

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH

St. Thomas More Church

53 ROCKLAND STREET, NARRAGANSETT, RI 02882-3620



St. Veronica Chapel

1035 BOSTON NECK ROAD, NARRAGANSETT, RI 02882

MASS SCHEDULE

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH

53 Rockland Street

DAILY MASS

9:00 AM - MONDAY - SATURDAY

WEEKEND MASSES

SATURDAY - 5:00 PM

SUNDAY - 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

SATURDAY - 4:00-4:45 PM

OR BY APPOINTMENT

ST. VERONICA CHAPEL

1035 Boston Neck Rd.

WEEKEND MASSES

SATURDAY - 4:00 PM

SUNDAY - 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

All masses available on Livestream

Fr. Marcel L. Taillon, S.T.L.

Pastor

Chaplain, Narragansett Police Department

Chaplain, Narragansett Fire Department

Chaplain, South Kingstown Police Department

fathermtaillon@gmail.com

Fr. Joseph Mappilamattel, C.M.I.

Associate Pastor

mappilajoseph60@gmail.com

Msgr. John C. Halloran

Pastor Emeritus

Deacon Joseph Clossick

joseph.clossick@bms.com



DECEMBER 17, 2023 - THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

STTHOMASMORERI.ORG | PARISH OFFICE 401.789.7682



Let us give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. Psalm 107:1

Dear Parishioners,

I am happy to share our annual financial report and am pleased to announce that our parish is in a good financial position due in large part to your generosity and the excellent stewardship of our lay leadership. Our annual budget (i.e., weekly offertory) has experienced a decline since last year due to people passing on and several moving to Florida and other states. Our parish outreach and ministries that assist those less fortunate have never been higher. We continue to send parishioners on our annual mission trip and serve the homeless in Providence. Additionally, we provide help to many local families in need through a myriad of ways.

The parking lot enhancement, the final phase of our Capital Campaign, is near its completion! The generosity of so many of you enabled the parish to complete all three phases of our improvements over the last six years!

I want to especially thank the members of our parish finance council chaired by Bob Kolb with members; Nancy Andolfo, Robert Fallon, Ed McLaughlin, Lynn Moran, Joe Notarantonio, and Bob Stepanian. And to thank Sofia Macera, Bookkeeper, Lynn Bamford, Director of Stewardship, Parish Auditors; Jim Ferolito and Kathy Cottam, and Parish Trustees; Michael Falvey and Victor Primavera.

I am so grateful for our generous and faith-filled community. I would ask you to invite those who have drifted away from the faith, to return this Christmas season.

God bless you and thank you!

Fr. Taillon

**St. Thomas More Parish
53 Rockland St.
Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882**

**Financial Report
Fiscal Year: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023**

REVENUES

| | <u>FYE 2023</u> |
|--|------------------------------|
| Weekly Offering | \$682,323.00 |
| Annual Collection | \$13,691.00 |
| Catholic School Collection | \$14,383.00 |
| Mass Stipend/Funeral/Wedding | \$29,850.00 |
| Other Revenue | \$27,078.00 |
| Restricted for the Poor (LA Mission, Mother Theresa, Local Outreach) | \$246,092.00 |
| Total Regular Revenues | <u>\$1,013,417.00</u> |

EXPENDITURES

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| St. Thomas More/St. Veronica Operating Expenses | \$789,932.00 |
| Rectory | \$21,485.00 |
| Carriage House Clergy Lodging | \$5,515.00 |
| Other Building/ Parish Halls | \$6,375.00 |
| Diocesan Parish Assessment Paid | \$55,258.00 |
| Diocesan School Assessment Paid | \$44,147.00 |
| Released for the Poor (LA Mission, Mother Theresa, Local Outreach) | \$125,718.06 |
| Total Expenditures | <u>\$1,048,430.06</u> |

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Net Result - Operations | <u>-\$35,013.06</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Second Collections Transmitted | \$50,792.00 |
| Number of Registered Families | 1441 |
| Number of Baptisms | 28 |
| Number of Weddings | 12 |
| Sacrament of First Eucharist | 16 |
| Sacrament of Confirmation | 24 |
| Adult Receptions into Catholic Faith | 7 |
| Number of Funerals | 45 |



Narragansett Police Department Awards & Recognition Night.
At right, Vincent Santos, Chief Sean Corrigan and Fr. Taillon.



