



**PARISH STAFF**

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 Development Coordinator: **Teresa Soltys**  
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 Custodial Staff: **Jordan Betancourt, Bonnie Guimond, Ron Lemire, Marty Lopatosky, Harry Masterbone, Joseph Alfano, Tom DiPietro, Rick Barrett**

**FRONT COVER IMAGES**  
 Holy Family by Raphael

**BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. JOE**

1:30 pm on Thursdays in the Saint  
 Dominic Community Learning Center.  
 Also streamed to the St. Thomas  
 Facebook Group.

**FAITH FORMATION** Please see our parishes websites: [saintdominicchurch.com](http://saintdominicchurch.com) or  
[stthomassouthington.org](http://stthomassouthington.org) [southington.dre@gmail.com](mailto:southington.dre@gmail.com) 860.628.9679

**ST. DOMINIC CHILD CARE CENTER**

We proudly provide child care fifty-one weeks of the year for infants to age five. 860.628.4678

**SOUTHINGTON CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Located at 133 Bristol Street. 860.628.2485 [www.southingtoncatholicschool.org](http://www.southingtoncatholicschool.org)

**YOUTH MINISTRY** 860.628.5159**MASSES**

**Immaculate Conception Church:** Saturdays at 5:30pm in English and Sundays at 9:00am in Polish  
**Daily Masses:** Monday-Friday 7:30am & 12:00pm, Sat. 7:30am Immaculate Conception Church  
**Mary Our Queen Church:** Sunday at 9:00 and 11:00am  
**St. Dominic Church:** Saturdays at 4:00 pm and Sundays at 7:30 & 10:30am followed by Coffee and....  
**St. Aloysius Church:** Saturdays at 4:30pm and Sundays at 11:00am

**Rosary:** Mondays 7pm. Saint Dominic Chapel

**Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament:** as scheduled

**Reconciliation:** 2:30-3:30pm Saturdays at Saint Dominic Church —Wednesdays at Immaculate Conception 6-7pm

**Diabetes Support Group** last Tuesday of each month, 10- 11:15am: Immaculate Conception meeting hall

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**St. Thomas Offices & Immaculate Conception: 860.628.4713, Saint Dominic Rectory: 860.628.0349**

All event/meeting scheduling, Mass Intentions, Baptism, Marriages, Anointing of the sick, hospital or home visits, cemetery needs: please call 860.628.4713 for more information or assistance.

**Bulletin and bulletin board submission:** Monday 8am, prior to the bulletin publication date. \*A week with a holiday: 16 days ahead [LeeanneF@saintdominicchurch.com](mailto:LeeanneF@saintdominicchurch.com)

**Online Giving:** [www.saintthomassouthington.org](http://www.saintthomassouthington.org) or [www.saintdominicchurch.com](http://www.saintdominicchurch.com)

**COLLECTIONS** Anyone contributing a monthly envelope for any of the parishes may place that in the same collection. Please remember to use your parish envelopes so that we may send contributions to the correct Church. Any loose donations will remain in the parish collected in. When there is an Archdiocesan collection we will have the collection baskets pass a second time. Please make checks payable to your parish.



## Father Joe's Notes

My dear friends,

Merry Christmas to you all! I'm not sure if you're picking up the bulletin at a Mass on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Sunday morning, or you're reading this online. No matter where or when, I hope you are having a peaceful and enjoyable holiday.

This can be a hectic time for us all. People are traveling and preparing meals for parties. You have been looking for the perfect gifts, only to find they are lost in transit or sitting in a shipping container off the coast someplace. In the effort to make everything perfect, we sometimes forget to enjoy the holiday with family and friends. Relax!

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Incarnate Word, came to save us all. He doesn't expect you to be perfect. If your home is dirty, he'll still enter. If you missed something, he still loves you. If you're sad and grieving, he will comfort you. Jesus comes to us where and how we are. There's no need to make everything perfect. The desire to greet him matters more than anything else. Remember he came to sinners, not to the perfect. Some find solace and joy in that!

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas with people you love. If it is a tough time of year for you, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Despite all the things that could and may be

going wrong, know you are loved. Jesus Christ, the Savior, is born for you! Rejoice!

Merry Christmas to you!

Happily yours in Christ, Fr. Joe



## thank you!

Sister Ruth Rosenbaum, presenter of our mission for Advent and the fair trade sale, from the Center for Research, Education and Action- CREA would like to thank our community for the generous support. We are so appreciative of all who attended our mission and supported CREA through your purchase of Fair Trade products. Thank you so very much! May the Light of Christmas surround you and may the new year be happy and healthy for you and all.

