

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF
ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA

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



32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’ But he said in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’” - Mt 25:11-12

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

©LPI

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 12, 2023

Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, November 11 - Vigil – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm OLOP + Serafina & Luigi Cordone
by Roma & Joe Criscuolo
4:30pm SVDP + Laura Criscuolo
by Joe & Children

SUNDAY, November 12 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am OLOP + Kevin Hoyt
by Mom & Dad
9:00am SB + Susan Gagliardi & Family
by Vincent
10:00am OLOP + Filomena Lavorgna
by Husband, Attilio
11:15am SVDP + Jack Lawler
by Friend

MONDAY, November 13 - St. Francis Xavier Cabrini

8:00am OLOP + Jim Cunningham
by Jean DiGiorgio
8:00am SVDP + Harry DeBenedet
by Marie Lunney & Barbara Elliott

TUESDAY, November 14 – Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Richard Balisciano
by Rosemary Balisciano
8:00am SVDP + Mario Truffa
by Frances

WEDNESDAY, November 15 – St. Albert the Great

8:00am OLOP + Gerrie Amendola
by Rachel & Joe Farah
8:00am SVDP + Trenton O'Brien (Birthday)
by Family

THURSDAY, November 16 - St. Margaret of Scotland

8:00am OLOP + Jay Judge
by Family
8:00am SB + Parishioners of St. Pio of Pietrelcina

FRIDAY, November 17 - St. Elizabeth of Hungary

8:00am SB + John Unfricht
by Family

SATURDAY, November 18 - Vigil – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm OLOP + Joseph, Rose, Anthony & Joseph Abate
by Family
4:30pm SVDP + Jean Iannucci
by Shirley, Peggy, Marie & Antoinette

SUNDAY, November 19 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am OLOP + Lucille M. Helske
by Son
9:00am SB + Jennie Criscuolo
by Son, Henry
10:00am OLOP + Luigi & Maria Lavorgna
by Son, Attilio
11:15am SVDP + Agnes, Frank 'Francis' & Marianne Cantore & David Dunaj
by Family

STEWARDSHIP

Regular Collection \$0.00
Monthly Collection \$0.00
Online Collection \$0.00

November 18 & 19 Second Collection:
Human Development

Due to Early Printing Totals Will Be In November
19th Bulletin.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

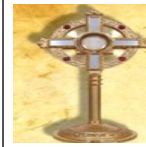
Sunday: Wis 6:12-16/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
(2b)/1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14/Mt 25:1-13
Monday: Wis 1:1-7/Ps 139:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-10/Lk
17:1-6
Tuesday: Wis 2:23—3:9/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19/
Lk 17:7-10
Wednesday: Wis 6:1-11/Ps 82:3-4, 6-7/Lk 17:11-19
Thursday: Wis 7:22b—8:1/Ps 119:89, 90, 91, 130,
135, 175/Lk 17:20-25
Friday: Wis 13:1-9/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5ab/Lk 17:26-37
Saturday: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9/Ps 105:2-3, 36-37, 42-
43/Lk 18:1-8

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-Thu 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00;
Fri 8:00-12:00

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

E-Mail: stpioofpietrelcina@gmail.com

**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.**

MINISTRY & EVENT CALENDAR

<p>SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 Ladies' Guild Christmas Fair - 9:00am-1:00pm at OLOP Church Hall</p>	<p>SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 No Events or Activities Scheduled</p>
<p>MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church Midnight Run - 7:00pm Contact Sue Stacey at 203-214-1762</p>	<p>MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20 Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church</p>
<p>TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 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</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 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</p>
<p>THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16 Scriptural Rosary - 6:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23 Scriptural Rosary - 6:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p>FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24 Prayer Shawl - 1:00-3:00pm at OLOP LOMR Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p>SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center</p>	<p>SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25 Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center</p>

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

The Candles burn this week for these special intentions:

Our Lady of Pompeii Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ In Memory of Billy Richmond & For All the Souls in Purgatory
Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) ~ In Memory of the Mauro & Elko Families
Chapel ~
Sacred Heart of Jesus ~
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Icon ~
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 ~ Lucy Parisi by Family
St. Joseph's Altar ~ Libby Consolatore by Kikosicki & Montesanto Families
Pascal Candle ~ Barbara & Maurice Connolly

St. Bernadette Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~
Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) ~
Pascal Candle ~ Harold Donegan

