



Parish Staff

Rev. Richard CalapanAdministrator
 Rev. Mr. Peter Brooks..... Deacon
 Theresa Gingras..... Secretary
 Laura Lynch Wells Rel. Ed. Coordinator
 Patrice Rogers - 399-6226Music Ministry

St. Thomas Cemeteries

Range Rd., Irish Settlement Rd., Pleasant Valley Rd.
 Nate Sullivan - Sexton 802-899-4732

Please call the parish office if you are a new parishioner and would like to register.

St. Thomas Church

6 Green Street
 PO Box 3
 Underhill Center, VT 05490

Office Hours:

M-TH 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Priest's Office Hours:

Tue. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Fri. 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Phone: 899-4632

Fax: 899-5120

E-Mail: office@stthomasvt.com

Parish Website: www.stthomasvt.com

Religious Education: 899-4770

E-Mail: stthomasrel.ed@vermontcatholic.org

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00 PM Sunday 8:30 AM

Daily Masses

Tuesday 6:30 PM Friday 8:00 AM

This schedule is subject to change. Please consult the weekly bulletin for current schedule.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday, 8:30-9:30 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday 5:30-6:15 PM Saturday 3:15-3:45 PM

Please consult weekly bulletin.

Baptisms

Please call the parish office to set up Baptism preparation and Baptism date.

Marriages

Call the Pastor nine (9) months in advance of the wedding for preparation meetings.

Sacrament of the Sick & Home Visits

Please call the office if you are unable to attend Mass due to illness.

Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?"
 Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:5-6

WEEKEND AND WEEKDAY MASSES

December 2

SAT 4:00 PM - Mass for the repose of the soul of Irv Wejroch requested by Tom and Susie May
6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

December 3 - **First Sunday of Advent**

SUN 8:30 AM- Mass for the repose of the soul of Donald Gingras requested by David and Jeanne Atkinson
10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

MON NO Mass

TUES 6:30 PM - Mass for the health and wellbeing of Alden Meagher requested by the Girouard family

WED 8:00 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

THU No Mass

FRI **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

8:00 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
7:00 PM - Mass at St. Thomas for the children of St. Thomas and St. Mary's Parishes

December 9

SAT 4:00 PM - Mass for the repose of the souls of Armand and Theresa Nadeau requested by Gail Nadeau
6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

December 10 - **Second Sunday of Advent**

SUN 8:30 AM- Mass for the Parishioners of St. Thomas and St. Mary's Parishes
10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

The Immaculate Conception is celebrated on December 8 for an important point of Catholic teaching, and it is a holy day of obligation.

There's a popular misconception that the Immaculate Conception refers to Jesus' conception by the Virgin Mary. It doesn't. Instead, it refers to the special way in which the Virgin Mary herself was conceived. Mary's conception was not virginal. (That is, she had a human father as well as a human mother.) But it was special and unique in another way. The angel Gabriel at the of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace".

Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin."

By the grace of God, Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long. God chose the Virgin Mary to be the mother of his Son. "Full of grace", Mary is "the most excellent fruit of redemption" (SC 103): from the first instant of her conception, she was totally preserved from the stain of original sin and she remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life.

Mass times for the Immaculate Conception, Friday, December 8:
8:00 AM at St. Mary's in Cambridge
7:00 PM at St. Thomas in Underhill Center.

<u>Ministry Schedule</u> December 9 & 10	<u>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</u>	<u>Lectors</u>
4:00 PM SATURDAY	S May	T May
8:30 AM SUNDAY	Deacon Peter	L Wells

eCatholic Giving Updates

To improve payment security and reduce the potential for credit card fraud, starting on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, eCatholic will enable standard zip code verification on transactions run through our payment processor (Card Connect). We do not expect this change to have an impact for the majority of those using eCatholic Payments, as all credit or debit cards that users have added to their account currently require an associated address (and zip code). On Thursday, November 30, 2023, the eCatholic team will send an email to all donors with a recurring transaction asking them to verify their zip code. If you need help verifying or updating your zip code, please call the office at 802-899-4632 or email office@stthomasvt.com.

