



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

# INTO THE DESERT.

— LUKE 4:1 —



## ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH

1719 POST ROAD | 203.255.1097 | [OFFICE@STTHOMASFAIRFIELD.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@STTHOMASFAIRFIELD.ORG)

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025

## **ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PASTORAL & SCHOOL STAFF**

Rev. David Roman, Pastor | E: [frdavid@stthomasfairfield.org](mailto:frdavid@stthomasfairfield.org)

Rev. Christopher J. Samele, *In Residence*

Mr. Frank Mantero, *Deacon*

Mr. Daniel Romero & Mr. Brendan Gleeson, *Seminarian*

Mrs. Janet Wrabel, *Director of Religious Education*

Mrs. Emily Lomnitzer, *Director of Music*

Mr. Erick Sanchez, *Head Cantor*

Mrs. Julie Wallace, *Parish Business Manager*

Mrs. Allison McCarthy, *Office Assistant*

Ms. Mary Jane Edwards, *Pastoral Office Assistant*

Mr. Matthew Kane, *Facilities Manager*

Mrs. Johnna Hoffman, *Marketing Editor*

Ms. Tracy Strub, *Head of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School*

Mr. Adam Fielding, *Associate Head of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

Weekday Masses: 7:00 am and 12:10 pm

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 pm

Sunday Masses: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm

Confession: Wednesday 11:30 am – 12:00 pm; Saturday 4:00 pm – 4:45 pm

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday 7:30 am – 12:00 pm

### **PARISH LEADERSHIP**

Trustees:

Mrs. Cynthia Simoneau Lambert & Mr. Richard Miller

Finance Board Chairman:

Mr. Stephen D'Ambrisi

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday thru Friday:

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

### **CONTACT US:**

Parish Office: T: 203.255.1097; E: [office@stthomasfairfield.org](mailto:office@stthomasfairfield.org);  
W: [stthomasfairfield.com](http://stthomasfairfield.com)

Religious Education Office: T: 203.255.1097; E: [jwrabel@stthomasfairfield.org](mailto:jwrabel@stthomasfairfield.org)

St Thomas School Office: T: 203.255.0556; W: [stasonline.net](http://stasonline.net)

# Mass Intentions & Parish Stewardship

## Saturday, March 8, 2025

5:00 pm: *Patrick Carroll*

## Sunday, March 9, 2025

8:00 am: *Theresa Rotzhansen*

10:00 am: *Nancy Stanco (14th)*

12:00 pm: *Earline Marchan*

## Monday, March 10, 2025

7:00 am: *Patrick McGuire*

12:10 pm: *Deceased Members of the Keegan Family*

## Tuesday, March 11, 2025

7:00 am: *Anthony DeFeo*

12:10 pm: *Constance Pulley*

## Wednesday, March 12, 2025

7:00 am: *Partrick McGuire*

12:10 pm: *Mary Grace McHale*

## Thursday, March 13, 2025

7:00 am: *For Our Parish Family*

12:10 pm: *Anne P. Richard*

## Friday, March 14, 2025

7:00 am: *Carmela A. Pavia (1st)*

12:10 pm: *Edna Water (52nd)*

## Candles this week burn for:

### The Sanctuary Light:

*In loving Memory of Roy J. Mascolino*

### The Blessed Mother Candle:

*In loving Memory of George and Ruth Saulton*

### The Saint Joseph Candle:

*For Vocations to the Priesthood*

### Pray for the Recently Deceased:

*Mary Tempini, Peggy Galbicsek,*

*Margaret Galbicsek, and Patrick Bolan*

### Please Pray For:

*Jane Harwood, James Rooney,*

*Nancy Roche, Veronica Hughes,*

*Mary Brennan, Louise Kish, Joseph Mitchell,*

*and Jane Broderick*

*Offertory:*

In Pew/Envelope Collection: \$6,902

Online Giving: \$3,644

**Total Offertory Collection for Sunday, 3/2/2025: \$10,546**

Budgeted Weekly Need: \$10,500

Last Week's Difference: + \$46

Year to Date Budgeted: \$546,000

Fiscal Year to Date Difference to Budget: \$(56,264)