Thank you to our Knights of Columbus who worked together to set up the Mangers at both churches last weekend.





**THIS
Weekend!**

Please join us for the
Children's Christmas Pageant
following the 10 AM Mass at St. Thomas More

Sunday, December 17th

Santa will visit & refreshments will be served
in the Parish Hall after the pageant.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24th

4:00 PM Vigil - St. Veronica Chapel - 3:15 PM Music Prelude

5:00 PM Vigil - St. Thomas More - 4:30 PM Music Prelude

Solemn Candlelight Midnight Mass

12:00 Midnight - St. Thomas More - 11:30 PM Music Prelude

Monday, December 25th - Christmas Day

9:00 AM - St. Veronica Chapel

10:00 AM - St. Thomas More

Monday, January 1st - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

9:00 AM - St. Thomas More

MASS *intentions*

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th (Vigil)

4 PM – for the soul of Kathleen Charron

5 PM – for the soul of Antoinette Cafone

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th

8 AM – for the soul of Charles Rielly

9 AM – Birthday Remembrance ~ Marillyn Zatorsky

10 AM – 4th Anniversary ~ Cathleen Naughton

11 AM – Anniversary ~ Deacon Raymond Riccio

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18th

9 AM – for the souls of Betty & Joseph Kearney & daughter Betty

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19th

9 AM – 1st Anniversary ~ Sr. Augustine Mageau, C.P.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20th

9 AM – for the soul of Catherine Mollo

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21st

9 AM – for the soul of Geraldine Egan

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22nd

9 AM – Special Intention ~ Nico & Grace (Living)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd

9 AM – for the souls of Thomas & Rita Monroe & Special Intentions ~ Monroe family (Living)

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd (Vigil)

4 PM – for the soul of William Bean

5 PM – for the souls of Joseph & Elizabeth Kearney & daughter Elizabeth

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th

8 AM – for the soul of Al Leger

9 AM – for the soul of Julia Sullivan

10 AM – Anthony R. Leone

11 AM – for the soul of Albert Alba, Sr.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th (Christmas Vigil)

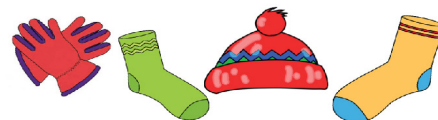
4 PM – for the soul of Salvatore Ruggieri

5 PM – for the souls of Gerald & Lydia Coli

12 AM – for the soul Peter Gardiner

THIS WEEKEND!

Hat, Glove and Sock Drive



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Pope Pius XII Council 5295

**Adult & Children
Sizes needed
(New items preferred)**

**Saturday December 16th
Sunday December 17th**

Collections at all masses at both
St. Thomas More Church and St. Veronica Chapel
Donations to benefit several local charities.

Thank you!

Food gift cards were donated to St. Thomas More Church in memory of Cathleen Naughton from her family; Ray Jr., Caroline, Kathleen & Peter, Paul & Emily, and Aunt Eileen. Their generosity will help assist those in need this Christmas season.



COME,
Lord Jesus!



Happenings around the parish

Fr. Jose Pilgrimage to India

September 23 - October 8, 2024

Please join Fr. Jose Parathanal on a pilgrimage to the magnificent cultural and spiritual sites of Incredible India! The tour begins in the ancient cities of Delhi (Sacred Heart Cathedral), Agra (Taj Mahal), Jaipur (Pink City), Kolkata (Mother Teresa) and Goa (St. Francis Xavier). The itinerary also includes the beautiful scenic state of Kerala in South India, where the famous shrines of St. Thomas the Apostle, the tombs of St. Kuriakose Chavara, St. Alphonsa and many other saints. For more details, contact Bernie Corpuz at 323-547-6618 or email at bcorp1114@gmail.com.

*Fr. Jose Joseph Parathanal, (C.M.I.), Pastor/
Administrator of the Shrine of St. Therese,
Our Lady of Good Help Church and St. Patrick
Church in Harrisville, RI.*

Gospel Reflections Group

All are welcome to join our informal discussion group which meets on Mondays from 10-11:30 AM in the parish hall. Over coffee & refreshments, we read and reflect on the Gospels of the coming week and share our personal insights of those readings.

Men's Bible Study

Our parish has a very active group of men who meet each Saturday morning in the parish hall at 7:30 AM to discuss the Sunday scripture readings. This is very informal and all are invited to join.

