

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF  
**ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA**

REVEREND JEREMIAH N. MURASSO, PH.D., ED.D., PSY.D., PASTOR

REVEREND PATRICK KANE, PAROCHIAL VICAR

REVEREND ZACHARIAS PUSHPANATHAN, PAROCHIAL VICAR

REVEREND MICHAEL S. GALASSO, IN RESIDENCE

MR. WAYNE SANDFORD, PERMANENT DEACON



**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11)*

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER, May 3, 2020**

Welcome... You enter these doors...not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. God is your heavenly Father. Come, then with joy in your heart and thanks on your lips into God's presence, offering God your love and service. Be grateful to the strong and loyal ones who, in the name of Jesus Christ, built these churches of worship and to all who have beautified them and hallowed them with their prayers, praise and financial sacrifices. Ask God's blessing on those who love these places of faith as the inspiration of their labor, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. May that blessing rest on you, both on your going out and coming in.

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**SATURDAY, May 2 - Vigil - Fourth Sunday of Easter**

- 4:00pm OLOP + Angie Brancato  
by Daughter, Linda
- 4:30pm SVDP + Rosemary Grestini  
by Family

**SUNDAY, May 3 - Fourth Sunday of Easter**

- 8:00am OLOP + Robert Polaski  
by Mom & Dad
- 9:00am SVDP + Steve O'Hedy, Sr.  
by Diane
- 10:00am OLOP + Pacelli Family  
by Pacelli Family
- 11:00am SVDP + Paulie Vaccaro, Jr.  
by Dad, Paul, Enza & Vaccaro Family
- 11:45am OLOP + Anthony Richie Sommo  
by Linda Esposito

**MONDAY, May 4 - Weekday**

- 8:00am OLOP +  
by

- 8:00am SVDP +

**TUESDAY, May 5 - Cinco de Mayo**

- 8:00am OLOP +  
by
- 8:00am SVDP + Mark DeNegre & Henry Roy  
by Roy Family

**WEDNESDAY, May 6 - Weekday**

- 8:00am OLOP +  
by
- 8:00am SVDP +  
by

**THURSDAY, May 7 - National Day of Prayer**

- 8:00am OLOP + Bill Cook  
by Lisa Leary
- 8:00am SVDP + Mary Colloso  
by Children & Grandchildren

**SATURDAY, May 9 - Vigil - Fifth Sunday of Easter**

- 4:00pm OLOP + Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Pio
- 4:30pm SVDP + Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Pio

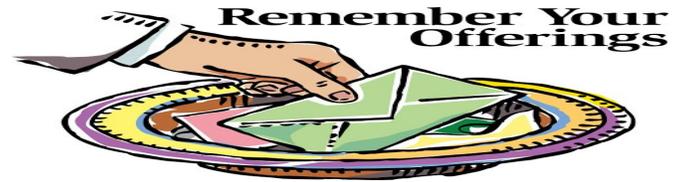
**SUNDAY, May 10 - Fifth Sunday of Easter**

- 8:00am OLOP + Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Pio
- 9:00am SVDP + Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Pio
- 10:00am OLOP + Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Pio
- 11:00am SVDP + Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Pio
- 11:45am OLOP + Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Pio

**STEWARDSHIP**

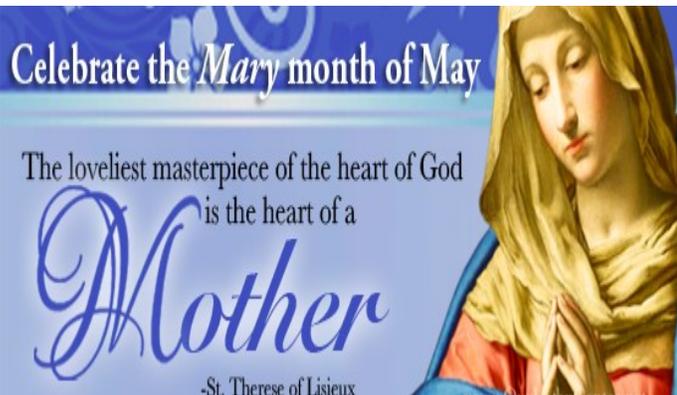
With public Masses cancelled, please continue to support the parish. We need your support as the operations continue on a daily basis. In addition, we want to continue to pay our loyal staff. Please mail-in your contributions. Online giving is also available at, <https://stpioofpietrelcinaeh.com/> and click on the **GIVE** button.

