ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA

REVEREND THOMAS J. WALSH, PASTOR
REVEREND MATTHEW CHERIAN, PH.D., PAROCHIAL VICAR
DEACON GEORGE MCCARROLL
DEACON WAYNE SANDFORD
DEACON LARRY TIANI



December 21, 2025

Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, December 20-Vigil Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00pm OLOP+ Vincent & Ann Costanzo

by Daughter

5:30pm SVDP+ Andrew, Catherine & David Dunaj

Catherine, Nicholas & Mary Izzo

by Family

SUNDAY, December 21- Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30am OLOP+ Bob "Star" Bekalowicz

by Maryann

9:00am SB+ Paula AnnMarie Conte

by Family

10:30am OLOP+ Paula Carrera

by wife Caroline

11:45am SVDP+ Mario & Maria Truffa & Tony DiGioia

by Frances

MONDAY, December 22- Late Advent Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Ralph Monaco

by Family

8:00am SVDP + Emilio Infante (106th birthday)

by Family

TUESDAY, December 23- Late Advent Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Jack Leary & Maureen Leary Minnick

by Lisa Leary

8:00am SVDP + Fred & Mary Colloso

by Children & Grandchildren

WEDNESDAY, December 24-Late Advent Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Members of St Pio of Pietrelcina Parish 8:00am SVDP + Members of St Pio of Pietrelcina Parish

Christmas Eve

9:00am

10:30am

4:00pm OLOP + Members of St Pio of Pietrelcina Parish

4:30pm SVDP + Members of St Pio of Pietrelcina Parish

12:00pm SVDP + Members of St Pio of Pietrelcina Parish THURSDAY, December 25– Nativity of the Lord

8:00am SVDP + Members of St Pio of Pietrelcina Parish

9:00am SB + Members of St Pio of Pietrelcina Parish

10:30am OLOP + Members of St Pio of Pietrelcina Parish

FRIDAY, December 26- Late Advent Weekday

8:00am SB + Coppola & Cimino Families

by Paula D'Agostino

Saturday, December 27- Vigil The Holy Family

4:00pm OLOP + Pat & Anthony DiLungo

by Family

5:30pm SVDP + Spadacenta & Camera Families

by Madelyn & Vincent Camera

Sunday, December 28- The Holy Family

Jesus, Mary & Joseph

7:30am OLOP + Joseph Vittorio Sr & Joseph Vittorio, Jr by Vittorio Family

SB + Jason Sagnella

by Family

OLOP + Andrew Frank Criscuolo

by Joseph & Debra Criscuolo & Family

11:45am SVDP + Muriel Basilio

by Family

2026 MASS BOOK -

is now open!

Kindly have your Mass requests ready when scheduling. We will continue to have a <u>limit</u> <u>of 2 weekend Masses</u> per

individual booking.



Readings for the week of December 21, 2025

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/

Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk

1:46-56

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and

14/Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps

89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Thursday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

(2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/

Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3,

11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/

Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6,

11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Heb 1:1-

6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab,

16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

(see 1)/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

STEWARDSHIP

December 7

First Collection: \$9,614.00
Monthly Collection: \$3846.00
Thank for all for your continued generosity and support.

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-Fri 9:00-2:00 **Taylor Avenue**: Tue. & Thu. 9:00-1:00

E-Mail: stpioofpietrelcina@gmail.com

St Pio of Pietrelcina Parish Groups, Studies and Devotions



Holy Hour Monday mornings, 8:30 to 9:30 am Our Lady of Pompeii Church



Elble Studies
Tuesday evenings, 7:00 pm
Zoom meeting
Contact Christine Sandford 203-469-7823

Wednesday evenings, 6:30 pm St Vincent dePaul Parish Building Contact Marie Connors 203-468-1184



Rosary

Every evening 8:00 pm Zoom Meetings Contact Sally Mucka 203-469-0764 Ext 8

Scriptural Rosary
Thursday, 6:00 pm
Our Lady of Pompeii Chapel
Contact Sally Mucka 203-469-0764 Ext 8

Monthly Rosary
Every second Tuesday, 6:30 pm
January 13, 2026
St Bernadette Church
Contact Mike Firmani 203-627-9216

Men's Group
Saturday mornings 7:30 am to 9:00am
St Vincent DePaul Parish Building
Contact Deacon Wayne 203-804-8364

A continued reminder about the Mass modifications that will take place. First is that the 8:00a.m. Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and the 8:00am Mass at St. Bernadette Church on Thursday will be at 9:00a.m. starting January 5, 2026. The Friday Mass and the first Saturday Mass at St. Bernadette Church will remain at 8:00a.m.

