

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF
ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA

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



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three." - Lk 12:50-52

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

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20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 17, 2025

Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, August 16 - Vigil - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm OLOP + Johnna Criscio
by Angela Piscitelli
5:30pm SVDP + Mary, Donald & Angelo Izzo; Frank &
Marianne Cantore & David Dunaj
by Family

SUNDAY, August 17 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am OLOP + Ryan Kiley
by Mom, Liz, Ashley & Sean
9:00am SB + Joseph DeFilippo
by Vincent & Erica Borzillo
10:30am OLOP + Robert Becker
by Family
11:45am SVDP + Carmela Johnson
by Son, Leo

MONDAY, August 18 - Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Thanksgiving for Good Health
by Anastasio Family
8:00am SVDP + Robert Piscitelli, Jr.
by DeLucia Family

TUESDAY, August 19 - St. John Eudes

8:00am OLOP + Bev & Tom Gormley
by Kathy Mauro
8:00am SVDP + Louise Amato
by Michael Lamberti

WEDNESDAY, August 20 - St. Bernard

8:00am OLOP + Catherine Mascata
by Friend, Marie
8:00am SVDP + Deceased Members of St. Pio Parish
by Clancy-Palumbo Funeral Home, East Haven

THURSDAY, August 21 - St. Pius X

8:00am OLOP + Philip & Pasquale Calabrese
by Family
8:00am SB + Rose Infante (38th Anniversary)
by Family

FRIDAY, August 22 - Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00am SB + Joan Cardascio & Roseanne Onofrio
by Family

SATURDAY, August 23 - Vigil - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm OLOP + Ann Marie Kuczenski
by Family
5:30pm SVDP + Joseph Concelmo
by Concelmo Family

SUNDAY, August 24 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am OLOP + Larry & Patty Cifarelli
by Sherry Cifarelli & Family
9:00am SB + Franklin & Gloria Caruso
by Caruso-Thorson Family
10:30am OLOP + Katherine Ryan
by DiModugno Family
11:45am SVDP + Judith Bracken
by Carole Brown

STEWARDSHIP

August 9 & 10

Regular Collection \$8,507.00

Monthly Collection \$4,309.00

August 23 & 24 Second Collection:

None

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday: Jer 38:4-6, 8-10/Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18 (14b)/Heb 12:1-4/Lk 12:49-53
Monday: Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44/Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16
Thursday: Jgs 11:29-39a/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mt 22:1-14
Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40
Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Mt 23:1-12



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.



2024 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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 No Activities or Events Scheduled	SUNDAY, AUGUST 24 No Activities or Events Scheduled
MONDAY, AUGUST 18 Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church	MONDAY, AUGUST 25 Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church
TUESDAY, AUGUST 19 Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 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	TUESDAY, AUGUST 26 Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 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
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20 Rosary Group - 8:00pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27 Rosary Group - 8:00pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21 Scriptural Rosary - 7:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	THURSDAY, AUGUST 28 Scriptural Rosary - 7:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8
FRIDAY, AUGUST 22 Rosary Group - 8:00pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	FRIDAY, AUGUST 29 Rosary Group - 8:00pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23 Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center	SATURDAY, AUGUST 30 Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center



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



Ladies' Guild Christmas Fair 2025

Save the dates.. November 15 & 16

Our parish is so blessed to have so many generous people to help make our annual fair a success.

Donations needed....gently used pocketbooks, jewelry and books..

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

We always welcome volunteers..
Watch the weekly bulletin for updates.

Gina V.
Chairperson

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 Tantalo, 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 Dziedulonis, 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, Theresa Limosani

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

**Midnight Run
Taylor Avenue Campus**

The Midnight Run for September is the **2nd Monday**, which is **September 8th**. 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, September 8th**. 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

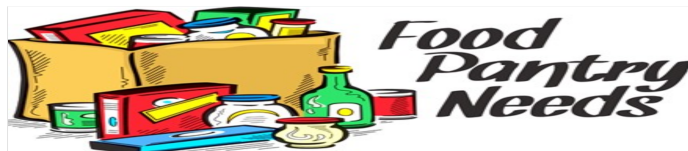
Individual Packaged Cookies, Crackers or Chips

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

Dear Families,

Planning for the upcoming year is already underway, and we're excited about what's ahead. As previously announced, **Carol Silva** has retired after many years of faithful service to our parish community. We are so grateful for the time, love, and leadership she has given to our families.

