

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF
ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA

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



**SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI—FEAST DAY, OCTOBER 4
26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 1, 2023**

Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, September 30 - Vigil – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm OLOP + Fr. John Lavorgna
by Lou & Anne Pacelli

4:30pm SVDP + Catherine & Louis Carfora
by Daughters, Christine & Lisa Carfora

SUNDAY, October 1 – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am OLOP + Maureen Bowery
by Patricia Black

9:00am SB + Marilyn Kozin
by KofC Rodrigo Council #44

10:00am OLOP + Norman DeMartino
by Morgan, Rita & Aunt Bruna

11:15am SVDP + Frederick & Lisa Zito
by Friend

MONDAY, October 2 - Holy Guardian Angels

8:00am OLOP + Donald Guest
by Porto Funeral Home

8:00am SVDP + Sheila DelMonico & Diane DelMonico
by Family

TUESDAY, October 3 – Weekday

8:00am OLOP + A Mass of Thanksgiving
by Theresa & Dolores

8:00am SVDP + John Massaro
by Clancy-Palumbo Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, October 4 – St. Francis of Assisi

8:00am OLOP + Marge & Harold Hall, Jr.
by Marianne Hall

8:00am SVDP + Mary Seward
by Clancy-Palumbo Funeral Home

THURSDAY, October 5 - St. Faustina Kowalska

8:00am OLOP + A Mass of Thanksgiving
by Theresa & Dolores

8:00am SB + Frank DeLucia, Jr.
by Patti & Serge Toni

FRIDAY, October 6 - St. Bruno/First Friday

8:00am SB + Jason Sagnella
by Family

SATURDAY, October 7 - First Saturday

8:00 SB + Andrew Acabbo
by Acabbo Family

SATURDAY, October 7 - Vigil – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm OLOP + Deceased Mem. of Pacelli/DellaRosa Families
by Lou & Anne Pacelli

4:30pm SVDP + Pearl & Tony Mattie
by Daughters

SUNDAY, October 8 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am OLOP + Marion & Albert Jarmie
by Children

9:00am SB + Gerald Redenti
by Wife, Diane

10:00am OLOP + Knights of Columbus #3300 Deceased Mass

11:15am SVDP + Michael Gennaro Germe
by Nunzio Germe

STEWARDSHIP

Regular Collection \$9,215.00

HOPES Collection \$2,853.00

Online Collection \$1,077.00

October 7 & 8 Second Collection:
Utility

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday: Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9, (6a)/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32

Monday: Zec 8:1-8/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23/Mt 18:1-5, 10

Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 9:51-56

Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Lk 9:57-62

Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Lk 10:1-12

Friday: Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/Lk 10:13-16

Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37/Lk 10:17-24

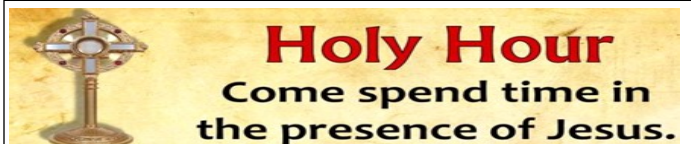
CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

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.



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

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.



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: stpiofpietrelcina@gmail.com

MINISTRY & EVENT CALENDAR

<p align="center">SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1</p> <p align="center">Blessing of the Animals - 1:00pm at St. Vincent de Paul</p>	<p align="center">SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8</p> <p align="center">Ladies' Guild Tea - 1:00-4:00pm at OLOP Hall</p>
<p align="center">MONDAY, OCTOBER 2</p> <p align="center">Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church</p> <p align="center">Ladies' Guild Meeting - 7:00pm at Our Lady of Pompeii Church</p>	<p align="center">MONDAY, OCTOBER 9</p> <p align="center">Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church</p>
<p align="center">TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3</p> <p align="center">Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823</p> <p align="center">Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p align="center">TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10</p> <p align="center">Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823</p> <p align="center">Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p align="center">WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4</p> <p align="center">Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184</p> <p align="center">Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p align="center">WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11</p> <p align="center">Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184</p> <p align="center">Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p align="center">THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5</p> <p align="center">Blood Drive - 1:00-6:00pm at OLOP Church Hall</p> <p align="center">Scriptural Rosary - 6:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p align="center">THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12</p> <p align="center">Scriptural Rosary - 6:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p align="center">FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6</p> <p align="center">Prayer Shawl - 1:00-3:00pm at OLOP LOMR</p> <p align="center">Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p align="center">FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13</p> <p align="center">Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p align="center">SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7</p> <p align="center">Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center</p>	<p align="center">SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14</p> <p align="center">Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center</p>

**You are cordially invited
to a Rescheduled
Mass of Thanksgiving
of my 90th Birthday
by Father Timothy Meehan**

**Thursday, November 9
6:00pm at
St. Bernadette Church
385 Townsend Avenue, New Haven**

As you now know I had to reschedule my 90th Birthday Mass due to fracturing my back, now I will be celebrating my 90th Birthday on Thursday, November 9th, 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 Bernadette Church 385 Townsend Ave. New Haven on Thursday, November 9th 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 any one of the parts of the last 64 years of my Priesthood.



