

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).”



March 7, 2021
Third Sunday of Lent
Archbishop's Appeal Kick-off

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

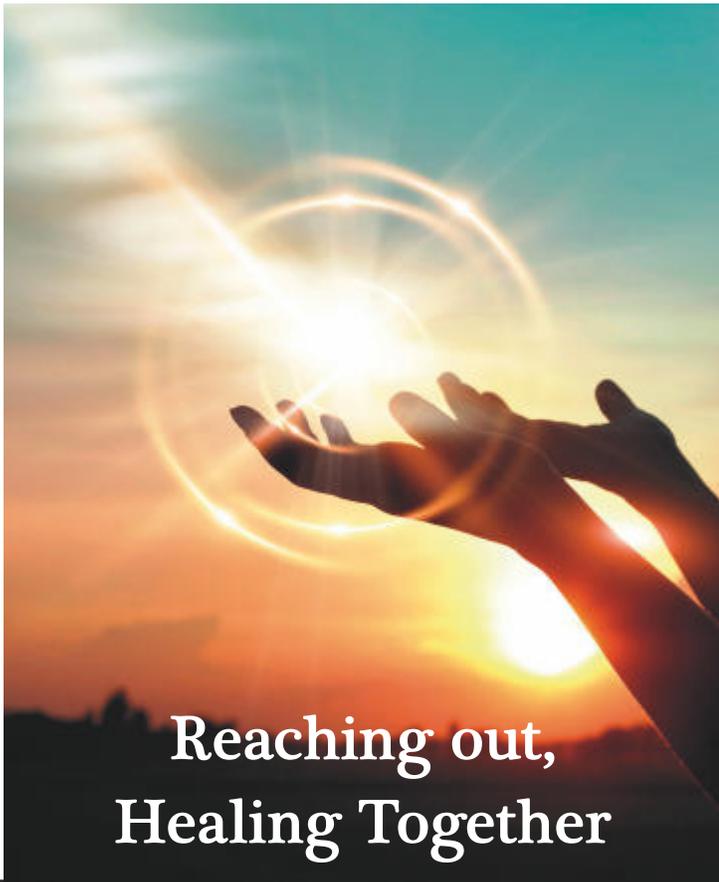
Address: 20 Eden Place Southington, CT
Phone: 860-621-1904

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



Reaching out,
Healing Together

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, March 6—Lenten Weekday

† 7:30 AM (IC) Francis P. Wallett Requested by daughter

† 4:00PM James Pavlick, Sr. Requested by Rosemary, James, Jr., Maura, & Jordan

SUNDAY, March 7—Third Sunday of Lent

† 7:30AM Mr. & Mrs. Richard Fragola Requested by their son, Rich Fragola, Jr.

† 10:00AM Harry White, Sr. Requested by the family

MONDAY, March 8—St. John of God, Religious

† 7:30 AM (IC) Rosemarie Wallett Requested by daughter

† 12:00 PM (IC) Pro Populo

TUESDAY, March 9—St. Frances of Rome, Religious

† 7:30 AM (IC) Pro Populo

† 12:00 PM (IC) Pro Populo

WEDNESDAY, March 10—Lenten Weekday

† 7:30 AM (IC) Pro Populo

† 12:00 PM (IC) Pro Populo

THURSDAY, March 11—Lenten Weekday

† 7:30 AM (IC) Fr. Joseph O’Keefe Requested by Wally & Bette Ann Bailey

† 12:00 PM (IC) Pro Populo

FRIDAY, March 12—Lenten Weekday

† 7:30 AM (IC) Pro Populo

† 12:00 PM (IC) Pro Populo

SATURDAY, March 13—Lenten Weekday

† 7:30 AM (IC) Paul Sucholet Requested by Fr. Ron

† 4:00PM Margaret Baker Requested by Diane & John Kolosky

SUNDAY, March 14—Fourth Sunday of Lent

† 7:30AM Damien Dineen Requested by Anne Neto

† 10:00AM Nicola & Saveria Sabino Requested by Vincenzo & Teresa Scirocco



Sanctuary Candles

Deceased Members of the Aldi Family

Requested by LouAnn Sieruta





Father Joe's Notes



My dear friends,

How to choose just one? When there are so many options, what do you pick? That's a question I ask each week sitting to prepare items for the bulletin. During Lent, we run the section "Saints Corner" to help educate you about those who have walked the journey to sanctification before us.



With the hundreds of thousands of choices of known, declared saints, how do I choose just three each week?

If we have candidates for RCIA, I often try to find their patrons to cover over the course of the season. Sometimes I just look at the calendar and see what feast days we have coming. Sometimes I look to highlight very ancient Christians, and other times I try to find more modern ones. I look to saints from various parts of the world, and also to those who are from very close to our home. Basically, I try to get some diversity in there to show the breadth and depth of the Communion of Saints. Since there is such a variety of them, it gives us all hope that we might be with them.

