

PALM SUNDAY

*praise God aloud
with joy*

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Saint Thomas Church

99 Bristol Street, Southington, CT 06489-4599

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

Web Site: www.stthomassouthington.org

e-mail: stchurch@snet.net
Religious Ed email: stchurchre@yahoo.com



SATURDAY, MARCH 19

4:00 Nellie Kaczynski and Daniel Charette-Birthdays, req. by Donald and Dorothy Charette

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

7:30 Thomas Nedjoika, req. by his wife and family
 10:00 Stephen Keltonic-35th Anniversary and Helen Keltonic-28th Anniversary and family, req. by Genevieve Maigarie

MONDAY, MARCH 21

7:30 Peter and Maria Nazruk, req. by their nephew, Richard

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

7:30 Maria Concetta Aldi and Giuseppe Marcuccio, req. by Ersilia Castaldo and family

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

7:30 PM Ann Quinn-Birthday, req. by family

HOLY THURSDAY

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

3:00 Solemn Afternoon Service

GOOD FRIDAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

8:00 PM Parishioners of St. Thomas

VIGIL OF EASTER

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

7:30 Ralph and Maria Parlapiano-Birthday, req. by family
 10:00 Irwin H. Laurencelle, req. by friends

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIP

Isabella Council #15 and Isabella Assembly #122 offer scholarships those seeking to further their education at a recognized institute of higher learning during the upcoming academic year. Applicant, Parent or Legal Guardian must be a registered member of the parish. Applications are available at the parish office and must be returned by April 1st.

HOLY WEEK/TRIDUUM SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY 7:30 p.m. **Mass of the Lord's Supper**
 Rice Bowl contributions will be collected, please make a check payable to St. Thomas Church for the total amount collected. The church will remain open for the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 p.m., concluding with Night Prayer which will begin at 9:45 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

3:00 p.m. **Solemn Liturgy**
 The church will remain open for private prayer until the Stations of the Cross service.

7:00 p.m. **Stations of the Cross**

HOLY SATURDAY

8:00 p.m. **Easter Vigil**
 As one feast, the church calls for no final blessing or dismissal at the end of the Holy Thursday Liturgy, and no call to worship and again no dismissal on Good Friday. *When you leave and enter the church during the Triduum, please do so quietly.*

EASTER SUNDAY

7:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence - Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older. Fasting is to be observed 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. Where possible, this fast should be observed through Holy Saturday as a way of coming to the joy of the Resurrection with uplifted and welcoming hearts.

HOLY THURSDAY – WASHING OF THE FEET

12 Volunteers are needed for the Washing of the Feet at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on **Holy Thursday, March 24th**. Please call Jean at the rectory office, 860-628-4713 if you wish to participate.

PASSION PLAY TICKETS

Listed below are the contact names and phone numbers to obtain tickets for Saint Thomas' 38th Annual Passion Play.

Diane 860-628-4197	Lois 860-621-0411
Mary 860-621-2177	Janet 860-621-6347

Performances

Monday	March 21	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	March 22	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	March 23	7:30 p.m.
Good Friday	March 25	7:30 p.m.

SOUTHINGTON CATHOLIC NEWS!

GALA AUCTION-Southington Catholic is excited to announce our first **GALA AUCTION** fundraising event, to be held on April 1st from 6pm to midnight, at the Aqua Turf Club. The event will feature dinner, dancing and exciting live and silent auctions. Tickets are \$70 each. To reserve a table for your family and friends, please call Southington Catholic at 860-628-2485. If you are unable to attend, please consider a donation of goods and/or services for the auction. Thank you for your continued support.

APPLICATIONS for the 2016-2017 school year are now being accepted for all grade levels, Pre-k through Grade 8 at Southington Catholic School. Don't delay. Please call 860-628-2485 for more information and to schedule a tour of the 133 Bristol Street campus.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

The Archbishop's Annual Appeal helps provide the critical funding needed to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, counsel those in despair, offer much-needed assistance to the unemployed, and make medical care available to those without health insurance. Your gift to the 2016 Appeal will help continue these and other vital ministries, services, and programs that reach out to so many in need.



