



Pastor

Rev. Nicholas P. Melo
 frnickmelo@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
 Pastoral Planning Web Site: www.stewardsfortomorrow.org

e-mail: stthomassouthington@gmail.com
 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 2:30 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 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, MARCH 11

4:00 Annmarie Coccozza-15th Anniversary and Birthday, req. by family

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

7:30 The deceased members of the DiBenedetto Family, req. by Michele DiBenedetto and family
 10:00 Vito and Helene Pace, req. by the Vellucci and Carta Families

MONDAY, MARCH 13

7:30 Parishioners whose Funeral Mass was in February: Marcello J. Mongillo and Richard T. Sandy

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

7:30 Nicola and Saveria Sabino, req. by their daughters, Teresa and Josephine and family

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

12:10 Ignazio DelVecchio and Pasquale DelVecchio, req. by family

FRIDAY, MARCH 17 (in church) St. Patrick

12:10 Thomas Tedesco, Jr., req. by his wife, Rose Tedesco

SATURDAY, MARCH 18 St. Cyril of Jerusalem

8:00 Parishioners of St. Thomas Church
 4:00 Don Grimaldi, req. by his family

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

7:30 Stephen and Helen Keltonic-36th and 29th Anniversaries, req. by Genevieve Maigarie and family
 10:00 The deceased members of the Casale Family, req. by the Casale 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.**

SCHOLARSHIPS

There are a number of generous scholarships available for parishioners who are high school seniors looking to go onto college. Please see our website for information and application deadlines at www.stthomassouthington.org.

At Communion time all are welcome to come forward. Those who are not eligible to receive Eucharist should cross their arms at the chest and receive a blessing.

MOM'S

Saint Thomas MOM's Inspirational and Support Group! This ministry provides Mom's with inspiration, guidance, and emotional support and strengthens the bonds of friendship and sisterhood. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 13th at 7pm in the convent.

CHILDCARE MINISTRY

A childcare ministry is starting at St. Thomas to make it easier for parents to participate in parish events. Current plans include childcare for opening night of the Passion Play, Saturday, April 8th. In the future we hope to offer care for other dates and the parish mission. We are looking for volunteers willing to "let the children come". Volunteers must first complete a background check and receive Virtus training. A Virtus training session will be held on Tuesday, March 14th at 6:30 in the Parish Center and childcare will be available. To sign up for Virtus training or to learn more about this ministry, contact Zachary Janowski at zacharyjanowski@gmail.com.

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. 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.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Archbishop Leonard Blair has formally dispensed the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Hartford from the obligation to abstain from meat on the Memorial of Saint Patrick, Bishop, which will be observed this year on Friday, March 17th. Inasmuch as fasting is a spiritual good, meant, in the words of the Catechism, "to help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart," the Faithful who partake of meat on March 17, 2017 are encouraged to observe the Lenten abstinence on Thursday, March 16, or Saturday, March 18.

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!

LENT

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.

Parish App Feature-of-the-Week



Mass Times

- Mass times for the week
- Always know next Mass
- Reminder to silence your phone before Mass

Learn more or download our parish app at myparishapp.com

*Available on Apple and Android Phones.

SOUTHINGTON CATHOLIC NEWS!

SCS Raffle- Tickets are now on sale for \$3 each, with cash prizes ranging from \$250 to \$2,000. For your convenience, tickets will be sold on March 12, 19, 26 after Mass and at Pasta Fagioli on Friday evenings. For more information, call 860-628-2485. Good Luck!

Tee Time-Think Spring and mark your calendar for the Southington Catholic School Golf Tournament on May 12th. Sign up your foursome for a great day of golf at Southington Country Club while supporting Catholic education in Southington. Call 860-628-2485 for further details.

SAINT JOSEPH MEDAL OF APPRECIATION

I am pleased to announce that Archbishop Blair has awarded the 2017 Saint Joseph Medal to Marilyn Coppola. One person or couple from each parish is honored every year in recognition of their on-going service to their parish and Archdiocese. Marilyn is a devoted member of St. Thomas Parish who serves quietly behind the scenes in numerous ways. She is always the 1st to volunteer for such things as set-up for Religious Ed Parent meetings, or clean-up following Sunday “coffee and”. She has been a long-time member of the Ladies’ Guild. She is part of the M.O.M.s (Mother of Mary) prayer circle, and is our parish representative for Church Women United, a local ecumenical group. Recently she joined the newly formed Resurrection Choir. As the wife of our Permanent Deacon, undoubtedly there are many things she does to assist his ministry, as well. **Fr. Nick**

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 or call 860-242-5573, ext. 2679. Donation requested.

PASSION PLAY TICKETS

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

Diane 860-628-4197 Lois 860-621-0411
 Ginny 860-628-4628 Joan 860-426-2371

Performances

Saturday	April 8th	7:30 p.m.
Palm Sunday	April 9th	3:00 p.m.
Monday	April 10th	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	April 11th	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	April 12th	7:30 p.m.
Good Friday	April 14th	7:30 p.m.

Seminarian’s Corner

My dear friends in Southington –

It has been a great year for me in DC. I wanted to share with you a wonderful experience I had in January. I participated in a camping weekend at the Appalachian Trail Delaware Water Gap with 15 of my brother seminarians and student-priests. I signed up for the trip to challenge myself and expand my comfort zone. The three days spent hiking 25 miles at elevation while wearing a 30-pound pack and sleeping in single-digit temperatures taught me much about myself and what I am capable of. I learned important lessons about fortitude, mental toughness, humility (accepting that I was the slowest member of the group) and teamwork. Despite the challenging conditions, I experienced a powerful sense of interior freedom throughout the trip. I spent many of the long, painful miles meditating on Jesus carrying the Cross and during the freezing nights I tried to identify with him in the Garden of Gethsemane. Partaking in Mass on the trail was also an experience I will never forget. I also have a newfound gratitude for warm beds, electricity and hot showers which I missed greatly. Look forward to seeing you at Easter. Fondly,

Anthony Federico

“A Lenten Reflection”

One of the moments I identify most with from the life of Jesus is the Agony in the Garden. Especially during Lent, I find myself considering our Lord’s tremendous sorrow and distress just a few hours before he was to lay down his life for our sake. I think each of us experiences something similar at certain points in our lives. Who among us hasn’t begged God for help in a time of trial or to spare us from going through some painful ordeal? How comforting it is for us to realize that Jesus doesn’t identify with our sufferings in some abstract way; he has actually lived them. He has personally experienced the fear and dread which often precede the most powerful moments of transition in our lives. And he shows us the way to surrender everything in faith and trust despite the overwhelming circumstances as he utters, “not my will but thy will be done.”

The next time we are in our own ‘Garden experience’ let us take great comfort in the fact that Jesus is there with us and knows exactly what we are going through because he has experienced it himself.

NORTHWEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Northwest Catholic will offer its Entrance Exam to 8th and 9th graders on March 22nd at 8:30 am. An application will serve as your registration for the exam. For more information or to apply online, go to NorthwestCatholic.org/Admissions.

Readings for the Week of March 12, 2017

Sunday:	Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9
Monday:	Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13/Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday:	Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23/Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday:	Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14-16/Mt 20:17-28
Thursday:	Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 16:19-31
Friday:	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday:	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Next Sunday:	Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42