

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

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.

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.

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

November 21	
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
November 22	
SUN	8:05 AM - Rosary 8:30 AM- Mass for the repose of the soul of Ben Frederick requested by Mark & Marilyn Frederick 10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
MON	No Mass
TUES	6:30 PM - Mass for the repose of the soul of Frances Dolen requested by Steve & Eileen Haupt
WED	6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
THUR	NO Mass at St. Thomas 9:00 AM - Thanksgiving Day Mass at St. Marys
FRI	8:00 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
November 28	
SAT	4:00 PM - Mass for the repose of the soul of Doris Ormonde requested by Steve and Corinne Ferreira 6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
November 29	
SUN	8:05 AM - Rosary 8:30 AM- Mass for the repose of the soul of Norman and Charlotte Brush requested by Laura Lynch Wells 10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

Ministry Schedule November 28 & 29

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Lectors

Altar Servers

4:00 PM SATURDAY

NONE

L Berard

NONE

8:30 AM SUNDAY

NONE

B MacDonough

NONE

New Website!

Diocese of Burlington has required us to move to a new and improved website host. The web address is the same, StThomasVT.com, but it is more cost effective and similar to other church websites in the diocese. Please visit the new site and let us know what you think! We are also using a new database for parishioner information and will be updating this before the first of the year. Please watch your email for a link to update your family's information.

Sign Up For The Christmas Mass of Your Choice

In order to comply with the State of Vermont and Catholic Diocese of Burlington guidelines surrounding COVID protocol, we are asking parishioners to let us know which Christmas Mass you and your family plan to attend. Here at St. Thomas there will be a 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve and a 9:00 AM Mass on Christmas Day. Seating will be limited and we will utilize the parish hall, with closed circuit TV, for any overflow. There is a simple sign up process to indicate your family name and number of people who will attend. This sign up can be found at: <https://reopen.church/r/Tq55FoyY> If you do not feel comfortable going on line to select a Mass, please call the office at 899-4632.

Stewardship

November 14 & 15, 2020

Weekly Budgeted Goal:\$ 2,618.62

Regular Collection: ...(incl. \$441 On-Line Giving).....\$ 2,018.00

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

*"I cry out to you, Lord, I say, You are my refuge my portion
In the land of the living." (Psalm 142:6)*

Lately I find myself distracted by many things. Covid-19 updates, post election factions, one side for Joe Biden, the other for Donald Trump, the violence that engulfs individuals who voice a contrary opinion, the grey days of late fall and the uncertainty of things to come as we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas. When our senses are overloaded we either shut down or focus on things that will take our minds off the troubles or problems we face. Instead of addressing them head on and working through them we try to avoid these issues. It is easy to fill our lives with things that really don't profit us spiritually but at least initially calm our anxiety. One common thing that accomplishes this for us is the world of entertainment that helps us to go to "our happy place". It's a matter of tuning out and being removed from the harsh reality of life. Regardless of the difficulties we face, our focus should never stray from Christ. Yet this is difficult in the 24-hour news cycle of today. We've all heard the expression, "too much information" when we start discussing something graphic or very personal with some else. Maybe humanity is now reaching the point where there simply is too much information floating about of every political persuasion and opinion. Even if what we see and hear is true (and there's doubt about that these days) do we need to be inundated with it minute by minute hour after hour, day after day, etc.? We are a distracted people who flit from one news source to another. All this knowledge is not necessarily understanding or wisdom gained, it's just more information that can distract us rather than help us through our day. The more time spent online or watching television the less focused we are on God and the spiritual life. We have many examples of this distraction from Scripture and in particular in the Gospels: St. Peter taking his eye off of Christ and looking at the waves and the wind, the man who decides to tear down his own barn and build another bigger one when his life is about to end, the unwise virgins who forget to check to see if they had enough oil in their lamps. These examples indicate a life unfocused on the spirit and one pre-occupied with the physical, temporal life. We see from the readings as we approach the end of the liturgical year the frailty of life and the need to refocus our minds, hearts and souls on living the Gospel life of relationship with God with an eye toward heaven our ultimate end. We must acknowledge that the Church and her members are in a battle against many forces in the culture but more importantly from the forces of devil and his minions. This is why the Church was always referred to as the Church Militant because of the titanic battle it is engaged in, in every era. For the Christian the battle is as basic as being consistent with daily prayer, weekly Mass attendance and a thankful heart acknowledging all that God has given us; that He is the origin of all that is good. As we approach Thanksgiving Day, a day that reminds us that God provides, let us redouble our efforts to focus on the good God has offered us in His Son Jesus Christ. Let us be grateful for the gifts He gives us through the Holy Spirit, even with all that can discourage us these days, all that can distract us from our true goal and purpose that is eternal life; the life God the Father has prepared for us. Let us focus on developing our relationship with the Holy Trinity. One way to draw close to God is through Eucharist Adoration. During this precious time before our Savior in the Blessed Sacrament we are able to focus completely on Christ. The graces received are many depending on the individual and what God desires, but most importantly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament refocuses us spiritually and gives us the strength to carry on. Starting in Advent, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will occur at St. Thomas one hour before the 6:30 pm Mass on Tuesdays. Won't you join me in adoring the only one worth adoring, God through Jesus Christ? Despite all the difficulties we now face it is only God who is our safe haven, our tranquility amid the chaos and angst of our present society. Only He gives us peace. As Our Lord stated, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give it to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." (John 14:27) "I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world." (John 16:33)

PARISH EVENTS

Sunday	11/22	Have a blessed week
Tuesday	11/24	5:30 PM - Confessions by appointment
Thursday	11/26	9:30 AM - Thanksgiving - Mass at St. Marys
Saturday	11/28	3:15 PM - Confessions by appointment



Religious Education News

Have you been to our St Thomas Facebook page? Check out Laura Wells' video series on the Signs and Symbols in the church. One new video is added each week.

