

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF
ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA

REVEREND JEREMIAH N. MURASSO, PH.D., ED.D., PSY.D., PASTOR
REVEREND MATTHEW CHERIAN, PH.D., PAROCHIAL VICAR



6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.” - Jn 15:10

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

6th Sunday of Easter
May 5, 2024

Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, May 4 - Vigil – 6th Sunday of Easter

4:00pm OLOP + Grace Maniscalco
by Family
4:30pm SVDP + Christopher & Emma Silva
by Joe, Carol & Nate

SUNDAY, May 5 – 6th Sunday of Easter

8:00am OLOP + Filomena Lavorgna
by Husband, Attilio
9:00am SB + Annette Talbot
by Family
10:00am OLOP + Alfonso, Louisa & Andrew Gamberdella
& Rose Fusco
by Linda Esposito
11:15am SVDP + Lucy Consolo
by Daughter, Catherine

MONDAY, May 6 - Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Gerri Amendola
by Husband, Jerry
8:00am SVDP + Carol Falcigno
by Clancy-Palumbo Funeral Home

TUESDAY, May 7 – Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Bill Cook
by Lisa Leary
8:00am SVDP + Dean Fradiani, Jr.
by Clancy-Palumbo Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, May 8 – Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Camilla Palmieri
by Porto Funeral Home
8:00am SVDP + Mary Colloso
by Children, Grandchildren & Great-Granddaughter

THURSDAY, May 9 - Ascension of the Lord

8:00am OLOP + Living & Deceased Members of St. Pio
9:00am ST. B + Living & Deceased Members of St. Pio
12:15pm SVDP + Living & Deceased Members of St. Pio
6:00pm OLOP + Living & Deceased Members of St. Pio

FRIDAY, May 10 - St. John of Avila

8:00am ST. B + Cathy Misbach
by Nick Cretella

SATURDAY, May 11 - Vigil – 7th Sunday of Easter

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

SUNDAY, May 12 – 7th Sunday of Easter

8:00am OLOP + Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Pio
9:00am SB + Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Pio
10:00am OLOP + Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Pio
11:15am SVDP + Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Pio

STEWARDSHIP

April 27 & 28

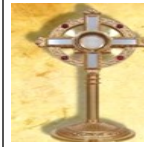
Regular Collection \$9,003.00

**May 11 & 12 Second Collection:
Utility**

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 (see 2b)/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17
Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Jn 15:26—16:4a
Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15
Thursday: Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 16:16-20
Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 16:20-23
Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10/Jn 16:23b-28



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.**

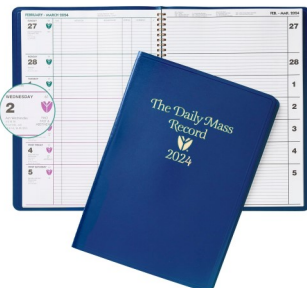
CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

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.



2024 MASSES -

The 2024 Mass Intention Book is opened. There are many weekday Masses left. Kindly have your requests ready when scheduling.

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-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

Website: stpioofpietrelcinaeh.com

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MINISTRY & EVENT CALENDAR

<p>SUNDAY, MAY 5 Bike Blessing - 9:00-12:00pm at Our Lady of Pompeii Church Grounds</p>	<p>SUNDAY, MAY 12 May Crowning - 11:15am Mass at SVDP Meet & Greet - After 11:15am Mass at St. Vincent de Paul</p>
<p>MONDAY, MAY 6 Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church</p>	<p>MONDAY, MAY 13 Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church</p>
<p>TUESDAY, MAY 7 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, MAY 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>WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 Novena - 7:00pm at OLOP Church Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY, MAY 15 Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 Novena - 7:00pm at OLOP Church Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p>THURSDAY, MAY 9 Scriptural Rosary - 7:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>THURSDAY, MAY 16 Scriptural Rosary - 7:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p>FRIDAY, MAY 10 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>FRIDAY, MAY 17 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p>SATURDAY, MAY 11 Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center</p>	<p>SATURDAY, MAY 18 Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center</p>

Registration Now Open for BIBLE CAMP 2024

AUGUST 5 – 9
9:00am - 12:30pm
OLOP Church Grounds

**Registration Forms can be
downloaded on our website:**
<https://stpioofpietrelcinaeh.com/religious-education/biblecamp/>
or pick-up the forms at either office.

Return Forms with payment to either office, mail to:
St. Pio of Pietrelcina, 355 Foxon Road, East Haven 06513 or
drop in Collection Baskets by July 15th.
Contact: Sally Mucka at saintpio.rcia@gmail.com or 203-415-2710

Featuring: A Visit from Mystic Aquarium's Live Creature Exhibit
Join our Adventure into the deep blue seas as we seek out the beauty of God's Creation
and the Blessings that our Oceans provide for us.

