



#### 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

March 2 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
March 3 SUN	8:30 AM- Mass for the repose of the soul of Donald Gingras requested by Teri Gingras 8:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
MON	No Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
TUES	6:30 PM - Mass for the repose of the soul of Kit Wheatley requested by Tom and Susie May
WED	No Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
THU	NO Mass
FRI	8:00 AM - Mass at St. Thomas
March 9 SAT	4:00 PM - Mass for the repose of the soul of Diane Dufresne requested by Andy Dufresne and family 6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
March 10 SUN	8:30 AM- Mass for the repose of the soul of Jean Danaher requested by her family 8:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

Ministry Schedule March 9 & 10	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lectors
4:00 PM SATURDAY	C Ferreira	L Berard
8:30 AM SUNDAY	N Scott	A Leasure

### 2nd Collection - Church in Central & Eastern Europe

This week our special collection supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your donation helps restore the Church and build the future in more than 25 countries still struggling to recover from former communist rule and now the war in Ukraine. Funds from this collection support reconstruction, education, formation, and poverty outreach. Thank you for your generosity to the collection today. For more information, please visit [www.usccb.org/ccce](http://www.usccb.org/ccce). #iGiveCatholicTogether (<https://usccb.igivecatholictogether.org/organizations/usccb-church-in-central-and-eastern-europe>) also accepts funds for this collection, if you prefer to donate online.

### Stations of the Cross

Praying the Stations of the Cross is a traditional way of praying during Lent. We pray this familiar prayer to be with Jesus Christ, who walked this journey carrying the cross, the instrument of his death, out of love and commitment to us. Stations are prayed weekly at St. Thomas and St. Marys (alternating weekly) at 7PM, followed by confessions. Please join us this Friday at **St. Thomas Parish**.



### Foot Washing Rite on Holy Thursday

Fr. Calapan is looking for volunteers to participate in the foot washing rite on Holy Thursday, March 28th, at the 7pm Mass. This traditional rite it is done to imitate the humility and selfless love of Jesus, who washed the feet of the Twelve Apostles at the Last Supper. Please contact the office if you would like to participate.

### Stewardship - February 24/25, 2024

Weekly Budgeted Goal: .....\$ 2,459.31  
Regular Collection: ....(incl. \$403 On-Line Giving).....\$ 2,089.00  
Second Collection - Church Maintenance:.....\$ 380.00



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.  
Thank you for your generosity to St. Thomas Parish!

## MERIBAH AND MASSAH

*Psalms 95:8 "Harden not your heart as in the day of Meribah (provocation), and as in the day of Massah (temptation) in the wilderness."*

The Biblical author, King David, is using proper names from an actual place and using the meaning behind those proper names to describe an event that took place.

David refers to a place that has two names, Meribah and Massah. Meribah means provocation and Massah means temptation. The event that is being described here is the story in Exodus 17:3-7 (our First Reading) when Israel was encamped at Rephidim and started to complain because they were encamped in a place where there was no water and their water supply was running out. They felt they should be moving on to find water, yet the Lord commanded them to remain right where they were. As the days passed, they began to murmur and complain that God had led them out to the wilderness to abandon them and let them die. Finally, God told Moses to strike a rock and water would come out. Yet Rephidim was given the spiritual name of Meribah or provocation, and Massah or temptation because of their murmurings.

We need to understand what this hardening of the heart is really all about. We have heard this phrase all our lives but consider what it means to harden one's heart.

The word harden has the idea of stiffening. Yet its origins lie in a sense of heaviness or depression. There is another word we can use: discouragement. Ah, yes, discouragement. The people of Israel allowed the temptation and provocation at Rephidim to discourage them. A discouraged heart is a hardened heart, and a discouraged heart no longer has faith. It no longer believes that God has everything under control. A discouraged heart is a heart that has lost all hope and has given up. It is as if God is saying, "Don't allow your hearts to become depressed and discouraged." The natural result of a hardened or depressed and discouraged heart is disobedience for once discouraged you will no longer follow the lead and voice of God.

Nothing can harden your heart quicker than if you allow discouragement to enter your heart. Your understanding of God becomes distorted when you harden your hearts. That is how the enemy uses his tool of discouragement. It's your choice. Resist temptation, trust in God even if we have no water. Just pucker up and say, "Praise the Lord.' I will not allow my heart to harden or become discouraged. I am choosing God and not a hardened heart, even if I end up with no water in my cup." So, continue on your journey to the heart of God through this dry and thirsty days of Lent. As the old hymn goes, "Jesus is the Rock in a weary land."

## PARISH EVENTS

Sunday	3/3	*second collection - Central and Eastern Europe NO Religious Ed
Monday	3/4	9:00 AM - Bone Builders
Tuesday	3/5	12-2 PM - Lenten Bible Study 5:30 PM - Confessions 6:30 PM - Adult Confirmation 7:00 PM - Parish Council
Wednesday	3/6	9:00 AM - Bone Builders
Thursday	3/7	9:30 AM - Social Concerns
Friday	3/8	9:00 AM - Bone Builders <b>7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross @ St. Thomas</b>
Saturday	3/9	*second collection - Capitol Improvement 3:15 PM - Confessions
Sunday	3/10	10-11 AM - Religious Ed

### Religious Education 2024



**No Religious Ed** classes this Sunday. Classes will resume next Sunday, March 10. Grades K-1, & 3-6 will begin practices for the Shadow Stations of the Cross in the nave of the church.

