

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF  
**ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA**

REVEREND THOMAS J. WALSH, PASTOR  
REVEREND MATTHEW CHERIAN, PH.D., PAROCHIAL VICAR



## 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence." - Lk 11:5b, 7a, 8

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

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**17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
***July 27, 2025***

### Mass Intentions for the Week

**SATURDAY, July 26 - Vigil - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**4:00pm OLOP** + Nicholas & Angelina Criscuolo

by Children

**5:30pm SVDP** + Vincent Grasso

by Kevin Malarney

**SUNDAY, July 27 - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30am OLOP + Mark Anthony Speers

by Love Always, Mom

9:00am SB + Carmine Riccitelli, Sr.

by Carol Scussel

10:30am OLOP + Frank Massimino

by Wife, Josephine & Family

11:45am SVDP + Albert Mauriello, Sr.

by Family

**MONDAY, July 28 - Weekday**

8:00am OLOP + Theresa Pollio

by DeMartino Family

8:00am SVDP + Alice Pellegrino

by Marie & Bob Lunney

**TUESDAY, July 29 - Sts. Martha, Mary & Lazarus**

8:00am OLOP + Joseph Bonie

by Daughter

8:00am SVDP + Gene Petrarca

by Marie Lunney, Barbara Elliott & Families

**WEDNESDAY, July 30 - St. Peter Chrysologus**

8:00am OLOP + Carmine Riccitelli, Sr.

by Porto Funeral Home

8:00am SVDP + Louise Amato

by Michael Lamberti

**THURSDAY, July 31 - St. Ignatius of Loyola**

8:00am OLOP + Joseph Bonie

by Porto Funeral Home

8:00am SB + William Colrys

by Niece, Lea Pierson

**FRIDAY, August 1 - First Friday**

8:00am SB + Anna DelBasso

by Children

**SATURDAY, August 2 - First Saturday**

8:00am SB + Living & Deceased Parishioners of St. Pio

**SATURDAY, August 2 - Vigil - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**4:00pm OLOP** + Johnna Criscio

by Family

**5:30pm SVDP** + Deceased Members of St. Pio Parish

by Clancy-Palumbo Funeral Home, East Haven

**SUNDAY, August 3 - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30am OLOP + Angela Fedor

by Patti Scussel

9:00am SB + Rosanne Viscuso

by Husband & Children

10:30am OLOP + Sebastian & Josephine Giaimo

by Family

11:45am SVDP + Rita Genovese

by Husband, Children & Grandchildren

### STEWARDSHIP

July 19 & 20

Regular Collection

\$9,318.00

August 2 & 3 Second Collection:

**Monthly**

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

### SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday: Gn 18:20-32/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8 (3a)/  
Col 2:12-14/Lk 11:1-13

Monday: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22,  
23/Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10  
-11, 12-13/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9/Mt 13:44-46

Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a,  
11/Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Ps 81:3-4,  
5-6, 10-11ab/Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Mt 14:1-12



**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 4:30-5:00pm

**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.



2026 MASS BOOK -

is now open!

Kindly have your Mass requests ready when scheduling. We will continue to have a limit of 2 weekend Masses per individual booking.

Payment due at time of booking and is cash or check only.

**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 & 1:00-4:00;

Fri: 8:00-12:00

Taylor Avenue: Tue. & Thu. 9:00-1:00

E-Mail: stpioofpietrelcina@gmail.com

Website: stpioofpietrelcinaeh.com



# MINISTRY & EVENT CALENDAR

<b>SUNDAY, JULY 27</b> No Activities or Events Scheduled	<b>SUNDAY, AUGUST 3</b> No Activities or Events Scheduled
<b>MONDAY, JULY 28</b> Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church	<b>MONDAY, AUGUST 4</b> Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church
<b>TUESDAY, JULY 29</b> Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 Rosary Group - 8:00pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	<b>TUESDAY, AUGUST 5</b> Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 Rosary Group - 8:00pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8
<b>WEDNESDAY, JULY 30</b> Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823 Rosary Group - 8:00pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	<b>WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6</b> Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823 Rosary Group - 8:00pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8
<b>THURSDAY, JULY 31</b> Scriptural Rosary - 7:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	<b>THURSDAY, AUGUST 7</b> Celebration of St. Clare - 6:00-9:00pm at St. Bernadette
<b>FRIDAY, AUGUST 1</b> Rosary Group - 8:00pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	<b>FRIDAY, AUGUST 8</b> Celebration of St. Clare - 6:00-9:00pm at St. Bernadette
<b>SATURDAY, AUGUST 2</b> Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center	<b>SATURDAY, AUGUST 9</b> Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center