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 ~ Barbara Kapusta by *Knotts Family & Carmel Apuzzo Sacred Heart of Jesus* ~

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Icon ~ Our Lady Of Perpetual Help by *Carol & Judy*

Pascal Candle ~ Deceased Members of the Calamita, Hart, Surprenant & Zito Families

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 ~

St. Joseph's Altar ~

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, 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 Tantalò, 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, 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, Megan Maturo, Rose Paula Dziedulonis, Taras Mychajlowskyj, Denise Steiner, Mary Ann Anastasio, Gloribeth R., Stacie Bouchard, Al Sappinetti, Guy Racino, Michael Polaski, Martha Catel, Eddie Villecco, Isaiah Colville, Jennie Nazario, Joan Proto, Caitlin Rustic, Michael Fillion, John Torello, Mauro Antonio Bezanilla, Matteo Criscuolo, Robert Fillion, Lucy Carbone, Dorene Izzo, Lucille Palange, Carmine Riccietelli, Sr., Louise Amato, Mark Houston, Avery Bye, Alex Bernaitis, Vincent Pisano, 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, Terrence King, Monica Cantore, Fr. Lawrence Boch, Antoinette Comiskey, Diane DiLungo, Frances 'Jean' Massimino, Luca Small, Vincent Savo, Louis Cinque, Alex Dugatto, Kim Vincent-Foschini, Dawn Quartiano Ferraro, Sal DeCola, Pasquale Marino, Bernadette Mckiernan

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 May is the **2nd Monday**, which is **May 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, May 13th**. Any questions, please contact Sue at 203-214-1762. 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 Our Lady of Pompeii church **ONLY**. 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 pasta for the month of May. 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.

For more info call Christine Sandford 203-469-7823

From the Pastor's Pen

Reverend Jeremiah N. Murasso, PhD, EdD, PsyD

*"If You keep my Commandments,
you will remain in my Love"*
John 15:9-17

The Gospel for this sixth Sunday in the Easter season forms part of Jesus' farewell message to his disciples (John 14:1-15:17). In the gospel account for last weekend (John 15:1-8), Jesus teaches his disciples about the relationship between them and the Father. Jesus tells his disciples that he is the "true vine" and if they remain in him and he in them they will produce much fruit. However, if they disconnect themselves from Jesus, they will wither and die in the same way that a branch that is cut from the vine withers, dies and is good for nothing except to be burned.

John 15:14

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

This weekend, Jesus tells his disciples that if they keep his commandments they will remain in Jesus' love. The love about which Jesus speaks is *agape*, which we know to be *unconditional love*, complete acceptance of the other person. *Agape* is the highest form of love that one can give and receive because it includes *soul meeting soul*.

Jesus gives his disciples a challenge to love one another as he loves the Father. In John 15:9, Jesus says,

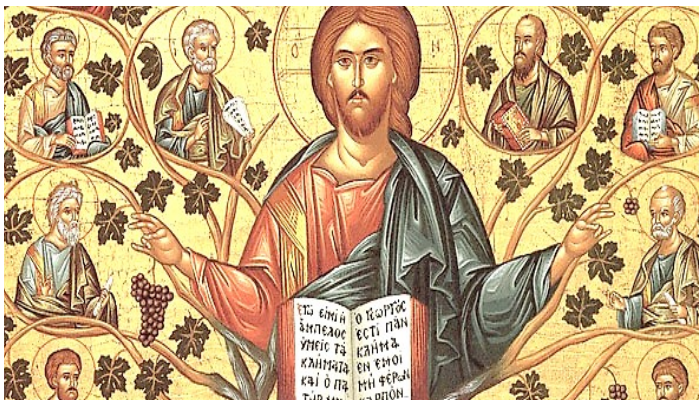
"As the father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love."

Love (*agape*) is the *thread* that links Jesus with his Father and with those who will make up the community of believers after Jesus returns to the Father.

It is love (*agape*) that keeps the mission and ministry of Jesus alive in the lives of his believers. It is this same love (*agape*) that makes the relationship between the vine and the branches indistinguishable just as the relationship between the Father and the Son is indistinguishable.

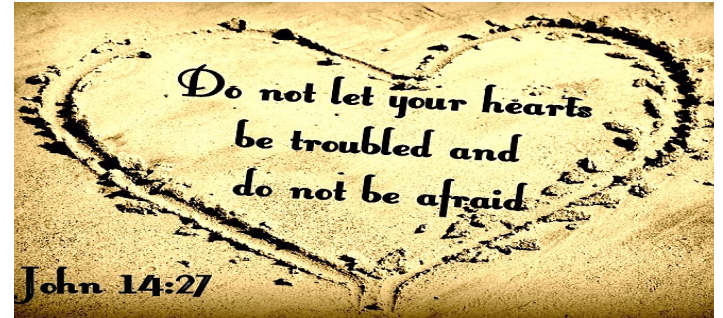


The final discourse or message that Jesus delivers to his disciples begins in chapter fourteen of John's gospel account. I believe that chapter 14 sets the tone for what follows in chapter 15 regarding the analogy of the vine and branches.



Jesus begins his farewell message by telling his disciples not to let their hearts be *troubled* (John 14: 1-12). The *troubled heart* about which Jesus speaks goes beyond sadness or mere sentiment. Coming from the Greek *tarassein*, the word *troubled* implies a deep-rooted feeling of hopelessness and uncontrolled despair resulting in a void; a spiritual and emotional emptiness. The word *tarassein* is used to describe Jesus' feelings as he stood before the tomb of his friend Lazarus. John tells us that Jesus became *perturbed and deeply troubled* (John 11: 33, 38).

