



Pastor

Rev. Joseph R. Cronin
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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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 Web Site: www.stthomassouthington.org
 Pastoral Planning Web Site: www.stewardsfortomorrow.org

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 Religious Ed email: stchurchre@gmail.com
 Download our App: see MyParishApp.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 3:00-3:30 p.m.
 or by Appointment
 Mondays during Lent 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

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 Moriarty at the rectory to arrange for a Baptism.

Marriage

The Archdiocese requires a minimum of 6 months for marriage preparation. Couples should contact Fr. Joseph Cronin 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.

Mass  for the
Intentions *for the Week*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

4:00 Joseph and Mary Zacchio, req. by Theresa, Mickey and Frank

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

7:30 Mary Virginia Collins, req. by her husband, Hugh
10:00 The deceased members of the Casale Family, req. by the Casale family

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

7:30 Rosa Izzo-Anniversary, req. by Frank and Mario Izzo and family

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

7:30 Frank Rossi, req. by his wife and children

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30**St. Andrew**

12:10 Giuseppe Mazzulla, req. by his wife and grandson

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

12:10 Angelo A. Altomari, Jr., req. by Shirley and Tom Saccoman

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

8:00 Parishioners of St. Thomas Church
4:00 Joseph A. Palmieri, Sr., req. by his wife and children

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

7:30 Vincenzo Cusano-Anniversary, req. by his wife and family
10:00 The deceased members of the Concetta DelSanto Family, req. by Tom and Maria DelSanto

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome! We are delighted to have you join our parish. Please introduce yourself to Fr. Joe 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. Submitting well in advance is greatly appreciated.

ST. THOMAS PRAYER LINE MINISTRY

To make a request for prayer contact the rectory at 860-628-4713 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.

PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

The Week of Awareness for Persecuted Christians is Nov. 26 – Dec. 2. In observance of this week, we ask that you take a moment to pray for our brothers and sisters around the globe who are punished for practicing their faith. For more information about persecuted Christians visit: USCCB.org, Christiansatrisk.org, or ArchdioceseofHartford.org.

FROZEN TURKEYS NEEDED

St. Thomas Parish will once again be involved with the preparation and delivery of Christmas food baskets to local residents in need. Although it may seem early, the Thanksgiving season is the best time to take advantage of the lowest prices on turkeys. Anyone wishing to donate a turkey may do so by delivering it to the rectory between 7:30am to 3:30pm Monday-Friday. The collection of stuffing, gravy, canned vegetables and cranberry sauce will begin with the Thanksgiving Day Mass and continue through mid December. Any questions may be directed to Mark Drechsler at 860-621-4980 or Nancy Ouimette at 860-621-8098.

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION SERVICE

To prepare our hearts for Christmas you are invited to the Southington Communal Reconciliation Service on **Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 7:00pm at St. Dominic Parish, 1050 Flanders Rd. Southington CT.** *“Forgiveness brings peace and with that peace, overwhelming joy, the joy that God will forgive me just as I forgive.”* Together we will pray, examine our conscience and recite the act of contrition before going to one of the many priests for individual confession and absolution. **As part of your spiritual preparation, we remind you that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered every Saturday at 3:00pm at St. Thomas Church or by appointment with Father Joe.**

BREAD FOR LIFE

St. Thomas Church has been assigned next week, **December 4-8th** for the Bread for Life Soup Kitchen. We need two people per day from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Also, **donations of milk and fruit are needed.** If you are able to assist in the kitchen or help with a donation, please call Marie, 860-621-7615. Please consider giving the gift of your time one day during our assigned week.

ST. THOMAS PARISH MISSION

As the Advent and Christmas seasons approach, give yourself a spiritual gift and mark your calendars for the St. Thomas Parish Mission on **December 4th, 5th & 6th**, at 7:30 pm in the church. Deacon Arthur Miller will lead the mission entitled: “Retreat into Advent: *Be Still and Know That I am God*” Psalm 46:10.

LIGHTING OF THE CHURCH ADVENT WREATH

Volunteers Needed At each Mass on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of Advent we would like a family or individual to light the Advent Wreath at the beginning of Mass. Please call the rectory to sign up for your choice of date and Mass time.

LADIES GUILD HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

The Ladies Guild annual Holiday Bake Sale is scheduled for the weekend of **December 2nd and 3rd** after all Masses. Please stop down and see our fine assortment of cakes, pies and cookies and take a chance on raffle baskets and prizes. Donation drop off should be brought to the church basement, 2pm on Saturday. All are welcomed to assist our group with their great baked goods. For information call Terry Bouchard at 860-628-2981.

SAINT THOMAS CEMETERY

As of January 1, 2018 the price per grave at St. Thomas Cemetery will increase by \$200. Pre-need graves are available for purchase, by appointment. Please call the rectory office, 860-628-4713, to schedule an appointment with the cemetery manager. The current price per grave is \$1,000 or \$1,300 depending on location.