We are pleased to welcome **Jennie Llanos** as our new **Director of Religious Education**. With this leadership transition, our program will continue to grow, offering new opportunities for our children and their families to deepen their faith through intentional and meaningful experiences.

What to Expect This Year:

We remain committed to providing a vibrant family-focused Religious Education program that helps both children and parents grow together in faith. Some of the key components of this year's program include:

- Bimonthly Children's Liturgies**
- Family Faith Events**
- Student Service Projects**
- Home/Classroom Family Projects**
- Parent/Student Learning Sessions**

Parents are, and always will be, the primary faith educators of their children. Your presence and example are powerful to witnesses to the importance of a lived faith. Throughout the year, you'll be invited to join your child in class for shared learning and reflection, helping to build a strong foundation of faith together.

Updated Class Schedule:

This year, we are adjusting our class format to **twice-a-month sessions** instead of weekly meetings. This change will offer more flexibility and more opportunities to engage with faith as a family outside the classroom.

Grades 1-6: Meet twice a month

Mondays or Tuesdays, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Due to low attendance, we will no longer offer a second evening for these grades.

Grade 7: Tuesdays, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Grade 8: Mondays, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

These grades will meet as a whole class to better prepare students for Confirmation

Grades 9 & 10: Once a month on Mondays, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

All classes will take place at the **St. Vincent de Paul Church campus:**

Grades 1-6: Held in the school building

Grades 7-10: Held in the lower level of the parish office building

Registration & Fees:

Registration for the 2025-2026 Religious Education year is now open. Please return your **registration forms** as soon as possible. Placement for specific days and times will be **first come, first served**.

Registration Deadline: September 8, 2025

Classes Begin: October 2025

Payment is due at the time of registration. We work hard to keep program fees reasonable and appreciate your timely support.

Weekly Mass Attendance:

Weekly Mass participation is a vital part of our program. In today's busy world, it's easy to let faith practices slip, but we encourage you to make worship a family priority. Attending Mass together strengthens the lessons your children learn in class and reinforces the importance of living our faith daily.

Thank you for continuing to walk this journey of faith with your children. Your commitment to their spiritual growth – and your own – is essential to the life of our parish. Together, we pray for a joyful and faith-filled year at **St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish**.

With gratitude,
Jennie Llanos
Religious Education Office
80 Taylor Avenue
East Haven, CT 06512

203-469-0764 ext. 4

11 DAYS PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE & THE GREEK ISLES

MAY 5- 15, 2026

VISITING: ATHENS * CORINTH * MYKONOS * EPHEBUS * PATMOS
SANTORINI * DELPHI * KALAMBAKA * THESSALONIKI
Including a 3-Day Cruise to the Greek Isles & Turkey



HOSTED BY
REV. JEREMIAH N. MURASSO, PH.D.

\$4699 FROM NEW YORK

*Air/land tour price is \$4179 plus \$520 gov't taxes/airline surcharges

For More Information, Please Contact:

Rev. Murasso
Tel (860) 977-7675
Email: jeremiah.murasso@aol.com



SPACE IS LIMITED! SIGN UP TODAY!!!

From the Pastor's Desk

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the celebration in honor of the feast of St. Clare. I would also like to thank everyone who volunteered to make the Feast such a success. Like the Carnival, the Feast is a major fundraiser. Finally, thank you to everyone who sold raffle tickets or who bought raffle tickets.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

August 17, 2025
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 12:49-53

During my baseball career, my best coach often said, "You shouldn't be worried if I yell at you. Be worried if I don't. If I stop pushing you, it means I don't think you have any more potential." He demanded a lot, and I knew it meant he saw that I could be something special on the baseball field.

Jesus says some demanding words to us this week. **"Do you think I have come to establish peace on the earth?"** he asks, **"No, tell you, but rather division" (Luke 12:51).** He wants you and me—in fact, all the earth—to participate in the luminous glory of God. That's why he speaks of himself as a divine arsonist. Divine fire is like a good coach: it demands the removal of all that obstructs the achievement of the lofty goal.

How is your life demanding right now? That inconvenient family situation, the unfair boss at work, the kids who reject their parents' wishes, the nagging health issue? Maybe things would be more peaceful devoid of these seemingly arbitrary difficulties. But for us who believe in the one who comes to set the earth of fire, we should be much more worried if he stops demanding so much from us. In fact, let's thank him for it. He sees how glorious we can become.

— *Father John Muir*

©LPi



"Become familiar with the Bible so
that it can be your compass pointing
out the road to follow."