Remember the Poor

The small donation boxes on the church walls labeled "Remember the Poor" helps fund the Mother Teresa Fund, helping parishioners and locals in need.

Prayer Chain Ministry

If you know someone who would like extra prayers, please call Jean at 783-3403 to express your request. Volunteers are needed and welcome to join this important ministry.

Pray the Rosary

The rosary is prayed Monday - Saturday after the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Thomas More. All are welcome.

St. Vincent dePaul clothing bins

Accepts clothing and shoes. Bins located at the back of the St. Thomas More parking lot, inside the white fence.

Religious Education

There are **no** Religious Education classes for Christmas Break the weeks of

December 17th

December 24th

December 31st

Knights of Columbus

Interested in joining the Knight of Columbus?

We are looking for new members.

Please contact Bernie Casey at 617.293.9201



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Pope Pius XII Council 5295

WEEKLY PARISH FOOD COLLECTION

Current Needs

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| ✓ Natural Peanut Butter | ✓ Brown Rice |
| ✓ Low Sugar Jelly | ✓ Canned Fruit in 100% Juice |
| ✓ Baked/Black/Kidney Beans | ✓ Whole grain wheat flour |
| ✓ Whole Grain Cereal/Crackers/Pasta & Jarred Pasta Sauce | |

Collection baskets are located at the entrance of both churches.



Rhode Island Blood Center

Every Donation Can Save Up To 3 Lives

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Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I rejoice heartily in the LORD,
in my God is the joy of my soul. (Is 61:10)

Psalm:

My soul rejoices in my God. (Is 61:10b)

Second Reading:

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,
be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ. (1 Thes 5:23)

Gospel:

"I baptize with water;
but there is one among you whom you do not
recognize,
the one who is coming after me,
whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."
(Jn 1:23)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God sends a John the Baptist into every person's life — someone who prepares His way, who calls out His truth. Look for the John the Baptist in your life. Pray you can be this person for someone else.

Observances for the week of December 17, 2023

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Thursday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Saturday: St. John of Kanty, Priest

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve



Saint of the week

Blessed Maria Franziska Schervier was a German Catholic nun who devoted her life to serving the poor and the sick. She founded the Franciscan Sisters of Aachen and began chapters in the United States where she and her sisters also founded a number of hospitals.

Prayer

Almighty, just and merciful God, Blessed Frances Schervier spent her whole life giving back to You all the gifts that You had given her. She cared for the poor and the sick and radiated Your loving presence to all that she met. We beseech You now to glorify your servant, Frances. Give her the honor of sainthood if it is in accordance with Your will.

We ask this through Jesus, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

(Prayer Source: http://franciscansisters-en.sfp-poor.org/images/stories/2016/PDF_2016/pr_canoniz_en.pdf)

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Testimony

When my grandmother heard the news that my cousin had fallen from a second-story window, she immediately went and washed her hair.

Grandma had been sitting alone in her house, listening to the morning radio when the announcer shared a news bulletin stating that the previous night, a little boy with the same name as her grandson, living in the same community and of the same age, had fallen onto the pavement from a window on the second floor of his house. He had been rushed to the hospital but miraculously survived his injuries.

She thought she was hallucinating and wanted to look pretty when the “men in white coats” came to take her away. Thus, the hair-washing.

As it happens, the whole story was true — it was her grandson, but this was before the age of mobile phones and had happened so late at night that his parents had been unable to notify any family members before the whole thing showed up on the news.

It wasn't until my grandmother received a phone call from another relative corroborating the story that she realized it hadn't been a figment of her imagination. What a waste of styled hair, no hospital committal for her that day.

There are certain truths that we cannot accept unless they are supported by the testimony of others. We find them to be unbelievable without the reassurance of another person whispering, “It's okay. I see it, too.”

This is the value of testimony, and the purpose of John the Baptist and every saint who ever died with the name of Jesus Christ on their lips. And this is the sacred duty of all the baptized, to give testimony with our words and our actions.

How will you testify today?

*“He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.”
— John 1:8*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do Catholics give the sign of peace to one another at Mass?

