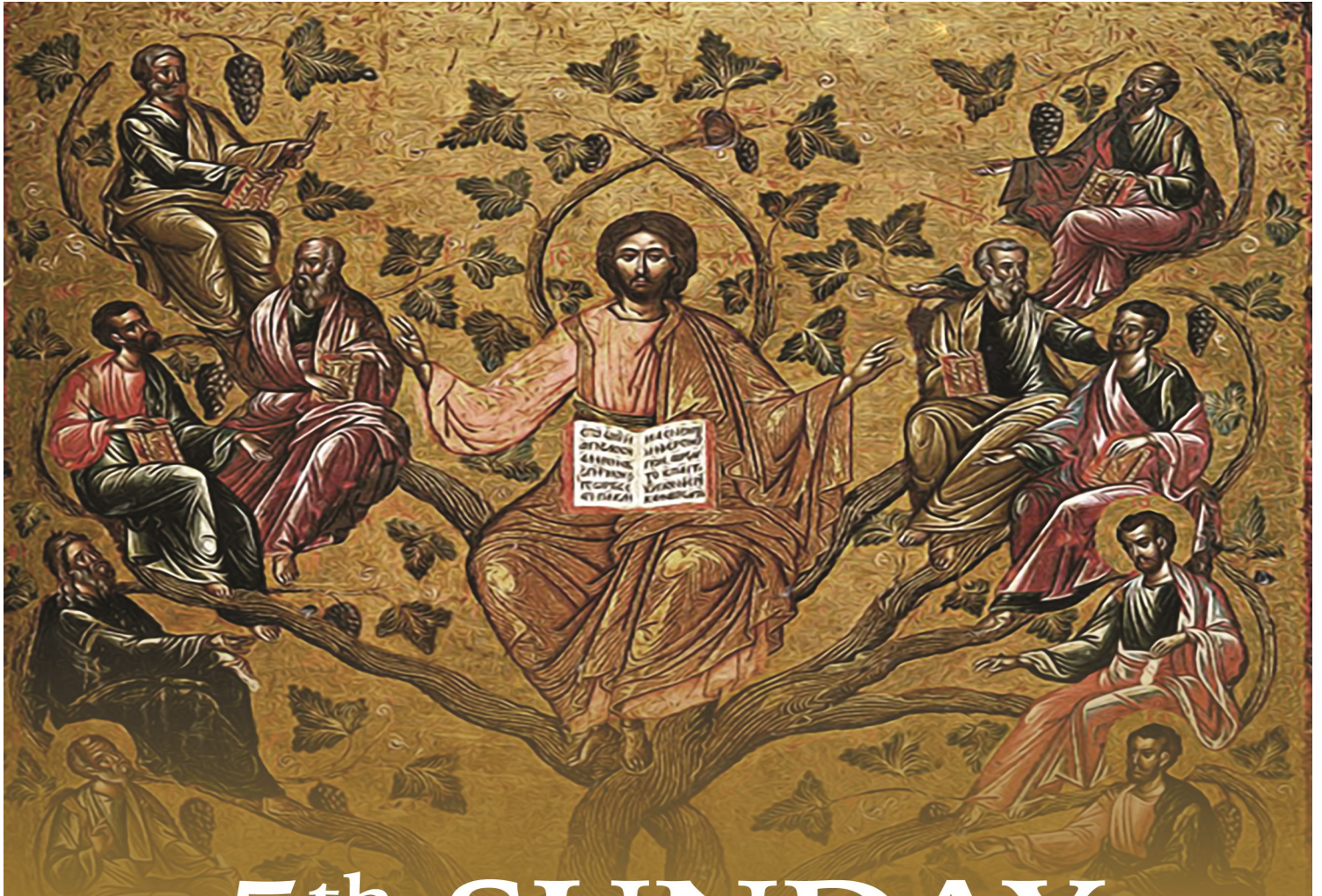


THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF
ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA

REVEREND JEREMIAH N. MURASSO, PH.D., ED.D., PSY.D., PASTOR
REVEREND MATTHEW CHERIAN, PH.D., PAROCHIAL VICAR



**5th SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.” - Jn 15:5

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

**5th Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024**

Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, April 27 - Vigil – 5th Sunday of Easter

4:00pm OLOP + Wayne Magliulo (6th Anniversary),
Beverly Borrelli (16th Anniversary)
& Edward Borrelli, Sr. (2nd Anniversary)
by Lisa & Charlie

4:30pm SVDP + Stephanie Cooper
by Marge Ceneri & Family

SUNDAY, April 28 – 5th Sunday of Easter

8:00am OLOP + Anthony Fabrizio
by Family

9:00am SB + Jim Sisson
by Family

10:00am OLOP + Joseph & Josephine Esposito
by Linda Esposito

11:15am SVDP + Rita Genovese
by Husband, Children & Grandchildren

MONDAY, April 29 - St. Catherine of Siena

8:00am OLOP + A Favor Received

8:00am SVDP + Dolores Gonsalves-Sibley
by Porto Funeral Home

TUESDAY, April 30 – St. Pius V

8:00am OLOP + Dianne Puzycki
by John & Belinda Spadory

8:00am SVDP + Angela Romano & Michael Salonia
by Marie & Bob Lunney

WEDNESDAY, May 1 – St. Joseph the Worker

8:00am OLOP + Jerry Esposito
by Wife

8:00am SVDP + Angelo & Rosalie Musco
by Family

THURSDAY, May 2 - St. Athanasius

8:00am OLOP + Patricia Dimenstein
by Porto Funeral Home

8:00am ST. B + Gabriella Garrity
by JoAnne Messina

FRIDAY, May 3 - First Friday

8:00am ST. B + Living & Deceased Mem. of the Mahoney Family
by Patricia Mahoney

SATURDAY, May 4 - First Saturday

8:00am ST. B + Acabbo Family
by Albert Acabbo

SATURDAY, May 4 - Vigil – 6th Sunday of Easter

4:00pm OLOP + Grace Maniscalco
by Family

4:30pm SVDP + Christopher & Emma Silva
by Joe, Carol & Nate

SUNDAY, May 5 – 6th Sunday of Easter

8:00am OLOP + Filomena Lavorgna
by Husband, Attilio

9:00am SB + Annette Talbot
by Family

10:00am OLOP + Alfonso, Louisa & Andrew Gamberdella
& Rose Fusco

by Linda Esposito

11:15am SVDP + Lucy Consolo
by Catherine

STEWARDSHIP

April 20 & 21

Regular Collection

\$10,814.00

**May 4 & 5 Second Collection:
Monthly**

Thank you to the many of you who have been so generous and responsive in these difficult times.

SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 (26a)/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122: 1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11

Friday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21



Every Monday, immediately following morning Mass at Our Lady of Pompeii, there is one hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

Our Lady of Pompeii: Saturday at 3:00-3:30pm

St. Vincent de Paul: Saturday at 3:30-4:00pm



Please, be mindful that many parishioners arrive early prior to the start of Mass in order to sit reflectively with the LORD in prayer. Please, be mindful of the level of your voice and that voices carry from the back of the church to the front. Please, maintain a subdued tone when speaking so that other's quiet time is not disturbed.

2024 MASSES -

The 2024 Mass Intention Book is opened. There are many weekday Masses left.

Kindly have your requests ready when scheduling.

Payment due at time of booking.



St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish

Address: 355 Foxon Road, East Haven, CT 06513

Phone Number: (203) 469-0764

Office Hours:

Foxon Road: Mon-Thu 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00;

Fri 8:00-12:00

Taylor Avenue: Mon. & Fri. 10:00-2:00

E-Mail: stpioofpietrelcina@gmail.com

Website: stpioofpietrelcinaeh.com

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MINISTRY & EVENT CALENDAR

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 No Events or Activities Scheduled	SUNDAY, MAY 5 No Events or Activities Scheduled
MONDAY, APRIL 29 Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church	MONDAY, MAY 6 Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church
TUESDAY, APRIL 30 Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	TUESDAY, MAY 7 Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8
THURSDAY, MAY 2 Scriptural Rosary - 7:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	THURSDAY, MAY 9 Scriptural Rosary - 7:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8
FRIDAY, MAY 3 First Friday Prayer Shawl - 1:00-3:00pm at OLOP LOMR Military Whists - 5:30pm in OLOP Church Hall Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	FRIDAY, MAY 10 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8
SATURDAY, MAY 4 First Saturday Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center	SATURDAY, MAY 11 Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center

BIBLE CAMP 2024

AUGUST 5 - 9

9:00am to 12:30pm OLOP Church Grounds

Join our Adventure into the deep blue seas as we seek out the beauty of God's Creation and the Blessings that our Oceans provide for us.

Featuring:

A Visit from Mystic Aquarium's Live Creature Exhibit

Teen and Adult Volunteers Needed

Contact: Sally Mucka
saintpio.rcia@gmail.com or 203-415-2710

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena
Starts on May 1 @ 7 pm



Join us as we celebrate the 30th annual novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help for 9 Wednesdays, beginning on May 1 and concluding on June 26.

On the first night, May 1, the novena prayers will take place in the context of the Mass beginning at 7:00pm at Our Lady of Pompeii Church.

The Candles burn this week for these special intentions:

Our Lady of Pompeii Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ In Memory of Billy Richmond & For All the Souls in Purgatory

Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) ~ In Memory of the Mauro & Elko Families

Chapel ~ Paul Carrera by *Wife, Carol Sacred Heart of Jesus* ~

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Icon ~ Our Lady Of Perpetual Help

Pascal Candle ~ Deceased Members of the Calamita, Hart, Surprenant & Zito Families

St. Vincent de Paul Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ In Memory of the Balzano & Avitable Families

Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) - In Memory of Ronald Paolillo

Our Lady's Altar ~

St. Joseph's Altar ~

Pascal Candle ~ Barbara & Maurice Connolly

St. Bernadette Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ Vincent Savo by *Mom & Dad*

Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) ~

Pascal Candle ~ Harold Donegan

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Nick Vessicchio, Sally Ann Fallon, Lynette Ely, David T. Boyle, Richard Lucibello, Carmel Ferretti, Bryan Surprenant, Sharon Spadacenta, Marie Zambrano, Helen Langelo, Brian Savo, Gerry Andrea, Alan Poirier, Connie Rasimas, Jane Pyka, Harry Clark, Lou DiNola, Geraldine Licciardi, Joseph Anyzeski, Fran Sofo, Elizabeth Kuen, Deborah Sanning, Paula Ferrara, Tina Marie Fionia, Joseph Parise, Frank DelGrego, Moira Ferguson, Danielle Joubert, Frances Polaski, Pauline Condon, Rose Anna Izzo, Angelo DeMatteo, Patricia Aulenti, Michael Pascale, Alyce Richmond, Mark Schettino, Patty DiMilo, Rose Rogalski, Elaine Smith, Karen Rescigno, Virginia Pisano, DJ DiVincenzo, Sgt. Anthony Rybaruk, Philip & Sally DeMilo, Anna Concelmo, Anna Marie Nappi, Brian Higney, Rich Tortora, Denise Bailey, Joseph Peterson, Marion Mahl, Paula Ruddock, Pamela Willis, Laura Luzzi, Brian Wilson, Maureen Redmond, Kristianne Argentino, Shirley Perrelli, Bill Izzo, Andrew & Catherine Criscuolo, Patricia Miles, Joe Coscia, Deborah Verab, Dona Marie, Christina Meoli, Michelle Smith, Ron Mattei, Angela Riccio, Charlene Tantalò, Al Forgione, Gabriella Garrity, Beverly Fucci, W.D. Merkle, Phyllis Anastasio, Cheryl Barbara, Laura-Phyllis Esposito, Diana Vitelli O'Brien, Meghan Keeney, Gennaro Milone, Jo Vuolo, Felicia DeRoche, Mike Barnett, Richard Costanzo, Carole & Frank Casapulla, Michael Bowen, Linda Montone, Mary Diamante, Carol Esposito, Fred & Barbara Brow, Christopher Farrell, Roberta Sanders-Gray, Jeannette Winston, Marilyn Sisson, Ryder Feeley, Theodore Siwinski, Michael Enders, Nicholas Cerillo, Edwina Cinque, Rudolph Pohlman, Linda Esposito, Renee Flynn, The Cooper Family, Lynn Ely, Ethan Roche, Frances Graney, Barbara Kapusta, Megan Maturo, Rose Paula Dziedulonis, Taras Mychajlowskyj, Denise Steiner, Mary Ann Anastasio, Gloribeth R., Stacie Bouchard, Al Sappinetti, Guy Racino, Michael Polaski, Martha Catel, Eddie Villecco, Isaiah Colville, Jennie Nazario, Joan Proto, Caitlin Rustic, Michael Filion, John Torello, Mauro Antonio Bezanilla, Matteo Criscuolo, Robert Filion, Lucy Carbone, Dorene Izzo, Lucille Palange, Carmine Riccicelli, Sr., Louise Amato, Mark Houston, Avery Bye, Alex Bernaitis, Vincent Pisano, Barbara Bellucci, Michael Bulger, Joseph Bonie, Mary Katherine Hart, Billy Carr, Andrea Pepe, Anna Sabatino, Audrey Elder, Theresa Polio, Mike Liso, John Mongillo, Sr., Bill Morrison, Juan & Family, Vern Kelly, Terrence King, Monica Cantore, Fr. Lawrence Boch, Antoinette Comiskey, Diane DiLungo, Frances 'Jean' Massimino, Luca Small, Vincent Savo, Louis Cinque, Alex Dugatto, Kim Vincent-Foschini, Dawn Quar-tiano Ferraro, Sal DeCola, Pasquale Marino

Please send prayer requests to stpioofpietrelcina@gmail.com so that our parishioners and friends can be remembered in our prayers.

