



**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

99 Bristol Street, Southington, CT 06489-4599

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

Web Site: [www.stthomassouthington.org](http://www.stthomassouthington.org)

Pastoral Planning Web Site: [www.stewardsfortomorrow.org](http://www.stewardsfortomorrow.org)

e-mail: [stthomassouthington@gmail.com](mailto:stthomassouthington@gmail.com)

Religious Ed email: [stchurchre@gmail.com](mailto: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.



<b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18</b>	
4:00	Dolores Biafore, req. by Carmen & Sue Votino
<b>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19</b>	
7:30	Francis Gualtieri, req. by Ermine & Jack Castiola
10:00	Luigi & Benito Perone, req. by Giovanna Perone and family
<b>MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20</b>	
7:30	Reverend Thomas Bennett
<b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>St. Peter Damian</b></span>	
7:30	Parishioners of St. Thomas Church
<b>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>St. Polycarp</b></span>	
12:10	Cheryl M. LaFrance, req. by Jane Caddick
<b>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24</b>	
12:10	Constantina & Mike Tranquillo, req. by Pasquale and Maria DiChello
<b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25</b>	
8:00	Giuseppa Cuccaro, req. by her daughter, Rosa Ricigliano and family
4:00	Joseph Avitabile, Sr. and Joseph Avitabile, Jr., req. by Carmel Avitabile
<b>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26</b>	
7:30	Ann Quinn, req. by her husband and family
10:00	Lisa and Tony Fragola, req. by Noreen and Rich

**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. It is best to send by email to [stchurchre@gmail.com](mailto:stchurchre@gmail.com). Submitting well in advance 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.**

**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.

**MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND**

St. Thomas Parish offers Ministry to the homebound and shut-ins. If you know of someone who would like to receive the Eucharist on a monthly or weekly basis please call the rectory at 860-628-4713.

**UGANDA FRIEND RAISER**

Want to get involved in this special event but not sure how? Come to the planning meeting on **Monday, February 20th at 7:30 pm in the Parish Center.** WE NEED MORE GOOD PEOPLE LIKE YOU! If you can donate a good or service for the raffle, or purchase an ad for the program, fantastic! Contact BJ Raby at [bj.raby@cox.net](mailto:bj.raby@cox.net) or 860-628-9425 for more information. All donations can be dropped off at the rectory, weekly 8am-4pm.

**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.

**NIGHT IN BLACK AND WHITE**

This **Friday, February 24th** is Southington Catholic's "**Night in Black and White**" Gala Fundraising Event at the Aqua Turf. Enjoy a wonderful evening of dining, dancing auction prizes and raffles at the Second Annual GALA to benefit the students of SCS. You can still purchase tickets for \$75 per person by calling 860-628-2485. It is not too late to join this exciting evening!

**LENT**

**Wednesday, March 1st is Ash Wednesday.** Ashes will be distributed during Masses at 12:10 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. At Masses during the season of Lent, the presider will ask the congregation to kneel for the Penitential Rite as we recite the Confiteor and sing the Kyrie.

Mondays	Confessions	6:00-7:00 p.m.
Tuesdays	Holy Hour for Vocations	11:00 a.m.
	Miraculous Medal Novena & Rosary	7:00 p.m.
Thursdays	Eucharistic Adoration	8:00-11:00 a.m.
	Holy Hour and Benediction	11:00 a.m.
Fridays	Stations of the Cross	7:00 p.m.
	(at St. Thomas Church)	

**Lenten Regulations**

**Abstinence** from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent. **Fasting** is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 – 59 years of age. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal penitential practices.

**ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE**

St. Thomas	12:10 pm, 7:30 pm	Mass
Mary Our Queen	9:00 am, 7:00 pm	Mass
St. Dominic	7:00 am	Service
	9:00 am, 7:00 pm	Mass
St. Aloysius	7:00 am	Mass
	12:15 pm, 5:30 pm	Service
Immaculate Conception	8:00 am, 7:00 pm	Mass

**MY PARISH APP—FEATURE OF THE WEEK**

This week's feature begins with 'Parish Info'. The Parish Info feature is simply a shortcut to the Parish Office, information and website. When you open it you will see the Church address, phone number, main email address, and website as well as the Archdiocese website and facebook/instagram. On the bottom you can open 'Directory' and get the Staff listing for the Church and School with shortcuts to phone and email.