## mass intentions

### FRIDAY, December 24 - Christmas Eve

All Masses have Priests' Intentions

- 3:00pm Saint Aloysius  
 4:00pm Immaculate Conception, Mary Our Queen  
 St. Dominic, Southington Catholic School  
*(St. Dominic Streamed to FB)*  
 10:00pm Mary Our Queen and Saint Dominic  
 12:00am Midnight Mass Immaculate Conception

### SATURDAY, December 25 - Christmas

All Masses have Priests' Intentions

- 8:30am Immaculate Conception  
 9:00am Saint Aloysius  
 10:00am Mary Our Queen and St. Dominic

NO VIGIL MASSES

### SUNDAY, December 26 – Feast of the Holy Family

- 7:30am (SD) Belza Family  
*Requested by Peter*  
 Lucia Nozzolillo  
*Requested by her daughter, Anna*  
 9:00am (IC—Polish) Makielkowski, Lubicki, & Wytres  
 Families  
*Requested by Family*  
 10:30am (SD) Christopher Hjerpe  
*Requested by his Parents*

### MONDAY, December 27—St. John, Apostle

- 7:30am (IC) The Markowski Family  
*Requested by Barbara Pozucek*  
 12:00pm (IC) Henry & Genevieve Daniels  
*Requested by the Family*

### TUESDAY, December 28, - Holy Innocents, Martyrs

- 7:30am (IC) Deceased members of Greco & DeGeorgia  
 Families  
*Requested by Rose & Joe Sukatski*  
 12:00pm (IC) Edward Lukaszcyk  
*Requested by Wanda Krol*

### WEDNESDAY, December 29—Christmas Octave

- 7:30am (IC) Pro-Populo  
 12:00pm (IC) Louise Kusslow  
*Requested by the Family*

### THURSDAY, December 30—Christmas Octave

- 7:30am (IC) Pro-Populo  
 12:00pm (IC) Lorenzo Tancredi  
*Requested by Joe & Angelina DellaPorta*

### FRIDAY, December 31—Christmas Octave

- 7:30am (IC) Pro-Populo  
 12:00pm (IC) In memory of Robert & Laretta Hopko  
*Requested by the Family*

### SATURDAY, January 1, 2022—Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

- 9:00am (IC) Pro-Populo  
 4:00pm (SD) Joseph & Mary Zacchio  
*Requested by Theresa, Mickey, & Frank*  
 5:30pm (IC) Pro-Populo

### SUNDAY, January 2, 2022 - Epiphany of the Lord

- 7:30am (SD) Anna & Maurice Boissonneault  
*Requested by their Daughter*  
 9:00am (IC—Polish) Janina Ostasz  
*Requested by her Nieces & Nephews*  
 10:30am (SD) In memory of Frank Coccozza  
 3rd Anniversary  
*Requested by Lucille Coccozza & Family*

## candle intentions



(IC) Robert & Laretta Hopko

## adult confirmation spring 2022

The Southington Catholic Parishes will be offering a preparation process for Adult Confirmation. The process will include 6 to 10 facilitated meetings, and the spring 2022 group is being formed. The first meeting should begin Tuesday, February 8 in anticipation of Confirmation being celebrated at the Cathedral in May 2022. For more information and to enroll, please contact the parish office by telephone on 860-628-4713 or by email at [stthomassouthington@gmail.com](mailto:stthomassouthington@gmail.com).

## rite of christian initiation of adults (rcia)

Is something missing from your life? Are you searching for God? Were you baptized in another Christian faith? Have you been thinking about becoming Catholic? Were you baptized in the Catholic Church, but did not complete your Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist)?

If so, the Southington Catholic Parishes offer a process through which people can learn what the Catholic Church believes, teaches, and tries to live in the world. The first step in the process is called inquiry. It's a time when inquirers explore the basics and meet people who can help them with the process. If after a time, inquirers feel that membership in the Catholic Church is something desirable, they can continue the process of preparation to receive the Sacraments of Initiation.

For more information, please contact the parish office by telephone on 860-628-4713 or by email at [stthomassouthington@gmail.com](mailto:stthomassouthington@gmail.com).

### Mass Schedule Changes Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>

With the merger of parishes, the Pastoral Planning Committee of the parishes in Southington have examined our Mass attendance from October counts and looked at seating capacity of each church building. Following guidelines from the diocese that Masses should be scheduled one and half hours from the start of one Mass to the beginning of the next (allowing time for transportation), we have come up with a schedule for the new merged parish effective the Weekends of July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. This will be the Mass schedule:

#### **SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES**

**4:00 PM – Mary Our Queen Church**

**5:30 PM – Immaculate Conception Church  
(in English)**

#### **SUNDAY MORNING MASSES**

**8:00 AM – St. Aloysius Church**

**9:30 AM – Immaculate Conception Church  
(in Polish)**

**11:00 AM – St. Dominic Church**

Confession will be Saturdays from 2:30-3:30PM at Mary Our Queen Church

#### **WEEKDAY MASSES – Monday through Saturday**

**8:00 AM – Immaculate Conception Church**

*We will begin booking intentions for these services starting on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> between 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM through the rectory office at St. Thomas – 99 Bristol Street, 860-628-4713. To begin, we will book one weekend Mass and one weekday Mass (Saturday morning included) per family until we see how quickly the calendar fills.*

