



# 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](mailto:office@stthomasvt.com)  
Parish Website: [www.stthomasvt.com](http://www.stthomasvt.com)

Religious Education: 899-4770  
E-Mail: [rel.ed@stthomasvt.com](mailto: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

February 13 SAT	4:00 PM - Mass for the repose of the soul of Patrick McCarthy requested by Thomas and Joan Hussey 6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
February 14 SUN	8:05 AM - Rosary 8:30 AM- Mass for the repose of the soul of Peter Richard requested by the St. Thomas Knights of Columbus 10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
MON	No Mass
TUES	6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary's for the repose of the soul of Patrick McCarthy requested by the St. Thomas Knights of Columbus
<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	
WED	6:00 AM - Mass for the Parishioners of St. Thomas and St. Mary's Parishes 9:00 AM - Mass at Mary of the Assumption 7:00 PM - Mass for the Repose of the soul of Clifford Provost requested by Gail Nadeau
THU	8:00 AM - Mass for Peter A. Micale
FRI	8:00 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
February 20 SAT	4:00 PM - Mass for the repose of the soul of Dorothy Cormier requested by Dan and Elizabeth MacDonald 6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
February 21 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

Ministry Schedule February 20 & 21	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lectors	Altar Servers
4:00 PM SATURDAY	NONE	L Berard	NONE
8:30 AM SUNDAY	NONE	L Wells	NONE

### Fish Dinner Takeout—Friday, February 19

There will be a fish dinner takeout on the first Friday in lent, February 19. The menu for adults will include Lemon Dill glazed Haddock, wild rice, green beans, and coleslaw, roll, and desert, for \$12. Children's meals will include fish sticks, tater tots, coleslaw, & green beans, roll, and desert, for \$8. Tickets will be on sale after all weekend Masses, at Wells Corner Market, Snowflake Chocolates, or by calling the parish office at 899-4632. All proceeds will be used for the handicap access bathroom renovation. If you would like to donate a desert (cookies & brownies) or other food item, please call the office or sign up at <https://stthomasparishvt.bringit.bz/public/a8eae0>



### Spam Emails from "Fr. Micale"

Please beware of spam emails coming from "Fr. Micale". Our email list has NOT been compromised but some businesses we list on our bulletin have received these fake emails. Just ignore and delete. Thank you.

### Stewardship - February 6 & 7, 2021

Weekly Budgeted Goal: .....\$ 2,618.62  
Regular Collection: ... (incl. \$713 On-Line Giving) .....\$ 2,092.00

Please give online at [www.stthomasvt.com/donate](http://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

*"This people honors me with their lips but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts" (Jesus in Mark 7:6 quoting Isaiah 29:13)*

Most of us have a normal routine that we follow give or take a bit here and there. We rise in the morning at the same time and go through the same actions pretty much in the same way day after day. Couple this with the grind of the cold, dark and gray days of winter and it's very easy to go on automatic pilot without much thought or introspection. As in the routine of our physical and occupational endeavors our spiritual life can pretty much fall into the same rut without much thoughtfulness occurring. In the Gospel this week Jesus calls out the Pharisees again. They are yet again criticizing Christ for not sticking to the Jewish tradition of being fastidious when it came to hygiene, especially concerning meal preparation and sanitation. The question is asked, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?" Our Lord then lambastes them by pointing to their hypocrisy regarding the care of their parents. The Jews had worked up a crafty fiscal scheme to avoid using their personal resources to assist their aging mothers and fathers. By announcing that certain finances were dedicated to the temple as a sacrifice and were set-aside for this purpose, they avoided supporting mom and dad and by doing so cancelled out the Commandment to honor father and mother. Traditions can be a very good thing especially when they bring people together in love and service to each other. The tradition of preparing food baskets for the poor at Thanksgiving or Christmas is such a tradition. In addition many various cultural traditions families have at holiday time are very uplifting and serve the purpose of unity and solidarity. Yet like anything else, traditions if not purposed for the benefit of mankind, can become millstones around the neck that prevent us from acting out the true goal of love and service to God and neighbor. The Pharisees created their own traditions, in fact hundreds of laws that burdened the Jewish people, creating a barrier between them and God rather than bringing them in closer relationship with Him. This is what Christ is speaking to when He talks about the traditions or human precepts that are used to control and manipulate rather than increasing the flourishing of the person both physically and spiritually. As we approach the penitential season of Lent we will engage in the discipline acts of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. While these are greatly beneficial to our spiritual growth and development they must be directed toward the true end of all our actions, attitudes and thought processes; that is strengthening of our relationship with the Holy Trinity. If our goal becomes focused on losing weight by not eating chocolate and dessert (however good that may be) we have missed the point entirely. Let us enter Lent with the right attitude of drawing closer to God in every way so that at Easter time we will have grown in our love and service to our Creator and our fellow citizens, those of the Kingdom of Heaven as well as citizens of our nation and local community.