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

Coats for Kids

Gadue's Dry Cleaning has begun its annual "Coats for Kids" campaign. "Coats for Kids" has been supplying warm winter clothing to families throughout Chittenden and Franklin Counties for over 30 years. This year, need is greater than ever and our donations have been down. Drop off your gently used coats, snow pants, hats, mittens, scarves and winter boots at any Gadue's Dry Cleaning location (see www.gadues.com for locations). Gadue's will clean and recondition them, and items will be distributed through local agencies and schools to those children and families who need warm clothing to face the cold winter ahead. All sizes are needed, adult through infant, but articles should be limited to winter outerwear. For info contact Monika Busse (879-3144) or Penny Wagner (864-5532).

Christ Our Hope Campaign

"May the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done" RUTH 2:12. In just a few weeks, the diocese has received \$2,619,760 in gifts and pledges for the Christ Our Hope; Building a Vibrant Church campaign. We are grateful for the sacrifice made by hundreds throughout the state. This is the Virtual Weekend of Giving, Bishop Coyne will match the first 10 gifts of \$1,000 or more received online during the weekend with a \$1,000 gift. Each \$1,000 gift will go to the donor's parish. Each parish may receive one (1) matching gift.

Advent Appeal

Please join Vermont Catholic Charities in supporting the Annual Advent Appeal. The "Season of Giving" has no bounds for people in need. Whatever the season, it is a daily struggle for many Vermonters to maintain housing, stay warm or feed their families. With your help, we can make a difference in lives of those living on the edge. Whether your gift is \$10, \$100, \$1000 or more, your gift will make a difference in the life of a needy family. To donate, please mail a check to Vermont Catholic Charities, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403. or give online at www.vermontcatholic.org/adventappeal.

We ask that you pray daily the Pope's prayer to the Virgin Mary for protection from this 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.

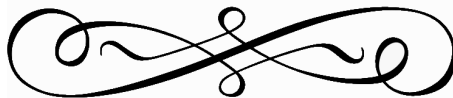
When you return to Mass, you will see things have changed a bit.

- 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.



Christmas stocking

Please take a tag from the Christmas Stocking at the entrance of the church and purchase personal care items for the food shelf. This is an easy and inexpensive way to help our neighbors this time of year. This drive was very successful in past years and we hope to do well again this year! Please place the items in the basket by the giant stocking. Thank you for your generosity and Merry Christmas!



Missals and Offertory Envelopes

Beginning Advent weekend, the 2021 Missals and offertory envelopes will be available in the lobby of the church. Everything will have a label for who they belong to. We have ordered a few extras so if you forgot to order one, there may be additional copies available—please call the church office.

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".

"The right to religious freedom has its foundation in the very dignity of the human person."

Pope Paul VI, Dignitatis humanae (Declaration on Religious Freedom)

Readings For the Week



November 23

Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5

LK 21:1-4

November 24

Memorial of Saint Andrew
Dung-Lac, Priest, and
Companions, Martyrs

RV 14:14-19

LK 21:5-11

November 25

RV 15:1-4

LK 21:12-19

November 26

Thanksgiving Day

RV 18:1-2, 21-23;

19:1-3, 9A

LK 21:20-28

November 27

RV 20:1-4, 11—21:2

LK 21:29-33

November 28

RV 22:1-7

LK 21:34-36

November 29

**First Sunday
of Advent**

IS 63:16B-17, 19B;

64:2-7

PS 80:2-3, 15-16,

18-19

1 COR 1:3-9

MK 13:33-37



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, Amy Gratton, Joyce Fleury and all those preparing for or recovering from surgery.

DECEASED: For all who have died, especially Patrick McCarthy, Nancy Walko, George Lawler 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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St. Thomas Church
Knights of Columbus
Council No. 7810

G.K.: Steve Haupt
D.G.K.: Pat McCarthy
Chancellor: Ed Matthews
Recorder: Andrew Rowe
Treasurer: Mark Girouard
Warden: Bob Kennedy
Advocate: Craig Benson
Chaplin: Fr. Christopher Micale
Meets 2nd Tuesday each month

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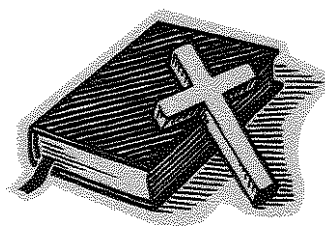
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For prayers answered
Most holy Apostle St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered the beloved Master into the hands of His enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes 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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DESIGN · INSTALLATION · SANDING · FINISHING

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

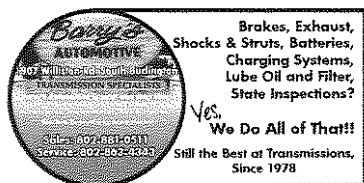


In loving memory of
Millicent Dixon



Benefactor of the
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Confirming
Their Faith



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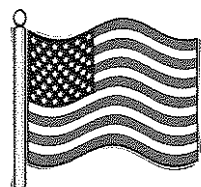
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