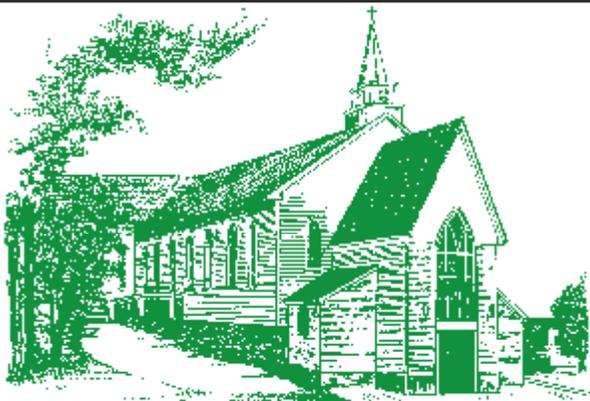


Saint Thomas Church

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).”



June 27, 2021

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 Faith Formation

Phone: 860-628-9679

E-mail: Southington.dre@gmail.com

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, June 26—Weekday

† 7:30 AM (IC) Stanislaw Zak

Requested by family

† 4:00PM Deceased Members of Alfonso Fragola family

Requested by Mickey & Frank

SUNDAY, June 27—Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

† 7:30AM Michael Volpe & Anthony Renzi

Requested by Maria LaPorta

† 10:00AM Francis & Jennie Papallo

Requested by their daughters

MONDAY, June 28—St. Irenaus, Bishop & Martyr

† 7:30 AM(IC) Madeline Bailey

Requested by Wally & Bette Ann

† 12:00 PM (IC) Mary & Albert Gasecki

Requested by family

TUESDAY, June 29—St. Peter & Paul, Apostles

† 7:30 AM (IC) Pro-Populo (for the people)

† 12:00 PM (IC) Philip Nilsson

Requested by Pat Talley

WEDNESDAY, June 30—The First Martyrs of the Church

† 7:30 AM (IC) Pro-Populo (for the people)

† 12:00 PM (IC) Ben & Lucille Orioli

Requested by son

THURSDAY, July 1—St. Junipero Serra, Priest

† 7:30 AM (IC) Charles & Marie Louise Comstock

Requested by son, Charles

† 12:00 PM (IC) Pro-Populo (for the people)

FRIDAY, July 2—Weekday

† 7:30 AM (IC) Jerry Penoagast & Helen Walcek

Requested by family

† 12:00 PM (IC) Pro-Populo (for the people)

SATURDAY, July 3—St. Thomas, Apostle

† 7:30 AM (IC) Dorothy Govotski

Requested by Fr. Ron

† 4:00PM Geraldine, Romeo, & Norman Martin

Requested by family

SUNDAY, July 4—Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

† 7:30AM Gerard Soucy

Requested by daughter Judy

† 10:00AM John Kenny

Requested by Baldwin family



Sanctuary Candle

Church: All who are traveling this summer





Father Joe's Notes



My dear friends,

As June ends, we approach the first step of the merger of the parishes in Southington. As of August 1st, I'll be pastor of Immaculate Conception, St. Thomas, and St. Dominic parishes. That Sunday will be the last day we have regularly scheduled Masses at St. Thomas Church. We will remain open until we have a farewell Mass which we will schedule with Archbishop Blair, and it will be available for weddings and funeral in those months before the heating season begins.

Beginning August 7th & 8th, we will have a new Mass schedule for these parishes. On Saturdays, we will have two vigil Masses: 4:00 PM at St. Dominic Church and 5:30 PM at Immaculate Conception Church. On Sundays, we will have three Masses: 7:30 & 10:30 AM at St. Dominic Church and 9:00AM Mass (in Polish) at Immaculate Conception Church. If you wondered about the timeline, there are guidelines in the Archdiocese that Masses should be scheduled at least an hour and half from the beginning of one to the beginning of the next. This allows time for church parking lots to clear and refill, or time to drive from one church building to the other. That gave us the guidance to form this schedule. Some people asked about Mary Our Queen and St. Aloysius. The formal merger of all the parishes in town into one new parish does not happen until July of 2022. Until that time, those parishes will remain on their own with their own Mass schedules. We will have to develop a new schedule for then, which we have not yet done. One step at a time!

