



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
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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.

Mass Intentions for the Week


SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

4:00 Geraldine, Romeo and Norman Martin, req. by family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

7:30 Evo J. Mongillo, Sr., req. by family

10:00 Richard Fragola, Sr., req. by Noreen and Richard, Jr.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13**St. Frances Xavier Cabrini**

7:30 Parishioners whose funeral Mass was in October:
Lucille M. Sirois, Dolores A. Palumbo, Paul J. Emond
and Anthony J. Witkovic

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

7:30 Stephen Barmore, req. by his wife and children

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16**St. Margaret of Scotland and
St. Gertrude**

12:10 Joseph Telesco, req. by Jennie Telesco

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17**St. Elizabeth of Hungary**

12:10 Ann and Jim Quinn, req. by family

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18**The Dedication of the Basilicas
of SS. Peter and Paul and St. Rose
Philippine Duchesne**

8:00 Parishioners of St. Thomas Church

4:00 Nicholas DeLuco, req. by family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

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

10:00 Simon R. Elsinger, Sr.-4th Anniversary, req. by 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.

BOOK OF REMEMBEANCE

The *Book of Remembrance* will be displayed in front of the altar for the month of November. The book contains the names of those who have passed away in St. Thomas Parish during the past year and the names that were submitted on the All Souls envelopes. If you would like to have a name of a deceased person included in the *Book of Remembrance*, **legibly PRINT** that person's name down and place it in the collection basket.

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.

2017 ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

To date we have raised **\$40,730** towards the 2017 Annual Fund. Thank you for your continuous generosity and support.

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.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) provides funding for groups that make lasting change and uplift the poor in the United States. CCHD grants improve education, support economic development, and help communities provide housing in low-income neighborhoods. Help us continue to defend human dignity and aid those living on the margins of society. **Please give generously to the CCHD Collection next weekend.** Reminder: online contributors, please check your accounts to make a donation.

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.

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 Church Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of **Evo J. Mongillo, Sr.-Anniversary**, 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 12, 2017

Sunday: Wis 6:12-16/Ps 63:2-8/1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14/Mt 25:1-13
 Monday: Wis 1:1-7/Ps 139:1b-10/Lk 17:1-6
 Tuesday: Wis 2:23—3:9/Ps 34:2-3, 16-19/Lk 17:7-10
 Wednesday: Wis 6:1-11/Ps /Ps 82:3-4, 6-7/Lk 17:11-19
 Thursday: Wis 7:22b—8:1/Ps 119:89-91, 130, 135, 175/Lk 17:20-25
 Friday: Wis 13:1-9/Ps 19:2-5ab/Lk 17:26-37
 Saturday: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9/Ps 105:2-3, 36-37, 42-43/Lk 18:1-8
 Next 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



Father Joe's Notes



My dear friends,

Last Sunday, parishioners attended a service in Texas when a man opened fire. He killed 26 and wounded 20. He was quickly written off as deranged. The problem was mental illness, not our gun policies. When another man took a truck and killed cyclists on a bike path in Manhattan, he was a terrorist. What's the difference? Both killed others going about the joys of life. Both meant to instill fear and terrorize the public – the very definition of a terrorist. Both were acts of delusion; twisted views of reality to hurt and kill others. Why the difference?

Americans don't like to think people just like us can do terrible things. When they do, they have to be insane. We didn't make them this way; it must be his own problem. When someone very different does the same thing, we have no problem calling it evil and condemning the people that produced a terrorist. It's time we stop vilifying the "other" and letting ourselves off so easily. It's time we had the difficult and painful discussion about guns, violence, and terror we so desperately avoid but truly need.

I see a point to gun ownership. Hunters need rifles, ranchers need guns to protect their flocks and herds, and there are people who want to protect their lives and property. (I just advise that last group that they're more likely to be killed or injured with their own gun than another.) Having said this, I see no need for anyone to have an automatic or semi-automatic weapon. If one needs it to hit a target, he or she is a poor shot and danger to others. There's no need to be able to own every type of weapon. We outlaw grenade and missile launchers, why not do the same to other military grade guns? Why should one with a known history of domestic violence have access to firearms? It's time to determine what is appropriate and necessary.

I'm tired of facing the almost weekly occurrence of a mass shooting and hearing people offer their thoughts and prayers. It's good to pray for them, but it's most certainly not enough. Prayers without working to address the problem is pointless. We have to act on our thoughts and make our actions concrete prayers to God. Scripture tells us, "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead (James 2:26)." We cannot believe we are faithful people and then never act on our beliefs. Our Savior taught us to turn the other cheek. We have been commanded to love our neighbors. How do we reconcile those messages of Jesus with the possession of lethal weapons? As Christ said, "For all who take the sword will perish by the sword (Matthew 26:52)." If that is our calling, it's time to live it.

So, where do we start? Let's start with something that should be easy. Let's lobby our state and national leaders to outlaw bump stocks. That's the device that allowed the shooter in Las Vegas to turn and semi-automatic rifle into an automatic one. Even the NRA at the time of that shooting acknowledged these should be illegal. Let's start with that ban. It's simple and concrete. It is a prayer that can become and action. Let's work to keep weapons out of the hands of people with records of domestic violence. These are simple, common sense actions and they can be our prayer for peace! Don't just pray; act!

Hopefully yours in Christ, Fr. Joe