**Midnight Run
Taylor Avenue Campus**

The Midnight Run for May is the **2nd Monday**, which is **May 13th**. Donations of brown bag lunches, water, juice boxes and toiletries are appreciated. These donations can be dropped off to Sue Stacey's home, 82 Forbes Place, up until 7pm on **Monday, May 13th**. Any questions, please contact Sue at 203-214-1762. Thank you and God bless you for all donations. Stay safe & well.

**Midnight Run
Foxon Road Campus**

On the last Monday of each month, we bring 75 bagged lunches to the Columbus House Overflow Shelter.

Donations Needed:

ShopRite Gift Cards or

Gallon Size Ziploc Bags

Quart Size Ziploc Bags

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Juice Pouches

Raisin Boxes

Fruit Cups & Pudding Cups

Granola Bars

Individual Packaged Cookies, Crackers or Chips

We are also looking for small amounts or full skeins of yarn, it will be used to make hats and scarves for the midnight run. Please leave your donations at any entrance of Our Lady of Pompeii church **ONLY**. Thank you.

Midnight Run is the **LAST** Monday of **EVERY** month from Our Lady of Pompeii Church from 6-7 pm. Thank-you for being so generous!



St. Bernadette Food Pantry located at the East Shore Senior Center is open every Saturday from 10:00am-11:00am. We are always in need of non-perishable foods. Top choices are, canned: tomatoes, tomato sauce, vegetables, tuna fish, soups and fruits. Pasta, mac & cheese and peanut butter. Consumption guidelines provided to us from the CT Food Bank: Expiration/Code Date Extensions past expiration: high acid foods (i.e. tomatoes) 12-18 months. Low acid foods (canned meat, most vegetables) 2-5 years. Food in jars, 12 months past expiration, dry cereal 6-12 months, rice/pasta (dry) 1 year. Questions, please contact Deb or Rico at 203-468-7489



THE EAST HAVEN FOOD PANTRY is asking for cereal, canned vegetables and pasta for the month of May. Please leave your donations of food at the church entrances.

The Food Pantry will be open from 9:00am-11:00am on Saturdays & Tuesdays for East Haven residents.

For more info call Christine Sandford 203-469-7823

From the Pastor's Pen

Reverend Jeremiah N. Murasso, PhD, EdD, PsyD

"I am the true vine; you are the branches" (John 15:1-8)

&

A New Commandment:

"Love One Another"

John 13:31-35

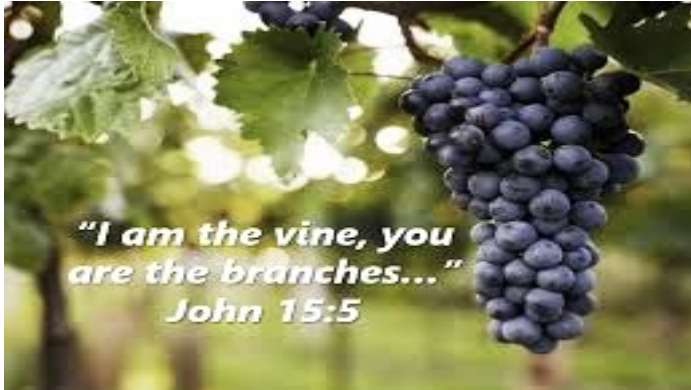
&

The Greatest Commandment:

"Love Never Fails"

Matthew 22:34-40

The scriptures throughout the *Easter Season* provide us with a portrait of the early Church and its relationship between Jesus and his disciples as well as Jesus and the Father. We continue to reflect on the *Gospel according to Saint John*.

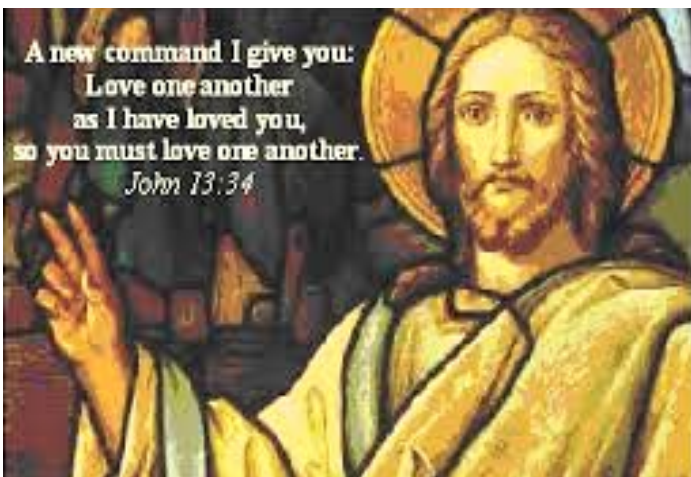


Vine & Branches

This weekend, we listened to Jesus speaking of his relationship to his disciples using a beautiful metaphor of *vine and branches*. Jesus says that he is the true vine and we, his disciples are the branches (John 15:1-8). Just as the vine can neither produce fruit nor exist when disconnected from the vine, neither can the disciple exist apart from Jesus.

Love and Respect

Just as love and respect must be the *Hallmark* of any human relationship, so it is with the disciple's relationship with Jesus. Jesus raises the bar by saying to his disciples then and now: *"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another"* (John 13:34).

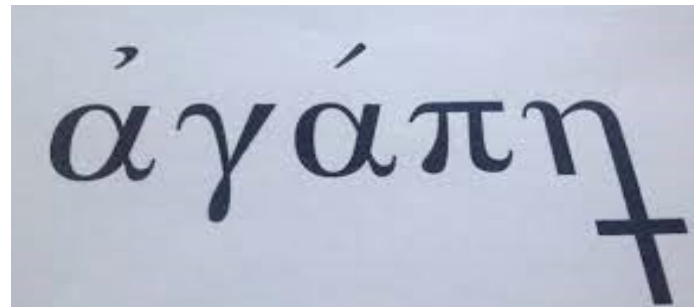


What is *"new"* about the directive from Jesus to love? Its newness lies in its definition. To understand what Jesus truly meant by this instruction, we must revisit the word *love*.