Thank you to the many of you who have been so generous and responsive in these difficult times, so far we have received \$8,437



**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

- Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10
- Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/Jn 10:11-18
- Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [Ps 117:1a]/Jn 10:22-30
- Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 [4]/Jn 12:44-50
- Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/Jn 13:16-20
- Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]/Jn 14:1-6
- Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 14:7-14



**St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish**  
**Address:** 355 Foxon Road, East Haven, CT 06513  
**Phone Number:** (203) 469-0764

**Office Hours:**  
**Foxon Road:** Mon-Fri 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00  
**Taylor Avenue:** Mon. & Fri. 10:00-2:00

**E-Mail:** [stpioofpietrelcina@gmail.com](mailto:stpioofpietrelcina@gmail.com)

**Fr. Murasso's Message Board**

**Important Message**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**9-Day Novena**



The **9-day novena** to **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** will take place for **9 evenings** beginning **Friday, June 19**, and continuing for 9 consecutive evenings through **Saturday, June 27** at Our Lady of Pompeii Church.

Mass will be celebrated at 6:00pm each evening for those who would like to be in attendance. The novena to *Our Lady of Perpetual Help* will start at 7:00pm.

The hour-long novena includes:

- ◇ Novena Prayers
- ◇ Benediction
- ◇ Recitation of the Rosary
- ◇ Enrollment in the Brown Scapular.

The final day, Saturday, June 27, will conclude with Mass at 10:00am followed by a rosary procession (*weather permitting*).

**SOMETHING TO PONDER**  
**On Good Shepherd Sunday**



**Are you a lost sheep?**

*“The complexities of life can never be untangled by man; like a sheep without a shepherd, we have been self-programmed for destruction” (Psalm 23:1).*

A lost sheep needs a shepherd to find the way. The individual who does *not* believe that he/she is a lost sheep is a person who feels the need to control situations and people, thinking that without the exertion of control, someone else will acquire more or arrive at the finish line before him/her.

Such a person never seems to be content with what he/she has and always measures his/her lack of accomplishments by the perceived successes of others. Consequently, he/she looks at life and others through a lens of envy and resentment, even bitterness. Such an individual will never really find his/her way in life unless he/she can discover contentment in his/her own skin. Therein, lies the secret of real inner peace and lasting joy for life and for living. JNM





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 ~*

*Sacred Heart of Jesus ~*

*Our Lady of Perpetual Help Icon ~*

*Our Lady of Pompeii Picture ~*

**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*

*Statue of Our Lady's Altar ~ Nicholas, Raffaele & Peter Bertier by Ann;*

*Phyllis Poole by Florence & Ernie Perno & Family*

*Statue of St. Joseph's Altar ~ Christopher Carmen Crisco by Mom & Dad*

**Midnight Run  
Taylor Avenue Campus**

Midnight Run will continue on the 2nd Monday of the month from St. Vincent de Paul Church. Anyone wishing to make bag lunches (please mark on the bag what type of sandwich it is, ham, bologna, etc.) also, water & juice boxes are needed. Please drop off to Sue Stacey, between 7:30pm & 7:40pm. The location for the drop-off is the church parking lot. Please & *Thank-You* for continuing donations! For the Winter months, we need the following: MEN'S flannels, warm clothing, socks, underwear, blankets as well as travel size toiletries. If you are interested in joining us at the Men's Shelter that would be awesome! Any questions, please call 203-214-1762. Once again thank-you & God bless!

**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 the church. 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!

**PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH**

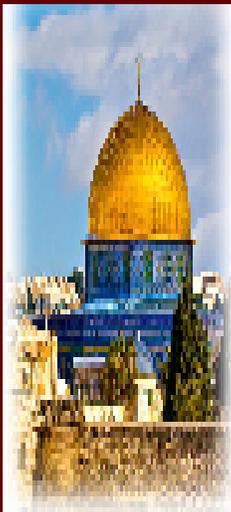
Nick Vessicchio, Sally Ann Fallon, Lynette Ely, David T. Boyle, Richard Lucibello, Denise Ceescence, Carmel Ferretti, Bryan Surprenant, Sharon Spadacenta, Marie & Charles Zambrano, Marie Sunderland, Helen Langelo, Annette Brissette, Brian Savo, Gerry Andrea, John Umlauf, Alan Poirier, Joseph Benson, Connie Rasimas, Jane Pyka, Harry Clark, Lou DiNola, Peter Pepe, Vincent Perricone, Virginia Klump, Robert Savino, Geraldine Licciardi, Joanne Cretella, Joseph Anyzeski, Alice Tietjen-DeSenti, Faith Gibson, Fran Sofo, Elizabeth Kuen, Deborah Sanning, Paula Ferrara, Patricia Brasile, Joann Mazzucco, Tina Marie Fionia, Elizabeth Nucolo, Joseph Parise, Frank DelGrego, Moira Ferguson, Danielle Joubert, Nelson Eddy, Margaret Lendroth, Katherine Hungerford Picciano, Frances Polaski, Sharon Fillion, Pauline Condon, Rose Marie Monaco, Paul Spadacenta, Anna Izzo, Angelo DeMatteo, Carmen & Patricia Riccitelli, Patricia Aulenti, Michael Pascale, Alyce Richmond, Catherine Leach, Mark Schettino, Patty DiMilo, Rose Rogalski, Elaine Smith, Karen Rescigno, Virginia Pisano, Joan Baisley, Deanna Baldassare, Kim Hughes, DJ DiVincenzo, Sgt. Anthony Rybaruk, Philip DeMilo & Sally DeMilo, Anna Concelmo, Sally Ann Corcoran, Paul Castiglione, Anna Marie Nappi, Brian Higney, Rich Tortora, Andrea Palmucci, Fr. Brad Pierce, Frances Randi, Denise Bailey, Peg Dmytruk, Mary Mack, Joseph Peterson, Judith Robbins, Marion Mahl, Gloria Ranfone, Eugene Baron, Jr.

Please send prayer requests to [stpioofpietrelcina@gmail.com](mailto:stpioofpietrelcina@gmail.com) so that our parishioners and friends can be remembered in our prayers.

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND**

**10 DAYS: DECEMBER 2 - 11, 2020**

**VISITING: HAIFA • TIBERIAS • GOLAN HEIGHTS • HAZARETH  
MASADA • BETHLEHEM • JERUSALEM**



Hosted by

**REVEREND JEREMIAH N. MURASSO, PH.D.**

**\$3399 FROM NEW YORK\***

*\*Air/land tour price is \$2699 plus \$700 port taxes/airline merchandise*

For a More Information, Please Contact:

Reverend Jeremiah N. Murasso

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Email: [jeremiah.murasso@aol.com](mailto:jeremiah.murasso@aol.com)



**DON'T MISS THIS TRIP OF A LIFETIME!!**

## From the Pastor's Pen

Reverend Jeremiah N. Murasso, Ph.D., Ed.D., Psy.D.

Good Shepherd Sunday

*St. John 10:1-18*

This fourth Sunday of Easter is known as *Good Shepherd Sunday*. According to St. John, Jesus refers to himself as the *Good Shepherd*. In Greek there are two words to describe “good” or “goodness.” The first word is *agathos* and the second word is *kalos*.



The word, *agathos* describes the moral qualities of an individual, while *kalos* describes not only the moral qualities, but also describes an inherent charisma; an *intrinsic integrity* devoid of guile, pretentiousness or hidden agendas.

