

# 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

2026  
Archbishop's Annual Appeal

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**Kickoff Weekend:  
February 14 - 15, 2026**

**February 15, 2026**

## Mass Intentions for the Week

**SATURDAY, February 14-Vigil, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Saints Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop**

**4:00pm** **SVDP+** Anthony Consolo  
by daughter, Catherine

**5:00pm** **OLOP+** Catherine Carfora  
by Daughters

**SUNDAY, February 15 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30am **OLOP+** Dominick & Margaret DeLuca  
by Ann, Arlene & Family

9:00am **SB+** Irene C. Flynn (8th Anniversary)  
by Ed, Edward and Kathleen

10:30am **OLOP+** Anna Turner Funaro  
by Ann Mancini & Family

11:45am **SVDP+** Alese Mauriello  
by Family

**MONDAY, February 16– Weekday**

8:00am **OLOP +** All Members of St Pio of Pietrelcina

9:00am **SVDP +** All Members of St Pio of Pietrelcina

**TUESDAY, February 17– Weekday**

8:00am **OLOP +** Karl Paecht  
by Clancy Palumbo Funeral Home

9:00am **SVDP +** Fred & Mary Colloso  
by Children, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren

**WEDNESDAY, February 18-Ash Wednesday**

**8:00am** **OLOP + All Members of St Pio of Pietrelcina**

**9:00am** **SB+ All Members of St Pio of Pietrelcina**

**12:15pm** **SVDP + All Members of St Pio of Pietrelcina**

**6:00pm** **OLOP + All Members of St Pio of Pietrelcina**

**THURSDAY, February 19– Thursday after Ash Wednesday**

8:00am **OLOP+** Elizabeth Conroy.  
by Porto Funeral Home

9:00am **SB +** Caterina Bonesse  
by Family

**FRIDAY, February 20– Friday after Ash Wednesday**

8:00am **SB +** Jeff Cofrancesco ( 83rd birthday)  
by Family

**Saturday, February 21-Vigil Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**4:00pm** **SVDP+** Marie Riccitelli  
by Ricky, Linda & Craig

**5:00pm** **OLOP +** Theresa Shatkyvich  
by Children

**Sunday February 22– Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30am **OLOP +** Billy McGrath  
by Karen & George Maselli

9:00am **SB +** Helen & Charles Dunmark  
by Family

10:30am **OLOP +** Dean Capobianco (anniversary)  
by Family

11:45am **SVDP +** Anthony & Carl Gambardella &  
William Kane  
by Gambardella Family



*“Blessed  
are they,  
who  
follow the  
Law of  
the Lord”  
Psalm 119*

## Readings for the week of February 15, 2026

Sunday: Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

Monday: Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19/Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

## STEWARDSHIP

February 8, 2026

First Collection: \$8292.00

Second Collection: \$2322.00

Thank you 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: stpiofpietrelcina@gmail.com

## 2026 MASS BOOK



**There are a few openings left.  
There are many candles available to  
book for intentions as well**

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. Cash or check  
only please.**



**The Candles burn this week for these special intentions:**

**Our Lady of Pompeii Candles**

*Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side)* ~ In Memory of Billy Richmond

& All Souls in Purgatory

*Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side)* ~ In Memory of the Mauro & Elko Families

*Chapel* ~ Jane F Dunn by Family

*Sacred Heart of Jesus* ~ For all unborn babies

*Our Lady of Perpetual Help Icon* ~ In Thanksgiving

*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 Balzano & Avitable Families

*Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side)* ~ In Memory of Ronald Paolillo

*Our Lady's Altar* ~ For all mothers

*St. Joseph's Altar* ~ For all members of St Pio of Pietrelcina

*Pascal Candle* ~ Barbara & Maurice Connolly

**St. Bernadette Candles**

*Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side)* ~ Fred & Carmel DeMichele

*Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side)* ~ Special Intention

*Pascal Candle* ~ For all unborn babies



**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 Dziedulon, 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, 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, Carly Rose Pietrosimone, Matthew Dunaj, Monica Cantore Maria Zamprano Rita Silvestro.

