

THE SPIRIT LED HIM INTO THE DESERT.



40 DAYS OF RENEWAL

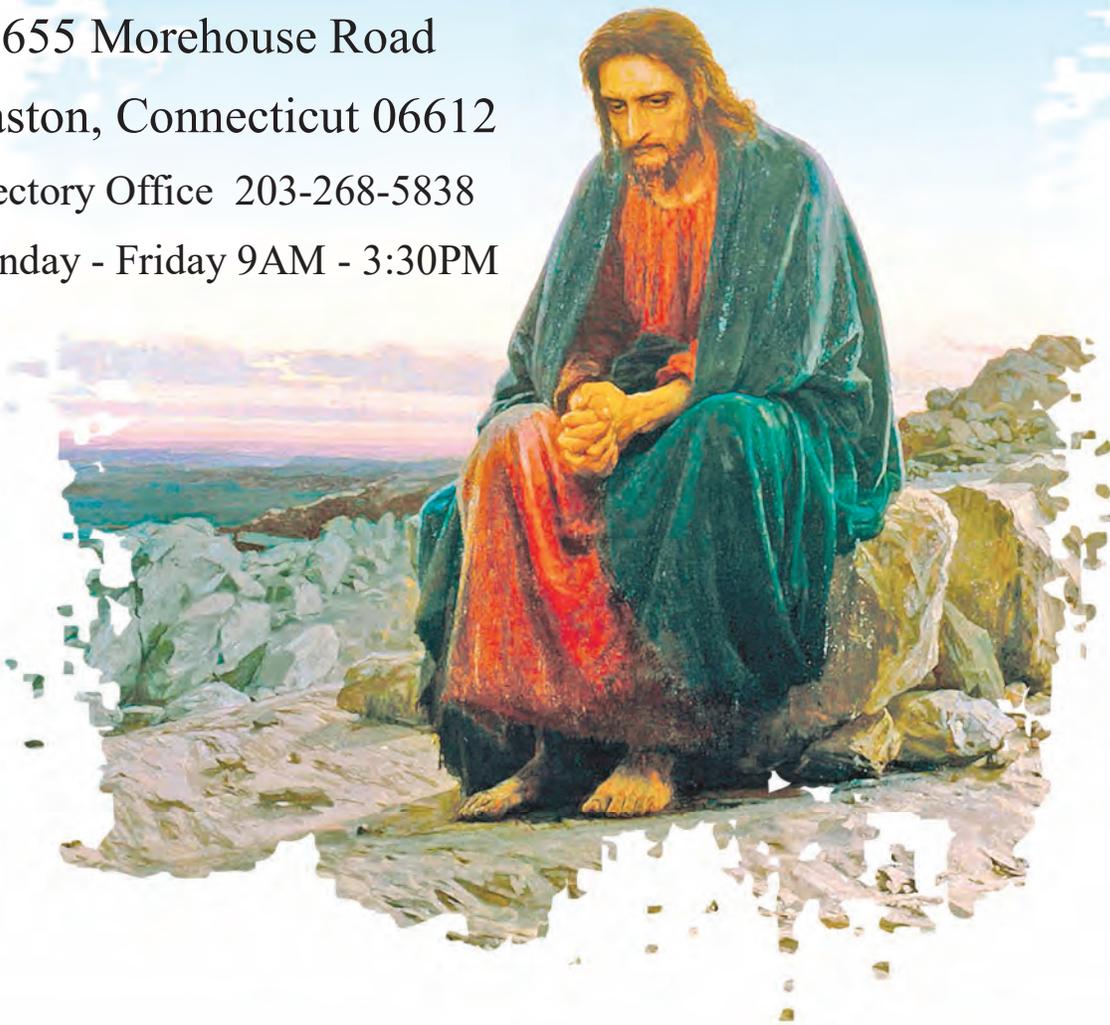
Notre Dame of Easton

655 Morehouse Road

Easton, Connecticut 06612

Rectory Office 203-268-5838

Monday - Friday 9AM - 3:30PM



Mass Intentions

FEBRUARY 20 THROUGH MARCH 1, 2026

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Sat.	5:00pm	John Raymond Morgan, II	r/b Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Graze
Sun.	8:00am	Peter Boehm	r/b the Adriani Family
	11:00am	Anne Fiyalka	r/b Jeanine & Frank Pagliaro
Mon.	7:30am	Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life	
Tues.	7:30am	Parishioners, living and deceased	
Wed.	7:30am	Kevin Visokay	r/b the Visokay Family
Thurs.	7:30am	Parishioners, living and deceased	
Fri.	6:00pm	Stations of the Cross	
Sat.	5:00pm	Paul Falco	r/b Sal & Christine DiNardo
Sun.	8:00am	Christopher Collins	r/b Lay Caring Ministry
	11:00am	Patti Harrison	r/b Bill & Cheryl Constand

PLEASE Pray
FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY
AND ALL IN NEED

May our prayers bring peace, healing, and hope to those we remember here:

- Alice Martinich
- Pat Perrotta
- George Adams
- Vincent Esposito
- Ava Link
- Corrine Marsicano
- Douglas Fedorko
- Susan Williams
- Leah Ambrose
- Christopher Vitale
- Sal DiNardo
- Siobhan Smith
- Caryl Besescheck
- Michael DiJulio
- Mary Majcherek
- Walter Gefford
- Henry Barreiss
- Michael J. Weiss
- Ariana Engler
- Gail Stanger
- Linda Yannotti
- John Adriani
- Barbara Steneck

Notre Dame's Weekly Collection for:
February 14 and February 15, 2026

Saturday	5:00pm	1,847.00
Sunday	8:00am	2,403.00
	11:00am	985.00
Online Giving		2,406.00
Other Offertory		135.00
Total Collection		<u>\$7,776.00</u>



CALLED BY NAME
 HONORING FAITHFUL YOUNG MEN

Today is Called by Name Sunday! Bishop Caggiano is asking us to identify faithful young men (ages 15-30's) who may be open to learning more about the priesthood. To submit names, please visit bridgeportpriest.org. Men you submit will receive a letter of encouragement from Bishop Caggiano, an invitation to a special event with the Bishop in the spring, and ongoing support from the Vocation Office. Thank you for your participation in this important campaign!

