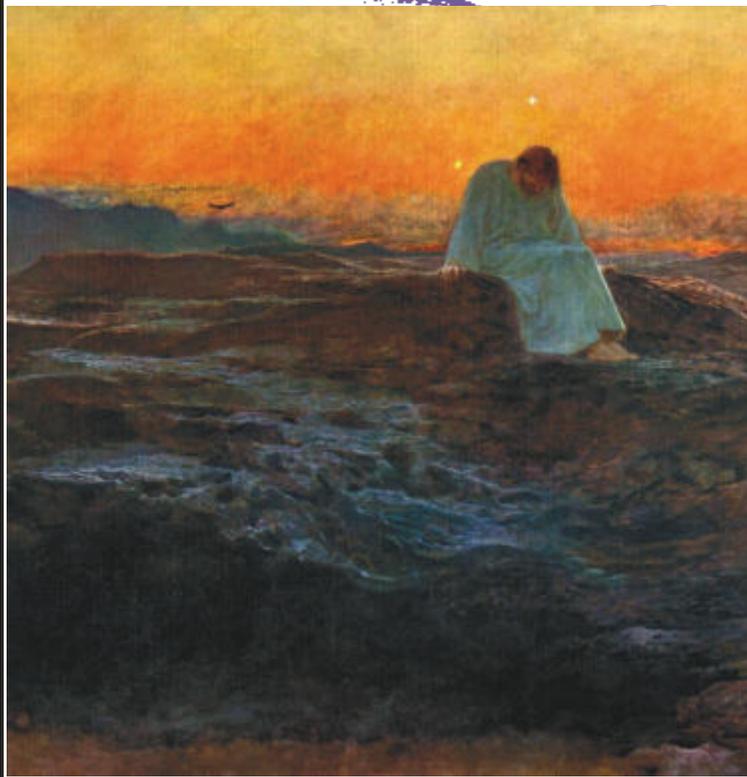


Saint Thomas Church

99 Bristol Street, Southington, CT 06489-4599

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another (John 13:35).”



February 21, 2021
First Sunday of Lent

Rectory Office

Phone: 860-628-4713 **Fax:** 860-628-7341
E-Mail: stthomassouthington@gmail.com
Web Sites: www.stthomassouthington.org
www.facebook.com/groups/104009621923

St. Thomas Convent

Address: 20 Eden Place Southington, CT
Phone: 860-621-1904

Office of Religious Education

Phone: 860-628-9679
E-mail: mpfmr@att.net

Southington Catholic School

Address: 133 Bristol Street Southington, CT
Phone: 860-628-2485 **Fax:** 860-628-4942
Web Site: www.southingtoncatholicschool.org

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:00PM / Sunday: 7:30AM & 10:00AM

Town's Weekday Mass Schedule

*Masses are at Immaculate Conception Church
130 Summer Street*

Monday—Friday: 7:30 AM and Noon
Saturday Morning: 7:30 AM

Our Parish Mission Statement

We, the Roman Catholic faithful of St. Thomas parish, nourished by God's Word and by the Sacraments, welcome and serve the Family of God. Through evangelization, education, and spiritual development, we demonstrate the true meaning of God's love by living in the image of Christ.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Rectory Office Hours