We have spent significant time reflecting on the Greek use of the word love. St. John was influenced by Greek philosophy. This influence can be seen in John's use of love (*agape*) in his reference to the *"new commandment."*

Another Look at Agape

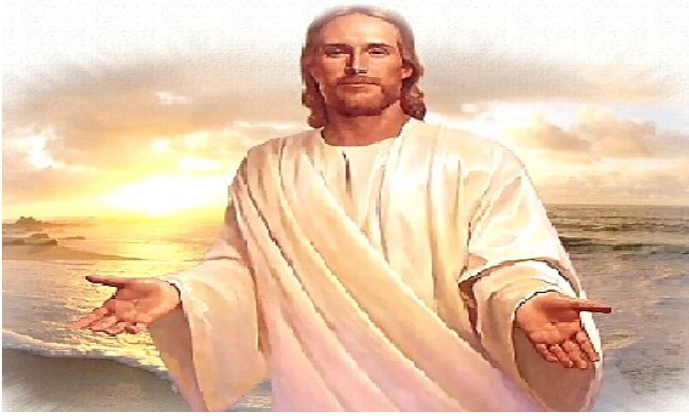


Agape for the Greeks represented the highest and the most admirable form of love. *Agape* includes in its definition, unconditional acceptance and reverence for another. It is everything that *philia* is and more. *Agape* is the perfect kind of *Love* because it is this kind of *Love* that is associated with selflessness and self-sacrificing deeds with absolutely no need for reciprocity. In other words, *agape* drives one to attend to the needs of the other without self-serving motives. *Agape* never expects to be rewarded in its execution. It is the kind of love that is received without merit and is unearned. This is the kind of *Love* that God imparted to His creation.

- This is the kind of *Love* that Jesus demonstrated in his relationship to his disciples.
- This is the kind of *Love* with which Jesus embraced the sick, possessed, and broken individuals who sought him out for healing and wholeness.
- This is the kind of *Love* that Jesus invites his 21st-century disciples to demonstrate in their relationships with both friend and foe.
- This is the kind of *Love* that enabled Jesus to endure his bloody passion and eventual crucifixion.
- This is the kind of *Love* that sets followers of Jesus apart from the rest of the world.

In John's Gospel, Jesus says, *"This is how the world will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another"* (13:35).

Such a powerful statement and with its power comes the *responsibility* to live *up to* and *live out* the reality of Discipleship. Each Christian is called by the nature of his/her baptism to *"keep the flame of faith alive in his/her heart."* This flame of faith is none other than the *Love* of God given freely and without personal merit through Jesus Christ. It is this love that must be demonstrated and kept alive in relationships with all others.



Quoting from Deuteronomy 6:5, Jesus says:

“You must love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-40).

Jesus places the love of God side-by-side with the love of neighbor; thus, demonstrating that one is not possible without the other. In addition, Jesus goes on to tell the young scribe that these two commandments are not only of great importance, they encompass the entire Torah.

As was true in John’s account, Matthew uses the Greek word *agape* in Jesus’ response to the young scribe. The type of love that Jesus expects from his disciples is also described by Paul in his *Letter to the Corinthians* in which Paul says: *“Brothers and sisters, strive [as you will] eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I will show you still, a more excellent way”* (I Corinthians 12:31).

The *“more excellent way”* about which Paul speaks is the way of *Love*. The true mark of the follower of Jesus is seen in his/her ability to *Love*. In the absence of *Love (agape)*, man accomplishes nothing that counts in life. Paul lists the characteristics of *Love*:

- ◆ *“Love is patient,*
- ◆ *love is kind,*
- ◆ *it’s not jealous,*
- ◆ *it’s not pompous,*
- ◆ *it is not inflated,*
- ◆ *it is never rude,*
- ◆ *it does not seek its interests,*
- ◆ *it’s not quick-tempered,*
- ◆ *it does not brood over injury,*
- ◆ *nor does it rejoice over wrongdoings.*
- ◆ *Rather, love rejoices with the truth.*
- ◆ *Love bears all things,*
- ◆ *it hopes all things,*
- ◆ *it endures all things;*
- ◆ *Love (agape) never fails”* (I Corinthians 13:1-7).

Call to Discipleship

It becomes a daily challenge to embrace the call to Discipleship and to demonstrate the compassionate mercy of Jesus even during the unexpected trials and tribulations of daily living. Followers of Jesus are called to transcend the obstacles of human nature by drawing upon God’s grace and the assurance that with His love everything is possible.

Amid a world that has become indifferent and perhaps, even anesthetized in its recognition of the dignity of human life and the reverence deserving of every human being, it is far too easy to become self-absorbed with emotional hurts that result from either perceived injustices or actual losses.

Self-absorbed thoughts, too often perpetuate self-destructive behaviors that insulate the soul from receiving and accepting God’s healing grace. Jesus’ disciples in the 21st century are given a higher calling: *“Love one another, as I have loved you.”*

Call to Unconditional Love

Post-modern disciples are called to live the *Good News* and to become an extension of the *Risen Lord*. This includes the treatment of others with unconditional love and reverence. Man is called to pursue and demonstrate that type of *Love (agape)* that is creative, healing and constructive.

Unlike the highest form of human love whereby man seeks self-perfection in what is noble and physical, *agape* comes from God to each of us through Jesus Christ. It is a *Love* that is unmerited, unconditional and unrestrictive. *Agape* knows neither limitations nor boundaries and can only be thwarted by a hardened heart or an unreceptive soul.

Agape seeks nothing in return; it is neither merited nor deserved. The only prerequisite for its reception is an accessible *human spirit* that yearns for wholeness and completeness; healing that can never be found in the world.

St. Matthew and Love

John’s account of the *“new commandment”* goes hand and hand with Matthew’s gospel account of Jesus’ response to the inquiring scribe who questions Jesus concerning the *“greatest commandment”* (22:36-39).

Once again, Jesus is presumably set up by the Pharisees who send a scribal lawyer to trick Jesus. The young man wants Jesus to tell him which teaching in the entire Torah is of the greatest importance. Jesus does something, which is truly incredible. He takes two parts of the Torah and combines them into a single statement:

- Love of God (Deuteronomy 6:5)
- Love of neighbor (Leviticus 19:18).



Is Love Simple?

Paul makes the practice of *Love* and loving appear so simple and matter-of-fact. As we look at post-modern society, we often do not see people who either convey or demonstrate the kind of *Love* about which Paul speaks. When we happen to catch a glimpse of *Love* in action, from time-to-time, or hear about *Love*, all too often, it is associated with the *soap opera image* of desire and lust that seeks only pleasure and is short-lived.

Love

“*Love never fails,*” says Paul. Such a strong statement coming from Paul who sounds so certain. And yet, are we *not* as certain that *Love does* appear to fail each time we witness man’s inhumanity toward man; each time a marriage fails; each time a child is abused or neglected; each time a hate crime is committed; each time God is left out of His creation?

Could it be that Paul was naive about love gone bad, or could it be that Paul lived in a perfect society? Or rather, could it be that failed love and lovelessness result from a situation or an experience in which authentic *Love (agape)* never really existed? The last statement is of course what Paul is telling his listeners.

The type of *Love* that lasts is that type of *Love* that is unconditional, selfless and never expects repayment. It is the kind of *Love* that keeps giving even when it hurts to give. It’s the kind of *Love* that is never misunderstood for passionate or erotic love. It is the type of *Love* that seeks only to build up, create, heal and make whole. It is *agape*.

