

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



PENTECOST SUNDAY

“But when he comes, the Spirit of truth,
he will guide you to all truth.” - Jn 16:12

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

Pentecost Sunday
May 19, 2024

Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, May 18 - Vigil – Pentecost Sunday

4:00pm OLOP + Marie Riccitelli
by Chick, Ricky, Linda & Craig
4:30pm SVDP + JoAnn Brennan
by Rosemarie Langello

SUNDAY, May 19 – Pentecost Sunday

8:00am OLOP + Eleanor D’Esopo (8th Anniversary)
9:00am SB + Joan Bison
by Mike & Judy Tomascak & Josephine
10:00am OLOP + Deceased Member of the Ladies’ Guild
11:15am SVDP + Barbara Coppola
by Eucharistic Ministers

MONDAY, May 20 - Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00am OLOP + Cora & Harold Hall, Sr.
by Marianne Hall
8:00am SVDP + Claire Pascale
by Family

TUESDAY, May 21 – St. Christopher Magallanes

8:00am OLOP + Mass of Thanksgiving
8:00am SVDP + Mass of Thanksgiving

WEDNESDAY, May 22 – St. Rita of Cascia

8:00am OLOP + Jimmy Landino
by Mom & Dad
8:00am SVDP + Edgardo Ragaza, MD
by Marie Lunney & Barbara Elliott

THURSDAY, May 23 - Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Robert Scussel, Jr.
by Scussel Family
8:00am ST. B + Dr. John Onofrio (Birthday)
by Family

FRIDAY, May 24 - Weekday

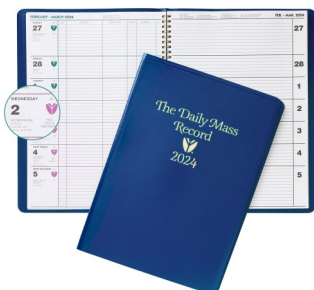
8:00am ST. B + Peter Corvi
by East Haven High School Class of 1970

SATURDAY, May 25 - Vigil – The Most Holy Trinity

4:00pm OLOP + Harry & Antoinette Tiani
by Family
4:30pm SVDP + Robert Gargano, Sr.
by Fay, Donna, Mary Jane & Bobby

SUNDAY, May 26 – The Most Holy Trinity

8:00am OLOP + Linda & Kenny Carlson & Butch Console
by Kathy Mauro
9:00am SB + Rocco Lombardi (1st Anniversary)
by Wife
10:00am OLOP + Robert Scussel, Jr.
by Scussel Family
11:15am SVDP + Marie Angela Sommo
by Husband, Charles



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.

**STEWARDSHIP
May 11 & 12**

Regular Collection \$9,008.00
Utility Collection \$3,466.00

**May 25 & 26 Second Collection:
None**

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 (see 30)/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13
Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7/Jn 19:25-34
Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10/Ps 55:7-8, 9-10a, 10b-11a, 23/Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday: Jas 4:13-17/Ps 49:2-3, 6-7, 8-10, 11/Mk 9:38-40
Thursday: Jas 5:1-6/Ps 49:14-15ab, 15cd-16, 17-18, 19-20/Mk 9:41-50
Friday: Jas 5:9-12/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8-9, 11-12/Mk 10:1-12
Saturday: Jas 5:13-20/Ps 141:1-2, 3 and 8/Mk 10:13-16



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.

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

MINISTRY & EVENT CALENDAR

<p>SUNDAY, MAY 19</p> <p>Blessing of the Bikes - 11:00am Mass at OLOP</p> <p>Ladies Guild Breakfast - After 11:00am Mass at OLOP</p>	<p>SUNDAY, MAY 26</p> <p>No Events or Activities</p>
<p>MONDAY, MAY 20</p> <p>Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church</p>	<p>MONDAY, MAY 27</p> <p>Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church</p>
<p>TUESDAY, MAY 21</p> <p>Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom</p> <p>Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823</p> <p>Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom</p> <p>Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>TUESDAY, MAY 28</p> <p>Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom</p> <p>Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823</p> <p>Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom</p> <p>Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY, MAY 22</p> <p>Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office</p> <p>Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184</p> <p>Novena - 7:00pm at OLOP Church</p> <p>Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom</p> <p>Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY, MAY 29</p> <p>Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office</p> <p>Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184</p> <p>Novena - 7:00pm at OLOP Church</p> <p>Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom</p> <p>Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p>THURSDAY, MAY 23</p> <p>Scriptural Rosary - 7:00pm at OLOP Chapel</p> <p>Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>THURSDAY, MAY 30</p> <p>Scriptural Rosary - 7:00pm at OLOP Chapel</p> <p>Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p>FRIDAY, MAY 24</p> <p>Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom</p> <p>Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>FRIDAY, MAY 31</p> <p>Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom</p> <p>Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p>SATURDAY, MAY 25</p> <p>Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center</p>	<p>SATURDAY, JUNE 1</p> <p>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.**