Monday—Friday 8AM-4PM

SATURDAY, February 20—Saturday after Ash Wednesday

† 7:30 AM (IC) Madeline Bailey

Requested by Wally & Bette Ann Bailey

† 4:00PM Deceased Members of the Mercaldi family

Requested by Angela Zacchia

SUNDAY, February 21—First Sunday of Lent

† 7:30AM Giovanni Ragozzino

Requested by Vincenzo Ragozzino

† 10:00AM Annette Brown

Requested by her parents

MONDAY, February 22—The Chair of St. Peter, Apostle

† 7:30 AM (IC) Most Reverend Harry J. Flynn, Diocese of Albany

† 12:00 PM (IC) Michael Thomas —50th Birthday

Requested by family

TUESDAY, February 23—St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

† 7:30 AM (IC) Special Intentions of Kimberly Pisani

Requested by friends

† 12:00 PM (IC) Pro Populo

WEDNESDAY, February 24—Lenten Weekday

† 7:30 AM (IC) Pro Populo

† 12:00 PM (IC) Pro Populo

THURSDAY, February 25—Lenten Weekday

† 7:30 AM (IC) Reverend Msgr. William Graham, Diocese of Camden

† 12:00 PM (IC) Pro Populo

FRIDAY, February 26—Lenten Weekday

† 7:30 AM (IC) Pro Populo

† 12:00 PM (IC) Pro Populo

SATURDAY, February 27—Saturday after Ash Wednesday

† 7:30 AM (IC) Reverend J. Thomas Connery, Diocese of Albany

† 4:00PM Deceased Members of DiChello, Vecchio, & Tranquillo Families

Requested by Pasquale & Maria DiChello

SUNDAY, February 28—Second Sunday of Lent

† 7:30AM Giovanni Parillo

Requested by Maria & Pasquale DiChello

† 10:00AM David Montano

Requested by his family



Sanctuary Candles

Andrea Kowalczyk - Requested by Kowalczyk family





Father Joe's Notes



My dear friends,

My parents just celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary. They have long exceeded the marriages of their parents, and are set to top the record of Mom's maternal grandparents who were married 63 ½ years. During their marriage, Mom and Dad have moved seven times in five states. They've raised eight children and welcomed twelve grandchildren. Careers have come and gone, and the readjustments were made for retirement. They have chauffeured children to music lessons, scout meetings, and sports practices. They've paid for orthodontists, cars, and college tuitions. It has been a long, meandering journey, and they are still together.

When asked the secret of their long marriage, they often joke saying, "We had an agreement. Whoever filed for divorce got custody of the children!" They would be the first people to tell you a long marriage is not easy. They have had their disagreements and fights. There have been times they were angry and did not like each other very much. They can push each other's buttons in all the wrong ways. Despite all this, they still love one another. They choose every day to care for and respect the other. They choose to put the interests of the couple ahead of their own as individuals. They have learned to make compromises and adapt to changes. They always knew they had to be united, whether making a choice about a move, how to spend and invest money, or how to handle problems with the children. If in doubt, they would pause, talk together, and then go back the problems at hand. Love, respect, and unity are the core of that relationship. While not always easy, it has made them who and what they are.



We seek the same thing in our relationship with God. It's not always easy, as sacrifices need to be made. Sometimes we would rather go our own way. We get fed up with commandments and teachings and just want to leave it behind, but where would we go? If we love God and God loves us, what other choice is there? We need to pause and think. We pray for patience. It takes compromise and compassion. Lent is a time to focus upon that relationship. How well do we love, respect, and unite ourselves with Christ? This is a time to repair any breaks. This is a time of renewal and reflection; a chance to deepen the bonds we have. Lent is our time to appreciate the love our God has for us and the love we have for God. It is not always easy or perfect, but it's real. Make the most of this season to make that bond tighter.

Joyfully yours in Christ, Fr. Joe

✠ Ask Father ✠

Question: Father, why is the church so bare for Lent?

Answer: Well, that's our tradition. During Lent, we remove the flowers and extraneous ornamentations to create a space that is a bit simpler. (We don't go so far as to take down all the statues, cover the paintings, or remove all things of beauty.) By removing banners, or flowers, or extra decorations, we signal that something has changed. Lent is about self-examination and repentance. We work on rebuilding our relationship with God by seeking where God is missing from our lives. We use the time to get rid of things that eat up our time and attention, and so the extra details of liturgical ornamentation matches that reality. During Lent, we see the liturgical objects that are necessary more clearly, like the altar, ambo, presider's chair, and tabernacle. There is nothing to distract from what we need and what is extra to enhance. So too, Lent rids our lives of extra items to focus upon our necessities from God. The space reflects that.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Stations of the Cross