SHOPPING CARDS *STILL* NEEDED

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

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

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 ~ Vincent & Ann Costanzo by Daughter, Roma Sacred Heart of Jesus ~

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Icon ~

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) ~ Andrew Acabbo by Albert Acabbo

Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) ~

Pascal Candle ~ Harold Donegan

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Nick Vessicchio, Sally Ann Fallon, Lynette Ely, David T. Boyle, Richard Lucibello, Carmel Ferretti, Bryan Surprenant, Sharon Spadacenta, Marie & Charles Zambrano, Helen Langelo, 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, Michael Bowen, Linda Montone, Mary Diamante, Carol Esposito, Fred & Barbara Brow, Christopher Farrell, Roberta Sanders-Gray, Jeannette Winston, Marilyn Sisson, Ryder Feeley, Theodore Siwinski, Michael Enders, Nicholas Cerillo, Edwina Cinque, Rudolph Pohlman, Linda Esposito, Renee Flynn, The Cooper Family, Lynn Ely, Ethan Roche, Frances Graney, Barbara Kapusta, Megan Maturo, Rose Paula Dziedulonis, Taras Mychajlowskyj, Denise Steiner, Mary Ann Anastasio, 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, Vern Kelly, Barbara Corso, Terrence King, Monica Cantore, Fr. Lawrence Boch, Antoinette Comiskey, Diane DiLungo

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

**Midnight Run
Taylor Avenue Campus**

The Midnight Run for **October 9** is the **2nd Monday**, which is **October 9th**. 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, October 9th**. 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) 1 year. Questions, please contact Deb or Rico at 203-468-7489



THE EAST HAVEN FOOD PANTRY is asking for cereal, canned vegetables and tuna the month of October. 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.

For more info call Christine Sandford 203-469-7823

From the Pastor's Pen

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

The Dignity of Human Life: *Rediscovering the Master Value*

During the month of October, the Church focuses her attention on *the dignity of human life*. This Sunday, October 1, is the beginning of *Respect Life Month*. How appropriate it is to reflect on the dignity of life as we celebrate the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi whose feast day we celebrate on Wednesday, October 4.

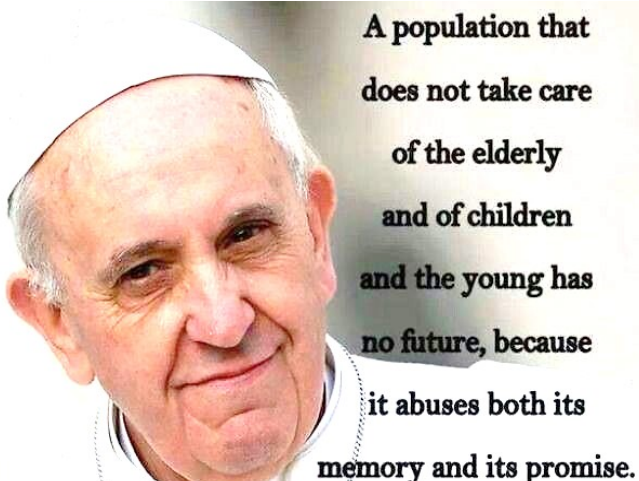
Saint Francis lived his entire life sensitive *to* and conscious *of* the *beauty*, the *sacredness* and the *dignity of all* life as a creation of God. Francis recognized that all life but in particular, human life is a testimony of God's presence in the world.



Never before is it so important for men and women of faith to recognize that every human being possesses, is worthy of, and must be acknowledged and revered for his/her dignity as having been created in the image of God Himself. We live in a society in which individuals have become excessively cruel and judgmental of their fellow human beings. We appear to have little time for one another and at times, we become dismissive and indifferent to those who are different.

The month of October becomes an annual reminder of our need as men and women of faith to *re-discover* the dignity of our fellow human beings and in doing so, to recognize the appearance of Jesus that every person embodies.

Human life possesses *unconditional value* and because of this, each human being is deserving of unconditional respect and reverence despite petty differences that we as humans *create* and *perpetuate* in and among our relationships.



Responsibility for Life

Postmodern men and women of faith, living in the twenty-first century must take responsibility for life and must strive to preserve life on all levels from conception to natural death. The unconditional value of human life *is* and must continue *to be*, the *model* and *norm* from which all other values flow.

Having been created in *God's image and in His likeness*, human beings are more than just a body. Man is a spiritual entity. He is soul. The creation of the human soul not only *defines* man's humanity; the presence of soul is that aspect of the human person that actually constitutes man's human nature. The human being is by nature a *spiritual being*.

Re-Discovering the Master Value

As the Church celebrates *Respect Life Month*, Christians are reminded once again that recognizing the value of life requires much more than tacit agreement concerning the dignity and worth of the unborn. Recognition with regard to the unconditional value of all life embraces a belief system that acknowledges the fact that all life and its inherent goodness and dignity must become the *normative value* or the *Master Value* from which all other values emanate.



Just the other day, I picked up yet again, an old article, which covered Pope Benedict XVI's comments to civil leaders. The Pontiff praised social policies that serve the poor, the marginal and the infirmed as well as the middle class and those, who for too long have been unjustly forgotten and ignored.

In addition, Benedict, also conveyed a very serious and an extremely timely message as he cautioned the civil leadership throughout the world with the reminder that unless government policies and laws embrace, first and foremost, the unconditional dignity of the human person.....in all cases, at all times, from the beginning to the end of lifeall other policies; social policies as admirable as they might be, would ultimately fail and in fact, would *"bare no good fruit."* History will be the judge as to the credibility and validity of the Pontiff's words.