Second Collection Next Weekend

You can help. "Religious are blessed to serve," says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next week. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

Stewardship - November 18 & 19, 2023

Weekly Budgeted Goal:\$ 2,459.31
Regular Collection:(incl. \$370.50 On-Line Giving)..\$ 2,222.50

We offer online giving at www.stthomasvt.com/donate or you can mail your contributions directly to the parish at PO Box 3, Underhill Center, VT 05490.



A Note About Christmas Masses



December 24 falls on a Sunday this year. Note there are two obligations – for the 4th Sunday of Advent and for the Solemnity of Christmas. The obligation for the 4th Sunday of Advent is fulfilled by an anticipatory Mass on Saturday, December 23, or on Sunday morning. The obligation for Christmas (a Holy Day of Obligation) is fulfilled by Mass in the late afternoon/evening of December 24, or on December 25.

The Christmas Weekend Mass schedule will be as follows:

Saturday, December 23 - 4:00 PM at St. Thomas and 6:30 PM at St. Marys
Sunday, December 24 - 10:00 AM & 4:00 PM at St. Thomas (pageant before)
7:00 PM at St. Marys
Monday, December 25 - 9:00 AM at St. Thomas and 11:00 AM at St. Marys

PARISH EVENTS

Sunday	12/3	**Knights of Columbus Country Breakfast 10-11:00 AM - Religious Ed
Monday	12/4	9:00 AM - Bone Builders
Tuesday	12/5	12 Noon - Advent Bible Study 5:30 PM - Confessions
Wednesday	12/6	9:00 AM - Bone Builders
Thursday	12/7	Social Concerns
Friday	12/8	9:00 AM - Bone Builders
Saturday	12/9	**2nd Collection - Retirement Fund for Religious** 3:15 PM - Confessions
Sunday	12/10	10-11:00 AM - Religious Ed - Food & fruit basket assembly



Religious Education 2023-2024

Religious Ed Classes resume this Sunday, 12/3 at 10:15 AM. We will gather in the church for a few brief announcements before starting classes. We are starting late to give families time to enjoy the KofC Breakfast after Mass. The proceeds of the breakfast will benefit the Christmas Food & Fruit Baskets.

Advent Scripture Study

Advent Scripture Study begins this Tuesday, 12/5 at 12 noon with a light lunch and fellowship before we dive into the study of Jesus' early life in our preparation for Christmas. We hope you will join us. Register by contacting Laura Wells at 802-899-4770 stthomasrel.ed@vermontcatholic.org

Christmas Food and Fruit Baskets

Parishioners from St. Thomas and St. Mary's, including the students in religious ed will be assembling the Christmas Food & Fruit Baskets after Mass at St. Thomas next Sunday, 12/10 after Mass during coffee hour. Bring something sweet to share and help with this fun and meaningful project for our neighbors in need. **We are still in need of staple foods to fill the food boxes.**



Advent Appeal - 2023

Please join Vermont Catholic Charities in supporting the 29th Annual Advent Appeal. The "Season of Giving" has no bounds for people in need. Whatever the season, it is a daily struggle for many Vermonters to maintain housing, stay warm or feed their families. With your help, we can make a difference in lives of those living on the edge, including several families in the Underhill/Jericho area. Whether your gift is \$10, \$100, \$1000 or more, your gift will make a difference in the life of a needy family. To donate, please mail a check to Vermont Catholic Charities, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403 or give on online at www.vermontcatholic.org/adventappeal.

Cemeteries

The St. Thomas Cemeteries are closed for the season. Please call the office if you have any questions about the cemetery.

Parish Council Members:

Steve Haupt - Chair; Louise Mathews - member; Laura Wells - Religious Education - stthomasrel.ed@vermontcatholic.org; Mark Girouard - member; Ron Nedich - member; Patrice Rogers - music; Marion Brooks - member; Donna Schaeffler - member.