This expression of deep-felt hopelessness on the part of Jesus is consistent with St. John's dualistic tension that permeates the Fourth Gospel. The conflict of opposites: light and darkness; truth and falsity. Jesus is *troubled* because he finds his ministry at odds with the Prince of this world: Satan. Death is the absence of life and where there is no life there is no truth. Jesus prayed: *"Father, thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me"* (John 11:42-43).



The notion of the *troubled heart* becomes clearer as we understand it in relation to the *vine and branches, loving Jesus and keeping the commandments* (chapter 15). The true disciple of Jesus is one who loves (*agape*). Such a person automatically and spontaneously lives his/her love through how he/she lives life. In other words, he/she who truly loves, as Jesus intended, *never* experiences a *troubled heart*. True love dispels doubt, confusion and despair, and reinforces hope, trust and confidence, even amid the trials and tribulations of everyday life.

This is precisely the message that Jesus now gives to his disciples: *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith, then, in me"* (14:1-2). This is a command. *"Believe!"* For if you *believe*, you will conquer the world with your faith. Jesus is telling his disciples not to allow the world to get between them and him. The world and all its untruths, although alluring, will distract followers of Jesus from recognizing and embracing Truth. Jesus is Truth; thus, as long as they (we) believe, they (we) will stay connected to Jesus.

What a powerful message for twenty-first-century men and women of faith. How often do we allow the world and daily stressors to distract us from what *counts*? How often do we permit anger and apathy to disrupt the focus of our relationship with Jesus; thus, missing his presence in our lives?

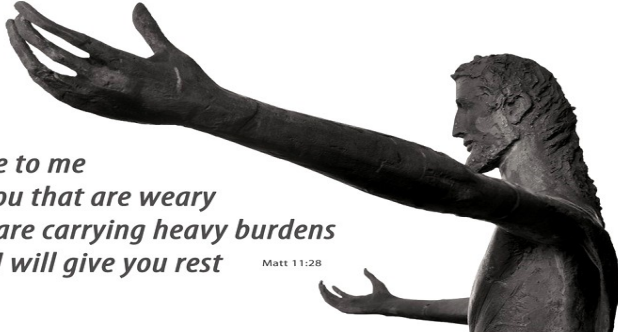
As Christians, we don't realize how powerful we are in possessing the *life of Jesus within our very souls*. If we truly believed, if we believed, we (as Jesus told his disciples), could truly move mountains.

"Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to the mountain, 'be moved,' and it will be moved. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20).

How often have we given into the moment, permitting the Prince of this world to get between our faith and our God? In St. John's gospel account for this Sunday (15:9-17), Jesus begins by telling his disciples that the test of their love will be evidenced in their desire to *fulfill* his commandments. Jesus is not talking about a set of precepts here. He is speaking about a way of life that includes him. Jesus speaks of a *frame of reference*, a world view, a spiritual disposition that is rooted in and emanates from an intimate and personal relationship with him.

To love Jesus is to know him. A relationship with Jesus like any human relationship demands that one spend time with the other, dialogue with the other, get to know the other, live for the other, desire to be with the other. The problem with the world is that the world does not know Jesus because it has failed to embrace him and love him and no longer feels the need to spend time with him and to understand his word.

*Come to me
all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens
and I will give you rest* Matt 11:28



The reward for belief in Jesus is a life lived in Truth. When we live our lives in search of truth, there is no (*tarassein*) troubled heart, no spiritual deprivation or void. When the trials and tribulations of life come our way, being men and women of faith, we can weather the storm, forge head and move yet, another step closer to Jesus.

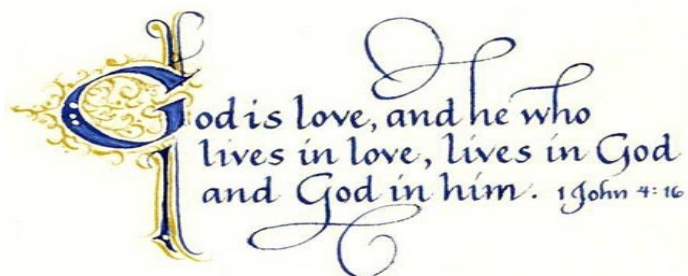
To assure the disciples that they are on the right track (in Jesus' absence), the Father will send the *Paraclete*, the *Spirit of Truth* who will not only protect the disciples against the Prince of this world; he will also, lead and keep them in the Truth. The world, however, cannot see (from the Greek, *theorein*, meaning having bodily or spiritual sight), the *Paraclete* because the *Paraclete* is not corporeal. In addition, the world does *not* have the spiritual insight as the followers of Jesus do. Consequently, the world is ignorant to the Truth; thus, exists in darkness and unlike the believer is subject to death.

The unbeliever, the one who permits the world to distract him/her from God is the one who experiences a troubled (*tarassein*) heart. The void that exists in the depth of the soul because of spiritual emptiness results in a feeling of aloneness in the midst of, and against the forces of the world. In other words, one feels like an orphan, without parental support.

