



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

MARCH 20, 2022



Pastor

Rev. Thomas B. Shepard

Director of Music Ministry

Anna Jedd

Director of Faith Formation

Wanda Mascola

Coordinator of Health Services

Maryjane Calladio

Secretary

Debbie Benham

Bookkeeper

Karin Fuchs

Maintenance

George Blake
John Collins

Office Hours

Monday- Friday
9:30AM - 2:00PM

Address

733 Oxford Road, Oxford, CT 06478

Parish Office: 203-888-2382

Parish Hall: 203-888-0837

Fax: 203-881-5518

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 4:00PM (*Winter*) or 5:00PM (*Summer*)

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00AM

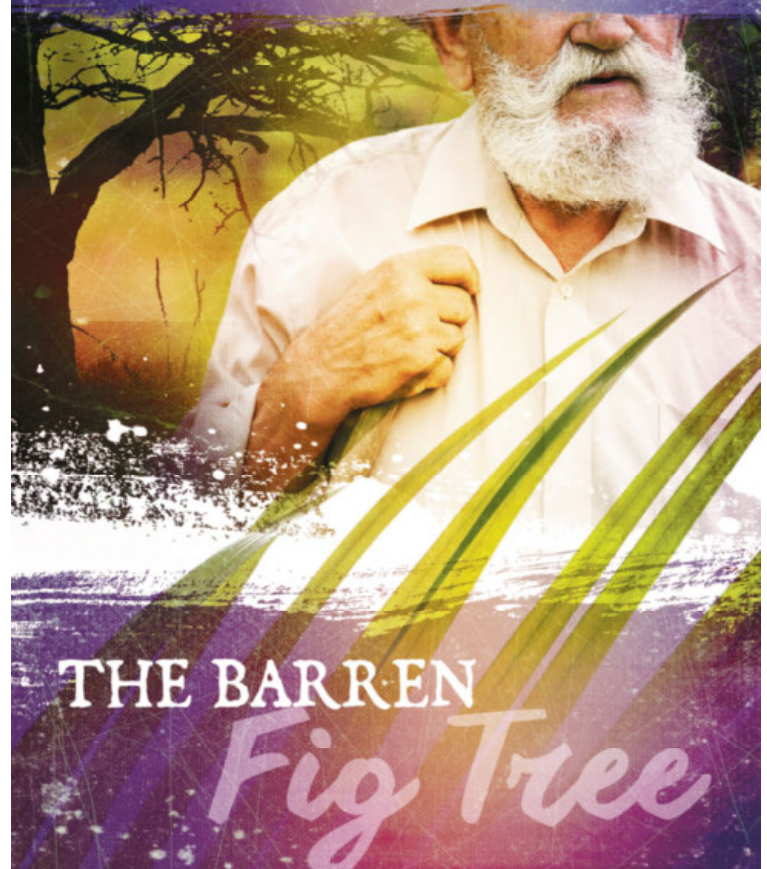
Daily Liturgy

Monday - Thursday: 8:00AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:00-3:45 (*Winter*) or 4:00-4:45 (*Summer*)
or by appointment

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



THE BARREN

Fig Tree

Email: office@stthomasoxford.org

Website: www.stthomasoxford.org

www.facebook.com/stthomastheapostleoxfordct

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - MARCH 20, 2022



Sunday, March 20th

- 5:00 PM for Josephine Ciardullo
(requested by Barbara and Carmine Ciardullo)
- 7:30 AM for Deborah Tomascak
(requested by Bill and Kay Anne Davis)
- 9:00 AM for Helen and George Teskey
(requested by Peggy Garbien)
- 11:00 AM for Elizabeth Cascone
(requested by Madeline Baklik)

Monday, March 21st

- 8:00 AM for the intentions of St. Thomas Parish Family

Tuesday, March 22nd

- 8:00 AM for Marge Candelli
(requested by Debbie and Mike Mazzeo)

Wednesday, March 23rd

- 8:00 AM for Bill Riordan
(requested by Marianne Riordan)

Thursday, March 24th

- 8:00 AM for Charles A. Mascola (1st Anniversary)
(requested by St. Thomas Parish Family)

Friday, March 25th

No Liturgy Today

Saturday, March 26th

- 5:00 PM for Jo Machowski
(requested by Mary Adzima and Linda Ragozzine)

Sunday, March 27th

- 7:30 AM for Dominic Scicutella
(requested by Patricia Weil)
- 9:00 AM for Jose Martins
(requested by the Martins Family)
- 11:00 AM for Carol Diorio
(requested by Jeanne Stanton Branson)

Catholic Relief Services Collection - March 26-27th

The Catholic Relief Services Collection supports Catholic Church organizations that carry out international relief and solidarity efforts. Programs include relief and resettlement for victims of persecution, war, and natural disasters; development projects to improve living conditions for the poor; legal and support services for poor immigrants; peace and reconciliation work for people suffering from violence; and advocacy on behalf of the powerless.