The word *kalos* is used to describe an individual who demonstrates and actually exudes integrity, honesty, truthfulness and respect. Such an individual commands reverence and is esteemed. Such an individual engenders admiration, not so much for what he does, but for who he is. Such an individual tends to treat everyone with the same level of respect and unconditional esteem.

We have heard the expressions: “*the good doctor*” or “*the good father*” (referring to a member of the clergy). The above expressions are *not* descriptive of the manner in which each carries out the responsibilities of his profession. Rather, the expressions speak to the individual’s integrity as an empathetic, caring human being. Words like friendliness, approachability, gentleness, wholesomeness as well as overall respectability describe the image that comes to mind and is associated with the Greek word *kalos*.

As you might guess, the word *kalos* is used by St. John in reference to Jesus as the *Good Shepherd*. In other words, Jesus is not only a capable teacher and learned Rabbi, he is one who embodies a deep-rooted compassion for others. He himself is characterized as *Genuine Goodness Personified*.

The word *kalos*, also describes a kind of *child-like innocence*. It evokes the same kind of openness and love that a little child has for others: openness, sincerity and acceptance of others, free of prejudice and hidden agendas.

In his description of the faithful and unfaithful disciple, St. Matthew uses the image of fruit-bearing trees in which he uses the Greek words *kalos*. St. Matthew says the following:

“*Declare a tree good (kalos) and its fruit good (kalos), or declare a tree rotten and its fruit rotten, one or the other, for you can tell a tree by its fruit*” (12:33).

The use of good (*kalos*) does not describe the appearance of the tree, i.e. nice-looking leaves, strong bark, etc. Rather, a good (*kalos*) tree is one that produces good fruit. The example of the tree is an obvious metaphor meant by Jesus to refer to the disciple. A good (*kalos*) disciple is not one who dresses in the latest fashions, uses impressive words or necessarily performs good deeds for the benefit of spectators. Rather, the good (*kalos*) disciple is one whose heart is pure, and who lives his life with integrity.



The goodness of Jesus is contrasted with the dishonest motives of the Pharisees. In speaking of the behaviors of the Pharisees, Matthew quotes Jesus saying: “*You brood of vipers, how can you say good (agathos) things when you are evil*” (12:34)? The use of the word “good” here refers to pleasant sounding or *politically correct* words, which are not spoken necessarily as a result of personal conviction, but merely as a way to *appear* either concerned or convincing to the public.

Jesus is the *Ideal or Model Shepherd*. He is the *Perfect Shepherd*. Jesus is *Life* and he gives *Life*. He is *Light*. He is *Living Water*. Among the many images that have been attributed to Jesus that of the *Good Shepherd* is the best known. The image of the *Good Shepherd* is an image that had been etched into the minds of both Christians and Jews. This image can be seen throughout the Old Testament.

*“The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me besides still waters, he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name sake”* (Psalms 23:1-3).  
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*“See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep”* (Isaiah 40:10-11).

It is no accident that St. John places the account of the *Good Shepherd* immediately after the healing of the blind man, which we hear read during the *Lenten Season* (John 9:1-41). The theme of the *Good Shepherd* actually emerges as a result of the blind man’s expulsion from the synagogue by the Pharisees; thus, the Pharisees are described by John as the antitheses of the *Good Shepherd*. It is immediately after this dialogue with the Scribes and the Pharisees that Jesus begins to speak of himself as the *Good Shepherd*, he who is the true *model* for shepherding and for providing guidance for faithful followers. Those who are counted among the *sheep*, not only know the *Shepherd*, they follow him because they hear his voice.



The Scribes and the Pharisees are not followers of Jesus because they neither know Jesus nor are they willing to follow him. Therefore, while they claim to be *sighted*, they have unknowingly demonstrated their blindness because they *see* things as they want to *see* them instead of *seeing* things as they really are. Sometimes you and I can be accused of the same.

### Jesus’ Audience

Many of those to whom Jesus spoke were farmers and shepherds. Having knowledge of the Old Testament passages that describe the *Good Shepherd*, they understood the intimate and personal bond about which Jesus spoke when he said, *“I know my sheep and mine know me”* (10:14). It was not uncommon for a shepherd to be familiar with his sheep, its history, age, defects, temper and its tastes.