The other change concerns the vigil Masses. The four o'clock Mass will be at St. Vincent de Paul Church for the months of January through June (except on Holy Saturday) then the four o'clock Mass will be at Our Lady of Pompeii from July to December. Starting January 3, 2026, the 5:30 pm vigil Mass will begin at 5:00pm, PROVIDED THAT THERE REMAIN TWO at St. Pio Parish.

The 5:00p.m. Mass will be at Our Lady of Pompeii Church from January to June (except on Holy Saturday), and then will be at St. Vincent de Paul Church from July to December.

Sacramental Information

Parents should contact
St Pio of Pietrelcina's main office to schedule a date, a Parent Baptism class and to receive all of the paperwork needed to complete the scheduling process.

Wedding
Couples should contact
St Pio of Pietrelcina's main office
12 months in advance to schedule a
wedding date. Couples will be asked to
meet with a priest prior to confirming a
date and time for a wedding



Have you recently lost a friend or a 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

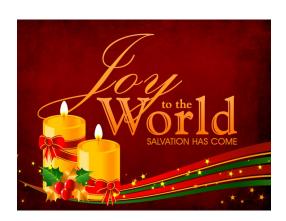


On behalf of Father Matthew Cherian, our parish deacons, and the entire staff of St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish,

I would like to wish

everyone a very happy and holy Christmas. As we celebrate the feast of Christmas this year, we are reminded once again that God loves us so much

that he sent His only
begotten Son, the Prince of Peace, to be
born in the midst of this fallen world to
redeem us from sin. The mystery of the
Incarnation makes us joyful in knowing
that God did not, and does not, abandon
us, but that He who became man knows
our joys and sufferings, and is always
with us. May you share that message by
wishing everyone a "Merry Christmas"
rather than a vague "Happy Holidays,"
and may the Peace of Christ be with you
and yours this Christmas Season



and always.

St Pio of Pietrelcina Parish Annual Collection

Campaign Statistics as of 12/10/25

Total # of Households: 3699
Total # Pledged: 422
% of Participation: 11.41%
Total Amount Pledged: \$76,244.00
Total Amount Paid: \$75,039.00
Average Pledge: \$180.67
% of Pledges: 98.43%

Payme Category	ent by Catego Tot	ory tal Givers
Annually Monthly Other Paid-in-full Quarterly Semi-Annually		0 10 0 411 0
	Total	421

We are very grateful for the generosity shown by so many parishioners to our "Annual Collection." If you have not yet had an opportunity to return your gift card, please do so as soon as possible. Your completed gift card can be returned to the parish office by mail or placed in the Sunday collection basket. Every gift is welcome and sincerely appreciated. Thank you!



The Candles burn this week for these special intentions:

Our Lady of Pompeii Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ All members of St Pio Parish
Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) ~ Special Intentions
Chapel ~ All members of St Pio Parish
Sacred Heart of Jesus ~ Jennifer Caruso by Patti Scussel
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Icon ~ Special Intentions
Pascal Candle ~ Deceased members of the Calamita Family,
Hart Family, Surprenant Family & Zito Family

St. Vincent de Paul Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ In Memory of the Deceased members of St Pio of Pietrelcina Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) - In Memory of Ronald Paolillo Our Lady's Altar ~ For all unborn babies St. Joseph's Altar ~ Phyllis Cinque by daughter Ann Peter Coppola by wife, Ann Pascal Candle ~ Barbara & Maurice Connolly

St. Bernadette Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) ~ Fred & Carmel DeMichele Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ Special Intention



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 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, 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, Joycelyn Bila, Richard Marshall, Sandy Derbacher, John Cavallaro, Mr. Rubenstein, Roberta Perillo, Theresa Limosani, Carly Rose Pietrosimone

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 January is the **2nd Monday**, which is **January 12.** 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**, **January 12**. 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 tomato sauce and pasta for the months of December and January. 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



The Nativity of the Lord

Our hearts are aglow with the joy of Christmas! Our senses are alive with the season,

from the rich smells of evergreen and gingerbread to the feel of crisp air on our skin and the warmth of a loved one's embrace. At some point in the holiday hustle and bustle, take a few moments of quiet. In the silence, reflect on the other senses of the season. Imagine the cool damp of an animal stable, the earthy smell of hay and feed, and the crisp night air blowing in softly. Imagine kneeling beside an exhausted, joyful mother and a relieved, protective father. Imagine an infant wrapped in cloth scraps held out to your open arms. Imagine holding the infant Jesus. As his eyes meet yours, welcome into your heart the greatest gift of Christmas!