*Parishioners:*

1450

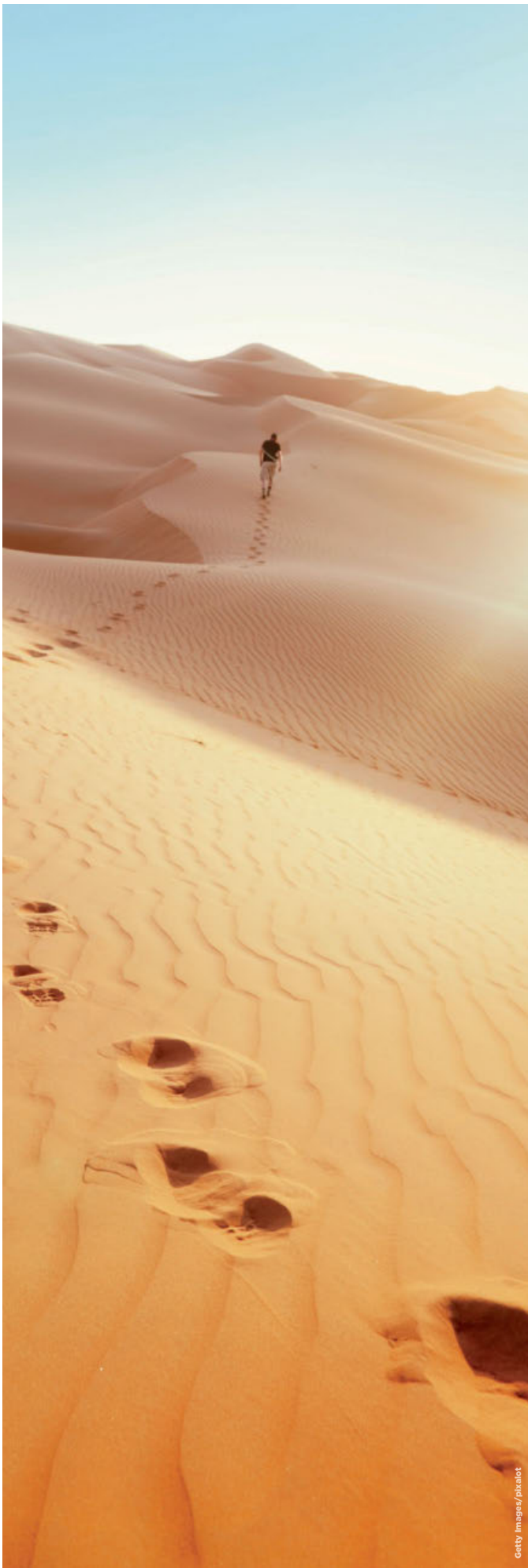


## **++ Dear Parents of Young Children ++**

As baptized members of the Body of Christ, we welcome your children to church and want them to join us (most especially at the 10 am family mass). While they won't yet understand Mass the sights, smells, and sounds are a great start to their spiritual education. Please don't worry if your children cry and make noise! As Pope Francis once said

*"The cry of a baby is God's voice; never drive them away from the Church!"*





March 9, 2025

# First Sunday of Lent

Dt 26:4-10 | Rom 10:8-13 | Lk 4:1-13

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## GROW

AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

We've all seen it: the standard cartoon sketch in which the main character, faced with a decision, imagines the devil coaxing him toward evil on one shoulder while an angel encourages him toward good on the other. Lighthearted though they are, these classic scenes are the product of Biblical wisdom and millennia of human experience. In fact, the Garden of Eden provided the prototype: Eve was the first to listen to Satan in a conversation that was disastrous for her and her descendants. It is no coincidence that, in today's Gospel, Jesus finds himself in a desert – the “opposite” of a garden, so to speak – where he, too, confronts the devil. But note Jesus' response to Satan's advances: the Incarnate Word of God neither barter nor argues from human wisdom. For no amount of time does he turn over Satan's proposals in his heart. Instead, Jesus rejects the temptations immediately and relies on the power of the Word of God to put the devil in his place.

## GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Lenten season is meant to be a “desert” in which we, like Jesus, confront temptation. It is not a self-improvement program; it is an opportunity to reject sins, habits, and attitudes which keep us distant from God so that we can give a wholehearted “yes” to his plan for our lives. But the scene from today's Gospel is offered on the first Sunday of Lent to remind us that we do not go into the desert alone. Jesus entered first to show us that he would be with us every time we are tempted. If, instead of giving Satan airtime, we stay close to Jesus (in prayer and by frequenting the sacraments) and immerse ourselves in the Word of God (by reading Scripture), we, like him, will draw our strength from God. We will emerge victorious because, as St. Paul reminds us, “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart,” and, “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

## PLAN

Have you made a Lenten plan yet? If not, the time is now! Don't be afraid to be generous with God. Remember the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Could you add a daily Mass or Rosary to your schedule? Could you incorporate some form of self-denial into your weekly meal plan or media consumption? Once you've worked out a plan, offer it to God and ask him to bless your efforts to grow in virtue out of love for him.



Help us to raise enough Capital to get a second priest here at St. Thomas Aquinas. What are the benefits of having a Parochial Vicar (an Associate Priest)? The Parochial Vicar will assist our Pastor, Fr. David to operate our parish. This would mean that additional ministries can be formed, more confessions can be heard, our school and faith formation programs can have an even greater pastoral presence, and our church and school faculty and staff can have more formational opportunities. It costs about \$60,000 to provide for a priest's salary, pension, health insurance, and living expenses.

This year our ABA appeal goal is \$158,000. However, the parish can keep 100% of any amount that is raised beyond that goal. Please help us raise enough funds to provide for a Parochial Vicar by helping us reach our parish goal of \$218,000.

All pledges to the appeal have to be made by June 30, 2025.

## Fundraising Goal

**\$218,000**



**Raised  
\$56,675**  
(62 Families)

TOGETHER IN FAITH ...  
FORMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES OF ACCOMPANIMENT ACROSS THE  
DIOCESE THROUGH NEWLY ESTABLISHED GUILDS.

### CURRENT GUILDS:

- ☒ Guild of the Blessed Sacrament for Eucharistic Adoration
- ☒ Sacred Heart Guild for the Sacred Arts
- ☒ Saint Luke Guild for Healthcare Workers
- ☒ Saint Paul Guild for Evangelical Outreach
- ☒ Morning Star Guild in Devotion to Our Lady

### NEW GUILDS FOR 2025:

- ☒ St. Thomas More Guild for Lawyers
- ☒ St. Timothy Guild for Young Adults



To support this new, important ministry and work in our Diocese, please consider making your gift to the Bishop's Appeal today!  
[www.2025BishopsAppeal.org](http://www.2025BishopsAppeal.org)



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<b>3.5K+</b> TOILETRY BAGS	<b>2K</b> COATS	<b>5.7K+</b> COUNSELING SESSIONS

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2025 Bishop's Appeal  
DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT



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a Gift*





# 2025 LENTEN EVENTS



*During this Season of Lent,  
we invite you to please join us for:*

Daily Mass at 7 am or 12:10 pm

Confession on Wednesdays at 11:30 am, or on Saturdays at 4 pm

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 7:30 am - 12 pm

Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 8:45 am & 3 pm

*There are a few copies of Lenten Devotionals, as well as Rice Bowls for the poor that  
are available at the entrances of the Church.*



**OFFER  
YOUR  
SUFFERING  
TO GOD**

©LPI

## ASH WEDNESDAY LENT BEGINS

### WHAT IS LENT?

The 40-day period from Ash Wednesday and before Easter Sunday. It is marked by prayer, fasting, abstinence, and other acts of penance.

#### PRAYING



#### FASTING



#### ABSTINENCE



### WHAT IS FASTING?



One meal a day, and two smaller meals which if added together would not exceed one full meal.

### DAYS OF FAST?

Ash Wednesday

Good Friday

### WHO ARE REQUIRED?

Catholics from ages  
< 18 to 59 >



The sick and expectant mothers are excused from fasting.

