THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA

REVEREND JEREMIAH N. MURASSO, PH.D., ED.D., PSY.D., PASTOR REVEREND PATRICK KANE, PAROCHIAL VICAR



13th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 2, 2023

Mass Intentions for the Week			
SATURDAY, July 1 - Vigil – 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time			
4:00pm OLOP + Frances Sgro (2nd Anniversary)			
by Family			
4:30pm SVDP + James Sisson			
by Friend & Family			
SUNDAY, July 2 – 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time			
8:00am OLOP + Norman DeMartino			
by Carol & Patti Scussel			
9:00am SB + Dominic Savo & Celesta Turcio			
by Family			
10:00am OLOP + Catherine Leach			
by Sally Mucka			
11:15am SVDP + Robert Deko, Cathy Toce & Janet Dowd			
by Friend			
MONDAY, July 3 - St. Thomas			
8:00am OLOP + Maureen Leary Minnick			
by Lisa Leary			
8:00am SVDP + Mary Colloso			
by Children, Grandchildren & Grandchildr	en		
TUESDAY, July 4 – Independence Day			
8:00am OLOP + Sr. Susan Carlin, R.S.M.			
8:00am SVDP + Claire Pascale			
by Family			
WEDNESDAY, July 5 – St. Anthony Zaccaria			
8:00am OLOP + Jacqueline D'Addio			
by D'Addio Family			
8:00am SVDP + Janet Harney			
by Porto Funeral Home			
THURSDAY, July 6 - St. Maria Goretti			
8:00am OLOP + Marie Monico			
by Porto Funeral Home			
8:00am SB + Laura Anderson			
FRIDAY, July 7 - Weekday/First Friday			
8:00am SB + Paula Conte			
by Family			
SATURDAY, July 8 - Vigil – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Tim	••		
SATUKDA1, July 6 - Vigii – 14tii Sunday in Orumary 11iii 4.00 m $OI OD \pm Anthony Mouro$	le		
4:00pm OLOP + Anthony Mauro			
by Kathy Mauro			
4:30pm SVDP + David Boyle			
by Wife & Children			
SUNDAY, July 9 – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time			
8:00am OLOP + Filomena Lavorgna			
by Husband, Attilio			
9:00am SB + Thomas Connors			
by Jim & Marie Connors			
10:00am OLOP + Sal Valente & Mychajlo Kuchnij			
by Barbara			
11:15am SVDP + Anthony D. Esposito			
by Family			



2024 MASSES -SAVE THE DATE!

The 2024 Mass Intention Book opened on Thursday, June 1, 2023. Kindly have your requests ready when scheduling. We will continue to have a limit of 3 weekend Masses per individual booking.

Payment due at time of booking.

STEWARDSHIP

Regular Collection \$8,558.00

Peter Pence Collection \$3,258.00

Online Giving \$1,017.00

July 8 & 9 Second Collection: Utility

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday:	2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a/Ps 89:2-3, 16-17,
-	18-19 (2a)/Rom 6:3-4, 8-11/Mt 10:37-
	42
Monday:	Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 20:24-29
Tuesday:	Gn19:15-29/Ps 26:2-3, 9-10, 11-12/Mt
-	8:23-27
Wednesday:	Gn 21:5, 8-20a/Ps 34:7-8, 10-11, 12-13/
-	Mt 8:28-34
Thursday:	Gn 22:1b-19/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/
-	Mt 9:1-8
Friday:	Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67/Ps 106:1b-
-	2, 3-4a, 4b-5/Mt 9:9-13
Saturday:	Gn 27:1-5, 15-29/Ps 135:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/
	Mt 9:14-17

CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

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

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

SILENCE.

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.

Holy Hour Come spend time in the presence of Jesus.

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

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

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MINISTRY & EVENT CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JULY 2	SUNDAY, JULY 9
No Events or Activities Scheduled	No Events or Activities Scheduled
MONDAY, JULY 3	MONDAY, JULY 10
Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church	Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church
Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823	Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823
	Midnight Run - 7:00pm Contact Sue Stacey at 203-214-1762
TUESDAY, JULY 4	TUESDAY, JULY 11
Parish Offices Closed	Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom
Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8
WEDNESDAY, JULY 5	WEDNESDAY, JULY 12
Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184	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	Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8
THURSDAY, JULY 6	THURSDAY, JULY 13
Scriptural Rosary - 7:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	Scriptural Rosary - 7:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8
FRIDAY, JULY 7	FRIDAY, JULY 14
Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8
SATURDAY, JULY 8	SATURDAY, JULY 15
Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center	Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center

Welcome Deacon Larry Tiani,

Brothers and Sisters,

Archbishop Blair has appointed me to serve as a Deacon here at St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish. It is certainly a pleasure to join the Parish family of St. Pio of Pietrelcina. Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Larry Tiani, and I was ordained a Deacon on June 3, 2023. I've spent the last 30 years just down the road at the parish of St Ambrose in North Branford. I live in North Branford, but I was born and raised in Norwalk, CT where I just retired as a Norwalk police officer after 33 years of service. I am married to my lovely wife Jennifer of 28 years. I have two children, Matthew 26 and Michaela 24. I'm proud to call myself an Italian American from parents who came to this country from Italy. My father fought in WWII and taught me the love and respect of this country and my Italian roots. I'm a die-hard Mets and Giants fan and enjoy time with my two German Shepherds and my Lab.

