

**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH**  
**1719 Post Road Fairfield CT 06824**

Parish /Cemetery Office—203-255-1097 Office Fax—203-256-8177 Email: STTHOAQ@aol.com  
Religious Education Office—203-255-1984 School— 203-255-0556 Youth Ministry—203-256-8962  
St. Thomas Prayer Line: email staprayerline@att.net  
Web page: stthomasfairfield.com

**New Parishioners**

Welcome to our Parish Community! Please register at the parish office and feel free to contact anyone on our staff regarding the Parish and its activities.

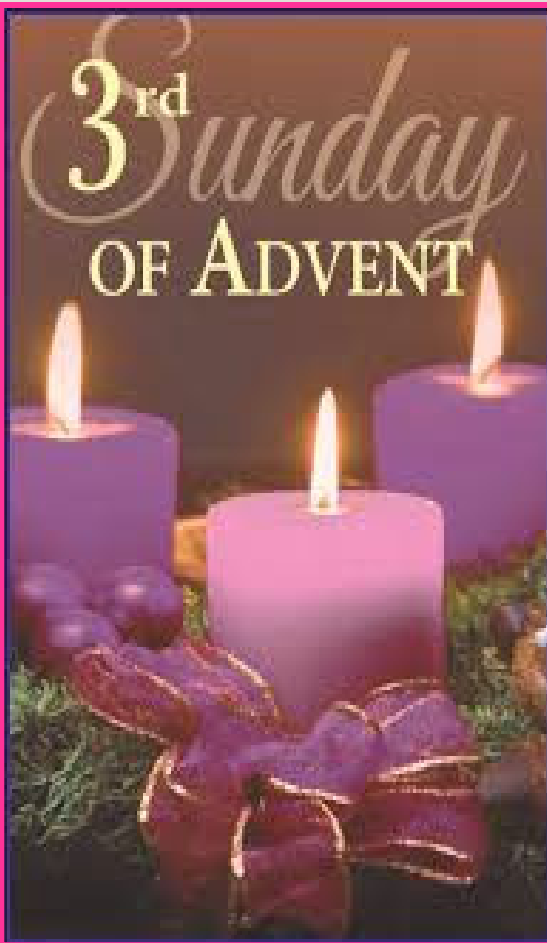
**First Friday Masses**

7 :00 am  
8:15 am (School Mass)  
12:10 pm

**Sanctuary /Blessed Mother Candles**

May be memorialized for a sick person, a deceased loved one, or in celebration of a special intention. Please call the parish office to reserve a date.

**Parish Center Rentals**  
Contact The Parish Office



**Baptisms and Marriages**

By arrangement with Parish Office.

**Pre Baptismal Instruction**

Required prior to Baptism.

**Pre-Cana**

Required prior to Marriage. Arrangements should be made at least 8 months in advance.

**Communion Visit for the Homebound**

Please call the parish office to request a visit

**Rev. Victor T. Martin**  
*Pastor*

**Rev. Lawrence A. Larson**  
*Parochial Vicar*

**Rev. Roger F. McDonough**  
*Retired-Resident Priest*

**Deacon Daniel J. Ianniello**  
*Retired-Parish Deacon*

**Mary Jane Edwards**  
*Pastoral Associate*

**Catherine T. Lopata**  
*Office Admin./Cemetery Mgr.*

**Gerrie Desio**  
*Office Receptionist*

**CHURCH SCHEDULE**

**Saturday**

Vigil Mass 5:00 pm

**Sunday**

7:00 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12 Noon

**Weekday Masses**

7:00 a.m. and 12:10 Noon

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturdays: 4:00 to 4:45 pm

**Jacqueline Herbert**  
*Dir. of Religious Ed*

**David E. Harris**  
*Organist/Music Director*

**Stephen L. Anderson**  
*School Principal*

**Jessica Nayden**  
*Youth Minister*

**Patricia Grassi**  
*RCLIA Coordinator*

**Jean Correa**  
*Parish Accountant*  
203-255-1097

**Mr. Richard Miller**  
*Parish Advisory Bd. Chair*  
203-259-0824

**Mr. Edward Dayton**  
*Parish Finance Bd. Chair*  
203-255-5141

**Mission Statement:**

For St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, prayer and liturgical worship is the essence of our faith community. The Gospel message is proclaimed by word and deed, nurtured by ongoing opportunities for religious formation, evangelization, social action and worship.