### WHAT IS ABSTINENCE?



Abstinence is refraining from eating meat. Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl.

### DAYS OF ABSTINENCE?

Ash Wednesday

All Fridays of Lent

Good Friday

### WHO ARE REQUIRED?

Mandatory for  
everyone



older than **14** years old

**2025**

**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS YOUTH GROUP EVENTS**

<b>JAN 12</b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b> 6 PM IN CONFERENCE ROOM
<b>JAN 26</b>	<b>ADORATION</b> 6 PM IN THE CHURCH
<b>FEB 2</b>	<b>TEEN MASS</b> 6 PM IN THE CHURCH
<b>FEB 23</b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b> 6 PM IN CONFERENCE ROOM
<b>MAR 9</b>	<b>ADORATION</b> 6 PM IN THE CHURCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL FR. DAVID  
FRDAVID@STTHOMASFAIRFIELD.ORG

 **ST. THOMAS AQUINAS**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HAVING YOUR FIRST CHILD BAPTIZED AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS?**

*We offer monthly Baptism Prep sessions for parents on what to expect and how to prepare together for their child's baptism and the life-long responsibility of passing on their Catholic faith.*

**PRE-BAPTISM AVAILABILITY DATES IN 2025 BELOW**

**5:30 P.M. (Duration = One hour)**

**March 12, April 16, May 14, June 11, July none, August 13, September 10, October 08, November 12, December 10**

If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office or Deacon Frank  
([dnmantero@stthomasfairfield.org](mailto:dnmantero@stthomasfairfield.org))



**join us for a St. Patrick's Day Pancake Breakfast**



**Sunday, March 16 | 11am**  
(after family mass)  
**St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Center**  
A free willing offering accepted at the door

**RSVP**



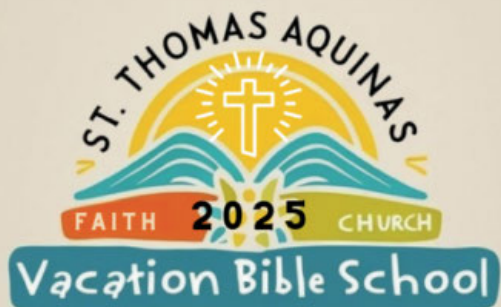
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/5tG6NcEzZhEEoMKA9](https://forms.gle/5tG6NcEzZhEEoMKA9)

**Volunteers needed**



[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/10COA4FAEAF2CAOFFC34-551354O5-STAST](https://forms.gle/https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COA4FAEAF2CAOFFC34-551354O5-STAST)





We are excited to announce our very first Vacation Bible School (VBS) at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church!

This will be a wonderful time for children to grow in their faith, enjoy fun activities, and build lasting friendships.

**Date:** June 16th to June 20th

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Location:** St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

**Ages:** Rising Kindergarteners to 5th grade

**Cost:** \$100/child

*Register Now*



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
REGISTRATION LINK

[HTTPS://STTHOMASFAIRFIELD.COM/  
VACATION-BIBLE-SCHOOL](https://stthomasfairfield.com/vacation-bible-school)



*Welcome to  
our New Parishioners*

The Goddard Family

The Berg Family

The Moore Family

The Giasullo Family

The Lutz Family

The Gentile Family

The Nickerson Family

The Savage Family

The Gdorin Family

*The Newly Baptized*

Nico Thomas Sanchez and Theo Nicholas Sanchez



ONLINE  
GIVING

SCAN THE QR CODE TO MAKE  
YOUR WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION TO  
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH



Credit or Debit card



Spanish Adoration



St. Thomas Aquinas Parish  
**WELLNESS MINISTRY**

Are you experiencing chronic or challenging health issues? Are you caring for a loved one who is ill?



Join us for a time of prayerful encouragement and mutual support, as together with our ministry leaders and Fr. David we explore the power of Scripture applied to health challenges.