I'm also a member of the Acts community, a Catholic retreat for men and woman, serving on numerous teams and as director. I owe everything I have to God who throughout my life has guided me to where I am today. I feel I can truly relate to the apostles (especially St. Peter) being an average guy but still called just the same to do God's work. I feel if God can work through me, he can work through anyone. I look forward to meeting each one of you and getting to know you. Please introduce yourself when you have a moment. Thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to the road ahead at such a beautiful parish.

God Bless

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 ~ James Smith by Walter & Theresa Pierce & Angela Piscitelli Our Lady of Perpetual Help Icon ~ Fr. John Lavorgna by Renee Coppola Pascal Candle ~ Fr. John Lavorgna

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 ~ Nicholas, Raffaele & Peter Bertier by Ann St. Joseph's Altar ~ Pascal Candle ~ Barbara & Maurice Connolly

> **St. Bernadette Candles** Sanctuary Lamp (Right 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 & Charles Zambrano, Helen Langello, Brian Savo, Gerry Andrea, Alan Poirier, Connie Rasimas, Jane Pyka, Harry Clark, Lou DiNola, Geraldine Licciardi, Joanne Cretella, 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 Tantalo, 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, Gerrie Amendola, 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, Rosemary Riccitelli, Lynn Ely, Ethan Roche, Frances Graney, Barbara Kapusta, Megan Maturo, Rose Paula Dziedulonis, Roma Criscuolo, Taras Mychajlowskyj, Denise Steiner, Mary Ann Anastasio, Guy Brasile, 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 Riccitelli, Sr., Louise Amato, Mark Houston, Avery Bye, Alex Bernaitis, Vincent Pisano, Ann Hamilton,, 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

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 **July** is the **2nd Monday**, which is **July 10th.** 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, July 10th**. 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 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!



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) 1year. Questions, please contact Deb or Rico at 203-468-7489



THE EAST HAVEN FOOD PANTRY is asking for cereal and ramen noodles the months of June. Please leave your donations of food at the church entrances.

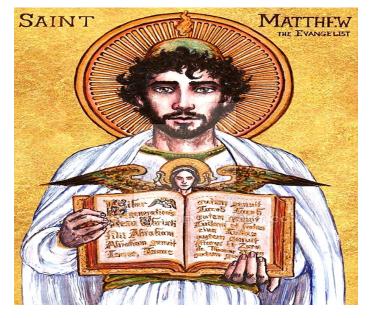
The Food Pantry will be open from 9:00am-11:00am on Saturdays & Tuesdays for East Haven residents.

The Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to deliver to one homebound senior in their neighborhood twice a month, if you are able to please call Christine at the below number.

From the Pastor's Pen Reverend Jeremiah N. Murasso, PhD, EdD, PsyD

St. Matthew's Gospel

Who is St. Matthew? Having begun Cycle "A," we embarked upon a year of reflection on St. Matthew's gospel account. It is fitting that we become acquainted with the evangelist and his purpose for writing about the words and deeds of Jesus.



Authorship

Was the author of the first gospel the apostle and tax collector, or was the author a first century eyewitness who had access to the apostle Matthew's writings? According to the writers of antiquity such as Irenaeus, Origin and Eusebius, there is no doubt that the tax collector who became one of the twelve apostles is the author of the *Gospel According to St. Matthew*. Modern scholarship, however, is less inclined to credit the apostle Matthew with the version, which we know today.

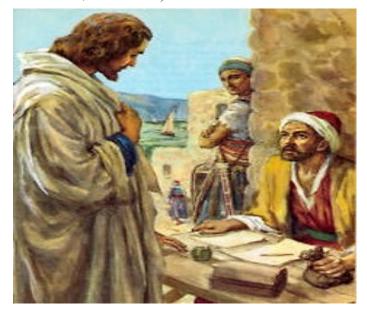
It is believed that the apostle Matthew ministered and preached among the Hebrew-Christians; thus, complied for them a text of the teachings of Christ in their own native tongue. It was some time later that the Hebrew text was translated into Greek. Modern biblical scholarship has come to believe that the Greek Mathew (text) is not the version that was originally translated from the Hebrew manuscript; thus, it could not be the work of the apostle Matthew.

Scholars believe that it is more likely that the author was someone who, while not necessarily being an eyewitness to the Christ event had access possibly from the apostle Matthew in order to compile his account. It is also believed that the author relied heavily upon Mark, which he obviously knew quite well and another source that scholars refer to as the "Q" source. Consequently, if the author was one of the Twelve, he would not have needed to use Mark and "Q" to the extent that he did.

