



Pastor

Rev. Joseph R. Cronin
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Deacon

Angelo J. Coppola

St. Thomas Convent

860-621-1904

Director of Religious Education

Sr. Marie Roccapriore, M.P.F.
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Southington Catholic School

Mrs. Eileen Sampiere, Principal
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Saint Thomas Church

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Telephone: 860-628-4713 Fax: 860-628-7341

Web Site: www.stthomassouthington.org

Pastoral Planning Web Site: www.stewardsfortomorrow.org

e-mail: stthomassouthington@gmail.com

Religious Ed email: stchurchre@gmail.com

Download our App: see MyParishApp.com

Mass Schedule

Chapel

Monday & Tuesday 7:30 a.m.
Thursday & Friday 12:10 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m.

Church

Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Reconciliation

Saturday 2:30-3:30 p.m.
or by Appointment
Mondays during Lent 6:00 -7:00 p.m.

Holy Hour (Chapel)

Tuesday (for vocation) 11:00 a.m.
Thursday (with Benediction) 11:00 a.m.
Eucharistic Adoration 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Miraculous Medal Novena (Chapel)

Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

Sponsor Certificates

Sponsor Certificates are available in the sacristy of the Church or the rectory office. You must be an active parishioner, registered with our parish for 6 months or more. The use of the envelope system assists in verifying that you are an active parishioner.

Baptism

Parents are asked to contact Jean Moriarty at the rectory to arrange for a Baptism.

Marriage

The Archdiocese requires a minimum of 6 months for marriage preparation. Couples should contact Fr. Joseph Cronin at the rectory.

RCIA - The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

If your faith journey has led you to think about the Catholic Church or to receive the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation, please join us in the RCIA. For more information contact Sr. Marie Roccapriore, M.P.F. at the Convent.

Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17
 4:00 Dolores Biafore, req. by Carmine and Sue Votino

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18
 7:30 Rosemary Lorenzo, req. by Richard and Beth
 10:00 Luigi and Benito Perone, req. by Giovanna Perone and family

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19
 7:30 Parishioners whose funeral Mass was in January: Michael Mongillo, Barbara DelSanto, Vivian Rodrigue, Robert Binkowski, Michael Carbone, Maria Bellemare

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20
 7:30 Nicola Parillo, req. by Vincenzo and Teresa Scirocco

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22 **Chair of Saint Peter**
 12:10 Joan LaRose, req. by Dorothy Charette

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23 **St. Polycarp**
 12:10 Ernest Stanco, req. by Mary and Peter Papciak

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24
 8:00 Parishioners of Saint Thomas Parish
 4:00 Helen & William Spring, Carol & Jack Potter and Florence & Edward Podhajski, req. by Bill & Irene Spring

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25
 7:30 Michael Mongillo, req. by Joanne Salerno
 10:00 Larry Scaringe, req. by his wife, Betty

BULLETIN

All bulletin announcements must be submitted *in writing* no later than the **Monday** prior to publication but you are encouraged to send your submissions 2 weeks in advance. It is best to send by email to stchurchre@gmail.com.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible study class is offered two times on Thursdays. At 1:30 p.m. in the chapel in the rectory basement and at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Fr. Joe will cover 1 Thessalonians, chapter 5, on Thursday February 22nd. All are welcome!

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome! We are delighted to have you join our parish. Please introduce yourself to Fr. Joe after Mass. Parish registration forms are available in the sacristy after Mass or at the rectory office during the week.

CANTORS NEEDED

Please consider sharing your musical talents. We are looking for some new cantors to join our musical ministry. If you are interested or know someone who may be, please contact Emil Kopcha at 860-621-0637.

PARISH COLLECTIONS JANUARY 2018

| | Actual | Budget |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Weekly | \$ 29,500 | \$ 33,000 |
| Monthly/Holy Day | \$ 4,170 | \$ 4,200 |
| | \$ 33,600 | \$ 37,200 |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

NEW DAY PROGRAM FOR BEREAVED

St Thomas Church will conduct a bereavement seminar beginning March 7, 2018. Anyone grieving the death of a loved one is encouraged to enroll and participate at no cost. The New Day process, developed by Sr. Mauryeen O'Brien, OP, will be used and participants will meet each Wednesday evening from 7 – 9 pm for 10 consecutive weeks. This process has been very successful in helping the bereaved transition to life without their loved one. During each meeting, participants work through one element of the grieving process using prayer, reflection, sharing and journaling. Everything that is shared during the meetings is held confidential. For more information or to enroll please call Vinny Raby [860-628-9425](tel:860-628-9425) or Dorothy Charette [860-628-4010](tel:860-628-4010). You may also call the Parish office [860-628-4713](tel:860-628-4713).

PASTA FAGIOLI

Join us on Friday evenings during Lent for Pasta Fagioli, salad, bread, beverages & desserts from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Cost is \$7.00 per person eat in (children under 7 pay their age), and \$30 max for family. Take out orders will be available for \$8 per container. All proceeds go to support Southington Catholic School so bring your friends and family!

VOCATIONS

This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand. Let us reform our lives and believe in the Good News. Consider becoming an instrument of God's Good News through the ministry of priesthood. Call Fr. Michael Casey, Vocation Director, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Tel. 860-761-7457, email vocations@aohct.org or visit the web at www.hartfordpriest.com.

