

January 1, 2017 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God



WEEKLY OFFERTORY

December 18, 2016	\$5,299.93
December 20, 2015	\$5,745.02

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 4:00pm	<u>December 31 Vigil Mass</u> Lisa Janetta req. by the Cross Family
Sunday 8:00am 10:00am	<u>January 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</u> For the Parishioners of Saint Thomas Parish Lawrence & Ruth Duffany req. by the family
Monday 7:00am	<u>January 2</u> No Mass Intention
Tuesday 7:00am	<u>January 3</u> No Mass Intention
Wednesday 7:00am	<u>January 4</u> No Mass Intention
Thursday 7:00am	<u>January 5</u> Eric Grohoski req. by his mother
Friday 7:00am	<u>January 6 First Friday</u> Ethel & Robert Robinson req. by the family
Saturday 4:00pm	<u>January 7 Vigil Mass</u> Virginia & Roland Guilmette req. by the family
Sunday 8:00am 10:00am	<u>January 8 The Epiphany of the Lord</u> Edith B. Chicoine req. by her daughter, Monique "Birthday Remembrance" Roland & Joan Viets req. the family

Thank you for your spiritual and financial commitment of our Parish.



Extraordinary Ministers January 7/8

4:00pm:	Sue Chiovitti & Donald Leveillee
8:00am:	Bruce & Laurie Barrett
10:00am:	Jean Beck & Julie Cardoso

Lectors

January 7/8

4:00pm:	Walter Robinson
8:00am:	Peter Signori
10:00am:	Michael Cote

SCRIPTURAL READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7, Lk 2:16-21
Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Jn 1:29-34
Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42
Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43 -51
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36,38
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 2:1-11



A special thank you to all of our volunteers who helped make our Cookie Baskets for our shut-ins a success this year! Once again Adams IGA in

Thomaston donated the containers for the baskets, also to a special lady who each year makes the best Cranberry breads for them to enjoy. You are all a blessing.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUN. January 1 New Year's Day
NO Rel. Ed. Gr. K-10
TUES. January 3
NO Rel. Ed. Gr. K-6
6:30pm Legion of Mary Mtg.
WED. January 4
6:30pm Choir Prac.
THURS. January 5
6:30pm Cub Scout Mtg.
Friday January 6 First Friday
7:30am 24 hour Adoration

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2016 Giving Tree! Through the generosity of the St. Thomas parishioners, assistance was given to 40 families and more than 75 children. Warm clothes, shoes and boots, and gift cards were distributed on December 5th to needy families through the Thomaston Christmas Committee.

SNOW DAY DAILY MASS POLICY

In order to insure the safety of those who attend daily Mass during the winter season. Mass will be **cancelled** when Thomaston Schools announce school delays or cancellations for weather related events. If there is a Mass Intention on that day the Intention will be offered the next available date.

Please listen to **WTIC AM, 1080 AM, WTIC 96.5 FM & WFSB – TV Channels 3, 4 & 8** for cancellations. The Mass is broadcast everyday at 10:00AM on WCCT-TV and on Cablevision's Channel 84 serving Fairfield County. It can also be seen Saturday and Sunday at 5:00AM on WCCT-TV.



New Parishioners: Welcome to our parish. When leaving Mass today, please stop and introduce yourself to Father Hellwig. We want to know and serve you. You may stop by the Parish Center Mon. – Thurs. from 9:00am – 2:00pm to register with us. We have many ministries here with which you may get involved. They are listed on our website as well at www.stthomasthomaston.org. You are a blessing to our parish family and we're glad you're here!



Please remember those men and women who are serving.....God, keep special watch over these men and women serving in the Navy, National Guard, Marine Corps., Air Force, Army, & Coast Guard.

OFFICE HOURS - The Parish Center is open Monday – Thursday, 9:00am – 2:00pm. The office is closed on Friday.

WHEN YOU ARE IN THE HOSPITAL

If you are hospitalized and desire pastoral support, you or a family member should do two things. First, notify the Parish Center at 860-283-5817 before or upon your admission. Second, upon admission to the hospital, state your denomination and parish. The hospitals are called twice a week for a list of parishioners, so Father can visit. St. Mary's Hospital no longer gives out any information so please call the Parish Center.



Do you have a concern that causes you sadness that you wish to have lifted up in prayer? Do you have a joy that warms your heart and you want to have lifted up in prayer? Then contact the Saint Thomas Prayer Line. Allow your Church family to assist in the most powerful way we can, through Prayer. You can email your request to: prayerline@stthomasthomaston.org.



For more information about having your child baptized, please give the Parish Center a call to arrange. Baptisms are the first Sunday of the month.

PARISH-WIDE PASTORAL PLANNING BRAINSTORMING SESSION

In order to facilitate the formation of an archdiocesan-required three-year strategic plan for the parish we need to develop our own local approach to meeting those attributes set by Pastoral Planning that identify a healthy and vibrant parish.

Those attributes are:

- 1 Increasing Number of Registered Households
- 2 Robust and Vibrant Parish Ministries
- 3 60 % of Households Attend Sunday Mass
- 4 70% of Households Engaged in Stewardship
- 5 Robust and Energized Evangelization and Community Activity
- 6 Financial/Facilities Healthy and Stable

Everyone is invited to attend a planning session where your ideas to meeting any of the above may be introduced and discussed in group break-out sessions. This approach needs parish-wide participation because the approaches discussed to meet the attributes above will be the basis of our strategic plan. Your input will serve as advisory to me. The parish strategic plan, when implemented, must then be supported by a majority of parishioners because it will describe not only who we are as a Catholic community but also what shall become in the future. Please contact the office if you have questions about the process. Thank you.

The Parish Pastoral Planning Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 15, 1 – 4 PM in the Church. Snow date will be January 22. This is your opportunity to become involved and share your ideas in a productive manner for the good of the parish. If you are interested in participating but unable to attend the session please email your input to me at stc-pastor@sbcglobal.net. It is important that we do this now so that we may move toward truly becoming a healthy and vibrant parish for the next hundred years.

2017 MASS BOOK

There are still Masses available for 2017. Please call the Parish Center **Mon. – Thurs. 9:00am – 2:00pm** to arrange any Masses you would like celebrated in 2017. The Mass offerings are: **Weekday: \$15.00, Weekend & Holy Days: \$20.00.**

Please remember when calling to arrange Masses, the intention is made for the deceased or for a “Special Intention” if they are living. Thank you.