Although the apostle Matthew was not the author of the gospel account bearing his name, it is worth familiarizing ourselves with him, since he is mentioned several times in all three synoptic accounts. Matthew is believed to be a Galilean who like Mark died a martyr's death. He like the other eleven apostles was called by Jesus to leave his family, friends and livelihood to follow Jesus and to preach the coming of the Kingdom.

"As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he [Matthew] got up and followed him" (Matthew 9: 9013). All three synoptic gospel accounts specifically make mention of Matthew as being called along with the other apostles.

"Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first Simon, also known as Peter. And his brother Andrew; James, Son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James, son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon, the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him" (Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-18; Luke 6:12-16).



It is interesting to note that all four gospel accounts describe the reaction of the Jews, particularly the reaction of the Pharisees and scribes to the fact that Christ chose a tax collector as one of his apostles. Tax collectors answered to the Roman emperor and were given the job of collecting taxes from the Jews. That which made the tax collectors reprehensible in the eyes of the people had to do with the fact that they could exact whatever amount of money that they wanted, as long as the Roman emperor was given his agreed upon share.

The author of Matthew's gospel account is a Jewish Christian, perhaps a Jewish scribe who writes primarily for a Jewish-Christian community. This community of Jews probably witnessed the destruction of the Temple at Jerusalem in 70 A.D. They appear to be a community of people in crisis and in transition. The author who was very knowledgeable with regard to Jewish history is entrenched in the customs of Judaism. Consequently, he appears quite concerned about Jewish traditions and their applicability to this new-found faith in Jesus.

It is Matthew's intention to connect Jesus to the history of Israel and in doing so, to describe Jesus as the personification and fulfillment of Jewish hope. This was extremely important for the Jews who lived during the first few centuries when Christianity was still in its infancy and while the Jewish converts still defined their religious practices and their belief in God in terms of their Jewish heritage.

It is believed that Matthew's account was recorded after 70 A.D. somewhere between 75 and 80 A.D. The Temple at Jerusalem had been destroyed with little hope of being rebuilt. This was a period of Roman control and domination along with the Jewish people's desire to retain their Jewish heritage and customs, particularly their adherence to the Torah.

In addition to their concern for worship and the place of their worship, there was growing discontent with, and contempt for the Jewish leadership. This resulted in many Jews severing ties with their Jewish roots and with their traditions and beliefs. Contempt for the Pharisees and Sadducees is described very early in Matthew and continues throughout his account.

"Then the people of Jerusalem and all of Judea were going out to him [John], and all the region of the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But he [John] saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance'" (3:5-8).

Jewish Leadership

The Jewish leaders are called hypocrites because they represent and enforce a rigid and inflexible legalism, as opposed to the compassionate and merciful message of Jesus. It was in such a climate that Matthew's gospel account is recorded. The author of Matthew's account had hoped that his words would be a source of confirmation and reassurance for Jewish-Christians that their Jewish traditions and their desire to adhere to the Torah would not be incompatible with Christianity.

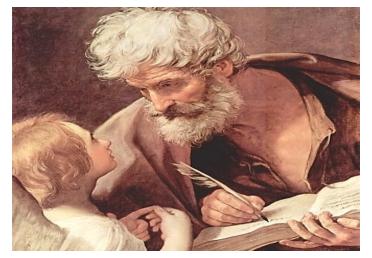
Matthew, a Jew is writing for a Jewish-Christian community and living in the framework of Judaism. He wants his community of Jews to realize that Jesus' message as well as his ministry to the poor and outcast of society are quite compatible with their new-found faith. For Matthew, Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament as well as the authority behind the *correct* interpretation of the Torah.

Purpose of Matthew's Gospel

Matthew's gospel account has often been described as being the most Jewish of the four gospels. Unlike the other two synoptic gospels and St. John's account, Matthew would be unintelligible in the absence of any references to the Hebrew Bible or other Jewish writings. Matthew's account can be viewed as being one of several responses to the destruction of the Temple at Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

Unbroken Line of King David

It was Matthew's intention in recording the teachings of Jesus to demonstrate how the Jewish customs can be preserved within a Jewish-Christian framework. To assure such compatibility, Matthew connects Jesus and his teaching to the Davidic succession. It is important to note that the Christians in the community for whom Matthew writes believed that Jesus was the Messiah. Despite their acknowledgement of Jesus as the Christ, they think of themselves as Jews who must continue to adhere to the teachings of the Torah.



The Gospel according to St. Matthew is written by a Jew for Jews. It was written as a means of convincing the Jewish-Christian community about the relationship between Judaism and Christianity. Matthew demonstrates that the Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled in and through Jesus. Consequently, Matthew's conclusion is that Jesus must be and in fact is the *long-awaited-for* Messiah.

In connecting Jesus to the history of Israel, he depicts Jesus as the embodiment of Jewish hopes. Jesus is the authority behind the Torah unlike the Jewish leaders of the day. Therefore, in embracing the teachings of Jesus, Jewish followers would not be abandoning their Jewish roots or their Jewish beliefs. Rather, to embrace Jesus is to be faithful to the definitive purpose and goal of the Old Testament prophecies.