Grade 2 will meet as usual in the parish hall.

**Jesus Retreat:** The Jesus Retreat for Grade 2 is Saturday, March 16 in the parish hall from 9:00 am to noon.

### Parish Hall Renovation Phase 2

#### Capital Improvement Collection (March 9th and 10th):

We are about \$20,000 away from meeting our Parish Hall Phase 2 renovation goal. We continue to work to raise the funds needed to meet the planned project start timeframe of April/May 2024. With the upcoming St. Thomas "Capital Improvement Collection" on March 9th and 10th we would ask you consider a donation to help us close the fundraising gap. As many of you know the St. Thomas Parish Hall is seeing increased use including religious education for the children, parish events, committee meetings, coffee hour, community gatherings, breakfast, dinners, and senior group activities. It is great to see the increased use and we hope you will help us continue the positive repair and renovation momentum we have established over the last few years.

If you do not have a capital improvement envelope and you would like to donate you can send a check to St. Thomas Parish, PO Box 3 Underhill Center, VT 05490. Please note on the check, "Parish Hall Capital Campaign." Donate online or stop by the office and give your check to Teri Gingras or place a check in the weekly offertory clearly marked "Parish Hall Capital Campaign." We would like to thank you all for your continued support as we continue the work to make the necessary improvements in the Parish facilities. We will also plan to keep you updated as we progress with the fundraising and project.

### Reconciliation Booklets

Sacrament of Reconciliation Booklets available in the back of the church. The Church urges the faithful to receive the Sacrament of Confession during Lent to help them in their spiritual preparation for Easter. You may feel uncertain about going to Confession if it has been a while. There are booklets in the back of the church to help you have more confidence in the procedure for the sacrament. The booklet can also be viewed by scanning this QR code with your cell phone.



### St. Thomas Calcutta Night 2024

*Spring into fun!* Join us at the Mansfield Barn at 3 Irish Farm Road in Jericho, on Saturday, April 13 for our annual Calcutta fundraiser. Look for flyers at the main entrance of the church. Tickets now on sale! For more information, email [stthomasvtcalcutta@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasvtcalcutta@gmail.com)

### "Beautiful Eucharist"

Several copies are still available of reflections on the Eucharist for the parish called, "Beautiful Eucharist," to prepare us during Lent for Jesus' institution of the Eucharist during Holy Week. Pick up a copy and let the collection of life-changing reflections increase your love for Jesus in the Eucharist.

### Saturday Lectors Needed

Please contact the office at 802-899-4632 or [office@stthomasvt.com](mailto:office@stthomasvt.com) if you would like to be a lector for the Saturday Masses. Training is available for this much needed ministry.

### Ecumenical Good Friday Walk

Join us this year on Good Friday, March 29th, beginning at 12:30 PM for the annual Good Friday Walk. We will begin with a prayer here at St. Thomas, and continue on to the covered bridge, United Church of Underhill, Calvary Episcopal Church, and finally ending at Catalyst Church on Raceway. Fr. Calapan will lead the opening prayer at 12:30. Please plan to come!

### St. Joseph Adoption Novena

*Praying For All Who Travel  
Upon the Path of Adoption*

March 10-18



[respectlife.org/adoption-novena](http://respectlife.org/adoption-novena)



### March Word of Life

"The Gospel of Life is "meant to be a precise and vigorous reaffirmation of the value of human life and its inviolability, and at the same time a pressing appeal addressed to each and every person, in the name of God: respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life! Only in this direction will you find justice, development, true freedom, peace and happiness!" (*The Gospel of Life* 5).

## **Readings For the Week**



### March 4

2 Kgs 5:1-15ab

Lk 4:24-30

### March 5

Dn 3:25, 34-43

Mt 18:21-35

### March 6

Dt 4:1, 5-9

Mt 5:17-19

### March 7

Jer 7:23-28

Lk 11:14-23

### March 8

Hos 14:2-10

Mk 12:28-34

### March 9

Hos 6:1-6

Lk 18:9-14

### March 10

**Fourth Sunday**

**Of Lent**

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

Eph 2:4-10

Jn 3:14-21



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, Audra Goss, Alex Wintersteen, Dorothy Reny, Maureen Mayes, John Lehouiller, Joseph Tijan, Meghan Diana, Diann Bean, Jay Tisbert, Jerry Reny, Janine Fleri, Bob Keeler, Will Esmay, Joanna Weinstock, Yuri Bihun, Nate Sullivan, Tom Bartlett, Jerome LeClair, Deena DeMartino, Rick Wilhelm, Linda Schaeffler, Mary Martelle, Tim Reny, Steve Guay, Zilda Metcalf, Michael Carter, Bob Stone, Wally Stone, Howard McRae, Loretta Eastwood, Mark Hale, and all those preparing for or recovering from surgery.

**DECEASED:** For all who have died, especially Vern Konczal, Marion McDermid, Kit Wheatley and 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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