



# SCRIPTURAL READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Sunday:** Gn 12:1-4a, 2 Tm 1:8b-10, Mt 17: 1-9  
**Monday:** Dn 9:4b-10, Lk 6:36-38  
**Tuesday:** Is 1:10, 16-20, Mt 23:1-2  
**Wednesday:** Jer 18:18-20, Mt 20:17-28  
**Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10, Lk 16:19-31  
**Saturday:** Mi 7:14-15, 18-20, Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**SUN. March 12**  
 8:50am Rel. Ed. Gr. K-10  
 11:30am Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet  
 Blood Pressure Screenings after Mass

**MON. March 13**  
 6:00pm Confessions

**TUES. March 14**  
 6:15pm Rel. Ed. Gr. K-6  
 6:30pm Legion of Mary Mtg.

**WED. March 15**  
 5:00pm Girl Scout Mtg.  
 6:30pm Choir Prac.

**THURS. March 16**  
 6:30pm Cub Scout Mtg.

**FRI. March 17**  
 7:30pm Stations of the Cross

**SAT. March 18**  
 10:00am First Communion Mini-Retreat  
 4:00pm Legion of Mary Enrichment Table

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## Dispensation from Lenten Abstinence on Friday, March 17, 2017

Archbishop Leonard Blair has formally dispensed the faithful of the Archdiocese of Hartford from the obligation to abstain from meat on the Memorial of Saint Patrick, Bishop, which will be observed this year on Friday, March 17. Inasmuch as fasting is a spiritual good, meant, in the words of the Catechism, “to help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart,” the Faithful who partake of meat on March 17, 2017 are encouraged to observe Lenten abstinence on Thursday, March 16, or Saturday, March 18.

## **A Message from the Legion of Mary**

As we join together this holy Lenten season honoring our Savior Jesus Christ through acts of prayer, sacrifice, and charity, the Legion of Mary would like to take this opportunity to wish all St. Thomas parishioners a blessed Easter. The Legion will have The Spiritual Enrichment Table set up in the vestibule after all masses **next weekend**. Religious and inspirational articles such as rosaries, prayer cards, miraculous medals and books will be available for the taking. There will also be many Lenten-themed items for both children and adults. All items on the table are free and have been blessed. Please stop by and select something to take along with you after mass.

## **Question of the Week:**

How is Christ’s call to be “transfigured” calling me to “go forth” this Lent from my present comfortable values and lifestyle, priorities, and preferences?

## **To Those Who Made a Financial Contribution to the Organ Fund**

Dear Friends,

Thanks to your generous contributions to the Organ Fund, the Parish has \$3,678.00 designated for the purchase of a new organ. Since these are “designated funds” they may only be used for the purpose for which the donors intended; the purchase of a new organ.

In the time that I have been at Saint Thomas we have repaired and completed maintenance on the organ and have gotten it to the best condition that it can be. Our organ is over 40 years old and parts are no longer available. Recent repairs were made with parts fabricated by the repair man. The organ sounds as well as it will ever sound.

A new comparable electronic organ will cost more than \$25,000. Considering this anticipated cost and the funds that the parish currently has to meet that expense, I would like to request that those who have donated to the organ fund permit me to use the Organ Fund monies to purchase a new electronic piano. This instrument will be located in the church.

An electronic piano would meet the contemporary needs of the parish by providing an instrument which can be played by a pianist. An organ is a complex instrument which requires more specialized training which few people have. An electronic piano has a number of different voices which even includes organ sound. The different voices will permit a variety of different musical modes to be used during the various Masses, liturgies and programs held at our parish.

It will also be easier for us to find a pianist to play for us for Mass than it is to find an organist. A suitable electronic piano, which will meet the musical requirements of the parish, may be purchased for approximately the amount of money which we have in the designated fund for a new organ.

It makes sense to me to purchase an electronic piano. I hope that this makes sense to you as well. Please let me know if it does not since I need your agreement to use the designated funds in a way other than what they were intended. Please advise me by March 31<sup>st</sup> if you made a contribution to the organ fund and are adverse to this intention to purchase an electronic piano. Positive responses would be appreciated as well. You may phone me at 860-283-5817 or email [stc-pastor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stc-pastor@sbcglobal.net) I will consider no response as meaning that you are in agreement with this proposal.

Thank you.  
Father Hellwig

## **2017 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL**

The 2017 Archbishop's Annual Appeal is now underway in our parish. Your support of this year's Appeal ensures that essential charitable, educational, and pastoral ministries of the Archdiocese of Hartford are carried forward.

If you would like to make a gift, kindly mail in your pledge card to the Archdiocese of Hartford, not the Parish Center. You may also visit the Archdiocesan website at [archdioceseofhartford.org](http://archdioceseofhartford.org) or call the Appeal Office at 860.781.2550. Keep in mind that an early pledge will allow the donor to best use the monthly payment plan.

## Mother of Sorrows

O most holy Virgin, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ: by the overwhelming grief you experienced when you witnessed the martyrdom, crucifixion, and death of your divine Son, look upon me kindly, and awaken in my heart a tender sympathy for Our Lord's sufferings. Grant me a sincere detestation of my sins, so that free from undue affection for the passing joys of earth, I may set my sights higher on the eternal joys of heaven.

May all my thoughts and all my actions be directed towards this one great goal. Honor, glory, and love to our divine Lord Jesus, and to the holy and immaculate Mother of God. Amen

### **LENTEN CONFESSIONS**

"Peace be with You! With these words, the Risen Lord greeted his frightened Apostles in the Upper Room on the day of his Resurrection. Christ repeated the words, "Peace be with you." Then he added, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them" (Jn 20:19-23).

What an extraordinary gift – the gift of divine forgiveness!

This year, prepare for Easter by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. During Lent, every Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Hartford will be open on Mondays from 6:00pm to 7:00pm for Lenten Confessions. For more information, visit **Light4you.info**.



Will take place **this** weekend.

#### **Nurses Scheduled:**

4pm: Mary Kamens, 8am:  
Felicia Kepka-Leach,  
10am: Cheryl Doyle.



The Dominican Sisters would to **thank you** for your support of their bake sale. The proceeds of **\$1,102.00** from the sale will be used to buy medical supplies for their mission to support the lepers. May God always be with you.

The Archdiocese of Hartford is seeking qualified and committed candidates for positions as teachers and administrators in our Catholic schools. The ministry of Catholic education is personally and professionally rewarding. Those who are trained in the field of education and would like to explore career possibilities are encouraged to do so by applying for a Catholic school position through the Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis (OEEC). You are invited to apply or contact the OEEC at [catholicdct@aohct.org](mailto:catholicdct@aohct.org) and click on Career Opportunities.

### **CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

Contribution Statements are now available by request. Please fill in the following information and drop in the collection basket.

You can also request your Contribution Statement by sending an e-mail to [stc-office@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stc-office@sbcglobal.net).

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ENVELOPE# \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)