Matthew depicts Jesus as the *Second Moses*; he who is the *fulfillment* of the Old Testament prophecies. Consequently, having *fulfilled* the predictions of the prophets with regard to the coming of the Messiah, it is Matthew's intention to identify Jesus as the *long-awaited-for* Messiah of the line of David. This was extremely important to the Jewish people who longed for deliverance, consolation and compassion from their God.

Matthew connects the Old and New Testament by utilizing what scholars call "*fulfillment*" or "*formula*" quotations, which serve to vividly connect Jesus to the prophecies made by the prophets. This would include the predictions and poetic literature about which the average pious Jew would have knowledge.



Throughout his gospel account, Matthew introduces various aspects of the life and ministry of Jesus with such statements as, "This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophets" or "All of this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophets."

In Matthew's description of the birth of Jesus (1:18-23), the evangelist quotes Isaiah (7:14), in which Isaiah speaks about the realization of the promises of God toward his people in the deliverance of Judah. This text is understood and used by Matthew as the *fulfillment* of God's promises through the birth of Jesus, the Messiah.

"Now this is how the birth of Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary, your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, God is with us.'" Matthew identifies the location of the birth of the Messiah (1:6) and quotes Micah 5:1.

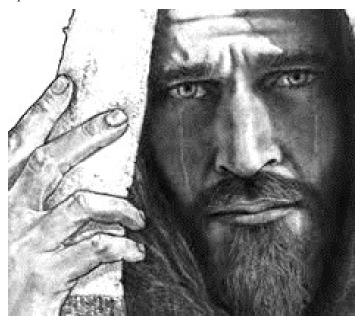
"When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus is has been written through the prophet: And you Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

In Matthew's description of the famous flight into Egypt in order to avoid Herod's wrath (2:13-15), Matthew quotes Hosea (11:1), interpreting Hosea's words to mean the fulfillment of God's promise.

"When they [the Magi] had departed, behold the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.' Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, 'Out of Egypt I call my son.'"

Matthew describes the role of God's Servant (12:18-21) and quotes Isaiah 42:1-4.

"When Jesus had realized this [that the Pharisees were out to kill him], he withdrew from that place. Many [people] followed him, and he cured them all, but he warned them not to make him known. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through Isaiah the prophet: 'Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved in whom I delight; I shall place my spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not contend or cry out, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope."



In Matthew's description of Jesus' Galilean healing ministry (4:12-17), the evangelist quotes Isaiah (8:23-9:1), in which Isaiah foresees light that will rise over Zebulun and Naphtali. According to Matthew, this is *fulfilled* in the person of Jesus who will reside in Capernaum.

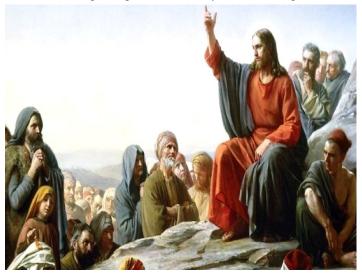
"When he [Jesus] had heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen.""

The point that Matthew makes throughout his gospel account serves to reinforce the fact that the Hebrew Scriptures are compatible with the predictions and the prophecies about Jesus: his life and his healing ministry to the lost sheep. Consequently, according to Matthew, it is acceptable to place one's faith in Jesus about whom the writers of the New Testament describe as the Son of God and the *long-awaited-for* Messiah.

Matthew reinforces the fact that the teachings of Jesus and his healing ministry, along with his authoritative interpretation of the Torah are authentic and truthful. Whereas, the teachings and the interpretations of the Torah that were given by the religious leaders of Jesus' day (who Jesus refers to as *blind guides*), were not credible. According to Matthew, these false teachers of the Law are the antitheses of Jesus.

Beatitudes and the Second Moses

In Matthew's description of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, the evangelist depicts Christ as the second Moses who unlike the first Moses teaches not about the <u>letter</u> of the Law, rather, instructs the listeners about the <u>spirit</u> of God's Law. The Sermon on the Mount transcends space and time. It speaks to every man in every age about the healing, compassionate mercy of God through the Son.



- •Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- •Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- •Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
- •Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
- •Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- •Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.
- •Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.
- •Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. They persecuted the prophets who were before you.

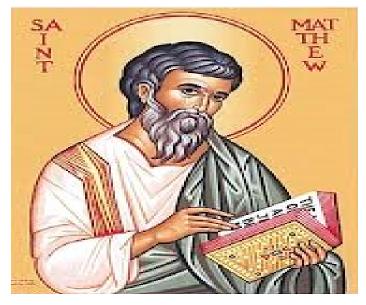
The *fulfillment* texts as well as the *Sermon on the Mount* were extremely important to the first Christians both in the oral tradition and in the written text. These were Jews who had converted to the New Covenant and as such were a people displaced. As Isaiah says, they were a people who were "*Sitting in darkness.*" These consisted of the outcasts of society: the poor, the sick, the possessed and the displaced, all who had lost hope; thus looked to the future and to the realization of the promises of God.

