

Mass  for the  
Intentions  Week

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

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

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22****The Chair of Saint Peter**

7:30 Dolores DiGiacomo, req. by Maria Testa and family

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23****Saint Polycarp**

7:30 The deceased members of the John and Mary Longo Family and Elise Keating, req. by Anthony Longo

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

12:10 In Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

12:10 Theodore and Gertrude Dunn, req. by their daughter

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

8:00 The deceased members of the Vecchio and DiChello Families, req. by Maria and Pasquale DiChello

4:00 Cristiano and Clementina Tancredi and Raffaele and Angelina Audi, req. by Mr & Mrs Giovanni Tancredi

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

7:30 Joseph Avitabile, Sr. and Joseph Avitabile, Jr. req. by Carmel Avitabile

9:30 Mary Miceli, req. by Joe and Cathy Miceli

11:00 Joseph Melo, req. by Saint Thomas Choir

**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.

**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.

**LENT****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 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.

**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, payable to St. Thomas Church.

**THE MYSTERY OF FAITH****A Study of the Structural elements of the Order of the Mass**

The **Lamb of God** is associated with the breaking of the bread. In the history of the liturgy, it was a lengthy portion that originated in the 7<sup>th</sup> century and was often sung repeatedly until the breaking of the bread was completed.

The chant "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" is repeated three times with a closing line of "Grant us peace" which links to the kiss of peace that originated in the ninth century. The priest breaks the bread and puts a piece of host into the chalice to signify the unity of the Body and Blood of Christ. While this takes place, we all sing Lamb of God.

Presented by members of the Liturgy Committee

**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. Invite your friends and family!



The Church Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of John, Catherine and Cressi Aldi, requested by Louise and LouAnn Sieruta.

The Chapel Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of Rose Casale, req. by Addie Monteleone and family.

**PASSION PLAY TICKETS**

Listed below are the contact names and phone numbers to obtain tickets for the St. Thomas’ Thirty Second Annual Passion Play.

Diane	628-4197	Jean	628-7913
Lois	621-0411	Ginny	628-4628
Janet	621-6347		

Saturday	March	27 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 p.m.
Palm Sunday (limit of 5)	March	28 <sup>th</sup>	3:00 p.m.
Monday	March	29 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	March	30 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	March	31 <sup>st</sup>	7:30 p.m.
Good Friday (limit of 5)	April	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7:30 p.m.

**FAMILY LIFE OFFICE**

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

**ROMAN MISSAL WORKSHOP**

The Office for Divine Worship will host a workshop on the Roman Missal on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Saint James Parish Center, 767 Elm Street, Rocky Hill. Monsignor Anthony Sherman, Executive Director of the Secretariat of Divine Worship, will discuss the forthcoming third typical edition of the *Roman Missal*. He will make two presentations: 1 – the background and history of the translation; and 2 – a review of some of the new texts. Advance registration is required by March 10<sup>th</sup>. The registration fee of \$35 includes coffee/pastry upon arrival and lunch. Registration forms are available at the rectory. Additional information is available form Lucy Zocco, Office of Divine Worship at 860-761-7442 or [llzocco@aol.com](mailto:llzocco@aol.com).

**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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.catholicsocialjustice.org).

**CELEBRATION OF SACRED SCRIPTURE**

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

**BIRTHRIGHT**

You can make a difference! Help a mother and her baby! Through loving care, our volunteers help a pregnant woman in crisis to know she can give birth to her child and face the future with dignity and hope. Since 1987, our Birthright chapter has offered free pregnancy tests, friendship counseling, and practical support to thousands of women. Our office is located in Meriden. Volunteer opportunities: friendship counselors (training provided), clerical, clothing, and fund-raising helpers. Call 203-237-9887. Birthright needs gently worn maternity and baby clothing and books on pregnancy and baby/child care.

**LAP BLANKET MINISTRY**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement. Lap coverings are shared with the sick and elderly at home, in nursing homes and in hospitals. Anyone who can sew, crochet or knit is invited to participate in this charitable outreach.

**XAVIER HIGH SCHOOLS**

The following parishioners and former Saint Thomas School students, who now attend Xavier High School in Middletown, have received the following honors:

High Honors	Shane Baldwin ‘13
	James Morelli ‘12
Honors	Kenneth Baldwin ‘10
	Joseph Maruzo ‘12
	Ian Walch ‘10

**MUSICIANS NEEDED**

Two trumpets and trombone players are needed for the Easter Sunday 11:00 Mass. Also, a drum set player is needed for one song to accompany the choir on Easter Sunday. Please contact Emil Kopcha, Music Director at 860-621-0637 if you are interested in sharing your talents at Easter.

**Today’s first reading describes the offering of first fruits the people of Israel were to present to the Lord in thanksgiving for their deliverance from Egypt and the gift of the promised land. Is my offering an appropriate response to the many blessings the Lord has given me?**

<b>Readings for the Week of February 21, 2010</b>	
Sunday:	Dt 26:4-10/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13
Monday:	1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday:	Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Phil 3:17---4:1 or 3:20---4:1/Lk 9:28b-36