

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



PENTECOST SUNDAY

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." - Jn 20:21

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

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 31, 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 30 - Vigil - Pentecost Sunday

4:00pm OLOP + Donald Fox
by St. Rose 1996 Class Committee

4:30pm SVDP + John Sortito, Sr.
by John & Jenna

SUNDAY, May 31 - Pentecost Sunday

8:00am OLOP +James Landino
by Mom & Dad

9:00am SVDP + Marie Angela Sommo
by Husband, Charles

10:00am OLOP + Gary Spadory
by Lisa Leary

11:00am SVDP + Lucy & Jerry Gallicchio
by Children, Chuck, JoAnn & Sandy

11:45am OLOP + Emilio & Reba Cifarelli
by Children & Grandchildren

MONDAY, June 1 - Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00am OLOP + Fr. Thomas Mitchell

8:00am SVDP + Fr. Robert Vargo

TUESDAY, June 2 - Sts. Marcellinus & Peter

8:00am OLOP + Special Intention

8:00am SVDP + Sr. Susan Carlin, R.S.M.

WEDNESDAY, June 3 - St. Charles Lwanga

8:00am OLOP + In Thanksgiving

8:00am SVDP + Sr. Paula Koplak, R.S.M.

THURSDAY, June 4 - Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Guillaume Milliard
by Marie & Onil

8:00am SVDP + Personal Intention

SATURDAY, June 6 - Vigil - Most Holy Trinity

4:00pm OLOP + Pat & Anthony DiLungo
by Family

4:30pm SVDP + Mario & Lil Giaimo
by Family

SUNDAY, June 7 - Most Holy Trinity

8:00am OLOP +John & Julia Bellonio
by Family

9:00am SVDP + Joan Riccitelli
by Carl & Patty

10:00am OLOP + Maureen DeRose (5th Anniversary)
by Family

11:00am SVDP + Josephine & Stanley Sobol (3rd Ann.)
by Children

11:45am OLOP + Salvatore Corso, Sr. & Jr. &Paul Marro
by Wife & Grandmother



Live-Stream Mass

Monday-Thursday at 8:00 AM

Saturday at 4:00 PM

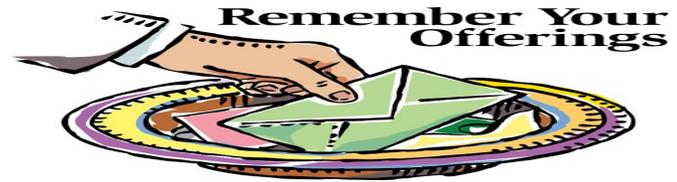
Sunday at 8:00 AM & 11:45AM

To watch the live stream go to,
<https://www.stpioofpietrelcinaeh.com>, then click on Online Mass and click on StreamSpot.

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 \$3,247.00



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 [cf. 30]/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39.

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7/Jn 19:25-34

Tuesday: 2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18/Ps 90:2, 3-4, 10, 14 and 16 [1]/Mk 12:13-17

Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12/Ps 123:1b-2ab, 2cdef [1b]/Mk 12:18-27

Thursday: 2 Tm 2:8-15/Ps 4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [4]/Mk 12:28-34

Friday: 2 Tm 3:10-17/Ps 119:157, 160, 161, 165, 166, 168 [165a]/Mk 12:35-37

Saturday: 2 Tm 4:1-8/Ps 71:8-9, 14-15ab, 16-17, 22 [cf. 15ab]/Mk 12:38-44

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

Fr. Murasso's Message Board

Important Message

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena
25th 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*).

HOW TO PRAY MASS FROM HOME 

TIPS FOR CREATING A SACRED SPACE TO REVERENTLY WATCH THE MASS

CREATE A SACRED SPACE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set out a crucifix• Light a candle• Open your Bible to the Gospel reading• Rearrange furniture	PREPARE SPIRITUALLY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stand, kneel, and sit at the right times• Say the prayers and responses of the Mass out loud	ENGAGE IN COMMUNITY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share a meal after Mass• Spend time talking about the Gospel reading

HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS.
PSALM 95





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 ~ Robert Mucka, Sr.

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 ~

Statue of St. Joseph's Altar ~

**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!

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

Tel: (860) 977-7675

Email: jeremiah.murasso@aol.com



DON'T MISS THIS TRIP OF A LIFETIME!!