Jesus says:

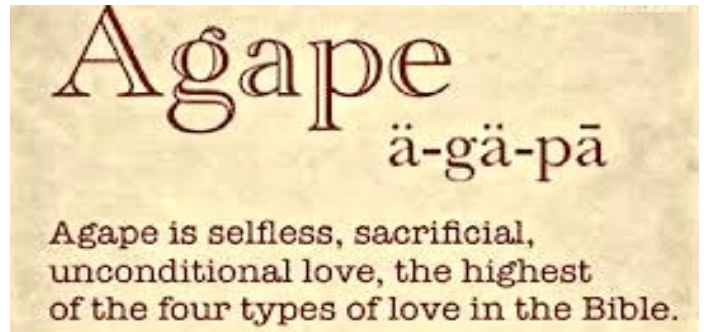
- Have faith!
- Believe in me!
- Love me!
- Keep my commandments...And
- The Father will give you the *Paraclete*; the *Spirit of Truth*...
- I shall not leave you orphans.

“Whoever loves me will keep my commandments, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him” (John 14:23).



To fully understand Jesus' message, we must define what it means to love. Love (*agape*) is unconditional acceptance of the other. It involves a conscious recognition that all people are created in the *image and likeness* of God and as such are deserving of respect, justice, dignity, and mercy. The individual who truly *loves* Jesus will *instinctively* strive to create an environment in his/her life where values based on Truth, charity, honesty and justice take root and become the *hallmark* of one's behavior.

The commandments about which Jesus speaks consist of the entire Gospel. To keep Jesus' commandments means that the true disciple is the individual who loves Jesus and demonstrates this love by *fulfilling* the message of the *Good News*. Such a person walks in the Light of Truth and consequently, radiates *Life*; a life that reflects the presence of Jesus who abides within. God through Jesus *dwells* amid goodness. Therefore, where there is goodness, there one will find the presence of Jesus.



This is not true among those who refuse to listen to God's *Word* or to *fulfill* the *commandments* of Jesus. For them, there is no Light, for such individuals shun the Light and embrace the darkness. Where there is darkness there is death and where there is death, there one finds the *absence* of the divine presence.

Gospel of Death

When St. John Paul II visited The United States in 1979, he warned Americans about embracing what he referred to as the “*gospel of death*.” The presence of greed, dishonesty and immorality lead Christians away from the *Gospel of Life*. Darkness gives rise to and perpetuates self-seeking and consequently, short-lived egocentric types of reinforcements, all of which give birth to a gospel of materialism and secularism. We find this existing on all levels of society. It points to a world that has strayed from its true identity, having been created in the *image and likeness* of God.

Easter People

All is not gloom and doom, because we are *Easter people*. Jesus has made all things new by dying and rising from the dead. Easter is Jesus' victory over sin and death. To the degree that we *embrace* the Easter reality, we participate in an *enduring and ever-present experience* of Jesus as he lives in the here and now.

Easter people, raise your voices,
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices;
heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

The Easter Event confirms Jesus' presence among his creation through the presence of the *Paraclete* who the Father has sent into the world as confirmation of His loving and enduring presence in and through Jesus. Therefore, to those who fulfill Jesus' commandments, and demonstrate love, the presence of the divine will dwell in the life of such a person; thus, he/she becomes an extension of Jesus in the world.

...Peace, I leave with you, my peace I give you. Not as the world gives, do I give it to you; this is my gift to you (John 14:27).

What does Jesus mean when he bestows unto his disciples his wish for peace? Jesus does not mean the absence of war, nor does he mean the end of the daily stressors. Jesus, also, does not mean the sentimental, *Hallmark moment* where at one time one is happy and at another moment, sad.

The peace that Jesus refers to has to do with eternal salvation, which is rooted in the here and now. It is an internal predisposition that one acquires through a *daily living-out* of one's faith in Jesus Christ; a faith that is rooted in Love (*agape*).



Jesus refers to this peace as a *gift*, because we receive it without merit. Jesus bestows this peace as a reward for our love. But to love Jesus means that we keep his commandments. If we do, *the Father and I will make our dwelling in you* (John 14: 23). The result of this *indwelling* of Jesus leads to a life where one lives as an extension of that which abides deep within the soul: *the spirit of the triune God*.

Permanent Peace

The world cannot give true peace, because the world cannot give what it does not possess. Lasting peace results from a life lived in faith. Such a life cannot be shaken by the trials and tribulations of daily living. The man or woman of faith who abides in Jesus experiences a deeper union with Jesus that results in an unshakable, permanent peace at the level of the soul. This is something that the world can never take from us. Such a faith is rooted in the soul where Jesus dwells. Such a faith can only have its origin in its true source: Jesus Christ.

In a world filled with much unrest and confusion, the Gospel message for the past two weekends is a real *gift* to the serious Christian for finding and maintaining a lasting link to Jesus.

Find that peace that the world can never give by looking within your soul for the *Maker* of all things good: Jesus Christ. And...once found...share it with others! **JNM**



THE BEST OF ITALY & SICILY

13 DAYS: NOV. 3 TO NOV. 15, 2024
DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS FANTASTIC ITALIAN
EXCURSION

ACT FAST!



