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FRONT COVER IMAGES

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 or
stthomassouthington.org 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

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

Online Giving: www.saintthomassouthington.org or 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,

Right now, I'm in a little bubble of time that's very much preoccupied with my parents. Dad's birthday is toward the end of January. The first week of February is Mom's birthday. A week later, we celebrate their anniversary. It's a time of picking out cards, making dinners, and baking cakes. We check to see if there's anything special they would like. While I try to help take care of my parents normally, this is a time of special attention and care. It also reminds me that I am greatly blessed to be my age and have both of my parents alive, in decent health, and still happily married. We can forget that those simple things are great gifts from God. I try not to take it for granted, and this block of time reminds me of that.

We're at a point in the Church calendar that RCIA is intensifying. We have a large and interesting group this year. They are very much engaged in the process, and they're asking very good questions. Seeing their commitment and their drive reminds me what a blessing I have of being raised in the Catholic faith. I was lucky to have had parents, priests, catechists, and parishioners who witnessed their faith to me in many ways. I look at the catechumen and candidates and think of the blessings this religious tradition offers. It reminds me not to take these blessings for granted. Their presence reminds me of the joy the faith offers me.

What are the good things in your life? Are there people who love and support you? Do

you have a home and resources to provide for your comfort? Do you have a career that fulfills you, a volunteer position that brings you joy, or hobbies that utilize your gifts and talents? How is your health? Do you consider the blessings of living in a democratic republic, a land largely free from warfare, famine, and deprivation? Take stock of the blessings that are always there and don't take them for granted. See what good things you have. Take strength and comfort from your faith and the good things of your life. Don't let problems overwhelm you. You are blessed by God; it just takes effort to refocus and see those things we always have that make our lives complete.

Gratefully yours in Christ, Fr. Joe



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

mass intentions

SATURDAY, January, 29

7:30am (IC) pro-populo

4:00pm (SD) Michael Mongillo
Requested by Tonia, Evo, & Charlene

5:30pm (IC) Deceased members of the Mirando & Derynioski Families
Requested by Florence Mirando & Family

SUNDAY, January, 30 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am (SD) Robert Tompkins
Requested by the Family

9:00am (IC—Polish) Zofia Moscicka
Requested by Edyta Konopka

10:30am (SD) Richard Gallagher, 1st Anniversary
Requested by his Wife & Children

MONDAY, January, 31 Memorial of St. John Bosco, Priest

7:30am (IC) Stanley & Mary Ellen Smolinski,
& Family
Requested by the Smolinski Family

12:00pm (IC) Rose Rotella, 100th Birthday
Requested by her daughter, Lyssa & Family

TUESDAY, February 1

7:30am (IC) pro-populo
12:00pm (IC) pro-populo

WEDNESDAY, February 2 Presentation of the Lord

7:30am (IC) In memory of Philomena Giardono
Requested by Rose & Joe Sukalski

12:00pm (IC) pro-populo

THURSDAY, February 3

7:30am (IC) Rev. Monsignor Richard Soseman
Diocese of Peoria Illinois
Requested by Fr. Ron

12:00pm (IC) Antonio, Giuseppina, & Pietro La Cioppa
Requested by Aurelia Leonetti & Family

FRIDAY, February 4

7:30am (IC) Mary & Bruno Brunalli
Requested by their Daughter

12:00pm (IC) Francis & Rosemarie Walleth
Requested by their Daughter

SATURDAY, February 5

St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

7:30am (IC) Rev. Clifford Bishop
Diocese of Allentown PA
Requested by Fr. Ron

4:00pm (SD) Leon & Alberta Boucher
70th Anniversary
Requested by the Family

5:30pm (IC) Giovanni & Lucia, & Saverio Mercaldi
Requested by Angela Zacchia

SUNDAY, February 6

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am (SD) Deceased members of DiBenedetto/Perillo Families
Requested by the Family

9:00am (IC—Polish) Katarzyna & Piotr Zak
Requested by the Family

10:30am (SD) Eric Thomas, 10th Anniversary
Requested by Maria, Alex, Angelina & Isabella

tax statements for saint thomas

If you need a copy of your donations for tax purposes, please email stthomassouthington@gmail.com and one will be emailed or mailed to you. If you need to call for one please leave a message for Heidi and one will be mailed to you. Statements will go out after January 23.

tax statements for saint dominic

If you need a copy of your donations for tax purposes, please email LeeanneF@saintdominicchurch.com and one will be emailed or mailed to you. If you need to call for one please leave a message and one will be mailed to you.. Statements will go out after January 23.

tax statements for immaculate

If you need a copy of your donations for tax purposes, please email stthomassouthington@gmail.com and state that you are from Immaculate Conception Parish. If you need to call for one please leave a message for Heidi. Statements will not be ready immediately due to staffing. We apologize for the inconvenience. You can also use your canceled checks as proof of donation.

liturgy corner

Candlemas

Candlemas is celebrated on the 2nd day of February of each year. The day is celebrated as a day of renewal, hope, and purification.