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, Paula Ruddock, Pamela Willis, Laura Luzzi, Jose Maisonet, Anita Della Ventura

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

From the Pen of Fr. M.

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

Pentecost Sunday
St. John 20:19-23



The feast of Pentecost marks the end of the Easter Season. Fifty days have passed since the celebration of Christ's Resurrection and his victory over death. Prior to Vatican Council II, the Easter Season ended on Ascension Thursday with the celebration of Jesus' departure from the world and his return to the Father. With the liturgical changes of Vatican II, ten additional days were added to include the feast of Pentecost.

Pentecost marks the beginning of the Church with the descent of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised his disciples that he would never leave them orphaned. The Spirit that Jesus will send into the world will be the source of protection and nourishment for the Church and for future disciples.

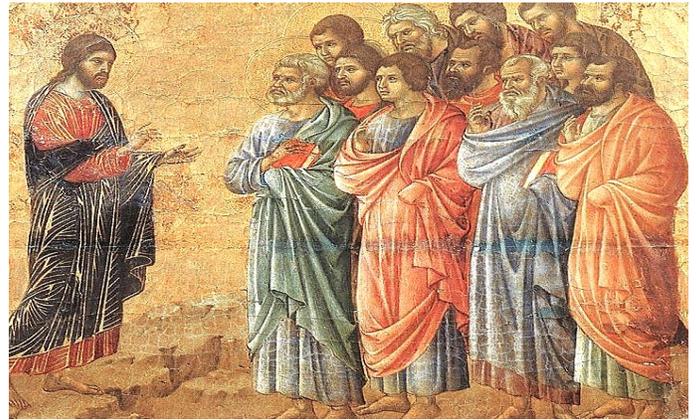
"If you love me, you will keep my commandments, and I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always; the Spirit of truth who the world cannot accept" (John 14:15).

"You will recognize him [the Advocate], because he will remain with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you" (John 14: 17b-18).

"On that day [the day when the Advocate comes] you will realize that I am in the Father and you are in me and I in you" (John 14:20).

"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything" (John 14:26).

The descent of the Holy Spirit is a very significant event in the lives of the disciples as well as in the life of the Church. The disciples never really grasped who Jesus was even though Jesus made many references to his relationship to the Father and his desire that the disciples would model such a relationship. It was not until the Spirit of Jesus entered into their lives at Pentecost that *their eyes were opened* and they were able to see things clearly and believe.



Even as the apostles said their good-bys to Jesus on what the Church refers to as Jesus' *Ascension* into heaven, they did not fully understand the impact of what this would mean for their lives.

"The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they all saw him, they worshipped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, 'All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age'" (Matthew 28:16-20).

"Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them, he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God" (Luke 24:53).

The disciples may have *"paid Jesus homage,"* as St. Luke says, however, this *"great joy"* that he describes could not have lasted too long. Matthew (28:16) indicates that although they *"worshipped"* they also *"doubted."* This doubt evidently led to despair and fear because John indicates that the disciples were gathered together, having locked themselves away from the world; thus, they were fearful.

"On the evening of the first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you'... the disciples rejoiced when they saw that it was the Lord" (John 20:19-20).

Once Jesus had taken his leave and vanished from their sight as the scriptures tell us, the disciples returned to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, they *apparently* did not engage in *"rejoicing"* because they like other converts to Christianity feared for their lives, due to the fact that anyone who professed a belief in Jesus was imprisoned and some were eventually killed.

This was the reason that the disciples locked themselves in the room. Perhaps, the same location where they ate their last meal with their companion and friend Jesus. Fearful as they were and given the present climate of the day, a return to the same location where they once experienced happy times must have been a source of consolation and security for the disciples.

As they huddled together in the locked room, perhaps, they reminisced about the things that Jesus said and the miracles that he performed. Perhaps, they remembered how awkward and embarrassed they felt as Jesus knelt before each of them to wash their feet. Perhaps, they even chided Peter about initially trying to prevent Jesus from washing his feet and then laughing about Peter's request for the Lord to wash his entire body.



The disciples never expected to see Jesus again. Perhaps, they thought that he would return on the *Day of Judgment*, yet, they truly did not understand what he meant by not leaving them orphans. Nor did they understand what he meant by the sending of "*the Advocate, the Spirit of Truth*" into their lives.