A solid belief system that is nourished by and rooted in the Law of God; the *Good News*, must unequivocally become the *Master Value* in the lives of men and women of faith. The *Master Value* is the dominant value in man's belief system that both supersedes and takes precedence over all other values. The *Master Value* is the *barometer* by which all other values are measured, once discovered and cultivated.



American Secularism

In Benedict XVI's historic visit to America in April, 2008, the Pontiff spoke of an *American Secularism* that actually continues to permeate and define our American culture. According to Benedict, ours is a secularism different from that of the *Enlightenment* in the fact that it is defined by an *attitude* that views religion and its practice as *one value among other equally-acceptable values*. In doing so, religion, its practice and the need for cultivating one's faith has been reduced to the least common denominator. This can be seen specifically with *attitudes* directed to the unconditional value and the dignity of human life in the manner that we treat one another.

Protection of Wildlife & Environment

In society today, the debate over the preservation of life, on many different levels continues. In the recent past, laws have been enacted for the protection of animals that at times fall victim to the cruel and violent ways of humans. This has led to increased attention for the humane treatment of animals and wildlife in general. There are laws that thankfully punish people for their cruel treatment of animals as well as numerous campaigns to prevent their mistreatment. From time to time, we continue to see movements and campaigns for the purpose of protecting marsh lands and the wildlife: the deer, the whale, the dolphin, and other creatures that inhabit our rapidly depleting woodlands and deteriorating oceans, ponds and streams.

More than ever before, there is greater concern about the environment and its preservation for future generations. There is ongoing debate about the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat and the earth we till. People are angered when as a result of human carelessness, tankers pollute our waters, killing marine life and defiling our beaches.

People become just as enraged when at the careless strike of a match, forest fires displace wildlife and human life, driving members of the animal kingdom from their natural habitats and forcing them to adapt to hostile and unfamiliar environments. This same society becomes incensed when pollutants enter the atmosphere and threaten the air we breathe. Concern for wildlife and the environment is necessary if not indispensable. It is the responsibility of every citizen of the earth as good stewards to provide *responsible stewardship* over the goods of the earth, which have been created by God for human prosperity.

Human Life

When the preservation of human life is called into question, each of us must strive in non-aggressive ways to protect and defend its dignity, whether the issue involves the unborn or the living. We need to relate to one another with unconditional reference and respect raising the level of consciousness with regard to those in our society who often slip through the cracks of injustice, indifference and hostility.

We live in a society where human life from the womb to the grave is compromised. *Abortion on demand* is a good example of a society *pretending not* to know the difference between *right* and *wrong*. Society eases its *collective conscience* by calling abortion a woman's *choice*, when we know quite well that *choice* is not the issue. Society continues to perpetuate a cultural climate in which human beings feel justified in embracing a *morality of convenience* and a gospel of death, especially when the issue is the unborn child's right to live.

Sanctity of Human Life

every life matters

"When human beings in the weakest and most defenseless stage of their existence are selected, abandoned killed or used as pure biological matter, how can it be denied that they are no longer being treated as some-one but as some-thing; thus, placing the very concept of human dignity in doubt?" (Pope Benedict XVI, January 31, 2008).

In such a climate, moral decisions result from that which can provide humans with the greatest amount of pleasure or from what might appear convenient or popular. As a society, we seem to care less about the Judeo-Christian values that once defined our American society; virtues that aided man in his quest for happiness leading to physical and spiritual wholeness.

Traditional Judeo-Christian values literally hang in the balance in America. They can be 'forgotten' in a single generation if they are not taught to children and teenagers... It could happen here if we don't defend what we believe.

James Dobson

We have become a society where human *desires* are misperceived as human *needs*.

Secular Humanism

Our twenty-first century society has adopted a philosophy and a climate where Secular Humanism flourishes, insinuating itself in our society on all levels. Most people are unaware of the flaws of this philosophy, which couches itself in *short-sighted* attempts to build a better world. Secular Humanism is a false philosophy, which is rooted in the experience of the individual, with no appeal to supernatural revelation or to God.

The secular humanist maintains that if human experience reveals that something promotes human growth, it is moral. If human experience suggests that something prevents or stifles human growth, then it is immoral. It admits to no absolutes. Consequently, what may have been immoral twenty-five or fifty years ago may not be immoral today because this philosophy bases its standard for judgment on *human experience*, and not on the dignity of the human person.

We have forgotten to be our brothers and sisters keepers. And we have forgotten that the Number 1 goal is to love one another.

Human dignity can never be a matter of subjective beliefs, simply because beliefs are subject to change, while human dignity is constant. Human experiences are always changing; thus, are *not* the result of rational behavior that is directed toward obtaining the *Good*. Until human behavior becomes an extension of God's laws, men and women will constantly mistake evil for the *Good*.

Society has forfeited the *Golden Rule*, abandoned its religious consciousness *for* a moral and ethical code, which more often than not appears to have emerged as a self-serving value system with the pleasure principle as the *Master Value*. As a society, we have lost sight of the Creator and of the importance of the worshipping community. Consequently, one's faith and one's religious creed are no longer the uncontested center and root of human life.

