



Pastor

Rev. Nicholas P. Melo
fnickmelo@gmail.com

Deacon

Angelo J. Coppola

St. Thomas Convent

860-621-1904

**Director of
Religious Education**

Sr. Marie Roccapriore, M.P.F.
860-628-9679

Southington Catholic School
Mrs. Eileen Sampiere, Principal
860-628-2485

Saint Thomas Church

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Telephone: 860-628-4713 Fax: 860-628-7341

Web Site: www.stthomassouthington.org

Pastoral Planning Web Site: www.stewardsfortomorrow.org

e-mail: stthomassouthington@gmail.com

Religious Ed email: stchurchre@gmail.com

Mass Schedule

Chapel

Monday & Tuesday 7:30 a.m.
Thursday & Friday 12:10 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m.

Church

Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Reconciliation

Saturday 2:30 p.m.
or by Appointment

Holy Hour (Chapel)

Tuesday (for vocation) 11:00 a.m.
Thursday (with Benediction) 11:00 a.m.
Eucharistic Adoration 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Miraculous Medal Novena (Chapel)

Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

Sponsor Certificates

Sponsor Certificates are available in the sacristy of the Church or the rectory office. You must be an active parishioner, registered with our parish for 6 months or more. The use of the envelope system assists in verifying that you are an active parishioner.

Baptism

Parents are asked to contact Jean at the rectory to arrange for a Baptism.

Marriage

The Archdiocese requires a minimum of 6 months for marriage preparation. Couples should contact Fr. Nick at the rectory.

RCIA - The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

If your faith journey has led you to think about the Catholic Church or to receive the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation, please join us in the RCIA. For more information contact Sr. Marie Roccapriore, M.P.F. at the Convent.



SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

4:00 Rinaldo Brino, req. by family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

7:30 Maria Parlapiano, req. by her family

10:00 Francis Gualtieri, req. by Rose and Carl Cassella

MONDAY, JANUARY 23 St. Vincent and St. Marianne Cope

7:30 Giuseppe, Tommaso and Francesca Zacchia, req. by Frank and Mario Izzo and family

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24 St. Francis de Sales

7:30 Parishioners of St. Thomas Church

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26 SS. Timothy and Titus

12:10 Florence and Philip Pomposi and Michael and Lillian Cassella, req. by family

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 St. Angela Merici

12:10 Joe and Irina Vecchio, req. by Pasquale and Maria DiChello

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28 St. Thomas Aquinas

8:00 Rosa Izzo, req. by Pasquale and Maria DiChello

4:00 Marie Albert and Pierre and Reynold Charette, req. by Don and Dorothy Charette

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

7:30 Henry Szyszkowski, req. by Scott & Mary Solomon and family

10:00 Joseph Labrie, req. by his niece, Diana Albert

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome! We are delighted to have you join our parish. Please introduce yourself to Fr. Nick after Mass. Parish registration forms are available in the sacristy after Mass or at the rectory office during the week.

BULLETIN

All bulletin announcements must be submitted *in writing* no later than the **Monday** prior to publication. Submitting well in advance of that date is greatly appreciated.

ST. THOMAS PRAYER LINE MINISTRY

To make a request for prayer contact **Barbara Burke: 860-621-3129, Noreen Fragola 860-628-2500, or the Sisters at the Convent: 860-621-1904.**

BULLETIN ADVERTISERS

Please remember to support the businesses who advertise on the back of the weekly bulletin. We wish to thank our advertising sponsors for making this publication possible.

SAFETY AT ST THOMAS

The safety of all is a priority here at St. Thomas. Anyone who notices a safety concern is asked to submit a Safety Observation Form. These forms are available in the church sacristy and at the rectory.

LAP BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 25th at 7pm in the church basement. The Lap Blanket Ministry is in need of yarn and would sincerely appreciate donations of any color and quantity. Lap Blankets are distributed to the sick and elderly at home, in healthcare facilities and hospitals. For more information, contact Rita Gilbert at 860-620-0246 or Sr. Marie at the convent 860-621-1904.

RESPECT LIFE BABY BOTTLE EVENT

St. Thomas Respect-life Ministry will be distributing baby bottles after all the Masses **this weekend January 21st and 22nd**. Please use the bottles to collect spare change over the next 3 weeks. At anytime you can deposit the bottles in the collection bins at the entrances of the church. Last weekend to collect bottles will be February 11/12. All proceeds will go to Carolyn's Place, the Catholic pregnancy resource center serving the greater Waterbury area. Carolyn's Place assists young women and girls with unexpected pregnancies, provides parenting skills training to new mothers and fathers, conducts Christ-centered education on human sexuality and mentoring to teenage boys and girls. If you need more information or wish to volunteer please contact Roberta and Dan Vendetti at 860-621-7808. Thank you.

2017 PASSION PLAY NEWS

The St. Thomas Passion Play gets underway the first week of February. Besides acting we can use help in many areas to keep the play running smoothly. Please consider helping us spread God's message of love. Auditions will be held in the Southington Catholic School café starting at 7pm. **Women:** Wednesday Feb. 1st and **Men:** Thursday Feb. 2nd. A commissioning Mass will be held on Feb. 12th at the 10am Mass in St. Thomas Church. Our first gathering, Feb. 15th at 6:30pm in the school gym, is for everyone. For a complete schedule check our web site stthomassouthington.org/passionplay or contact Bonnie Peterson at 860-621-7005.

SOUTHINGTON CATHOLIC NEWS!

Open House—Come explore Southington Catholic School during the upcoming Open House events on Sunday, January 29th at 12 PM or Wednesday, February 1st at 9 AM at 133 Bristol Street. If you prefer a personal tour at another time, we can arrange a visit at your convenience. Registration for the Fall of 2017 is now being accepted. Please call 860-628-2485 ext. 114 to set up an appointment.