John's gospel account for this Sunday's feast of Pentecost is the same account that was read on the second Sunday of Easter when the Church celebrated *Divine Mercy Sunday*. The feast of Pentecost provides 21st century men and women of faith with yet, another glimpse of the gentle Jesus and the healing, compassionate presence of Jesus' *Spirit* that was witnessed by the disciples; the same Spirit that men and women of faith experience in their lives today.

There are three powerful moments in the Gospel reading for this feast of Pentecost (John 20:19-23):

1. Jesus' salutation of peace as he re-enters into the lives of his disciples.
2. Jesus commissions his disciples as heralds of the *Good News* and sends them into the world as witnesses to his ministry and to his mission.
3. Jesus confers the Holy Spirit by *breathing* new life into his disciples.

Jesus' Salutation of Peace

The disciples had locked themselves in a small room and were hiding from the Jewish and Roman authorities who they feared would imprison and possibly kill them (John 20:19-31). This was Jesus' fifth meeting with his disciples since his resurrection but it was the first meeting with them as a group since they abandoned him in the Garden of Gethsemane, the night prior to his crucifixion.

Jesus could have scolded the disciples for their lack of loyalty in leaving him for prey at the hands of the Roman soldiers. He could have expressed to Peter an, "*I told you so*" rebuke, stating his disappointment at Peter's *predicted* betrayal at a moment when Jesus could have really used a friend. Jesus could have criticized the disciples for not remembering all that he had told them about the "*Third Day*."

Jesus could have asked them why they continued in their skepticism and disbelief about his rising from the dead *even* after the disciples visited the empty tomb. Perhaps, Jesus could have continued by asking the disciples why they thought that the women who eagerly brought them the news of the *Risen Christ*, having seen and having spoken with him in his glorified form were not worthy of belief.

Jesus could have said many things to the disciples, pointing out their lack of loyalty as well as their refusal to believe. Yet, he did not. Instead, Jesus says to them, "*Peace be with you*" (John 19:19; 19:21; 19:26). Coming from the Greek, the word for peace is *Eirene*. The word describes more than the desire for peace or goodwill toward another. It is descriptive of the *fullness* of goodness, perfection and completeness, devoid of adversity.



The Hebrew equivalent of *Eirene* is *Shalom*. It is a wish for the other person to experience unconditional blessings and prosperity for a full and complete life. To greet another with the salutation, "*Shalom Aleichem*" means the following:

"I wish you completeness and wholeness, health, prosperity, harmony of mind, body and spirit, devoid from all conflict, adversity and fear. I wish you every good thing that any one individual can possibly experience in the world in a spirit of love and deep-rooted peace, which begins and ends at your spiritual center; at the level of soul."

Wholeness and completeness at the level of man's spiritual core was the kind of "peace" that Jesus was bestowing on his disciples. It was this bestowal of such incredible blessings that served not only to waylay their fears but to accomplish so much more.

I picture the disciples as being initially startled and incredulous with fear as Jesus suddenly appeared in the small room, despite the locked doors. Moments later, however, all their preoccupations, appearing redundant and unsubstantiated would vanish as did their uncertainties, their anger and even their guilt for having abandoned Jesus in his hour of need. John indicates that:

"After he had said this ['Peace be with you'], he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord" (John 20: 20).



Suddenly, the non-threatening, all loving, merciful and compassionate Jesus raised their human spirits enabling them to *re-discover* joy; a joy that they once knew and experienced with their friend and mentor. What a powerful message for those who despair; for those who doubt; for those who lack hope in tomorrow! Only when men and women of faith learn to bring personal turmoil, crises and tribulations to Jesus will they find peace and a joy, which the world can neither bestow nor can destroy.

Commissioning of the Disciples

After Jesus offers the disciples "peace," John says that Jesus then sends them forth into the world in the same way that the Father had sent Jesus: *"Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you"* (20:21).

Jesus' commissioning of the eleven disciples (Judas had not been replaced) to leave the locked room and to go into the world as witnesses of his ministry and of his triumph over sin and death was not intended merely for the disciples nor is it meant for just bishops and priests. By nature of our Baptism and Confirmation, each one of us is *called forth* and entrusted to bring the message of Jesus Christ into the market place as witnesses to the Truth.