To reach any Parish Council member, please contact them at office@stthomasvt.com

**Make faith formation a lifelong effort .
Faith formation should not end at Confirmation**

Advance Directive Presentation

Bioethicist Deacon Pete Gummere will lead a discussion on the Vermont Catholic Advance Directive on Thursday, December 7 @ 6:30pm at St. Jude, Hinesburg and Friday, December 8 @ 1:00pm at Assumption Parish, Middlebury.

Christmas Stocking



Please take a tag from the Christmas Stocking at the entrance of the church and purchase personal care items for the food shelf distribution on December 16th. This is an easy and inexpensive way to help our neighbors this time of year. This drive was very successful in past years and we hope to do well again this year! Please place the items in the basket by the giant stocking. Thank you for your generosity and Merry Christmas!

Christmas Cards

The Social Concerns committee has Christmas cards on display and for sale in the vestibule of the church. All cards are by donation and the proceeds will be used in part to help fund the many cards sent to shut-ins and other parishioners that are sent out all year long.

December Word of Life

"The Gospel of Life recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the 'least of these' in our world's estimation."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life

Readings For the Week

December 4

Is 2:1-5
Mt 8:5-11

December 5

Is 11:1-10
Lk 10:21-24

December 6

Is 25:6-10a
Mt 15:29-37

December 7

Memorial of St Ambrose,
Bishop and Doctor of the
Church

Is 26:1-6
Mt 7:21, 24-27

December 8

Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gn 3:9-15, 20
PS 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
Lk 1:26-38

December 9

Is 30:19-21, 23-26
Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

December 10

Second Sunday of
Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11
PS 85:9-14
2 PT 3:8-14
MK 1:1-8



If you would like to add or remove someone from this list, please call the office at 802-899-4632

WE PRAY FOR

SICK: For all our sick: Jen DiNardo, David Claghorn, Ed Keeler, Tonia Barbin, Abby Wintersteen, Jack Russ, Lawrence Lecours, Deacon Gerry Scilla, Patricia Stone, Amy Gratton, Diane Dufresne, Audra Goss, Alex Wintersteen, Dorothy Reny, Maureen Mayes, John Lehouiller, Joseph Tijan, Meghan Diana, Diann Bean, Jay Tisbert, Jerry Reny, Janine Fleri, Bob Keeler, Amy Burdine, Will Esmay, Joanna Weinstock, Yuri Bihun, Nate Sullivan, Andy Bibb, Tom Bartlett, Jerome LeClair, Deena DeMartino, Rick Wilhelm, Linda Schaeffler, Mary Martell, Tim Reny, Steve Guay, Zilda Metcalf, Kit Wheatley, and all those preparing for or recovering from surgery.

DECEASED: For all who have died, especially all deceased members of St. Thomas & St. Mary's Parishes.

Repentant Reconciled Renewed



**St. Thomas Church
Knights of Columbus
Council No. 7810**

G.K.: Steve Haupt
D.G.K.:

Chancellor: Ed Matthews
Recorder: Andrew Rowe
Treasurer: Mark Girouard
Warden: Bob Kennedy
Advocate: Craig Benson
Meets 2nd Tuesday each month



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For our Volunteers

We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:3-5



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For prayers answered
Most holy Apostle St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered the beloved Master into the hands of His enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes you universally as the patron of hopeless cases, of things despaired of. Pray for me who am so miserable; make use, I implore you, of this particular privilege accorded to you, to bring visible and speedy help, where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need, that I may receive the consolations and succor of Heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly (here make your request), and that I may bless God with you and all the elect forever. I promise you, O blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, and I will never cease to honor you as my special and powerful patron and to do all in my power to encourage devotion to you. Amen.
To be prayed 8 consecutive days

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Do you have friends and family members who no longer practice our Catholic Faith?
Why not invite them to "come home".
Invite them to come to Holy Mass with you and never stop praying for them.



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RCIA = Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic or interested in learning more about Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church? RCIA is the process by which adults are received into the church and receive the sacraments.

Adult Confirmation

Are you an adult who has not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation or First Holy Communion? Did you know that to be a god-parent for baptism, you are required to have received the sacrament of Confirmation? Please contact Laura Lynch Wells 802-899-4770 or rel.ed@stthomasvt.com



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America**



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