

# 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).”



July 25, 2021

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Rectory Office

Phone: 860-628-4713 Fax: 860-628-7341

E-Mail: [stthomassouthington@gmail.com](mailto:stthomassouthington@gmail.com)

Web Sites: [www.stthomassouthington.org](http://www.stthomassouthington.org)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/104009621923](https://www.facebook.com/groups/104009621923)

## Youth Ministry

Phone: 860-628-5159

E-mail: [southingtonyouthministry@gmail.com](mailto:southingtonyouthministry@gmail.com)

## Office of Faith Formation

Phone: 860-628-5159

E-mail: [Southington.dre@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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 for the Intentions*  *for the Week*

**Rectory Office Hours**

**Monday—Friday 8AM-4PM**

**SATURDAY, July 24—St. Sharbel Makhluf, Priest**

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

† 4:00PM Aniello Perone

Requested by wife Antoinette

**SUNDAY, July 25—Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

† 7:30AM Anthony Vecchio

Requested by wife & children

† 10:00AM Harry White, Sr.

Requested by family

**MONDAY, July 26—SS. Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

† 7:30 AM(IC) Francis P. Wallett

Requested by daughter

† 12:00 PM (IC) Gronowski & Bendyk families

Requested by daughter & family

**TUESDAY, July 27—Weekday**

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

† 12:00 PM (IC) Maria White

Requested by Mary & Gerry Olmeda

**WEDNESDAY, July 28—Weekday**

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

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

**THURSDAY, July 29—St. Martha**

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

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

**FRIDAY, July 30—St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor**

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

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

**SATURDAY, July 31—St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest**

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

† 4:00PM Fred Prekosovich

Requested by Shirley & daughters

**SUNDAY, August 1—Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

† 7:30AM Steven & Florence Legat

Requested by Deborah & Richard Testa

† 10:00AM Pasqualina Milana

Requested by Hugo & Claudia Vellucci



*Sanctuary Candle*

**Church: Sophie Mongillo**





# Father Joe's Notes



My dear friends,

I spent last weekend, when not hearing confessions or presiding at Masses, dealing with funerals. While not an uncommon reality for me, they were in my family. One sister's brother-in-law, Alan, died Friday night. Another sister's husband, Fish, died on Saturday night. These are men who have been in my life for ages. I knew Alan as a kid through church and then he was one of the in-laws. Pat started dating Fish when I was 13. These ever present figures were gone, and so it was time to grieve. I spent the weekend in funeral planning mode, helping family making plans and booking things. (These are things I know how to do and can think of all the crazy contingencies without effort.) As I write this, I now await the days of the services.

While I am sad about these deaths, I cannot say I am devastated. This is not from lack of love, but knowledge of who they are. Alan was full of life and fun. He was a man who helped others and always celebrated the gift of life. Fish was a hard working survivor. The child of Holocaust survivors who was tormented by a gang of Irish kids in his neighborhood as a child, that never prevented him from marrying into a big Irish, Catholic family. He was always working to make sure that his children had a much better life than he had, which was better than his parents' lives. They both demonstrated the virtue and importance of hope. As I mourn their losses, I still hope. That is legacy they leave me.

As we face the closure of this church, I am sad, but I am not going to be devastated. It is a loss, but one I



know I can face. This is a place of Christian worship. Our Faith teaches us that we are on a journey. Life is never static. Change is not only going to happen, but is necessary. To grow, we change. To seek salvation, we must change. It's at the core of all we believe. So why would I lock into experiencing that faith in one place only? Why see the changes happening as just an end and not as a beginning? I am sad, but I know there is more than loss. The hope of Christ impels us. There is no need to fear or despair.

As we move through this time of transition, you are in my thoughts and prayers. We will go through some trials and confusion, but we will manage. We have the love of Christ and the care of God's people. So we look back and celebrate, but keep moving forward. Our faith and our forbearers teach us this. To honor all this place has meant, we need to love, serve, and hope.