During the early years, people would place their candles outside the church in order to be blessed. They would then carry them in a procession to church in order to imitate the appearance of Jesus in the Temple

The candle is a reminder of the Light of Christ which was handed to our god-parents and parents at our Baptism. It is a symbol of how we are to keep the light of Christ burning brightly. Blessed candles can be lighted in times of tragedy, crisis, or sickness as a helpful reminder of God's presence amongst us. These candles are a symbol of Christ whose birth illumined the world's darkness. May Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the light shine, brightly in our lives.

On Wed. February 2nd at the daily Masses at Immaculate Conception we will bless the candles used in our community this year. If you would like to have home candles blessed, please bring your candles to the morning or noon Masses at Immaculate conception for a blessing.

Feast of St. Blaise

On St. Blaise's day, February 3, many Catholic communities offer a blessing of throats. The custom began in the 16th century, although Blaise is thought to have died about the year 320.

Little is known with certainty about his life, but Blaise lived in Armenia, where he is remembered as a bishop. To escape the persecution of Christians under the emperor Licinius, Blaise hid in a cave. Wild animals thronged to him because he healed their sick, according to a legend.

Eventually, the legend continues, hunters discovered him and took him to civil authorities. On the way he rescued a poor woman's pig from the mouth of a hungry wolf. Unmoved, the anti-Christian authorities imprisoned Blaise. The grateful pig-owner brought him candles to brighten his cell. While in jail, Blaise miraculously dislodged a fishbone from a boy's throat. The memory of these events—the use of candles and the healing of a throat—influenced later devotions. Blaise was tortured with the iron combs used to card the wool of sheep. Then he was beheaded. (Fr. Paul Turner)

On the weekend of February 5th & 6th we will bless the throats of those in our community. We will offer a general blessing for our community and if desired, an individual blessing with candles.

Mass Schedule Changes Effective July 1st

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 2nd and 3rd, 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

youth

Catholic Youth Ministry
of Southington

Here I Am, Lord SKIT NIGHT!

St. Dominic Church
Sunday, February 6, 2022
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

special guest speaker
from Crossroads for Christ

snacks and activities

Open Faith Talk

Closing Prayer Service

Open to all high-school aged
teens. Sign up today!
saintdominicchurch.com



ask father



Question:

Father, what is the correct way to hold your hands during the Lord's Prayer? I was taught to fold my hands; however, I see some people holding hands with others or holding out their hands.

Answer:

There is no prescribed way for Catholics to hold their hands during the Our Father, well, except for priests. If we are presiding or concelebrating the Mass, we are directed to hold our hands out in the 'orantes' stance (hands out and up at our sides). That is done by those leading the congregation. Some people saw priests doing this and began to emulate the gesture, holding out their hands. Some others began holding hands with those around them in the congregation. While not prohibited, neither are encouraged either; it's generally best for people to try to have the same gesture, to promote unity of the community. Some liturgists believe holding hands during the Lord's Prayer anticipates the sign of peace and somehow negates it. Some say no one should be holding hands out, other than the presider, who only does so as a gesture to gather the community together in common prayer. I don't believe it's my place to forbid any gesture, but I do remind people to try to not stand out or cause undue attention to oneself. Communal prayer is just that, communal. We stand united and pray together. It makes most sense to try to have the same gestures for all the faithful in the congregation. I find simplicity is best, like folding your own hands, but that's just an opinion. You are neither ordered nor forbidden from: holding hands, outstretched hands, or folded hands. Just focus on the prayer!

altar adornment

All donations will be listed in the bulletin for the date of request if received in time, though, depending on the liturgical season/date, flowers may not be present on the altar.

Please pick up a donation envelope at an usher's position in the back of the church. Fill it out and drop it in the collection basket with your donation of \$50.00 or more, or mail it to the rectory. Candle intentions are a donation of \$20 or more. Two weeks notice please. Make checks payable to your parish. Thank you!



flower intentions

For: **Rose C. Rotella,**
Birthday Remembrance

Requested by her daughter, Lyssa & Family



candle intentions

For: **Your Loved One**

Requested by the Family

community events

hospice volunteer

Becoming a Franciscan Hospice Volunteer is a rewarding opportunity to journey with someone in the latter portion of his/her life. Franciscan hospice volunteers receive 16 hours of training that enables them to be present to others in a very special way in order to support both the individual and their family through a difficult time.