Religious Consciousness

Postmodern man lacks a *religious consciousness*. It is this religious consciousness, which throughout history has sustained human culture, resulting in the creation of traditions. When a society loses sight of its religious consciousness, it ceases to see life as an extension of God. This is better demonstrated when looking at the practice of organized religion and the role of the *parish* in the lives of men and women of faith.

The local church, as it is experienced on the parish level for example, is no longer the final and unquestionable home for the twenty-first century Christian. This is what Benedict meant when he spoke of an *American Secularism*: an attitude and unsophisticated philosophy that views religion and faith not as the *Master value* in man's hierarchy of values; rather, one value among other values. Such a view does not acknowledge the permanent nature of religion as an enduring reality in the formation of man's conscience and basic orientation to life.

Judeo-Christian Values



The values of a Judeo-Christian world are quickly becoming absent in the public forum. In the absence of a religious consciousness, postmodern men and women have become absorbed with feelings of emptiness; searching for the meaning to their lives and the meaning of life in general. One reason for these feelings of emptiness and incompleteness results from the fact that moral absolutes no longer govern or direct human behavior, nor do they exist in our American culture as ideals toward which man strives. The consequence? Postmodern humanity is losing its sense of *rootedness*. Men and women of faith are losing sight of their *sacred origin*; thus, they are losing sight of the reasons for which they *hunger and thirst* for a spiritual frame of reference.

Religion: A Psychological Matrix

In the past, religion created a psychological and spiritual matrix for men and women of faith, which provided a stable and solid frame of reference from birth to death. This sanctified and endorsed ordinary and extraordinary experiences through sacrament and ritual. The loss of a church-centered (*parish-centered*) consciousness is the loss of an entire system of symbols, images, dogmas and rites, which once reinforced and validated the immediate experiences for generations of individuals: for men and women of faith across all denominations

SIGNS & SYMBOLS *of the* CHURCH

Religious symbols and rituals at one time provided men and women of faith with an identity and a sense of being *spiritually rooted*. In religion's diminished role, the *perceived* need for God as a way for experiencing wholeness and peace of mind has become *twisted* and at times even perverted. This has resulted in confusing postmodern men and women into thinking that the human intellect, instead of the human *soul* is or can be the measure for all things, at the same time provide the human being with that needed *moral barometer* for discovering and experiencing real truth and a permanent experience of happiness.



The decline of a religious consciousness in our postmodern world has given rise to the loss of the self. This has resulted in feelings of unwholeness and incompleteness; feelings and attitudes, the source of which are skewed from human consciousness due to man's insatiable need for acquiring *quick-fix -feel-good-fast* remedies from the world as a means of repairing, replenishing and removing feelings of incompleteness.

Human beings have lost contact with that part of their humanity that defines their human-ness: their *spiritual self*. Man has jeopardized his spiritual nature by the fact that he has made secondary values normative in his life. These secondary values masquerade as the *Master Value* from which all truth and happiness flows. In other words, man has divinized the secular, and as a result has fallen victim to its false promises.

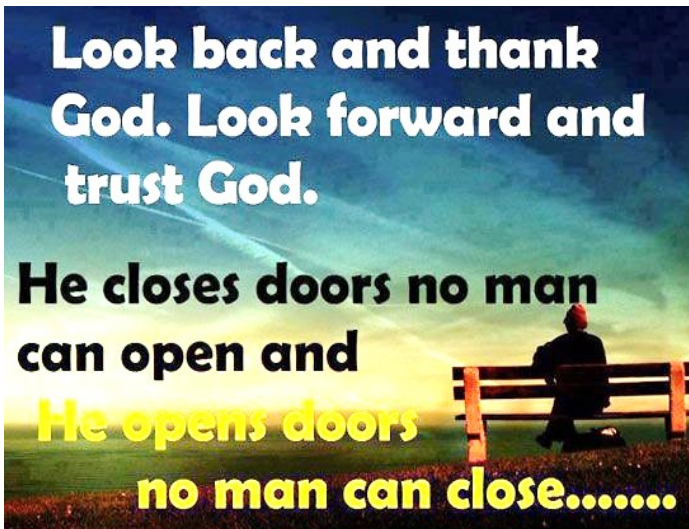
The Creator and His Creation

In the twenty-first century, it is indispensable for men and women of faith to take the lead in assisting society and its secular leaders, in placing the Creator back into His creation and to embrace and to take seriously the meaning behind, "*One nation under God*." This begins, not with condescending or castigating accusations. Rather, the process begins with open and honest dialogue in an attempt for each participant (group) to *re-discover* common ground that can lead to an open and honest search for Truth.



Man's Spiritual Frame of Reference

In Matthew's gospel account of Peter's confession of faith, the evangelist indicates that after Peter tries to prevent Jesus' imminent suffering and death, Jesus rebukes Peter and tells him that he is not thinking according to God's ways, rather, he is thinking according to the ways of men. When man creates a relationship with Christ, he establishes a frame of reference rooted in grace from which he lives and thinks and acts and responds.