*Message from the Pastor*

**REJOICE! SALVATION IS COMING**

Do Christians have an obligation to be happy? That sounds wrong, of course --- none of us can program our feelings, and there are legitimate reasons why we're not happy all the time.

On "**Rejoice Sunday**", which is what the Latin *Gaudete* means, we are reminded that we share the vocation of John the Baptist to testify to the light of Jesus Christ. The reality of Christ in our midst is the joy to which our lives ultimately give witness. The joy isn't a jump-up-and-down emotion but a fruit of the Holy Spirit that fuels our courage in every situation and decision.



**NEWLY BAPTIZED**

Our Parish Family welcomes the following who were recently Baptized.

**Lily Grace Orsaia  
Dylan Patrick Stein**



**December 16 to December 24, 2017**

Sat.	5:00 pm	John and Olga Smith
Sun.	7:00 am	For our Parish Family
	9:00 am	John Howard (5th)
	10:30 am	Vito and Lydia Lacerenza
	12:00 Noon	Gloria Dellaera
Mon.	7:00 am	Elizabeth D'Agostino
	12:10 pm	James Matyas (1st)
Tues.	7:00 am	Mildred Bisacca (1st)
	12:10 pm	Joseph Krotki (3rd)
	<b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>Advent Penance Service</b>
Wed.	7:00 am	Carol Padula (1st)
	12:10 pm	Bernard Lambert (16th)
Thurs.	7:00 am	Mildred Kotrady (7th)
	12:10 pm	Jack Luby (7th)
Fri.	7:00 am	Barbara Schouchoff
	12:10 pm	Connor F. Ryan
Sat.	5:00 pm	Durso and Tortorella Families
Sun.	8:00 am	For the Parish Family
	10:00 am	James White Jr.
	<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Children's Mass</b>
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Children's Mass</b>
	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Mass</b>
	<b>12:00 am</b>	<b>Christmas Midnight Mass</b>

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

*Is God calling you in these final days of Advent to bring glad tidings to the poor? How might you do so?*

He is the Reason for the Season, so...

**Keep Christ In Christmas**



**Mass of Gratitude**

On Sunday January 7, 2018  
(Feast of the Baptism of our Lord)  
at the 9:00 am Mass

We will celebrate our annual Mass of Gratitude. This mass is celebrated for all those who were baptized in the year 2017.



James McInerney	Joan McInerney
Barbara McShane	Amelia Mikulka
Maria Ines Galindo	Amanda Morguelan
Laura Terranova	Carl Collica
Annette Ham	Francis Xavier Edwards
Susan Hasiuk	Walter Murphy
Chet Greene	Tom Lopez
Charlie Capalbo	William Ceruzzi
Rebecca Scalera	Nancy Stevens
Irene Ercolani	Jane Harwood
James Rooney	Rene Ercolani Molnar
Luis Gonzalez	Patrick Carroll
Peggy Krotki	Sally Cohane
Mary Toth	Rosemarie Fowler
Liam Crane	Joseph Mitchell
Veronica Hughes	Noreen Hernandez
Dennis Rich	Frank Slovensky
Delores Weis	Kay Slovensky
John Lengen	Joseph Sciarrillo
Romano DeCastro	Mary Jane Edwards
Frank "Bud" Carroll	Margaret Carroll
Ed Zera	Edna Miller
Ann Roach	



**Advent Penance Service**

Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 pm

**Fourth Sunday of Advent Masses**

Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>  
5:00 pm

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 am and 10:00 am

**Christmas Eve Masses**

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

4:00 pm Children's Mass  
6:00 pm Children's Mass  
8:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass  
11:30 pm Adult Choir Concert  
12:00 am - Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day Masses**

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12 Noon

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>  
5:00pm

Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup>  
7:00 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 Noon

**Vigil Mass for Feast of Mary Mother of God**

Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup>  
5:00 pm

**Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

New Year's Day Monday, January 1, 2018  
8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12 Noon

**Winter Session of Faith Formation Studies**

**CATHOLICISM**

**The Catholic faith as you've never seen it before.**

Join us for *Catholicism* faith formation study by Bishop Robert Barron starting on Wednesday, Jan.3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center.