This is not unlike anyone who has a pet. Does not the pet-owner know all about his/her dog or cat? Such was the case with the shepherds who would often spend months alone in the fields leading, watching and protecting their flock. Having knowledge and love for their own sheep, the farmers who listened to Jesus as he spoke of the *Good Shepherd* and his relationship to his sheep began to understand their own relationship to God. This teaching of the *Good Shepherd* was new and radical, as its message deviated from that of the Old Testament image of a stern and often-times angry God.



Just as the shepherd would risk his life protecting his flock, so it is with Jesus. Jesus says:

*“And for these sheep, I lay down my life because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. Nobody has taken it from me, rather, I lay it down of my own accord”* (10:15-18).

The above cited verses indicate yet, another characteristic of the *Model Shepherd* in contrast to the Pharisees and Scribes who are the imposters and wolves. The *Good Shepherd* will not only risk his life for his sheep, he will even *lose* his life for them. The *Good Shepherd* does so in order to give Life back to them. The *Good Shepherd* gives not just Life, he gives *Eternal Life*.

### Choosing a Leader

The above passages describe two important instructions for choosing a leader. The first example of *laying down one’s life*, not only indicates the depth of God’s love for His faithful, it also indicates what characteristics the disciple should look for when deciding who to follow.

Unlike the Pharisees who seek their own self-aggrandizements and prestigious positions at the expense of their flock, the true shepherd seeks the betterment of those he is sent to lead. The *Good Shepherd* sacrifices and puts aside his own desires and needs in order that his flock may flourish.

In the second teaching, we see a parallel between the actual shepherd and his flock, and Jesus and his disciples. Just as the shepherd wants the best for his flock and takes every possible measure to ensure the flock's safety and health, so it is with Jesus who freely gives his life so others may *have* Life.

The parallel continues, as John tells the reader that Jesus indicated that the same relationship between sheep and shepherd also exists between himself and the Father.

*"I am the Good Shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father"* (10:14-15).

In other words, the source of Jesus' relationship with his faithful followers stems *from* and is nourished *by* his relationship with the Father.

### Twenty-first Century Christians

What does this mean for present-day Christians? As men and women of faith, we must never lose sight of the fact that having received God's *Spirit* through Baptism, we have become uniquely *configured* to the Risen Christ. As such, we possess Jesus' life within our souls; thus, we should seek Gospel truths and incorporate these truths into our lives.

We who strive for Gospel truths in our daily lives can hear and respond to the voice of the *Good Shepherd*. It is, however, during those times when we become *distracted* by the *wolves* in the world that we sin; mistaking the voice of the world to be that of Jesus, the *Good Shepherd*. When man mistakes God's voice, he makes poor choices. This leads to the losing of one's way; stumbling as a result of spiritual blindness.



Cultivating and maintaining a relationship with Jesus is the answer. It is indispensable for mental and spiritual health of mind, body and soul. Establishing an intimate and personal relationship with Jesus assures man that he will not lose his way. It also brings him closer to the experience of *God's Kingdom* in the present.

The implementation of a prayerful relationship with Jesus keeps us focused on the *Good Shepherd*, so that when the storm clouds move in, as they often do, we can overcome and persevere and endure. **JNM**

*Additional Note: Although sensitive to gender-related language; he/she, him/her, it is often necessary to refer to the generic, "man" when reference is made to the essence of human nature.*

### **From the Pen of Fr. M.**

Reverend Jeremiah N. Murasso, Ph.D., Ed.D., Psy,D

Mary, May & Fatima

On Friday, this past week, we began the month of May, which is traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Consequently, it is fitting that we spend time reflecting on Mary this weekend as we begin the month of May and look forward to the celebration of *Mother's Day* on May 10, in which we honor not only the Blessed Mother, but all our mothers both living and deceased. Besides being the mother of Jesus, Mary is also *our* mother and as such, is also the *Mother of the Church*. Mary is the *Queen of the Apostles* whose motherhood extends to the apostles. St. John tells us that as Mary stood at the cross with the Beloved Disciple, just prior to Jesus taking his last breath, he [Jesus] entrusts the Beloved Disciple (and the other disciples), to the care of his mother.