Meetings in 2025 will be at the Parish Center on Tuesdays:  
**January 14, February 11, and March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM**

TO REGISTER, PLEASE EMAIL:  
[wellnessministry@stthomasfairfield.org](mailto:wellnessministry@stthomasfairfield.org)

**LES INVITAMOS**  
**A**  
**nuestra**  
**misa en**  
**español**  
**15 DE MARZO DEL 2025,**  
**6:30PM**  
**PARROQUIA ST. THOMAS**  
**AQUINAS**  
**FAIRFIELD- CONNECTICUT**

Padre David Román: [frdavid@stthomasfairfield.org](mailto:frdavid@stthomasfairfield.org)  
Paola Unda Guilfoile: [Pao.unda@gmail.com](mailto:Pao.unda@gmail.com)



## Marriage Preparation Course

April 5th and May 3rd  
10AM - 5PM in the Parish Center Conference Room  
Followed by the 5pm Vigil Mass

Fee: \$250 (lunch included)

*\*\* Please note you must attend both sessions and mass \*\**

Please register by March 31st to Angela Mantero: [amantero@stthomasfairfield.org](mailto:amantero@stthomasfairfield.org)



Diocese of Bridgeport Project Rachel Ministry – Jesus Keeps on Loving You, No Matter What

"As we approach Lent, please allow me to speak to all who carry the unbearable sadness and guilt of an abortion experience. Be assured that Jesus keeps on loving you, no matter what. I pray that God plants a seed of hope in every heart that is overwhelmed by sadness and despair from participation in abortion. This Lent, the Lord's mercy awaits you. Allow Him to heal you and lift your sadness into joy." – Bishop Daniel E. Thomas, Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

The Diocese of Bridgeport's Project Rachel Ministry is here to help you. For confidential assistance or information on upcoming events, please contact Maureen at 203-416-1619 or [projectrachel@diobpt.org](mailto:projectrachel@diobpt.org). There is hope after abortion.



## Holy Week & Easter Mass Times

Dear Parish Family,

Rejoice, for the tomb is empty, and death is conquered! Christ has risen from the dead, offering us the gift of salvation and eternal life. This Easter, let us come together as one family, embracing the hope and joy that radiate from the empty tomb. As we celebrate this Easter season, let us renew our commitment to living the truth of the Gospel, sharing Christ's love with one another, and reaching out to those who do not yet know Him. May the Resurrection of our Lord inspire us to live with faith and courage, trusting in God's providence, and transforming the world through acts of mercy and compassion.

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts this Easter and always.

In Christ's love,  
Fr. David Roman



St. Thomas Aquinas R.C. Church  
1719 Post Road Fairfield, CT 06824  
203-255-1097  
[stthomasfairfield.org](http://stthomasfairfield.org)

### Palm Sunday | April 13th

- Saturday, April 12th – 4PM Confessions
- Saturday, April 12th – 5PM Vigil Mass
- Sunday, April 13th – 8AM, 10AM, 12PM Masses

### Reconciliation | Monday, April 14th

- Confessions: 3PM to 9PM
- Praise & Worship Adoration: 7PM to 9PM

### Holy Wednesday | Wednesday, April 16th

- Adoration: 7:30AM to 12PM
- Confessions: 11:30AM to 12PM

### Holy Thursday | Thursday, April 17th

- Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7PM
- Adoration until 10PM

### Good Friday | Friday, April 18th

- Stations of the Cross: 12PM
- Passion of our Lord: 3PM

### Holy Saturday | Saturday, April 19th

- Blessing of Food: 2PM
- Confessions: 4PM
- Easter Vigil Mass: 8PM

### Easter Sunday | Sunday, April 19th

- 8AM, 10AM, and 12PM Masses





# DIVORCED? CATHOLIC? HURTING?

Fr. David wants to help St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners recover from the pain of divorce through the beauty and power of our shared Catholic faith. He will be using the

## *Recovering from Divorce Parish Program*

If you are interested in being part of this healing and life giving 17 session experience please email Fr. David directly at [frdavid@stthomasfairfield.org](mailto:frdavid@stthomasfairfield.org)

**Cambridge**  
Health & Rehabilitation Center

## Educational

SPRING SERIES

Join us for one of our Spring Series interactive, educational presentations and open discussions.



