



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

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
MON	No Mass
TUES	5:30 PM - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:30 PM - Mass for the repose of the soul of George Vincent Lawler requested by Tom and Kelly Bartlett
WED	6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
THUR	8:00 AM - Mass for the repose of the soul of George Lawler requested by Paul and Lucy Bathalon
FRI	8:00 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
December 19	
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
December 20	
SUN	8:05 AM - Rosary 8:30 AM- Mass for the repose of the soul of Angela Wilder requested by the Knights of Columbus 10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

<u>Ministry Schedule</u> <u>December 19 & 20</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	T May	NONE
8:30 AM SUNDAY	NONE	M Girouard	NONE



Sign Up For The Christmas Mass of Your Choice

The 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve is full. We are in the process of trying to arrange for overflow seating in the parish hall with a closed circuit TV Mass, but we are still requiring registration. There are 4 other Masses being celebrated between St. Thomas and St. Marys so please let us know when/where you would like to attend: 7:00 PM Christmas Eve (St. Marys), Midnight Christmas Eve (St. Marys), 9:00 AM Christmas Day (St. Thomas), and 11:00 AM Christmas Day (St. Marys). Seating will be limited so please call as soon as possible. St. Thomas has 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. St. Mary's does not have online registration but you can call Cathy to register at 644-5073

Second Collection Next Weekend

Make a difference. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps US religious communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Thank you for your generosity.

Stewardship December 5 & 6, 2020

Weekly Budgeted Goal:\$ 2,618.62
Regular Collection: ...(incl. \$1,126 On-Line Giving)...\$ 4,107.00

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

"...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel." (Genesis 3:15)

When I was younger, a girl friend and I were exploring an old trunk of a fallen tree – bad idea. It seemed like out of nowhere a swarm of yellow jackets attacked us. Pursuing us as we ran full steam to our homes. They were relentless; never giving up the attack until we were far from their supposed nest we invaded. Life is a battle. It seems that no sooner than one thing “attacks” us something else is rearing its ugly head. We have been in a battle this year fighting against many foes, one being a virus, another the angst of a country in which things just don’t seem right, not headed in the right direction. We hear on the international level that there needs to be a “reset”. What that means varies but it appears that this reorganization of the planet is proceeding on a course that has no place for Christ or organized religion. As Christians we fight not only the battle of life with its mundane concerns of bill paying, health concerns, etc. we are in a spiritual battle: the basic order of life, the family, faith and freedom are at stake. The origin of disruption of human life began with the choice of Adam and Eve. They, believing that they could reason for themselves what is right and wrong instead of relying on the Creator for this understanding, plunged the world into waves of disorder, chaos and destruction. The root cause of wars and conflicts among peoples is selfish, material gain. “Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and cannot obtain it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?” (James 3:1-4) According to St. James any reset has to be on the spiritual level. It all starts in the human heart and soul, from within the person not without. Our real battle starts with each and every one of us. We are at war within our souls, the spirit and body are at battle and there is great conflict within us. This past Wednesday was the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was she, the first human created by God, who began the battle against the Evil One and his kingdom of lies, chaos and death. The reordering of society that will bring peace and happiness is the one ushered in by Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. With Our Lady’s consent they are reversing the chase: the bees will flee. Our job as Christians is to grow in the holiness, wisdom and love of God to assist with pushing back the insects of a sinful beehive that has been stinging the world from the beginning. The Good News is that no matter how difficult and discouraging things may get in the interim the beehive gets defeated. With Our Lady’s fiat or willful submission to God the Father, the “curse of mankind is being reversed”. We as Christians must do the same. It all comes down to simply submitting to the will of God in our lives. If we do so not only will we come to peace within our souls and the true “reset” will become a reality. ~Fr. Chris

PARISH EVENTS

Sunday	12/13	Have a blessed week
Tuesday	12/15	5:30 PM - Confessions by appointment 5:30 PM - Adoration 7:00 PM - Finance Council
Thursday	12/17	9:30 AM - No in-person Social Concerns meeting
Saturday	12/19	3:15 PM - Confessions


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

Christmas stocking

Tags are still available from the Christmas Stocking at the entrance of the church to purchase personal care items for the food shelf. This is an easy and inexpensive way to help our neighbors this time of year. Distribution is Saturday, December 19. 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 20, 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

Have you been thinking about a gift or pledge to the Christ Our Hope campaign? There is still time to join thousands across the Diocese who already have made donations. With your help at St. Thomas Parish the gifts and pledges received so far have moved us closer to funding the balance of the Vision 2020 projects. The Christ Our Hope campaign is focused on building vibrant parishes, and we pray that our projects will strengthen us for the future. You can return your completed pledge form or go online to christourhopevt.org/donate to make a gift.



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.



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.

"Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother."
Learn ten tips at respectlife.org/support-her. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Readings For the Week



December 14

Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, priest and doctor of the Church

NM 24:2-7, 15-17A

MT 21:23-27

December 15

PS 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 AND 23

MT 21:28-32

December 16

IS 45:6C-8, 18, 21C-25

LK 7:18B-23

December 17

GN 49:2, 8-10

MT 1:1-17

December 18

JER 23:5-8

MT 1:18-25

December 19

JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A

LK 1:5-25

December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

ROM 16:25-27

LK 1:26-38



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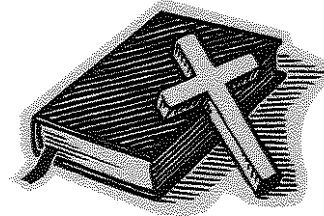
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For prayers answered
Most holy Apostle St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered the beloved Master into the hands of His enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes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

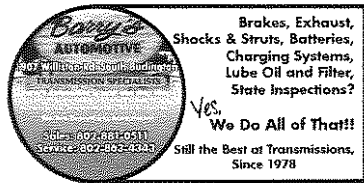
Invite them to come to Holy Mass with you and
never stop praying for them.

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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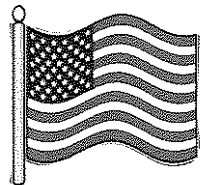
Confirming
Their Faith



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