



#### Parish Staff

Rev. Richard Calapan .....Administrator  
 Rev. Mr. Peter Brooks..... Deacon  
 Theresa Gingras..... Secretary  
 Laura Lynch Wells ..... Rel. Ed. Coordinator  
 Patrice Rogers - 399-6226 .....Music 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](mailto:office@stthomasvt.com)

Parish Website: [www.stthomasvt.com](http://www.stthomasvt.com)

Religious Education: 899-4770

E-Mail: [stthomasrel.ed@vermontcatholic.org](mailto: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 16**

**SAT 4:00 PM** - Mass for the repose of the soul of Theresa Nadeau requested by Roland Besaw  
6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

**December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent**

**SUN 8:30 AM** - Mass for the repose of the souls of Harry and Tess Ledwith requested by Sean and Mary Ann Ledwith  
10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

**MON** NO Mass

**TUES 6:30 PM** - Mass for the health and well being of Diane Dufresne requested by the Girouard family

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

**THU** No Mass

**FRI 8:00 AM** - Mass for the health and well being of Irene Currie requested by John and Genie O'Neil

**December 23**

**SAT 4:00 PM** - Mass for the Parishioners of St. Thomas and St. Mary's Parishes  
6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

**December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**SUN 10:00 AM** - Mass for the repose of the souls of Louis and Tillie Fugere requested by Ed and Louise Mathews  
No Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

**Christmas Eve**

3:45 PM - Christmas Pageant

4:00 PM - Mass for the Children of St. Thomas and St. Mary's Parishes

7:00 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

**December 25 - Christmas Day**

9:00 AM - Christmas Mass for the repose of the soul of Armand and Theresa Nadeau  
11:00 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

### The Last Eight Days of Advent

During the last eight days of Advent, it is useful to reflect on the different titles given to the Lord showing he is the promised Messiah.

#### **Wisdom**

This title of God reminds us especially of the Book of Wisdom in the Old Testament - a beautiful hymn in which wisdom is personified, and is active in the world.

#### **Adonai (LORD)**

A name for the Most High God, whose true name could not be uttered, and of whom it was said that no-one could gaze on the face of God and live. Adonai is the Lord of armies, who will march out to save the people in battle.

#### **Stock of Jesse**

Jesse was the father of King David, and Jesus is a descendant of David. From David comes the association of Jesus as royal, of David's line. Jesus inherits the throne of David, redefining his role as King of the Jews.

#### **Key of David**

Jesus is not simply a ruler descended from David, but a liberator, a redeemer. This name echoes the mission of Jesus to bind and to loose, a mission Jesus passes on to his disciples.

#### **Rising Sun**

The sun is a sign of God's creation, God's endurance, and a sign of God's glory. God's glory outshines the sun, and will endure after the sun and moon have failed.

#### **King**

God is the king above all kings, and the prophet Samuel is reluctant to anoint a king for the Israelites as this will seem like a rejection of God's rule. Pilate asks Jesus if he is a king; Jesus answers indirectly, because his kingship does not accord with the expectations of the Romans, the Jewish authorities, or even his followers.

#### **Emmanuel**

The prophecy of Isaiah foretells a sign to be given by God: a virgin will conceive and give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel: a name which means God is with us. Jesus is the Word made flesh, God in the midst of the people.

#### Ministry Schedule December 23-25

#### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

#### Lectors

4:00 PM SATURDAY

J Burke

L Berard

10:00 AM SUNDAY

Deacon Peter

M Ledwith

4:00 PM SUNDAY

S May

T May

9:00 AM Monday

M Girouard

M Ledwith

#### Fuel and Heat Collection

The heating season is in full swing! There will be a second collection today to benefit the Dt. Thomas Fuel and Heat Fund. Thank you for your generosity.



#### Cards, Flowers, Gifts Delivery

Thank you to those who delivered our Christmas gifts to those on our care list last weekend. The giving spirit of Christmas is apparent in our Parishioners!