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT- Sunday Reading

First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

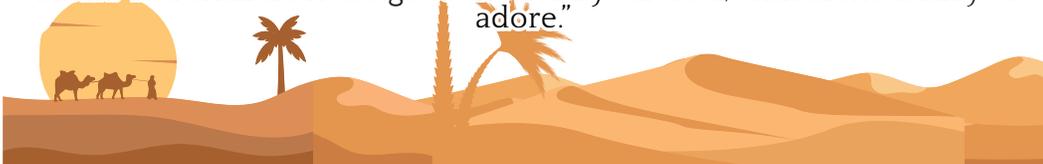
This passage from Genesis narrates the creation of man, the temptation by the serpent, and the fall of Adam and Eve.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Paul tells the Romans that Adam's disobedience brought sin and death to the world, but Christ's dying on the cross for us will bring us salvation and life.

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

In preparation for His ministry, Jesus goes into the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. There He is tempted by the devil to give evidence of His miraculous powers, but Jesus resists the devil saying, "Away with you Satan! You shall do homage to the Lord your God; Him alone shall you adore."



Prayer List Updates
 To help keep our list current, please contact the parish office with any additions or removals at Office@ndeaston.org.

-Update Your Parish Information-

Have you recently moved, changed your phone number, email, or family information? Please take a moment to update your parish registration so we can stay connected.



Faith Formation

First Communion preparation will be held on Feb 8th, March 8th and April 19th at 10am. First Communion Mass signups opened this week-- if you did not receive the signup email, please reach out to the Faith Formation office ASAP.

There will be no elementary or middle school classes on Feb 3rd or 17th.

Early Childhood - First Witnesses

Parents of families with children birth-age 5-- we invite you to be part of our First Witnesses initiative! YOU are the first witnesses for your children in things of the faith. We invite you to partner with a mentor family who is a bit further along the journey-- for accompaniment, guidance and support through these formative years! For more information or to be paired with a mentor, reach out to Rebeca at rebeca.campbell@sbcglobal.net OR 203-260-3317; grab a flyer from the table in the back of the Church; or visit www.firstwitnesses.org for some fantastic resources for your family!



