholic worship times, mapped locations, and parish contact information.

Also, please pick up a bulletin from the Churches you visit and bring to our RE office so we can read them – we all benefit from new ideas! We

are always trying to improve our program for our deserving young parishioners!



Service to your STM Parish?

Volunteers ages 7-77 are always welcome to help with organizing and setting up for next school year. Please call Mary Ellen O'Connor or email stmreled@gmail.com to learn about opportunities!

The Gift You Bring

Play A Game...in the car, at the beach, at dinner time

Invite each family member to finish this sentence about the others: "One thing I admire in you is..." Explain that we are all members of the Body of Christ and we each have unique gifts and talents. Take turns telling one another about one trait or behavior you admire in that person. Repeat!

Happy, healthy, safe summer to all of our families!

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Grade 8 Boys: Fairfield Prep Admission Dates for Fall 2016:

OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, October 2, 2016, 2:00PM-4:00PM

1st Entrance Exam Date: Saturday, October 15, 2016, 8:30AM

2nd Entrance Exam Date: Saturday, November 5, 2016, 8:30AM

Contact Greg Marshall, gmarshall@fairfieldprep.org or 254-4210 for info. Please consider this wonderful opportunity for your son!

Grade 8 Girls: Luralton Hall Academy Dates for Fall 2016:

OPEN HOUSE: Sunday October 2, 2016, 1:00PM-3:00PM

1st Entrance Exam: Saturday, October 15, 2016, 8:00AM

2nd Entrance Exam: Saturday, October 22, 2016, 8:00AM

Contact Kathleen Shine, kshine@luraltonhall.org or 877-2786.

Grade 8 Girls: Sacred Heart Convent Admission Dates for Fall 2016.

OPEN HOUSE: (Grade 9-12) Thursday, October 13, 2016, 6:00PM

ISEE (Independent School Entrance Exam) is required. Please see www.iseetest.org for registration and information. Please consider these wonderful opportunities for your daughter!

ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS

Catechists are needed for the following Middle School grades for the academic school year 2016-2017.

GRADE 6 - 4 CATECHISTS for Tuesdays, 4:15PM-5:15PM, (one for the Alternate class time, Monday, 6:00PM-7:00PM)

GRADE 7 - CATECHIST for alternate class time, Monday, 6:00PM-7:00PM.

GRADE 8 - 3 CATECHISTS for Monday, 6:00PM-7:00PM.

Please consider this faith enriching and very important opportunity to give back to our St. Thomas More community. It is a wonderful, rewarding experience to all that are part of our program. It is in giving that we receive!

Please contact the Middle School religious education office at msc@stmdarienct.org or 655-6295 if you would like to inquire or volunteer your services. Thank you.