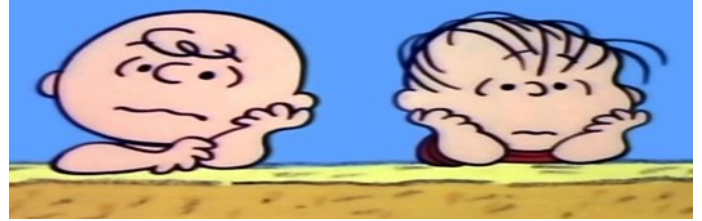
Without such a frame of reference, man lacks real purpose for living and being. Without such a frame of reference, man ceases to *think like God* and is reduced to merely thinking like man; thus, becomes blinded to the sacred in the midst of the profane.

Until postmodern man assumes a *vision in faith* from which to make decisions and from which to live his life, society as a whole will suffer and continue to fall short of the dignity, which God calls every individual to embrace and perpetuate. The Old Testament writers tell us, "*Where there is no vision, the people perish.*"

Let us pray for *vision*, a vision which will provide men and women across all denominations with faith strong enough to reflect God's true image in *all* His creation. 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.

SOMETHING TO PONDER



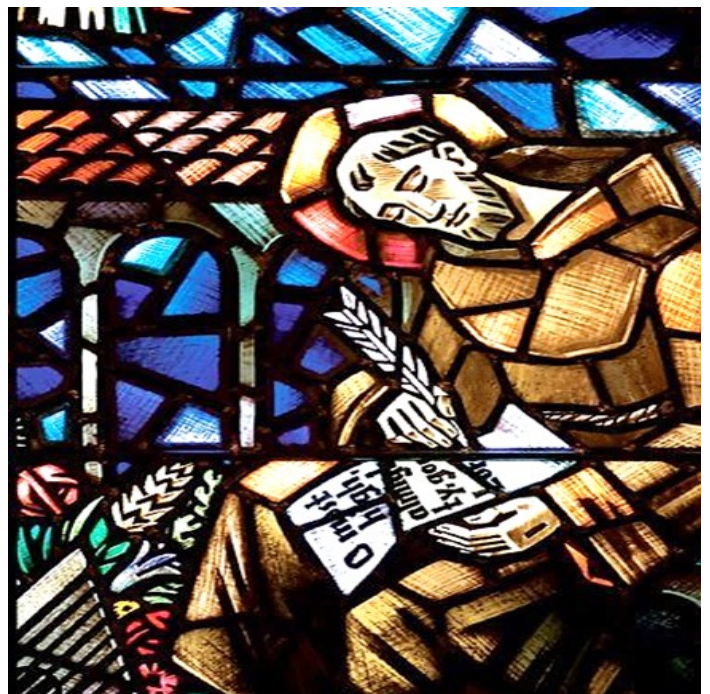
Am I am Peacemaker?

In the *Beatitudes*, of Jesus as recorded by Saint Matthew, Jesus say, "***Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God***" 5:9). This statement by Jesus is an invitation for all men and women faith to live lives dedicated to the spreading of peace through acts of kindness, understanding, acceptance and love of both friend and foe. Ask yourself:

- "*Am I a person who strives to say and do things that promotes good feelings among other people?*"
- "*Do I respect difference, discord and dissention and strive to bring healing and hope into difficult moments as they are experienced in my life, the lives of family members, and in the lives of others?*"



THE WISDOM OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



Of all the saints celebrated in the Church's calendar, Saint Francis of Assisi is perhaps, the most venerated of all the saints in the history of the Catholic Church as well as being admired and invoked across all denominations. Born Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone and affectionately referred to as Francisco, he was born in Assisi, Italy in 1181 and died 1226.

St. Francis was the son of a wealthy nobleman; a cloth merchant by trade, Pietro di Bernardone who made fortunes at the expense of the poor. Although Francis lived a privileged life, this all changed after he returned from the war; a bloody war fought between the neighboring Perugia against Assisi.

The Bombed Church at San Damiano



Francis returned from war physically weakened, emotionally drained and spiritually broken. One afternoon, as Francis stood silently at the bombed-out church of San Damiano, he had a vision from God who spoke to Francis from a large crucifix that miraculously escaped the fallout from the bombing of the little chapel.

The large cross from which Christ spoke to Francis is referred to as the *San Damiano Cross*. It was from this cross that Jesus instructed the young Francisco to "*Rebuild my Church.*"



Francis rejected his father's wealth, returning even the clothes on his back to him and taking the tunic of a beggar; the garb worn by the simplest of the Umbrian peasants. Francis lived the rest of his 45 years devoted to poverty and simple living. He addressed the needs of the poor, the sick and the disabled. Francis lived his life encouraging people to do penance, embrace genuine love for all the brothers and sisters and to strive to live in peace with humankind and with all of nature.

Francis never consented to be ordained a priest. He thought himself to be unworthy. Rather, he lived out his life as a deacon and a preacher. Francis is the founder of the men's Order of Friars Minor, the women's order of St. Clare and the Third Order of St. Francis.

St. Clare of Assisi



St. Clare of Assisi (1194-1253), like Francis was born into a family of tremendous wealth, which she too rejected for a simple life of service. Clare was a beautiful young woman who refused numerous advances from perspective suitors; vowing to live her life for God.



Clare was a childhood friend of Francis and became one of his first followers and later the foundress of the Poor Clare Nuns. St. Clare is always pictured with the Holy Eucharist in her hands because of her great devotion to the Real Presence of Jesus. Her feast day is celebrated on August 11.