Jesus *sends* his disciples into a troubled and confused world in the same way that he sends 21st century men and women of faith into a troubled and confused world. Each is called to cultivate and to nurture his/her faith without compromise *in* and *to* a world that is waiting to be healed. Faith in God's *Word*, Jesus Christ, the *Logos of God* must *drive* one's choices on a daily basis, cultivating positive and wholesome behaviors that lead to the living-out of the Gospel.

In John 17:9, referred to as the *Priestly Prayer of Jesus*, the gospel account for last weekend, Jesus prays for his disciples. It is through the ministry of his disciples that the message of *God's Word*, the *Logos* would and continues to be made known.



In other words, by nature of Baptism and Confirmation, men and women of faith are *responsible* for keeping the *flame of faith* alive and burning brightly in their lives for all to see. "Jesus replied, *'If anyone loves me, he will keep my word'*" (John 14:23). *"If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love"* (John 15:9).

The conferral of the Holy Spirit

Immediately after Jesus commissions the disciples as witnesses and heralds of the *Good News*, John indicates that Jesus imparts upon them the Holy Spirit by breathing on them.

"And having said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive their sins, they have been forgiven them; if you retain them, they are retained'" (20:22).

God sends forth his Spirit by breathing into man after he creates him from dust. The Greek verb *emphysao*, means to breathe in. God "*breaths in*" His spirit, permitting His Spirit to be infused into the souls of the first man and woman:

"God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed (emphysao) into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being."

The new life about which John speaks of in this passage (20:22) is not the predicted descent of the Holy Spirit who is *yet to come*. It is Jesus' *breath of life* that will become the *creating force*, the *energy* that will be responsible for the new messianic community. In other words, the Church of the *New Covenant* is conceived among the disciples who are the first witnesses of the *Good News*.

The official descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which marks the birth of the Church would only take place following Jesus' glorification as it is described in Luke's *Acts of the Apostles*.

"When Pentecost Day came around, they had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:1-4).



Everything changed on the day of Pentecost just as Jesus had predicted. Once the *Spirit of Truth, the Advocate* entered into the lives of the disciples, their fears vanished. Not only did all their worries and preoccupations disappear, they began to understand everything Jesus had told them and all that he had predicted. For the first time, they understood what Jesus meant when he said:

"You will recognize him [the Advocate] because he will remain with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:18).

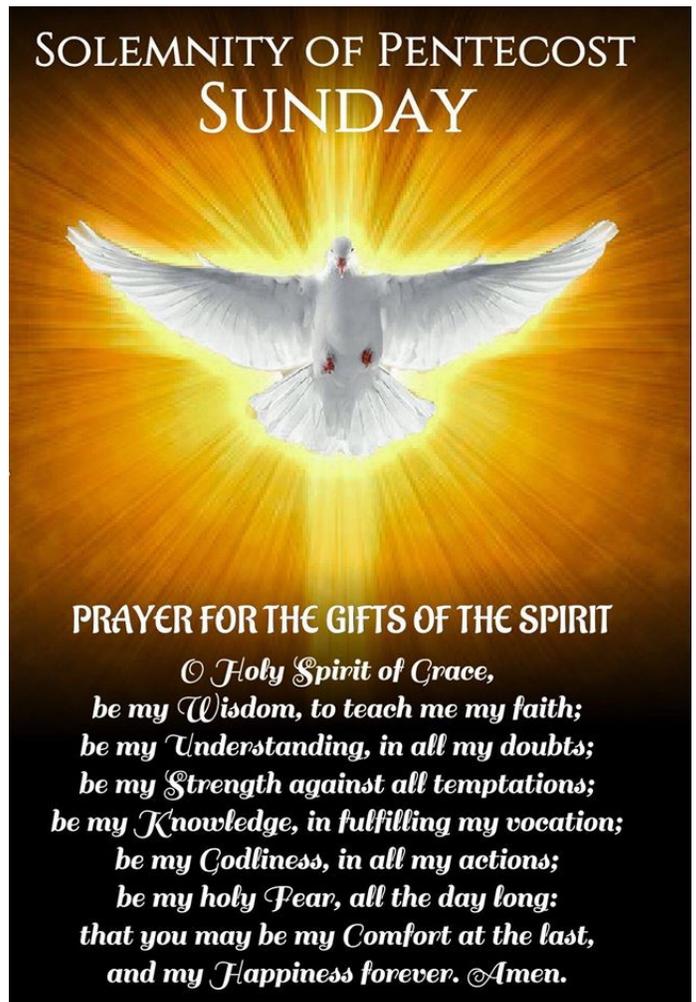
Pentecost for Today

What significance does Pentecost have for men and women of faith who live in the twenty-first century? How has the sending of the Holy Spirit into the lives of the disciples changed the way we live (or should live)? Pentecost is a reminder, a visual aide that the Spirit of Jesus lives as an *enduring, vibrant, presence* in our souls.