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Nick Vessicchio, Sally Ann Fallon, Lynette Ely, David T. Boyle, Richard Lucibello, Carmel Ferretti, Bryan Surprenant, Sharon Spadacenta, Marie Zambrano, Helen 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, 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 Dzedulonis, 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, Frances 'Jean' Massimino

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 **November** is the **2nd Monday**, which is **November 13th**. Donations of brown bag lunches, water, juice boxes and toiletries are appreciated. These donations can be dropped off to Sue Stacey's home, 82 Forbes Place, up until 7pm on **Monday, November 13th**. 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 Greatest Commandment:

"Love Never Fails"

Matthew 22:34-40

&

A New Commandment:

"Love One Another"

John 13:31-35

Two weeks ago, on the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we listened as the young scribe approaches Jesus inquiring as to the greatest commandment. Jesus does not respond by telling the scribe what a good commandment should look like; rather, he simply quotes Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18, which summarizes the whole Law in two basic principles:

1. "You shall love the LORD your God with your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."
2. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."



For St. Matthew, like St. Mark, those who LISTEN to the *Word* of God, healing as well as insight ensues. My question for the past several weekends has focused around the extent to which we really LISTEN to Jesus as he communicates to us through his *Word* and in our prayer life.

How does God's *Word* enable us to love according to Jesus' mandate? Does our relationship with Jesus enable us to love and accept and revere one another in the manner in which Jesus teaches? Perhaps, it is a good time to re-visit Jesus' command in both St. Matthew and St. John as an extension of the message that we have been listening to these past several weekends.

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another" (John (13:31-35).

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



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

Another Look at Agape

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

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

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



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



Call to Discipleship

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



In the midst of a world that has become indifferent and perhaps, even anesthetized in its recognition of the dignity of human life and the reverence deserving of every human being, it is far too easy to become self-absorbed with emotional hurts that result from either *perceived* injustices or actual losses. Self-absorbed thoughts, too often perpetuate self-destructive behaviors that insulate the soul from receiving and accepting God’s healing grace. Jesus’ disciples in the 21st century are given a higher calling: “Love one another, as I have loved you.”

The Call to Unconditional Love

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

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



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

St. Matthew and Love

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

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

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

Quoting from Deuteronomy 6:5, Jesus says:

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

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

As was true in John’s account, Matthew uses the Greek word *agape* in Jesus’ response to the young scribe. The type of love that Jesus expects from his disciples is also described by Paul in his *Letter to the Corinthians* in which Paul says:

“Brothers and sisters, strive [as you will] eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I will show you a still more excellent way” (I Corinthians 12:31).

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

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

Is Love Simple?

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

Love is not a temporary feeling or emotion. Emotions and feelings change, sometimes daily. But true unconditional love is everlasting.

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

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



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

An Invitation From Jesus

The gospel account of John and Jesus’ message to the young scribe in Matthew’s account are presented as an invitation to 21st century disciples. Jesus extends this invitation to each of us, which, if not heeded will become an indictment on how we live our lives:

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

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



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

Something to Ponder



The Book Proverbs

The *Book of Proverbs* makes up a large part of what is referred to as *Wisdom Literature* or the *Wisdom of Solomon* in the Old Testament. Although the *Book of Proverbs* is believed to be authored by King Solomon, modern scholarship is more likely to attribute authorship to wise sages.

Proverbial sayings are considered a *genre* (type, or particular category, like poetry) of *Wisdom Literature*. The *Wisdom* authors are writing with the presumption that there exists an intended order to the cosmos, designed, executed and orchestrated like a well-sung opera by God, its Creator.

Wisdom extends her invitation to all and invites humankind to pursue knowledge, understanding and right judgment all of which bear fruit in the attainment of truth (as opposed to opinion). *Wisdom* is described as the mediator between the Creator and His creation: “*Whoever finds me [Wisdom] finds life and obtains favor from the Lord*” (8:32-36).

Proverbial sayings consist of moral teachings (from the Hebrew: *Mashal*); reflections on life, conveyed in brief, sometimes curt, unforgettable sentences with a focus on right living according to *God’s Law*. The *Book of Proverbs* is a wonderful tool for our 21st century world where there appears to be a clear barometer for the discernment of correct from incorrect behaviors. The proverbial sayings provide an orientation and grounding for post-modern men and women of faith for acquiring clear thinking, encouraging and healing speech and an internal peace that comes from adherence *to* and the living *out* of God’s *Word*.

