



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 26

SAT 4:00 PM - Mass for the repose of the soul of Roger Nadeau requested by Diana and family
6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

December 27

SUN 8:05 AM - Rosary
8:30 AM- Mass for the repose of the soul of Marcel and Greg Lehouiller requested by Joan Lehouiller and family
10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

MON No Mass

TUES No Mass

WED No Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

THU New Year's Eve

4:00 PM - Mass for the repose of the soul of Jacqueline McDermott requested by Laura Lynch Wells

FRI Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

January 2

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

January 3

SUN 8:05 AM - Rosary
8:30 AM- Mass for the repose of the soul of Ross and Loretta Lassandro requested by Mark and Marilyn Frederick
10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

Message from Fr. Christopher Micale

(reprinted from December 2017)

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven... (Matthew 5:3)

It's amazing to me how mankind, cut off from God, can think so contrary to His nature, reason and purpose. Let's consider this. The world around us begins to celebrate "Christmas" as soon as the turkey is consumed at Thanksgiving, yet the Church understands that the Christmas season begins at midnight on the 24th. The world sees this time as a time to "party hearty", yet the Church understands this time to be one of quiet, contemplative period, a "less is more" approach. The world goes insane over gift giving to the point of coming to blows over a particular item at a department store. It's the biggest, the best, the newest, the most expensive (how many commercials on television promote luxury cars at this time! Come on... a Lexus for Christmas?!) Yet the Church understands that Christ came to earth in poverty, simplicity and humility. The Beatitudes, the "beautiful attitudes" that we hear pronounced from Jesus' lips are all rooted in the very first beatitude, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." It's simply in poverty of spirit, in other words, the realization that we have, of our own, nothing to offer God. That we are empty without Him; that we cannot accomplish anything of lasting value without Him, that the knowledge and the physical goods we possess amount to nothing, that the world in all its ecological, economic, political, and social chaos cannot be ordered without Him. Jesus the Christ, who was, before time, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Word through whom all exists, simply gave it all up to be with us, Emmanuel. Without this premise from which to start all else is useless, yet in essence mankind has chosen to exult itself. In essence the modern world's mantra is "all we need is a bit more time and money and we can resolve all the issues that confront us". The humility of Jesus is beyond our true comprehension, but that same humility is rooted in the Incarnation, or the taking on of our flesh, our nature. I don't know about you, but as I age I'd rather be super-human than deal with the creaks, stiffness and fatigue I feel more often than I did when I was twenty something. Yet Jesus shows His great love for us by "pitching His tent with us" and enduring all that comes with being human. It is only through poverty that we can achieve the riches of the kingdom. Our Lady's example says it all, "Behold the handmaiden of the Lord, be it unto me according to your word..." Simplicity and humility of heart, that's all it takes for God to do wondrous things as Mary's Magnificat resounds, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord...He has looked with favor on His lowly servant..." In the end it comes down to one thing: the humble heart open and ready to receive the Humble King, the Lover of our souls. There's a beautiful Anglican Christmas carol that sums it all up. "What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him - Give my heart." (In the Bleak Midwinter, Christina G. Rossetti, Gustav Holst) O come let us adore Him, Christ the King!
~Fr. Chris

Ministry Schedule New Year's Eve & January 2 / 3

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Lectors

Altar Servers

4:00 PM NEW YEAR'S
EVE

NONE

L Berard

NONE

4:00 PM SATURDAY

NONE

T May

NONE

8:30 AM SUNDAY

NONE

M Girouard

NONE

Lector Books



The 2021 Lector books are available for lectors to take home. They are in a stack but the handicap entrance door. We have extras so even if you didn't order one, there are enough for all lectors.

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.



Stewardship - December 19 & 20, 2020

Weekly Budgeted Goal:\$ 2,618.62

Regular Collection: ... (incl. \$375 On-Line Giving)\$ 3,395.00

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.

PARISH EVENTS

Tuesday 12/29 NO Confessions
Saturday 01/02 3:15 PM - Confessions



*Donations for Christmas
Flowers have been made in
memory of the following:*

<i>Roger Nadeau</i>	<i>Irv & Ann Wejroch</i>
<i>William & Ada Dufresne</i>	<i>Al & Pat May</i>
<i>Emanuel & Celinda Nadeau</i>	<i>The Jacobs Family</i>
<i>Baker Family</i>	<i>The Wrigley Family</i>
<i>Moodie Family</i>	<i>Elizabeth Fitzgerald</i>
<i>Celine Leblanc</i>	<i>Elizabeth Honeycraft</i>
<i>Joyce Harrison</i>	<i>Mary & Maurice Fustace</i>
<i>Floyd Scott, Sr.</i>	<i>Kathleen Foley</i>
<i>Genevieve Blakey</i>	<i>William & Ruth Claghorn</i>
<i>Roger Bathalon</i>	<i>The Nadeau Family</i>
<i>Rolande Bathalon</i>	<i>The Boutiere Family</i>
<i>Celine Leblanc</i>	<i>Deceased family of Bob &</i>
<i>Deceased members of the</i>	<i>Martha Pollak</i>
<i>Pollak/Belton Families</i>	<i>The Family of Cynthia</i>
<i>Patrick McCarthy</i>	<i>Wrigley</i>
<i>Maynard & Theresa Child</i>	<i>The Family of Mike and</i>
<i>Judy Bernasconi</i>	<i>Patty Jacobs</i>