Hearing Jesus preach and listening attentively to his teachings, the people, both Jew and Gentile alike came to understand that Jesus was more than another pious Rabbi. They came to believe that Jesus could possibly be the *One* about whom the prophets spoke; *the anointed one of God*. Consequently, as Jesus taught among those who had knowledge of the prophets, Jesus in his word and through his healing ministry became a confirmation for them that he was authentic and could possibly be the *long-awaited-for* Messiah who had finally entered into human history for the salvation of humankind.

It was in just such a climate that those who sought Jesus for healing did so with confidence. They believed that they would be received and not rejected. This is why, for example, individuals like the Seminarian Woman, the woman suffering with hemorrhages, the lepers and the blind were willing to come forward from the darkness of their isolated existence believing that their pain and guilt would vanish as a result of Jesus' compassionate acceptance.

Healing of the Human Spirit

In the healing miracles performed by Jesus, that which began as an initial reversal of a physical malaise, resulted in the recipient's *re*-discovery of wholeness. Christ *re*-kindled the buried and bruised human spirit in each individual; thus, freeing them from the bondage of a cruel and condemning society and enabling the individual to *re*-discover meaning to their lives and a *re*-stored faith in God.



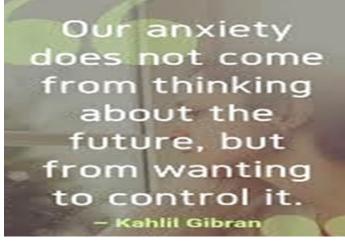
Having some knowledge of who Matthew was and why he wrote, we continue our weekly reflection on St. Matthew until December 3, when the Church begins the Advent season. In the mean time, we embark upon a fascinating and captivating journey during the summer months through the *Gospel According to St. Mathew* with the hope that God's *Word* as well as our faith in Jesus may be enriched and deepened. **JNM**



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

Stress & Anxiety

What is the difference between stress and anxiety? There is a delicate difference between the two because both are emotional responses. Stress is usually associated with an external trigger such as pressure to complete a deadline at work, having a disagreement with a loved-one, a financial problem, personal or family illness, or a major life change. We all deal with stress at some point in our lives; personally, or collectively, as a society. The last couple of years of the pandemic have really caused many people to feel overwhelming stress and anxiety.



Stress is the body's reaction to pressure from a certain situation or event. It can be a physical, mental or an emotional reaction. Acute stress is usually felt for a short period of time. The symptoms are felt due to a particularly stressful/upsetting event that often dissipate quickly.

Chronic stress is a response to emotional pressure suffered for a prolonged period of time in which a person perceives they have little or no control of a situation. Chronic stress occurs when the body experiences various stressors with such frequency or intensity that the *autonomic nervous system* does not have an adequate chance to activate the relaxation response on a regular basis. This means that the body is in a constant state of physiological activity.



The body is designed to handle short periods of stress. *Prolonged chronic stress,* however, can and often *does* have a detrimental impact on the health and well-being of the individual. It is estimated that between 75 to 90 percent of visits to the primary care doctor are stress related.

Types of Chronic Stress

♦ Emotional stress: difficult/strong emotions such as sadness, anger or frustration.

• Environment stress: demographics, where you live and/or work.

• Work-related stress: challenges and pressures related to the job.

• **Relationship stress:** how well you relate to friends, family, co-workers or partners (verywellmind.com).

The above types of stressors can have a negative impact on the body. Constant worry wears the body down, often causing fatigue and anxiety. If left untreated the following problems may be manifested as the result of prolonged stress: diabetes, changes in body weight, hyperthyroidism, sleep problem, heart disease, ulcers, depression, high blood pressure, irritable bowel syndrome and eczema. If the muscles are always tense, tension headaches and migraines can also occur frequently.

Common Signs and Symptoms of Chronic Stress

- Lack of sleep
- Headaches
- Changes in appetite
- Decrease in immune system function
- Loss of interest in hobbies

What are the Consequences of Long-term Stress on the Body?

-Mental health problems such as depression, anxiety and personality disorders.

-Cardiovascular disease, including heart disease, high blood pressure, abnormal heart rhythms, heart attacks and strokes. Stress hormones affect the respiratory and cardiovascular systems. During the stress response, a person breathes faster in an effort to quickly distribute oxygen-rich blood to the body. If a person has emphysema or asthma, stress can make it even harder to breathe. When the body is under prolonged stress, the heart pumps faster. Stress hormones cause blood vessels to constrict and divert more oxygen to the muscles so you will have more strength to take action. Consequently, this also raises blood pressure.

Frequent stress causes the heart to work too hard for too long. When blood pressure rises, this increases the risk for having a stroke or heart attack.

-Digestive system – under stress, the liver produces extra blood sugar (glucose) to give the body a boost of energy. If a body is under chronic stress, the body may not be able to keep up with this extra glucose surge, therefore, increasing the risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

The rush of hormones, rapid breathing and increased heart rate can upset the digestive system causing heartburn or acid reflux, due to an increase in stomach acid production. Stress does not cause ulcers (a bacterium called H. pylori does) but it can increase the risk for existing ulcers to act up. Stress can affect the way food moves through the body, leading to diarrhea or constipation, nausea, vomiting or a stomachache.

