

Mass  for the
Intentions *for the Week*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

4:00 Michael Siemiatkoski, req. by his wife

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

7:30 Vincenzo, Catherine and John Meola and Loretta Palmieri, req. by William and Diana Meola

9:30 Joseph N. Melo, req. by Saint Thomas Ladies' Guild

11:00 Luigi and Benito Perone, req. by their family

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

7:30 Caterina and Marco Testa, req. by Michael and Maria Testa

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

7:30 Parishioners of Saint Thomas Parish

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

7:30 Raymond Cardinal, req. by his sisters, Diane and Cheri

12:10 Eddy MacDonald, req. by Joe and Cathy Miceli

7:00 Adeline, Michael, John Mongillo, and Ann Worhunsky, req. by William and Diane Meola

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

12:10 Marie Aldieri, req. by her husband and children

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

12:10 Anthony Renzi, req. by James and Teresa Nelson

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

8:00 Charles Bridda, req. by his daughter and family

4:00 Leonard Cotugno and Assunta and John Secondo, req. by Joann Cotugno and family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

7:30 The deceased members of The Vincenzo Meola Family, req. by Victor Carbone and family

9:30 Giovanni Colaccino, req. by Joseph Colaccino and family

11:00 Deacon Wesley Baxter, req. by a parishioner

WELCOME 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 by Tuesday for publication in the next weekend's bulletin.

MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND

St. Thomas Parish offers Ministry to the homebound and shut-ins. If you know of someone who would like to receive the Eucharist on a monthly or weekly basis please contact Carmel at 628-6751.

M.O.M.'S CIRCLE

M.O.M.'s (Mothers of Mary) Circle will meet on Monday, Feb. 15th at 7:30 p.m. in the convent. If you would like to attend or would like more information call Sr. Marie at the convent, 621-1904.

PASTOR'S CORNER

I am honored to announce that Archbishop Mansell has chosen Saint Thomas Parish to host Reverend Mr. Anton Miranda for his deacon internship. Deacon Anton is a native of Sri Lanka. He is finishing his studies at Holy Apostles in Cromwell, and looks forward to being ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford in May 2011.

Deacon Anton will be in residence here beginning Tuesday, February 16th. Please join me in welcoming Deacon Anton to our wonderful community!

Fr. Nick

LENT

Wednesday, February 17th is Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be distributed during Masses in the Church at 7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.

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.

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 at 11:00 a.m.

Fridays

Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m. will take place at area churches as follows:

February 19 St. Aloysius

February 26 St. Thomas (in the Church)

March 5 St. Aloysius

March 12 St. Dominic

March 19 St. Dominic

March 26 St. Thomas (in the 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. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal penitential practices.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE AT AREA CHURCHES

Mary Our Queen: Mon., Tues, Wed., Fri. 9:00 a.m.

St. Dominic: Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 9:00 a.m.

St. Aloysius: Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m.

Immaculate Conception: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m.

CELEBRATION OF SACRED SCRIPTURE

Sunday, March 21st at the Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. speaker Dr. Mary C. Boys, SNJM, topic: *The Passion and Death of Jesus*. Free will offering requested at the event. Pre-registration required before March 12th, send name, email, parish, and phone number to: B.J. Daly Horell, Office of Religious Education, 467 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield, CT 06002. or www.orehartford.org 860-243-9465.

Operation Rice Bowl

Catholic Relief Services' Lenten Program, *Operation Rice Bowl* will be a lifeline for thousands of families in over eighty Third World countries as well as in many soup kitchens of our own Archdiocese. Parish members are asked to participate in this very successful Lenten program that promotes:

Prayer that we may be united with our sisters and brothers in need;

Fasting as a form of self-discipline while fostering solidarity with those who hunger;

Knowledge about the realities, courage and strength of the poor who are helped through Operation Rice Bowl;

Assistance to the most vulnerable members of our human family around the world.

Once a week, parish members are asked to eat a simple, sacrificial meal and share the savings, which are placed in a symbolic cardboard rice bowl, with those less fortunate. Rice Bowls are available at the entrances of the church. The contributions are to be brought to church on Good Friday. Please make out a check for the total amount collected.