An Invitation From Jesus

Both the gospel account of John for this fifth Sunday in Easter and Jesus’ message to the young scribe in Matthew’s account are presented as an invitation to 21st-century disciples. Jesus extends this invitation to each of us, which, if not heeded will become an indictment:



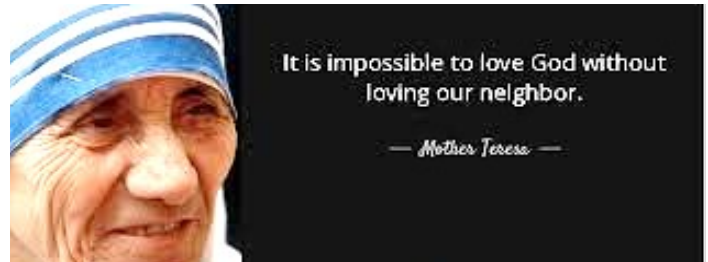
“*I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples if you have a love for one another*” (John 13:34-35).

“*You shall love the Lord, your God, with your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself*” (Matthew 22:37-39).

Embracing real *Love (agape)* is the challenge for 21st century Christians. It means that each is called to strive for truth and to refuse to settle for those aspects of life that lead to compromise and complacency. Disciples in the 21st century, you and I, must *diligently* strive to live the *Good News* and in doing so, to make the *Word* of God a testimony to how we live our lives.

Loving Neighbor

To *Love* one’s neighbor as one loves God and self means that men and women of faith approach others with the conscious recognition that all people are created in the *image and likeness* of God and as such are deserving of unconditional respect and reverence. The individual who truly *loves* Jesus will *instinctively* strive to create an environment in his/her life where values based on truth, charity, honesty, and justice take root and become the *hallmark* of one’s behavior.



It is impossible to love God without loving our neighbor.

— Mother Teresa —

The Great Commandments about which Jesus speaks consist of the whole and entire gospel message. To keep Jesus’ commandments means that the true disciple loves Jesus and demonstrates this love by *fulfilling* the message of the Gospel. Such a person walks in the *Light of Truth* and consequently, radiates *Life*; a life that reflects the presence of Jesus; he who abides within man’s soul. God through Jesus *dwells* in the midst of goodness. Therefore, where goodness lives and is perpetuated, there one will find the presence of Jesus.

For those who refuse to listen to God’s *Word*, or to observe the commandments of Jesus, there is no *Light*. Such individuals shun the *Light* and embrace darkness. Where there is darkness, there is death and where there is death, man experiences emptiness; the *absence* of the divine presence.

Gospel of Death

When St. John Paul II visited the United States in 1979, he warned Americans about embracing what he referred to as the “*gospel of death.*” The presence of greed and dishonesty and immorality lead the follower of Jesus away from the *Gospel of Life*. Darkness gives rise to and perpetuates self-seeking and consequently, short-lived egocentric types of reinforcements, all of which give birth to a gospel of materialism, secularism and nihilism.

Too much time spent in the darkness leads to what Benedict XVI coined as “*an American Secularism.*” Darkness tends to diminish truth, *Gospel Truth* because it cannot be distinguished nor separated from other *perceived* human values. In man’s desire to *have it all*, and in his belief that he can attain it all, he has reduced religion and *Gospel Truth* to one value among others; thus, in doing so, man has reduced his need for God to the lowest common denominator.

All, however, is not gloom and doom because we are *Easter people*. Jesus has made all things new by dying and rising from the dead. Easter is Jesus’ victory over sin and death. To the degree that we *embrace* the Easter reality, to that degree, we participate in an enduring and ever-present experience of Jesus as he lives in the here and now. **JNM**



From the Pen of the Parish Nurse
Kimberly Petrillo, R.N.

Seasonal allergies



What is an allergy?

If, for the past couple of weeks you have been sneezing, wheezing, and blowing your nose, you are not alone. *Tis the season!* Over 50 million Americans suffer from allergies as the seasons change.

Spring Allergies

Spring has arrived and at this time of the year, many people will be bothered by seasonal allergies referred to as **hay fever**. Allergies are the body's reaction to a substance that it views as a harmful invader. Coming in contact with harmless substances like pollen may cause the body's immune system to react. Substances that cause these reactions are called *antigens*.

When pollen enters the nasal passages of one who is allergic to pollen, for example, the body's immune system responds immediately. The immune system mistakenly sees pollen as foreign bodies (invaders); thus, it releases substances that normally identify and attack bacteria, viruses, and other illness-causing organisms. These antibodies attack the allergens, which leads to the release of histamines into the bloodstream. Histamines trigger the runny nose, itchy red eyes, sneezing and other symptoms of allergies. Coughing, watery eyes, and dark circles under the eyes are all part of the body's natural reaction to the pollen allergen. In some people, allergic asthma symptoms of wheezing, shortness of breath, coughing, and/or chest tightness can be caused by exposure to the pollen.

The following trees are just a few of the culprits that can cause hay fever during the spring months: Alder, Aspen, Beech, Box Elder, Maple, Mulberry, Oak, Palm, Poplar, Willow, Sycamore, Bermuda, June Orchard and Red Top.

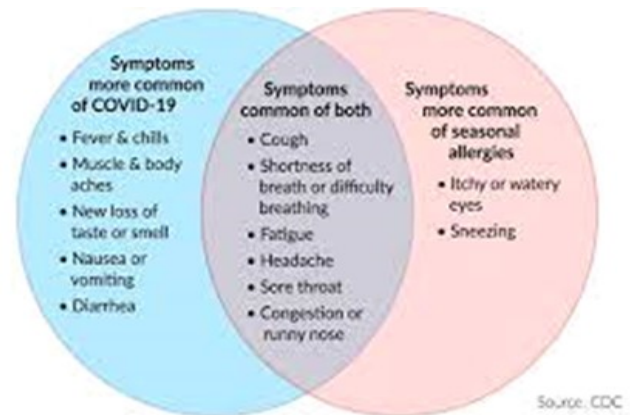
Summer Allergies

The summer months give rise to **hay fever**, which gets its name from the hay-cutting season. The real troublesome offenders are grasses, such as ryegrass and timothy grass and certain weeds. According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, grasses are the most common trigger for people with hay fever.

COVID vs. Seasonal Allergies

Perhaps, one of the primary concerns in this post-COVID climate is the ability to distinguish between COVID symptoms and allergy symptoms. The pandemic has caused many people to associate common symptoms of seasonal allergies with COVID-19 symptoms. Below is information retrieved from a Venn diagram (Centers for Disease Control CDC):

- The most common symptoms of seasonal allergies are itchy or watery eyes and sneezing.
- Symptoms most common of COVID-19, include fever and chills, muscle and body aches, a new loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.
- Symptoms common of both include: coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, headache, sore throat, congestion and/or a runny nose.
- Seasonal allergies are *not* life-threatening whereas the COVID-19 virus can be.