-Immune system – stress stimulates the immune system. This stimulation can help the body to avoid infections and heal wounds. But over time, stress hormones will weaken the immune system and reduce the body's response to foreign invaders. People under chronic stress are more susceptible to viral illnesses like the flu or common cold, or other infections. Stress can also increase the time it takes the body to recover from an illness or injury.

-Obesity and other eating disorders.

-Skin and hair problems, including hair loss, psoriasis, eczema.

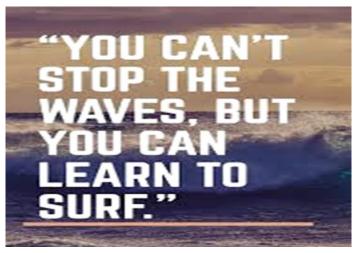
-Gastrointestinal problems, such as GERD, gastritis, ulcerative colitis, irritable colon.

Ways to Handle Stress

Learn to relax: Relaxation techniques such as yoga, meditation, deep breathing and journaling can activate the body's relaxation response. When these activities are practiced on a regular basis, it promotes feelings of joy and tranquility. These practices can increase the ability to stay calm and collected when under pressure.

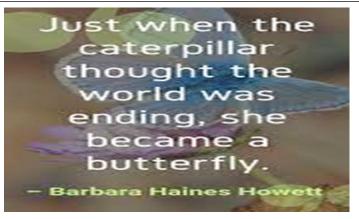
Get adequate rest: Feeling tired can increase stress levels and may cause irrational thinking. Be sure to establish a bed time routine and aim to sleep 7 to 8 hours each night. Never underestimate the importance of sleep. Getting good quality sleep promotes optimal health of the body.

Eat a healthy diet: The foods ingested can help to improve or worsen mood and can affect the way stress is managed. Eating foods full of refined carbohydrates and sugary snacks can worsen the symptoms of stress. Eating a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, high quality protein and omega 3 fatty acids can improve coping mechanisms to deal with stressors.



Staying connected with others: Talking *face-to-face* with another person can trigger hormones that relieve stress if feeling agitated or insecure. A brief exchange or a kind word to another can help calm and soothe the nervous system. Do not let responsibilities get in the way of a social life. It is important for positive emotional health to build stronger and more satisfying connections with others.

Get active/move: Regular exercise can elevate the mood and relieve stress. Rhythmic exercises such as walking, swimming, running and dancing are ways to get the heart pumping faster. Exercise can be a distraction from worrying and helps to break the cycle of negative thoughts, which can promote stress.



Anxiety is a normal emotion. It is the brain's way of reacting to stress and alerting you of potential danger ahead. Feeling occasional anxiety now and then is not uncommon for most people. It is likely that one may feel *manageable anxiety* before making an important decision, or when trying to problem solve an adolescent's moody behavior, or giving a presentation to a large audience of people. This type of *situational anxiety* should go be short lived and go away.

Types of Anxiety Disorders:

Generalized anxiety disorder is a mental and behavioral disorder, mostly characterized by uncontrollable and often irrational worry about events or activities. Worrying often interferes with daily functioning and these people are often overly concerned about everyday matters.

Panic disorder is a feeling of sudden intense fear that is overwhelming and can cause physical and psychological distress. During a panic attack, physical symptoms can include sweating, chest pain, heart palpitation's, shortness of breath or smothering sensations, light headed or faint, nausea, fear of losing control, feeling detached, feeling of choking, trembling or shaking, chills or hot flashes, and/or fear of dying. People feel these symptoms so acutely that many go to the emergency room for evaluation.

The best use of imagination is creativity. The worst use of imagination is anxiety. - Deepak Chopra

Social anxiety disorder (social phobia) is a feeling of being embarrassed, humiliated, rejected or looked down on in the context of one's social interactions. The individual tends to worry and be self-conscious about being judged or ridiculed.

Specific phobias are feelings of intense fear with regard to a specific object or situation, such as heights or flying in an airplane. The fear goes beyond what is appropriate and may cause avoidance in ordinary situations.

Agoraphobia is an intense fear of being in a place where it appears that escaping or getting help is impossible in the case of an emergency. A feeling of panic usually ensues, which gives rise to anxiety when on an airplane or public transportation, or merely standing in a line with a crowd.

Separation anxiety involves the feeling of excessive and inappropriate levels of anxiety over being separated from a person with whom the individual has a strong emotional attachment. Worrying that something bad may happen to this individual when he/she is away from him/her causes anxiety and even fear. <u>Medication induced anxiety disorder</u> occurs when one uses certain medications or illegal drugs, or withdrawal from certain drugs. This can trigger some symptoms consistent with an anxiety disorder.



The main symptoms of anxiety disorders is excessive fear or worry. Anxiety disorders can make it feel hard to breathe, sleep, stay still and concentrate. It is important to talk to a health care professional about prolonged feeling of anxiety. There are many ways to reduce anxiety and treatments available to manage the disorder.

