



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

December 5	
SAT	4:00 PM - Mass for Our All Souls Day Intentions 6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
December 6	
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	<u>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</u> 11:00 AM - Holy Day Mass at St. Mary 6:00 PM - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7:00 PM - Holy Day Mass for the repose of the soul of Patrick McCarthy 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 Jaroslav "Jerry" Bihun requested by Yuri and Irene
FRI	8:00 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
December 12	
SAT	4:00 PM - Mass for the repose of the soul of Valentino Pallotta requested by Jean Pallotta 6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
December 13	
SUN	8:05 AM - Rosary 8:30 AM- Mass for the repose of the soul of Zelma Vigneau requested by Ed and Louise Mathews 10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

<u>Ministry Schedule</u> <u>December 12 & 13</u>	<u>Extraordinary</u> <u>Ministers of</u> <u>Holy Communion</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Altar</u> <u>Servers</u>
4:00 PM SATURDAY	NONE	L Berard	NONE
8:30 AM SUNDAY	NONE	M Ledwith	NONE



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/TqS5FoyY>

If you do not feel comfortable going on line to select a Mass, please call the office at 899-4632.

Second Collection Next Weekend

Help our elders. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of service for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for the Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Thank you for your generosity.

Stewardship November 28 & 29, 2020

Weekly Budgeted Goal:\$ 2,618.62
Regular Collection: ...(incl. \$403 On-Line Giving).....\$ 2,599.00

Please give online at www.stthomasvt.com/donate 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

*"Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus. Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross."
Philippians 2:5-8)*

I've been feeling quite exhausted these days. I would actually clarify that further, I feel empty. Not only has the seasonal change caught up with me the ever-changing "new normal" has been wearing me down. The combination of low energy from less sunlight and stress from the unexpected or unknown possibility has emptied my reserve. Yet being empty and acknowledging this is not such a bad state of affairs if we speak of the spiritual life. The greatest block to God's grace working in our lives is the attitude that we are ok that God is needed yes, but "I've really got a handle on things so Lord, when I really need you I'll let you know." We are always in need of God by the grace given us through Jesus Christ His Son in the Holy Spirit. Christ is our example and His most magnanimous action directed toward mankind was the emptying of Himself of the glory of the Godhead. He never stopped being God but He laid aside His magnificent brilliance and majesty to become small, as we are small. We must always remember we are vessels that God uses for a special purpose. We each have a responsibility to advance God's Kingdom. Our job here on earth is to permit God to show us what kind of vessel we are. Pitchers hold liquid ready to pour out their substance for those who are thirsty. Bowls are generally used to mix ingredients combining parts to make a whole. In spiritual life each of us are likened to these physical articles. Some in the Body of Christ are used by God to serve others who are needy and worn out by the cares of life. Others are asked by Our Lord to endure trials and suffering for Christ. They set an example to others that the grace of God is at work in their lives illustrating how Christ can overcome any difficulty giving hope to others. Yet like pitchers and bowls they need to be empty first before they can accomplish their purpose. So it is in the spiritual life. We can only make progress and accomplish the task our Father in heaven has created us for if we permit ourselves to be emptied of everything that life. This includes most importantly an attitude of self-reliance and pride, which precludes openness to God's will for us. During this season of Advent we are reminded of Christ's first humble coming, being born in poverty and in smallness. As we progress through our Advent journey let us be open to Christ by permitting Him to empty us of all that impedes that journey toward a deeper relationship with Him. Advent is the perfect time for examination of conscience, reviewing our spiritual state. The best way to clear out the negative, sinful attitudes and thoughts that get in the way is a visit to the confessional. Confessions are heard prior to Eucharistic Adoration, before mass on Saturday or by appointment. My blessings and best wishes to you all for an Advent in which we become small and empty so Jesus can do great things through us. ~Fr. Chris



Tuesday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 AM at St. Mary of the Assumption in Cambridge and at 7:00 PM here at St. Thomas. Please plan to attend to honor our Holy Mother Mary

PARISH EVENTS

Sunday	12/6	Have a blessed week
Tuesday	12/8	5:30 PM - Confessions by appointment 7:30 PM - Knights of Columbus
Thursday	12/10	9:30 AM - No Social Concerns meeting
Saturday	12/12	**Second Collection - Retirement for Religious** 3:15 PM - Confessions

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

Missals and Offertory Envelopes

The 2021 Missals and offertory envelopes are available in the lobby of the church. Everything has 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 parish office at 899-4632.

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!

Christmas Food and Fruit Baskets



Please be generous for this important ministry for families at Christmas time. Staple food items, collected at Mass or on the Rectory porch until December 13, will be distributed to families in the parish & wider community who are experiencing difficulties during the Advent and Christmas seasons. In addition to staple foods the parish also provides a turkey and other items needed for a Christmas meal, fresh fruits, nuts and candy; and to those families with minor children, a gift card to purchase additional food, clothing, or a Christmas gift for their child. Please be generous with staple items and those food items that would make a Christmas dinner table special: cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, pie filling & crust mix, cake/brownie mix, etc. Donations of turkeys and money are also needed. Make checks payable to St. Thomas Church with "Food and Fruit Baskets" in the memo. For more info: Laura Lynch Wells 899-4632 or rel.ed@stthomasvt.com

Christ Our Hope

During the season of Thanksgiving, we often take time to reflect on our many blessings. With the Christ Our Hope campaign, we are especially grateful for those who have given their time and talents to help along the way. Many volunteers, office administrators, priests and deacons across the Diocese have shared their leadership, broad shoulders and love for their parish to help create the campaign foundation. Phone calls by volunteers and staff not only helped support the campaign and inform fellow parishioners, but perhaps were timely outreach to somebody in need of a conversation. And if a parishioner was not yet ready to make a campaign gift or pledge, a conversation maybe planted a seed for the future. We are building for the future of the Catholic Church in Vermont and want everybody to share in that excitement and vision. So we again thank those who were willing to serve others by sharing that message.