Brother Sun Sister Moon

The movie entitled, *Brother Sun Sister Moon* (1972) filmed by Franco Zeffirelli depicts the life and ministry of Saint Francis of Assisi and his relationship with Saint Clare. This is a beautiful movie that is on Netflix. It is worth viewing. JNM

Prayer of St Francis

**LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF
YOUR PEACE;
WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME SOW
LOVE;
WHERE THERE IS INJURY, PARDON;
WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH;
WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE;
WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT;
AND WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY.
O DIVINE MASTER,
GRANT THAT I MAY NOT SO MUCH SEEK
TO BE CONSOLED AS TO CONSOLE;
TO BE UNDERSTOOD, AS TO
UNDERSTAND;
TO BE LOVED, AS TO LOVE;
FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE,
IT IS IN PARDONING THAT WE ARE
PARDONED,
AND IT IS IN DYING THAT WE ARE BORN
TO ETERNAL LIFE.**



Rosary Rally



There will be a Rosary Rally to be held on the East Haven Green on Saturday, October 14 to pray for World Peace. The event starts promptly at 12:00 noon. All participants are asked to bring his/her own rosary beads. The event will be held rain or shine and all are asked to dress for the weather. A folding chair is optional.

The East Haven Green is on Main St. at the corner of Main Street and Hemingway Avenue. Please contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 with any questions.



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

Parkinson's Disease

It is estimated that 60,000 new cases of Parkinson's Disease are diagnosed each year, adding to the estimated 1.5 million Americans who currently have the disease; 6 million people worldwide. The disease on average affects people 65 and older and is progressive, gradually stripping away motor abilities, leaving people with a slow and awkward gait, rigid limbs, tremor, shuffling and a lack of balance.



Parkinson's Disease is a progressive disorder that affects the nervous system and the parts of the body controlled by the nerves. Parkinson's Disease (PD) occurs when brain cells that make dopamine, a chemical that coordinates movement stops working or die. While this condition is best known for its effects on muscle control, balance and movement, it can cause a wide range of other symptoms on the five senses, one's thinking ability, mental health and more.

PARKINSON'S DISEASE



Parkinson's Disease attacks a specific area of the brain referred to the basal ganglia. As this area deteriorates, a person begins to lose certain cognitive and mobility abilities. Scientists have revealed that PD causes a major shift in brain chemistry.



Risks

The risk of developing Parkinson's disease naturally increases with age, and the average age at which it starts is 60 years old. It is slightly more common in men than women. While Parkinson's Disease is usually age-related, it can occur in adults as young as 20 (though this is extremely rare). Often, individuals who experience the symptoms of PD usually have a parent who has or had the disease. Many may remember the actor, Michael J. Fox who was afflicted with PD at age 29.

Symptoms

The most prominent symptom of Parkinson's Disease involves the loss of muscle control. Motor related symptoms may include:

- **Slowed movements (bradykinesia).** A Parkinson's Disease diagnosis requires that this symptom is present.
 - **Muscle weakness** occurs because of muscle control problems, there is no actual loss of strength.
 - **Tremors while muscles are at rest.** This is a rhythmic shaking of muscles even if the muscles are not being used. This occurs in about 80% of PD cases.
 - **Rest tremors** are different from essential tremors that do not usually occur when muscles are at rest.
 - **Rigidity or stiffness.** *Lead-pipe rigidity* and cogwheel stiffness are common symptoms of PD. Lead-pipe rigidity is constant, unchanging stiffness when moving a body part.
 - **Cogwheel stiffness** happens when tremor and lead-pipe rigidity are combined.
 - **Unstable posture or walking gait:** The slowed movements and stiffness of PD cause a hunched over or stooped stance. This usually appears as the disease progresses. It is evident as the afflicted individual tries to walk; forced to take shorter strides along with a shuffling-like gait. In addition, turning while walking may require several steps.
- Additional motor symptoms may include:**
- **Blinking one's eyes** less often than usual. This is also a symptom of reduced control of facial muscles.
 - **Cramped or small handwriting.** This is referred to as *micrographia* and occurs because of muscle control limitations.
 - **Drizzling or Dribbling.** This results from the loss of facial muscle control.
 - **Mask-like facial expression.** This is — Known as *hypomimia*, meaning facial expressions change very little or not at all.
 - **Trouble swallowing (dysphagia).** This occurs with reduced throat muscle control. It increases the risk of developing pneumonia or choking.
 - **Unusually soft speaking voice (hypophonia).** This occurs because of reduced muscle control in the throat and chest.
 - **Depression.**
 - **Loss of the sense of smell.**
 - **Sleep problems.**
 - **Autonomic nervous system symptoms.**
 - **Low blood pressure when standing up.**
 - **Urinary incontinence, GI problems and constipation.**

The Stages of Parkinson's Disease

PD can take decades to cause severe effects to the body. *The Movement Disorder Society Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale*, is the health provider's main tool for classifying the disease. The rating scale examines the impact of the disease measuring four different areas:

Stage 1

Non-motor aspects of the experiences of daily living. This stage deals with the non-motor (non-movement) symptoms like dementia, depression, anxiety and other mental health related issues. It also addresses questions about pain, constipation, incontinence, fatigue, etc.

