



**Pastor**

Rev. Nicholas P. Melo  
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**Deacon**

Angelo J. Coppola

**St. Thomas Convent**

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**Director of**

**Religious Education**

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# Saint Thomas Church

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## 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 Roccapiore, M.P.F. at the Convent.



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

4:00 Romeo, Geraldine and Norman Martin, req. by family

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

7:30 Richard Fragola, Sr., req. by his wife and son

10:00 John Rich, req. by his wife and son

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21 The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

7:30 The deceased members of the LaPorta and DiMassa families, req. by Joseph and Viola DiMassa

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 St. Cecilia**

7:30 Immacolata Altieri, req. by Connie Ottalagano

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions**

8:00 The deceased members of the UNICO Club, req. by its members

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25 St. Catherine of Alexandria**

8:00 Parishioners of St. Thomas

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

8:00 Giuseppe Izzo-Birthday, req. by Mario and Franco Izzo and family

4:00 Simon Elsinger, req. by his wife, Charlotte and family

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

7:30 "V". Jennie Chamberlain, req. by Marie DiBenedetto and family

10:00 Concetta DelSanto and Angelo DelSanto, req. by Tom and Marie DelSanto

**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.

**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.

**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.**

**SAVE THE DATE! NEXT UGANDA FRIENDRAISER IS PLANNED FOR MAY 5, 2017 AT TESTA'S RESTAURANT. MARK THOSE CALENDARS NOW! Be sure to check our website and our digital message board in the ramp entrance of the church for the latest pictures of the Clinic Expansion in Cyanika made possible from your past donations.**

**INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

The Southington community's annual tradition of an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, sponsored by the Southington Interfaith Clergy Association, (SICA), will take place on Tuesday, November 22nd at 7:00pm. The service will be hosted this year by First Congregational Church, 37 Main Street. Clergy and members of our community's diverse faith congregations will be represented. Refreshments to follow. All are genuinely welcome. Free will donations of monetary and non-perishable food items will be gratefully accepted for distribution by Southington Community Services and Bread for Life to those in our midst who might otherwise go without.

**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 other food basket items 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 Quimette at 860-621-8098.

**THANKSGIVING DAY MASS**

Thursday, November 24th is a national day of Thanksgiving. Eucharist means Thanksgiving! Begin your day with your family and friends in the celebration of the Eucharist at 8:00 am in the church. A collection will be taken and all proceeds will go to Southington Community Services to assist families in need. Also we ask you to bring a non-perishable food item.

**ST. THOMAS PARISH MISSION**

It is hard to believe that the Advent and Christmas seasons are right around the corner. Our new Liturgical Year begins on the 1st Sunday of Advent, November 27th! As St. Thomas Parish has done in recent years, in an effort to assist us in spiritually preparing to welcome the Christ-child into our hearts and into our lives at Christmas, we invite you to attend our Parish Mission. This year it will be held on the evenings of Nov. 28-30th, beginning at 7:30pm. This coincides with the first week of Advent, to avoid some of the 'hectic-ness' that fills our schedules the closer we get to Christmas. The Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist will be our Presenters. The theme is "**The Three Comings of Christ**". Please consider setting aside these three evenings and join us in church, so that together we can continue on the road that leads to the Father's Kingdom of true and lasting peace.

Fr. Nick

**HOLIDAY SOCIAL AND DINNER**

The St. Thomas Ladies Guild is sponsoring a Holiday Social and Dinner at The Manor Inn on December 5th at 6:30pm. **All Parishioners are invited** to celebrate the Advent season! Dinner will be family-style and will include sliced Beef Roast and Chicken Francaise. Tickets are \$35 per person and there will be a cash bar. Please call Carol at 860-620-2242 to make your reservation *before November 28th*. Tickets will not be available at the night of the event.



The sanctuary flowers are donated this week in memory of the **Deceased Members of the UNICO Club**, requested by its members.

**CALLED TO SERVE**

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord. (1 Cor 12:4-5). One way to serve Saint Thomas Parish is through Liturgical Ministries. Please give prayerful consideration to participate as an Usher, Minister of Holy Communion, Lector, Altar Server, Greeter, Cantor, or Choir member. For further information please contact Jean at 860-628-4713 (day) or email [stchurch@snet.net](mailto:stchurch@snet.net).