*We would like to thank all those who gave a donation to our
Christmas Memorial Flower Fund.*

Christmas Food and Fruit Baskets:

Thank you to all those who contributed staple foods, turkeys, and money to support the Christmas distribution of food baskets to families in need in the parish and wider community. We are still in need of monetary donations to cover the expense of fresh fruit, candy, cookies, and gift cards. We would also like to thank all those who volunteered to assemble the baskets: Karen Claghorn, Teri Gingras, and Nicole Kerwin. And much thanks to all those who have been working so diligently on the parish hall for making space for this project. God bless you all and have a very happy Christmas season!

Huge Thank you!

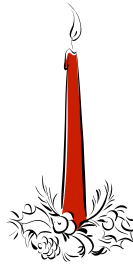
Doesn't our parish hall look lovely? Thank you to Steve Haupt for organizing the parish hall in time for Christmas. He has worked diligently figuring out where to put all our supplies. He has a place to put everything thanks to Mike Nadeau and his crew—Ray Nadeau and Karen Millette. Kudos for a job well done!

Church Decorations

Thank you as well to all those merry elves that helped Diane Pollak to decorate the church after Mass last weekend. The tree looks festive and the church is ready to welcome our Lord Jesus!

Helping Homeless Vets

The University of Vermont Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) is looking for those at risk of homelessness. The SSVF at UVM is a housing first program that provides a number of services to veterans and their families such as housing navigation, case management, temporary financial assistance, resource and referral, budgeting, employment support, assistance with applying for health insurance, state benefits including help with a child care subsidy and 3Squares, landlord liaising, VA benefit connections and SOAR Services (SSI/SSDI process) to those who are literally homeless or are at risk of losing housing. If you or someone you know is in need of their services, call the SSVF at 802-656-3232 or toll free 844-820-3232.



SANCTUARY CANDLE
Week of December 26:

*In loving memory of all
deceased children of
St. Thomas and
St. Mary's Parishes*

Requested by the family of
Marcel and Greg Lehouiller

**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.
- 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.

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Christ Our Hope

To our *Christ Our Hope* campaign supporters, we offer a sincere thanks during this giving season. If you are still praying over your decision and discerning how you might help, please know that soon you will receive a follow-up mailing asking to consider a gift. You can return your completed pledge form or go online to christourhopevt.org/donate to make a gift. Your donation of any size will help address our needs at St. Thomas Parish but also support fellow Catholics across the state.

"Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance."
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

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, Jay Tisbert, Lawrence Lecours, Don Gingras, Deacon Gerry Scilla, Rosemary Breen, Robert Black, Barb Juell, Patricia Stone, Jim Meadows, Diane Dufresne, Amy Gratton, Joyce Fleury, Peter Richards 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.

**Readings
For the Week**



December 28

Feast of the Holy Innocents,
martyrs

1 JN 1:5—2:2
MT 2:13-18

December 29

1 JN 2:3-11
LK 2:22-35

December 30

1 JN 2:12-17
LK 2:36-40

December 31

1 JN 2:18-21
JN 1:1-18

January 1

Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God
NM 6:22-27

PS 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
GAL 4:4-7
LK 2:16-21

January 2

Memorial of Saints Basil the
Great and Gregory
Nazianzen, Bishops and
Doctors of the Church

1 JN 2:22-28
JN 1:19-28

January 3

**The Epiphany of
the Lord**

IS 60:1-6
PS 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-
11, 12-13
EPH 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12



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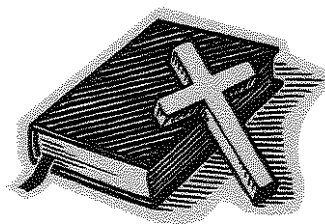
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For prayers answered
Most holy Apostle St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered the beloved Master into the hands of His enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes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

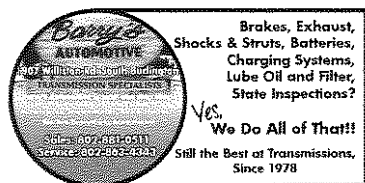


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St. Thomas Cemeteries

Confirming



Their Faith



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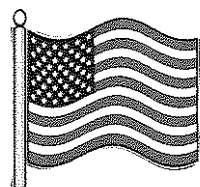
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