Life often comes with a variety of choices. Many people often ask if they are on the one path. There is no one path to happiness, wholeness, or holiness. There are as many as we have saints in heaven or stars in the sky. Sometimes we have to look at the choices before us and pick. We try to educate ourselves before we undertake that journey, by looking at what may be up

the road or asking if it were in keeping with my joys, talents, interests, or experience. Sometimes we will take a wrong path, and we need to choose again. That's fine. Just don't be paralyzed by the variety of options. Don't stay in one place just because you aren't completely sure of how every option will develop. Pick something

that looks good and try it.

In life, we're called to make the most of the choices we are given. We do our best to educate ourselves to make the best possible choices. In the end, we can always make changes, if we find the path we selected was wrong. We are the Church of reconciliation, and we do speak about forgiveness and getting a clean slate. Don't be too scared. Take what opportunities may come and do your best to make sure, no matter what path, you walk it with Christ.

Hopefully yours in Christ. Fr. Joe

✠ Ask Father ✠

Question: Father, why do we call it "Good Friday" if it is the day Jesus dies? What's good about that?

Answer: Many people ask me this all the time, but almost always in private. They are afraid they will look silly to others. People ask, because it was a terrible day for our Lord. He had been betrayed and brutally tortured. His own people rejected him and handed him over to foreigners who crucified him. Jesus was buried with strangers in a place far from his home in Nazareth. So how is this a good day in any way? For Jesus, it was not good, but for us, it's a good day. It's good because it shows the immense love of Christ for us. He endured even torture and death to save us. He held nothing back to set us free from sin. It is good for us to learn how much our God loves us and wants us to be united with him. That's why it is a very good day – for us!

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 March 7, 2021

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17/Ps 19:8-11/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2-3;43:3-4/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25,34-43/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1,5-9/Ps 147:12-13,15-16,19-20/
Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2,6-7,8-9/Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-11ab,14,17/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4,18-21ab/Lk 18:9-14

Next Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16,19-23/Ps 137:1-6/Eph 2:4-10/
Jn 3:14-21



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 will meet Thursday, March 11th. We introduce the Book of the Prophet Amos and study Chapter 1. **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.



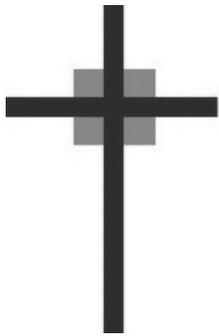
Collections for February 28th

Weekly—\$6243/Texas—\$1506/Online—\$3102



† Southington Catholic School †

Annual Fund



Southington Catholic School is launching our Annual Fund, with a goal of \$30,000. This major fundraiser helps guarantee that we can continue to offer the advantages of Catholic education to our community. Many of our usual fundraising events have had to be cancelled during the pandemic, making this appeal even more important. If you, or any member of your extended family, benefited from the strong academics that are the hallmark of Catholic education, please consider donating to ensure this option for our community. For online donations/pledges, visit our website: www.southingtoncatholicsschool.org and click on the FACTSgiving Donate Online.

Enroll for 2021-2022

Careful compliance to all or the COVID 19 guidelines has made it possible for Southington Catholic School to continue in-person instruction here without interruption this year. With great optimism, we are now planning for the next school year. We anticipate the “new normal” will allow for more extracurricular activities and special events at school. We are now accepting registration for pre-k 3 through grade 8. Perspective families are invited to arrange a personal tour by calling Mary Alexander at 860-628-2485 ext. 114.



St. Thomas Religious Ed. †

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Southington Catholic School Golf



Tournament is scheduled for Friday, May 14th at the Southington Country Club. Mark the date for a great day of golf with friends, parents, alumni and fellow supporters of Southington Catholic School. Line up your foursome and be ready to register for this safe

way to celebrate Southington Catholic School under warm, sunny skies.



Saints Corner

We seek the intercessions of the saints in heaven with Christ. Throughout Lent, we'll review a few saints' names so you know more about the heavenly realms.

St. George: The only facts we know about George are that he was a soldier and a martyr who died in Palestine around 304. Many legends arose around him. One tells the story of a dragon which ate sheep. When the sheep became scarce, villagers fed the beast young maidens instead. Hearing the story of a princess who was to be devoured, George went to meet the dragon. He made the sign of the cross and rode into battle against the monster. He killed the dragon with a single blow of the lance and then preached to the local people. George's courage and conviction led them to convert to Christianity. The local king gave him a great reward which he in turn gave to the poor. His feast day is April 23rd. He is the patron saint of Palestine, butchers, equestrians, knights, sheep, the poor, and the Boy Scouts.