VISITING:

*SORRENTO, *POMPEII, *AMALFI COSTLINE, *SAN
GIOVANNI ROTONDO, *ROME,

&

OPTIONAL TRIP TO ASSISI
AUDIENCE WITH POPE FRANCIS



DON'T MISS OUT!

Contact Fr. Murasso TODAY at
jeremiah.murasso@aol.com or 860-977-7675 for a
BROCHURE & RESERVATION FORM WHILE THERE IS
STILL ROOM!



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

Pancreatic Cancer

Pancreatic cancer is responsible for approximately 3% of all cancers in the United States. It is the 10th most common cancer in men and the 8th most common cancer in women. Cases of pancreatic cancer are on the rise. Trends indicate that pancreatic cancer will be the second leading cause of death in the United States by 2030.



Defining Pancreatic Cancer

Pancreatic cancer occurs when cells in the pancreas mutate and multiply out of control, forming a tumor. The pancreas gland is located in the abdomen, below the spine and stomach. The function of the pancreas is to make hormones that control blood sugar levels and enzymes that aid in digestion.

Most pancreatic cancer begins in the ducts of the pancreas. The main pancreatic duct (*the duct of Wirsung*) connects the pancreas to the common bile duct. This type begins in the cells that line the ducts that carry digestive enzymes out of the pancreas.



Types of Pancreatic Cancer

There are 2 main types of pancreatic tumors:

1. **Exocrine tumors.** Over 90% of all pancreatic tumors are exocrine tumors. The most common type of pancreatic cancer is adenocarcinoma, which begins in the cells that line organs.
2. **Neuroendocrine tumors.** Less than 10% of pancreatic tumors are neuroendocrine tumors (NETS). Islet cell carcinoma is another name for an NET.

Symptoms

There usually are no early signs of pancreatic cancer. Symptoms typically begin once the tumor starts impacting other organs in the digestive system. Pancreatic cancer symptoms may include:

- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin),
- Middle back pain,
- Dark urine,
- Fatigue,
- Light-colored stools,
- Itchy skin,
- Upper abdominal pain,
- Nausea and vomiting,
- Gas or bloating, l
- Lack of appetite,
- Weight loss, b
- Blood clots,
- New onset diabetes

Often there are no early symptoms of pancreatic cancer. Some people develop vague symptoms up to one year before a diagnosis is made.



Many people report that the first pancreatic cancer symptoms are back or stomach pain. These symptoms can come and go at first but usually get worse after meals or when lying down.

Risk Factors

Like so many long-term effects and diseases, smoking cigarettes, cigars, and the use of other forms of tobacco can be a major contributor to pancreatic cancer as well as many other ailments. In addition, excessive weight and obesity, particularly extra weight around the waist also contribute to the possibility of pancreatic cancer.

The sudden onset of diabetes type 2 could be a sign of pancreatic cancer as well as exposure to certain chemicals, such as pesticides and petrochemicals. Chronic pancreatitis, a permanent inflammation of the pancreas, and hereditary chronic pancreatitis due to gene changes passed from biological parent to child is also a contributor.

Pancreatic cancer tends to spread (metastasize) to nearby blood vessels, lymph nodes, the liver, the peritoneum (the lining of the abdominal cavity), and the lungs.

The majority of pancreatic cancers have already spread beyond the pancreas at the time of diagnosis. It is difficult to detect pancreatic cancer in the early stages. The pancreas cannot be felt during routine exams and it can be difficult to see tumors on routine imaging tests.



If the doctor suspects pancreatic cancer, a combination of pancreas function tests may be ordered which include:

- CT scans
- MRI
- PET
- Endoscopic ultrasound
- Blood test

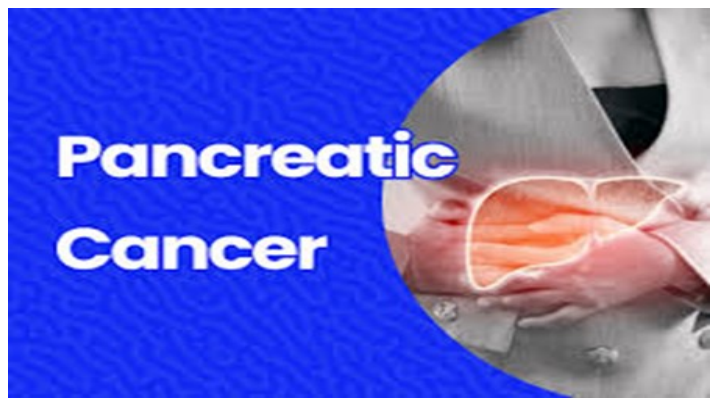
A pancreas blood test can detect tumor markers. A tumor marker is a substance that may indicate the presence of cancer. For pancreatic cancer, high levels of carbohydrate antigen (CA) 19-9 – a type of protein released by pancreatic cancer cells – may indicate a tumor.

At times, providers use laparoscopy to determine the extent of pancreatic cancer and whether removal is possible. Often during this surgical procedure, a biopsy is done to stage the cancer and to look for any abnormalities in the abdomen.