Controlling and Decreasing Symptoms

There are ways to control and actually diminish the symptoms of anxiety. One way is to learn about the anxiety disorder. Educate yourself about the disorder; this will help to manage symptoms in a more effective way. Working with the health care provider is a key element for effectively controlling symptoms and improving anxiety levels. Another way might include reducing caffeine foods and drinks. Soda, coffee, tea, energy drinks and chocolate are filled with caffeine. Caffeine can be *mood-altering* and can worsen the symptoms of an anxiety disorder.

Eating healthy and regular exercise are extremely important is thwarting anxious feelings. Aerobic exercise helps the brain to release brain chemicals that can reduce stress and improve mood.

All stress, anxiety, depression, is caused when we ignore who we are, and start living to please others.



Managing negative thoughts by thinking positive thoughts instead of negative thoughts can help reduce anxiety. *Cognitive Behavioral Therapy* can teach the person how to redirect thoughts.

Keeping a journal by writing down thoughts and feelings may also help the body relax, which will reduce anxiety.

Being social by engaging with others on the phone or in person helps to foster social connections and promotes a feeling of belonging and acceptance; which can help reduce anxiety. <u>Above all else</u>: **Seek Support** by Talking to a health care professional if you are feeling prolonged stress and/or anxiety. It is important to be aware of these feelings and seek help. Take time for self-reflection. Check in with yourself and assess how you feel physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. In order to achieve wellness, balance and optimal health, you must know your body. Be proactive in caring for all the needs of the body. In doing so, quality of your life will improve! **KP**

Parish nurse will be teaching a class on diabetes selfmanagement in late August. If interested call Kim directly for more information.

Parish nurse can be contacted via email <u>kimp51@comcast.net</u> or mobile 980-0931. Health counseling available by appointment.

You are cordially invited To a Mass of Thanksgiving of my 90th Birthday By Father Timothy Meehan

Thursday July 27th 6 pm at St. Therese Church 555 Middletown Ave. North Haven

As you know I will be celebrating my 90th Birthday on Thursday July 27th, 2023. I want to take the opportunity to thank you for your prayers, your friendship, your support and your patience with me; especially when my mistakes are obvious.

There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving at St Therese Church 555 Middletown Ave. North Haven on Thursday, July 27th at 6 PM; a reception will follow with light refreshments. No gifts or donations are expected, this is my gift to you. PLEASE FEEL FREE to extend this invitation to anyone associated with me at one of the parts of the last 64 years of my Priesthood.

A special note to my relatives and friends: I do not expect you to travel to my birthday celebration. Because I am now fully retired, my time is much freer, I plan to visit you sometime this fall.



St. Fie Fietrelcina Parish 2nd Annual Parish Get Together Tuesday, July 11 Amarante's Sea Cliff

A great opportunity for our parish family, representing 3 church campuses to break bread together before our parish carnival and food festival. A great social evening with great food music and drink.

For reservations, please call or text Mike Fimiani at 203.627.9216, or call Amarante's.

Please indicate *St. Pio Parish Get Together*. RAIN DATE JULY 12.



Tuesday, July 25 – Saturday, July 29

The 66th Annual St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish Carnival takes place Tuesday, July 25 thru Saturday, July 29 on Our Lady of Pompeii Church grounds.

Our Annual Carnival features rides for all ages, games, a variety of delicious foods and our *famous fried dough pizza*.

If you have attended in the past, you know our carnival only takes place through the help of hundreds of volunteers.

We invite all members of our St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish family from Our Lady of Pompeii, St. Bernadette and St. Vincent de Paul to help us make this year another success by volunteering a few hours of your time.

Volunteers are needed in our food and pizza booths, game booths, set-up and breakdown, hospitality and clean up.

If you would like to volunteer one or more nights, please contact Dawn Vittorio @ 203-535-4091 or dawn.vittorio@gmail.com or Patti Scussel at 203-710-7886 or parscussel@aol.com.

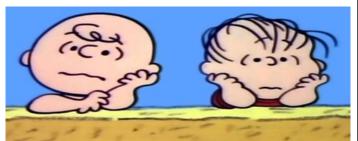
All volunteers must be Virtus trained. If you are not Virtus trained, Virtus training is now online.

An all-volunteer meeting will be held on Monday, July 17 at 7pm in the Our Lady of Pompeii Church Hall.

PLEASE join us in making this year's Carnival the best-ever!



SOMETHING TO PONDER



WISDOM OF PROVERBS

Do I gossip about others? Do I violate the 8th Commandment?

Thou shall not bear false witness.

Do I speak ill of others? Do I criticize or judge them? Do I gossip about people to other people as a way of making me look important? Making judgments about others or criticizing another individual is against the 8th commandment and consequently, a sin.

Proverbs 10:18 says this: "It is the lips of the liar that conceals hostility; but he who spreads accusations is a fool."

In other words, Proverbs 10:18 indicates that the person who participates in inappropriate or distorted and malicious speech about another person is not only a liar and a deceiver; he/she is also a fool.

