



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.

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.

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 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
MON	6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
TUES	6:30 PM - Mass for the repose of the soul of Robert Staples Jr., requested by Laura Lynch Wells
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 our All Soul's Day intentions
December 18	
SAT	1:45 PM - Advent Penance Service 4:00 PM - Mass for the health and wellbeing of Irene Currie requested by John and Genie O'Neil 6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption
December 19	The Fourth Sunday of Advent
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

<u>Ministry Schedule</u> <u>December 18 & 19</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
4:00 PM SATURDAY	NONE	D Dufresne	NONE
8:30 AM SUNDAY	NONE	M Girouard	NONE

Help aging religious

Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's second collection.

Resources for the Advent Season

Fr. Richard will be offering a Penance Service on Saturday, December 18th from 1:45—3:45pm. The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the complete joy of Christmas. Please join us to help prepare the way in your heart.

Stewardship - December 4 & 5, 2021

Weekly Budgeted Goal:\$ 2,730.77
Regular Collection: ...(incl. \$1028 On-Line Giving)....\$ 3,901.00

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 Meaning of the Advent Wreath

Advent is a time of expectation and hope filled with rich traditions. "Advent" means "arrival" or "coming," and it prompts us to pause each day in December and remember why Jesus came at Christmas. A common way of commemorating Jesus' birth is through an Advent wreath and candles. Advent tradition should help families remember why we celebrate Christmas. The Advent wreath and candles provide beautiful symbolism for each week of advent as we wait for Christmas to arrive.

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming." Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The Advent season not only symbolizes the waiting for Christ's birth but also for his final return.

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. In time a tradition developed of making the Advent wreath out of evergreens to symbolize everlasting life in the midst of winter and death as the evergreen is continuously green. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. The Advent wreath is a symbol of the season, with a candle lit each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day. The light of the candles reminds us who Jesus is: "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:4-5). Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Sometimes, decorations like holly and berries, are added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death on the cross, shedding his blood for our sins. Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. Families begin lighting a candle on the First Sunday of Advent, and they light another candle each subsequent Sunday. Each candle represents something different. The first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-colored.

The **first candle** symbolizes hope and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival. The purple color symbolizes royalty, repentance, and fasting.

The **second candle** represents faith and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David. The second candle is also purple to symbolism preparation for the coming king.

The **third candle** symbolizes joy and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy. This candle is colored pink to represent joyfulness and rejoicing.

The **fourth candle** represents peace and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace--He came to bring people close to God and to each other again. This color is also purple to represent the culmination of love through the Messiah.

We have arrived at the Third Sunday of Advent and the lighting of the "Shepherd's Candle" of great joy. Join us in sharing the joy of expectation in the parish hall on Sunday as we assemble the Christmas Food and Fruit Baskets for needy families after Mass, share friendships and treats, and sing some Christmas carols. We hope to see you there!

PARISH EVENTS

Sunday	12/12 9:30 AM - Religious Ed/Confirmation/Parishioners Assembling Food & Fruit baskets for Christmas
Tuesday	12/14 7:30 PM - Knights of Columbus Meeting
Thursday	12/16 9:30 AM - Social Concerns Group 6:30 PM - Food Shelf Setup at GSLC
Saturday	12/18 9:30 AM - Food Shelf Distribution NO Confirmation class 3:15 PM - Confessions
Sunday	12/19 NO Religious Ed



Christmas Food and Fruit Baskets

Join us at coffee hour this 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 education 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!

Decorating For Christmas—HELP!

We are in need of many elves to help with decorating the church for Christmas this year. We will be putting up the tree and hanging wreaths and garland after Mass on Sunday, December 19th. Please stay after Mass and we will assign you a task. Many hands make light work so we hope to see you there!



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.

Advent Appeal

Please join Vermont Catholic Charities in supporting the Annual Advent Appeal. The "Season of Giving" has no bounds for people in need. Whatever the season, it is a daily struggle for many Vermonters to maintain housing, stay warm or feed their families. With your help, we can make a difference in lives of those living on the edge. Help people like Brendan and Kelly keep the heat on. They live in rural Vermont getting by on a small pension. Due to unexpected medical expenses, they fell behind on their heating bill. Vermont Catholic Charities helped them avoid the disconnection of utilities so they could stay safe and warm. They said, "Thank you. We are relieved and so grateful for this support." Whether your gift is \$10, \$100, \$1000 or more, your gift will make a difference in the life of a needy family. To donate, please mail a check to Vermont Catholic Charities, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403 or give on online at www.vermontcatholic.org/adventappeal

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.

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.



Job Opening at SFXS

Saint Francis Xavier School in Winooski is hiring. We are looking for After School Childcare Providers. Hours are 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. and the pay is \$15.00 per hour. Responsibilities include supervising free play on the playground and in the school building, implementing activities, providing some homework support for grades 2nd-5th students, and communicating with parents as needed and with the program director on a daily basis. Openings are available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Candidates may apply for the number of days that best suit their schedule. If interested please email Principal Craig Hill at chill@sfxvt.org. org/event/prop-5-webinar/

Job Opening at Rice

Rice Memorial High School is seeking a custodian/maintenance person. Duties include cleaning, as well as light mechanical maintenance and general building upkeep. Hours are flexible, and benefits are available with full-time employment. Hourly rate is subject to experience level. Applicants must be able to lift up to 70 pounds and complete a background check. Applications should be submitted to Jeff Maher, Associate Principal at maher@rmhsvt.org.

Readings For the Week

December 13

Memorial of Saint Lucy,
Virgin and Martyr
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a
Mt 21:23-27

December 14

Memorial of Saint John of
the Cross, Priest and Doctor
of the Church
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13
Mt 21:28-32

December 15

Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25
Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12,
13-14
Lk 7:18b-23

December 16

Is 54:1-10
Luke 3:4, 6

December 17

Gn 49:2, 8-10
Mt 1:1-17

December 18

Jer 23:5-8
Mt 1:18-25

December 19

**Fourth Sunday
of Advent**

Mi 5:1-4a
Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-45



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, Marietta Brush, 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> <p>PO Box 97 Jericho, VT 05465</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil furnace & boiler specialist • Install, service and clean • Oil Tank Installations • Plumbing repairs and water heaters <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>