In the *Book of Proverbs*, *Wisdom* and righteousness, and foolishness and wickedness are interrelated. The righteous are those who learn from and obey *Wisdom*. The subordinate their understanding to God’s knowledge. The foolish, however, are those who reject and rebel against the counsel and correction of *Wisdom*. They trust in their own wisdom; thus, fools destroy themselves, while the wise because they put their trust in *Wisdom* (God) find themselves on the path that is gradually made clear.

Wisdom
Literature

In other words, those in continuous pursuit of wisdom, continually experience and continue to gain awareness as to who they are, where they are going and why they do the things that they do. The process; i.e., the state of becoming fuels one’s desire for continued success, having experienced a level of peace/comfort with his/her relationship with God and others.

The sin of the wicked is as devastating and appalling as the Original Sin of Adam and Eve who rejected the all-knowing omniscient presence of God’s plan for humankind. They, like the foolish prefer to follow and actually rely on their own incomplete and false notions of right from wrong; good from evil; thus, like Adam and Eve, the foolish sentence themselves to a life of stupidity, rooted in defiance and rebellion; a deviation from the norm; and that norm is God’s Law.

Proverbs 9:10-12

10The beginning of wisdom is fear of the LORD, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

11For by me, your days will be multiplied and the years of your life increased.

12If you are wise, wisdom is to your advantage; if you are arrogant, you alone shall bear it.

Interpretation

In v. 10, we see that *Wisdom* begins with the “fear” of the LORD. This is not trembling and shaking in one’s boots. Rather, “fear” here means respect, esteem and reverence for God. The individual who journeys through life with belief in God wears a different lens than the individual who has either shaky faith, or no faith at all.

To be a man or woman of faith means that one views life as an extension of his/her relationship with God. It does not mean that such an individual has no worries or fewer problems; not at all. It does mean, however, that in spite of one’s trials and tribulations, the person of faith acquires the ability to look at life and life’s unexpected twists of fate with a different attitude.

In other words, the very first step to *Wisdom*, i.e., the ability to discern, is to know that God is involved in my life and has plan for me.

Verse 11 says that he/she who pursues *Wisdom* will experience a long life. In other words, *Wisdom*’s instruction lengthens one’s life. Really? Or can we interpret it as broadening one’s worldview for as long as one lives. The person who journeys through life as a student of *Wisdom* is the person who is open to life’s challenges and setbacks with the assurance that on some level, either in this world or in the next, God’s will be down.

In verse 12, we see that the *Book of Proverbs* does not hold out hope for fools. If you are a fool; one who rejects *Wisdom*’s instruction, then you bear your own burden, which is a life lived in conflict and rebellion, and a self-imposed sentence for a life lived in ignorance. **JNM**



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

Stress, Depression & the Holidays

It is that time of year when people begin to feel overwhelmed by the thoughts and pressures of the holiday season. With the holidays come the many demands of: cooking meals, shopping, baking, cleaning and entertaining, to name just a few.



The pandemic has caused prolonged stress for many people. This prolonged stress has definitely caused a strain on relationships, the physical body and society in general. All of us have been forced to change our way of living (i.e., wearing a mask, isolation, social distancing, etc.) over last several months. Last year at this time, no one was able to celebrate a traditional Thanksgiving or Christmas due to the pandemic.

What Have we Learned?

Have we learned anything during the shut-down, the isolation and inability to connect with family and friends? Life is slowly returning to what it once was. Has it been a time of true self-reflection to value the gift of life and to find happiness from simplicity? Or, has this time made us anxious, impatient and/fearful?



Lasting happiness can be found watching the sun rise in the morning or set in the evening as well as a walk in the park, a stroll along the beach or holding a newborn baby and feeling innate joy. These are the precious moments in life that should be more memorable than being *consumed* with all the commercialism of the holiday season. The hustle and bustle of frantically trying to purchase the right gift or prepare the grandest meal or bake a variety of cookies as part of the tradition of celebrating Christmas can be exhausting.

Reason for the Season

Is this the real reason for the season?

As men and women of faith, the Advent and Christmas season should be a time to focus on our Lord and Savior who was born in a manger. He did not have all the fanfare associated with commercialism of the twenty-first century. Focus on the real meaning of Christmas with less attention to the *perceived* expectations may provide less stress and anxiety during this time of the year.

It is not uncommon for people to feel sadness or suffer from depression, now that the nights are longer and with how quickly the holiday season is approaching. It is important to realize and recognize these feelings as real. How one copes with his/her feelings and emotions most often determine how the holiday season will be viewed and experienced.

