



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. Richard CalapanAdministrator
Rev. Mr. Peter Brooks..... Deacon
Theresa Gingras..... Secretary
Laura Lynch WellsRel. Ed. Coordinator
Patrice Rogers - 399-6226.....Music Ministry

St. Thomas Cemeteries

Range Rd., Irish Settlement Rd., Pleasant Valley Rd.
Nate Sullivan899-4732
Tim Clark735-7341

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 4	
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 5	The Second Sunday of Advent
SUN	8:05 AM - Rosary 8:30 AM- Mass for Donald, Ronald & Paul Potvin Requested by the Tim Potvin Family 10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
MON	6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
TUES	6:30 PM - Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception for the repose of the soul of Elizabeth Dolen requested by Steve & Eileen Haupt
WED	8:00 AM - Holy Day Mass at St. Mary's for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
THU	NO Mass
FRI	8:00 AM - Mass for the spiritual and physical health and wellbeing of Rene & Barbara Desany
December 11	
SAT	4:00 PM - Mass for the repose of the soul of Steve Manion requested by Patrick & Jean Burke 6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
December 12	The Third Sunday of Advent
SUN	8:05 AM - Rosary 8:30 AM- Mass for the repose of the soul of Charles Monet requested by the Tim Potvin family 10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption

<u>Ministry Schedule</u> <u>December 11 & 12</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	Please help!	NONE
8:30 AM SUNDAY	NONE	L Wells	NONE

FORMED

St. Thomas Parish has joined many other parishes in our area by signing up for the Catholic online service FORMED from St. Augustine Institute. FORMED provides the very best Catholic content from more than 60 organizations to help parishes, families, and individuals explore their faith from anywhere. Supporting thousands of movies, children's programs, ebooks, audio, parish programs, and studies direct to your browser, mobile, or connected device. Visit <https://formed.org/> and select "Sign up as a parishioner". Find St Thomas by parish name, address, or zip code. Enter your email—and you're in! No password is needed.

Give in gratitude

A donor to the Retirement Fund for Religious writes, "I still remember the lessons the sisters gave us and how they instilled in us the love of our faith." Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift to next week's second collection helps provide care, medicine, and more. Please be generous.

Stewardship - November 27 & 28, 2021

Weekly Budgeted Goal:\$ 2,730.77
Regular Collection: ...(incl. \$906 On-Line Giving).....\$ 2,878.00

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.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary December 8 is a Holy Day of Obligation.

The Immaculate Conception is a Catholic dogma that states that Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain. That's what "immaculate" means: without stain. Some people think the term refers to Christ's conception, but that is the Virgin Birth.

The essence of original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace (the gift of holiness and eternal life), and its stain is the tendency to sin. Mary was preserved from these defects by God's grace; from the first instant of her existence she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings.

In the Bible an implicit reference to the Immaculate Conception may be found in the angel's greeting to Mary. The angel Gabriel said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28). "Full of grace" expresses a characteristic quality of Mary.

The grace given to Mary is at once permanent and of a unique kind. Kecharitomene, the word translated from the Greek, is a perfect passive participle of charitoo, meaning "to fill or endow with grace." Since this term is in the perfect tense, it indicates that Mary was graced in the past but with continuing effects in the present. So, the grace Mary enjoyed was not a result of the angel's visit. In fact, Catholics hold, it extended over the whole of her life, from conception onward. She was in a state of sanctifying grace from the first moment of her existence.

But Mary still required a Savior. By a special intervention of God, undertaken at the instant she was conceived, she was preserved from the stain of original sin and its consequences. She was therefore redeemed by the grace of Christ, but in a special way—by anticipation.

Consider an analogy: Suppose a man falls into a deep pit, and someone reaches down to pull him out. The man has been "saved" from the pit. Now imagine a woman walking along, and she too is about to topple into the pit, but at the very moment that she is to fall in, someone holds her back and prevents her. She too has been saved from the pit, but in an even better way: She was not simply taken out of the pit, she was prevented from getting stained by the mud in the first place. This is the illustration Christians have used for a thousand years to explain how Mary was saved by Christ. By receiving Christ's grace at her conception, she had his grace applied to her before she was able to become mired in original sin and its stain.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that she was "redeemed in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son" (CCC 492). She has more reason to call God her Savior than we do, because he saved her in an even more glorious manner!

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was officially defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854.