While the parishes will not be formally merged into one new parish yet, we are moving forward with joint ministries. All five parishes support Southington Catholic School. All five will share a single religious education program, and we will begin registering students for that in July. We are

working to get the single youth ministry program initiated this fall. Efforts are being made to merge the two Knights of Columbus councils into one. We will be encouraging other ministries and organizations to begin talking and combining forces, like women's guilds, men's clubs, rosary societies, etc. The more we stand together, the greater the witness of Christ's love we offer to our community.

Some people are concerned about registering for a new parish. It will not be necessary. While the church building at St. Thomas will not be usable, the parish still exists as a corporation. You may continue giving online or sending in envelopes for the next year. No matter what church one attends, we will send envelopes back to the parish of registration each week. (Cash will remain at the parish that held the Mass.) Only when we have become a new parish entity in July of 2022 will that change where only one parish exists with one census and envelope system. No need to change now.

I hope that clears up a few points of what is coming. We will speak more about it in the months ahead of us.

Readings for the week of June 27, 2021

Sunday: Wis 1:13-15;2:23-24/Ps 30:2,4-6,11-13/
2 Cor 8:7,9,13-15/Mk 5:21-43

Monday: Gn 18:16-33/Ps 103:1b-4,8-11/Mt 8:18-22

Tuesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 19:2-5/Gal 1:11-20/ Jn 21:15-19
Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-9/ Tm 4:6-8,17-18/Mt 16:13-19

Wednesday: Gn 21:5,8-20a/Ps 34:7-8,10-11-13/Mt 8:28-34

Thursday: Gn 22:1b-19/Ps 115:1-6,8-9/Mt 9:1-8

Friday: Gn 23:1-4,19;24:1-8,62-67/Ps 106:1b-5/Mt 9:9-13

Saturday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc,2/Jn 20:24-29

Next Sunday: Ez 2:2-5/Ps 123:1-4/2 Cor 12:7-10/Mk 6:1-6a

✠ Ask Father ✠

Question: Father, why do sponsors have to be confirmed yet people getting married don't have to be?

Answer: The Church has guidelines and rules about everything. It's *preferred* that people make their sacraments in order (confirmation before matrimony), but that isn't required. (It is for Holy Orders and religious profession, but that's another story.) Baptism is the first and base sacrament of all the others. Anyone who is baptized is a member of the Church. According to Canon Law, all baptized Catholics have the right and are required to marry in the church, even if they marry a non-Catholic (#1059). Only people in situations prohibited by Canon Law don't marry in the Church, and lack of confirmation isn't an impediment. So, one who isn't confirmed can and should be married in the Catholic Church. The hope is that by forming them for the couple for sacrament of marriage, they will be inspired to receive other sacraments to help them in their married life. Being a sponsor for a sacrament is a completely different category. Sponsors for baptism and confirmation are models of the faith for the person making the sacrament and for the community. They're people who aren't just baptized, but people who put their faith in action. They should be chosen with great care and consideration. Canon Law has a list of qualifications for sponsors. Sponsors must be: chosen by the person making the sacrament, or by a parent if the child is not of the age of reason; must be at least sixteen years of age; must be a confirmed Catholic who receives the Eucharist and leads a life in communion with the Church; cannot be under any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared; cannot be the parent of the one making the sacrament; cannot belong to a non-Catholic ecclesial community (#874). Since they are to be examples and models of what we all hope to be, they have to measure up to a higher category than the people receiving the sacrament. That's why they have to be confirmed.