*"When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, 'Woman behold your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home"* (19:26-27).

### The Perfect Disciple

From the earliest of times, Mary has been recognized as the most *perfect* model of the universal Church in the order of *faith*, *charity* and *perfect union* with her Son. For this reason, St. Luke tells us that Mary has been called "*Blessed among all other woman*" (1:46). Mary represents that *perfect disciple* who cooperated with God's plan for the salvation of humankind. She did so in difficult times, in times not unlike our own, but with the certainty that God would guide her choices. In bringing forth the Savior of the world, Mary has become throughout all times, worthy of veneration and honor, having been hailed a *model* and *exemplar* for all peoples for all times.

### Our Lady of Fatima

Of the hundreds upon hundreds of titles with which our Blessed Mother has been entrusted, none is more noteworthy than the title of *Our Lady of Fatima*, whose feast we celebrate on May 13. Mary received this title as a result of her appearance to three shepherd children near the town of Fatima in Portugal in the year 1917.



The apparition of Fatima is one of the most powerful and one of the most spectacular manifestations of the presence of the Divine in human history. The Blessed Mother appeared to three shepherd children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, six times between May 13 and October 13, 1917. She told the children that God had sent her with a message for all people. Mary entered human history at a time when the world (not unlike 2020), was in the grips of wars, plagues, international conflicts and the display of violence and hate on all levels of society, along with deliberate indifference and disregard toward organized religion and the Church.

### The Three-Part Secret

The heart of Mary's message to the children, and to the world was confined to what is referred to as the *Three-Part Secret*. The first part of the *Secret* consisted of a frightening glimpse of hell, where the souls of "unrepentant sinners go." This first part of the "Secret," also included an urgent plea to the children to pray for these souls, and for other souls that they may be spared of the fires of hell by repenting.

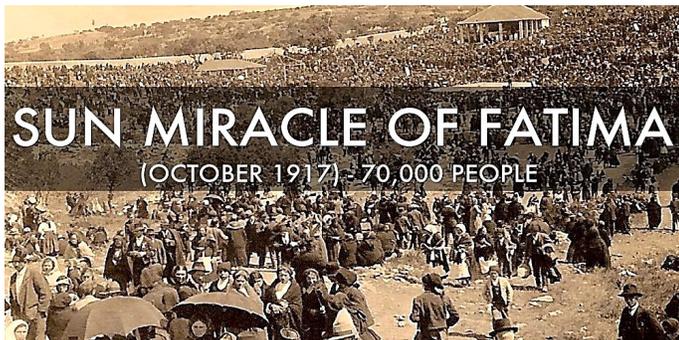
The second part of the *Secret* was the prediction of the outbreak of the Second World War. This also included Mary's request for the *Consecration of Russia* as a condition to world peace. The second part of the *Secret* predicted the triumph of *Mary's Immaculate Heart*, which would follow Russia's consecration and conversion to the Catholic faith.

The last part of the *Secret* was made public in the year 2000. It is interesting to note that five popes in succession kept the third part of the *Secret of Fatima* locked in a safe in the Vatican. It is also interesting to note that none of the five popes consecrated the world to the *Immaculate Heart of Mary* as the Blessed Mother had requested.

It was with Pope John Paul II, on June 30, 2000, that the third part of the *Secret* was revealed. In relating this secret, Mary told the children that a "An apostle clothed in white, who, while making his way amid the corpses of martyrs, would fall to the ground, apparently dead, under the burst of gunfire." The above description recalled the 1981 assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II, who was wounded in St. Peter's Square when a Turkish gunman, Mehmet Ali Agca opened fire and severely wounded the Holy Father. Later, however, the pontiff forgave Agca who was also pardoned by the Italian authorities at the pope's request.

