



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.



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

4:00 Patricia and Kenny Gagliardi, req. by their parents

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

7:30 Frank and Carmella (Perillo) DiBenedetto, req. by Marie DiBenedetto and family
 10:00 In Honor of Our Lady of the Rosary

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

The Holy Guardian Angels

7:30 Parishioners of St. Thomas Parish

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

7:30 James Fasulo, req. by Michael Fasulo

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

12:10 The deceased members of the Casale Family, req. by family

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

St. Bruno and Blessed Marie

Church
 12:10 Dominic and Amelia DeSorbo, req. by family

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

Our Lady of the Rosary

8:00 Gina Metts-Birthday, req. by Mark Testa and family
 4:00 Filomena and Carmine Votino, req. by Carmen and Sue Votino

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

7:30 Ralph and Anna D'Agostino, req. by their son and family
 10:00 Mildred Furia, req. by Eleanor Furia

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.

SAINT THOMAS CEMETERY

Pre-need graves are available for purchase, by appointment, at Saint Thomas Cemetery. Columbarium niches for cremains are also available. To schedule an appointment, please call 860-628-4713, Monday—Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

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.

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.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Next weekend, October 7/8 there will be a special second collection for the relief of Hurricane Irma victims and devastation. Please make checks payable to **St. Thomas Church**. Reminder: On-line contributors please check your accounts to make a donation.

LADIES GUILD

St. Thomas Ladies Guild is still conducting its membership drive. The next meeting will be on **Monday, October 2nd at 7:00pm** in the Church basement. The guest speaker will be Dan Valente, Postulant, M.S.A. at Holy Apostles College and Seminary, who will talk about his progress in his formation. We will also be collecting pajamas of all sizes from children to adults for Southington Social Services. All are welcome to join us!

ITALIAN ROSARY SOCIETY

The Italian Rosary Society will meet in the parish center on **Tuesday, October 3rd** 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 Antoinetta Barbatto at 860-628-2241.

MASS INTENTIONS

The 2018 Mass Book will be opened for announced Mass intentions on **Wednesday, October 11th at 9:00am**. In an effort to have Masses available for as many people as possible, we limit each person to **three (3)** announced Masses. At each Mass, we pause to remember the intentions of all gathered so you are encouraged to come for Mass on those special anniversaries so that we might pray with you even if the names are not publicly announced. After all, it is the prayers that will be important, not the announcement. In addition, there will be one Mass per week for Parish Intentions, during which we remember the special intentions of all the people of Saint Thomas Parish. The stipend is \$15 for a weekday Mass, \$20 for a Sunday or Holy Day Mass. The 2018 dedications for the Sanctuary Flowers (\$100) and Sanctuary Candles (\$20) can also be taken.

OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH

- 40 Days for Life Campaign will be from Sept. 27th-Nov.5th
- Archdiocesan Respect Life Mass is Sunday, Oct. 8, at 11am at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford
- 24-Hour Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held at St. Thomas Chapel from Wed., Oct. 18th at 11:00am to Thurs., Oct. 19th at 11:00am to pray together for All life from conception to natural death. There will be sign-up sheets at all entrances to the church. Please consider spending 1/2 hour to one hour in prayer before God.
- The Respect Life Ministry will host coffee-and following all Masses Sunday, October 1st in the church basement.
- The 18th Annual Respect Life Conference, presented by Our Lady Queen of Angels Pro-Life Outreach Ministry, will be held on Sat., October 14, 2017 from 9am to 3pm at Holy Angels Center, 585 Main St., South Meriden, CT. Please call 203-235-3822, ext. 402 for more information.

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.

BIBLE STUDY

St. Thomas Parish will be offering a Scripture study program, beginning this Fall. Classes will be on Thursday evenings from 7:00 until 8:00PM. We will have our first meeting in the school cafeteria and judge the space size needed for those who come. Father Joe will begin the study with St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians, perhaps his very first epistle. As the oldest Christian text in Scripture, it's a good place to start. Our first meeting will be on **Thursday, October 19th**. Bring a Bible and read Galatians, Chapter 1 before hand for the discussion. We look forward to sharing the Word of God with you!