Celebration of St. Clare



August 8-9
St. Bernadette Church Grounds

**SERVING AUTHENTIC
ITALIAN CUISINE
& RAFFLE DRAWING**

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 ~ Bob Scussel by *Wife, Carol*

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 ~ Anna Tobia by *Children & Grandchildren*
St. Joseph's Altar ~

Pascal Candle ~ Barbara & Maurice Connolly

St. Bernadette Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ Vincent Savo by *Mom & Dad*

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

Pentecost Sunday
St. John 20:19-23



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Even as the apostles said their goodbyes to Jesus on what the church refers to as Jesus' Ascension into heaven, they did not fully understand the impact this would have on their lives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

1 Jesus’ Salutation of Peace

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wholeness and completeness at the level of man’s spiritual core was the kind of “*peace*” that Jesus bestowed on his disciples. This bestowal of such incredible blessings served not only to waylay their fears but to accomplish so much more.

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

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



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

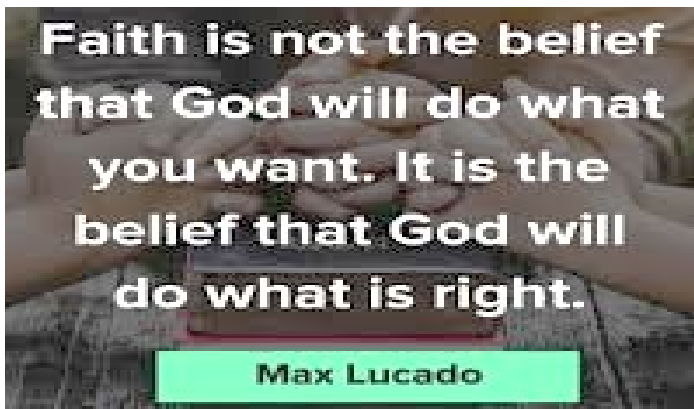
2 Commissioning of the Disciples

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

Jesus’ commissioning of the eleven disciples (Judas had not been replaced) to leave the locked room and go into the world as witnesses of his ministry and of his triumph over sin and death was not intended merely for the disciples, nor was it meant for just bishops and priests.

By nature of our Baptism and Confirmation, each one of us is *called forth* and entrusted to bring the message of Jesus Christ into the marketplace as witnesses to the Truth.

Shalom
blessing healing
grace wholeness well-being
peace divine
Prayer



Jesus *sends* his disciples into a troubled and confused world in the same way that he sends 21st-century men and women of faith into a troubled and confused world. Each is called to cultivate and nurture his/her faith without compromise in and to a world that is waiting to be healed.

Faith in God's *Word*, Jesus Christ, and the *Logos* of God must drive one's choices on a daily basis, cultivating positive and wholesome behaviors that lead to the living out of the Gospel.

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



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

3 The conferral of the Holy Spirit

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

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

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

"God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed (emphysao) into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being" (Gen. 1:27).

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

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

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



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

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

Pentecost for Today

What significance does Pentecost have for men and women of faith in the 21st century? How has the sending of the Holy Spirit into the disciples' lives changed the way we live (or should live)? Pentecost is a reminder, a visual aid, that the Spirit of Jesus lives as an enduring, vibrant presence in our lives and in our souls.

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

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

Additional Note: Although sensitive of gender-related language; he/she, him/her, it is often necessary to refer to the generic, "man" when reference is made to the essence of human nature.



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

Melanoma & Health

Although we cannot *appear* to shake off the cold and rainy cycle that we have been experiencing, the hot summer months are *hopefully* right around the corner. This means protecting the skin from the hot summer sun. As you know, New England summers can be extremely hot and humid. All the more reason to take special care of our bodies and our skin. Many enjoy being outdoors to feel the sun penetrate its warmth to the body. The sun can provide heat to heal achy bones, and the natural sunlight promotes improved psychological health. However, excessive heat and exposure to the sun can have a negative impact on the body as well as the skin.

