



Pastor

Rev. Joseph R. Cronin
fr.cronin@aohct.org

Deacon

Angelo J. Coppola

St. Thomas Convent

860-621-1904

Director of Religious Education

Sr. Marie Roccapiore, 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 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 Roccapiore, M.P.F. at the Convent.

Mass Intentions for the Week


SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

4:00 Paul Martin, req. by his family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

7:30 Philip Koboski, req. by Mr & Mrs William Magri

10:00 Nicola and Saveria Sabino—Anniversary, req. by their daughter, Teresa and Vincenzo Scirocco

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

7:30 Parishioners of Saint Thomas Parish

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 NO MASS**ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

7:30 Robert Binkowski, req. by Tom & Lorraine Murphy

12:10 Ann Marie Cocozza—16th Anniversary, req. by the Cocozza Family

7:30 Frank Luongo, Sr., req. by the Miceli Family

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

12:10 Mary McMuillan, req. by Shirley Lenzi

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

12:10 Katherine Kaufman, req. by Kathleen Baldwin

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

8:00 Angela Suzick, req. by Sr. Gina Piazza

4:00 Dolores Biafore, req. by Carmine and Sue Votino

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

7:30 Rosemary Lorenzo, req. by Richard and Beth

10:00 Luigi and Benito Perone, req. by Giovanna Perone and family

BULLETIN

All bulletin announcements must be submitted *in writing* no later than the **Monday** prior to publication but you are encouraged to send your submissions 2 weeks in advance. It is best to send by email to stchurchre@gmail.com.

MASS INTENTIONS

Weekday Mass intentions and a few Sundays at 7:30 a.m. Are available as well as the dedication of the Sanctuary Flowers and Sanctuary Candles. Call the rectory with your request.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible study class is offered two times on Thursdays. At 1:30 p.m. in the chapel in the rectory basement and at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Fr. Joe will cover 1 Thessalonians, chapter 4, on Thursday February 15th. All are welcome!

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.

CANTORS NEEDED

Please consider sharing your musical talents. We are looking for some new cantors to join our musical ministry. If you are interested or know someone who may be, please contact Emil Kopcha at 860-621-0637.

NEW DAY PROGRAM FOR BEREAVED

St Thomas Church will conduct a bereavement seminar beginning March 7, 2018. Anyone grieving the death of a loved one is encouraged to enroll and participate at no cost. The New Day process, developed by Sr. Mauryeen O'Brien, OP, will be used and participants will meet each Wednesday evening from 7 – 9 pm for 10 consecutive weeks. This process has been very successful in helping the bereaved transition to life without their loved one. During each meeting, participants work through one element of the grieving process using prayer, reflection, sharing and journaling. Everything that is shared during the meetings is held confidential. For more information or to enroll please call Vinny Raby [860-628-9425](tel:860-628-9425) or Dorothy Charette [860-628-4010](tel:860-628-4010). You may also call the Parish office [860-628-4713](tel:860-628-4713).

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!

VOCATIONS

Make the story of salvation history public! Tell the world what Jesus has done for you. Consider a life of preaching, teaching, and service as a priest, deacon or religious. Call Fr. Michael Casey, Vocation Director, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Tel. 860-761-7457, email vocations@aohct.org or visit the web at www.hartfordpriest.com.

CATHOLIC GRADUATES CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

The Catholic Graduates Club will award three scholarships of \$2,000 each to Catholic students who plan to attend a four year college in the Fall of 2018. Information is available from your guidance counselor or at www.catholicgraduatesct.org. Deadline for application submittal is March 15th.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIP

Isabella Council #15 and Isabella Assembly #122 offer scholarships those seeking to further their education at a recognized institute of higher learning during the upcoming academic year. Applicant, Parent or Legal Guardian must be a registered member of the parish. Applications are available at the parish office and must be returned by March 4th.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be held on Monday, February 12th 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: 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, Ed Baker 860-620-0622, Dan Vendetti 860-621-7808, Larry Ryan 860-621-2443, and Walter Kustra 860-302-1936. The ex-officio members include Fr. Joseph Cronin, Sr. Marie, D.R.E., Eileen Sampiere, Deacon Angelo Coppola, Stan Maigaire, and Susan Howard, Parish Trustees.