Friday evenings in church at 7:00 PM
—also streamed live on Facebook

Confessions during Lent

Mondays: at *St. Aloysius Church*
4:00 PM—5:00 PM (*English & Polish*)

Tuesdays: at *St. Dominic Church*
1:00 PM—2:00 PM

Wednesdays: at *Mary Our Queen Church*
9:30AM—10:30 AM

Thursdays: at *St. Thomas Church*
6:00 PM—7:00 PM

Saturdays: at *St. Thomas Church*
2:30 PM—3:30 PM

Readings for the week of February 21, 2021

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-9/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a,4-6/Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-7,16-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4,12-13,18-19/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12,14-16,23-25/Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-8/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2,4-5,7-8/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18/Ps 116:10,15,16-17, 18-19/Rom 8:31b-34/ Mk 9:2-10



Parish Information



Parish Staff

Priests

Rev. Joseph R. Cronin—Pastor
fr.cronin@aohct.org

Rev. John E. Cockayne—(*Senior Status*)

Deacons

Angelo J. Coppola—(*Senior Status*)
Vincent J. Raby—Pastoral Associate
den.raby@aohct.org

Music Ministry

Emil Kopcha—Director
Kathy Kopcha—Assistant

Office Manager

Heidi Malley

Business Manager

Marc Ingriselli

Trustees

Susan Howard
Paul Miano

Plant Manager

Casey Potthoff

Custodial Staff

Bonnie Guimond—*Part Time*
Ron Lemire—*Part Time*
Marty Lopatosky
Harry Masterbone

Director of Religious Ed.

Sr. Marie Roccapiore, MPF

Southington Catholic School

Principal

Eileen Sampiere

Office Manager

Loretta Putala

Advancement Director

Mary Alexander

Custodian

Rick Barrett

Devotions / Groups

Italian Rosary Group

CURRENTLY ON HOLD

Lap Blanket Ministry

Parishioners make blankets for patients in local health care facilities. Anyone who crochets is invited to join us in the church basement. *One Wednesday Evening a month 7:00-8:15PM. Canceled until further notice.*

Ladies Guild

The Ladies Guild meets the first Monday of each month, and hosts hospitality the first Sunday of each month. **Canceled until further notice.**

Bible Study Group

We'll meet Thursday, February 25th. We will study Judges, 19:1-20:7—The Gibeah Outrage. **Please, join us Thursdays at 1:30PM in the church or streamed on our Facebook.**

Cemetery

If you or your family are looking to purchase a plot or niche in the columbarium, give us a call in the rectory office. We'll have our Plant Manager, Casey Potthoff, meet with you and explain the options for graves and markers. Please, call the rectory to schedule a meeting.

Sponsor Certificates

They're available in the sacristy and the rectory. You must be an active parishioner, registered with us at least 6 months. The use of the envelopes helps verify your status. You must also have completed your Sacraments of Initiation and be in a valid marriage. If you have questions, call us.

Sacraments

Baptism

Parents, contact the rectory to schedule a baptism. There's a preparation meeting for parents having their first child baptized.

RCIA—Adult Sacraments

Anyone interested in becoming Catholic, give us a call!

Reconciliation

Confessions are Saturdays 3:00 PM until 3:30 PM in the reconciliation room in the church (you must wear a mask when coming),

Marriage

We need a minimum of six months for preparation. Couples should contact Father Joe to set up a meeting.

Sacrament of the Sick

Should you, or someone you know, need an anointing, please call Father Joe at the rectory to schedule a visit.

Homebound / Hospital

Please, contact the rectory if you or a family member is homebound or in the hospital. We can arrange for a Eucharistic Minister to bring you the Blessed Sacrament at home.