## help wanted!

**Are you looking for a part time job?**

**Do you have some extra time on your hands?**

**Do you love working with children?**

St. Dominic Child Care Center is looking for part-time child care workers starting at \$16/hour \*Paid Holidays after 90 days and additional flex days after 1 year. Available positions include mornings and/or afternoons Monday through Friday.

Flexible hours available. No experience necessary.

For more information, contact Ashley:

[directorcc@saintdominicchurch.com](mailto:directorcc@saintdominicchurch.com) or call the center 860-628-4678 ext. 123.

## The Feast of the Holy Family

The Feast of the Holy Family occurs on the Sunday after Christmas. On Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. The Holy Family celebrates the union of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as a family unit. Like most families, they had their trials and joys.

When Jesus left his immediate family to go to the Temple to teach, He didn't tell his parents. This concerned His parents like it would anyone's parents. Imagine your twelve year old missing! Mary and Joseph searched for Him for days and when He was found, Jesus, reminded them of His mission on Earth. He then also obeyed them and went home with them.

As Catholics, we can look to the Holy Family as a role model. They have qualities that make a family unit work. They also tell us that you don't need to be perfect to be a family.

Joseph and Mary had faith in each other and love to build the family.

For a family to work, there needs to be a

few main characteristics. Love is, of course, the most important one. Love is the glue that keeps families together. Love embraces trust and safety. A family without love is not going to be happy.

Children should respect their parents. Mutual respect to others makes relationships comfortable and easier in the long run. Showing respect and love takes knowledge

and experience. Children learn these in families by making mistakes along the way. It's a growing process that even Our Lord, Jesus, had to do.

**Let us take time today to celebrate our families, with all of our imperfections!**





## activities

### calling all men!

We are currently studying PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS using the USCCB approved New American Bible Revised Edition (NABRE) translation. Come to our discussion and explore this book of scripture together! Doors are open (virtually speaking) whenever you can make it.



The study group meets every other Monday evening from 7:00-8:30 PM using Zoom for virtual meetings. All are welcome. Are you in? Contact Joe Premus at [joepremus@gmail.com](mailto:joepremus@gmail.com) to automatically receive Zoom meeting invites.

### bereavement group winter 2022

The Southington Catholic Parishes will be offering an in-person bereavement workshop. The New Day process consists of 10 facilitated meetings, and the winter 2022 group is being formed. The first meeting will begin Thursday, January 6, at 6:30 PM. To enroll, or for more information, contact the parish office 860-628-4713 or [stthomassouthington@gmail.com](mailto:stthomassouthington@gmail.com).

### health ministry

#### need help for an aging or disabled relative living at home?



eldercare locator: [eldercare.acl.gov](http://eldercare.acl.gov); 1 800-677-1116 is a great first step to find Area Agencies on Aging and other resources both in CT and across the nation.

**Disability information and Access Line (DIAL)** at 1-888-677-1199 or [acl.gov/DIAL](http://acl.gov/DIAL) UNITED WAY: 211ct.org or dial 211 or call 1-800-203-1234 for connections to all types of local health and human resources, as well as privately paid non-medical home care options.

**Home Care Program For Elders (CHCPE):** [ct.gov](http://ct.gov) or [ctcommunitycare.org](http://ctcommunitycare.org) or 1-800-445-5394; CT Community Care access agency for non-medical home care supports and geriatric care managers to help elders stay at home. Needs and financial eligibility criteria, as well as private –pay geriatric care management.

**National Council On Aging:** [Benefitscheckup.org](http://Benefitscheckup.org) for various benefits and eligibility.

**Geriatric Assessments:** UCONN Center on Aging, including memory assessment 860-679-8400; Hartford Healthcare Center for Healthy Aging at 462 Queen Street, Southington 860-628-3830.

**Local Dementia Resources:** LiveWell, 1261 S. Main St, Plantsville. 860-628- 9000;

**Dementia Friends** Southington is changing the way we think, talk, and act about dementia. Learn how to take small, important steps to become a Dementia Friend. Visit [www.dementiafriendsct.org](http://www.dementiafriendsct.org), or call LiveWell at 860-628-4781 for dates and locations of the free information sessions provided near you.