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 February is the **2nd Monday**, which is **February 9**. 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, February 9**. 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 at 203-671-2586 or Rico at 203-671-14502



**THE EAST HAVEN FOOD PANTRY** is asking for **tomato sauce** and **cereal** for the months of **February** and **March**. 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

# St Pio of Pietrelcina Parish Groups, Studies and Devotions



## Holy Hour

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



## Bible 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

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



## Divine Mercy Chaplet

Every Saturday, 11:00 am  
Our Lady of Pompeii Chapel  
Contact Sally Mucka 203-469-0764 Ext 8

## Monthly Rosary

Every second Tuesday, 5:30 pm  
February 10, 2026  
St Bernadette Church  
Contact Mke Firiani 203-627-9216

## Men's Group

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

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

I am reaching out to anyone who would be interested in joining our ministry—don't know how to knit or crochet? No problem, we will teach you and provide yarn and needles. We meet on the 1st Friday of the month from 1:00-3:00pm in the Lower Office Meeting Room at Our Lady of Pompeii. You can contact MaryAnn Lotto for either of the above at 203-469-2758.

## **Sacramental Information**



### **Baptism**

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.

**Main Office number : 203-469-0764**  
**Press 1 for Beth Pacelli, Parish Secretary**



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

There is still an open enrollment to join the choir that sings at the 9:00am Mass at St Bernadette. If you are interested in joining, please contact Marie Celso before or after Mass on Sunday at St. Bernadette. Choir rehearsals are at 8:00am on Sundays in the St Bernadette church choir loft.



In recent times, the Church has granted permission for the lay faithful to receive Holy Communion under both species, that is to say that they may receive from the Chalice AFTER receiving the Sacred Host. This was a more widespread practice before Covid. I would like to revive this practice at St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish on Sundays during the major seasons of Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas. This will be available at all Sunday Masses, including the Saturday vigil Masses, starting the weekend of February 21st and 22nd. There will be the same number of Ministers of Holy Communion at Mass as there are currently (four). However, Holy Communion will not be distributed at the break half way down the aisle. Rather, the Priest and Deacon (or Extraordinary Minister) will distribute the Hosts at the center aisle. Then those choosing not to receive from the Chalice will proceed to the side aisles to return to their pews. Those electing to receive from the Chalice will approach the Minister at one corner, by the side aisle. After receiving from the Chalice, the communicant will then return to his or her pew by the side aisle. Rest assured that the ministers will wipe the rim of the chalice after each communicant receives the Precious Blood. Experience has shown that there is very little transmission of germs through this method. I hope you will find this practice beneficial to your spiritual life.



Grace AI

We are pleased to introduce Grace, the new AI assistant supporting our parish office.

Please scan the QR code to install the app. You may speak with her or use the chat feature for assistance. This is a beta version, and Grace is a quick learner. She welcomes your feedback as we continue to improve this service. You may also use the following link:

[Tinyurl.com/stpiograceapp](https://tinyurl.com/stpiograceapp)

Stay connected to  
St Pio of Pietrelcina Parish!!

## Follow Us!



[stpiofpietrelcinaeh.com](http://stpiofpietrelcinaeh.com)



St Pio of Pietrelcina Parish



@stpioparish



St Pio of Pietrelcina Parish



St Pio of Pietrelcina Parish





## February 18, 2026 Schedule of Masses and Ashes

### Saint Vincent DePaul Church

7:00 am to 9:00 am ashes only  
12:15 pm Mass with ashes  
3:00 pm to 5:30 pm ashes only

### Our Lady of Pompeii Church

7:00 am to 7:45 am ashes only  
8:00 am Mass with ashes  
8:30 am to 5:30 pm ashes only  
6:00 pm Mass with ashes

### St Bernadette Church

7:00 am to 8:30 am ashes only  
9:00 am Mass with ashes  
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm ashes only  
4:30 pm to 6:00 pm ashes only

**Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days for Catholics to fast and abstain from eating meat. In addition Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from meat.**

**The norms of fasting are obligatory from age 18 to 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal and two smaller meals that are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding from the age of 14.**