Source: CDC

Allergy Tests

There are two tests that an allergist performs to pinpoint the cause of allergic reactions. These include skin tests and blood tests (RAST).

Skin Test

For skin tests, a doctor will prick the surface of the skin, usually on the upper arm, and inject a tiny number of suspected allergens. If any allergy exists, the skin will become red, swollen, and inflamed causing a small amount of discomfort to the skin. Skin tests give fast results usually within 30 minutes, while for others, the patient needs to wait 24 to 48 hours.

Blood Tests

Blood is drawn and sent to a lab. More allergens can be tested with blood tests than with skin tests. Blood tests are used to identify seasonal allergies as well as perennial allergies, food, medications, insect bites, or bee stings. For chronic conditions such as psoriasis or eczema, blood tests are recommended instead of skin tests to prevent further skin irritation. Blood tests take several days for the lab to process, which delays the results.

Treating Seasonal Allergies

Seasonal allergies are treated in many ways. Most commonly, over-the-counter or prescriptions help suppress the body's immune system providing relief of symptoms. **Antihistamines** can help relieve sneezing, itching, a runny nose, and watery eyes. Examples of oral antihistamines are Claritin, Zyrtec, and Allegra.

Oral decongestants include Sudafed and Afrinol, which provide temporary relief from nasal congestion. Decongestants also come in nasal sprays such as Afrin and Neosynephrine. Nasal sprays should only be used for a few days in a row. Longer-term use of decongestant nasal sprays can worsen symptoms (rebound congestion).

A **nasal spray** such as cromolyn sodium nasal spray can ease allergy symptoms and does not have serious side effects. It is most effective when used before symptoms begin. Topical nasal sprays, available by prescription reduce the inflammation in the lining of the nose. These include Flonase and Nasonex, which are corticosteroids that reduce inflammation and are absorbed in small amounts.

Some allergy medications combine such as an antihistamine with a decongestant. Examples include Claritin D and Allegra D.



Rinsing the nasal passages with a saline solution is a quick, inexpensive and good way to relieve nasal congestion. Rinsing directly flushes out the mucus and allergens from the nose. A **Neti Pot** is a small container with a spout designed for nasal rinsing. The Neti Pot can be purchased at a health food store or a pharmacy.

Medical Advice

As always, it is important to talk to your healthcare provider before taking any medications or trying any alternative treatments to relieve allergy symptoms. The healthcare provider should be aware of medical history and health conditions and then decide which treatment modality is best to treat seasonal allergies. Certain antihistamines can interfere with anti-hypertensive medications so always confer with your doctor or pharmacist before taking any over-the-counter medication.

For some people, allergy shots (allergen immunotherapy) can be another treatment option. This treatment involves regular injections containing small amounts of the substances that cause the allergy. Through the process of desensitization, the injections reduce the immune reaction that causes the symptoms. Sublingual tablets can also be used to treat some allergies.

Reduce Exposure to Allergy Triggers

Stay indoors on dry, windy days. The best time to go outdoors is after a good rain, which helps clear pollen from the air. Wear a pollen mask when doing outdoor chores like gardening or mowing the lawn. Avoid hanging laundry outside because pollen can stick to sheets and towels. Remove clothing that is worn outside and always shower to remove pollen from your skin and nose.

Watch the local TV or refer to the internet or newspaper for pollen forecasts and pollen count levels. If the pollen count is high, begin taking allergy medication *before* symptoms begin.

Avoid outdoor activity in the early morning when the pollen count is the highest. Allergies cannot be cured; however, the symptoms can be controlled by using avoidance measures and medications. In severe cases, allergen immunotherapy is an option to control the uncomfortable symptoms associated with seasonal allergies.

Enjoy the Spring and Summer months! They pass quickly. Consequently, do not miss the short season. It should be a time to *re-energize* the body and soul. Make the time to take a walk by the beach. Listen to the sound of the ocean and find inner peace. Be happy and grateful, no matter how difficult life can get. Recognize and find meaning in each day. Never take one day for granted.

The pandemic should have taught each one of us how precious life is and how quickly life can change. The pandemic has taught me that real happiness and purpose in life is different for each person. No matter what meaning is found in life, be sure to cultivate it, and never lose sight of it! **KP**

Parish nurse can be reached via email at kimp51@comcast.net or mobile at 203-980-0931.



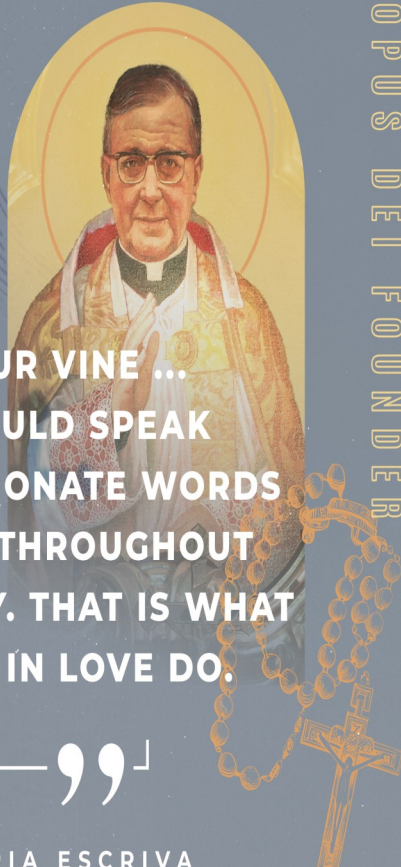
July 23-July 27

Our Lady of Pompeii Church Grounds



To speak of the Blessed
Sacrament is to speak of
what is most sacred.

- ST. EUPHRASIA



OPUS DEI FOUNDER

“ HE IS OUR VINE ... WE SHOULD SPEAK AFFECTIONATE WORDS TO HIM THROUGHOUT THE DAY. THAT IS WHAT PEOPLE IN LOVE DO. ”

- ST. JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA

**Celebration of St. Clare
August 8-9
St. Bernadette Church Grounds**



**SERVING AUTHENTIC
ITALIAN CUISINE
& RAFFLE DRAWING**

**BEST OF ITALY & SICILY
PILGRIMAGE**

- CEALÙ
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- MT. ETNA
- TAORMINA
- PAESTUM
- AMALFI COASTLINE
- SORRENTO
- POMPEII
- SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO
- ROME

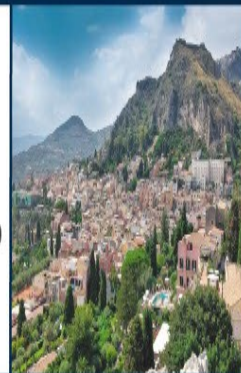


HOSTED BY
FR. JEREMIAH N. MURASSO, PH.D.