~Fr. Chris

## PARISH EVENTS

Saturday	2/13	3:15 PM - Confessions
Tuesday	2/16	5:30 PM - Confessions 7:00 PM - Finance Council Meeting—Zoom
Thursday	2/18	9:30 AM - Social Concerns Group 6:30 PM - Food Shelf Setup at GSLC 7:00 PM - Cub Scouts
Friday	2/19	4:30—6:00 PM - <b>Baked Fish Dinner - Take Out</b> 6:30 PM - Vespers (St. Marys) 7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross (St. Marys)
Saturday	2/20	9:30 PM - Food Shelf Distribution at GSLC 3:15 PM - Confessions
Sunday	2/21	**Second Collection - Church Maintenance**

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

#### From the Diocese of Burlington

[vermontcatholic.org/tvmass](http://vermontcatholic.org/tvmass)

Live Stream: Daily (Monday-Thursday)

Eucharistic Adoration, 11:30AM - 12:00PM

Mass, 12:05PM

Sunday Mass, 10:00AM

Daily online rosary—email [vparzyck@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:vparzyck@vermontcatholic.org)

#### Ash Wednesday Almsgiving Collection

There will be a special collection on Ash Wednesday to support Vermont Catholic Charities. This agency provides financial and emotional support to individuals and families throughout Vermont through the programs offered which include Counseling, Emergency Aid, Prison Ministry, and Residential Care Homes. Donations can be made through the diocese website <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/ministries-programs/catholic-charities/ash-wednesday-appeal/> or by mailing a check to Vermont Catholic Charities, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403. Please know that every gift—whatever the size—makes a difference. Thank you for your generosity.

#### Order of Blessing of a Home in Time of Pandemic

A blessing can be given by a priest or deacon in a Covid-safe way, from the front yard or front porch and does not involve entering the house. This is an opportunity for the Church to go out to the people in the community and their homes, accompanying them with the Lord's blessings during this time. Parishioners are invited to request this blessing by calling the parish office at 899-4632.

#### Essex Jericho Underhill Food Shelf

*Our next distribution is on February 20 @ 9:00am*

They have modified their distribution so that each family receives 5 bags of prefilled groceries delivered to their car. This prevents too many people in an enclosed space. Non-perishable items to donate are: cereal, pasta sauce, peanut butter, mac & cheese, baked beans, canned fruits and vegetables. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please mail it to: EJU Food Shelf, PO Box 65, Jericho, VT 05465. *Thank you to all of our generous parishioners who donated personal care items over the Christmas holiday. 339 items were collected during this time.*

**Saint Michael the Archangel**, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

#### 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.

#### Challenges to Grow Your Marriage

Weekly challenges for married couples to spend time together. Weekly challenges can be found by visiting the diocese of Burlington's website : <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/ministries-programs/marriage-family/marriage-enrichment/>

#### Rental Needed

Parishioner Donna Kunkel is returning this summer for the period around June-October. Her primary residence for the last 43 years was in Jericho. She desires to rent in a quiet area on the main floor, a small house, condo, or mother in-law apartment furnished with the basics with a separate entrance; or to house sit in Jericho, Essex, Essex Jct., Underhill or a nearby area. She doesn't smoke, drink or have pets. References are available. If you, or friends, know of a rental, please contact Donna's email: [Donnakunkel54@gmail.com](mailto:Donnakunkel54@gmail.com)

#### Returnable Bottle Donations

Thank you to all parishioners supporting the Religious Education Program through the donation of redeemable bottles and cans in the collection bin at the rectory. Thanks to our Confirmation students and their families who return them and get the money to the church. Redeemable bottles and cans must be clean.

#### Please Consider Online Giving

Visit our website to sign up and begin contribution automatically to your parish. This convenient system does not require you to contact your bank to sign up or make changes. You can use your checking, savings, or credit/debit card account and the funds will be automatically transferred to our parish bank account. Go to [www.stthomasvt.com](http://www.stthomasvt.com) and click the 'Online Giving' icon to get started. Please call the parish office with any questions 899-4632.

#### Diocese of Burlington Young Adult Email List

The diocese wants to connect with you! Please fill out this brief contact information form so they can keep in touch about opportunities for young adults in Vermont: <https://forms.gle/uBtjF7kGYUMQHbEV8>. If you know a young adult who may be interested, please refer them to this form! Facebook is our most frequently used means of communication.

"Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together."

*USCCB, Married Love and the Gift of Life*

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, , Barb Juell, Patricia Stone, Jim Meadows, Diane Dufresne, Amy Gratton, Joyce Fleury, Aline Lehouiller, Theresa Nadeau, Tim Clark, and all those preparing for or recovering from surgery.

**DECEASED:** For all who have died, especially Robert Black, Bernard Kellner, Pete Richard, and all deceased members of St. Thomas & St. Mary's Parishes.

## **Readings For the Week**

### February 15

Gn 4:1-15, 25

Mk 8:11-13

### February 16

Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10

Mk 8:14-21

### February 17

#### **Ash Wednesday**

Jl 2:12-18

51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-

13, 14 and 17

2 Cor 5:20—6:2

Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

### February 18

Dt 30:15-20

Lk 9:22-25

### February 19

Is 58:1-9a

Mt 9:14-15

### February 20

Is 58:9b-14

Lk 5:27-32

### February 21

#### **First Sunday**

#### **Of Lent**

Gn 9:8-15

Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

1 Pt 3:18-22

Mk 1:12-15

National Marriage Week USA  
MARRIAGE IS WORTH IT! • EVERY FEB 7-14



As husband and wife, may we remember to have and to hold... for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do us part.

Order of Celebrating Marriage, 2nd Edition

## 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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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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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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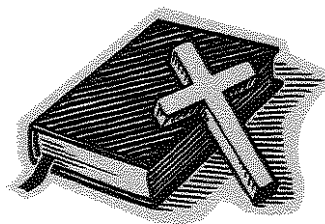
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Do you have friends and family members who  
no longer practice our Catholic Faith?

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

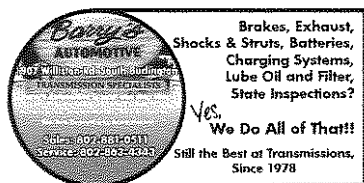


Benefactor of the  
St. Thomas Cemeteries

Confirming



Their Faith



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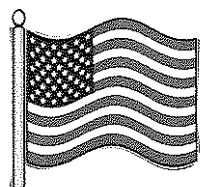
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