**East Haven**  
**Ecumenical Lenten Prayer Program**  
Offered by  
Christ and The Epiphany Church  
Old Stone Church  
St. Pio of Pietrelcina

**Our Lenten Bible Study will meet Wednesdays at 12:15 to discuss the Gospel readings for the day or the following Sunday:**

Ash Wednesday, February 18 - Old Stone Church, 251 Main St. - Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21  
February 25 - Christ and The Epiphany Church, 39 Park Place - John 3:1-17  
March 4 - Our Lady of Pompeii Church, 355 Foxon Road - John 4:5-42  
March 11 - St. Vincent DePaul Church, 80 Tyler St. - John 9:1-41  
March 18 - Old Stone Church, 251 Main St. - John 11:1-45  
March 25 - Christ and The Epiphany Church, 39 Park Place - Matthew 21:1-11, 26:14-27, 66

**Please join us for the 2026 Lenten Retreat**

Hosted by the St. Pio Ladies Guild  
With Guest Speaker Deacon Larry Tiani

**Date:** Saturday, February 21  
**Time:** 9am to 1pm  
**Location:** Our Lady of Pompeii Hall  
**Cost:** \$5 (includes luncheon)

Our focus this year will be on Repentance and the Confession of Sins.

For more information, or to sign up, please contact Megan Kalinoski at (808) 343-4029 or Melissa Liquori at (203) 752-6409



**ST. JOHN BOSCO Parish**

### **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? The "New Day" Bereavement Group weekly meetings are here to help you find comfort and explore strategies in coping with grief and loss.

Our next 10-week session will begin on Tuesday, February 10, 4:30 to 6:30pm in St. Mary Hall at St. John Bosco Parish in Branford. Space is limited, pre-registration is required.

Contact Nadine Toren, 203-488-1607 x119

# MONSIGNOR SHANLEY

# SCHOLARSHIP

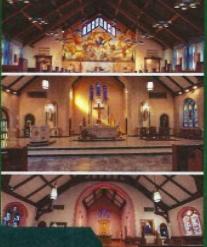
# 2026

## 2 \$1,000

## SCHOLARSHIPS

- Open to all High School Seniors whose parents/grandparents are parishioners
- Applications are available at [st.pioolpietrelcinaeh.com](http://st.pioolpietrelcinaeh.com), and hard copies are available in the Sacristy





**FOR MORE INFO: Call Tim at 203-999-0400**

### Palm Cross Order Form 2026

St. Pio of Pietrelcina  
Knights of Columbus Council #3300



Decorated with 60 pieces of palm, colored ribbon, 2 artificial lillies and individually bagged, at the cost of **\$13.00 each**

**Please fill out the order form and return it by March 15th**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Pick Up Location: OLOP \_\_\_\_\_ SVDP \_\_\_\_\_ St. BERN \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Crosses: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$13.00 Each

Paid by: CASH \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO KOFC COUNCIL 3300

CROSSES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AFTER MASSES  
ON **March 21 & 22 and March 28 & 29**  
PLEASE CIRCLE THE DATE YOU WILL BE PICKING UP  
For more information contact:  
Tim Anderson 203-999-0400

Order forms can be found at the entrances of all three of our churches.

### The Combined Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion



**Catechumen:** Adult seeking Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

**Candidate:** Adult seeking the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

**Confirmandi:** Adult seeking Confirmation only.

#### OCIA

**The Rite of Election:** At this rite, upon the testimony of sponsors and catechists and the catechumens' affirmation of their intention to join the Church, the Church makes its "election" of these catechumens to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. In the presence of the bishop, they inscribe their names in the Book of the Elect at the cathedral a pledge of fidelity. Now the catechumens are called "the elect" or "the illuminandi." They now begin a Period of Purification and Enlightenment.



**The Call to Continuing Conversion:** is a significant liturgical event in the Catholic Church that marks the transition of candidates preparing for the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, recognizing their readiness and commitment to continue their Christian journey.