**Celebration of St. Clare  
August 7-8  
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 ~*

*Our Lady of Perpetual Help Icon ~*

*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 (Left Side) ~*

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

*Pascal Candle ~ All The Souls in Purgatory*

**PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH**

Nick Vessicchio, Sally Ann Fallon, Lynette Ely, David T. Boyle, Richard Lucibello, 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, Mark Schettino, Patty DiMilo, Rose Rogalski, Elaine Smith, Karen Rescigno, Virginia Pisano, DJ DiVincenzo, 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, Andrew & Catherine Criscuolo, Patricia Miles, Joe Coscia, Deborah Verab, Dona Marie, Christina Meoli, Michelle Smith, Ron Mattei, Charlene Tantalio, Al Forgiore, 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, Roberta Sanders-Gray, Jeannette Winston, Marilyn Sisson, Ryder Feeley, Theodore Siwinski, Michael Enders, Nicholas Cerillo, Edwina Cinque, Renee Flynn, The Cooper Family, Lynn Ely, Ethan Roche, Frances Graney, Rose Paula Dzedulonis, Taras Mychajlowskyj, Denise Steiner, Gloribeth R., Stacie Bouchard, Al Sappinetti, Guy Racino, Michael Polaski, Martha Catel, Eddie Villecco, Isaiah Colville, Jennie Nazario, Joan Proto, Caitlin Rustic, Michael Filion, John Torello, Mauro Antonio Bezanilla, Matteo Criscuolo, Robert Filion, Lucy Carbone, Dorene Izzo, Lucille Palange, Mark Houston, Avery Bye, Alex Bernaitis, Vincent Pisano, Barbara Bellucci, Michael Bulger, Anna Sabatino, Audrey Elder, Theresa Polio, Mike Liso, John Mongillo, Sr., Juan & Family, Vern Kelly, Monica Cantore, Fr. Lawrence Boch, Antoinette Comiskey, Diane DiLungo, Frances 'Jean' Massimino, Luca Small, Vincent Savo, Alex Dugatto, Kim Vincent-Foschini, Dawn Quartiano Ferraro, Sal DeCola, Pasquale Marino, Bernadette Mckiernan, Bill Izzo, Ron Ardito, Fr. Krugle, Arthur Brigante, Angela & Kevin Medley, Lucille & Paul Sarno, Joycelyn Bila, Richard Marshall, Sandy Derbacher, John Cavallaro, Mr. Rubenstein, Roberta Perillo

Please send prayer requests to [stpiofpietrelcina@gmail.com](mailto:stpiofpietrelcina@gmail.com) so that our parishioners and friends can be remembered in our prayers.

**Midnight Run  
Taylor Avenue Campus**

The Midnight Run for **August** is the **2nd Monday**, which is **August 11th**. 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, August 11th**. 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

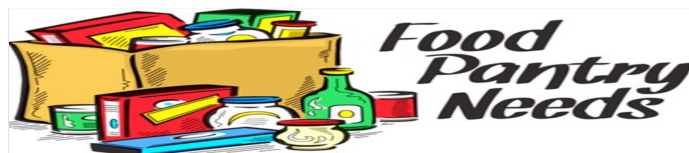
Individual Packaged Cookies, Crackers or Chips

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 St. Bernadette School 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 soups, ramen noodles, cereal, rice a roni and pasta sides for the summer. 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 Desk



### From the Pastor's Desk

I would like to thank everyone who came to our parish carnival to support our parish and to participate in one of the more important social events of our parish. A special thanks goes out to all our volunteers who so selflessly gave of their time during the week, to those who helped organize it, and to all our sponsors and all those who donated anything to the carnival.

Also, I wish to thank everyone who viewed the relics of St. Pio at St. Vincent de Paul Church on July 26<sup>th</sup>

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC –  
BENEATH THE SURFACE  
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini reflection:** Whatever is interrupting communication between your heart and the One who crafted it, it can be overcome. There is no door thick enough, no night dark enough, no sleep strong enough.

#### Ask and You Shall Receive

It's easy to look at today's Gospel reading and come away with a view of God as disinterested and irritated, reluctant to give us what we need unless we bang down his door, hound him to the furthest reaches of heaven, wrench him from his reverie and force him to answer just so we'll finally go away.

Well, that's not what Jesus means by the parable of the friend at midnight — but it's also not surprising that we would think that it is. The whole point of this Gospel is that communication between God and man has been broken. It's not as easy as it once was, as it should be, as it could be.