Stage 2

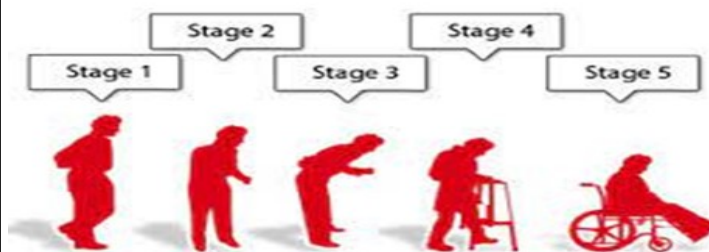
Motor aspects of the experiences of daily living. This section looks to the effects on movement related tasks and abilities. It includes a person's ability to speak, chew and swallow, dress and bath independently.

Stage 3

Motor examination. The healthcare provider uses this section to determine the movement related effects of Parkinson's Disease. The criteria measure effects based on how a person speaks, facial expressions, stiffness and rigidity, walking gait and speed, balance, movement speed and tremors.

Stage 4

Motor difficulties. This section involves a provider in the determination with regard to the impact that the symptoms of PD have on a person's life. This includes both the amount of time that certain symptoms occur on a daily basis and the extent to which these symptoms affect the quality of life.



Causes of Parkinson's Disease

There are several recognized risk factors for Parkinson's Disease such as exposure to pesticides; however, the only confirmed causes of PD are genetic. When Parkinson's Disease is not genetic, doctors classify it as *idiopathic* (a disease of its own). This means doctors are unsure exactly why PD afflicts individuals.



Scientists have linked at least seven different genes to Parkinson's Disease. Parkinson's disease can have familial cause, which means a person can inherit it from one or both parents. However, this only makes up about 10% of all cases diagnosed.

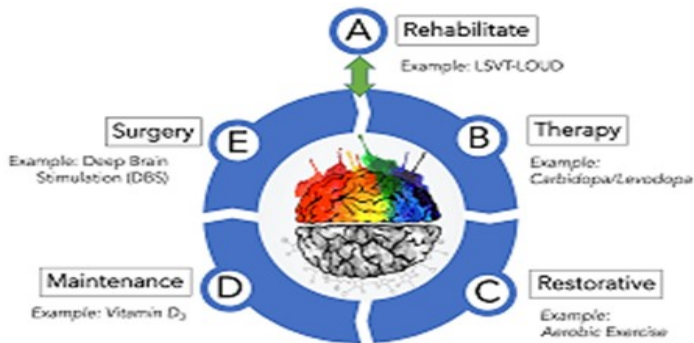
Experts believe idiopathic Parkinson's disease occurs because of problems with how the body uses a protein called *α-synuclein*. Proteins are chemical molecules that have a very specific shape. When some proteins do not have the correct shape, a problem known as *protein misfolding*, the body cannot use them and cannot break them down.

With nowhere to go, the proteins build up in various places or in certain cells (tangles or clumps of these proteins are called *Lewy Bodies*). The buildup of these Lewy Bodies (which does not happen with some of the genetic problems that cause PD) causes toxic effects and cell damage.

Protein misfolding is common in many other disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease and Huntington's disease; multiple forms of amyloidosis and more.

Diagnosis

Tests used to diagnose PD include the following: blood tests, CT scan, genetic testing, MRI and PET scan.

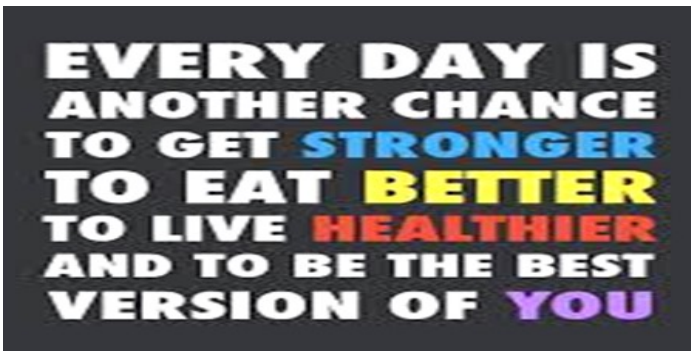


Treatment

Currently, Parkinson's disease is not curable. There are multiple ways to manage symptoms. The treatments can vary from person to person, depending on the specific symptoms and how well certain treatments work. Medications are the primary way to treat this condition.

A secondary treatment option is a surgery to implant a device that will deliver a mild electrical current to part of the brain (this is known as *deep brain stimulation*). There are also experimental options, such as stem cell-based treatments.

Parkinson's disease is not fatal; however, the symptoms and effects are often contributing factors to death. The average life expectancy for PD in 1967 was a little under 20 years. Since then, the average life expectancy has increased by about 55%.



What can you do if you have PD?

Work with the doctor on a plan to stay healthy. This may include:

- A referral to a neurologist, a doctor who specializes in the brain.
- Care from an occupational therapist, physical therapist or speech therapist.
- Meetings with a medical social worker to talk about how PD will affect your life.
- Begin a regular exercise program to delay further symptoms.
- Talk with family or friends who can provide support (clevelandclinic.org). **KP**

Parish nurse can be contacted via email kimp51@comcast.net or mobile phone 203-980-0931. Health counseling available by appointment.