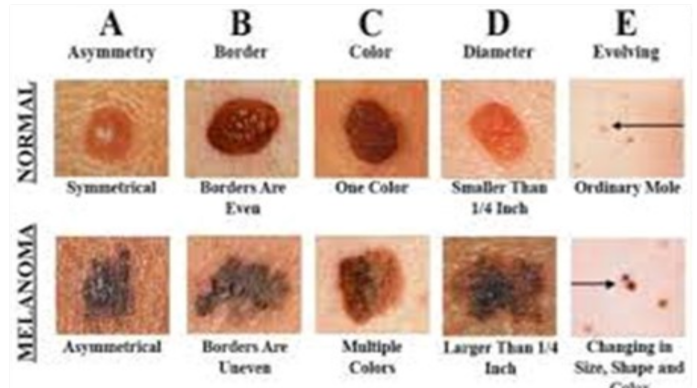


Melanoma of the skin is among the most common cancer types in the United States. It is estimated that 106,110 new cases will be diagnosed in 2021 and 7,180 deaths will occur from this form of cancer. (National Cancer Institute). Approximately 1 in 5 people will develop melanoma in their lifetime, most likely because of increased sun exposure in childhood.



Melanoma is more common in men than women, individuals with fair complexion as well as those who have been exposed to natural or artificial sunlight (tanning beds) over a long period of time. There are more new cases among Caucasians than any other ethnic group. (National Cancer Institute).

Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer. It occurs when pigment-making cells in the skin, called melanocytes, begin reproducing uncontrollably. Melanoma can come from an existing mole or develop on unblemished skin. The most common type of melanoma spreads on the skin's surface. It is called *superficial spreading melanoma*. It can stay on the surface or it can grow into deeper tissue. Other forms of melanoma can begin anywhere on or inside the body, including under the fingernails, toenails, and inside the eye.



The exact cause of all melanomas is unclear, but exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from sunlight or tanning lamps and beds increases the risk of developing melanoma. Limiting exposure to UV radiation can help reduce the risk of getting skin cancer. Melanoma occurs when something goes wrong in the melanin-producing cells (melanocytes) that give color to the skin. Normally, skin cells develop in a controlled and orderly way. Healthy new cells push older cells toward the skin's surface where they die and fall off. If some cells develop DNA damage, new cells may begin to grow out of control and, over time, form a mass of cancerous cells.

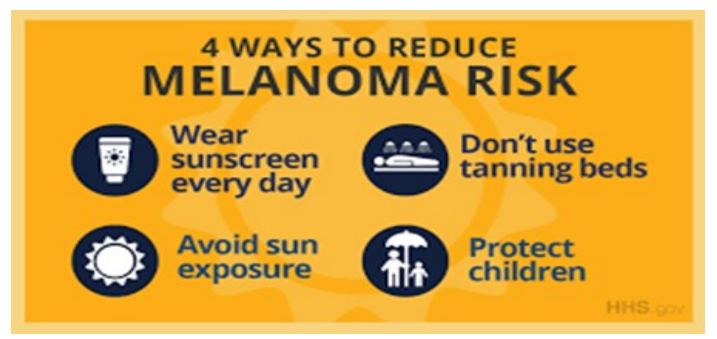
Symptoms

Melanomas can develop anywhere on the body. Most often, the lesion develops in areas that have had exposure to the sun, such as the back, legs, arms, and face. However, it can also occur in areas that do not receive much sun exposure, such as the soles of the feet, palms of the hands, and fingernail beds. These hidden melanomas are more common in people with darker skin.

First Signs and Symptoms of Melanoma

Possible signs and symptoms of melanoma may include a change in an existing mole, the development of a new pigmented or unusual-looking growth on the skin, and different colors or shades of skin within the same mole. In addition, the mole may look irregular rather than smooth. The mole or spot may be mottled with a range of colors, such as brown, black, blue, red, white, or light grey.

Other signs may include the diameter of a mole that is larger than 6 millimeters (larger than a pencil eraser), a mole that bleeds, feels numb, or has a crusty surface. It is important to note that melanoma does not always begin as a mole. It can also occur on otherwise normal-appearing skin.



Risk Factors

Some risk factors for developing melanoma include individuals with fair skin. Such individuals have less pigment (melanin) in the skin, which means less protection from damaging UV radiation; a history of sunburn; excessive ultraviolet light exposure (e.g., tanning beds); living closer to the equator or at a higher elevation; and having many moles or unusual moles. For example, having more than 50 ordinary moles on the body indicates an increased risk of melanoma.