In this parable, there exists many barriers between the supplicant and his friend. The time of day is not ideal. The door is locked. Their dispositions are opposite — one is in the middle of a REM cycle and the other is deeply agitated. They appear to be two people who are not primed to communicate well. Everything is working against them.

The same could well be said of God and the human race. Here we are in a fallen world, surrounded by sin and pain and sickness and death to the extent that it infiltrates not just our bodies but our souls, our minds, our attitudes.

We are the friend caught unprepared in the dead of night. We don't always know how to talk to God (*That door is thick! Will he hear us if we knock?*). We don't always know if we should (*It's all my fault that I ran out of loaves, after all*). We don't even know if we want to (*It's nighttime! He might be angry!*).

Everything is working against us.

It doesn't matter, Jesus tells us. Whatever is interrupting communication between your heart and the One who crafted it, the One who desires its full and irrevocable attention, it can be overcome. There is no door thick enough, no night dark enough, no sleep strong enough.

So knock.

©LPi

“

HE WHO  
CARRIES GOD IN  
HIS HEART BEARS  
HEAVEN WITH  
HIM WHEREVER  
HE GOES.

”

FOUNDER  
OF THE JESUITS



-ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

©LPi



***JULY 27, 2025***

Hello families:

As we look ahead to the 2025-2026 Religious Education year, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your cooperation and support. This past year, our religious education program has been a great success, thanks to the support of: you as parents to your children and to our dedicated teachers. The students are a joy to work with. The sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation were beautifully celebrated. Many of you expressed your appreciation for a very spiritually-uplifting experience. And we thank-you for your positive comments.

Planning has begun for the 2025-2026 year. This will be an exciting year for our Religious Education Program at St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish as we previously announced, Carol Silva will be retiring at the end of July. We are deeply grateful for her faithful years of service to our parish community. Jennie Llanos will be stepping into the role of Director of Religious Education. With this transition our program will continue to grow and offer new opportunities for the children and their families to grow and deepen their faith through intentional, meaningful experiences.

Our program will continue to include several family focused components:

- Bimonthly Children's Liturgies**
- Family Events**
- Student Service Projects**
- Home/Class Family Projects**
- Parent/Student Classes**

This year, St. Pio's Religious Education Program will continue to include family participation. Your role as the primary educator of your child's faith will *continue* to be a powerful witness as well as give a solid spiritual foundation for not only your child(ren), but also for the entire family. At times parents will be invited to attend classes with their children so that each child can continue to build a strong, family supported faith foundation.

**There are changes to the class schedules this year.** The new schedule is included in this letter. Students will meet twice a month rather than having a weekly meeting session. This change in the schedule will allow families the opportunity to spend more time together and practice their faith together.

Weekly participation at Mass is an **expected** requirement of our Religious Education Program. In the midst of very busy schedules, we ask our families to commit to weekly worship. Attending Mass regularly reinforces the lessons taught in class and shows our children that faith is lived, not just learned in a classroom setting. *We invite you to make the time and make the commitment to worship weekly as a family if you haven't already done so.*

Please return the registration forms as soon as possible for the 2025-2026 year. This looks to be an exciting year as we reduce class-time for our students and subsequently, provide more multi-media, on-line and family-focused possibilities for mastery of the principles of our Catholic faith for each grade.

All religious education classes will be held at the St. Vincent de Paul Church campus.

- Grades 1-6, will meet in the school**
- Grades 7, 8, 9 and 10 will meet in the lower level of the parish office building**

**The schedule for classes is as follows:**

**Grades 1 through 8 will be held twice a month**

**Mondays: 5:30pm to 6:30 pm**

**Tuesdays 5:30pm to 6:30 pm**

**Last year, the second session offered for grades one through six had very small groups in the evening, therefore the need to have those late session on both days is not necessary.**

**As I would like grades 7 and 8 to meet as a whole class there will be one day offered for each of those grades. The students need to become accustomed to being together as a group to prepare them for their Confirmation classes.**

**Grade 7 will meet on Tuesdays from 5:30pm to 6:30 pm**

**Grade 8 will meet on Mondays from 5:30pm to 6:30 pm**

**Grades 9 and 10 will meet on Monday evenings once a month from 7:00pm to 8:30pm**

**Payment is expected at the time of registration. We are trying to keep the fees reasonable, so we ask you to be sure to include the fee with the form. Registration Forms should be returned as soon possible thus, choice of day and time will be at a first-come basis. The deadline for registration is September 8, 2025 as classes will begin in October.**

Thank you in advance for your continued support and cooperation. As a parent, you continue to accompany your child(ren) on their spiritual journey. As a parish, our future rests in the hope that families return to church, practice their faith on a weekly basis and assist their child(ren) in discovering the part that their faith plays in the larger faith community of St. Pio of Pietrelcina.