ST. THOMAS CHOIR

Looking for something that you can do this fall to give back to your church? Why not share your talent by lending your voice in song with our choir. We are made up of many members of all ages. The St. Thomas Choir will resume **weekly rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.** in the choir loft. Anyone high school age or older is welcome to join as we start the season. Music reading is not necessary, only the ability to sing one's part with the group. The choir sings for the 10:00 am Sunday Masses and at all liturgical celebrations throughout the year. If you have any questions, please call Emil Kopcha, Music Director at 860-621-0637 or email: ekopcha@cox.net. Come raise your voice in song!

CT CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

The 2017 Archdiocesan CT Catholic Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, October 21st at St. Paul Catholic High School. Speakers include EWTN's Frank Caggiano, Franciscan Friar of the Renewal Fr. Glenn Sudano, and James Wahlberg of the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation. Our theme this year is **"You will be my witnesses" - Acts 1:8** The \$45 ticket includes lunch purchased on our website: www.CTCatholicMen.org.

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Discover why St. Paul Catholic High School has become the choice for more and more families for a truly great Catholic education experience! If you or someone you know has a prospective 6, 7, or 8th grade student, visit us at one of our Open Houses:

Saturday, October 14th, 10:00pm

Saturday, November 4th, 10:00am

The Placement Exam will be given on Saturday, November 18th for prospective 9th and 10th grade students. Visit our website: www.spchs.com/admissions for more information.

Readings for the Week of October 1, 2017

Sunday: Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-9/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32

Monday: Zec 8:1-8/Ps 102:16-23, 29/Mt 18:1-5, 10

Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-7/Lk 9:51-56

Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-6/Lk 9:57-62

Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12/Ps 19:8-11/Lk 10:1-12

Friday: Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-5, 8-9/Lk 10:13-16

Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-37/Lk 10:17-24

Next Sunday: Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43



Father Joe's Notes



My dear friends,

As you read this, I am away on vacation. As I write this, I'm still here at my desk. (It's one of those peculiarities of bulletin publication that they're prepared almost a week in advance of distribution.) You may ask: "Where is Father today?" I don't know! I'm not being evasive; I simply don't know. I might be in Oklahoma or the Texas panhandle. I might be in New Mexico. I'm not sure, because I have no clue. When I tell people I don't know where I am going, they look surprised. This isn't a tour planned by a friend – I am traveling alone. I will get in my car and drive with little or no itinerary. I have a general direction and some thoughts of what I would like to see, but I will let the trip unfold as I go. I journey as the Spirit moves me!

I have friends and family who think this all very odd. They ask, "How do you go somewhere without knowing where to go?" I response by saying, "How do you know where to go if you aren't willing to explore?" There's something very satisfying in just heading out on the road without a plan. This is a refreshing change from the overly managed and scheduled routines of daily life, and that's why I love trips like this. It is fun to explore something new, and it is also good to know I'm not locking myself into something too long that I won't enjoy. The freedom of letting the journey unfold is magnificent. I look forward to some great experiences, whatever they may be.

My vacation is not too different from my transfer here to St. Thomas Parish. I had some familiarity through friends, but I never spent any great deal of time here in Southington. I didn't ask to come; I was sent here by Archbishop Blair. Here is where I was directed, and so here is where I came. Rather than being too upset or enthusiastic, I arrived with a sense of exploring the possibilities. I have tried to learn what has happened in the past and see what's not happening. I have looked at systems that work better that I could imagine, and I have sought areas that could use some adjustment. I arrived here just knowing I was called by Christ to love and serve, and I have let the Spirit guide me from there. I had no set agenda when I arrived. My mission here continues to be an unfolding journey of faith and love, and that has been a great joy. I look forward to many years of letting my time as your pastor reveal itself, and I just pray that I respond to the best of my abilities. It should be a glorious trip!

Joyfully yours in Christ, Fr. Joe

PS – If you would like to see my photos and follow along on my journey, I post them on my Facebook page and also on Flickr at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/joecronin/>

ARCHDIOCESAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis of the Archdiocese of Hartford is pleased to announce the inaugural Archdiocesan Women's Conference on Sat., November 4th from 9am to 5pm at the Hartford Marriott-Downtown. A full day of inspiration, spiritual nourishment and sisterhood, open to all Catholic women of faith. For more information and to register visit www.CatholicEdAOHCT.org.