Hopefully yours in Christ, Fr. Joe

## ✠ Ask Father ✠

**Question:** Father, what will happen to us now that this church is closing?

**Answer:** Well, it means we will be gathering somewhere else to pray. With any change, things are always a bit confusing and frightening at first, but then people adapt. Think about that first day in high school or college, when you moved to a new town, when you began that job, or how you had to join a new family when you were getting married. Some of those may have been fairly smooth; some may have been traumatic; some may have taken time to learn to find the way to go. Changes can be difficult, but they are not impossible. We will be joining with our brothers and sisters from the other parishes. The next year or two will be filled with all sorts of new issues and challenges. It may be a bit of a bumpy go at first, but we need to remember we are all one family in Christ, children of the same loving Heavenly Father. You can look at the schedule of Masses on page 7 of this bulletin and determine which time and place will work for you. For this year, you will remain a parishioner of St. Thomas Parish. Your envelopes and online giving will come here. Your sponsors form will come from here and your sacramental records remain here. You do not need to reregister. Don't be afraid. We will still be together and we will get through all of this together.

### Readings for the week of July 25, 2021

- Sunday:** 2 Kgs 4:42-44/Ps 145:10-11,15-18/Eph 4:1-6/  
Jn 6:1-15
- Monday:** Ex 32:15-24,30-34/Ps 106:19-23/Mt 13:31-35
- Tuesday:** Ex 33:7-11;34:5b-9,28/Ps 103:6-13/Mt 13:36-43
- Wednesday:** Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5-7,9/Mt 13:44-46
- Thursday:** Ex 40:16-21,34-38/Ps 84:3-6a,8a,11/Jn 11:19-27  
or Lk 10:38-42
- Friday:** Lv 23:1,4-11,15-16,27, 34b-37/Ps 81:3-6,10-11ab/  
Mt 13:54-58
- Saturday:** Lv 25:1,8-17/Ps 67:2-3,5,7-8/Mt 14:1-12
- Next Sunday:** Ex 16:2-4,12-15/Ps 78:3-4,23-25,54/  
Eph 4:17, 20-24/Jn 6:24-35



# 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**

Michael Pavano

## **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 July 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Weekly—\$6504 /Monthly—\$949/Online—unavailable**



# † Southington Catholic School †

**We are happy to welcome our new Office Manager at Southington Catholic School, Carolyn Napierski!**



Hi! My name is Carolyn Napierski and I am the new Office Manager at Southington Catholic School. I am very excited about my new role at the school. Prior to this job I have been the aide in PREK-3 for the past five years. I have a daughter, Madelyn, who will be a Senior at the High School this fall. My husband, John, is a business owner in town. My family has made Southington our home for the past twelve years. It is an honor to be a part of such a lovely and accepting community.

## † Southington Faith Formation †

### CATECHISM SIGN UP!

**Enrollment for the 2021-2022 Faith Formation program is open!** The enrollment form, program handbook, and schedule are available on the parishes' websites. To register your child (or children) for classes, please print out and complete the enrollment form. Submit (or mail) the enrollment form, a copy of the child's Baptism certificate, and payment to St. Thomas Church. A late fee of \$10.00 will be applied to all enrollment forms submitted after August 20<sup>th</sup>. Please continue to check the parishes' websites for the most up to date information and announcements regarding the program.

### CALLING CATECHISTS!

We are still in need of catechists for the Faith Formation program year. Catechists are ordinary people, *just like you*, who generously volunteer their time to share our Catholic faith, values, and traditions with our youngest generation. Training, resources, and materials are provided! If you are interested in helping with the town wide program or have any questions about the 2021-2022 Faith Formation program, please contact Patrick Reid via email at [Southington.dre@gmail.com](mailto:Southington.dre@gmail.com), or by phone at (860) 628-9679.



# Stewardship Thought

“The hand of the Lord feeds us,” says the psalmist; “he answers all our needs.” Both Elisha’s servant in the first reading and the disciples in the Gospel story who witnessed the feeding of the five thousand saw this happen and knew it to be true. (See Psalm 145)



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

## World Day Against Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings for the purposes of forced labor, sexual exploitation and even the sale of organs. It is one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world, exceeded only by the illegal arms industry, and second only to the drug trade. Viewed through the lens of Catholic social teaching, human trafficking is a crime against the most basic aspects of human dignity and human rights, It preys on the poor and vulnerable who have no support, no recourse, no voice.