God's blessing for safe and restful summer.

Jennie Llanos  
**Director of Religious Education**  
&  
Carol Silva

## MESSAGE BOARD

### WELCOME ARCHBISHOP COYNE

We welcome Archbishop Christopher Coyne who will be visiting our parish on Sunday, August 3. The archbishop will be celebrating the 10:30 Mass at Our Lady of Pompeii Church.

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### FATHER MURASSO'S ADDRESS

Several parishioners have asked for Fr. Murasso's address after he departs from Saint Pio of Pietrelcina. Cards can be sent to Father Murasso at: P.O. Box 709, Westbrook, CT 06498.



### Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrim Image Patroness of the Americas and Protectress of the Unborn

Our parish is blessed to have its own Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our image was touched to the original Image in Mexico, blessed and has been visiting our parishioners for 32 years. The image is available for a visit to your home.

**If you would like to bring this Miraculous Image of Our Lady home for Veneration, please contact:**

**Sally Mucka at (203) 415-2710**



**October 16, October 17 & October 18**

**For tickets:**

- To buy tickets online go to, [legacytheatretect.org](http://legacytheatretect.org)
- or call The Legacy Theatre Box Office, 203-315-1901, Monday - Friday, 10am - 4pm. If you call during those hours and leave a voicemail, your call will be returned that day.
- In person Box Office:
- Mondays, at The Legacy Theatre, 11am - 4pm
- Fridays, at BACA, 1004 Main Street, by the Branford Green, 11am - 3pm

*Group, Senior & Military Discounts Available*

### New Parish App Now Available For Download!

Be sure to download the app after Mass today by searching for the myparish app on your phone's app store or by scanning the QR code and stay connected with us all week long.



God calls you to seek Him, to know Him, and to love Him.

Can you hear Him calling you?

- CCC 1



If so, it is time to join the  
New England Catholic Biblical School.

Call us 860-242-5573 x 2651



# Branches on the Vine

JULY 26 - AUGUST 1, 2025



Father Michael Ruminski highlights the reclaimed copper baptismal font now in use at Bloomfield's Sacred Heart Church, following a recent church remodel. PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



The renovated sanctuary is now smaller, with an elevated altar and tabernacle, plus new fabric tapestries. PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

## BLOOMFIELD CHURCH REMODEL BLENDS BEAUTY AND PURPOSE

Elevated on plywood, the sanctuary floor was sagging. The vinyl flooring in the nave had cracked. Over time, a church's structure and beauty show evidence of decades of service and wear.

But after undergoing an interior renovation last fall, Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield has a new look. Dedicated in 1963, the contemporary-style church has been refreshed with new flooring, an elevated altar, a cleaned-up choir loft and the introduction of old and new artwork.

"It looks beautiful, it's theologically ordered, and it sounds great," says Father Ruminski, who commissioned the work on behalf of the parish. "It's beauty and purpose coming together. I think we accomplished a lot in the renovation to communicate all those things."

As the former pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Father Ruminski is happy to reflect on last fall's remodel of Sacred Heart Church. However, just this month, he was reassigned to St. Thomas and St. Timothy Parish in West Hartford.

In the meantime, Father Stuart Pinette, the new pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, can look forward to celebrating Mass in a refurbished worship space.

According to Father Ruminski, the Sacred Heart renovation, which took several months to complete, tackled vinyl floors with asbestos, tightly spaced pews, a crowded and cluttered sanctuary, and a dimly lit interior.

The solution? "It became clear the floor was the obstacle to everything," Father Ruminski says. After talking to his contractors, the Sullivan Brothers, the solution was to "pull everything out and rethink the floor plan."

The contractors removed the old vinyl tiles, remediated the asbestos and added brighter gray and cream ceramic tiles throughout the church. They also built a smaller sanctuary floor to better fit the space, then elevated the altar and centered the tabernacle.

With a smaller sanctuary, the original pews could then be respaced with an extra seven inches per row to give parishioners room to maneuver. "It feels more open with the same amount of seating," Father Ruminski notes. New seat cushions added comfort and improved the acoustics.

In the choir loft, organ pipes were repositioned on either side of a window, allowing the light in. This change also created more room in the loft, enabling the choir to relocate from the sanctuary to the loft.