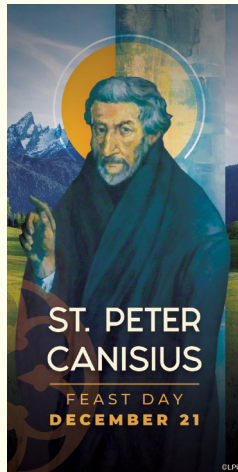
Answer:

The sign of peace is a part of the Mass that takes place immediately after we offer the Lord's Prayer. Inspired by the Jesus' words to his first followers, we stand together in a spirit of communion to pray as Jesus taught us: “Our Father who art in heaven...” In this prayer, we call for the coming of God's kingdom in all its fullness and ask that God provides for our needs — “Give us, this day, our daily bread” — to forgive our sins and to bring us to the joy of heaven.

It is almost natural, then, that the rite of peace would follow. As the celebrant prays that Christ's peace will fill our hearts, our communities, the Church, and the whole world, we extend to those around us a sign of peace (usually a hug or a handshake) as a symbol of the communion that we experience now and will experience forever in the fullness of the reign of God.

We are also reminded of Jesus' teachings that if we are at prayer and remember that a brother or sister is holding something against us, then we are to go and seek reconciliation with them before we continue our prayer (see Matthew 5:23). And so, the sign of peace also reminds us of the need to truly be in communion — united in love and peace — with God and one another before we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist.

So, the next time you're at Mass and the time comes for the sign of peace, remember that this is a moment to celebrate the gift of Christ's peace that each of us has received from God and to pass that peace along to those around us. We need this moment to practice, because this is also the same peace of Christ that we are instructed to carry out into the world at the end of Mass when the priest or deacon says to us, “Go, in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.”

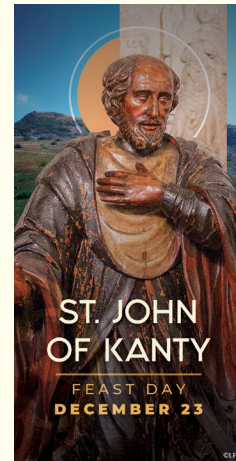


St. Peter Canisius | Feast Day December 21

Born in Holland, St. Peter Canisius (May 8, 1521 – December 21, 1597) was a preacher, teacher, and writer throughout his whole life. At the age of 19, he received a master's degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards, St. Peter met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced him so much that he eventually joined the Society of Jesus.

St. Peter Canisius founded colleges and seminaries, served as a missionary, cared for the sick or imprisoned, and wrote close to eight volumes of letters — many about St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great.

A man blessed with many talents, St. Peter Canisius is a wonderful example of a man who developed his talents to further God's work here on earth.



Saint John of Kanty | December 23

Saint John, sometimes called John Cantius, was born in the Polish town of Kanty in 1390. Not much is recorded about his early life, however, he was a bright young man who did well in his studies at the university in Krakow. He earned his doctorate in philosophy and went on to be ordained and earn a doctorate in theology as well.

He began teaching at the university immediately following the conferring of his doctorate in philosophy. Unfortunately, his popularity worked against him, and he was dismissed from his post on false charges. Saint John was reassigned to a post as a parish priest in the town of Olkusz, Bohemia. His parishioners did not receive him with open arms, and he was unsettled in his new position. But John did not give up, his honest care for the people of his parish eventually endeared him to them.

After a time, he was invited back to the university and he returned to teaching, filling leadership roles in the philosophy and theological areas until the end of his long life. Saint John deeply cared for the poor, giving everything but only what he needed to survive away. He lived an aesthetic life but was such an engaging man that he often dined with nobility.

Saint John of Kanty died on December 24, 1473. He was canonized in 1767, by Pope Clement XIII. In 1998, a new religious community chose the saint for their patron and the Canons Regular of Saint John Cantius, was formed in Chicago, Illinois.

Thank you to the many new families who have signed up for Faith Direct to support our ministries. Your support allows us to continue to serve the spiritual and corporeal needs of our parish and wider community. And, thank you to our many virtual parishoners who continue to support us, we appreciate your support too!



St. Thomas More Parish counts on your prayers and support and we truly appreciate your continued generosity during this difficult time.

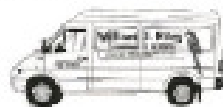
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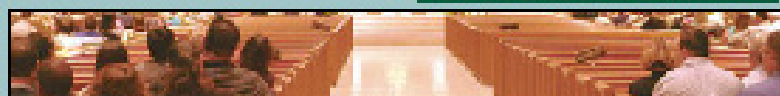
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