Unusual moles, known as dysplastic nevi, tend to be larger than normal moles and have irregular borders and a mixture of colors. Family history also contributes to the possibility of acquiring moles on the body as well as a weakened immune system.

Diagnosing Melanoma

Physical examination, including a medical history, is important in detecting melanoma. An excision biopsy of the mole or spot tissue is conducted and then sent to the laboratory for examination. Information from the analysis can determine if the tissue is cancerous and how deep it has grown below the skin's surface. This is the most important factor in predicting whether the cancer can be cured.

Melanomas deeper than 1 millimeter are likely to have spread to nearby lymph nodes. Additional exams might include blood tests, a chest x-ray, CT scan, MRI, bone scan, lymph node biopsy, and ultrasound. **Treatment** for melanoma in the early stages often can be done with surgery alone. However, if the cancer is advanced, immunotherapy, radiation, or chemotherapy may be necessary to irradiate the cancer.

Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC)- BCCs usually appear as tiny, painless bumps with a pink, pearly surface. As it slowly grows, the center of the bump may become sore and develop into a crater that bleeds, crusts, or forms a scab. This cancer commonly occurs on the face, ears, back and neck where the skin is exposed to the sun. Basal cell carcinoma begins in the basal cells – a type of cell within the skin that produces new skin cells as old ones die off.

Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC)- SCC usually begins as a small, red, painless lump or skin patch that slowly grows and may develop into a non-healing sore. It usually occurs on the head, ears and hands. This form of cancer is common and develops in the squamous cells that make up the middle and outer layers of the skin.

Most squamous cell carcinomas of the skin result from prolonged sun exposure to ultraviolet radiation, either from sunlight or from tanning beds or lamps. Avoiding UV light helps to reduce the risk of developing squamous cell carcinoma of the skin and other forms of skin cancer.

Prevention

Some suggestions for reducing the risk of developing melanoma and other forms of cancer include wearing sunscreen year-round, using a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30, even on cloudy days, and applying sunscreen generously and reapplying it every 2 hours or more often if sweating or when swimming.

It is also important to avoid the sun during the middle of the day. For most people in North America, the sun's rays are strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Schedule outdoor activities for other times of the day, even in the winter or when the sky is cloudy.



It is important to remember that UV radiation is absorbed year-round, and the clouds offer little protection from the damaging rays. Protective clothing should be worn, covering the skin with dark, tightly woven clothes that cover the arms and legs. A broad-brimmed hat that provides protection to the face is also important. Sunglasses that block both types of UV radiation (UVA and UVB rays) are a must.

It is important to become familiar with our skin so that we will notice changes. Examine skin often for new growths or changes in existing moles, freckles, bumps, and birthmarks. Use a mirror to check the face, neck, ears, and scalp. A complete body assessment should be done often to identify any changes. It is important to see a dermatologist yearly or more often if changes in skin or moles are present.

Summer is a time to enjoy outdoor activities. It is important to protect the skin by wearing sunscreen. Be smart and apply sunscreen at all times. The skin needs to be protected from the damaging UV rays from the sun. A day at the beach or at the pool can be filled with fun. It is important to protect the eyes by wearing sunglasses. Too much exposure to UV light raises the risk of eye diseases and other problems. Cataracts and eye cancers can take years to develop. Be sure to select sunglasses that provide 100% UV or UV400 protection, or block both UV-A and UV-B rays. Remember that sun rays can pass through clouds and haze. Protect children and senior citizens with hats and sunglasses.

**TAKE CARE OF YOUR
BODY. IT'S THE ONLY
PLACE YOU HAVE TO LIVE.**

Healthy exposure to sunlight can have positive effects as long as the eyes and skin are protected from UV damage and overexposure to the sun. **KP**

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



July 23-July 27

**Our Lady of
Pompeii Church
Grounds**

**DON'T MISS
OUT!**

**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!

On Sunday, May 5th,
the following students
received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Archbishop Christopher Coyne
celebrated the Mass at the Cathedral of
St Joseph in Hartford.

Congratulations to all!