On this blessed Christmas day, may the joy and goodness of the sweet baby Jesus fill our home and our hearts.

Jesus, bless every member of our family, near and far.

May peace prevail, goodness reign, and love triumph.

Amen.



Office of Religious Education News and Events

January 11- Family Mass, 9:00 am at Saint Bernadette Campus

February 8- Family Mass, 10:30 am at Our Lady of Pompeii

We look forward to a wonderful year filled with faith, fellowship and growth. Thank you in advance for your continued support and warm welcome to our new families joining the St Pio community



Branches on the Vine

DECEMBER 20 - 26, 2025



Teens from St. Ann Parish Youth Ministry in Avon wrap holiday gifts destined for U.S. military men and women at a "Boxes to Boots" event held at New Britain High School. PHOTO BY SHELLEY WOLF

AVON TEENS JOIN IN SENDING GIFTS TO

MILITARY FOR THE **HOLIDAYS**

)n a Saturday in November, 15 teens from St. Ann Parish in Avon spent their morning serving the men and women who protect our country far from home.

In the gymnasium of New Britain High School, they joined hundreds of other people from throughout Central Connecticut in wrapping and packing food gifts for military members in time for the Christmas holiday.

"It's important to help. Some deployed members don't have family looking out for them," says Victoria Borisov, a St. Ann Youth Ministry member who is in the eighth grade. "A big part of our Catholic faith is helping others, and this fits with that. It's a good cause."

"Service work is important when you're Catholic," adds Henry Madison, a seventh grade youth ministry member. "We're here to support the men and women overseas, so they can have the holiday spirit. I wish I could do more."

This service activity is one of many good works performed by the St. Ann Parish Youth Ministry. The Avon teens were escorted by Caroline Mascoli, the new director of youth ministry for the parish as of last September.

Mascoli is encouraging the youth ministry members, especially those who are

confirmation candidates, to put in at least eight hours of service for the year. "For confirmation candidates, we're trying to follow the Corporal Works of Mercy and find events and activities related to that," she says.

Students fulfill three categories of service: (1) individual, (2) with family and (3) with a group.

Mascoli chose the "Boxes to Boots" group event, which she had heard about from other high school groups. "It was top of my list because I knew it would be a great way to get kids involved in the community," she says. "And, I have two brothers in the Marines, so it hits close to home for me and will for the students here as well.

The "Operation Cares 2025—Giving Thanks to Our Troops" event was sponsored by "Boxes to Boots," a nonprofit started in 2015 by Karen Cote, a military mom in Berlin. At the 2025 event, the Avon teens and hundreds of others worked at 90 tables packing care packages of breakfast treats and snacks, and fun gifts such as Frisbees, for 1,800 to 1,900 service members.

"It was so nice that active military were here to make it even more meaningful," Mascoli notes. Some local military

members, such as the ROTC and the Connecticut National Guard, were present packing boxes, receiving boxes and loading the trucks.

Mascoli's fiancée, Sean Murphy, accompanied the Avon teens. "It's wonderful," he says of the event, which also included a DJ playing popular dance music. "It's such a fun way to get them involved with community and start them out."

Mateo Garza, a senior in high school, recently joined the St. Ann Youth Ministry. "I just learned about this group and events and want to go to more. I felt connected to the people and the others but also to God himself," he says.

"We were writing Bible verses on cards," Garza adds, "and if one of those verses can get along to a soldier, it can bring faith to them as well."

