



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
Parish Website: www.stthomasvt.com

Religious Education: 899-4770
E-Mail: 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

September 19
SAT 4:00 PM - Mass for the repose of the soul of Michael Pollak requested by Bob and Martha Pollak
 6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

September 20
SUN 8:05 AM - Rosary
 8:30 AM- Mass for the repose of the souls of Frank and Lillian Lassandro requested by Marilyn Frederick
 10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

MON NO Mass

TUES 6:30 PM - Mass for the health and wellbeing of Don Gandini requested by the St. Thomas Knights of Columbus

WED 6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

THUR 8:00 AM - Mass for the repose of the soul of Dick Brush requested by Laura Lynch Wells

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

September 26
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

September 27
SUN 8:05 AM - Rosary
 8:30 AM- Mass for those that received their First Communion on Saturday
 10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

| Ministry Schedule September 26 & 27 | Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion | Lectors | Altar Servers |
|--|---|-----------|---------------|
| 4:00 PM SATURDAY | NONE | L Berard | NONE |
| 8:30 AM SUNDAY | NONE | M Ledwith | NONE |

Second Collection

This weekend we will take up a second collection for the St. Thomas Fuel and Heat Fund. The cold weather is coming and we want to be ready! Thank you for your generous donations.

ANNUAL HARVEST HAM DINNER-TAKE OUT:



Please join us for the Annual Harvest Ham Dinner on Sunday, October 11. This year we plan to serve take out meals only, in compliance with expectations expressed by the VT Department of Health. The menu will include ham, baked potatoes, squash, carrots, coleslaw, rolls, and home made desserts. Pick Up time will be between 4:00 and 5:30. **Tickets will be one price, \$12.00 per meal.** Purchasing your tickets ahead of time will help us plan, but tickets will be available at the door. Tickets will be available after all Masses beginning this weekend, and can also be purchased at Wells Corner Market and Snowflake Chocolates. For more info or to place a ticket order, please call the rectory at 899-4632.

Stewardship September 12 & 13, 2020

Weekly Budgeted Goal:\$ 2,618.62
 Regular Collection: ...(incl. \$466 On-Line Giving).....\$ 1,977.00

Please give online at 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

"So Moses prayed for the people, and the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a saraph and mount it on a pole, and if any who have been bitten look at it, they will live.' Moses accordingly made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a pole, and whenever anyone who had been bitten by a serpent looked at the bronze serpent, he lived." (Numbers 21:7b-9)

"And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." (John 3:14-15)

The world around us seems to be spinning out of control. Unrest seems to be increasing especially in our major cities and towns. We have been enduring the Covid-19 and its aftermath both medically and psychologically. This later concern may in the long run prove far more damaging than the virus's physical effects. Isolation is counter to human health on all levels. Although slowly certain venues and activities are beginning to open up we are far from "normal", that is the normal based on pre-virus life. Yet do we understand that viruses and other illnesses, both physical and psychological, were not what God had planned for humanity. When sin entered the world (that is the rejection of God's law) consequences resulted. The physical world in which we live began to deteriorate, in particular our physical and emotional health. Yet the root of all the disease we experience is spiritual in nature. We know that the enemy of God and mankind who tempted mankind away from its Creator is pictured as a snake. It is interesting that the symbol of the American Medical Association is depicted as an Aesculapius (a single snake on a staff) or Caduceus (two snakes on a staff). According to the AMA's communication coordinator, "There is a general agreement among scholars that the snake, whether it is one or two around a staff, is an appropriate symbol for the healing art. In addition to representing wisdom, learning, and fertility, it stands for longevity and the restoration of health. The snake, after all, appears to regenerate by shedding its skin, thereby assuming a new life. The serpent also was considered a potent force against disease and was thought to protect children from epidemics if they touched its skin." This is very interesting because God was the first one to use this symbol of healing but not for the esoteric reason according to the AMA. It represented Christ crucified the only true source of healing to mankind. The sacrifice of Jesus was foreshadowed in Old Testament times with the people of Israel. After much complaining God sent serpents to bite the people causing death to many. When Moses interceded (hinting at the priesthood that mediates between God and man) by praying to God he was instructed to create the symbol of true healing, Jesus Christ. All the destructive forces we experience in this world can be traced back to sin. All the healing we can experience, most importantly spiritual healing, comes from God the Divine Physician, and in particular through Christ who suffered on the cross to make it possible. So whereas the original "snake" caused suffering and death, Christ, the "snake" pictured on the stake has healed our relationship with God the Father. This past Monday the Church celebrated the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. It is the tool God used to save mankind. Despite all the medical and technological advances humanity has achieved since the time of ancient Israel, it is the suffering, death and resurrection of our Savior that truly heals, heals our souls. It is the soul of mankind that must be healed if all the worldly woes we are experiencing are to be overcome.

~Fr. Micale

Rosary plans for October

During the month leading up to the election, we will be praying the Rosary in the church every day. We will be posting the schedule soon and hope that you can make a commitment to join us for this important devotion for our nation.