New Parishioners

Welcome! We're delighted to have you join. Introduce yourself to Father or the Deacons after Mass. Parish registration forms are available in the sacristy and the rectory office. Take one for the family, and a separate form for each member. Once completed, mail them to us or drop them in the collection basket.



Collections for February 14th

Weekly—\$7123/Online—\$2570



† Southington Catholic School †

HELP OUR SCHOOL!

GROCERY SHOPPING FOR FREE RECESS EQUIPMENT

Your every trip to the grocery store can help supply Southington Catholic School with new recess balls, hula hoops, jump ropes and playground equipment. Please consider registering your grocery store card number and your email address with your favorite grocery store's individual school support program. The following ID numbers will ensure your points are credited to SCS.

Stop and Shop...# 07204

Shop-Rite: # 52127

Price Chopper: # 56218

Big Y:# 5700



Hiring a Principal and Office Manager

Our Principal, Mrs. Eileen Sampiere, will be retiring at the end of the school year. We are seeking a new principal. Anyone interested may apply through the Archdiocese at: <https://catholicedaohct.org/career-opportunities/in-our-schools/administrator/318/southington-catholic-elementary-school-principal-pk-8>. Our Office manager, Mrs. Loretta Putala, also retiring. This position will be filled after the opening for a principal, but applications may be sent to us now.

St. Thomas Religious Ed.



TAKE A LOOK Enroll for 2021-2022

A New Year and New Opportunities: Southington Catholic School is looking ahead to the 2021-2022 school year. Starting this month, prospective families are invited to schedule a tour of our pre-k to grade 8 school. Under COVID precautions, visits are by appointment only and can be scheduled for Wednesday afternoons 2:30-4:00 or by special request. Please call 860-628-2485 to register. Openings in our pre-k programs are filled on a first come basis. Come and see what we have to offer your family. Perhaps, you will become part of our family!

SEEKING A DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTER

As the five Catholic Parishes in Southington begin to merge our ministries, we will be operating a joint religious education program and youth ministry program starting in the fall of 2021. Anyone interested in applying for these positions may do so. You may submit a resume to any of the pastors.



Saints Corner

During the Easter Vigil, we sing a litany of saints. We seek the intercessions of those saints in heaven with Christ for those about to be baptized. The hope is that the baptized will join the saints forever in praising God's glory. Throughout Lent, we'll review a few of the saints' names so you know more about the heavenly realms.



St. Polycarp of Smyrna: Born around the year 69, Polycarp was a Greek speaking pagan. He met St. John the Evangelist and was converted by his teaching. He was friends with St. Ignatius of Antioch and was the teacher of St. Irenaeus of Lyon. Polycarp was a renowned leader in the Church in the First Century, involved in the early debate about selecting the date for Easter celebrations. One of his letters, the letter to the Church in Philippi survives. In it we see something of his fight to preserve orthodox faith against the gnostic heresy. Around the year 155, at 86 years of age, he was arrested and condemned to die by the Empire. He was sentenced to death by being burned, but the flames would not touch his body. Soldiers came and stabbed him. He's the patron for protection from dysentery and earaches. His feast is February 23rd.

St. Denis: Dionysius was sent as a missionary to France and became the first bishop of Paris. His success at converting so many local earned the ire of local pagans. He was imprisoned by the Roman governor. Denis was executed in 258 during the persecutions of Valerius, along with St. Rusticus and St. Elueutherius on Montmartre in Paris. Legend says that after being tortured and beheaded, his body picked up his own head and processed through Paris to the site of his burial. St. Genevieve later built a church over his grave. He is the patron of Paris and all France, and he is invoked for protection from headaches, rabies, and possession. His Feast day is October 9th.