#### Stewardship - December 9 & 10, 2023

Weekly Budgeted Goal: .....\$ 2,459.31

Regular Collection: ....(incl. \$600.50 On-Line Giving)..\$ 2,491.50

2nd Collection - Religious Retirement Fund: .....\$ 689.65

Immaculate Conception: .....\$ 432.00

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

### PARISH EVENTS

**Sunday 12/17 9:30 AM** - Religious Ed Christmas Party and Pageant practice

**Monday 12/18 9:00 AM** - Bone Builders

**Tuesday 12/19 12 Noon** - Advent Bible Study

5:30 PM - Confessions

7:00 PM - Finance Council Meeting

**Wednesday 12/20 9:00 AM** - Bone Builders

**Thursday 12/21 9:30 AM** - Social Concerns

**Friday 12/22 9:00 AM** - Bone Builders

**Saturday 12/23 3:15 PM** - Confessions

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

**Christmas Party:** Join us at St. Thomas this Sunday after Mass for a Christmas Party. We will be joined by a very special guest, Santa, who would like to visit with all the boys and girls.

**Christmas Pageant Practice:** Following the Christmas Party, boys and girls will find a costume to suit their roles in the Christmas Pageant. The pageant practice will begin as soon as the children are ready.

**Christmas Pageant:** The Christmas Pageant this year will begin at 3:45 PM on Sunday, Dec 24, before the Christmas Eve Mass which begins at 4:00 PM.

### Sing We Now Noel

Sing We Now Noel, a celebration of Christmas Carols and Seasonal Songs, will take place this Sunday, December 17 at 2:00 PM in the Saint Michael's College Chapel. Professor William Tortolano, Emeritus Professor and College Organist, will present the 63rd annual festive concert with the classic two manual, 14 stop Casavant pipe organ in the acoustically acclaimed Chapel. Jerry Proulx, a St. Michaels graduate, will sing four famous Italian carols. *An optional free will offering will be available.*

### Thank You



Thank you to those that helped to assemble the Food and Fruit baskets for needy families in our area. The families were all blessed by our parish's generosity. One recipient said *"Words cannot express how grateful I am right now.... thank you so much for helping my family this holiday, it means the world. We are using the gift cards to give our kids a Christmas this year and the food helped out immensely. I wasn't even sure if they would have much of a Christmas this year and with all the help from the community, it is now possible."*

### 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



**SANCTUARY CANDLE**  
Week of December 17:  
*In Loving memory of*  
*Armand & Theresa Nadeau*

### Pilgrimage to France

Monsignor Peter Routhier, Rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, will be leading a pilgrimage to France in April of 2024. There are still spots available if you would like to join this pilgrimage. Please see: Unitours | Catholic Pilgrimages to France for more information or email Susan Wing at [susan@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:susan@vermontcatholic.org).

### Milestone Anniversaries

Married Couples celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2024, who wish to be recognized at the Diocesan Anniversary Mass, on February 4, 2024, at the 10AM Mass, can register by contacting Nicole Hamilton at [nhamilton@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:nhamilton@vermontcatholic.org) or 802-658-6110 ext. 1131. Recognition is given to couples celebrating marriages of 5, 10, 15, 20...50, 51, or more years. We will need to know the names of the couples (as they want it spelled on the certificate), anniversary date and year, current parish, and email address. The deadline to register is Friday, January 26, 2024.

### Attention Young Adults

Join our young adult email list! We want to connect with you! Please fill out this brief contact information form so we can keep in touch about opportunities for young adults in Vermont: <https://forms.gle/uBtjF7kGYUMQHbEV8>. If you know a young adult who may be interested, please refer them to this form! Facebook is our most frequently used means of communication. Please consider 'liking' our Facebook page for more updates!

### December Word of Life

"O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free."

USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"

## Readings For the Week



### December 18

Jer 23:5-8

Mt 1:18-25

### December 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a

Lk 1:5-25

### December 20

Is 7:10-14

Lk 1:26-38

### December 21

Sg 2:8-14

Lk 1:39-45

### December 22

1 Sm 1:24-28

Lk 1:46-56

### December 23

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24

Lk 1:57-66

### December 24

**Fourth Sunday of  
Advent**

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

Rom 16:25-27

Lk 1:26-38



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 Martelle, Tim Reny, Steve Guay, Zilda Metcalf, Kit Wheatley, Michael Carter 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?  
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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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