There is continuing education and support through monthly meetings as well as social events for the hospice volunteer throughout the year. Franciscan hospice volunteers provide a variety of services such as visiting patients, reading, sharing stories, praying or being a quiet presence for the patient as well as clerical support. If you are interested in making a difference in someone else's life consider becoming a Franciscan Hospice Volunteer with Franciscan Home Care and Hospice Care. Contact BJ Raby at braby@franciscanhc.org or 202-238-1441. Visit web site at franciscanhc.org.

men's club update

Immaculate Conception-Saint Thomas-Church Of Saint Dominic



The Men's club decided to make an adjustment to our scheduled February 27th Mardi Gras event due to the current Covid-19 situation. Instead of the scheduled dinner event an exciting complimentary "Mardi Gras Breakfast" buffet will be available to all parishioners at Masses on Sunday, February 27th, at Saint Dominic Church.

A special 7:00 pm. meeting will be held at the Immaculate Conception Religious Education Building on Thursday, February 3rd to finalize plans .

the ABCs of annulment

Sponsored by the Metropolitan Tribunal, Bloomfield

Father Philip Schulze, Pastor of Saint Margaret Parish, 24 Academy Street, Madison, Connecticut, in collaboration with Father George Mukuka, the Judicial Vicar of the Metropolitan Tribunal in Bloomfield, Connecticut, will host "The ABCs of Annulment" on Saturday of January 22nd, 2022, from 10 am to 12:00 pm, in the Church Hall at the address above. Updates of the process initiated by Pope Francis as well as those made in the Archdiocese of Hartford will be presented by Br. Larry Lussier CSC, and Jim Tottenham.

Follow-up Annulment Workshops to help participants write their applications will be held at the same address on Saturday January 29th, and February 12th and 19th, from 10 am to 12:00 pm. Br. Larry, Jim Tottenham, and other members of the Annulment Team, will be present for the Workshops.

The "ABCs of Annulment" event is open to all at no cost. Participants will receive a folder with the required printed materials. No registration is required. For further information call Br. Larry @ 475-221-8464 or email him at brolarlus300@gmail.com.

join us!

passion play news 2022

Please consider joining us in spreading God's message of love. All are welcome to sing in the adult and youth choruses without auditioning. The last date to sign up for adult or youth chorus is February 9th.

You can sign up on any of the following dates or an online sign-up link and downloadable sign-up forms can be found at: www.stthomassouthington.org/cast-info



Help Needed! We have some apostle and soldier roles that are not filled. Most are non speaking roles. Interested? Contact Rachel at passionplay.rachel@gmail.com

Important Dates:

- February 2, Wed. 6:00 - 7pm Youth Chorus – parent/guardian must stay. In the school gym.
- February 2, Wed. 7:00 - 8:30pm Adult Chorus in the school gym.
- February 6, Sun. **10:30am Commissioning Mass at St Dominic Church**
- February 9, Wed. 6:00 - 7pm Youth Chorus – parent/guardian must stay. In school cafeteria.
- February 9, Wed. 7:00 - 8:30pm Adult Chorus in the school cafeteria.

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 or call the center 860.628.4678 ext. 123.



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 at 860-628-4713 or by email at 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 at 860-628-4713 or by email at stthomassouthington@gmail.com.

rachel's vineyard retreat weekends

~for healing after abortion

If you are suffering from an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat weekend **March 25-27, 2022 in Farmington, CT**. The weekend healing process includes discussions, Living Scriptures with meditations, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and Mass of Entrustment.

Participation is totally confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. Both women and men have participated in past retreats and have ranged in age from teens to mid-eighties.

The fee for the weekend is \$175.00 for meals, private room and all retreat materials. Scholarships are available for financial assistance. For more information contact Marie at 203-631-9030, email her at mlaffin@prolifeministry.org, or visit our website at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

**saint dominic
nourishes item of
the month:
Pasta
Sauce**

**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

Pet foods & accessories
are sent to

Meriden Humane
Society, a non-kill
shelter.
Canned cat/dog food
Dry cat/dog food
Pet toys

*Food donations
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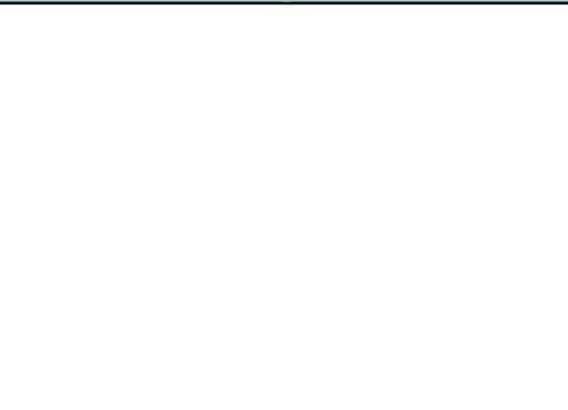
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