Categories of Pancreatic Cancer

Healthcare providers rank pancreatic tumors into 4 different categories:

- I. **Resectable.** The tumor is only in the pancreas and has not spread to nearby blood vessels or other organs. A surgeon can remove the tumor with surgery.
- II. **Borderline Resectable.** The tumor is in the pancreas and there is some involvement of nearby blood vessels. A surgeon can remove the tumor.
- III. **Locally Advanced.** The tumor is in the pancreas and has significant involvement in nearby vessels. In these cases, surgical removal might be difficult or unsafe.
- IV. **Metastatic.** The cancer has spread to distant areas in the body, such as the liver, lungs, or the abdominal cavity. It has possibly spread to organs, tissues, or lymph nodes near the pancreas.

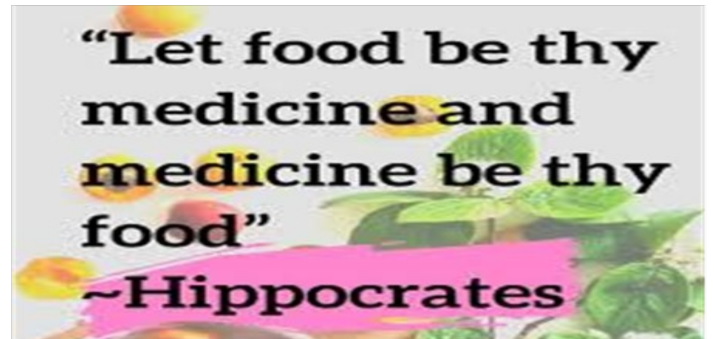


Surgery is the only realistic way to cure pancreatic cancer. Surgeons only recommend it when they think they can remove **all** of the cancer. Otherwise, there is little benefit. For surgery to be successful, the cancer must be completely confined to the pancreas.

Chemotherapy and radiation therapy are often used in an attempt to kill cancer cells and at times shrink the tumor. Targeted therapy is a treatment that uses drugs that “*target*” certain proteins. These proteins control how cancer cells grow and spread. Providers may combine targeted therapy with other treatments like radiation therapy.

Pancreatic cancer can be very painful as it may involve nearby nerves. Oral medications, anesthesia, or steroid injections may be used to help alleviate some pain. There is no known way to prevent pancreatic cancer. There are, however, some ways to reduce the risk factors for developing this cancer, which include:

- I. Maintain a healthy weight.
- II. Do not smoke.
- III. Limit alcohol intake.



Healthy Diet

It is important to eat a diet rich in fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. Reduce the intake of red meat, sugary drinks, and processed foods. Limit exposure to harmful chemicals such as asbestos, pesticides and petrochemicals. When possible, buy organic foods and go to local farm growers to purchase fruits and vegetables.

Most cancer cells grow and proliferate with sugar intake. Eating a clean, healthy diet of nutrient-dense foods is important to maintain good health. Reducing or eliminating processed foods is another way to keep the body healthy. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle that includes diet, exercise, getting proper quality sleep, reducing stress, and retaining positive social connections are important ways to promote good health (Clevelandclinic.org). **KP**

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

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena Starts on May 1 @ 7 pm



Join us as we celebrate the 30th annual novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help for 9 Wednesdays, beginning on May 1 and concluding on June 26.

On the first night, May 1, the novena prayers will take place in the context of the Mass beginning at 7:00pm at Our Lady of Pompeii Church.

CARNIVAL



July 23-July 27

Our Lady of Pompeii Church Grounds

Celebration of St. Clare
August 8-9
St. Bernadette Church Grounds



SERVING AUTHENTIC
ITALIAN CUISINE
& RAFFLE DRAWING

Meet & Greet

COFFEE AND.....to be held after the 11:15 Mass on **Sunday, May 12** at the **Saint Vincent de Paul Church Hall**. Plan on attending to meet & welcome Fr. Matthew.

AVAILABLE NOW!

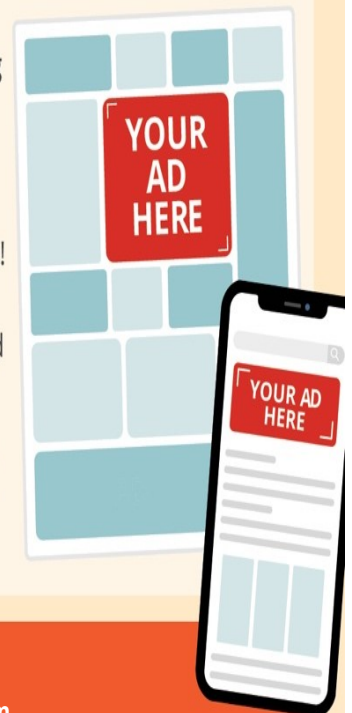
PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

The Support of Your Business is Greatly Appreciated

Robin Ungaro from LPI, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. It is the support of the business community that helps to make our church thrive. Please consider purchasing a print and/or digital ad as your participation makes our bulletin successful, and you attract customers!

Church bulletin advertising is a cost-effective way to advertise 52 times per year and show support for your local community; in turn, parishioners will support you!