The Church Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of the **deceased members of the Ferrucci family**, requested by Angie and family.

The Chapel Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of **Millie and Frank Longo**, requested by their family

**CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE**

**Winter decorations** are permitted November 20<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>. These decorations may consist of wreaths, artificial flowers or boughs or evergreens placed in a flower box. No decoration can exceed 2 feet in length x 2 feet in width x 2 feet in height. These dates were chosen for good reason. It is mid-November before all leaves have fallen. It takes several more weeks to remove them. If decorations are placed before leaves are removed, the leaves would become enmeshed in the decorations making it impossible to remove them. In addition, power blowers are used to collect leaves, which may damage decorations.

**Placement of decorations.** On upright monument lots decorations are confined to the 2 foot area adjacent to the monument on the burial side of the monument. When burials are in front of the upright monument the decoration is to be placed directly in front of the monument. When burials are both in front and rear of the monument, a decoration is permitted in front and rear of the monument. Decorations on the side of the monument base are prohibited. Decorations improperly placed make it impossible for equipment to excavate graves and clear snow. Decorations and wires freeze to the ground and cannot be removed without breaking. Frequently, they are buried in the snow and cannot be seen. Sometimes, damage occurs during winter interments despite exercising all reasonable caution and, therefore, the cemetery cannot be responsible for damage.

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL ALLOWABLE GRAVE DECORATIONS ARE STATED ABOVE. NO OTHER ITEMS ARE TO BE PLACED ON GRAVES.**

**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.

**HOLY FAMILY RETREAT CENTER**

Advent Day or Evening Retreat: Be My Light – Mother Teresa’s Journey of Doubt and Hope, with Dr. Brandon Nappi Wednesday, Dec 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or 6-9 p.m. Shortly after Mother Teresa died in 1997, her secret journals were published expressing a woman of intense paradox. Even as she lived out the Christian life in heroic radiance, she was accompanied by extreme doubt, struggle and dryness in the spiritual life. In this retreat, we’ll examine Mother Teresa’s incredible contribution to the history of spirituality and discover the constructive role doubt can play in our own Advent journey toward hope and light. \$40, includes meal. 860-760-9705. [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org)

**GIFT CARDS THROUGH SCRIP**

Start your Christmas shopping with us! Southington Catholic School has recently started a SCRIP program for fundraising purposes. There are over 600 participating retailers that give the school a certain percentage for every card purchased. The local supermarkets in the program include **Stop & Shop** and **Shop Rite**. Copies of the retailers list and order forms are available at the rectory. Orders that come in to the rectory or school by Monday will be filled and available for pick up that same Friday. Please consider supporting Southington Catholic School by utilizing the SCRIP program. For more information you may call Barbara Doherty at 860-621-2832 or email, [bdoherly1@cox.net](mailto:bdoherly1@cox.net).

**“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

**HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM SCHEDULE**

**Northwest Catholic High School**, West Hartford will offer its Entrance Exam to 8th graders on December 3rd at 8:00am. For more information go to [NorthwestCatholic.org/Admissions](http://NorthwestCatholic.org/Admissions).

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT SHELTER**

St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Bristol is looking for Winter Overflow Monitors, evenings at their Shelter, from 12/15/16 to 3/31/17. Requirements: Background check and Virtus Training by Archdiocese, Over 18 years of Age, Willingness to Help. In this year of Mercy can you help? Please contact St. Vincent DePaul Shelter if you can help at 860-589-9098, and for more information.

**Readings for the Week of November 20, 2016**

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|--------------|---|
| Sunday:      | 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-5/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43       |
| Monday:      | Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5/Ps 24:1-6/Lk 21:1-4                 |
| Tuesday:     | Rv 14:14-19/Ps 96:10-13/Lk 21:5-11                  |
| Wednesday:   | Rv 15:1-4/Ps 98:1-3, 7-9/Lk 21:12-19                |
| Thursday:    | Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a/Ps 100:1-5/Lk 21:20-28 |
| Friday:      | Rv 20:1-4, 11--21:2/Ps 84:3-6, 8/Lk 21:29-33        |
| Saturday:    | Rv 22:1-7/Ps 95:1-7/Lk 21:34-36                     |
| Next Sunday: | Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-9/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44        |