



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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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
 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.

Mass  for the
Intentions *for the Week*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

4:00 Nicholas DeLuco, req. by his family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

7:30 The deceased members of the Cusano, Simone and Ortale Families, req. by the family

10:00 Simon R. Elsinger, Sr.—4th Anniversary, req. by his family

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

7:30 Henry Suchenski, 10th Anniversary, req. by Mr & Mrs Robert Suchenski

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30 Ersilia Castaldo, req. by Maria and Pasquale DiChello

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23 Thanksgiving Day

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24 St. Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions

12:10 Rosemary Sabatella, req. by Janet and Russell Hamilton

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25 St. Catherine of Alexandria

8:00 Rachael Orsatti-Hart, req. by The Tranquillo and DiChello Families

4:00 Joseph and Mary Zacchio, req. by Theresa, Mickey and Frank

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

7:30 Mary Virginia Collins, req. by her husband, Hugh

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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 stuffing, gravy, canned vegetables and cranberry sauce 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 Ouimette at 860-621-8098.

SAINT THOMAS CEMETERY

As of January 1, 2018 the price per grave at St. Thomas Cemetery will increase by \$200. Pre-need graves are available for purchase, by appointment. Please call the rectory office, 860-628-4713, to schedule an appointment with the cemetery manager. The current price per grave is \$1,000 or \$1,300 depending on location.

LIGHTING OF THE CHURCH ADVENT WREATH

Volunteers Needed At each Mass on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of Advent we would like a family or individual to light the Advent Wreath at the beginning of Mass. Please call the rectory to sign up for your choice of date and Mass time.

BREAD FOR LIFE

St. Thomas Church has been assigned this week, **December 4-8th** for the Bread for Life Soup Kitchen. We need two people per day from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Also, **donations of milk and fruit are needed.** If you are able to assist in the kitchen or help with a donation, please call Marie, 860-621-7615. Please consider giving the gift of your time one day during our assigned week.

PARISH ADVENT PROJECT

Our parish will once again have a *Giving Tree*, which will be displayed in the front of the church through Advent. To participate, simply purchase one or more gifts suggested below, include Christmas wrapping and ribbon or gift bag, but **do not wrap**, and place under the Giving Tree. For every gift you place under the tree, place a paper "gift circle" on the tree. Gift circles are in a basket near the tree. Gifts will be distributed to local nursing homes, Catholic Charities and Caroline's Place. Some suggested gifts items include clothing for infants, children or adults, household linens, toiletries, disposable diapers and toys. All gifts must be new and unused. If you have any questions, contact Sr. Marie at 621-1904.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED

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.

2017 ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

To date we have raised **\$43,185** towards the 2017 Annual Fund. Thank you for your continuous generosity and support.

ST. THOMAS PARISH MISSION

As the Advent and Christmas seasons approach, give yourself a spiritual gift and mark your calendars for the St. Thomas Parish Mission on **December 4th, 5th & 6th**, at 7:30 pm in the church. Deacon Arthur Miller will lead the mission entitled: "Retreat into Advent: *Be Still and Know That I am God*" Psalm 46:10.



The Chapel Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of **the deceased members of the DelBuono Family**, requested by family.

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 21st at 7:00pm**. The service will be hosted this year by First Lutheran Church, 232 Bristol Street. Clergy and members of our community's diverse faith congregations will be represented. Refreshments to follow. You are welcome to bring a dessert to share. All are genuinely welcome.

USHERS NEEDED

This ministry is open to ALL! Ushers are responsible for greeting parishioners, taking up the collection, assisting people in need, and distributing the bulletins at the conclusion of Mass. This is an easy way to serve your parish, arriving 15 minutes prior to Mass, staying for a few minutes after Mass and you can serve at the Mass you normally attend. Please contact Ron Ingriselli at 860-621-7460.

SOUTHINGTON CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS!

Catholic School Graduates-We are reaching out to all families that have benefited from Catholic elementary/middle school education in Southington. Please call Southington Catholic at 860-628-2485 to help all our Catholic School alumni reconnect.

SCRIP- Holiday Shopping is quickly approaching! Now you can order gift cards for everyone on your list from our SCRIP program at Southington Catholic. Choose from gift cards to major department stores, gas cards, grocery store cards or movie tickets and I-tunes cards. Every purchase earns rewards for SCS. Stop by the rectory for a complete listing of participating retailers or call SCS (860-628-2485) for more information.

AMAZON Shoppers-Southington Catholic can earn credit from all your purchases through Amazon Smile. Just register with Amazon Smile on-line. Thank you for your support!

Readings for the Week of November 19, 2017

Sunday: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/Ps 128:1-5/1 Thes 5:1-6/ Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21
 Monday: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158/Lk 18:35-43
 Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-7/Lk 19:1-10
 Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b, 15/Lk 19:11-28
 Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/Lk 19:41-44
 Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10bcd-12/Lk 19:45-48
 Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-4, 6, 16, 19/Lk 20:27-40
 Next Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-3, 5-6/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46



Father Joe's Notes



My dear friends,

Happy Thanksgiving! This Thursday is our national holiday – a secular holy day. This is a day we set aside to thank the Lord for the many blessings we enjoy. We're grateful for the food we eat and the family and friends with whom we celebrate. We rejoice in the great beauty of our country and the people who make it great. We celebrate the freedoms we enjoy and even the responsibilities that come with that. Above all, we thank our God for the wonderful gift of life. Our nation is unique in taking time for such a celebration. (Canada is the only other country to have Thanksgiving.) Let's make the most of this day.

I know that I will be heading to my parents' home to gather with the family. I think we will have a small crowd this year for dinner – about 16. (That is small compared to the possible 31 it could have been.) I will head home where my sister Anne will have helped Mom get the turkey in the oven and getting things set. It will be my job to cook the vegetables, mash the potatoes, and send the food to the dining room on platters and bowls. I will clean the dishes and put the crystal away in the cabinet when we're done. (Why do this? Because I'll be too tired on Christmas to do anything!) We will have way too much food as we crowd around the table. We will start with fruit cup and sherbet, an old custom going back to my great-grandmother, along with eating her oyster stuffing. Dad will try to pass off desserts and other things to everyone as they leave. It will be loud and crazy, but it will be home. So I give thanks for it all.

Before I head home, I will preside at Mass. I will begin the big day here by leading our community in prayers of thanks and praise. We will rejoice in all we have here in this parish, this town, this state, and this nation. We will take time to be grateful. This is a day when we recall that every Mass is a time of Thanksgiving, of Eucharist. Our family will gather at the table to be fed by the Body and Blood of our Lord. We will perform the ancient rituals of our Catholic family that bind us together here on earth and with those gathered at the Heavenly Banquet. We will take the gift we have been given and bring it with us as we leave. It's a wonderful way to start a day of thanks.

Where ever you are this Thanksgiving, and however you celebrate, I offer my prayers to you for a happy time. Whether you gather with a huge family, a group of friends, or just with one special person, I hope you enjoy the time. For those who travel, I pray you have a safe journey and return home to greet the Lord in love. A Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Thankfully yours in Christ, Fr. Joe



The sanctuary flowers are generously donated this week by **George and Nawal Haddad.**