Digital advertising allows your business to be front and center to anyone who visits a church profile page on ParishesOnline.com — that's approximately 500,000 page views per month!



Robin Ungaro
(203) 747-5671
RUngaro@4lpi.com



Fundraiser for Veterans

The Knights of Columbus, Hon. W. Patrick Donlin Assembly #2459 is sponsoring a golf fundraiser to benefit "Veteran and Military Programs and other charitable causes" on Monday, August 26, 2024 at Race Brook Country Club in Orange. We're looking for golfers, sponsors and contributors. Please contact Chris Neumann at [Hello.Neumann@KOLonline.com](mailto>Hello.Neumann@KOLonline.com) or (203) 393-2924 or Ric Raffone at (203) 640-6482 to participate or donate to this worthy cause. Or log on to: www.assembly2459.org to download the brochure.

Housekeeper wanted

Housekeeper for light house cleaning and laundry for the Saint Vincent de Paul Rectory. Two days per week, 8 hours total. Interested applicants, please call the parish office or email Fr. Murasso at jeremiah.murasso@aol.com.



*Knight of Columbus Rodrigo Council 44
St. Bernadette's Church New Haven, CT
"Getting More With 44"*



Join Our Council Knights of Columbus Rodrigo Council 44 of St Bernadette Church Of St. Pio Parish For Our 136th Anniversary And Father's Day Celebration

WHEN: Thursday June 6th 6:00 pm

WHERE: The Estate
(Formerly The Townsend Estate)
709 Townsend Ave. New Haven, CT



THE ESTATE

Donation: \$36.00 pp ~ \$44.00 Family
Children Under 12 Free

We Welcome All Council Members, Parishioners And Friends.

**FEATURING THE PIZZA TRUCK
OF MARCO PIZZERIA OF BRANFORD:**

Serving A Delicious Variety Of Pizza: Fig Pizza, Bacon & Hot Honey,
And All The Traditional Pizza, Salad, And Marco Pizza's Smores.

For Reservations Please Contact:

Sal DeCola 203.641.1857 or Mike Fimiani 203.627.9216

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Single/Double: \$36.00pp _____ Family: \$44.00 _____

Children Under 12 Free _____ Total Guests: _____

Total: \$ _____

ALL RESERVATIONS DUE BY WEEKEND OF May 27th, 28th



**11 DAYS:
AUGUST 12-22, 2024**



**IRELAND
THE EMERALD ISLE**

*VISTING
WATERFORD, KILLARNEY,
CLIFFS OF MOHER
GALWAY, CONNEMARA,
MARIAN SHRINE AT KNOCK,
SLIGO, DUBLIN
6 SEATS LEFT
CONTACT FR. MURASSO
at
jeremiah.murasso@aol.com*



St. Pio of Pietrelcina Ladies Guild Communion Breakfast

Come Join Us!

Pentecost Sunday, May 19th after the 10:00 Mass
At Our Lady of Pompeii Church Hall



Bring your family! \$10.00 per person,
\$5.00 for Ages 5-10, Under 5 free



We will be selling tickets after all Masses
April 27 & 28, May 4&5, 11&12 & 18th.

No ticket sales at the door.

Guest Speaker Fr. Matthew Cherian, PH.D.

Serving scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage,
hash browns, bagels and pastry.

Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, orange and apple juice.



Barbara Piscitelli: 203-430-0195
Babs2151@yahoo.com
Patti Scussel: 203-710-7886,
PARScussel@aol.com

FR. MURASSO'S MESSAGE BOARD

ARCHBISHOP ANNUAL APPEAL

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

This year the Archbishop's Annual Appeal is more critical than ever! State and Federal resources have become more and more limited. Across the Archdiocese of Hartford, more people need our help. If you have yet to make a pledge or donate, please consider doing so. **YOUR DOLLARS COME BACK TO OUR PARISH AND PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE MINISTRIES THAT OUR PARISH SUPPORTS.**

Your contribution will provide funds to four local ministries:

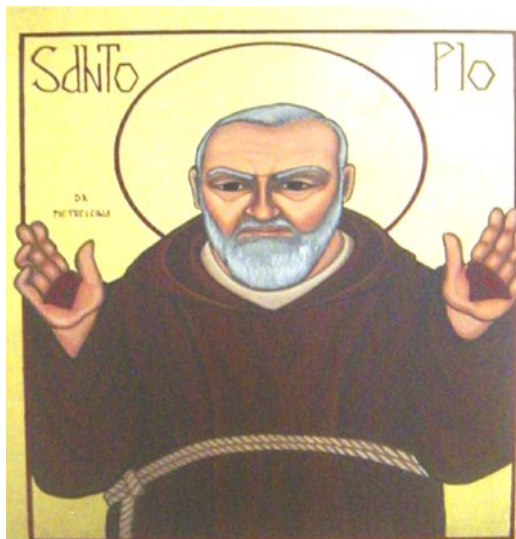
- St. Bernadette Food Pantry,
- East Haven Food Pantry
- St. Gianna Pregnancy Recourse Center.
- Our Blessed Mother's Arms Pregnancy Resource Center.