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.

On-Line Giving Option

St. Thomas is pleased to offer parishioners the option of on-line giving through eCatholic Giving. This option is for the convenience of parishioners, especially those who are unable to regularly attend weekend Mass at St. Thomas. There is a link on St. Thomas's new web site home page for those who are interested in participating (www.stthomasvt.com). If you are signed up under the old ParishSoft Online giving and would like to switch over to the new eCatholic Giving, please contact the parish office at 899-4632.

Coats for Kids

Gadue's Dry Cleaning has begun its annual "Coats for Kids" campaign. This year, need is greater than ever. Drop off your gently used coats, snow pants, hats, mittens, scarves and winter boots at any Gadue's Dry Cleaning location. 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).

"Jesus calls each of us to 'care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible' (EV 87). ...The encyclical The Gospel of Life recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the 'least of these' in our world's estimation."

*Excerpt from Evangelium vitae, © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission.

Readings For the Week



December 7

Memorial of St Ambrose,
Bishop and Doctor of the
Church

IS 35:1-10

LK 5:17-26

December 8

Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary

GN 3:9-15, 20

EPH 1:3-6, 11-12

LK 1:26-38

December 9

IS 40:25-31

MT 11:28-30

December 10

IS 41:13-20

MT 11:11-15

December 11

IS 48:17-19

MT 11:16-19

December 12

Feast of Our Lady
of Guadalupe

ZEC 2:14-17

LK 1:26-38

December 13

Third Sunday
of Advent

IS 61:1-2A, 10-11

LK 1:46-50, 53-54

1 THES 5:16-24

JN 1:6-8, 19-28



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



CORNERSTONE CONSTRUCTION, INC.
P.O. Box 178 Underhill Ctr, VT 05490



RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
BUILDING & REMODELING
Bill MacDonough

Phone: 802-343-9605
CornerstoneConstructionVT.com



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

Free Estimates

Fully Insured

WILL ESMAY PAINTING
Painting · Drywall · General Carpentry

WillEsmay@comcast.net
11 Covey Road, Underhill, VT 05489

(802) 858-9171
(802) 363-9671



PHIL POTVIN 27 MOOSE RUN
899-3305 UNDERHILL



REED'S QUALITY HEATING

(802) 899-4362

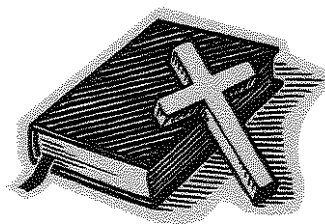
Personalized Efficient Service



John Reed
Licensed Service Technicians
PO Box 97
Jericho, VT 05465

• Oil furnace & boiler specialist
Install, service and clean
• Oil Tank Installations
• Plumbing repairs and water heaters

www.reedandbenoitqualityheating.com



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

Elegant Wood Floors



Robbe "Kibby" Pierce
owner

802-522-3710

WWW.ElegantWoodFloors.com

61 Lazy Brook Lane Jeffersonville, Vermont 05464

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

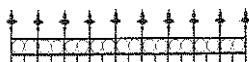
Are you interested in becoming a Catholic or interested in learning more about Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church? RCIA is the process by which adults are received into the church and receive the sacraments.

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
St. Thomas Cemeteries

Confirming



Their Faith



Chenette
REAL ESTATE

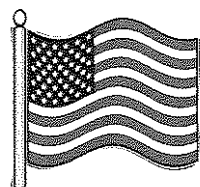
Dave Chenette Realtor/Broker
Business 802-264-1991 · Fax 802-318-4662
e-mail: Dave@DaveChenette.com
website: www.DaveChenette.com



PATTERSON
Fuels

Heating Oil · Propane · Service

P.O. Box 253 · Richmond, VT 05477
tel 800-427-9276 · fax 802-434-3518 · info@pattersonfuels.com



God
Bless
America

GIFFORD FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
Privately Owned

Eric J. Hanley · Roger St. Hilaire, Jr.
Serving All Denominations

(802) 434-2231 Fax (802) 434-7348
22 DEPOT ST., RICHMOND, VT 05477



Would you like to
place an ad in our bulletin?

Call the parish office
at 899-4632 for details.

Pierre Donzé Inc.

Plaster
Trowel Coatings
Construction Services



P.O. Box 264 Phone/Fax: 802-644-5425
Cambridge, VT 05444 Email: donzedonze@yahoo.com

First Step
PRINT SHOP

LIKE us on facebook

Orders@FirstStepPrintShop.com
Phone: 899-2708 Fax: 899-2021
22 Park St. · Underhill, VT 05489



Lamoureux & Dickinson
14 Morse Drive
Essex, VT 05452
878-4450 LDengineering.com

Land surveys Septic Design Subdivisions
Site Plans Wetland Delineation Permitting



Bob & Martha Pollak
Owners
802.899.3373

PO Box 303
81 VT Route 15
Jericho, VT 05465

www.snowflakechocolate.com