Journey around the world and deep into the faith. You will learn *what* Catholics believe and *why* while being immersed in the art, architecture, literature, beliefs and practices of the Catholic tradition. The Catholicism Faith Formation Program brings the beauty, goodness and truth of the Church to life so that you can better understand and share your faith.

Email Jenn Romano at [stthomasfairfieldfaith@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasfairfieldfaith@gmail.com) to sign up!

**THE SANCTUARY LIGHT WILL BURN THIS WEEK**



*In Loving Memory of Bernard Lambert*

**THE BLESSED MOTHER ALTAR CANDLE IS LIGHTED THIS WEEK FOR**



*Carol Padula First Anniversary*

**OUR ST. JOSEPH ALTAR CANDLE IS LIGHTED FOR**



*All those Unemployed  
(Praying for job opportunities!)*



**Believe it or not**

Our Midnight Mass is at 12:00 Midnight! Fr. Martin has celebrated this Christmas Mass for the past 23 years as Pastor for the Military Men and Women who serve in defense of our American freedom.

*Please join us for our Choir Concert at 11:30 pm followed by the Mass of Midnight*



**Knights of Columbus  
Council 2616**

The Knights of Columbus on Unquowa Road have sold their building and have moved into our chapel in the Church.

The **3rd Degree** meets every First Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm.

The **4th Degree** meets every Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm.

The **Columbiettes** meet on the 4th Monday of every month at 7:30pm.

Men and women 18 years of age are invited to join.



**December News**

Mon. Dec. 18th: Penance Service Grade 8 at 7:00pm  
**No class for Grade 6 and 7**

Tues. Dec. 19th: Penance Service Grades 3,4,5 at 4:00pm at Church.

**No class for Grade 1**

Wed. Dec. 20th: Penance Service Grades 3,4,5 at 4:00pm at Church.

**No class for Grade 1**

**Dec. 22nd to Jan. 1st: No Class– Christmas Break Classes Resume on Tuesday January 2nd**

Questions please contact Jackie at 203-255-1984 or [stthoaqccd@aol.com](mailto:stthoaqccd@aol.com)



**DID YOU KNOW????**

*The Christmas season begins with the celebration of the Christmas Eve Masses (December 24, 2017) and is extended through the Baptism of the Lord on January 8, 2018.*

**Parish Support**

**Snow Weekend**

2nd Sunday in Advent 2017:	\$ 8,656.57
2nd Sunday in Advent 2016:	\$10,182.75
Retired Religious 2017:	\$ 2,725.29
Retired Religious 2016:	\$ 3,335.40
Immaculate Conception 2017:	\$ 1,437.00
Immaculate Conception 2016:	\$ 1,868.95

***Thank You!***

**MOTHER'S PRAYER GROUP**

The group meets every Wednesday in the Chapel/Cry Room of the church at 8:30am. The Prayer group is open to all Parish and School Mothers. Any questions please contact Renee at 203-255-2409 or Regina 203-259-8170.

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**LECTORS ARE NEEDED**

Interested in joining the Ministry of Lectors to read at mass on the weekends? Please contact the Parish Office 203-255-1097

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**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS ARE NEEDED**

Please contact the Parish Office at 203-255-1097 if you are interested in being a Eucharistic Minister at mass on the weekends.

**ON LINE GIVING**

St Thomas Aquinas parish has a method to accept your **GIFTS** to your parish without writing checks.

Through **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRAFER** your offertory contribution will be sent **DIRECTLY** from your checking account or credit card and eliminate the need to write checks.

Visit our website [www.stthomasfairfield.com](http://www.stthomasfairfield.com) and click the On Line Giving link