On the main floor, a vintage copper baptismal font replaced the old leaky one. Originally used in Bloomfield's Christ the King Church, which closed in 1996,

the copper baptismal font was found dented and patinaed in Sacred Heart's basement. Refurbished, the font is now positioned at the head of the main aisle of Sacred Heart.

To add more beauty, the priest commissioned New Hampshire artist Eileen Cunis to create fabric tapestries for the sanctuary walls. They include four angels and two saints, Blessed Michael J. McGivney, who is on his way to sainthood, and St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, promoter of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, whose relic is embedded in the altar at Sacred Heart Church.

The altar and tabernacle are now the focus. Statues of Mary and Jesus, once hidden in the back of the church, are now visible in side alcoves.

"The overall effect of the renovation is to give the church a much stronger sense of direction," Father Ruminski says, "that we're oriented, that we have somewhere to go. And that is in union with God, and in communion with Christ."

- Story by Shelley Wolf





# Upcoming Events



08/1 FRIDAY 6PM  
**MASS OF HEALING**  
St. Peter Church, 99 East Main St,  
Torrington

*Experience the Power of Healing — In these challenging times, many of us carry burdens – be it physical ailments like cancer and kidney disease, emotional struggles like depression, anxiety, PTSD and grief, or spiritual battles.*

**YOU'RE NOT ALONE.** Reconnect, find solace, and embrace the healing powers of our divine physician, Jesus Christ. A special Healing Mass with anointing of the sick will be celebrated by Rev. Emmanuel Ihemedu, pastor of St. John Paul the Great Parish in Torrington. The evening begins with the Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by the Mass. Let's come together, share our stories, and experience the transformative power of faith. Remember, Jesus is still in the business of healing.



08/19 TUESDAY 6:30PM-8:00PM  
**MY WAY WITH FR. RAY KELLY**  
**A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR IMMACARE**  
**PRESENTED BY DR. BARBARA A. CLARK**  
Northwest Catholic High School, 29  
Wampanoag Dr, West Hartford

*Fr. Ray Kelly, the world-renowned YouTube sensation and beloved Singing Priest from Ireland, will perform live on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 6:30 PM at Northwest Catholic High School in West Hartford, CT in his only Connecticut appearance!*

*This special nondenominational concert is part of his sixth North American music ministry tour and coincides with the release of his sixth CD, MY WAY. The album features three original songs—Through the Storm, Drift Away and Tears—written and produced by Cross-Light Records, along with the iconic song My Way, performed in English, German, Spanish and Italian. Vocal and instrumental versions will be included.*

*Fr. Ray's 2025 tour includes stops in Michigan, Ohio, Florida, Connecticut, Cape Cod and New York, and concludes in New Brunswick, Canada. Despite his busy tour schedule, he continues to serve as an active parish priest in Ireland and a member of Saint Patrick's Society for the Foreign Missions, sharing his music ministry across the globe.*

*100 percent of the proceeds from the West Hartford performance will benefit ImmaCare supporting our mission to serve individuals experiencing homelessness in the Hartford region.*

For Ticket Information, scan the QR code:



08/5-9 TUES - SAT 5:30PM  
**ANNUAL SAINT GEORGE CHURCH**  
**CARNIVAL | SPONSORED BY KOFC**  
**COUNCIL 3928**  
St. George Church, 33 Whitfield St,  
Guilford

*Great Food and Fun for the Whole Family.  
Opens at 5:30 each night; Rides open at 6pm.*

*Visit our famous White Elephant Sale –  
You heard about it, now come visit...People come from near and far to line up before the doors open for the White Elephant Sale & Silent Auction, Aug 5th - 9th  
(10am-1pm AND 5pm-9pm)  
Located in the Church Hall.*

## 2025 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

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The Women's ACT Retreat scheduled for September has been **cancelled** due to a fire at Our Lady of Cavalry Retreat Center.

Please keep your eye out for further details for the 2025-2026 retreats.

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## MASS SCHEDULE



## Mass Schedule

### **July 26 & 27, 2025**

4:00 pm OLOP: Fr. Matthew

5:30 pm SVDP: Fr. Walsh

7:30 am OLOP: Fr. Matthew

9:00 am SB: Fr. Walsh

10:30 am OLOP: Fr. Matthew

11:45 am SVDP: Fr. Walsh

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### **August 2 & 3, 2025**

4:00 pm OLOP: Fr. Walsh

5:30 pm SVDP: Fr. Matthew

7:30 am OLOP: Fr. Borino

9:00 am SB: Fr. Matthew

10:30 am OLOP: Fr. Walsh

11:45 am SVDP: Fr. Matthew



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](mailto:Rajnet352@comcast.net) or  
Phone: 713-898-2563