St. Isidore the Farmer: Born in the area surrounding Madrid, Spain around the year 1070, he lived the simple life of a farm laborer. He and his wife, St Maria de la Cabeza, had one son who died in his youth. They then dedicated their lives to prayer and performing good works. Isidore would go to daily Mass and was accused by fellow workers of being lazy. His response was that he had no choice but to serve his Master. When reports of this went to the land owner, he rode out to find angels plowing the fields in place of Isidore. He died on May 15, 1130 of natural causes. He is the patron of farmers, day laborers, ranchers, rural communities, for rain, and for protection from the death of a child.. His feast day is May 15th.

Stewardship Thought

The waters of Baptism make us part of the covenant in Christ. But the Bishops' Pastoral Letter on stewardship reminds us that "there is a fundamental obligation arising from the Sacrament of Baptism...that people place their gifts, their resources — their selves — at God's service in and through the Church"



Our Sunday Visitor, Stewardship by the Book: Bulletin Bits Based on the Sunday Readings, by Sharon Hueckel, 2004 edition, page 16)

Online Giving



At this time when churches are limited, it's impossible to pass a basket. Despite this, we still have expenses. If you want to help your parish, this is a great chance still to make your contribution! Online giving is a great way to support our parish. Signing up is easy if you can use a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Go to our webpage: www.stthomassouthington.org and click the Online Giving Logo. ***To keep costs down, we ask that you make your donations scheduled for Saturday or Sunday.*** For online support, call them at 1-800-348-2886, Ex. 2. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Passion Play News

We're working on a virtual plan for this year. There's a safe opportunity for past and current members to be highlighted in the showing. There is a deadline so for complete information on how to get involved in this, go to: www.stthomassouthington.org/cast-info to help us !



Archbishop's Annual Appeal 2021

REACHING OUT, HEALING TOGETHER

As we begin the 2021 Archbishop's Annual Appeal, it's important to remember that the Appeal isn't primarily about money as such, but about active charity and ministry to others. That is the inspiration for this year's theme: **Reaching Out, Healing Together**. We cannot afford to give in to discouragement or disengagement.



Even in the midst of whatever burdens we may bear as a result of the pandemic, more than ever the AAA is a call to action and generosity for the sake of the Church's spiritual ministry and charitable assistance to a hurting and anxious world. We bear

witness to a love that overcomes, perseveres, and is as boundless as God's love for us; a love that responds with empathy to a neighbor who is struggling or in pain, and brings that person to a knowledge and love of God, a love that cannot be silent or still, but as St. Paul says, "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Cor 13:7)

Reaching Out, Healing Together in the aftermath of the pandemic, we look forward to attending Mass and celebrating the Eucharist, spending time with our loved ones, and lending a hand to our neighbors in need. As we emerge, and begin to heal; adapting to the changes forced upon us, we must never lose sight of our faith and the good we can do for those who may be facing challenges in body, mind, soul and spirit. By combining all of our individual gifts as one archdiocesan family of faith, we can accomplish great things in the name of Christ and his Church for the people of Hartford, New Haven, and Litchfield Counties. Please share generously the time, talent, and treasure that God has bestowed upon you, so that together we can continue our ministries for the spiritual and material well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

To make a donation, go to: [https://
appeal.archdioceseofhartford.org/donations/](https://appeal.archdioceseofhartford.org/donations/)

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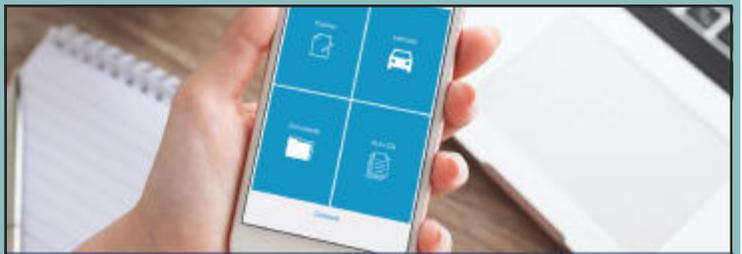
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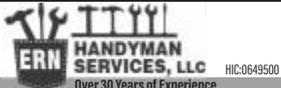


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