**The Rite of Sending:** This Sunday at the 10:30 Mass, we will celebrate the Rite of Sending our Catechumens and Candidates off to Archbishop Coyne for the Combined Rite. This is an opportunity to recognize God's work in the lives of the Catechumens and Candidates, to formally declare that they are ready to be presented to the bishop for the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion.

### Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrim Image

Patroness of the Americas & Protectress of the Unborn



Our parish is blessed to have its own Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

This image was touched to the original in Mexico City, was 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 home for Veneration.

Please Contact: Sally Mucka at (203) 415-2710  
Or sign up at the Front Doors of OLOP/SVDP





# Branches on the Vine

FEBRUARY 14 - 20, 2026



Parishioners from Sacred Heart Parish in Suffield participate in the mask-making activities during last year's Mardi Gras celebration to kick off the Lenten season.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

As winter lingers and Lent approaches, Sacred Heart Parish in Suffield is once again inviting parishioners to gather for a joyful celebration that brings the community together before the reflective season begins. On Feb. 15, following the 10:30 a.m. Mass, parishioners are encouraged to head to the church hall for the second annual Mardi Gras celebration—a lively afternoon of food, music and fellowship.

Mardi Gras celebrations, especially those rooted in New Orleans tradition, are an institution in themselves, culminating with Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday on Feb. 18. At Sacred Heart, the spirit of Mardi Gras is embraced not simply as a party, but as a meaningful pause before the Church enters Lent—a season centered on prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparation for Easter.

Last year's inaugural event drew between 80 and 100 people, ranging from senior citizens to young families with children, and organizers say the response was overwhelmingly positive.

"I work with a gal who goes to a church in Hartford and one Lent the priest had a Mass on Mardi Gras night and asked people to bring what they were giving up for Lent," Jeanne Forschino, who heads the Sacred Heart Social Committee, explains. "I thought that was a great idea and just think of how this would impact children at the Mass, to visibly see their parents presenting

## MASKS, MUSIC AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT SACRED HEART'S MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

*Fellowship and Faith at Sacred Heart's Mardi Gras Celebration*

something and themselves bringing something as well."

Forshino adds attendance is strongest when activities are held immediately after weekend Mass and paired with food, which led the committee to plan a lunch following the final Sunday Mass. After limited participation in a written Lenten intentions book last year, the group will instead invite parishioners to place name tags with Lenten promises into a basket for the altar. This year's celebration will feature a catered meal (tickets are \$15 per adult and \$5 per child) to help cover costs. Tables will include information about Lenten devotions, offering attendees a transition from celebration to reflection.

Forschino notes barbecue food will be served, including pulled pork, smoked chicken, macaroni and cheese (a gluten free option will be available), green beans with almonds, rice and beans, and chicken tenders.

Music will fill the hall thanks to Paul Kulas, a beloved parishioner in his mid-90s who plays saxophone and clarinet, adding warmth and nostalgia to the afternoon. Children will also enjoy activities such as

making Mardi Gras masks and coloring beads to take home.

The event follows a tradition Sacred Heart has been building in recent years: creating opportunities for parishioners to gather beyond Sunday Mass. From barn dances hosted by

parish families to themed dinners for Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day, these events have helped strengthen parish life. Mardi Gras, however, has captured something special.

For Father Joseph Keough, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, the event will be a "fun-raiser" and he credits Forschino's dedication and perseverance.

"Jeanne is a very determined person and she's done a fantastic job with it," he adds. As Lent begins just three days later, Sacred Heart's Mardi Gras celebration serves as a notable commencement to the 40 days that recall Jesus' time in the wilderness. For more information or to attend, parishioners may contact Forschino at 860.254.5421.

*- Story by Jim Tierney*



# Upcoming Events

02/25 WEDNESDAY 6:30PM - 8PM

## ALPHA | READY TO EXPLORE

### LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS?

Our Lady of Sorrows Church,  
79 New Park Ave, Hartford

Alpha is a series of conversations that explore life, faith, and meaning. Each session includes a free community meal, a short video, and an open discussion where no question is off limits. It's a safe and welcoming space. No pressure, no judgment, and no cost. Everyone is welcome regardless of background or belief.