The Church Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of Vincenzo, Catherine, and James Meola and Loretta Palmieri, requested by William and Diane Meola.

The Chapel Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in honor of the birthday of Fanny Janazzo, requested by Carmel Avitabile.

PASSION PLAY NEWS

The Passion Play is in need of an experienced sound person to run the sound equipment this year. We have the equipment we just need someone with the knowledge. If you can help please contact Bonnie Peterson, 860-621-7005.

FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

New Day Seminar: A 10 week bereavement seminar will be held at Mary Our Queen beginning Friday March 5th, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. For registration contact Carmel Avitabile, 860-628-6751 or Eleanor Boruch, 203-578-5292.

ARCHBISHOP O'BRIEN LIBRARY

On Saturday, February 20th, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, the Archbishop O' Brien Library at Saint Thomas Seminary will co-sponsor a program, "The World of Rare Books" with Michael Dooling. Michael will present an overview of the rare book world and will have books and manuscripts as examples from various periods. A variety of manuscripts and books from the Vulgate Bible written in the 13th century to a selection of 20th century classic Americana will be discussed. Topics will include medieval manuscripts, history of printing, first editions, bindings, and more. Audience members may bring one or two books to discuss for possible use in the presentation. Registration is recommended. The program is open to the public. A donation of \$5 is suggested. To sign up call 860-242-5573. St. Thomas Seminary is located at 467 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield.

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.

RCIA

On the first Sunday of Lent, our parish will offer special prayers for those who have prepared to enter fully into our Catholic Faith. We will celebrate with the catechumens the *Rite of Sending Forth* to the Archdiocesan celebration of the *Rite of Election*.

Nicole Chandler and Angela Stout will sign the Book of Elect as a pledge of their final period of preparation and purification leading to their reception of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

On the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent, a special rite called *Scrutinies* will take place after the homily of the Mass. These are prayers of blessings and intercessions prayed for the Elect as they reflect upon their lives in the spirit of repentance and purification. They will receive a scroll of the Creed at the first Scrutiny on the third Sunday of Lent and a scroll of the Lord's Prayer at the third Scrutiny on the fifth Sunday of Lent.

We pray that Nicole and Angela continue to find strength in God's grace and assurance of support by our parish community in prayer and through good example.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry will sponsor a social ministry retreat day entitled "Biblical Justice: The Roots and Wings of Social Ministry", on Saturday, March 13th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Saint James Parish, 767 Elm Street, Rocky Hill with guest speaker Tricia Hoyt. Refreshments and lunch provided, \$30 registration fee. Financial Assistance available. To register call 203-777-7279 or visit www.catholicsocialjustice.org.

FRIDAY LENTEN SUPPER

Fridays during Lent, the Saint Thomas Home-School Association will be sponsoring a "Pasta e Fagioli" special from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The cost is \$6.00 per person for salad, Italian bread, and all the Pasta e Fagioli you can eat. A beverage will be provided. Orders to go are also available. This is opened to the community and the proceeds will benefit St. Thomas School. Take out orders are also available.

LAY MINISTRY FORMATION

The Office of Religious Education is accepting applications for the Lay Ministry Formation Program 2010-2012, which will begin in September, 2010. Catholic lay men and women over the age of 21 with leadership potential who want to improve their helping skills and theological knowledge, train for various ministries, improve their ministerial skills are invited to apply. The candidate is asked to make a commitment which includes: 2 weekend retreats, evenings of reflection, 1 class night per week and a parish project. Complete information and the application form can be found at www.lm.orehartford.org. Anyone interested should speak to their pastor about the possibility of being sponsored by the parish and then contact Mary Marsan, Archdiocesan Coordinator of Lay Ministry. at 860-243-9465 x14 or email, mmarsan@adh-ore.org.

Readings for the Week of February 14, 2010

Sunday:	Jer 17:5-8/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26
Monday:	Jas 1:1-11/Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday:	Jas 1:12-18/Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday:	Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20---6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25
Friday:	Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday:	Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday:	Dt 26:4-10/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13