Collections as of March 12-13 2022:
Needed to Meet Ordinary Operating Expenses

\$8,600.00

Weekly Collection: \$6,991.00

Thank you!

SUNDAY, MARCH 20TH

Faith Formation: 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM (Church Hall/LPC)

MONDAY, MARCH 21ST

Faith Formation: 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM (Church Hall/LPC)

Lenten Confessions: 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM (Church)

ZOOM Bereavement: 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 22ND

Faith Formation: 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM (Church Hall/LPC)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23RD

Liturgy Committee 7:00 PM (Lower Parish Center-Lg Rm)

THURSDAY, MARCH 24TH

Lenten Soup Supper: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (Church Hall)

ZOOM New Day Bereavement: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Faith Formation: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (LPC-Large Room)

FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH

In-Person New Day Bereavement :

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM (Lower Parish Center - Large Room)

SATURDAY, MARCH 26TH

Faith Formation: 9:30 AM - Noon (Church Hall/LPC)

Altar Server Workshop: 1:00 PM (Church)

Confessions: 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM (Church)

SUNDAY, MARCH 27TH

Liturgy of the Word: at 9:00 AM Mass

Sacramental Prep Retreat (1st Communion):

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Church Hall)

In Our Prayers



If you would like to be prayed for or have a loved one who would like to be prayed for, please call Debbie in the parish office at 888-2382 and let her know. This week, please pray for all those who are ill in mind, body or spirit.

Dan Bolduc

Maryjane Calladio

John Butwell

Judith Jablonski

and all those who have died

Readings for the week of March 20, 2022

- Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 [8a]/
1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9 **3rd Sunday of Lent**
- 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: 4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt
18:21-35
- Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/
Mt 5:17-19 **St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop**
- Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23
- Friday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb
10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38 **The Annunciation of the Lord**
- Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14
- Next Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [9a]/2 Cor
5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 **4th Sunday of Lent**

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - MARCH 20, 2022



ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

(Luke 13:1-9)

The parables that Jesus used help us explore in many different ways the rich significance of Jesus' teachings. In the story of the fig tree, we can see ourselves. We are called to produce good fruit but sometimes we are not successful. However, we are not forsaken. The gardener advocates for mercy to allow the tree one more chance to produce good fruit. Jesus teaches that when we repent, and when we cultivate our relationship with God, we will bear fruit.

ON THE WAY HOME FROM MASS

If the fig tree in the gospel represents us, who can the gardener be? How do you think the tree will respond to being allowed to grow once more?

LIVING THE WORD

As a family, schedule an education visit to a greenhouse or botanical garden. Some questions to discuss with your children are: Why does a gardener need to prune plants to help them to stay healthy? What would a gardener do to cultivate the soil around a tree to help it to produce more fruit? How much patience must a gardener have to work with plants?

Excerpts taken from *Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families 2021-2022*, Liturgy Training Publications (LTP).

Lenten Prayers for an End to Hunger

Readings, prayers, and actions to help you and your family observe Lent in 2022 — prepared by Bread for the World.

Third Week of Lent

Jesus Offers Mercy and Forgiveness



So he said to the gardener, " ... For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil? [The gardener] replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year...If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." — *Luke 13:7-9*

For you have been my help and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. — *Psalms 63:7-8*

PRAYER

O God, you don't give up on us and you offer mercy and forgiveness to all who repent and trust in Christ Jesus. May this gracious gift nourish us to bear the fruit of sharing the abundance of your creation with all those in need.

Amen.

KIDS CORNER

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

PILATE
GALILEE
KILLED

SACRIFICES
SINNERS
SILOAM

WORSE
TREE
GARDENER

B	O	U	S	T	H	T	O	M	S
G	A	L	I	L	E	E	I	J	A
A	D	S	L	A	O	L	D	T	C
R	H	W	O	R	S	E	A	H	R
D	G	E	A	V	T	N	P	O	I
E	R	D	M	S	R	T	I	R	F
N	K	I	L	L	E	D	L	S	I
E	O	M	P	F	E	O	A	M	C
R	G	A	L	T	B	K	T	I	E
L	D	E	S	I	N	N	E	R	S

Faith Formation MARCH Events

20 Sun	Session A	4:00-6:30p (Church Hall)
21 Mon	Session B	5:30-8:00p (Church Hall)
22 Tue	Session C (7th and 8th Grade)	4:30-6:00p (Church Hall)
24 Thu	Session C (7th and 8th Grade)	6:30-8:00p (Lower Parish Ctr)
26 Sat	Session D	9:30a-12:00p (Church Hall)
27 Sun	Liturgy of the Word <u>Sacramental Prep</u> 1st Communion-Retreat	At 9:00 Mass 10:00a-3:00p (Church Hall)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - MARCH 20, 2022



Along the Road Lenten Services for Seymour/Oxford 2022

March 2 – April 6, 2022

March 23, 2022

Trinity Episcopal Church
91 Church Street, Seymour
6:30 pm Soup & Bread
7:00 pm Worship