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
dcn.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 Faith Formation

Patrick Reid

Director of Youth Ministry

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 have finished our Bible study for this year. We will begin a new study in September. At that time, we will examine the Gospel of Luke. We hope to welcome new friends this fall!

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 June 20th

Weekly—\$4390/Online—\$2511



† Southington Catholic School †

Breakfast Cupboard:

The summer months will bring an even greater need for supporting the Southington Food Pantry. Without school meals, many children rely on the donations that the Food Pantry makes available to families in need. Southington Catholic School will continue to collect boxes of breakfast cereal throughout the summer months. Please consider adding an extra box of cereal to your weekly shopping trip and dropping it off at school. Your effort makes a difference to a family in need. Please call the school at 860-628-2485 for summer hours. Thank you.



† Southington Faith Formation †

Is God Calling You to Be a Catechist?

The word *catechist* derives from a Greek word meaning "to echo." Catechists, in the Parishes of Southington, echo the **Word of God** to the children and youth. Catechists are faithful believers that comprise various ages, skills, and talents. They are not expected to be seasoned teachers or brilliant theologians. They are ordinary people, *just like you*, who generously volunteer their time to share our Catholic faith, values, and traditions with our youngest generation. Catechists are positive role models who help children grow in faith, spirituality, and their relationship with God. Their gift of time and talents has tremendous value... because through their words, actions, and expression of faith given towards their students, the message of Jesus Christ continues to spread throughout the world.

Do you:

- Love God and want to know Him better?
- Love children and enjoy working with them?
- Want to share God's love with others?
- Want to be good role model for children?
- Want to share your faith more and help others grow in their own faith?
- Want to help children develop a relationship with God through Jesus Christ?

Feel Jesus' call to serve and carry out the mission he gave all of us?

The parishes of Southington are offering the first unified faith formation program this fall. We need Catechists, who are interested in offering an hour and half a week, to help instruct the younger generations in the faith. Training, resources, and materials are provided! Anyone who is interested in serving, please contact the Director of Religious Education, Patrick Reid, via email at Southington.dre@gmail.com, by June 20th.

Birthright of Connecticut

Birthright Needs Volunteers! Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service offering free pregnancy tests, friendship counseling, and practical support. Our guiding principle: It is the RIGHT of every pregnant woman to give BIRTH and the RIGHT of every child to be BORN. Birthright volunteers have served in Connecticut since 1972. Thousands of expectant mothers have received the help they need to bring their babies into the world! There are 7 Birthright centers in our state. Please call 1-800-550-4900 for the Birthright nearest you. Training is provided. Spanish speaking volunteers are especially needed. Thank you.

Birthright Needs gently worn **Maternity and Baby Clothing.** Please call the number above for information on where to drop off your donations. **Thank you in advance!**



Stewardship Thought



Today's reading from St. Paul explains the "divine economy" of stewardship — "The relief of others ought not to impoverish you; there should be a certain equality. Your plenty at the present time should supply their need so that their surplus may in turn one day supply your need."

Our Sunday Visitor, Stewardship by the Book: Bulletin Bits Based on the Sunday Readings, by Sharon Hueckel, 2004 edition pg 20

A Note from Deacon Angelo Coppola

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

As we recover and make our way back to normal, one thing is certain, many things have changed or no longer exist. Much has changed in my life also. If you have returned here to St. Thomas, you may have noticed that I have not served the parish as a deacon for over a year and a half. At about the same time the pandemic began, I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.



This is a chronic and progressive neurological movement disorder. Symptoms include slowness of movement, balance and gait problems, as well as a low voice and other issues. Advances have been made in finding a cure for the disease. While doctors can prescribe medications which can treat the symptoms, there is no cure as of now.