Starting Wednesdays, February 25,  
6:30PM - 8:00PM

Register now!

Questions? Call (860) 233-4424  
or email Rosa at  
rmarcano@olsparish.comcastbiz.net

02/22 SUNDAY 3PM - 8:15PM

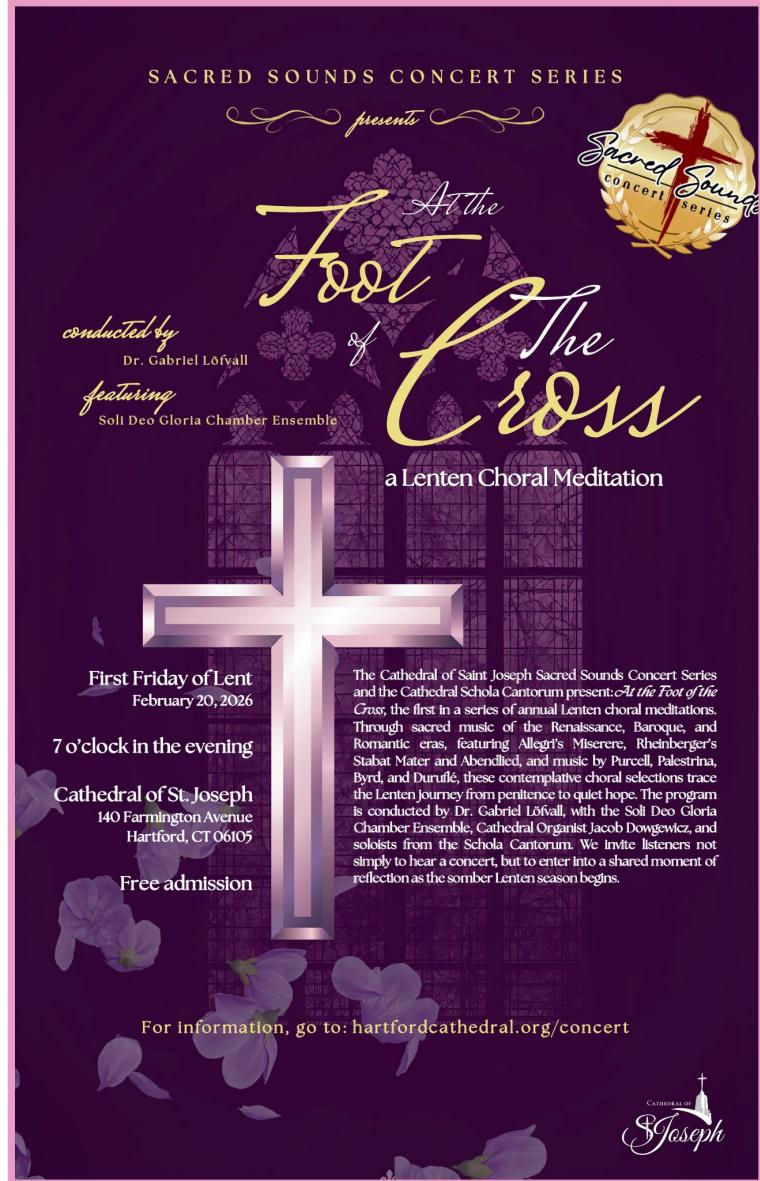
## LENTE RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center,  
303 Tunxis Rd, West Hartford

Join other young adults for an afternoon and evening of prayer, community, and reflection to deepen your Lenten journey. In this retreat, we will ask: how can my Lenten practices become more contemplative? And how, in turn, can my way of living become more contemplative, overall? We will explore the rich tradition of Christian contemplation—from the Desert Fathers and Mothers to the mystics through the ages—to gain insights into the contemplative dimensions of Lent and entirety of the Christian life. The retreat program will include time for personal reflection, small group sharing, community building, a delicious dinner, and Sunday Mass with our regular 7:00 p.m. worshiping community.