Mark Your Calendar- The date is **Friday, February 24th** for Southington Catholic's "**Night in Black and White**" Gala Fundraising Event at the Aqua Turf. Our second annual gala event features great food, dancing, raffle prizes, silent and live auction to benefit the students of SCS. You can reserve tickets at \$75 per person by calling 860-628-2485.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

2016 contribution statements will be sent to those who request one. You may enclose a note in your offertory envelope, call the office or send an email with your request and we will send a statement to you .

“From each tiny child waiting to be born, to individuals nearing death, all are precious and deserve our care and protection...Let’s ask God to make us channels of his loving mercy.”
Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan

Marriage Enrichment Celebration

The 10th annual Archdiocesan Marriage Enrichment Celebration will be held on Sat., Feb. 4, 2017, from 5:00-9:00 p.m. at Mary Our Queen Church, 248 Savage St., Plantsville, CT. Celebrate the Sacrament with other married couples for Mass, prayer, and a good deal of laughter focusing on the theme: "Weddings, Wines and Miraculous Times: Jesus' Gift at Cana". The cost is \$25.00 per couple and includes dinner and a wine tasting. To register contact Tom and Donna Finn at 860-621-7858, or email to tfinnphd@sbcglobal.net. Please R.S.V.P. by Jan. 29, 2017. Sponsored by the Family Life Office and Catholic Engaged Encounter.



The Church Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of **Maria DelSanto Block**, requested by Tom and Marie DelSanto.

The Chapel Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of **Florence and Philip Pomposi and Michael and Lillian Cassella**, requested by family.

DIACONATE INQUIRY SESSIONS

The Archdiocesan Office of Diaconate Formation announces a Pre-Application Program for Catholic men (age 35 to 60) interested in the Diaconate. Those interested in the Diaconate must first attend the following two informational sessions. If married, spouses must also attend. All sessions will be held at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield on Sunday, March 12, 2017 and Sunday, March 26, 2017 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. **Both sessions must be attended.** To register call the Office of Diaconate at 860-242-5573 ext. 7447, or email: mary.ellen.horan@aohct.org.

CATHOLIC BIBLICAL SCHOOL

Learn more about how God is with us in the Bible. The Birth of Jesus raises too many questions that just can't be answered in an eight minute homily! If you want to delve deeper into the meaning of God's gift to us at Christmas, consider learning more about our Catholic Biblical School. Contact us, or come to our Celebration of Sacred Scripture on Saturday, March 25 to learn more about how we "roll". The enrollment process begins in spring, and classes begin in early September. For details check our website www.orehartford.org or contact the Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis, 860-242-5573, ext.2670. (catholicbiblical.school@aohct.org)

VOCATIONS

The Lord Jesus proclaimed that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. We need, in our own time, to proclaim that same message. Are we bold enough to reform our lives and proclaim the Good News? If you are, call **Fr. Jeffrey Gubbiotti**, Director of Vocations, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, 860-242-5573, email vocations@aohct.org or visit www.hartfordpriest.com.

"COME AND FOLLOW ME"

Are you following Archbishop Blair and the Archdiocese on social media? Twitter: [@ArchbishopBlair](https://twitter.com/ArchbishopBlair)
 Snapchat: [@ArchdioceseofHartford](https://www.snapchat.com/add/ArchdioceseofHartford)
 Facebook.com/ArchdioceseOfHartford



We wish to congratulate the parents of **Christopher James Mele** who was baptized at St. Thomas Church last weekend.

ACTS MEN'S RETREAT

An ACTS Retreat is a 3-day, 3-night Catholic lay retreat presented by men who have attended prior ACTS retreats, under the guidance of Spiritual Guides. Retreat activities focus on Adoration, Community, Theology and Service (ACTS). The goals are to renew yourself spiritually, to strengthen your faith and its application in your daily life, and to create lasting and supporting friendships which is done in a positive, lively and interactive manner. The Retreat will take place on February 16-19, 2017 and the cost is \$240, which includes all meals, room and transportation for the weekend. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Baker at 860-620-0622 or bglenrtp@gmail.com. Don't miss this opportunity to connect to God and other men in a totally welcoming and comfortable environment and bring balance back into your life.

RESURRECTION CHOIR

A Resurrection Choir has begun at St. Thomas Parish to sing at funerals throughout the year. The majority of music selected are standard hymns which everyone knows. Review of the music would occur about 15 minutes prior to the funeral. Anyone interested in being part of this ministry should contact Emil Kopcha at 860-621-0637 or ekopcha@cox.net. Members of the Resurrection Choir can come whenever they are able to during the year based on their schedule.

CAN YOU CANTOR?

What is a leader of song? We are looking for cantors to lead the congregation in the singing of hymns and parts of the Mass throughout the year. If you have a good strong voice and would like to try being a cantor, please contact Emil Kopcha at 860-621-0637 for more information. We are flexible and can work you into Mass times that are convenient for you.

BIRTHRIGHT OF GREATER HARTFORD

Birthright needs volunteers. Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service offering free pregnancy tests, friendship counseling, and practical support. Our guiding principle: It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born. Birthright has served in Connecticut since 1972 and has ten locations. We help any pregnant girl or woman who calls us. If you would like to help, please call 1-800-550-4900 for the Birthright nearest you. Training is provided. Thank you.

Readings for the Week of January 22, 2017

Sunday: Is 8:23--9:3/Ps 27/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17
 Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 98/Mk 3:22-30
 Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10/Ps 40/Mk 3:31-35
 Wednesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117/Mk 16:15-18
 Thursday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96/Mk 4:21-25
 Friday: Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37/Mk 4:26-34
 Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1/Mk 4:35-41