



# 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)

## 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

**February 27**  
**SAT** 4:00 PM - Mass for the Health and Wellbeing of Stephanie O'Neil requested by her parents John and Genie O'Neil  
 6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

**February 28**  
**SUN** 8:05 AM - Rosary  
 8:30 AM- Mass for the repose of the soul George Vincent Lawler requested by Tom and Kelly Bartlett  
 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 Richard Rhatigan requested by Steve and Eileen Haupt

**WED** 6:30 PM - Mass at Mary of the Assumption

**THU** 8:00 AM - Mass for the repose of the soul of JoAnn Konczal requested by the Konczal family

**FRI** 8:00 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

**March 6**  
**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

**March 7**  
**SUN** 8:05 AM - Rosary  
 8:30 AM- Mass for the repose of the soul Patrick McCarthy requested by Brian and Patrice Rogers  
 10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

### Message from Fr. Christopher Micale

*"And God saw everything that he had made and behold, it was very good." (Genesis 1:31a)*

I have often heard from individuals this popular declaration: "I'm spiritual but not religious" meaning the person is not into formalized approaches to religion. The indication is that they can find God anywhere they don't need to go to a church building, that the person is not limited to the material world that his or her enlightenment comes detached from the physical reality in which he or she lives. There was an ancient heresy that infected the Church many centuries ago called Gnosticism. This error held that a small segment of the general population was superior and spiritually enlightened above the rest. There was a dualism in their understanding espousing the belief that the universe was of two dimensions, the material and the spiritual. The goal was to attain spiritual acumen at the detriment of the physical. Therefore the two realms were opposing. What evolved was the labeling of the physical as evil and the spiritual as the good. To be enlightened spiritually was the goal, the physical was of no use. Therefore the physical, in particular the body it was of no importance. Coming to our time in history we must avoid the new Gnosticism or dualism about the physical and the spiritual. In the book of Genesis we see that God created the material world and said it was good. The physical world is not evil. The real problem lies in how we use the material because everything God creates is good. So it is in the Christian life. The Catholic understanding emphasizes the goodness of physical things through the sacramental life of the Church. The sacraments utilize physical elements, such as bread and wine, to convey the spiritual. Behind the physical object we visibly see is a greater spiritual reality, thus the importance of both physical and spiritual working in harmony to transmit the grace of God to each and every one of us. God created mankind as a composite being consisting of both the physical body and the spirit therefore the sacraments are uniquely created by Jesus Christ to coincide with this reality. This is why it was so important for Catholic churches to be reopened during the pandemic. Catholics are a sacramental people. We need the sacraments to grow in grace and holiness. For many Christians the spirit is emphasized over the physical and meeting together becomes less of an issue, thus many places of worship still remain closed. Catholics understand that although prayer and a relationship with God can occur outside a public worship service it is through the union of the physical and spiritual, both the physical community as well as the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist at Mass, that we come into true communion with God and the saints in heaven. Being alone on a mountaintop might make us feel connected to God in a special way but feelings are slippery things that change depending on our moods; they are not good barometers of our spiritual condition. Understanding the goodness of the physical and its connection to the spirit helps us to see the importance of being at Mass on Sunday, for there is no substitute no matter how "spiritual" we may think we are.

~Fr. Chris

| <u>Ministry Schedule</u><br><u>March 6 &amp; 7</u> | <u>Extraordinary</u><br><u>Ministers of</u><br><u>Holy Communion</u> | <u>Lectors</u> | <u>Altar</u><br><u>Servers</u> |
|--|--|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 4:00 PM SATURDAY                                   | NONE   | L Berard       | NONE                           |
| 8:30 AM SUNDAY                                     | NONE   | L Wells        | NONE                           |

### The Church Eastern Europe

This week, our second collection supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your donation today helps restore the Church and build the future in more than 20 countries still struggling to recover from Communist rule. Funds from this collection support reconstruction, education, formation, and poverty outreach. Please be generous to the collection today. For more information, please visit [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee).

### The Prayer Chain

If you have a need for prayers for any reason, a group of parishioners have agreed to pray for your intentions. You may give as much or as little information as you wish. Please contact Sandy Gosselin at 899-2060 or e-mail her at [StThomasPrayers@aol.com](mailto:StThomasPrayers@aol.com).

### Stewardship - February 20 & 21, 2021

Weekly Budgeted Goal: .....\$ 2,618.62  
 Regular Collection: ... (incl. \$418 On-Line Giving) .....\$ 4,736.00  
 Second Collection - Church Maintenance: .....\$ 650.00  
 Ash Wednesday - VT Catholic Charities: .....\$ 194.00

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.

