



# St. Thomas Church

6 Green Street  
PO Box 3  
Underhill Center, VT 05490

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

Pastor Office Hours:  
Tue. 2:00 PM-5:00 PM, Thur. 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: [rel.ed@stthomasvt.com](mailto:rel.ed@stthomasvt.com)

## Parish Staff

Rev. Christopher Micale ..... Pastor  
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 ..... 899-4732

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

## Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00 PM      Sunday 8:30 AM

## Daily Masses

Tuesday, 6:30 PM, Thursday, 8:00 AM

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

## Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Please consult weekly bulletin.

## 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

August 29 SAT	4:00 PM - Mass for the repose of the soul of Ann Wejroch requested by Tom and Susie May 6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
August 30 SUN	8:05 AM - Rosary 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
MON	NO Mass
TUES	6:30 PM - Mass for the health and wellbeing of Aline Lehouillier
WED	6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
THUR	8:00 AM - Mass for the repose of the soul of Carmelo Santisi
FRI	8:00 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
September 5 SAT	4:00 PM - Mass for the repose of the soul of Martha Kane Tortolano requested by Dr. William Tortolano 6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
September 6 SUN	8:05 AM - Rosary 8:30 AM- Mass for the repose of the soul of Pina Oddo requested by Marilyn Frederick 10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

Ministry Schedule September 5 & 6	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lectors	Altar Servers
4:00 PM SATURDAY	NONE	T May	NONE
8:30 AM SUNDAY	NONE	M Ledwith	NONE

### Second Collection Next Weekend

Next weekend we will take up the annual collection for the Catholic University of America (CUA). The CUA is located in Washington, D.C., is the national university of the Catholic Church. Founded in 1887, CUA offers students an excellent education in a faith-filled atmosphere that is grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition. The Collection for The Catholic University of America underwrites scholarships to assist financially deserving students in completing their education at CUA in over 50 disciplines.

### Sunday Missals

We will be purchasing 2021 Sunday Missals for use during Mass. These missals are perfect for individual use and contain all Sunday readings for 2021. These missals will be for parishioners to take home and bring in for personal use during the weekend Masses. In order to estimate how many to order, please let us know if you would like one by calling the office at 899-4632 or emailing us at office@stthomasvt.com

### Stewardship August 22 & 23, 2020

Weekly Budgeted Goal: .....\$ 2,618.62  
Regular Collection: ... (incl. \$420 On-Line Giving) .....\$ 2,007.00

Please give online at [www.stthomasvt.com/online-giving](http://www.stthomasvt.com/online-giving) or mail your contributions directly to the parish at PO Box 3, Underhill, VT 05490. Thank you for your generosity.

### Message from Fr. Christopher Micale

*"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You cleanse the outside of cup and dish, but inside they are full of plunder and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, cleanse first the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may be clean." (Matthew 23:25-26)*

Some drivers drive their vehicles more to the shoulder attempting to keep farther away from the median. They are very comfortable hugging the shoulder of the road. I call them the "edgers". To them it's more important to keep farthest away from oncoming cars on the other side of the road. I tend to be a center driver. I hate to be too close to the shoulder. Vermont roads can be steep, winding and tricky particularly in the winter with ice and snow, so keeping far from the shoulder is more comfortable for me. I call those that drive in this manner the "mid-ers". In both cases the driver is attempting to give plenty of distance between what is perceived as a possible threat to safety. It's similar to a break that firemen create when fighting a forest fire by cutting down a swath of trees and brush to stop the raging fire from advancing. I remember once when I had switched dentists the DDS working on me for the first time noted, "You had an old fashioned dentist." I asked for clarification and he stated, "When he created a filling for you on this molar he cut away far more tooth that was necessary. It was the old way of creating a firewall to provide more space between the area of decay and healthy tissue." In the Christian's war against spiritual decay we must do the same thing. We must "drive" the Christian road with the same focus on safety. Tragically most of us are not as focused on the dangers of the spiritual "roadway" or the decay of sin. The Church's tradition uses the phrase, "the near occasion of sin" to indicate the need for a spiritual firewall to put distance between us and things that can lead us to sin, even things that seem very innocuous, appearing to have no impact on our life in the Spirit. This includes visual images that entice us and start us thinking on things that are contrary to a chaste life, individuals who, although may be friendly to us live lifestyles that are at odds with Christian living, and the avoidance of spiritual disciplines such as Mass attendance, prayer, spiritual reading and fasting from something we enjoy. Instead of keeping us safe on the road, or free from decay, they draw us close to sin and its damaging effects on the soul. Remember our souls are under the influence of concupiscence, that desire that draws us toward sinful actions because they seem pleasurable and "natural". We must all come to realize that thinking leads to action. Sinful desires pop into our heads at times. If we nurture, instead of eject them immediately, sinful action is waiting to spring forward like a lion on its prey. As Christ tells the Pharisees, rotten attitudes and desires can be as detrimental as evil actions. In other words, just because we don't physically act on those desires, doesn't mean they are less harmful to the soul. This is so because any uncharitable thought is against the law of God. We need not lift a finger and still be contrary to God. That's why Jesus tells the leaders of the temple to wash the inside of the cup. He says be concerned with the spiritual motivations and attitudes first. As I've said before, "the inside and the outside must coincide" but it starts first with our thoughts and desires that may lead to sinful behavior. Avoiding the near occasion of sin means putting distance between thoughts as well as actions; staying far away from spiritual decay. It's like avoiding the edges or center of the road in the spiritual life by pushing evil thoughts and desires out of our mind and replacing them with Godly, spiritual things. As St. Paul tells us, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of peace, think about these things." (Philippians 4:8)