The shooting came on Wednesday, May 13, sixty-four years to the day that Mary first appeared to the children at Fatima. John Paul credited the Blessed Virgin Mary of Fatima with intervening and sparing his life. The Holy Father said, "A motherly hand guided the bullet's path, enabling me to halt at the threshold of death."

### Miracle of the Sun



On Mary's final visit to the children, on October 13, 1917, just as she had promised, she performed a miracle in order that "the doubters of the world would be convinced of the reality of my presence and the will of God."

During this final appearance, Mary appeared as *Our Lady of Mount Carmel*, accompanied by St. Joseph and the child Jesus. On this day, what has been referred to as *The Miracle of the Sun* took place to the amazement of; approximately seventy thousand spectators.

The sun whirled about and seemed to be plummeting down as it sent off multicolored rays of light. Many feared that it was the end of the world. However, many in the crowd were cured instantly from diseases and disabilities.

The result of these apparitions took shape in the construction of a large shrine where to this day thousands upon thousands of documented miracles have taken place through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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### **Discerning the will of God Unfolding of a Rose**



A young new priest was walking with an older, more seasoned pastor in the garden one day. Feeling a bit insecure about what God had in store for him to do, he was inquiring of the older priest about discerning God's will.

The old priest walked up to a rose bush and handed the young priest a rosebud. He told the young man to open the rosebud without tearing off any of the petals. The young priest looked in disbelief at the older man, as he tried to understand what a rosebud could possibly have to do with discerning the will of God for his life.

Because of his great respect and admiration for the old priest, the young priest proceeded to unfold the rose, while at the same time trying to keep every petal intact. It wasn't long before he realized how impossible it was to do so.

Noticing the younger priest's inability to unfold the rosebud while keeping it intact, the old pastor began to recite the following poem....

It is only a tiny rosebud,  
A flower of God's design;  
But I cannot unfold the petals  
With these clumsy hands of mine.  
The secret of unfolding flowers  
Is not known to such as I.  
GOD opens his flower so sweetly,  
When in my hands they fade and die.  
If I cannot unfold a rosebud,  
This flower of God's design,  
Then how can I think I have wisdom  
To unfold this life of mine?  
So I'll trust in him for his leading  
Each moment of every day.  
I will look to him for his guidance  
Each step of the pilgrim way.  
The pathway that lies before me,  
Only my heavenly Father knows.  
I'll trust him to unfold the moments,  
Just as he unfolds the rose.

*Author Unknown*

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

### Parishioner Census Update

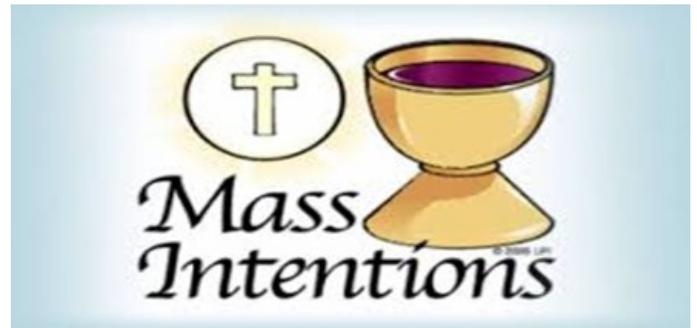
We are trying to update our census with the most current information for parishioners, to help us with it, please go to, [www.stpioofpietrelcinaeh.com](http://www.stpioofpietrelcinaeh.com), there will be a pop up that says "Parishioner Contact Information Update" please click on the blue 'here' in the pop up and fill out the form.