### In the words of Pope Francis:

*I urgently appeal to all men and women of good will, and all those near or far...not to turn away from the sufferings of our brothers and sisters, our fellow human beings, who are deprived of their freedom and dignity. Instead, may we have the courage to touch the suffering flesh of Christ, revealed in the faces of those countless persons whom he calls the least of these my brethren.”(Mt 25:40,45)*



**In recognition of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, a recitation of the rosary will be held at St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, in St Elizabeth Church, Brook Street, Rocky Hill, CT 6:30 pm on July 30,2021. All are welcome.**

# Mass Intentions

Beginning August 2nd, all mass intentions for Immaculate Conception Church, St. Dominic Church, and St. Thomas Church will be booked through the St. Thomas Rectory office. Please call during the business hours of 8:00—4:00 Monday through Friday to book your intention.

Mass Intentions that have already been booked for the original mass times, will be moved to the closest mass time of the new schedule.

Please note that when linking the three Mass books, there may be double intentions for any one Mass that were already booked. If you have questions or would like more information, please call the office. Thank you.



## **We are happy to announce that we have hired a new Director of Youth Ministry for Southington’s parishes: Michael Pavano**



Sisters and Brothers in Christ, My name is Michael Pavano and I am beyond excited to get to know you all and to begin my new role as Director of Youth Ministry for the Catholic Churches of Southington.

I am married to my wonderful wife Brandy. Together, we have a 3 year old son Daniel and our almost 1 year old daughter Alayna.

My Catholic Faith and my relationship with our Lord Jesus have always been the guiding lights of my life giving me both purpose and meaning. This faith has guided me through every step I’ve taken, especially while serving in human services and transit for those with disabilities and their families, as well as my prior experiences in youth ministry helping young Catholics feel welcomed and loved by God.

Again, I am very excited to get started. If any adults are interested in volunteering to assist in this ministry as part of the Core Team, please contact the parish office at St. Thomas Church or call my office 860-621-1904.

God bless you all, Michael

# MASS SCHEDULE INFORMATION

After Sunday, August 1st, Immaculate Conception, St. Thomas, and St. Dominic parishes will be linking. St. Thomas will have the last regularly scheduled weekend Mass on August 1st and remain open for a few months for weddings and funerals. As of Monday, August 2nd, all Mass intentions for daily and weekend Masses at Immaculate Conception, St. Thomas, or St. Dominic parishes will be booked through St. Thomas Rectory, and that office will be booking for baptisms, weddings, and funerals. We need to book the events taking place in the separate churches in one central office to prevent double bookings we could not fulfill.

**Beginning the weekend of Saturday, August 7th and Sunday, August 8th, our new schedule of Masses is as follows.**

**Immaculate Conception Church:** Saturdays at 5:30 PM in English and Sundays at 9:00 AM in Polish

**St. Dominic Church:** Saturdays at 4:00 PM and Sundays at 7:30 & 10:30 AM

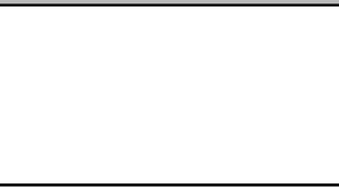
**Mary Our Queen Church:** Sunday at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

**St. Aloysius Church:** Saturdays at 4:30 PM and Sundays at 11:00 AM

For the next year, any envelopes from parishioners will go to the registered parish no matter where they are dropped in a collection basket. All online donations will stay in the parish they are made. Any cash dropped in collection baskets will stay in the church where it was collected. There will be no need for anyone to change registrations of parish over the next year before the merger in 2022.

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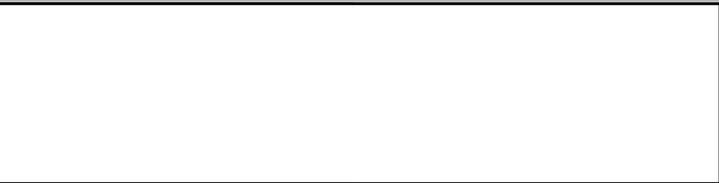
  
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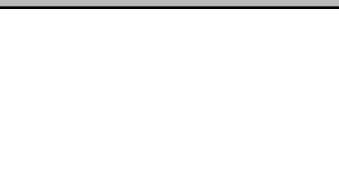
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