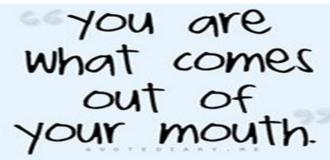


Pope Francis often speaks about those who participate in gossip; those who spread, fabricate, embellish and perpetuate stories about another individual. The Pontiff indicates that such a person truly places his/her soul in grave danger.



According to Pope Francis, gossip is a *crime against charity*. He says. *"It is poison."* The Pontiff goes so far as to say that participating in gossip is *"terrorism of words."*

It appears that participating in negative conversation is something that many people do quite readily, even without thinking as a way to feel superior over another individual or a group of people.



Proverb 10:18 tells us that lies are really an indication that the person who participates in such has a deep-rooted hatred stemming from feelings of personal brokenness as well as from the feelings of rejection, even inferiority. It is good to remember that behind every false accusation or subtle misrepresentation made about another person or group that you utter lies an underlying animosity resulting from the feelings associated with apathy, fulfilled and *perceived* missed opportunities, and an overall feeling of incompleteness.

The next time you participate in gossip; the spreading of miss-information or slander about another person realize that you have committed a sin. And then ask yourself this question:

"What is it in me that is so very broken and so wounded that I need to project my hurt onto another person?" JNM



I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS, ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

On this 4th of July weekend, we pray for our military men and women who continue to go into harm's way to keep us safe. We, also pray for our country, our civil and religious leaders and our citizens that together we can become instruments of peace and together we can heal the brokenness and restore the *soul* of America as *"One Nation Under God."* ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD 134 FARMINGTON AVENUE HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105-3784

Office of The Archbishop

June 26, 2023



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As announced in Rome on June 26, Pope Francis has appointed, at my request, a Coadjutor Archbishop for Hartford, Bishop Christopher Coyne, Bishop of Burlington, Vermont.

Bishop Coyne's appointment as coadjutor means that upon my retirement next year after I reach the canonical retirement age of 75 he will succeed me as your Archbishop.

I made this request of Pope Francis in a letter I sent to him dated January 24 of this year. With the passing of years and my own retirement age approaching, I told Pope Francis that the appointment of a coadjutor bishop would not only be helpful to me for the pastoral care of the Archdiocese, but would also provide my successor with time to become familiar with the Archdiocese, its clergy and people, and with our ongoing pastoral planning, before becoming Archbishop.

I should add that a request for the appointment of a coadjutor bishop is not unprecedented, as we saw recently in the Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island, with the appointment of Bishop Henning as coadjutor to succeed Bishop Tobin.

I am grateful to Pope Francis for granting my request and to Bishop Coyne for accepting this appointment from the Holy Father. I first met Bishop Coyne in 2011 and we have worked together as members of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. His years of ministry as a priest and bishop speak for themselves, and our Archdiocese will be blest to have him as chief shepherd when the time comes. I know we will give him a warm welcome.

Bishop Coyne will take up residence in the Archdiocese with a Mass of Welcome to be celebrated at Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Hartford, on Monday, October 9, 2023, at 2 PM.

As for me, my 75th birthday, God willing, will be April 12, 2024. I hope with divine assistance to continue to fulfill my responsibilities faithfully, now ably assisted by both Coadjutor Archbishop Coyne and Bishop Betancourt.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair Archbishop of Hartford



It's that time of the year. **RAFFLE TICKETS!** We have another fantastic raffle this year with the Grand Prize of \$10,000! Who among us can't use \$10,000? The raffle drawing will be on Friday, August 11, at 8:00pm on the St. Bernadette Church Grounds.

Extending the raffle to August gives us additional time to sell tickets. Please, please support our raffle! We cannot do this without everyone doing their part to make this raffle a success. We stand to profit just under \$100,000 if all our registered parishioners do their part. We are asking that you *buy* or *sell* the two books (10 tickets per book) that are enclosed in the white envelopes at the entrance of our churches.

Each ticket is \$5.00 as in the past. Please, pick up your envelope on the way out of church. In the past, as you know, we have mailed the raffle tickets; however, with the cost of postage, this is a great expense that detracts from our *desperately needed profit*.

The raffle along with the annual carnival and *Food Fest* honoring St. Clare are the only fundraisers that we conduct annually. The funds raised help us get through the winter months. JNM



Registrations Due July 17th

Bible Camp 2023

Return Registrations to either office or drop in Collection Basket

August 7-11 from 9:00am-12:30pm Our Lady of Pompeii Campus 355 Foxon Rd. East Haven Students in Grades K - 6 Camp Counselors: Grades 7-12 Fun Service Hours Visit our Website for Registration Forms or pick up at either office: https://stpioofpietrelcinaeh.com/religious-education/ biblecamp Contact: Sally Mucka at saintpio.rcia@gmail.com or cell: 203 -415-2710

Adult Help Needed too!

MASS SCHEDULE



July 1 & 2, 2023

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

<u>July 8 & 9, 2023</u>

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

July 15 & 16, 2023

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



SAVE THE DATE St Pio of Pietrelcina Women's ACTS Retreat September 21 to September 24, 2023 Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center, Farmington, CT. More details to follow



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

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