Offering: \$50, includes dinner (\$75 more if you can, \$25 less if you can't)

To learn more or register visit:  
[www.holyfamilyretreat.org/calendar/  
lenten-young-adults](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/calendar/lenten-young-adults)



## 23rd Annual 3-21-26

- 5 Mile Race
- 2 Mile Race
- 2 Mile Fitness Walk
- Kids Fun Run

Registration and Info:  
[www.ctshamrockrun.com](http://www.ctshamrockrun.com)



40 Days for Life is a world-wide organization.

#### February 18-March 29

Each day during 40 Days for Life, individuals, churches, families, and groups will be asked to join together in prayer for a specific request so the entire Body of Christ can unite around a common focus.

People of faith are also invited to fast throughout 40 Days for Life. We believe that when God's people fast with a broken, repentant, and contrite spirit, our heavenly Father will hear from heaven and heal our lives, our churches, our communities, our nation, and our world.

#### CONSTANT VIGIL

The visible, public centerpiece of 40 Days for Life is a focused, 40-day, non-stop, round-the-clock prayer vigil outside a Planned Parenthood center.

Each campaign consists of 40 days of prayer and fasting in shifts outside of a clinic or hospital that performs abortions or which is an abortion referral center. The campaign also involves outreach to the community to promote awareness about abortion and outreach directly to women considering abortion, to offer guidance and support, and giving them the help needed to choose Life.

We are hoping to send a group on March 4<sup>th</sup> with Fr. Walsh  
If you would like to join Fr. Walsh at this event or become part of  
our Pro-Life Ministry Contact: Sally Mucka at 203-415-2710

### BEST OF ITALY & SICILY 13 DAYS: NOVEMBER 8-20, 2026

\$4999 FROM NEW YORK  
CEFALU + AGRIGENTO + PIAZZA  
ARMERINA + SIRACUSA + MT. ETNA  
TAORMINA + PAESTUM + AMALFI  
COASTLINE + SORRENTO + POMPEII  
SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO (PADRE PIO)  
+ ROME

**PAPAL AUDIENCE WITH POPE LEO XVI**  
OPTIONAL EXCURSION TO ASSISI IN  
CELEBRATION OF  
500 YEARS SINCE THE DEATH OF SAINT  
FRANCIS OF ASSISI

FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATION FORM  
CONTACT:  
**Fr. Jeremiah N. Murasso, PH.D.**  
[Jeremiah.murasso@aol.com](mailto:Jeremiah.murasso@aol.com)  
Call or Text: (860)977-7675



### Mass Schedule

#### February 14 & 15, 2026

4:00p.m. Mass SVDP: Fr Walsh  
5:00p.m. Mass OLOP: Fr Murasso  
7:30a.m. Mass OLOP: Fr Murasso  
9:00a.m. Mass SB: Fr Walsh  
10:30a.m. Mass OLOP: Fr Murasso  
11:45a.m. Mass SVDP: Fr Walsh

#### February 21 & 22, 2026 \*\*

4:00p.m. Mass SVDP: Fr Murasso  
5:00p.m. Mass OLOP: Fr Walsh  
7:30a.m. Mass OLOP: Fr Walsh  
9:00a.m. Mass SB: Fr Murasso  
10:30a.m. Mass OLOP: Fr Walsh  
11:45a.m. Mass SVDP: Fr Murasso

**\*\*Deacons to preach at all Masses**

4:00pm & 7:30am Deacon Wayne  
5:00pm & 10:30am Deacon George  
9:00am & 11:45am Deacon Larry

#### February 28 & March 1, 2026

4:00p.m. Mass SVDP: Fr Walsh  
5:00p.m. Mass OLOP: Fr Matthew  
7:30a.m. Mass OLOP: Fr Murasso  
9:00a.m. Mass SB: Fr Walsh  
10:30a.m. Mass OLOP: Fr Matthew  
11:45a.m. Mass SVDP: Fr Walsh



### CONFESSOR SCHEDULE

**Our Lady of Pompeii:**

**Saturday, 4:00-4:30pm**

**St. Vincent de Paul:**

**Saturday, 3:00-3:30pm**