The Church Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory **Julie Manware**, requested by her family.

The Chapel Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of **Thomas Tedesco, Jr.**, requested by his daughters.

NEW DAY PROGRAM FOR BEREAVED

St Thomas Church will conduct a bereavement seminar beginning March 30, 2016. 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 component 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.

SAINT THOMAS CEMETERY

Palm Sunday-Easter. When Easter occurs prior to April 15th, artificial flowers may be used. They will be removed 10 days after Easter. We urge families to remove them prior to this time, as they can be used for several seasons. Artificial Flowers are not allowed after April 15th. Palm has been blessed and therefore, should not be used as a cemetery decoration.

LADIES GUILD

St. Thomas Ladies Guild announces a special event to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Join us for a **Comedy Wedding & Dinner Theatre**, on **Sat. April 9, 2016**, to be held at the Manor Inn. The night begins at 6:30pm and includes full dinner with a cash bar and entertainment by *Aspen Dream Productions*. Tickets are \$60 per person and can be purchased by calling Shanda Folcik at 860-628-9966 or Kathy Daddona at 203-439-0105.

RETREAT DAY FOR WOMEN

SAVE THE DATE! April 10, 2016. 3rd Annual Retreat for Women held at Mary Our Queen Church, Plantsville, from 12:00 pm to 3:00pm. The retreat day includes lunch, keynote speaker **Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle**, book signing, dessert, music by Muddy Boots Christian band and ends with Chaplet of Devine Mercy. Early bird registration is \$20; day of \$25. To register visit www.maryourqueensouthington.org and download registration form. For more information contact Donna Ayer at ayer26@cox.net or 203-619-3985, or Robin Taillie at rtailie@cox.net or 860-919-3783.

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

In the coming week, the Church's Liturgy will focus our attention upon the death and resurrection of the Lord. The season of Lent has been a preparation for the great Easter Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. While we usually think of these days as three separate feasts, the church does not! For her, these three days form **one feast**, which she calls **THE EASTER TRIDUUM**. Thus, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday form a **single feast**, a feast celebrated over three days during which the church celebrates the Passover of the Lord from death to life.

On **HOLY THURSDAY** the Sacred Triduum begins with the celebration of the Lord's Supper. On this day the Church recalls that last meal, which Jesus celebrated with his followers, a meal during which he explained the significance of the death he was about to undergo. By his death, he would become the new Passover Lamb sacrificed for the sake of his people.

On **GOOD FRIDAY** the single feast continues. The church celebrates the death of her Lord. Jesus, the Passover Lamb, is sacrificed. The liturgy does not include the celebration of the Mass, but it is one of the most beautiful and solemn liturgies of the year. It consists of Liturgy of the Word, the veneration of the cross, and a communion service, in which hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday are distributed to the faithful.

On **HOLY SATURDAY**, the Church's Sacred Triduum reaches its climax. This is a night of vigil, waiting for the risen Lord. The service consists of four parts: a Liturgy of Light, a Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of Baptism, and the celebration of the Eucharist. This is the **most important night in the life of the Church**. It is the night when she awaits the coming of the Lord.

Come, let us all worship together!

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PILGRIMAGE AND LITURGY


Join Archbishop Leonard P. Blair and others in procession from the Bushnell Park Performance Pavilion in Hartford, to the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, where pilgrims will walk through the Holy Door, participate in Benediction, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and have the option to go to confession. For information call 860-541-6491. A shuttle service will be available from 1:05 to 2:00pm for those needing a ride to Bushnell Park. Free parking will be available at Aetna's Flower Street Garage. Those who do not wish to march from Bushnell Park can meet pilgrims at the Cathedral at 3pm.

Readings for the Week of March 20, 2016

Sunday:	Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24/hil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14--23:56 or 23:1-49
Monday:	Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1-3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday:	Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday:	Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34/Mt 26:14-25
Thursday:	Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-18/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15
Friday:	Is 52:13--53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25/ Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1--19:42
Saturday:	Gn 22:1-18, Ex 14:15--15:1, Is 55:1-11, Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28, Rom 6:3-11/Lk 24:1-12
Next Sunday:	Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/ Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12 or Lk 24:13-35

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