Liam Acton
Kaitlyn Lawler-Amato
Ella Angelo
Emily Battle
Mark Borzillo
Amato Carofano
Justin Carusone
Jack Cinque
Lillian Cochran
Grace D'Amico
Nathan D'Amico
Ava DiNola
Filomena DiNuzzo
Abriana Duffy
Harold Ely
Lynette Ely
Justin Formica
Emily Forrest
Payton Goodwin
Evangeline Hegan
Shea Hellyar
Kelsey Hinckley
Sophia Holt
Isabella Jarmie
Meghan Keeney
Lynn Licciardi
Mya Longobardi
Jenna Maynard
Alexis Maynard
Griffin McCarroll
William Schneider
Ava Scussel
Noah Stewart
Vincent Conte-Verderame
Natalee Wang



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 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**



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

**Knights of Columbus
Rodrigo Council #44
May 2024 300 Club Winners**

- 1st - Frank DeVecchio (#94)- \$150.00
- 2nd - Mark Pietrosimone (#249) - \$100.00
- 3rd - Desiree DeCola (#105) - \$75.00
- 4th - Tom Rafter (#118) - \$50.00



The St Bernadette Food Pantry has been selected as a beneficiary of the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program for the month of May. Every \$10.99 bouquet in the sleeve marked "Bloomin' 4 Good at the East Haven store, the pantry will receive a \$1.00 donation. If you're going to purchase flowers this month, please consider purchasing this bouquet and support our pantry.

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.

VESTMENTS



Vestments are desperately needed for the Saint Vincent de Paul Church campus. The present vestments are very old and extremely heavy, particularly during the warmer months.

Several sets consisting of the priest and deacon matching vestments have been ordered. Interesting parishioners who would like to memorialize a vestment in a loved one's name can do so with a donation to cover the cost of each vestment, a donation of \$500 per vestment.



This fun and faith-filled **Mary Garden Contest** invites parents, families, garden enthusiasts, parish groups, teachers, and anyone who wants to create a **one-of-a-kind Mary Garden** to honor Our Blessed Mother is invited to participate.

The contest will accept submissions from May 24 to July 16. The winning entries will be announced on August 15.

A **Mary Garden** is its own reward for yourself, the entire family, and everyone who gets to take in its beauty ... but we're offering **prizes** too! The top three in each category will win a gift basket with family gift cards along with items of Family Prayer including items for the whole family to enjoy and embrace your faithful prayer life.

Gardening is a wonderful family activity that teaches important life skills such as patience and responsibility. We want to encourage families to pray together, wherever they are, so why not try a garden dedicated to Our Lady?

Entries will be divided into two groups:

- Private/Family gardens
- Small/Apartment gardens

We created this contest in hopes of offering families a fun, prayerful activity they could do at home. We are hoping we have created a new annual tradition for our parish. We hope that caring for your **Mary Garden** will offer you an opportunity to spend time in prayer with Mary and invite God into your family life. Pray together in this sacred space you've created, and always remember this famous message: "**The family that prays together stays together.**"

For more information contact :

Renaë Voira: 203-494-9479
miknae10@yahoo.com

Carol Silva: 203-469-0764 ext. 4
tempccd29@gmail.com



St. Pio
Pietrelcina SVDP
campus Family
Prayer Garden
Donor Form

The Religious Education program is doing a Family Prayer Garden Project to spruce up SVDP campus and provide some areas for prayer and reflection on the outside grounds. We need the parishioners help to make this possible. We are looking for parishioners to make donations in any amount or sponsor a perennial, bush, or shrub of their choice. We will have a plaque displaying all the sponsors that helped make our church grounds beautiful plus add a place for prayer and reflection. This is just the beginning of the project which will continue into the fall. Thank you in advance for your generous donation. You may send in your sponsorship in the collection basket or may purchase a sponsorship before or after mass throughout May at various masses.

Any questions please feel free to contact:

Carol Silva tempccd29@gmail.com 203-467-6394
Rena Voira miknae10@yahoo.com 203-494-9479

PLANT SPONSOR CHOICES

Small perennial \$10 _____

Medium perennial \$15 _____

Large Perennial \$25 _____

Rosebush \$30 _____

Shrub \$35 _____

Bush \$40 _____

Miscellaneous; donation of your choice _____



Amount enclosed _____

Please write clearly!

Name of Sponsor



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

MASS SCHEDULE



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. Borino
9:00 am SB: Fr. Matthew
10:00 am OLOP: Fr. Murasso
11:15 am SVDP: Fr. Murasso
[Deacons Preaching Weekend](#)
4:00 & 11:15: Deacon George
8:00 & 10:00: Deacon Larry
4:30 & 9:00: Deacon Wayne

Meet & Greet

COFFEE AND.....to be held after the 9:0 Mass on **Sunday, May 26** at the **Saint Bernadette Convent**. Plan on attending to meet & welcome Fr. Matthew.



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.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena



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.