**\$4359 FROM
NEW YORK**

(Air/land tour price is \$3779
plus \$580 gov't taxes/
airline surcharges)



13 DAYS: NOVEMBER 3 - 15, 2024

FOR A DETAILED COLOR BROCHURE, PLEASE CONTACT OR DETACH & MAIL TO:

NAME: _____

Reverend Jeremiah N. Murasso, Ph.D.
St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish
355 Foxon Road
East Haven, CT 06513
Tel: (860) 977-7675
Email: jeremiah.murasso@aol.com

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____

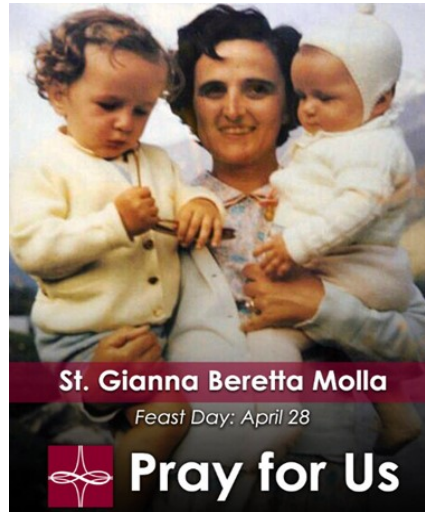
EMAIL: _____

NAWAS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC.



Fundraiser for Veterans

The Knights of Columbus, Hon. W. Patrick Donlin Assembly #2459 is sponsoring a golf fundraiser to benefit "Veteran and Military Programs and other charitable causes" on Monday, August 26, 2024 at Race Brook Country Club in Orange. We're looking for golfers, sponsors and contributors. Please contact Chris Neumann at Hello.Neumann@KOLonline.com or (203) 393-2924 or Ric Raffone at (203) 640-6482 to participate or donate to this worthy cause. Or log on to: www.assembly2459.org to download the brochure.



St. Gianna Beretta Molla

Feast Day: April 28

Pray for Us

Thank you St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish, Father Murasso, and The Knights of Columbus Groups for holding the Baby Bottle Boomerang Fundraiser. It was a booming success! Through the generosity of your parish community, \$4,415.00 was raised, enabling Saint Gianna PRC to continue its mission to provide a place where women

in crisis situations can find aid for themselves and their unborn children. We are also most grateful for the diapers and baby clothes that were donated. If you know of a woman in need please contact us directly at: <https://giannacenter.org> or Call: 203-624-BABY

May God Bless you all and Peace be with you,
The Board of Saint Gianna Pregnancy Resource Center

AVAILABLE NOW!

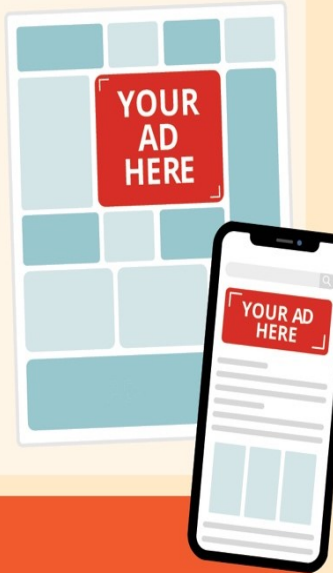
PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

The Support of Your Business is Greatly Appreciated

Robin Ungaro from LPI, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. It is the support of the business community that helps to make our church thrive. Please consider purchasing a print and/or digital ad as your participation makes our bulletin successful, and you attract customers!

Church bulletin advertising is a cost-effective way to advertise 52 times per year and show support for your local community; in turn, parishioners will support you!

Digital advertising allows your business to be front and center to anyone who visits a church profile page on ParishesOnline.com — that's approximately 500,000 page views per month!



Robin Ungaro
(203) 747-5671
RUngaro@4lpi.com

Housekeeper wanted

Housekeeper for light house cleaning and laundry for the Saint Vincent de Paul Rectory. Two days per week, 8 hours total. Interested applicants, please call the parish office or email Fr. Murasso at jeremiah.murasso@aol.com.

Ladies Guild

St. Pio of Pietrelcina Ladies' Guild
Military Whist

Friday, May 3, 2024

Doors open at 5:30pm
Games begin at 6:30pm

Our Lady of Pompeii Hall

Tickets: \$12.00

For tickets, call Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823



Knights of Columbus Rodrigo Council #44 April 2024 300 Club Winners

- 1st - Cathy Laydon (#129)- \$150.00
- 2nd - Troy Bott (#219) - \$100.00
- 3rd - Theresa Ostrander (#290) - \$75.00
- 4th - Max Dymtruk (#23) - \$50.00



*Knights of Columbus Rodrigo Council 44
St. Bernadette's Church New Haven, CT
"Getting More With 44"*



Join Our Council Knights of Columbus Rodrigo Council 44 of St Bernadette Church Of St. Pio Parish For Our 136th Anniversary And Father's Day Celebration

WHEN: Thursday June 6th 6:00 pm

WHERE: The Estate
(Formerly The Townsend Estate)
709 Townsend Ave. New Haven, CT



THE ESTATE

Donation: \$36.00 pp ~ \$44.00 Family
Children Under 12 Free

We Welcome All Council Members, Parishioners And Friends.

**FEATURING THE PIZZA TRUCK
OF MARCO PIZZERIA OF BRANFORD:**

Serving A Delicious Variety Of Pizza: Fig Pizza, Bacon & Hot Honey,
And All The Traditional Pizza, Salad, And Marco Pizza's Smores.

For Reservations Please Contact:

Sal DeCola 203.641.1857 or Mike Fimiani 203.627.9216

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Single/Double: \$36.00pp _____ Family: \$44.00 _____

Children Under 12 Free _____ Total Guests: _____

Total: \$ _____

ALL RESERVATIONS DUE BY WEEKEND OF May 27th, 28th



**St. Pio of Pietrelcina Ladies Guild
Communion Breakfast**

Come Join Us!

Pentecost Sunday, May 19th after the 10:00 Mass
At Our Lady of Pompeii Church Hall



Bring your family! \$10.00 per person,
\$5.00 for Ages 5-10, Under 5 free



We will be selling tickets after all Masses

April 27 & 28, May 4&5, 11&12 & 18th.

No ticket sales at the door.

Guest Speaker Fr. Matthew Cherian, PH.D.

Serving scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage,
hash browns, bagels and pastry.

Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, orange and apple juice.



Barbara Piscitelli: 203-430-0195
Babs2151@yahoo.com
Patti Scussel: 203-710-7886,
PARScussel@aol.com



**11 DAYS:
AUGUST 12-22, 2024**

VISTING

**WATERFORD, KILLARNEY,
CLIFFS OF MOHER
GALWAY, CONNEMARA,
MARIAN SHRINE AT KNOCK,
SLIGO, DUBLIN**



**6 SEATS LEFT
CONTACT FR. MURASSO
at
jeremiah.murasso@aol.com**





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Ten years represent a good part of anyone's life. That's pretty much how long I've been your Archbishop. In some ways it seems like just yesterday that I arrived in Hartford in December of 2013. In other ways, it seems like long ago and a lot of water, as they say, has passed under the bridge.

