



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

MARCH 27, 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



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

"His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.'"
- Lk 15:21-22a, 23b-24a

Email: office@stthomasoxford.org

Website: www.stthomasoxford.org

www.facebook.com/stthomastheapostleoxfordct

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - MARCH 27, 2022



Sunday, March 27th

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

Monday, March 28th

- 8:00 AM for Claire C. Lannon
(requested by Dennis M. Ouimette)

Tuesday, March 29th

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

Wednesday, March 30th

- 8:00 AM for Mary Giancarli
(requested by Will and Liz Giancarli)

Thursday, March 31st

- 8:00 AM for an end to human trafficking

Friday, April 1st

No Liturgy Today

Saturday, April 2nd

- 5:00 PM for Betty Moher
(requested by the Gray Family)

Sunday, April 3rd

- 7:30 AM for Ed Slonina (3rd Anniversary)
(requested by the Slonina Family)
- 9:00 AM for Chester Chechoski
(requested by the Moskwa Family)
- 11:00 AM for John Gilmore
(requested by Karen Griffin)

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 19-20, 2022:
Needed to Meet Ordinary Operating Expenses

\$8,600.00

Weekly Collection: \$5,966.00

Thank you!

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)

MONDAY, MARCH 28TH

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

Social Justice Meeting:

7:00 PM (Lower Parish Center - Large Room)

THURSDAY, MARCH 31ST

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

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 1ST

In-Person New Day Bereavement :

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 3RD

SERVICE DAY - Confirmation (2021-2022)

9:00 AM Mass | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (Church Hall)

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick during 11:00 AM Mass

In-Person Caregivers Meeting:

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM (Lower Parish Center - Small Room)



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.

John Butwell ~ Maryjane Calladio ~ Judith Jablonski

and all those who have died, especially
Dorothy Levegnale

Please Note:

Names will appear in the bulletin for 4-weeks and then removed unless their name is resubmitted by calling the parish office. Using this method we can keep names current. Thank you for your cooperation.

Readings for the week of March 27, 2022

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**

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53
St. Francis of Paola, Hermit

Next Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/
Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11 **5th Sunday of Lent**

THANK YOU
for your generosity

The Seymour Oxford Food Bank, Inc., thanks you for your generous donation of **\$300.00** from your **Faith Formation Souper Bowl Event**.



We are so blessed to have such caring friends as part of our community. Due to the Covid 19 crisis we have seen an increase in people seeking help. Your continued support of Seymour Oxford Food Bank, Inc is very much appreciated.

Janet Kapitan, Corresponding Secretary

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.

Fourth Week of Lent

Jesus Welcomes Sinners

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." – *Luke 13:7-9*



Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy all you who are upright in heart. – *Psalms 32:11*

PRAYER

O God, we confess that we are both the prodigal son and the elder brother. Save us from despair and from pride. Through your love and grace in Christ, turn us around so that we may prepare a feast of hope and opportunity for those who live in hunger. *Amen.*

DONATE TO THE ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

2022 Archbishop's Annual Appeal

It is important that when you give to any charitable organization, you are confident that the funds received are being used wisely. Be assured that your gift to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal supports the ministries and programs indicated in the 2022 Appeal literature! Organizations such as Carolyn's Place, Seymour-Oxford Food Bank, Southbury Food Bank, Master's Table Community Meals, Inc., Ansonia, The Hope Fund-New Milford, TEAM-Derby received funding from the Appeal's Vicariate Outreach Program that makes a difference in the lives of our local neighbors. Please visit the Appeal website at www.archdioceseofhartford.org to learn more and make your gift today.

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.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question: Confession and Children

Our Catholic grade school is doing a penance service this Lent. Do young children really need to go to Confession? How much sin can they really have?

Answer:

Ask any mom about her children, and see how many would say she has a brood of perfect angels! Parents know that kids do things that are wrong ... and they often know they're doing it! Even toddlers have a sense of right and wrong. The Church recognizes that their minds and consciences are not yet fully developed, however, and typically waits until age seven to offer the sacrament of Confession. Around that age and beyond, most young people, when asked, can easily explain why something is wrong.