The sanctuary flowers are donated this week in memory of **the deceased members of UNICO Club**, requested by their current members.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED

Eucharistic ministers are parishioners who have been commissioned to serve Christ in the gathered assembly on Sundays and Holy Days. They also serve the unity of the worshipping community by taking Holy Communion to those members who are prevented by sickness, old age, or other cause from taking part in the congregation. The extraordinary ministers of Saint Thomas parish bring Communion to Southington Care Center, The Orchards, the hospital, and to the homebound. If you are interested in learning more about this wonderful ministry, please call Deb Montano at 860-621-3528.

USHERS NEEDED

This ministry is open to ALL! Ushers are responsible for greeting parishioners, taking up the collection, assisting people in need, and distributing the bulletins at the conclusion of Mass. This is an easy way to serve your parish, arriving 15 minutes prior to Mass, staying for a few minutes after Mass and you can serve at the Mass you normally attend. Please contact Ron Ingriselli at 860-621-7460.

PARISH ADVENT PROJECT

Our parish will once again have a *Giving Tree*, which will be displayed in the front of the church through Advent. To participate, simply purchase one or more gifts suggested below, include Christmas wrapping and ribbon or gift bag, but **do not wrap**, and place under the Giving Tree. For every gift you place under the tree, place a paper "gift circle" on the tree. Gift circles are in a basket near the tree. Gifts will be distributed to local nursing homes, Catholic Charities and Caroline's Place. Some suggested gifts items include clothing for infants, children or adults, household linens, toiletries, disposable diapers and toys. All gifts must be new and unused. If you have any questions, contact Sr. Marie at 621-1904.

VOCATIONS

What we've done for the least of our brothers and sisters, we've done for Christ. Choose to serve in every circumstance; listen for a call to service as a priest, brother or sister. To answer this call, call **Fr. Jeffrey Gubbiotti**, Vocation Director, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Tel. 860-242-5573, email vocations@aohct.org or visit the web at www.hartfordpriest.com.

Readings for the Week of November 26, 2017

Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-3, 5-6/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46
 Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52-56/Lk 21:1-4
 Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57-61/Lk 21:5-11
 Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62-67/Lk 21:12-19
 Thursday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8-11/Mt 4:18-22
 Friday: Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75-81/Lk 21:29-33
 Saturday: Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82-87/Lk 21:34-36
 Next Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37



Father Joe's Notes



My dear friends,

This week, we come to the end of the liturgical year. (A new year begins for the Church next Sunday with the beginning of Advent.) We celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King today. He is the ruler of the universe and all things are subject to him, but the concept of a king is lost on most Americans. We're citizens of a democratic republic. We chose our leaders; they don't inherit their position. As a nation who rejected royal authority, we may not view this feast day too favorably. Kings are self-absorbed despots who seek power, riches, and fame only for themselves. We might think they have little connection to or concern for the common person. Before we get wrapped up in revolutionary ideals and talk of freedom, we need to hear what the message is today.

Christ our King is a shepherd. He doesn't seek lofty titles as he distances himself from his people; instead, he walks among us and cares for our needs. He gathers us and unites us in the midst of chaos and divisions. He tends to the sick and the injured. He doesn't gather power and wealth for himself, but he makes us sharers in his inheritance. Our Lord and King doesn't seek sycophants praising his goodness; instead, he reminds us that when we help all his people, particularly those most vulnerable and in need, that we serve him best. His power is not for himself, but his power is to free us from sin and despair. Our King gave up much to be born and share in our humanity. He suffered rejection, pain, and a humiliating death on the cross to benefit us. Nothing Jesus did was for himself; it's all for us. That's the King he is. It is his great joy to love and serve us more than us serving him. That is why we celebrate this day.

As we come to the end of the year and the beginning of a new one, we think how blessed we are to have Jesus Christ as our King. We thank him for all he has done and ask for blessings as we move forward. We seek ways to see him in the humblest people and the most difficult situations. We rejoice that the Son of God came to save us and show us a better way. As his people who are saved and blessed, we need to find opportunities to share the wonderful gifts our King offers. Maybe we could volunteer to put food baskets together for Christmas dinners or deliver them to families who need them. Jesus tells us that we serve him best when we feed the hungry. If I were to visit a person who is homebound, I am taking care of one the brothers and sisters whom our God loves. If I have a King who would do so much for me, surely I could do something for another of his beloved people. I can humble myself and gain a greater vision of the beauty of this world. It can be as simple as bringing a food basket with love and joy to someone who could use some happiness and care in this life. If we want to see eternal bliss in heaven, we ought to share that vision here on earth.. As Christ's people, we share those blessings as we journey with him.

Joyfully yours in Christ, Fr. Joe

CALENDARS

Calendars for 2018 are available at the entrances of the church. We wish to thank the **DellaVecchia Funeral Home** for providing these religious calendars.