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.

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes for baptized Roman Catholics who have made their First Communion and are over the age of 18 will begin soon. Contact Sr. Marie at 860-621-1904 for further information and registration.



The sanctuary flowers are offered this week in memory of the deceased members of the Coccozza and Cicarelli Families, req. by The Coccozza Family.

SOUTHINGTON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

This spring we are looking to reunite Catholic School graduates to share their stories and rekindle friendships. If you benefited from attending St. Dominic School, Southington Catholic School or St Thomas School, we invite you to get involved. Please send contact information with your suggestions for a fun kick-off event to malexander@southingtoncatholicschool.org.

Volunteers requested-SCS is looking for volunteers to work on updating the school database of friends, graduates and supporters beginning in mid March in the Advancement Office. Flexible hours can be arranged. Please call 860-628-2485.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 14th is Ash Wednesday. We will have three Masses with distribution of ashes.. They will be at 7:30AM, 12:10PM, and 7:30PM in the church. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting, abstinence, and prayer.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions during Lent. We will hear Confessions on Mondays from 6:00PM until 7:00PM and Saturdays from 2:30PM until 3:30PM.

Readings for the Week of February 11, 2018

Sunday: Lv13:1-2,44-46/Ps 32:1-11/1Cor10:31-11:1/Mk 1:40-45
 Monday: Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76/Mk 8:11-13
 Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19/Mk 8:14-21
 Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20--6:2/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
 Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [40:5a]/Lk 9:22-25
 Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 [19b]/Mt 9:14-15
 Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [11ab]/Lk 5:27-32
 Next Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Father Joe's Notes

My dear friends,

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. Lent begins! As this penitential season starts, let me take some time to go over the Lenten rules, obligations, and suggestions.

Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. That means we do not eat meat on these days. (Before you ask – yes – chicken is a meat!) The reason behind this: Friday was the day of the Lord's crucifixion, the day Jesus shed his blood to set us free from sin. We abstain from eating all flesh with warm blood on Fridays to honor what Christ has done for us. Fish, being a cold blooded animal, is acceptable. Its connection to Christ and the Eucharist also made it the go to food for Fridays. So no meat this Wednesday or the Fridays of Lent. This is obligatory for all people 14 years of age and over. (By the way, if you're a vegan or vegetarian, you might want to practice some other devotional activity on these days, since you already don't eat meat.) Eggs and dairy products are permissible on abstinence days.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are both fast days. It reminds us how we hunger and thirst for our God. A fast allows one full meal and two smaller meals that together are not equal in size to the larger meal. There's no eating between meals, but liquids are allowed (water, juice, coffee, etc.). This applies to all adults 18 years of age through 59 years of age. If a person has serious health issues, such as diabetes or hypoglycemia, he or she is not obliged to fast. Also, nursing mothers should not fast, since they need strength to feed their children.

Do you have to give something up for Lent? No. People often give up something for Lent, such as chocolates or alcohol, as an act of penance. This is meant as a way of turning away from distractions in our lives. Many people use the season to give up a bad habit, like smoking, as a way to refocus attention on Christ and making a positive change to improve our lives, health, and commitment to the Lord. It could be a time to give up gossiping or something else that's destructive to our relationships. Some people choose to do something extra for the season for the same reason. Maybe you will commit to attending daily Mass, saying extra prayers, reading Scripture, exercising, or performing acts of charity to improve the lives of others. Lent should help you as a time to grow closer to Christ.

Beyond being a season of fasting, abstinence and prayer, Lent is also a traditional time of almsgiving. Now is a time to give to a favorite charity, the missions of the Church, or a someplace that feeds the hungry and shelters the homeless. This should be a time for us to give something back for all we have been given.

Make the most of the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Hours are extended throughout Lent. I will hear confessions on Mondays between 6 and 7PM and also Saturdays between 2:30 and 3:30PM in the church. If you need to arrange another time, call the rectory for an appointment. Please, don't wait for the last minute – the lines will be long then!

As we begin this holy time to grow closer in our relationship with Christ, my thoughts and prayers are with you all. Let's use this time to walk together in holiness, faith, and love.

Happily yours in Christ, Fr. Joe