- Story by Shelley Wolf



Upcoming Events





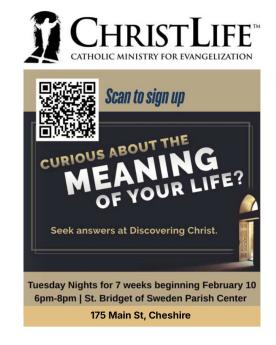
12/22 MONDAY 7PM

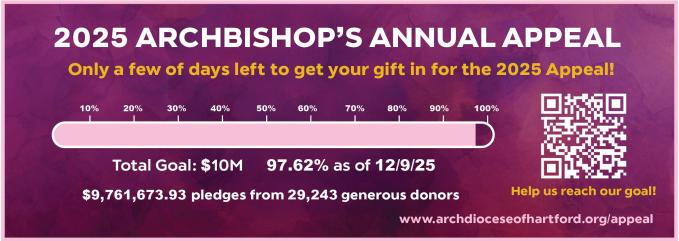
MASS FOR THE GRIEVING

St. Mary's Parish, 942 Hopmeadow

St. Mary's Parish, 942 Hopmeadow St, Simsbury

St. Mary's Parish, Simsbury invites those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, to a Quiet Advent Mass on Monday, December 22 at 7pm with a light reception to follow in the Magowan Center. All are welcome. Questions to St. Mary's at 860-658-7627.





Knights of Columbus Council 3300

We would list to thank everyone that helped us at our Annual Stuff a Truck. With your generous donations, we were able to collect and deliver 3,660 pounds of food and 72 turkeys to the **East Haven Food Pantry.** Again, thank you all!



Dear Parish Family of St. Pio of Pietrelcina,

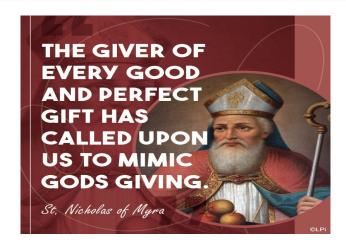
On behalf of our Giving Tree Elves and Father Walsh, we would like to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to all who contributed to and participated in our 2025 Giving Tree.

The outpouring of donations from our parish family was remarkable, and we were able to help 70 families share in our own Christmas joy and shine the light of Christ brightly on those in most need during this season of Advent.

As we joyfully celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and fulfill our commitment to Him through the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, we ask that you continue to pray for those who are struggling to make ends meet and share the blessings that our God has bestowed upon us.

God is Good...all the time and All the time...God is Good.

Blessings and Peace be with you all,
The Giving Tree Committee





St. Pio of Pietrelcina Ladies Guild

Bring home the true spirit of the season by purchasing a Jesus Birthday Cake Cakes will be available for purchase at all three churches on the weekend before Christmas, December 20-21 All Jesus Birthday Cakes come with a Christmas verse and birthday candle.

Cakes sell for \$3.00 each.

Anyone interested in baking, please contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 or at exbanker2100@sbcglobal.net by Wednesday, December 17 to receive the kits needed to make the cakes. Cakes can be any flavor and baked in a mini loaf pan One cake mix makes four Jesus cakes







Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve Vigil Masses 4:00pm Our Lady of Pompeii 4:30pm St Vincent dePaul

Midnight Mass 12:00am St Vincent dePaul

Christmas Day 8:00am St Vincent DePaul 9:00am St Bernadette 10:30 Our Lady of Pompeii

Feast of the Solemnity of Mary

December 31

4:00pm St Vincent DePaul

January 1 9:00am St Bernadette 10:30am Our Lady of Pompeii





December 20 & 21, 2025

4:00 p.m OLOP: Schedule in progress 5:30 p.m SVDP: Schedule in progress 7:30a.m. Mass: OLOP: Schedule in progress 9:00a.m. Mass: SB: Schedule in progress 10:30a.m. Mass: OLOP: Schedule in progress 11:45a.m. Mass: SVDP: Schedule in progress

December 24 & 25, 2025

4:00 p.m. Mass: OLOP 4:30 p.m. Mass: SVDP

12:00 p.m. Midnight Mass: SVDP

8:00 a.m. Mass: SVDP 9:00 a.m. Mass: SB 10:30 a.m. Mass: OLOP

December 27 & 28, 2025

4:00 p.m OLOP. Schedule in progress 5:30 p.m SVDP. Schedule in progress

7:30a.m. Mass: OLOP: Schedule in progress 9:00a.m. Mass: SB: Schedule in progress 10:30a.m. Mass: OLOP: Schedule in progress 11:45a.m. Mass: SVDP: Schedule in progress

CONFESSION SCHEDULE:



Our Lady of Pompeii: Saturday at 3:00-3:30pm

St. Vincent de Paul: Saturday at 4:30-5:00pm