St. Helena of the Cross: While we're not sure of an exact date of place, Helena was born about 250 AD in the region of what is now north western Turkey. She married Constantius Chlorus, the Roman Emperor, and gave birth to his only son, Constantine. Her husband divorced her later to make a more advantageous marriage. She converted to Christianity when her son, now emperor, made it a legal religion in the empire. At the age of 80, she led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to seek relics of her faith. While in Jerusalem, her party exhumed several crosses. To test if one was the true cross of Christ, she had a woman with an incurable illness touch each of them. When that woman touched the true cross, she was cured. St. Helena had a church built on top of the site, and sent pieces of the cross to Rome and Constantinople. The Roman relic is housed in the St. Peter's Basilica in a chapel above the statue of St. Helena in one of the piers holding up the dome. She is the patron of archeologists, converts and divorced people. Her feast day is August 18th.

St. Moses the Ethiopian: Moses was born as a slave in the household of an Egyptian official in 330. The family cast him out because he was a thief. He fell in with a band of robbers and continued his life of crime. One time on the run from officials seeking to arrest him, Moses took shelter with a group of monks in the desert. He was so impressed by their charity, faith and way of life, he converted. He joined the order and was ordained a priest. Moses was a man of many gifts from God, and he was famous in his ministry. He became an avowed pacifist to repent his former sinful life. When the monastery was attacked by Berber raiders, he would not fight or even defend himself. The invaders murdered him in 405. He is the patron of reformed thieves



Stewardship Thought

"You shall not covet ..." is perhaps a difficult commandment to keep in our consumer-oriented society. But as Christian stewards, we know that we are the recipients and caretakers of God's many gifts. May this understanding that all is gift help us be less resentful of the gifts of others.



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

Volunteers Needed



The hospice care program of Franciscan Home Care and Hospice Care is beginning a new virtual Hospice Volunteer class for individuals interested in giving of their time to place calls to families or visit hospice patients. Each volunteer must complete 16 class hours. If you are interested in joining our volunteer hospice team, please contact

Barbara Raby at 203-238-1441 or email bjraby1@gmail.com.

LPN Needed

Are you looking for a weekend position in home health care? Are you a LPN? Consider applying to Franciscan Home Care and Hospice Care, a Catholic agency offering care in the home. Primary responsibilities include:

- Facilitating referrals
- Educating clients on services
- Relaying inquiries and referrals to intake nurses or supervisors
- Utilizing electronic health records
- Tracking hospitalized/transferred patients

Call Marie Laffin, RN, Clinical Director, at 203-238-1441

HELP WANTED FOR RCIA AND ADULT CONFIRMATION

The Southington parishes will work together to prepare adults for full membership in the Catholic Church. Volunteers are needed for the leadership team as well as for instruction and mentoring. Training will be provided. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Deacon Vinny Raby by telephone 860-628-9425 or email dcn.raby@aohct.org.

Archbishop's Annual Appeal 2021

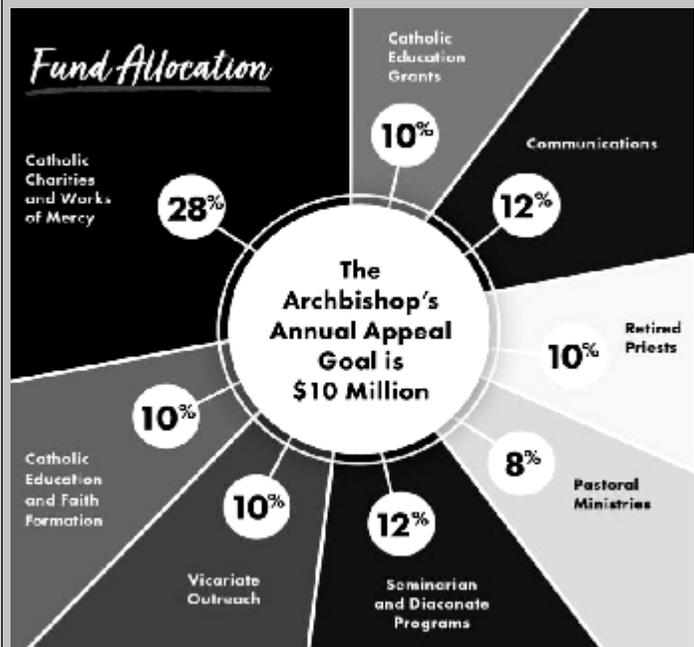
REACHING OUT, HEALING TOGETHER



The pandemic has caused great harm worldwide. Not only has the disease infected and killed millions, but it has caused a great financial strain for many individuals and families. We have seen recently that food insecurity, homelessness, and domestic violence

are on the rise. We have seen record numbers of people turning to assistance for the first time. With shutdowns and social distancing, a great many charitable organizations that serve the people who suffer could not engage in their fund raisers that support their missions. The Archbishop's Annual Appeal works with local charities and organizations to offer help. Your support of the appeal makes life better for so many of our neighbors right here in the Southington area. Please, prayerfully consider giving this year if you are able to do so.

To make a donation, go to: <https://appeal.archdioceseofhartford.org/donations/>



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