CATHOLIC GRADUATES CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

The Catholic Graduates Club will award three scholarships of \$2,000 each to Catholic students who plan to attend a four year college in the Fall of 2018. Information is available from your guidance counselor or at www.catholicgraduatesct.org. Deadline for application submittal is March 15th.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIP

Isabella Council #15 and Isabella Assembly #122 offer scholarships those seeking to further their education at a recognized institute of higher learning during the upcoming academic year. Applicant, Parent or Legal Guardian must be a registered member of the parish. Applications are available at the parish office and must be returned by March 4th. **Next Meeting:** The Knights of Columbus next council meeting will be held on February 21st at 7:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church hall.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

All are cordially invited to attend World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 2nd at Grace Methodist Church, 121 Pleasant St. Lunch at noon with a prayer service to follow. This year's theme is *All God's Creation is Very Good!* Cost \$5 payable at the door.

BREAD FOR LIFE SOUP NITE

Saint Thomas Church has been assigned February 26—March 2 at the Bread for Life Soup Kitchen. Two volunteers are needed per day from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Donations of milk and fruit are also needed. If you are able to assist or to make a donation, please call Marie, 860-621-7615. Thank you.



Baptism

We wish to congratulate the parents of **Liam Patrick Hill and Ryan Catherine Politz** who were baptized at St. Thomas Church last weekend.

PASSION PLAY TICKETS

Listed below are the contact names and phone numbers to obtain tickets for the 40th Annual Saint Thomas Passion Play.

Diane 860-628-4197 Lois 860-621-0411
Joan 860-426-2371

Performances

Saturday March 24th 7:30 p.m.
Palm Sunday March 25th 3:00 p.m.
Monday March 26th 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday March 27th 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday March 28th 7:30 p.m.
Good Friday March 30th 7:30 p.m.

ONLINE GIVING

Online Giving has been updated with improvements for our donors including an easier-to-use interface, and a quicker way to donate to specific funds. Online Giving is a great way to support our church. Signing up is easy—you can use a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Go to our website, www.stthomassouthington.org, and click the Online Giving logo to get started. To help us keep costs down we ask that all donations be made on Saturday or Sunday only. For online support call 1-800-348-2886 x4.



The Church Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of **the deceased members of the Aldi Family** requested by LouAnn Sieruta.

The Chapel Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of **Charles and Emma Herzy**, requested by their families.

SOUTHINGTON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

This spring we are looking to reunite Catholic School graduates to share their stories and rekindle friendships. If you benefited from attending St. Dominic School, Southington Catholic School or St Thomas School, we invite you to get involved. Please send contact information with your suggestions for a fun kick-off event to malexander@southingtoncatholicschool.org.

Volunteers requested—SCS is looking for volunteers to work on updating the school database of friends, graduates and supporters beginning in mid March in the Advancement Office. Flexible hours can be arranged. Please call 860-628-2485.

Readings for the Week of February 18, 2018

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10



Father Joe's Notes



My dear friends,

Happy Lent! I know that sounds strange. Shouldn't we be sad and miserable this time of year? After all, Lent is a time of fasting, abstinence, almsgiving, and prayer. What's fun about that? Well, it is a time we are called to get closer to Christ. That's a joy, and I take joy where I can find it! So rejoice!

Joy is a blessed gift from God. For anyone who attends Bible study with me, you should know that St. Paul teaches four Christian virtues. We have not only faith, hope, and love, but we also have joy. Joy is a sign of Christian living. It's a gift of the Holy Spirit and shows God at work in our midst. As Christians, we are called to be happy in our calling and content in the wonderful gift of salvation. Our Savior shares in our humanity and leads us to great peace. This is our hope and this is our joy.

My advice to all parishioners, find your joy. God is not to be found where we're miserable. There's no need for a good Christian person to live a gloomy and depressing life. We are part of the Body of Christ; we believe our sins are forgiven; we have the promise of eternal life in heaven; so why would we ever be miserable? We should live in the joy of Christ's love and the gifts of the Spirit. Find where God speaks to you, and it will bring you joy. Not that the road will always be easy, but sometimes a challenge can be enjoyable!

Use Lent as a time to find joy. As we enter this sacred time, try to work on something that will bring you happiness and peace. Maybe you could work to improve a relationship with a family member or friend that has been damaged. It isn't easy, but the end result is amazing. Perhaps you could strive to schedule more time for meditation or find a prayer that is deeper and more meaningful. It's a difficult adjustment, but the fruits of that labor are great. Consider doing some volunteering or charitable work. It's hard to manage the time when you begin, but you will find you may not be able to live without it when you get into the work. When we strive to find joy in our lives and in our world, it comes.

This Lent, be happy! Make the most of the time to become closer to Christ. It's worth it!

Joyfully yours in Christ, Fr. Joe

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT

Monday Evenings 6:00-7:00PM
(We have Fr. Pilon helping the last two weeks)

Saturday Afternoons 2:30-3:30PM
(Please note, **NO Confessionals on Holy Saturday**)

Town-wide Lenten Penance Service
Tuesday, March 20th—7:00PM at St. Dominic's

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays in church at 7:00PM