Preventing Holiday Stress

Some tips on preventing holiday stress and depression include:

- ♦ **Keeping expectations modest.** Do not get hung up on what the holidays are *supposed* to be like or how they were in the past. Dwelling on the past or comparing it to past holidays may compound the sadness.
- ♦ **Be realistic.** The holidays do not have to be perfect or like previous years. As families grow and change, traditions and rituals often change as well. Children become adults and often do not return home or find new ways to celebrate.
- ♦ **Meet virtually** on a video call or face time. Even though the holiday may look different this year, find ways to celebrate.
- ♦ **Learn to say no.** Saying “yes” when you should say “no” can leave you feeling resentful or overwhelmed. Friends and coworkers will understand if you cannot participate in every activity.
- ♦ **Forget the unimportant stuff.** Do not feel compelled to do everything. Simplify the amount of cooking and baking. Give yourself a break. Worrying and fretting about little things depletes the spirit.

♦ **Plan ahead.** Set aside specific times for shopping, baking and connecting with friends and other activities. Consider shopping on line, it is convenient and saves time. Plan menus and write out a shopping list. This will help prevent last minute scrambling to buy forgotten ingredients. Ask for help with regard to meal preparation and clean up.

♦ **Stick to a budget.** Before shopping for gifts or food, decide what is affordable. Try to stick to a budget. Happiness is not found with an overabundance of gifts. Often the gifts are set aside and forgotten before the New Year begins.

♦ **Lean on support systems.** Close friends can help fill the void of being alone and/or lonely and can help diminish the sad feelings associated with holiday celebrating.

♦ **Spend quality time in prayer.** Being alone with God is a perfect way to mend and rejuvenate the spirit and soul.

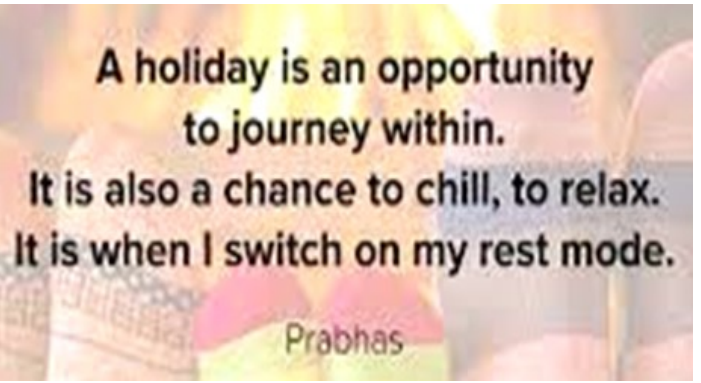
♦ **Make new traditions.** People often feel the need to keep family traditions alive even if no one enjoys them any longer, or if a loved-one has passed away. Often, guilt is associated with not carrying on a tradition. Let go of the past. Start a new tradition that is personally meaningful to you and your family. While this change may be difficult at first, it may be a new way of finding peace of mind and a bit of happiness despite the feelings of loss.

♦ **Set aside differences.** Try to accept family members and friends as they are, even though they may not live up to all of your expectations. Set aside grievances until a better time for discussion. Family arguments at the dinner table are all too common during the holidays. Remember, you cannot control nor are you responsible for family members who argue; you can, however, control your response. If feeling uncomfortable, remove yourself from the table.

♦ **Reach out.** When feeling lonely or isolated, seek out religious or other civil events. Many communities have websites, online support groups, social media sites or virtual events. They can offer support and companionship. Volunteering your time or doing something to help others is a good way to lift the spirit and make new friendships.

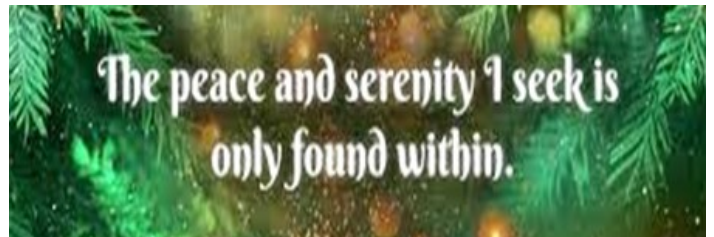
♦ **Take a break.** Make time for yourself. Spend time alone, without distractions, refreshes the mind and the spirit. Find something that reduces stress by clearing the mind, slowing down your breathing and restoring inner calm. Some options to consider: Listen to soothing music, read a chapter in a book, take a walk and breathe in the fresh air.

♦ **Maintain healthy habits.** Do not overindulge and make the holiday a free-for-all. Overindulging behaviors often leads to added stress and guilt. Have a healthy snack prior to a holiday meal so that you do not go overboard on sweets, cheeses or drinks. Eat healthy meals, exercise daily, avoid excess tobacco, alcohol or other substances and get plenty of sleep.