# BLOOD DRIVE

## St. Dominic Church

*Located in the Parish Center*  
1050 Flanders Rd, Southington

### Wednesday, December 29<sup>th</sup>

### 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

To schedule an appointment, please call  
1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit  
[www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org) & enter code: **Southington**

*Holiday Giveaway! All donors will receive our Limited-Edition Red Cross Long Sleeve Shirt!*



*Scan the QR Code using any  
Smart Phone device to bring  
you directly to our website to  
schedule an appointment!*



## christmas flower donations

All donations received by December 19 will be listed in the bulletin on January 2, 2022.

Any additional donations will be listed on January 9, 2022.

### PLEASE NOTE:

**Please make checks payable to either Immaculate Conception, St. Thomas or St. Dominic Parish. We will list flowers under the parish name you request.**

Christmas Flower Envelopes at Saint Dominic are available on the greeter stands.



## ask father



**Question:** Father, why did you say the Church set the date of Christmas? Isn't it Jesus' birthday?

**Answer:** Not really. No one bothered to record the actual day on which Jesus was born. The Church was much more interested on the day he resurrected. All other feasts and dates came to be celebrated after that. There is no record in the birth narratives, but some details lead us to believe it was actually spring with the birth of lamb. Celebrating the birth of Jesus at Eastertime would never work. December 25<sup>th</sup> in Rome was the Feast of the Unconquerable Sun. As daylight had been waning, on this date, it became noticeable that the days were getting longer. Light was returning to the world. The imagery fits perfectly into the image of Christ coming to enlighten the world as Savior.

Constantine first celebrated Christmas on December 25, 336. In the Eastern Church, they preferred to celebrate January 6<sup>th</sup>. Eventually, the twelve days of Christmas would conclude with Epiphany, the revelation of the Son of God to the world with the Magi on the 6<sup>th</sup>. That is what I mean by setting the date of Christmas on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

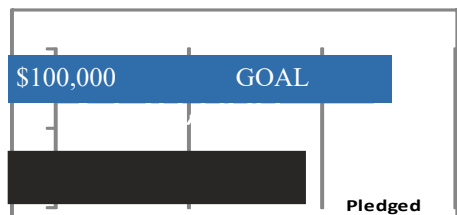
### a progress report . . . to the parishioners of the church of saint dominic

#### Goal for 2021 Annual Parish Appeal \$100,000

Every parish family should have received a letter from Father Joe recently asking for a contribution to our Parish Annual Appeal to help upgrade our technology for cameras, projection and streaming, and to save for future improvement projects. The participation of parishioners is essential for the success of this effort. Please consider returning your gift today. Thank you!

Collected to date: \$77,536 as of 12/13/21

If you did not receive a mailer and would like to contribute, there are letters with donation envelopes available at the greeter stands.



# A simple Christmas prayer *by Fr Paul Chetcuti SJ*

Christmas is  
 A gift received to be given,  
 A life received to be lived,  
 A time for greatness to be found in smallness,  
 For the Divine to seek a home in the human,  
 Dear Jesus, this Christmas my prayer is  
 that I open my fragile smallness  
 to the Greatness of the Gift  
 so as to become part of the Gift.



## women's walking with purpose bible study

Women's *Walking with Purpose* bible study begins Jan.11, 2022 via Zoom! There is still room for more women! "Living in the Father's Love" is a Catholic, small group bible study created especially for women. Six weeks on Tuesdays, 7pm to 8:30 pm. A small group leader who guides the study with both *walkingwithpurpose.com* on-line videos, and a workbook each women purchases at the website. "Living in the Father's Love", according to *Walking with Purpose*, is a "brief but powerful six-lesson Bible study which is the ideal way to revive and refresh each woman. In a world where women are measured by their beauty, achievements, and possessions, wouldn't it be nice to find a place where you could just be valued for who you are? This bible study will lead you to that safe place where you are unconditionally loved, baggage and all." To register, email Lori Mierzejewski and Pat Adams at [wwpfatherslove@gmail.com](mailto:wwpfatherslove@gmail.com)

**saint dominic  
 nourishes item of  
 the month:  
 Peanut Butter  
 Jelly**

**social justice  
 ongoing food drive**

- Canned tomato
- Tomato paste
- Cooking oils
- Tuna
- Canned chicken
- Canned vegetables
- Canned beans
- Snack Nuts /Seeds
- Napkins
- Crackers/ Popcorn
- Fiber One Cereal
- Flour/Sugar
- Cereal/Breakfast bars
- Packaged fruit
- Pancake mix, syrup
- Taco/fajita kits
- Oatmeal
- Ketchup/Mustard/Relish
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Household cleaners
- Sponges
- Facial tissue
- Freezer bags
- Foil and cling wrap
- Kitchen garbage bags
- Chicken broth/stock
- Beef broth/stock
- Vegetable broth/stock
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Boxed or bagged rice
- Boxed/bagged potato
- Coffee/tea
- Juice
- Pasta and sauce
- Soups

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