We have already received the Spirit of Jesus in Baptism and Confirmation; thus because of this, we have access *to* and participate *in* the same unity that exists between the Father and the Son.

Pentecost is a reminder that Jesus is always with us. The Pentecost Event: the descent of the Holy Spirit gives testimony to the fact that we are not alone in our journey through the desert of life's trials and tribulations. **JNM**

Additional Note: Although sensitive of 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.



FR. MURASSO'S MESSAGE BOARD

Important Message

Saint Bernadette Church

It is with great joy that I announce to you that we are moving in the direction of a merger with our sisters and brothers of Saint Bernadette Church.

Our parish of St. Pio of Pietrelcina will now have three campuses with three worship sites: Saint Bernadette, Saint Vincent de Paul and Our Lady of Pompeii. This is exciting!

I know that you join me in extending a heart-felt welcome to all the faith-filled parishioners of Saint Bernadette who will add so very much to our Catholic community of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina.

Preventative Maintenance Starts Here!



PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Saint Vincent de Paul:

◇ The roof over the chapel continues to present a problem with water getting behind the walls and in the ceiling. We have finally determined where the water is coming from and plans are underway to repair again, the wall around the stain glass window in front of the chapel and the ceiling.

◇ The center walkway ascending the church has become damaged due largely to water that has seeped underneath of the concrete along with kids with skateboards that use the front stairs as a slide. This has resulted in serious cracks in the concrete, making this a hazard. In addition, the iron rail has become rusted at the point where the iron meets the sidewalk. This has become aggravated to the point of breaking due once again, to the skateboards constantly slamming into the iron rail. New concrete will be poured along with the reinforcement of the rail beginning **June 1**. During this time the side **entrance of the church** facing the school will be open for daily visits.

◇ The church kitchen is about to get a much-needed refurbishment with more counter space, a new floor and paint on the walls. This work will begin within the next couple of weeks.

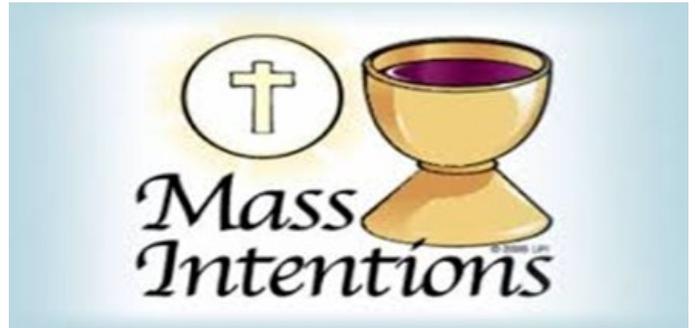
Our Lady of Pompeii:

◇ Work continues in the church proper with the much-needed re-sealing and painting of the window frames on the inside and outside.

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**.**





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



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 June food collection for the East Haven Food Pantry, which is asking for macaroni & cheese and ramen noodles. Please leave your donations of food at the church entrance at both the Taylor Avenue and Foxon Road campuses throughout the month.

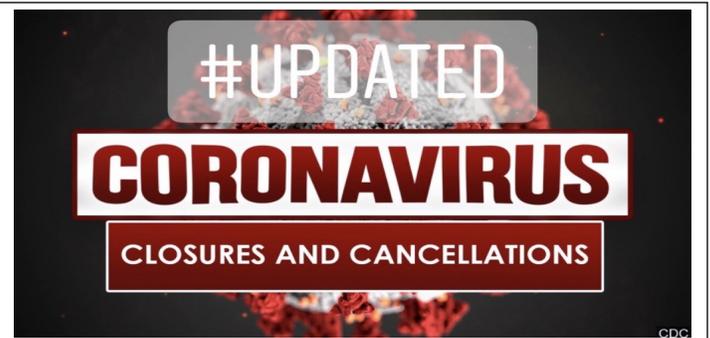
SAVE THE DATE!



**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
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.

- 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!