**Dinner To Go**  
Light appetizers will be served

Tuesday  
**March 11**  
4PM - 5PM

### **Brain Health & Neuroplasticity: The Science of Brain Remodeling**

Presented by Timothy Francis PA-C, Physician Assistant, Owner of Senior Helpers of Upper Fairfield & New Haven. This talk will explore the "what, why, and how" of brain remodeling and neuroplasticity—our brain's ability to adapt and change. We'll discuss how understanding neuroplasticity can help reduce the risk of cognitive decline and brain disorders like dementia.

Tuesday  
**April 8**  
4PM - 5PM

### **Heart Healthy Lifestyle Habits**

Presented by Nicole Orr, MD, FACC, President of Post Acute Cardiology Care. This talk will explore what heart healthy living means, understanding your risk, making healthy choices, and taking steps to lower your chances of heart disease.

Tuesday  
**May 13**  
4PM - 5PM

### **Medication Management 101**

Presented by Tori Rodgers, Senior RPH Manager of LTC, Unity Pharmacy. Join us for a robust conversation including the importance of medication adherence, geriatric pharmacy and options that exist for seniors, medication reviews and the importance of eliminating unneeded medications, as well as suggestions to improve comfort of medication regimen.

**Cambridge Health & Rehabilitation Center**  
2428 Easton Turnpike | Fairfield, CT

RSVP Cheryl Egan at 203.372.0313 or [CEgan@nhca.com](mailto:CEgan@nhca.com)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

WE ARE UPDATING OUR RECORDS AND ARE ASKING OUR PARISHIONERS TO PLEASE EMAIL US IF THERE ARE ANY UPDATES/CORRECTIONS/CHANGES TO YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION.

PLEASE EMAIL ALLISON MCCARTHY AT [AMCCARTHY@STTHOMASFAIRFIELD.ORG](mailto:AMCCARTHY@STTHOMASFAIRFIELD.ORG)

## MASS READERS NEEDED

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

PLEASE CONTACT ELLEN FINNIGAN IF INTERESTED.

[EFINNIGAN@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:EFINNIGAN@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

All readers must be VIRTUS trained before their first reading at Mass



We are pleased to announce the initiation of a new ministry dedicated to serving the needs of the sick, homebound, and those unable to attend Mass.

This ministry aims to provide spiritual support and companionship to members of our parish who may be facing challenges in attending church.

If you or someone you know could benefit from a visit from one of our team members, please don't hesitate to reach out.

You can request a visit by contacting the parish office at 203-255-1097 or by emailing Diane Camillo at [diacam@gmail.com](mailto:diacam@gmail.com)

## St. Thomas Prayer Line

Email your prayer requests to:

[prayerline@stthomasfairfield.org](mailto:prayerline@stthomasfairfield.org)

Your requests are confidential (not published in the bulletin)

We welcome anyone who feels called to pray for our Parish requests. You will simply receive an email when a prayer request is received.

Reply to the above email if you are interested.

## The St. Thomas Rosary Group

Tuesdays at 8am in the chapel.

All are welcome!  
Please join us in prayer.

Questions?  
[rmsacco@yahoo.com](mailto:rmsacco@yahoo.com)



**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**  
DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

The St. Thomas Aquinas Cemetery is now managed by the Diocese Cemetery Ministry.

Their staff can answer your questions about opening/closing existing plots and niches, maintenance items such as power washing memorials and raising markers and purchasing new properties.

Please contact:  
203-816-6375 or  
[gabriella.depaul@ctcemeteries.org](mailto:gabriella.depaul@ctcemeteries.org)

## ADORATION

Every Wednesday from 7:30AM - 12PM  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church

ALL PARISHIONERS WELCOME

## CONTACT:

[Jhoffman@stthomasfairfield.org](mailto:Jhoffman@stthomasfairfield.org)  
to submit items for the weekly bulletin or social media



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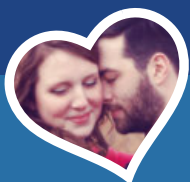
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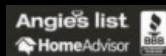
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