The Church Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of **the Deceased Members of the Aldi Family**, requested by LouAnn Sieruta.

**NEW DAY PROGRAM FOR BEREAVED**

St Thomas Church will conduct a bereavement seminar beginning March 15, 2017. Anyone grieving the death of a loved one is encouraged to enroll and participate at no cost. The New Day process, developed by Sr. Mauryeen O'Brien, OP, will be used and participants will meet each Wednesday evening from 7 – 9 pm for 10 consecutive weeks. This process has been very successful in helping the bereaved transition to life without their loved one. During each meeting, participants work through one element of the grieving process using prayer, reflection, sharing and journaling. Everything that is shared during the meetings is held confidential. For more information or to enroll please call Vinny Raby at 860-628-9425 or Dorothy Charette at 860-628-4010. You may also call the Parish office 860-628-4713.

**PASTA FAGIOLI**

Join us on Friday evenings during Lent for... Pasta Fagioli, salad, bread, beverages & desserts through from 5pm—7pm. In the school cafeteria. Cost is \$7.00 per person eat in (children under 7 pay their age), and \$30 max for family. Take out orders will be available for \$8 per container. All proceeds go to support Southington Catholic School so bring your friends and family!

**PALMS TO ASHES**

Last year's palms will be collected the weekend 26th. These palms will be burned and the ashes will be used for distribution on Ash Wednesday. You may return your palms to the box at the front of the Bristol Street entrance of the church.

**"I PHONE FAST! WILL U?"**

For the first time, the Archdiocese of Hartford is inviting people to "fast" from using cell phones on Ash Wednesday, March 1st, and Good Friday, April 14th, in an initiative called: "I Phone Fast!" Silencing our busy phones, gives God a chance to call our hearts. Please consider including this practice as part of the fasting, almsgiving and prayer, which are the traditional disciplines by which the Church observes Lent. Visit: [archdioceseofhartford.org](http://archdioceseofhartford.org).

**MERCY HIGH SCHOOL**

**"Discover Mercy"** - For 5th, 6th & 7th grade girls and their parents. Mercy High School in Middletown, CT on Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Register online at [www.mercyhigh.com](http://www.mercyhigh.com).



We wish to congratulate the parents of **Luke Robert Janowski** who was baptized at St. Thomas Church last weekend.

**LENTEN CONFESSIONS**

"Peace be with you!" With these words, the Risen Lord greeted his frightened Apostles in the Upper Room on the day of his Resurrection. Christ repeated the words, "Peace be with you." Then he added, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them" (Jn 20:19-23) What an extraordinary gift—the gift of divine forgiveness! This year, prepare for Easter by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. During Lent, every Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Hartford will open on **Mondays from 6:00pm to 7:00pm** for Lenten Confessions.

**CATHOLIC BIBLICAL SCHOOL PRESENTS..**

"Transformative Encounters in The Gospel of John" on Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 12:30-4:30pm at St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield, CT. Presenter will be Dr. Harold Attridge, Sterling Professor of Divinity at Yale University. All are welcome! Registration is required by March 17, 2017. Register online at [www.orehartford.org](http://www.orehartford.org) or call 860-242-5573, ext. 2679. Donation requested.

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED  
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

Church Women United will host a **World Day of Prayer Service** and luncheon on Friday, March 3rd at 12:00pm at the Southington Cultural Arts Community Center, on the corner of Main St. and Berlin Ave. *All are invited.* Please register by February 24th, by calling Marilyn at 860-628-9564. Tickets are \$5 per person and may be paid at the door.

**RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT**

Rachel's Vineyard weekend 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 3-5, 2017** in Litchfield, Ct. Participation is total 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. For more information contact Marie at 203-631-9030, email at [mlaffin@prolifeministry.org](mailto:mlaffin@prolifeministry.org) or visit our website at [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).

**Readings for the Week of February 19, 2017**

Sunday:	Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48
Monday:	Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday:	Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday:	1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6/Mt 16:13-19
Thursday:	Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Mk 9:41-50
Friday:	Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34-35/Mk 10:1-12
Saturday:	Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-18/Mk 10:13-16
Next Sunday:	Is 49:14-15/Ps 62:2-3, 6-9/1 Cor 4:1-5/Mt 6:24-34