~Fr. Micale

### PARISH EVENTS

Tuesday	9/1	5:30 PM - Confessions by appointment 7:00 PM - Zoom Parish Council Meeting
Thursday	9/3	9:30 AM - Social Concerns
Saturday	8/5	3:15 PM - Confessions by appointment
Sunday	9/6	<b>Have a blessed week!</b>



## Religious Education News

Registration Forms for Religious Education are available on the website. We are still planning for the new academic year. Religious Education will be greatly modified and will not begin until October. More information will be coming soon.

## Christ Our Hope Campaign

"Perhaps You Were Born for Such a Time as This." - Esther 4:14



The situation and circumstances we face today, in the culture and the Church, call for us to move from maintenance to mission. At every Catholic parish in Vermont, we are called to respond in faith – in new ways, with a new vigor. Many of you have received the Christ Our Hope: Building a Vibrant Church campaign packets in the mail that included a case statement for the campaign with an insert that describes how our parish plans to use the 60% of funds raised. Please prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift that will renew our parishes and move our church from maintenance to mission. To learn more about the campaign visit: [www.christourhopevt.org](http://www.christourhopevt.org). **Bishop Coyne** is hosting coffee hours to answer questions on August 31 @ 7 p.m., September 1 @ 7 p.m., and September 9 @ 3p.m. Please visit this link to register: <https://www.christourhopevt.org/events>

## Weekend Mass Intentions

Please note we have several Saturday Masses available for intentions here at St. Thomas for the remainder of 2020. We also have various availability for our weekday Masses: Tuesdays at 6:30 P.M. and Thursdays at 8:00 A.M. Some Holy Days may be available. Masses may be scheduled one year in advance from the calendar date you arrange the Mass. You can schedule Mass intentions through August 2021 by stopping in or calling the parish office at 899-4632. If you need a particular weekend, you could also try St. Mary's parish in Cambridge by calling Cathy Kennedy at 644-5073.

## Pope's Prayer to Mary for a protection during the coronavirus pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

## Food Bank Info

We encourage anyone struggling to access food to look into these great resources:

- 3SquaresVT - Email [3svt@vtfoodbank.org](mailto:3svt@vtfoodbank.org), call 1-855-855-6181, or text VFBSNAP to 85511
- WIC - To find out more and apply visit <https://www.healthvermont.gov/family/wic> or text VTWIC to 85511.
- Find a food shelf – [Vtfoodbank.org](http://Vtfoodbank.org)
- The Commodity Supplemental Food Program is a federal nutrition program which offers free monthly nutrition info and nutritious foods to income-eligible older adults. [vtfoodbank.org/csfp](http://vtfoodbank.org/csfp).
- 2-1-1 – contains detailed descriptions of programs and services available to Vermonters that are provided by local community groups, social service and health-related agencies, government organizations, and others.
- Meal Programs for Older Vermonters – 1-800-642-5119.
- Visit [vtfoodbank.org/gethelp](http://vtfoodbank.org/gethelp)



## SANCTUARY CANDLE

If you would like to dedicate the tabernacle vigil candle in memory of a loved one or for a special intention, please call the parish office at 899-4632. The suggested donation is \$10 for a one week period.