PARISH EVENTS

| | | |
|----------|------|--|
| Tuesday | 9/22 | 5:30 PM - Confessions by appointment |
| Thursday | 9/24 | 9:30 AM - Social Concerns |
| | | 7:00 PM - Confirmation Liturgy at St. Joseph Cathedral |
| Saturday | 9/26 | 11:00 AM - First Communion (family only) |
| | | 3:15 PM - Confessions by appointment |
| Sunday | 9/27 | Have a blessed week! |



Religious Education News

Registration is open for Religious Education. Online classes begin in October. Please join us. Registrations can be found online at www.stthomasvt.com/35

Religious Education Goals Fall 2020 - The goal of the Religious Education Program at St. Thomas Parish is to pass on the Catholic faith in Jesus Christ. This program recognizes the parents as the primary educators of their children, especially in the catechesis of the Catholic faith. Parents will be expected to pass on the faith we have received by helping their children with the lessons as they are presented online by our catechists, regular Mass attendance as each family deems safe, and especially in this time of anxiety about Covid-19, to practice the faith through popular piety by such means as the TV Mass, praying the Rosary, and reading the Bible as a family.

Classes for Grades K-6 will be online, with some in-person activities - Parental participation is expected especially for younger students. When attending in-person activities, each child must be accompanied by a parent/guardian, or other caring adult designated by the parent/guardian, to ensure proper safety and social distancing as required at the time of the activity in compliance with expectations expressed by the VT Dept of Health and the Diocese of Burlington.

If you have any questions about the Religious Education Program at St. Thomas Parish contact Laura Lynch Wells at 802-899-4770, or email at rel.ed@stthomasvt.com

Christ Our Hope Campaign Building a Vibrant Church

Proverbs 28:27: "He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse."

God calls us to support the most vulnerable among us and the Christ Our Hope: Building a Vibrant Church campaign offers us the opportunity to do that. A portion of the dollars raised will fund an endowment for Catholic Charities so it may expand its ability to serve the needy. This is a pressing need because Catholic Charities cannot serve on average 70 families or 280 people per month. Beyond that need, the campaign offers great hope at home here at St. Thomas Parish. Sixty cents of every dollar will come back to us so we may address the remaining Vision 2020 projects. While considering your gift, it's worth remembering that a key provision of the CARES Act states that a donor may deduct 100% of any gift to a qualified charity against their 2020 adjusted gross income. Please note this deduction expires at the end of 2020.

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.

Volunteers needed for bottle redemption:

Thank you to all the parishioners who so generously donate bottles to benefit the religious ed program at St. Thomas. We are in need of volunteers to help bring bottles back for redemption and bring the money back. It can be brought to the Rectory Office or put in an envelope labeled "Bottle Money" in the collection basket at Mass. If you can please volunteer. If you have any questions please contact Laura Wells in the Rectory Office.

Parent Café

Virtual discussion series by the Diocese for Catholic Parents includes prayer, presentation, and time for honest discussion. The topics include: Life is a Balancing Act (Sept. 29); Your Habits-The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly (Oct. 13). All sessions are from 7:30pm-8:15pm, parents can attend all or just one. Register at www.vermontcatholic.org/events/parentcafe

Career Opportunities

Please visit the Career Opportunities page at vermontcatholic.org for information about current openings at the Diocesan Office in South Burlington.

Domestic Violence

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. To learn more about the Catholic response, visit the U.S. Bishop's website for their Pastoral Letter, "When I Call for Help." If you, a family member, or friend needs help now, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800-799-7233 (24 hours); 800-787-3224 (TTY), www.thehotline.org.

Diocesan Online Ministry Opportunities:

Weekly and daily Devotional opportunities such as live-streamed Mass, are currently being offered by the Diocese. These can be found on the diocesan website www.vermontcatholic.org under "Spiritual Resources for Covid-19".

"Suicidal individuals—with or without a terminal illness—typically do not want to die... The patient requesting assisted suicide is often asking, 'Does anyone want me to be alive, or care enough to talk me out of this request and support me through this difficult time?'"

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"Every Suicide is Tragic"

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, Diane Dufresne 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.

Readings

For the Week



September 21

Feast of Saint Mathew, Apostle and Evangelist
EPH 4:1-7, 11-13
PS 19:2-3, 4-5
MT 9:9-13

September 22

PRV 21:1-6, 10-13
LK 8:19-21

September 23

Memorial of Saint Pius Pietrelcina, Priest
PRV 30:5-9
LK 9:1-6

September 24

ECCL 1:2-11
LK 9:7-9

September 25

ECCL 3:1-11
LK 9:18-22

September 26

ECCL 11:9—12:8
LK 9:43B-45

September 20

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
EZ 18:25-28
PS 25:4-5, 8-9, 10,
14 PHIL 2:1-11
MT 21:28-32



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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Council No. 7810

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D.G.K.: Pat McCarthy
Chancellor: Ed Matthews
Recorder: Andrew Rowe
Treasurer: Mark Girouard
Warden: Bob Kennedy
Advocate: Craig Benson
Chaplin: Fr. Christopher Micale
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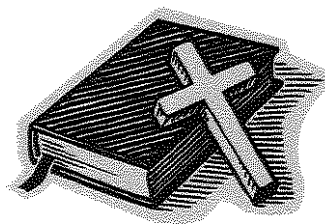
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For prayers answered
Most holy Apostle St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered the beloved Master into the hands of His enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes 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".

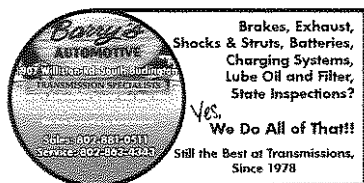
Invite them to come to Holy Mass with you and
never stop praying for them.

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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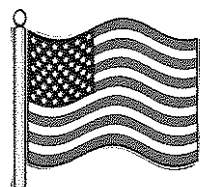


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