PARISH EVENTS

Sunday	12/5	10:00 AM - Religious Ed Grades K-5
Tuesday	12/7	7:00 PM - Parish Council Meeting
Thursday	12/9	9:30 AM - Social Concerns Group
Saturday	12/11	Confirmation class moved to Sunday 3:15 PM - Confessions
Sunday	12/12	9:30 AM - Religious Ed/Confirmation/Parishioners Assembling Food & Fruit baskets for Christmas

Don't Forget Our Christmas Food and Fruit Baskets



The following items are needed for this year's Christmas baskets: Turkeys; Potatoes (1 bag); Squash; Stuffing; Turkey Gravy; Cranberry Sauce; Canned Vegetables; Canned Fruit; Pie Crust & Pie Filling; Dessert Mix; Christmas Cookies; Christmas Candy; Mixed Nuts (in the shell); Sugar; and Flour. Remember that there are 3 ways to help fill our Christmas Baskets this year: 1) Contribute an item from the list (decorated collection boxes are at the front of the church); 2) Contribute Monetarily (make checks out to St. Thomas Church with Food and Fruit Baskets in the memo); or 3) Donate a Turkey (please contact Laura Wells). Thank you for your generosity to the less fortunate in our parish and in the wider community. Donations are need on or before December 12. Baskets will be assembled after Mass on Sunday, December 12th. May God bless you!

Join us at coffee hour next Sunday, December 12, after Mass to help assemble the Christmas Food and Fruit Baskets. We will be assembling the baskets with the help of the religious ed students and those parishioners who would like to join us. Enjoy a cup of coffee, fellowship, and the blessing of doing good for our neighbors for the love of God as part of our Advent preparation for the coming of the Lord.

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!

Christ Our Hope - Matching Grant

80% (instead of 60%) of new gifts/pledges made to the diocese Christ Our Hope Campaign in December will go back to the parishes to support their efforts and 20% will be split evenly between faith formation and emergency aid. In addition, the Vermont Catholic Community Foundation has allocated a \$25,000 matching grant to the campaign. On **December 6**, the Foundation will match the first online gifts received of \$1,000 or more with a \$1,000 grant directly to the parish, no split. There will be only one match per parish. To make an online gift visit: <https://www.christourhopevt.org/donate>

From The Office of the Bishop

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is reinstated as of July 4, 2021. However, as has always been the case, there are times and circumstances when one cannot be present for Sunday Mass: injury, ill-health, mobility issues, age, and now personal safety issues that are still present due to Covid 19. Children who have not been vaccinated, people whose health is compromised so that they have to avoid any risk of contagion as well as their caregivers, may in freedom choose not to attend Sunday Mass.

December 29th Grab and Go Meal

Our December Age Well Grab and Go meal, free to those 60 and over, will be held on Wednesday, December 29th, with pickup 11-12pm. If you would like a meal, please call Donna at 802-434-3155 to register by December 23rd. This month's meal includes: Beef stroganoff with onions, mushrooms and sour cream over rotini pasta; broccoli florets, three-bean blend, dinner roll, apple pie with cream, & milk.

We need a couple of volunteers to help with the December distribution. Please call the parish office at 899-4632 if you have 2 hours free on the 29th.

Cemeteries

The Range Road and Irish Settlement Cemeteries are now closed for the winter. If you have any questions about the cemeteries or pricing, please call the office at 802-899-4632. Prices for plots will be increasing in the spring. A full pricing sheet will be available upon request before the cemeteries open in the spring.

eMissal

The USCCB-approved Breaking Bread 2022 eMissal is now available for Android and iOS smartphones and tablets. You can download the app for instant access to songs, readings and the Order of Mass. Now with daily readings, the eMissal app is simple and easy to use, and it's a wonderful resource for preparing for Mass, active participation in the liturgy and for personal devotion. \$4.99 for 1 year. Look for the icon above in the app store.



What is Prop 5? Why should we care?

Please join the Most Rev. Christopher Coyne, Bishop of the Diocese of Burlington and others, December 14 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm as they explain and discuss what this dangerous amendment means for Vermonters. Prop. 5 (Article 22) seeks to amend the Vermont Constitution with a right to "personal reproductive liberty. It could potentially block any type of legal protection for the pre-born and destroy conscious protection rights for healthcare workers, by enshrining abortion into our State Constitution. More information and to register: <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/prop-5-webinar/>

Readings For the Week



December 6

Is 35:1-10

Lk 5:17-26

December 7

Memorial of Saint Ambrose,
Bishop and Doctor of the
Church

Is 40:1-11

Mt 18:12-14

December 8

Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

Gn 3:9-15, 20

Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4

Eph 1:3-6, 11-12

Lk 1:26-38

December 9

Is 41:13-20

Mt 11:11-15

December 10

Is 48:17-19

Mt 11:16-19

December 11

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11

Mt 17:9a, 10-13

December 12

Third Sunday
of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a

Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

Phil 4:4-7

Lk 3:10-18

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: 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, Patricia Stone, Amy Gratton, Gene Wells, Diane Dufresne, Audra Goss, Alicia Alesandrini, Peggy Lynch, Alex Wintersteen, Dorothy Reny, Evangeline McSoley, Maureen Mayes, and all those preparing for or recovering from surgery.