## Feast of Our Lady of La Salette

Make a pilgrimage to the New Hampshire shrine of Our Lady of La Salette on the 174th anniversary of the Virgin Mary's apparition in La Salette, Sunday, September 20, 2020. Cost per person is \$149 which includes transportation on Premier Motor Coach, visit to the shrine, special feast day Mass and celebration, dinner. For more info contact [bill@greenmtntoursvt.com](mailto:bill@greenmtntoursvt.com) or 527-0496.

## Great News - WWME has gone "Virtual"!

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring a virtual marriage experience called Restore – Rekindle – Renew. This Enrichment Experience will meet via Zoom for 7 sessions on Monday evenings September 14 to October 26 from 7-9:30 PM. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more info or to apply, call John & Diane Forcier at 802-657-3083 or visit them at <https://www.mevtw.org/>.

## When you return to Mass, you will see things have changed a bit.

- Hymnal and other reading material has been cleared from the pews.
- Printed material is available to use during Mass but must be taken home to be disposed of
- Bulletins will be available after Mass.
- Please wear a mask and use hand sanitizer upon entry and exit from the church.
- At this time there will be no coffee hour so please do not congregate in large groups in or outside of the church.
- The sacristy, balcony, and "cry room" will be closed until further notice.
- Please wear your mask during your approach to communion. When it is your turn, please pull your mask down below your chin, receive in your hand, consume the host, and then replace mask before returning to your pew.

"No sin or crime is greater than God's mercy. The sacrifice of the Cross reveals that Christ's greatest desire is to forgive those with a repentant heart."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
"Death Penalty: Catholic Q&A"

## Readings For the Week

### August 31

1 COR 2:1-5  
LK 4:16-30

### September 1

1 COR 2:10b-16  
LK 4:31-37

### September 2

1 COR 3:1-9  
LK 4:38-44

### September 3

Memorial of St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

1 COR 3:18-23  
LK 5:1-11

### September 4

1 COR 4:1-5  
LK 5:33-39

### September 5

1 COR 4:6b-15  
LK 6:1-5

### September 6

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

EZ 33:7-9

PS 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

ROM 13:8-10

MT 18:15-20



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

## WE PRAY FOR

**SICK:** For all our sick: Yvonne Cross, Riley McLaughlin, Lynn McLaughlin, Joyce Brush, Jen DiNardo, David Claghorn, Ed Keeler, Sr. Elaine Lattanzi, Fred Kreps, Robert LeGrand, Kathryn Clark, Joann Bibb, Tonia Barbin, Kyle Brooks, Mary Parisi, Abby Wintersteen, Jack Russ, Mary Lynch, Jay Tisbert, Lawrence Lecours, Don Gingras, Deacon Gerry Scilla, Rosemary Breen, Robert Black, Peter Richards, Barb Juell, Patricia Stone, Jim Meadows, and all those preparing for or recovering from surgery.

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



## Natural Family Planning

"NFP opened up a whole world of awareness about my body. I love that it's based on science and I love even more that it coincides with my faith. It is true whole health".

Sharon Trani MSN; APRN  
Nurse Practitioner - NFP teacher  
802-326-2015  
strani@vermontcatholic.org



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G.K.: Steve Haupt  
D.G.K.: Pat McCarthy  
Chancellor: Ed Matthews  
Recorder: Andrew Rowe  
Treasurer: Mark Girouard  
Warden: Bob Kennedy  
Advocate: Craig Benson  
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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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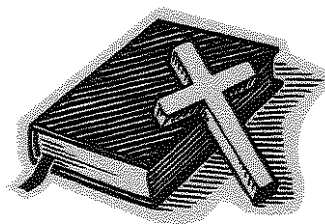
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Do you have friends and family members who  
no longer practice our Catholic Faith?

Why not invite them to "come home".

Invite them to come to Holy Mass with you and  
never stop praying for them.

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



In loving memory of  
Millicent Dixon

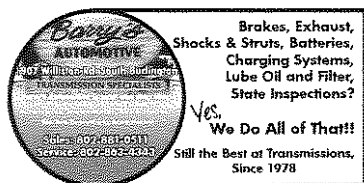


Benefactor of the  
St. Thomas Cemeteries

Confirming



Their Faith



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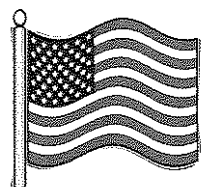
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