

Mass Times and Intentions

Week of Nov 18 & 19

Saturday	6:30 pm	For the parishioners of St. Mary’s and St. Thomas
Sunday	10:30 am	For the conversion of Alaina Rogers and Jeff Rogers
Monday	6:30 pm	No Mass
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>6:30 pm</i>	<i>Mass at St. Thomas</i>
Wednesday	8:00 am	For the souls in purgatory
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>9:00 am</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Mass at St. Thomas</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>8:00 am</i>	<i>No Mass at St. Thomas</i>

Week of Nov 25 & 26

Saturday	6:30 pm	For fallen away Catholics
Sunday	10:30 am	For the repose of the soul of Cecilia Cross

*Join us as we recite the Holy Rosary every Saturday evening at 6 pm
and Sunday morning at 10 am*

~~~~~  
† *PRAYER CONCERNS* †

*For all our sick and shut-ins as well as our troops. For all who have died  
and all members of St. Mary’s & St. Thomas. For Prayer Chain requests please call Cathy Kennedy.*

~~~~~  
† *Eucharistic Adoration* †

*Wednesday mornings after 8:00 am Mass
Reconciliation Wednesday’s after Mass/Saturday’s 6-6:20 pm*

~~~~~  
**Christmas Food and Fruit Baskets:** Beginning next weekend (11/25 & 26), St. Thomas and St. Mary’s will be collecting staple foods for the Christmas Food and Fruit Baskets. We distribute these baskets to needy families in the church and the wider community in boxes decorated by our religious ed students. In addition to staple foods, we are also in need of donations of turkeys and monetary donations for this worthy project. Please make checks payable to St. Thomas Church with Food and Fruit Baskets in the memo. Staple foods needed: soups, stews, mac & cheese, egg noodles, pasta, pasta sauce, canned vegetables & fruits, cereal, sugar, flour, peanut butter, canned tuna/chicken, canned pie filling & crust mix, brownie mix, cake mix & RTU frosting, cookie mix, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, mayo. If you know of a family who would benefit from this project, contact Laura Wells or Cathy Kennedy. And please contact Laura Wells with donations of turkeys 802-777-8062. Assembly and distribution of the Christmas baskets is December 10.

*There will be a Thanksgiving Mass, Thursday at 9 am at St. Thomas*

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OUR SPONSORS WHO MAKE OUR BULLETIN POSSIBLE!

**Thanksgiving Day**

The fourth Thursday in November is set aside in this country as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer acknowledging the many favors of God. Though many Americans do not acknowledge God publicly, the nation still celebrates this day each year. It has become a day of eating a large meal with family and friends; a day to watch football; a day off from work. Like many other holidays, it seems to have lost its focus.

As Catholics we can easily say, “Well, Thanksgiving isn’t a real Holy Day or Feast Day, so why worry about the secularization of it?” And this is true. A government-mandated holiday is not a Holy Day as we commonly understand them. We are not required to attend Mass or to refrain from work. The Catholic Church does not have a specific moral lesson, or traditional narrative for this day. Yet, the Catechism points out: thanksgiving characterizes the prayer of the Church (CCC 2637). In fact, the word Eucharist means thanksgiving, and the Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. Giving thanks is at the core of who we are as Catholics.

As Catholic Americans, we have a responsibility to God, to the world, and to future generations to bring Christ to our culture. We should be encouraging any part of the American culture that affirms God and His plan for us. Thanksgiving Day is one part of our culture that does this. We as Americans need to focus our minds and hearts on God, and on His Divine Providence. Our country will not be saved by any president, or any political party. It will be saved only by God and by the prayers of its citizens. The Catechism reminds us that “love and service of one’s country follow from the duty of gratitude and belong to the order of charity” (CCC 2239).

Out of love for our country, let us make this Thanksgiving Day a true act of public thanksgiving and prayer. For many of us, inviting friends and family over is about as public as we get on Thanksgiving Day. However, that is just public enough to begin a renewal of our American culture. If possible, attending Mass would be a good way to celebrate this day. Mass at St. Thomas on Thanksgiving Day is at 9:00 AM.

Whatever we do, let’s make a special effort to publicly turn to God this Thanksgiving Day and praise Him for all the favors He has bestowed on this country and to ask Him for His continued guidance and care, especially for the difficult times ahead.

**Advent Scripture Study:** St. Thomas will host a 3-part Scripture study on the Incarnation on Tuesday 12/ 5, 12/12, & 12/19, beginning at 12 noon to about 1:30 PM. We will begin with a light lunch followed by Scripture study. We will explore the purpose of Jesus’ Incarnation, His descent from King David, Mary’s role in salvation history, the prophecy of Simeon, the Epiphany, the Holy Innocents, and Jesus encounter with the teachers in the Temple. We hope you will join us as part of your Advent preparation for Christmas. Register by contacting Laura Wells at 802-899-4770 or stthomasrel.ed@vermontcatholic.or

|                                              |
|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Offertory Receipts for 11/11 &amp; 12</b> |
| <b>FY24 Weekly Goal: \$1,061</b>             |
| <b>Last Week =   \$ 956.00</b>               |
| <b>YTD Actual = \$17354.11</b>               |
| <b>YTD Budget = \$21220.00</b>               |
| <b>Over (Under) = \$(3,865.89)</b>           |

*Pray the Holy Rosary every day!*