DECEASED: For all who have died, especially Margery Garcia, Benjamin Parisi, Annmarie Dubois, and all deceased members of St. Thomas & St. Mary's Parishes.

<p>Natural Family Planning</p> <p>"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".</p> <p>Sharon Trani MSN; APRN Nurse Practitioner - NFP teacher 802-326-2015 strani@vermontcatholic.org</p>	<p>Repentant Reconciled Renewed</p>	 <p>St. Thomas Church Knights of Columbus Council No. 7810 G.K.: Steve Haupt Chancellor: Ed Matthews Recorder: Andrew Rowe Treasurer: Mark Girouard Warden: Bob Kennedy Advocate: Craig Benson Meets 2nd Tuesday each month</p>	 <p>Catholic Family Confectioners Established 1986</p> <p>81 A VT Rte 15 PO Box 303, Jericho, VT 05465 802-899-3373 SnowflakeChocolate.com The Pollak Family</p>
 <p>PHIL POTVIN 27 MOOSE RUN 899-3305 UNDERHILL</p>	<p>CORNERSTONE CONSTRUCTION, INC. P.O. Box 178 Underhill Ctr., VT 05490</p>  <p>RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL BUILDING & REMODELING</p> <p>Bill MacDonough</p> <p>Phone: 802-343-9605 CornerstoneConstructionVT.com</p>		<p>For prayers answered</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To be prayed 8 consecutive days</p>
<p>PRAY FOR VOCATIONS</p> 	<p>REED'S QUALITY HEATING</p> <p>(802) 899-4362 Personalized Efficient Service</p>  <p>John Reed Licensed Service Technicians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oil furnace & boiler specialist Install, service and clean Oil Tank Installations Plumbing repairs and water heaters <p>PO Box 97 Jericho, VT 05465</p> <p>www.reedandbenoitqualityheating.com</p>		<p>For prayers answered</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To be prayed 8 consecutive days</p>
<p>Elegant Wood Floors</p> <p>Robbe "Kibby" Pierce owner 802-522-3710 WWW.ElegantWoodFloors.com</p> <p>61 Lazy Brook Lane Jeffersonville, Vermont 05464 DESIGN - INSTALLATION - SANDING - FINISHING</p> 	<p>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.</p>		<p>RCIA = Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Adult Confirmation</p> <p>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</p> 
 <p>1907 Williston Road So. Burlington, VT 05403 BarrysAutomotiveVT.com Bruce Barry</p> <p>Sales: (802) 881-0511 Service: (802) 863-4343 Fax: (802) 660-4393 David Warren</p>	<p>In loving memory of Millicent Dixon</p>  <p>Benefactor of the St. Thomas Cemeteries</p>	<p>Confirming Their Faith</p> 	<p>RCIA = Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Adult Confirmation</p> <p>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</p> 
 <p>God Bless America</p>	 <p>Dave Chenette Realtor/Broker Business 802-264-1991 · Fax 802-318-4662 e-mail: Dave@DaveChenette.com website: www.DaveChenette.com</p>	 <p>Heating Oil • Propane • Service</p> <p>P.O. Box 253 • Richmond, VT 05477 tel 800-427-9276 • fax 802-434-3518 • info@pattersonfuels.com</p>	
<p>Pierre Donzé Inc.</p> <p>Plaster Trowel Coatings Construction Services</p>  <p>P.O. Box 264 Cambridge, VT 05444 Phone/Fax: 802-644-5426 Email: donzeboy@yahoo.com</p>	<p>First Step PRINT SHOP</p> <p>LIKE us on facebook</p> <p>Orders@FirstStepPrintShop.com Phone: 899-2708 Fax: 899-2021 22 Park St. • Underhill, VT 05489</p>	<p>Lamoureux & Dickinson</p> <p>14 Morse Drive Essex, VT 05452 878-4450 LDengineering.com</p> <p>Land surveys Septic Design Subdivisions Site Plans Wetland Delineation Permitting</p>	<p>Would you like to place an ad in our bulletin?</p> <p>Call the parish office at 899-4632 for details.</p>