— Pope Benedict XVI



Scan here to discover more about the Bible and enroll at the
New England Catholic Biblical School.

MESSAGE BOARD

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.



SHOPPING CARDS 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.

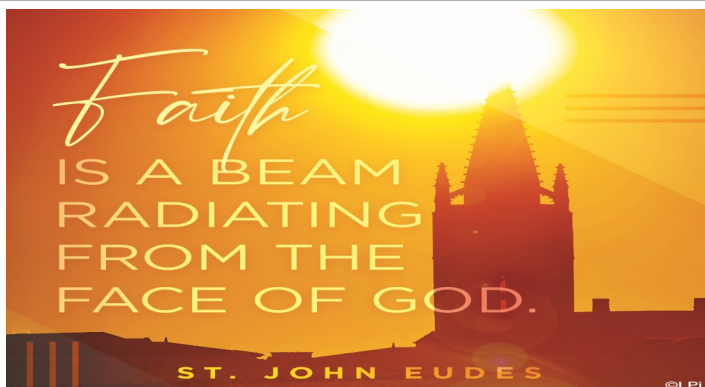
Grocery Shopping cards in any denomination to any of the local supermarkets would help me help members of our parish family, who are need of assistance for the purchase of food. These gift/shopping cards can be dropped into the collection basket or brought to the parish office. Whatever you can do, is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



Dawn Scussel Vittorio has once again organized a Christmas ornament group to make ornaments to sell at our annual Ladies Guild Christmas Fair, this was a great success last year. So many beautiful items were made...

They are meeting in the Lower Office Meeting Room at Our Lady of Pompeii the 3rd Monday of the month @ 6:30pm starting August, September & October...

Please reach out to Dawn for more details... Thank you so much Dawn for organizing this group..



October 16, October 17 & October 18

Sinatra! Italian Songbook! The mob! This show has is all!

For tickets:

- The Legacy Theatre Box Office, 203-315-1901
128 Thimble Island Rd., Branford, CT 06405
OR
- www.legacytheatrect.org

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.



Upcoming Events



09/9 TUESDAY 10AM - 3PM

ART AND SPIRITUALITY RETREAT
Sacred Heart on the Lake
Retreat Center, 194 Candlewood Hill
Rd, Higganum

Well-known local artist, Ed Rosado will team with Sr. Lany Jo to teach and demonstrate how art can be a segue into prayerful meditation and contemplation. Both of these Art/Retreats are for those that already have some background in art and in the medium they most often use to create art, especially landscapes, which will be the focus at the scenic lake and grounds of the SHOTL Retreat Center.

Mr. Rosado will offer artistic critiques and pointers and Sr. Lany Jo will offer guidance at prayerfully focusing on our Creator God dwelling within us, allowing us to create with Him. Please bring your lunch and art supplies. Coffee, tea and other hot and cold drinks will be provided. A donation of \$20 is asked for this Retreat Day. Space will be limited, so register ASAP on our website sacredheartonthelake.org or call Sr. Lany Jo at 203-606-9102.



invites you to celebrate the

Canonization

of our patron,

Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati!



Sunday, September 7

11:00am - Mass at St. Mary Church
5 Hillhouse Avenue | New Haven

1:00pm - Hike at East Rock Park
Park at St. Joseph's Church
129 Edwards Street | New Haven



The **New England Catholic Biblical School** is currently enrolling adult students for the certificate program in Advanced Biblical Studies. Classes begin September 6, 2025 and meet at multiple locations, at various times, for both on-line and in-person class options. Spanish language classes are available. Those interested should go to the **NECBS** website at: www.catholicdaohct.org.

La Escuela Bíblica Católica de Nueva Inglaterra (NECBS) está inscribiendo a estudiantes adultos para el programa de certificado en Estudios Bíblicos Avanzados. Las clases comienzan el 6 de septiembre de 2025 y se imparten en diferentes sedes y horarios, tanto en línea como presenciales. Se ofrecen clases de español. Los interesados deben visitar el sitio web de **NECBS**: www.catholicdaohct.org.



2025 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Scan the QR code
to learn how you
can make a
lasting impact!



Total Goal: \$10M

90.55% as of 8/5/25
\$9,055,412.24 pledges from
27,175 generous donors

www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal





Branches on the Vine

AUGUST 16 - 22, 2025



For the second year in a row, Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Plainville will have a booth for evangelization during the upcoming Plainville Fire Company Hot Air Balloon Festival.
PHOTO BY KAREN AVITABILE

Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Plainville is inviting people who have questions about the Catholic Church to ask them during the town's upcoming balloon festival.