Confession for children is an excellent way to help them reflect on their actions and accept responsibility for their behavior. It helps them to grow in their understanding of sin and how it affects others. This helps them to form their consciences and make better choices in the future. Most importantly, they learn the value of forgiveness, both given and received. Rather than singling out what's wrong, Confession offers hope and a new start! Children can grow in understanding God's unconditional love and develop a sense of inner dignity that transcends their failings. Not bad for five minutes and an "Our Father" or two!

©LPi



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>).

**ST. THOMAS
THE APOSTLE'S**



THURSDAY, March 31st

Partner Parish - Tekakwitha Center



A conversation (via Zoom) with Janet Lhotka and Fr. John Cox regarding the Tekakwitha Center. We will talk about the parishes and people they serve on the White Earth Reservation and how we can and do help.



Along the Road Lenten Services for Seymour/Oxford 2022

March 2 – April 6, 2022

March 30, 2022

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

April 6, 2022

St. Thomas the Apostle
733 Oxford Rd, Oxford
6:30 pm Soup & Bread
7:00 pm Worship

Care for the Caregivers Support Group



**In-Person
Sunday, April 3rd**

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

*Reservations Required. No walk-ins accepted.
Facemasks are suggested.*

RSVP by **3/30/2022**

Contact: Maryjane at 203-888-2382 ext 104.

*****INTERESTING FACTOID -**



St. Thomas has spread over **1,300 pounds** of salt on the parking area and sidewalks these past two months!!



Seymour - Oxford Food Bank

Below is a list of the most needed items for the Seymour-Oxford Food Bank.

Please leave donations for the Food Bank in the church vestibule by:

SUNDAY, APRIL 10TH

- | | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Ketchup | Pickles |
| BBQ Sauce | Paper Towels |
| Mayo | Hamburger Helper |

Needs

Thank you for helping!

APRIL

Any Suggestions?

Linden Tree Replacement

We have a beautiful Linden tree by the side of the church. It was planted as part of the church renovation in 1997. It has grown well over the years but unfortunately it is now shading the roof and causing damage to the roof and soffit. Our landscaper agrees that it's not realistic to trim off branches, so the tree will need to be removed. We would like to plant another tree to replace it, further from the building. Any ideas on a replacement tree are welcome.

David Manning
Building and Grounds Committee
203-888-2382



40 DAYS FOR LIFE

March 2-April 10

HELP SAVE BABIES!

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



Lent and Holy Week 2022

CONFESSIONS

March 28 -6:00PM – 6:30PM

April 2 – 4:00PM – 4:45PM

April 4 – 7:00PM Communal Penance Service
(at Sacred Heart church – Southbury- 4 priests available)

April 9 – 4:00PM – 4:45PM

WAY OF THE CROSS

Oxford- Seymour Clergy (hosted by St. Thomas) – April 6

Soup Supper – 6:00PM – Hall

Way of the Cross: 7:00PM

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

April 3 – During 11:00AM Mass

For those suffering chronic illness of body & mind
in hospitals/nursing homes

HOLY WEEK

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY April 10

Blessing & Procession of Palms – 11:00AM Mass

HOLY THURSDAY April 14 - 7:00PM

Last Supper, washing of the feet, Procession and
Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Church remains open for prayer until 10:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY April 15

3:00PM - The Passion / Death of Our Lord, Veneration of
the Wood of the Cross, Holy Communion

7:00PM - The Way of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY April 16 - 1:00PM

Blessing of Easter Food in Church Hall “*Wesolego Alleluja*”

THE EASTER VIGIL April 16 - 8:00PM

Blessing of the Easter Fire/ and Exsultet

Liturgy of the Word/Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Liturgy of the Eucharist

EASTER SUNDAY – April 17 – MASSES: 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM

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