March 30, 2022

Great Hill Methodist Church
225 Great Hill Rd, Seymour
7:00 pm Worship (ONLY)

St. Thomas the Apostle Church to host the Daily TV MASS on ORTV (The Archdiocese TV Station)

Monday, March 21st

10:00 AM

On Comcast Channel 9



LOURDES OF LITCHFIELD

A **GIANT TAG SALE** will be held at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield in Pilgrim Hall, located on the Shrine grounds, 50 Montfort Rd., Rte. 118, Litchfield, **Thursday, March 31st to Saturday, April 2nd**, 9:00am to 4:00pm **and Sunday, April 3rd** from 11:30am to 2:00pm. Donations will be accepted on Tuesday, March 29th and Wednesday, March 30th only. No upholstered furniture, mattresses or box springs, computers, monitors or paint will be accepted. For further information, call 860-567-1041 or email: lourdesshrinect@gmail.com.

DONATE TO THE ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

2022 Archbishop's Annual Appeal

The Archbishop's Annual Appeal helps provide the critical funding needed to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, counsel those in despair, offer much needed assistance to the unemployed, and make medical care available to those without health insurance. Your gift to the 2022 Appeal will help to continue these and other vital ministries, services, and programs that reach out to so many in need.

All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/>. No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.



3 TIPS TO TALK ABOUT CANCER SCREENING

3 tips you can use to talk to your loved ones:

1. **Be compassionate.** Make it clear that you want to have the conversation because your loved one is very important to you and you want them to be healthy and safe.
2. **Be patient if they object.** There may be personal reasons why people don't want to schedule a cancer screening. Listen carefully without interrupting, offer to look up information if needed, and encourage them to talk to their doctor about risks and benefits.
3. **Give them time to think.** If your loved one isn't ready to commit to scheduling a screening test right away, ask them to think about it and set a time in the near future to come back to the conversation. Then put a reminder on your calendar and stick to that date!

You may be able to help catch cancer early. Lead by example by making sure you're up to date on your own screening tests. Then talk honestly with your loved ones about how important screening is. The decisions we make today can mean a brighter future for all of us.



March 2-April 10
40 DAYS FOR LIFE.

HELP SAVE BABIES!

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

- Over **20,000 babies** saved from abortion
- Over **200 abortion workers** converted
- Over **112 abortion centers** closed

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

- **Vigil location:** Sidewalk at Commerce Park, 4697 Main Street, Bridgeport (Planned Parenthood is located within Commerce Park.)
- **Vigil hours:** (7 am to 7 pm daily)
- **Local contact:** Barbara Grabowski bgrabows@aol.com / 203-232-7134
- **Learn more** ...get involved ... and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

40daysforlife.com/Bridgeport

**ST. THOMAS
THE APOSTLE'S**



THURSDAY, March 24th HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION

An Eversource representative will discuss ways to be energy efficient.

LENTEN Schedule



Mondays of Lent

Confessions: 6:00 – 6:30PM

Sunday, April 3

11:00 AM Mass

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

This sacrament are for those who suffer chronic illness of body or mind, those in Nursing Homes, or those preparing to enter a hospital.

Wednesday, April 6

Ecumenical **"Way of the Cross"**

Hosted at St. Thomas

6:00 PM – Soup Supper

7:00 PM – Way of the Cross

Thursdays (except on April 7)

Soup Supper and Lenten discussions

6:00 PM



MOST Scholarship

The Men of St. Thomas (M.O.S.T.) is pleased to offer scholarship opportunities to high school seniors who attend St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Oxford, CT. Scholarships will be awarded to applicants who have demonstrated the most outstanding combination of academic excellence, community service, church service, and school citizenship. To qualify for this scholarship, student applicants must plan to continue their education at an accredited institution in the fall of 2022 and submit an application and supporting documents to St. Thomas the Apostle Church by Saturday, **May 7, 2022**. Application forms are available in the church vestibule and online at the St. Thomas Oxford website (<http://www.stthomasoxford.org/men-of-st-thomas-m-o-s-t>).



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Question: Confirmation Sponsor

What are the requirements for being a confirmation sponsor?

Answer:

Although many dioceses have specific requirements for who can be a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Code of Canon Law identifies certain requirements that are true for all dioceses and parishes.

First, the sponsor should be chosen by the one to be confirmed (or, in some cases, by the parents or even the pastor).

Second, a sponsor must be at least sixteen years old (unless the local bishop has chosen another age, or a special exception has been made).

Third, the sponsor must be a Catholic who has been confirmed and who has already received the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Beyond this, they must lead "a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on."

Fourth, they can have no sort of canonical penalty or impediment.

Fifth, they cannot be either the father or mother of the one to be confirmed (See Canons 893, §1 and 874, §1).

In some cultures, it is customary for one of the confirmand's godparents to act as sponsor, although this is not required by Church law.

To learn about the requirements for your parish or diocese, you can consult your pastor or your parish or diocesan director of religious education or the diocese's office liturgy and worship.

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