### PARISH EVENTS

|          |     |  |
|----------|-----|--|
| Tuesday  | 3/2 | 5:30 PM - Confessions & Adoration<br>7:00 PM - Parish Council Zoom           |
| Thursday | 3/4 | 9:30 AM - Social Concerns Group  |
| Friday   | 3/5 | 6:30 PM - Vespers (St. Marys)<br>7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross (St. Marys) |
| Saturday | 3/6 | 3:15 PM - Confessions  |



**Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God.**

Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) #2226

**Make faith formation a lifelong effort.**

**Faith formation should not end at Confirmation.**



### Virtual Concert

A virtual Christian concert will be held Friday, March 12th at 7:30 PM, featuring Ryan Tremblay (RyanTremblayMusic.com) to benefit Kurn Hatin Homes for Children in Westminster, VT. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at [bit.ly/2MrasmD](http://bit.ly/2MrasmD). Since 1894, Kurn Hattin Homes for Children has helped thousands of children and families by offering a safe home and quality education in a nurturing environment. This event will be sponsored by The St. Nicholas Project. For more information, please visit <https://kurnhatten.org/>

### Residential Care Home

Rooms and Suites available: St. Joseph's Residential Care Home, operated by Vermont Catholic Charities, is a small home-like community that provides personal care, medication management, home cooked meals, nursing overview, and a wide array of activities. Our dedicated staff supports the needs of the whole person - physical, emotional, social and spiritual. For more information or to schedule a tour of the home, please call (802) 864-0264.

### Looking Ahead

The St. Thomas Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring another take-out meal in March. It is being planned for Sunday, March 14th and the menu will include Corned Beef and Cabbage in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Keep an eye on the bulletin for more information in the coming weeks. The K of C wishes to thank those who helped with the fish dinner last weekend, and all those who purchased a meal. The Knights raised over \$1600 to benefit our handicap bathroom renovations.

**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.

### K of C Scholarships Available

Three \$500 scholarships are available from the Knights of Columbus Bishop Rice Council and Assembly affiliated with this Parish. To be eligible to compete for one of these Scholarships applicants must graduate from High School during 2021 and attend an accredited postsecondary college or institution commencing in the Fall of 2021. In addition, the applicant must either be a member of one of the parishes in the Bishop Rice Council and Assembly, or be the child or grandchild of a member of the Knights of Columbus Bishop Rice Council or Bishop Rice Assembly. Information is also available on the @KoCofEssexVT Facebook page. You may also contact the council scholarship chairman, Scott Turnbull at [turnbull\\_vt@comcast.net](mailto:turnbull_vt@comcast.net) or 802-879-5231

### 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)

### Meat Pie and Pea Soup Dinner

A Homemade French-Canadian Meat Pie and Pea Soup Sale will be offered on Saturday March 20th by the K of C Rosary Council 4684 of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish of Richmond. Advanced orders are required: 9 inch meat pies for \$15 each and 1 quart of pea soup for \$5 each. Items will be available for pick-up at OLHR Parish Hall in Richmond from 5 - 6:30 PM on the 20th. Quantities are limited, so order early. Please call Paul at 802-316-8791 to place an order or order online <https://tinyurl.com/KnightsFrenchCanadian>. Orders will be accepted up to March 14th if items are still available.

### 2021 Offertory Envelopes

There are still many boxes of 2021 offertory envelopes that have not been picked up. They will be moved to the rectory porch for pick up and an email will be sent as a reminder. If you no longer want/need offertory envelopes, or would like to start using them, please call the office to notify us.

"The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is cherished."

*USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Respect Life  
Reflection: Cherished, Chosen, Sent [usccb.org/cherished](http://usccb.org/cherished)  
-chosen-sent-reflection*

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 Lehouillier, 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**



### March 1

Dn 9:4b-10  
Lk 6:36-38

### March 2

Is 1:10, 16-20  
Mt 23:1-12

### March 3

Jer 18:18-20  
Mt 20:17-28

### March 4

Jer 17:5-10  
Lk 16:19-31

### March 5

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a,  
17b-28a  
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

### March 6

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20  
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

### March 7 Third Sunday Of Lent

Ex 17:3-7  
Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9  
Rom 5:1-2, 5-8  
Jn 4:5-42



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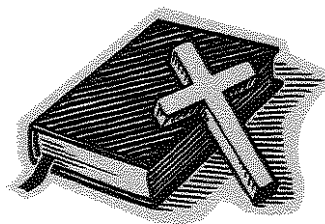
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Do you have friends and family members who  
no longer practice our Catholic Faith?

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

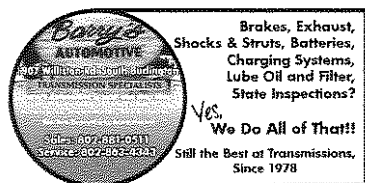


Benefactor of the  
St. Thomas Cemeteries

Confirming



Their Faith



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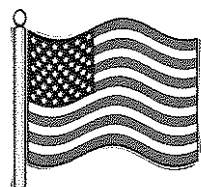
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