For the second year, newcomers and returning Catholics will be welcomed to the parish booth during the 38th annual Plainville Fire Company Hot Air Balloon Festival, which runs Aug. 22 and 23 at Norton Park.

"Some people have wandered away because of schedule, work or it slipped off the radar during the coronavirus," pastor M. David Dawson says. "We want everybody to come home or welcome those who have never been to church to come."

CATHOLIC PARISH TAKES FLIGHT AT ANNUAL BALLOON FESTIVAL

Father Dawson learned about the balloon festival, one of Plainville's signature events, soon after his appointment as pastor in 2023. He suggested last year that the parish set up a booth to reach out to the community and evangelize at the same time.

"Our faith should not stay within the four walls of the church," he says. "Everyone needs Christ."

Similar to last year, a committee will work in shifts at the parish booth to greet people, engage in friendly conversation and pray with anyone who wishes to do so. Volunteers will also hand out religious medals, prayer cards, rosaries, trinkets for children, and flyers with information about the church, Mass times and confession schedule.

"We want to have a real presence and an impact on people in our town," Father Dawson says. "This is a chance to make our presence felt among our community. We are part of Plainville, and we want people to come home."

During the balloon festival, Father Dawson, donned in a cassock, spends most of his time walking around the park "to give people a little nudge," he says, "to remind them that the Catholic Church is here for them."

Homebound parishioners who are unable to participate in the balloon festival are asked to pray for the volunteers and the people they will encounter. "Pray that the Lord will work through the volunteers and his words and attitude will come through their mouths and actions," Father Dawson says.

"Pray that people who have never been Mass-goers start coming, and pray that those who have wandered will allow the Lord to open their hearts to his spirit."

All festival-goers are encouraged to stop by the booth for Our Lady of Mercy Parish. Weather permitting, the balloon festival runs 3 to 10 p.m. on Aug. 22, and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Aug. 23 at Norton Park on South Washington Street. Crafters, vendors, food trucks, carnival rides and entertainment will be offered on both days.

At dusk on Friday, a balloon glow – when tethered balloons are illuminated from within the park at the same time – and a fireworks display will light up the sky.

On Saturday, balloons are scheduled to take flight from the park at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. The balloons are a spectacle that captivate several neighboring communities too.

Also on the second day of the festival, a classic and muscle car exhibit will be underway. To mark the 140th anniversary of the Plainville Fire Company, a professional drone show in the evening is expected to draw a large crowd.

Father Dawson says he is hoping the parish booth will "plant a seed" with those who are unfamiliar with the faith. "Pray that our efforts will bear eternal fruit," he adds. "Pray that those who have wandered will allow the Lord to open their hearts to his spirit."

- Story by Karen A. Avitabile



**Knights of Columbus
Rodrigo Council #44**

PRAY THE ROSARY

KofC Rodrigo Council #44 Rosary, every 2nd Tuesday of the month at St. Bernadette Church as we pray for an increase in priestly vocations as well as all religious vocations and the Holy Spirit to inspire our priest and religious.

- ⇒ **Peace in the World**
- ⇒ **For a Return to Christ and the Blessed Virgin.**
- ⇒ **Increase in Priestly Vocations**

WHEN: Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30pm. (Rosary)*

WHERE: St. Bernadette Church

Monthly Rosary is held the second Tuesday of every month.

Rosary will be outdoors in Summer months, if inclement weather arises, it will be moved indoors



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.

thank you!

On behalf of the St. Clare Festival Committee at St. Bernadette Church campus of St. Pio Parish thank-you to all from our combined three church campuses for your generous support of our 2025 St. Clare Festival & parish raffle.

Thank You also to all those for your overwhelming generosity for our food pantry.

MASS SCHEDULE



August 16 & 17, 2025

4:00 pm OLOP: Fr. Matthew

5:30 pm SVDP: Fr. Matthew

7:30 am OLOP: Fr. Matthew

9:00 am SB: Fr. Walsh

10:30 am OLOP: Fr. Matthew

11:45 am SVDP: Fr. Walsh

**Deacons to Preach at All Masses*

August 23 & 24, 2025

4:00 pm OLOP: Fr. Walsh

5:30 pm SVDP: Fr. Matthew

7:30 am OLOP: Fr. Walsh

9:00 am SB: Fr. Matthew

10:30 am OLOP: Fr. Walsh

11:45 am SVDP: Fr. Matthew

August 30 & 31, 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