St. Pio of Pietrelcina Ladies Guild Annual Membership Tea and Fashion Show Featuring fall fashions from:

Boscov's of Milford

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023

◆ 1:00 – 4:00pm

**Our Lady of Pompeii Church Hall
355 Foxon Road, East Haven**

Free Event

**Enjoy delicious refreshments and
great company.**

*Ladies
Guild*

St. Pio of Pietrelcina Ladies' Guild General Meeting

Please join us for our next meeting on Monday, October 2 at 7:00pm at Our Lady of Pompeii Church as we discuss the Ladies' Guild Tea that will be on Sunday, October 8

Christmas Fair Update...

Save the dates.. Nov 11 & 12

We always appreciate your donations of gently used pocketbooks, jewelry and books..

We are always looking for handmade crochet items, wreaths, centerpieces, homemade candy, and gift items for our raffles... our

parish is always so fortunate to have so many generous people to help make our Fair a success..

Just a reminder our ornament crafters will be meeting on Sept 18 & Oct 16 in the lower office meeting room at Our Lady of Pompeii Church rectory...everyone is welcome

Knights of Columbus
Rodrigo Council #44
September 2023 300 Club Winners

1st - Joseph Cirillo, Jr. (#204)- \$150.00
2nd - Christine Signore (#131) - \$100.00
3rd - Michele Vuolo (#) - \$75.00
4th - Lisa Fitzgerald (#) - \$50.00

THANK YOU!

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED IN ANY WAY ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA PARISH AND FRIENDS WITH OUR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RODRIGO COUNCIL #44 SENIOR MEAL DISTRIBUTION ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd. A GREAT MEAL OF OVEN ROASTED LEMON PEPPER CHICKEN THIGHS, OVEN ROASTED POTATOES, MIXED VEGETABLES, SALAD, ROLLS, DESSERTS AND FRESH FRUIT WAS DELIVERED TO FORTY (40) OF OUR SENIORS.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY!



Giving Tree Requests

If you know a family in need of help this Christmas, have them contact:
Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764
Opt. 8 or
Email at, saintpio.rcia@gmail.com
before November 6th

www.PageBorders.net



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

VISIT THE HOLY LAND

Only 6 Left



ONLY 6 SEATS LEFT!

A Holy Land Pilgrimage is a
ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!

This fantastic pilgrimage departs on
January 30, for 10 spiritually uplifting day!



Contact Fr. Murasso, ASAP. For a brochure while there are still seats.

Visiting: *Caesarea, Haifa, Tiberias, Mount of Beatitudes, Golan Heights, Samaria & Jacob's Well, Sea of Galilee, Cana, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem.*

TOTAL PACKAGE: \$3799.00

Includes: Air, Hotels, Breakfast and Dinner.

RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THIS INCREDIBLE JOURNEY TODAY!



**VISIT THE HOLY LAND AND
WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS**

With Praise to Almighty God,

His Excellency
The Most Reverend

Leonard P. Blair

Archbishop of Hartford

cordially invites you to attend a Mass of Welcome for

His Excellency
The Most Reverend

Christopher J. Coyne

Coadjutor Archbishop of Hartford

in the presence of His Eminence,
Cardinal-Designate Christophe Pierre,
Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America

Monday, the ninth of October
Two thousand twenty-three
at two o'clock in the afternoon

Cathedral of Saint Joseph
140 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut

Reception immediately following Mass

MASS SCHEDULE



September 30 & October 1, 2023

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

October 7 & 8, 2023

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

October 14 & 15, 2023*

4:00pm OLOP: Fr. Murasso
4:30pm SVDP: Fr. Patrick
8:00am OLOP: Fr. Patrick
9:00am SB: Fr. Borino
10:00am OLOP: Fr. Patrick
11:15am SVDP: Fr. Murasso
*Deacons Preaching Weekend
Deacon Wayne: 4:30 & 11:15
Deacon George: 8:00 & 10:00
Deacon Larry: 4:00 & 9:00

October 21 & 22, 2023

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

October 28 & 29, 2023

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



A STREAM Model and Successor School of Our Lady of Mercy and St. Mary Schools

East Shoreline Catholic Academy (ESCA) is the only Catholic elementary school on the east shoreline from Madison to New Haven. Sponsored by three parishes in the Archdiocese of Hartford, ESCA is one of three Archdiocesan STREAM academies. ESCA is a 'think forward' school that places high priority on educator training, learning, leadership, and 21st century skill applications. We guide our children's developing relationship with God in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic faith and provide a rigorous learning environment that fosters academic excellence.



OUR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Please Help Support East Shoreline Catholic Academy's (ESCA)
Fall Fundraiser
Lyman Pies (10 flavors), Classic Cookie Dough (5 flavors) & Simply Shipped Collection

Sale begins September 25th through October 16th
Pick up date for pies and cookie dough will be November 8th, 2023
at ESCA, 62 Cedar Street, Branford, CT from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Simply Shipped Collection gets shipped directly to you.

If you would like to order, please view and order online at:
<https://my.mcmfundraising.com/2023-fall-east-shoreline-catholic-academy/esca-social-media/>



The Fall Fundraiser also provides an opportunity for a donation of an apple pie to a local food pantry.

Any questions, call or text Deb Panella at
203-415-2668
Thank you!