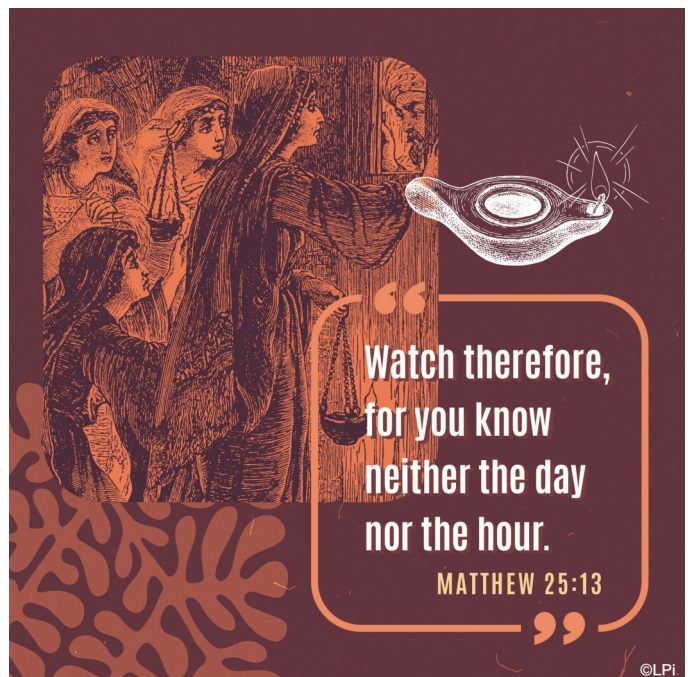
♦ **Social Media.** Be aware of how the information culture can produce undue stress and adjust the time spent on social media or watching the news.

♦ **Seek professional help.** Despite your best efforts, if persistent sadness or depression is constant and interfering with activities of daily living, talk to a health care professional.



With a little planning and positive thinking the holidays can be a time to find peace and joy. Finding true peace and happiness is about making meaningful human connections and memories that will be remembered long after the gifts are put on the shelf and forgotten. Let this holiday season be magical and meaningful. Let the heart be filled with wonder, love, peace and joy that can be sought only with a willing spirit. **KP**

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



FR. MURASSO'S MESSAGE BOARD

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Office Closure Notice

The **Foxon Road office** at Our Lady of Pompeii **WILL BE CLOSED** from Monday, October 30 to Friday November 10. Walk-in parish business as well as phone calls will be re-routed to the **Taylor Avenue office at Saint Vincent de Paul**. The Foxon Road office will re-open on **Monday, November 13**.



FOOD BASKETS

The **East Haven Food Pantry** needs our help for **Thanksgiving**. Their needs include: **STUFFING, YAMS AND CRANBERRY SAUCE**.

ST. BERNADETTE FOOD PANTRY



Food Pantry Needs

The **Saint Bernadette Food Pantry's TURKEY DRIVE** will take place on **Sunday, November 12** before the 9:00am Mass. **GROCERY GIFT CARDS** will also be accepted at this Mass to purchase turkeys.



All Souls' Day
OFFERING

ALL SOUL ENVELOPES
All Souls Remembrance Envelopes will be placed on the altars in our three churches throughout the month of November. Envelopes may be placed in the collection basket.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE



The annual **Mass of Remembrance**, honoring all those in our parish who have gone to their eternal reward this past year will be celebrated at **Saint Vincent de Paul Church** on **Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00pm**.

November 23, 2023

Thanksgiving Day Mass



Thursday, November 23
8:00am OLOP
9:00am SB

No Vigil Mass on Wednesday



Friday, December 1, is *World Aids Awareness*, commemorated throughout the month of December. We pray for all those who continue to be victims of this virus and that someday soon a cure will be found.

FAMILY MASS



DECEMBER 3 @ 9:00am AT SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA TO FOLLOW FAMILY MASS ON DECEMBER 3 IN SVDP CHURCH HALL.

***Immaculate Conception
Holy Day of Obligation
Friday, December 8***



***Holy Day Masses
OLOP: 8:00am & 6:00pm
SVDP: 12:15 noon
SB: 9:00am***

LIVING NATIVITY



The Religious Education Students will present a Living Nativity

**Friday, December 15 @ 6:30pm
In Saint Vincent de Paul Church.
Refreshments & Family Activities to follow in the SVDP Church hall.**



**LESSONS & CAROLS
SUNDAY, December 17 @ 2:00pm
at Our Lady of Pompeii Church**



**FAITH FORMATION
*Lifelong & Ongoing***

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...?

- Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?
- Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist?
- Or do you just want to learn more about our faith and help spread "The GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ?"

Join us on Sundays after the 10:00 am Mass at OLOP and share your faith story with us.

For more information contact:

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



Knights of Columbus Rodrigo Council 44
St. Bernadette's Church New Haven, CT



"Getting More With 44"

**Knights of Columbus Rodrigo Council 44
of St. Pio of Pietrelcina
Parish St. Bernadette
Campus is now selling
tickets for the 2024 300
club**

Rodrigo Council Members, St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish and friends, the Knights of Columbus Rodrigo Council #44 is offering an opportunity to join our annual 300 club. The club will run from January 2024 to December 2024. Four winning numbers will be drawn each month for twelve (12) months.

FIRST NUMBER wins \$150.00
SECOND NUMBER wins \$100.00
THIRD NUMBER wins \$75.00
FOURTH NUMBER wins \$50.00

**One Grand Prize of \$1000.00 will be drawn
in December 2024**

Tickets for membership is limited to 300.

YOU MUST BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

The cost of membership is \$50.00.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RODRIGO COUNCIL
#44

PROCEEDS FROM THIS PROGRAM WILL
BENEFIT OUR COUNCIL'S CHARITABLE
DONATIONS TO ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA
PARISH COMMUNITY, OUR COMMUNITY IN
GENERAL AND THOSE IN NEED.

Payment must be made at the time of number selection.
Only 1 entry per form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Cash: _____ Check: _____ Check #: _____

1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____
3rd Choice _____



**St. Pio of Pietrelcina Ladies Guild Annual
Christmas Raffle
10 Prizes!**

- 1st: \$1,000
- 2nd: \$250
- 3rd: \$250 Forbes Premium Fuel
- 4th: \$250 Forbes Premium Fuel
- 5th: \$100 Archie Moore's
- 6th: \$100 Shop Rite
- 7th: \$50 DiLustro Jewelry
- 8th: \$50 Goody's
- 9th: \$50 Café Fiore
- 10th: \$50 Subway

Tickets are \$3 each - all proceeds benefit
St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish.

Drawing will be held at 12 noon on
Sunday, November 12 in the Our Lady of
Pompeii Church Hall.

For more information, contact Patti
Scussel at 203-710-7886, or
parscussel@aol.com.

Tickets can be returned to the church
offices, placed in the offertory
baskets thru the weekend of
November 4 - 5, or turned in during the
Ladies Guild Christmas Fair on
November 11 - 12.

**TICKETS SHOULD NOT BE PLACED IN THE
OFFERTORY BASKETS THE WEEKEND OF
NOVEMBER 11 - 12.**





SHOPPING CARDS *STILL* NEEDED

With the holidays coming up, 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



MASS SCHEDULE

November 11 & 12, 2023

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

November 18 & 19, 2023

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

DEACONS PREACHING SCHEDULE

4:00 & 9:00: Deacon Larry
4:30 & 11:15: Deacon George
8:00 & 10:00: Deacon Wayne



Thanksgiving Day, November 23

8:00am OLOP
9:00am SB

November 25 & 26, 2023

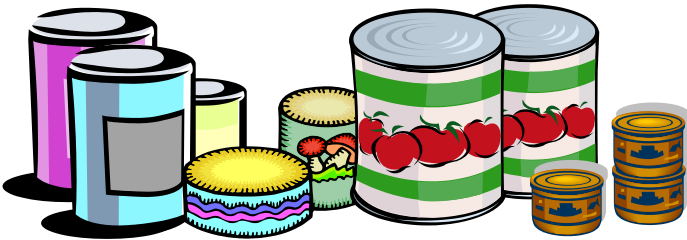
Feast of Christ the King

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

December 2 & 3, 2023

1st Sunday of Advent

4:00pm OLOP: Fr. Borino
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



**St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish
Knights of Columbus #3300**

Stuff a Truck

Saturday, November 18th

8:00am to 4:00pm

Sunday, November 19th

7:30am to 12:00pm

**Non - Perishable Food Items &
Cash Donations will be accepted**

**Our Lady of Pompeii Church
Parking Lot**

**Look for the BIG White Truck
and at St. Vincent's at Masses**

**To Benefit the
East Haven Food Pantry**

**Questions Call Joe at
203-887-2137**