If you have not done so, please make a contribution to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. *Please indicate the parish name so that the above 4 ministries can receive funding.* The more that our parish gives to the Appeal, the more dollars these ministries receive.

**ASCENSION THURSDAY
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

May 9, 2024
8:00 am OLOP
9:00 am SB
12:15 SVDP
6:00 pm OLOP

THE WISDOM OF PADRE PIO



- “On this earth, everyone has his/her cross. But we must act in such a way that we not be the bad thief but the good thief.”
- “The proof of love is to suffer for the one that you love.”
- “In the spiritual life, you must take one step forward each day in a vertical line, from the bottom up.”
- “Humility and charity go hand and hand. One glorifies, the other sanctifies.”
- “To fail in charity is to wound the pupil of God’s eye.”
- “Prayer is the effusion of our heart into God’s....when it is done well, it moves the Divine Heart and makes Him always inclined to grant our requests.”

From the Pastor’s Pen

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

Mary, May & Fatima

May is traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Consequently, it is fitting that we spend time reflecting on Mary this weekend as we begin the month of May and look forward to the celebration of *Mother’s Day* on May 8, in which we honor not only the Blessed Mother but all our mothers. Besides being the mother of Jesus, Mary is also *our* mother and as such, is also the *Mother of the Church*. Mary is the *Queen of the Apostles* whose motherhood extends to the apostles. St. John tells us that as Mary stood at the cross with the Beloved Disciple, just before Jesus took his last breath, he [Jesus] entrusted the Beloved Disciple (and the other disciples) to the care of his mother.

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

The Perfect Disciple

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

Our Lady of Fatima

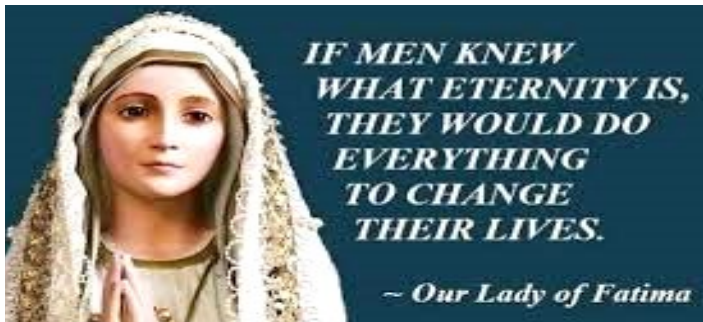
Of the hundreds upon hundreds of titles with which our Blessed Mother has been entrusted, none is more noteworthy than the title of *Our Lady of Fatima*, whose feast we celebrate on May 13. Mary received this title as a result of her appearance to three shepherd children near the town of Fatima in Portugal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



The apparition of Fatima is one of the most powerful and one of the most spectacular manifestations of the presence of the Divine in human history. The Blessed Mother appeared to three shepherd children, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta, six times between May 13 and October 13, 1917. She told the children that God had sent her with a message for all people. Mary entered human history at a time when the world (not unlike 2021), was in the grips of bloody wars, international conflicts and the display of violence and hate on all levels of society, along with deliberate indifference and disregard toward organized religion and the Church.

The Three-Part Secret

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



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

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

It was with Pope John Paul II, on June 30, 2000, that the third part of the *Secret* was revealed. In relating this secret, Mary told the children that a "An apostle clothed in white, who, while making his way amid the corpses of martyrs, would fall to the ground, apparently dead, under the burst of gunfire."

The above description recalled the 1981 assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II, who was wounded in St. Peter's Square when a Turkish gunman, Mehmet Ali Agca opened fire and severely wounded the Holy Father. Later, however, the pontiff forgave Agca who was also pardoned by the Italian authorities at the pope's request.

The shooting came on Wednesday, May 13, sixty-four years to the day, that Mary first appeared to the children at Fatima.

John Paul credited the Blessed Virgin Mary (of Fatima) with intervening and sparing his life. The Holy Father said, "A motherly hand guided the bullet's path, enabling me to halt at the threshold of death."

Miracle of the Sun



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

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

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



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



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

For information, please contact Barbara Natarajan at

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



SHOPPING CARDS *STILL* NEEDED

With 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



Online Giving

A growing number of parishioners are taking advantage of our online giving option, signing up for everything from ongoing weekly offerings to gifts for Christmas flowers. You may make a one-time gift or sign up for recurring donations. Visit <https://stpioofpietrelcinaeh.com/> and click on the 'Give' button for online giving and account registration. Contact the Parish Office with any questions.

MASS SCHEDULE



May 4 & 5, 2024

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

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

ASCENSION THURSDAY

May 9, 2024

8:00 am OLOP: Fr. Murasso
9:00 am SB: Fr. Matthew
12:15 SVDP: Fr. Borino
6:00 pm OLOP: Fr. Matthew

May 11 & 12, 2024

4:00 pm OLOP: Fr. Murasso
4:30 pm SVDP: Fr. Matthew
8:00 am OLOP: Fr. Borino
9:00 am SB: Fr. Matthew
10:00 am OLOP: Fr. Murasso
11:15 am SVDP: Fr. Mathew
MAY CROWNING @ 11:15

May 18 & 19, 2024

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

May 25 & 26, 2024

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