I am in no pain and I am able to live a fairly normal life, with two exceptions: I am constantly dizzy and I am constantly tired. These conditions have made it impossible to continue serving as a deacon at St. Thomas with all that is required. Consequently, after serving 30 years as a deacon, it is with great sadness and a sense of loss that I have submitted my resignation to Father Joe. He has treated me with kindness, respect, and fairness. I was hoping to serve another 3 years, but my medical circumstances make it impossible for me to function.

I have always enjoyed serving at St. Thomas and St. Aloysius Churches, and I have felt needed and appreciated. I have served under some wonderful priests, including Father Joe, as well as dedicated deacons who preceded me and worked with me. The parishioners of St. Thomas made my years of service uplifting, fruitful, and gratifying. I will never forget all their kindness toward me. They have been a source of inspiration and growth for me.

I thank you all for what you have done for me. Please, pray for my family and me.

God bless you all. Deacon Angelo

CARE FOR GOD'S ACRE ST. THOMAS CEMETERY

These guidelines have been developed with concern for the operational expenses of the cemetery. For aesthetic and practical reasons, they have been adopted.

Upright Monument Lots: The planting of annuals is permitted only in the 10 inch area directly in front of the monument, not to exceed the length of the monument. (When burials are on both sides of the stone, annuals may be planted 10 inches in front of the stone and behind it, also not exceeding the width of the monument.) Wood mulch is allowed on the planting area, but you may not use gravel, stone, or crushed rubber. Edging and fencing is prohibited. Nothing is allowed to be attached to the monuments. Planting urns or pots are not permitted on monuments.

Flush Marker Lots: Planting of flowers is prohibited.

Artificial Decorations of any kind are not permitted between March 15th and November 20th. Pumpkins and other fruit are not allowed for decorations. Vases, bottles, and cans are also prohibited. Lights and candles are prohibited. **Winter decorations** are permitted between November 20th and March 15th. These consist of wreaths and bows, and artificial flowers and evergreens placed in boxes. No decorations shall exceed 2 feet in width, 2 feet in depth, and 2 feet in height. These are to be confined to the space immediately in front of an upright monument (and behind, if burials are on both sides of the stone – decorations to the side are prohibited). Damage may occur to winter decorations during snow removal or moving for burials. All due care will be taken, but the cemetery is not responsible for any damage in these cases. *Please note, all allowable grave decorations are as stated above. No other items are to be placed on graves. Any items violating the rules and regulations will be removed by the cemetery personnel immediately.*

Potted Plants and flower boxes at upright monument plots and flush marker plots are allowed only during the week (7 days including and following) of: Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Mothers' Day, Memorial Day, and Fathers' Day. Potted plants dug into the soil will be removed immediately. *Please note – palms are blessed and should not be used to decorate graves.*

New Shrubbery is not permitted on individual lots. Existing shrubs will be removed by the cemetery workers at such time as they become overgrown. *Please note, roses are shrubs.*

Pets are not allowed in the cemetery. There have been issues with animal waste, pets digging around or marking stones, and animals off leashes. Out of respect for those buried there, no pets are allowed.

Drinking alcoholic beverages or consumption of illegal drugs is prohibited.

The Speed limit for driving in the cemetery is 15MPH.

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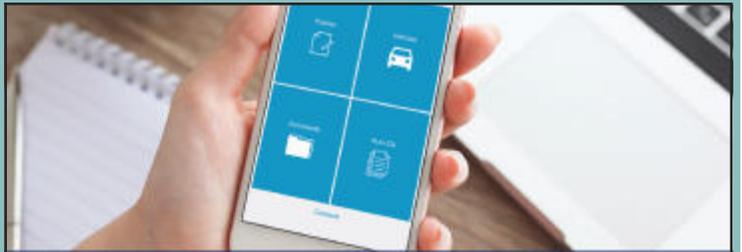
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860-242-0738

St James Cemetery, Manchester
860-646-3772

Holy Cross Cemetery, Glastonbury
860-646-3772

St Mary Cemetery, New Britain
860-225-1938

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860-646-3772

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