### FR. MURASSO'S MESSAGE BOARD

**We will get through these difficult days *BETTER*, if we live one moment at a time by placing our trust in God and raising our voices and our hands in prayer to a **MERCIFUL** and **LOVING FATHER**.**



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**Although public Masses are not being celebrated with congregations, private Masses continue to be celebrated by Father Patrick, Fr. Zacharias, Fr. Galasso and myself throughout these times. Parishioners who have reserved Masses for loved-ones can be assured that their Masses are being celebrated and their loved-ones remembered. JNM**

### HOW TO PRAY MASS FROM HOME



TIPS FOR CREATING A SACRED SPACE TO REVERENTLY WATCH THE MASS

#### CREATE A SACRED SPACE

- Set out a crucifix
- Light a candle
- Open your Bible to the Gospel reading
- Rearrange furniture

#### PREPARE SPIRITUALLY

- Dress the same as you would if you were attending Mass
- Bless the room with holy water
- Have each person bless themselves with holy water
- Spend a few minutes in silence before Mass begins

#### ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE

- Stand, kneel, and sit at the right times
- Say the prayers and responses of the Mass out loud

#### ENGAGE IN COMMUNITY

- Share a meal after Mass
- Spend time talking about the Gospel reading



# IMPORTANT

While Masses have been cancelled, your offertory does not have to be! Your parish support continues to be extremely important during this time when our churches are closed. The daily operations of the parish are ongoing even though our parish staff may be working from home. Our staff as well as the utilities need to be paid even though the income through weekly collections is nonexistent. Please, if possible, remember your weekly support, which can be made online at, <https://www.stpioofpietrelcinaeh.com> and click the GIVE button or through the mail Thank you for your continue generosity.



We will continue our May food collection for the East Haven Food Pantry, which is asking for macaroni & cheese and canned vegetables. Please leave your donations of food at the church entrance at both the Taylor Avenue and Foxon Road campuses throughout the month.

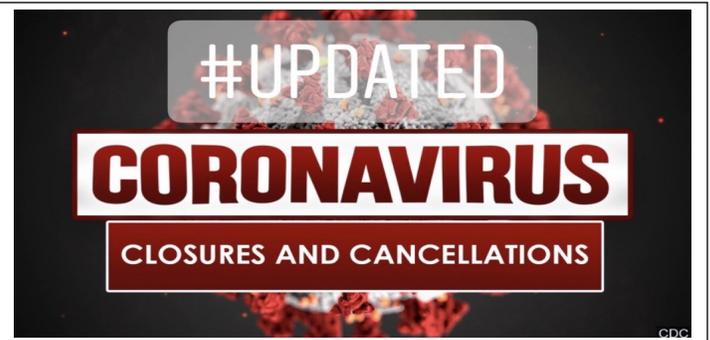
## SAVE THE DATE!



**Adult Volunteers  
Needed to Teach  
Bible Adventures &  
Imagination Station**

**Teen Volunteers Gain  
Fun Service Hours as  
Adventure Guides**

**Contact: Sally Mucka  
203-469-0764 or  
[saintpio.rcia@gmail.com](mailto:saintpio.rcia@gmail.com)  
To Volunteer**



The Archdiocese of Hartford has extended the cancellation of all public Masses and liturgies in the churches of the Archdiocese until further notice, which will likely extend past April 30, given the constantly changing landscape and decisions of civil authorities.

Priests will celebrate a daily Mass alone with no congregation, remembering in prayer all who are affected by the pandemic. Parishes will make provision for their churches to be open at some time so that individuals can still come and pray. The faithful are encouraged to watch Mass on TV or online, and say a Spiritual Act of Communion (see below). Further direction and updates from the Archdiocese can be found at [www.archdioceseofhartford.org/coronavirus](http://www.archdioceseofhartford.org/coronavirus).

- The Archdiocese of Hartford has **suspended publicly scheduled confessions until further notice**. As the Church teaches, where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness and the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (CCC 1452).

- In addition, the Parish Offices are temporarily closed to the public. Many staff are working from home, and are monitoring voicemails and emails. We will update as soon as the office is re-opened.

Per the diocese, during this time parishioners who are absent from Mass are urged to make alternate provision for their weekly contributions since parishes depend on them for operation. **Sign up for Online Giving or make a one-time donation at <https://pompeiichurch.churchgiving.com/>**

Let us all draw closer to the Lord in this time, and continue to pray for everyone affected by the virus. Although we may be temporarily physically isolated from one another, we are still one in the Body of Christ. Mary, health of the sick, pray for us!