



Pastor

Rev. Nicholas P. Melo
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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
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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

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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, FEBRUARY 4

4:00 Giovanni, Carmela and Elena Vecchio, req. by Pasquale and Maria DiChello

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

7:30 Rosemary Lorenzo-10th Anniversary, req. by Richard and Beth
 10:00 Roland and Helen Gelinas, req. by their daughter, Barbara

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6 St. Paul Miki and Companions

7:30 Giovanni & Lucia Morcaldi, req. by Mr. and Mrs. Guarino Zacchia

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

7:30 Parishioners of St. Thomas Church

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

12:10 Dominick & Dorothy DeRosa, req. by their daughter and grandchildren

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10 St. Scholastica

12:10 Nicola and Saveria Sabino-Anniversary, req. by their daughters, Josephine and Teresa and family

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11 Our Lady of Lourdes

8:00 Florence Emond, req. by her husband
 4:00 Eric Thomas-5th Anniversary, req. by Maria, Alex, Angelina and Isabella

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

7:30 Paul Martin, req. by family
 10:00 Katherine Kaufmann, req. by the Baldwin family

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. 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.

LADIES GUILD

The next meeting of the Guild will be **Monday, February 6th** at 6:30am in the church basement. Join us for our Annual Potluck Supper. The theme for the evening is "Having a Picnic". Bring your favorite picnic basket specials to share and table cover to decorate.

ITALIAN ROSARY SOCIETY

The Italian Rosary Society will meet in the parish center on **Tuesday, February 7th** at 7:30 p.m. in the parish center. We invite anyone who would like to pray the Rosary in Italian to join us. For further information, please contact Sue Votino at 860-628-2993.

RESPECT LIFE BABY BOTTLE EVENT

Next weekend we will finish collecting all the baby bottles that were recently distributed. We hope you will return yours so we can show our gratitude to the staff and volunteers at Carolyn's Place, the Catholic pregnancy resource center serving the greater Waterbury area. They rely solely on individual contributions to carry out their work. As Jesus tells us, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me." If you need more information or wish to volunteer please contact Roberta and Dan Vendetti at 860-621-7808. Thank you.

LECTORS WANTED

The word of God, proclaimed in the sacred Scripture, enlightens our minds and hearts. When the Scriptures are read in the liturgical assembly, God speaks to us and calls us to respond in faith and love. The ministry of the reader, then, is important to the life of the Church, for the reader proclaims God's living word. We are looking for a few new lectors to add to our ministry team. If you are interested, please call Marc Ingriselli at 860-628-7429 for more information.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be held on Monday, February 13th at 7:30pm in the parish center. Any parishioner with a question or concern about our parish they would like to see discussed at the meeting is encouraged to call one of the Pastoral Council representatives. You may also email the members of the Pastoral Council by going to the parish web page. The members of the Pastoral Council include: Zachary Janowski 860-384-5777, John Kolosky 860-276-1239, Joe DellaPorta 860-628-8703, Kathleen Baldwin 860-628-8465, Diane Snow 860-860-628-4197, Michael Casey 860-628-8473, BJ Raby 860-628-9425, Dorothy Fontana 860-628-4122 and Ed Baker 860-620-0622. The ex-officio members include Fr. Nick, Sr. Marie, D.R.E., Eileen Sampiere, Deacon Angelo Coppola, Stan Maigaire, and Susan Howard Parish Trustees.

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. 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.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS WANTED

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.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE EXECUTIVE ORDER ON REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair affirms the January 27 statement made in Washington, D.C., by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that the Bishops “believe in assisting all those who are vulnerable and fleeing persecution, regardless of their religion...welcoming newcomers and refugees is an act of love and hope.” The social teaching of the Catholic Church has long given consideration to the issue of immigration based on fundamental moral principles that flow from both faith and reason. “What are some of those principles?” Archbishop Blair asked in an article published in 2014, “for one”, he wrote, “people have a right to a decent life in their own homeland so that they don’t have to leave; but if that fails, people also have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families, just as so many of our ancestors did. Another principle is the rule of law and the right that sovereign nations like the United States have to control their own borders, but this does not abolish the duty every country has not only to grant asylum to the persecuted and to war refugees, but also to respect the basic human dignity and human rights of every immigrant.... As good Catholics and good citizens, let us make a positive, informed and morally principled contribution to the national debate.”

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 .

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS AND PARISHIONERS!

Mark Gresens will be working on setting up the advertising sponsorships for our bulletin the week of February 6. Please consider advertising in our bulletin. Advertisements can be purchased for a business, family, or a sponsor ad can be purchased supporting community service organizations like emergency pregnancy counseling. **We need and appreciate your help.** If you are interested or would like more information, please call Mark directly at (800)477-4574 Ext.6358.

VOCATIONS

We are called to be the light of the world. Put your lamp on a stand and not under a bushel basket! Let your light shine before all so that they may see the goodness in your acts and give praise to God. Consider the priesthood or religious life. 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.

BREAD FOR LIFE COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Feb.12th from 1-4pm at the new facility at 31 Vermont Avenue! Please come for a tour of the new facility and learn about all the exciting things happening. Please bring one of our most needed items (jelly, box cereal, baked beans, and canned fruit) to be entered into one of the basket raffle drawings. Light refreshments will be served graciously given by; Rogers Orchards, Subway and Kenzie Cakes.

COME AND PRAY

Winter Holy Hours for Vocations to Priesthood will be held on Thursday, February 9th at 7:00pm at St. Pius X Church, 525 Woodtick Road, Wolcott, CT. This Holy Hour is sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Archdiocese of Hartford and will be followed by a light “coffee-and” reception. **We remind all parishioners that each Tuesday here at St. Thomas Chapel, we have a Holy Hour for Vocations at 11:00am. Come and Pray!!**

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 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 bglenrp@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.

SOUTHINGTON CATHOLIC NEWS!

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. The 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.

BOXTOPS for Education- Did you realize that many of the grocery items you purchase every week can help the students at Southington Catholic School? Clip the small "Boxtops for Education" symbol on the packages of cereal, cans of soup, cake mixes and other frequently purchased grocery items. Once collected, each boxtop symbol can be redeemed for much needed school supplies. Just drop the collected “boxtops” in the specially marked bins at the ramp entrance of the church.

Readings for the Week of February 5, 2017

Sunday: Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16
 Monday: Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c/Mk 6:53-56
 Tuesday: Gn 1:20--2:4a/Ps 8:4-9/Mk 7:1-13
 Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30/Mk 7:14-23
 Thursday: Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-5/Mk 7:24-30
 Friday: Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5-7/Mk 7:31-37
 Saturday: Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2-4abc, 5-6, 12-13/Mk 8:1-10
 Next Sunday: Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37