Life today presents many daunting challenges, especially for the Church. I am grateful for the understanding and support of you, our Catholic people, and the collaboration of so many talented, dedicated and competent individuals—clergy, religious and laity—all of whom have made these ten years possible and dare I say, fruitful, in the sense of bringing forth good for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. All of our priests in

particular are owed a debt of gratitude as my closest and indispensable co-workers in shepherding, sanctifying and teaching the flock entrusted to us.

There are many things that I could say about all that has happened over the past decade. Let me just highlight a few significant things.

As for so many dioceses in our country and throughout the world, "pastoral planning" looms large over these last ten years in an effort that is still "a work in progress" to revitalize parish life by bringing parishioners together as they are today, not as they once were in the past and are no more. The same can be said of our schools, which are now enjoying new growth and vitality in keeping with their Catholic identity.

The Scriptures, and Jesus Himself, praise good stewardship. On behalf of all those who have benefited, I want to thank everyone for your generosity over the past decade to your parish, to special collections, the Archbishop's Annual Appeal and the "Forward with Faith" capital campaign, as well as Catholic Charities and many other "good works" that are an essential part of a life of faith.

More than one saint has spoken of the fact that in a mystical sense Christ continues to be crucified until the end of time. Remember how even after His Resurrection, Jesus mysteriously still bears on His body the marks of His wounds. His mystical body, the Church, suffers from betrayal and sin. In our own time nothing shows this more than the sin and crime of sexual abuse of the vulnerable. I can only say that leaving no stone unturned we now have the benefit of knowing that all clergy with some connection to the Archdiocese who have either had a credible claim of sexual abuse of a minor asserted against them, or who have been the subject of a claim of a sexual abuse of a minor that was settled by the Archdiocese, have been identified and their names published. Learning from the past, we remain ever vigilant and proactive in preventing this evil, and we pray for the healing of victims.

My brothers and sisters, the times in which we live are a test of hope. Many people are discouraged by the direction in which our country and the world appear to be headed. In the Church too we witness a diminishment of faith and practice, and are stunned at the reality of sin even among those of us who are clergy. And if we are true to what the Church teaches from Christ and the Gospel about faith and morals, we will quickly bring upon ourselves the world's criticism.

Yet in all this, as Pope St. John Paul often reminded us, we have no reason to lose hope, or to falter in our steps, or to put on a glum face. Hope is possible to the extent that we place our trust in Christ's promises rather than anything this world has to offer. If our hope was set on a perfect world, or even a perfect Church, created by human beings, then we would have cause for despair. But God is the Lord of the world and of the Church. Mysteriously He makes all things—good and bad—serve His plan and purpose, which is the triumph of His kingdom, and our triumph to the extent that we are "in Christ."

God does not disappoint. Like a distant horizon, our future and the purpose of our life may elude us, but only because the goal transcends what we now can see. The danger is not that life is hopeless. The danger, as St. Augustine says, is that on our journey toward hope's goal we may become so distracted by our surroundings that we forget where we are headed. In this fallen world sometimes the distractions of life consist of things that are very good, sometimes very evil. Only a healthy sense of hope in the midst of good and evil keeps us moving forward on our journey to God.

The wisdom of these words does not come from me, but from the heart of the Church—from the Catholic Faith handed down faithfully and lived heroically by all the saints, whether they are saints on the Church calendar, or God's little ones hidden and known only by their relatives, neighbors and friends.

It is this hope-filled message that I wish to leave with you as I complete my ministry as your Archbishop. To all those who offered me their help, support and encouragement; to those who gave me that precious gift we call "the benefit of the doubt" amid all the voices raised in troubled times; to those who have prayed with me and for me; to those who had a heart for the whole Archdiocese as one family of faith; and above all to those who strive every day to live and bear witness to their Catholic faith in Christ to the best of their ability, I say: Thank you and God bless you.

As we welcome Archbishop Christopher Coyne as the next Archbishop of Hartford, may Mary our Mother, St. Joseph, and Blessed Michael McGivney, intercede for him, so that, in the words of the liturgy, "what he has received by divine commission he may fulfill by divine assistance" for the glory of God and the good of souls.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leonard P. Blair".

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford



Have you recently lost a friend or family member?
Are you having difficulty concentrating and enjoying everyday activities?

For information, please contact Barbara Natarajan at

Rajnet352@comcast.net or
Phone: 713-898-2563



SHOPPING CARDS *STILL* NEEDED

With the food prices continue to rise, several of our parishioners are having trouble buying food as they *struggle* to purchase other household necessities and pay for rent and utilities.

Grocery Shopping cards in any denomination to any of the local supermarkets would help me help members of our parish family, who are need of assistance for the purchase of food. These gift/shopping cards can be dropped into the collection basket or brought to the parish office. Whatever you can do, is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance. JNM



Online Giving

A growing number of parishioners are taking advantage of our online giving option, signing up for everything from ongoing weekly offerings to gifts for Christmas flowers. You may make a one-time gift or sign up for recurring donations. Visit <https://stpiaoofpietrelcinaeh.com/> and click on the 'Give' button for online giving and account registration. Contact the Parish Office with any questions.

MASS SCHEDULE



April 27 & 28, 2024

4:00 pm OLOP: Fr. Murasso
4:30 pm SVDP: Fr. Bak
8:00 am OLOP: Fr. Borino
9:00 am SB: Fr. Murasso
10:00 am OLOP: Fr. Borino
11:15 am SVDP: Fr. Murasso
[Deacons Preaching Weekend](#)
4:00 & 11:15: Deacon Larry
8:00 & 10:00: Deacon Wayne
4:30 & 9:00: Deacon George

May 4 & 5, 2024

4:00pm OLOP: Fr. Murasso
4:30pm SVDP: Fr. Landback
8:00am OLOP: Fr. Borino
9:00 am SB: Fr. Murasso
10:00 am OLOP: Fr. Murasso
11:15 am SVDP: Fr. Murasso

May 11 & 12, 2024

4:00 pm OLOP: Fr. Murasso
4:30 pm SVDP: Fr. Matthew
8:00 am OLOP: Fr. Borino
9:00 am SB: Fr. Matthew
10:00 am OLOP: Fr. Murasso
11:15 am SVDP: Fr. Mathew
[MAY CROWING @ 11:15](#)

May 18 & 19, 2024

4:00 pm OLOP: Fr. Matthew
4:30 pm SVDP: Fr. Murasso
8:00 am OLOP: Fr. Matthew
9:00 am SB: Fr. Borino
10:00 am OLOP: Fr. Matthew
11:15 am SVDP: Fr. Murasso