Loaves and Fishes Spare Change Collection: Ash Wednesday Through Easter Sunday, April 5

Fasting during the Lenten season creates in us a greater openness to God's spirit, deepens our compassion for others, and enriches our Lenten journey as we acknowledge our sins and prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the great joy of Easter. As you fast during Lent, please consider dropping your spare change into the Loaves and Fishes collection jars located in the vestibule of the church. Together we can give up meals and donate the cost of those meals; all donations go to Catholic Charities. If you prefer, you can drop a check into the jar or mail it to the rectory office; please make checks payable to "Notre Dame of Easton" with "Loaves and Fishes" in the memo. Thank you!

Gospel Today
First Sunday of Lent | Matthew 4:1-11

To begin His ministry Jesus prayed, fasted and avoided sin as He spent 40 days in the desert praying to God. He believed the Holy Spirit would be with Him.

Year A

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Believe... in the power of prayer

Pretzels shaped like praying arms remind us of the rewards of our prayers.

Eat a pretzel after your prayer this week.



The First Sorrowful Mystery -
The Agony in the Garden

Think about this mystery before praying. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed to God about what was to take place.

Dear God,
This week I pray for these people I love.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

Add as many people as you want to the list.





This week: Say an Our Father and color the large bead - say 10 Hail Mary's and color each small bead. End with the Glory Be to the Father. Think about Jesus praying to God, "Thy will be done".

The Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth presents

Draw Near

A Lenten Journey of Love, Healing, and Mercy

February 23 - 25, 2026

Church of the Assumption
Parish Hall (lower level of church), 98 Riverside Avenue, Westport, CT



Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth

Join us for a sacred Lenten experience of prayer, music, healing, and reconciliation as we draw closer to Jesus Christ through the Eucharist and the mercy of God.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23 **Jesus Gift of Love**

6:30 PM - Prayerful music with guitar and keyboard

7:00 PM - **Talk | The Eucharist: Jesus' Gift of Love**

- Reflection on the Eucharist as Christ's self-giving love
- Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Opportunity to write prayer intentions and place them in a basket before the altar
- Sacrament of Reconciliation available

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 **Jesus' Healing Power**

6:30 PM - Sacred music

7:00 PM - **Talk & Healing Service**

- Reflection on Christ the Healer
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- Healing Prayer Service
- Opportunity for personal prayer and reverence
- Confession, Exposition & Benediction

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 **Union with God in Prayer**

8:15 AM - Talk (Following Morning Mass)

6:30 PM - Prayerful music

7:00 PM - **Our Lady the Revealer of Divine Mercy**

- Reflection on Divine Mercy and Mary's role in leading us to Jesus
- Closing Mass with procession honoring Our Blessed Mother
- Consecration Prayer to Our Lady





St. Stephen Bereavement Support Group

Have you suffered the loss of a special person in your life? St. Stephen Bereavement Ministry can offer you hope in coping with your grief. It is open to anyone you may know who needs help.

The 10-week course, with a guided workbook provided, will begin on Wed. March 11 from 2:00 to 3:30pm. Registration is required. Please call 203-268-6217.

A call will be returned to you with more information.



Easter Basket Items: Collection for Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry Through March 29

In addition to our usual non-perishable food items, from now until March 29 we're collecting Easter items! Please consider donating **bags of individually wrapped Easter candy** (no loose candy, please), **small Easter basket items** (toys, stickers, etc.), **Easter baskets**, and **basket grass**. Please drop off any Easter donations in the church kitchen in the box labeled "Easter Donations for Blessed Sacrament." If you would like to help assemble the Easter baskets, please meet in Sabol Hall on Monday, March 30, at 10:00 a.m. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!



LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday & Good Friday:
Fasting & Abstinence

All Fridays During Lent:
Days of Abstinence

Fasting: Ages 18-59:
One full meal & two smaller meals
Abstinence: Ages 14 & Older: No Meat

St. Rose Annual Friday Knight

FISH FRY



Please visit KofC185.org/fish-fry to order.

- Fried Fish • Baked Fish • Eggplant Rollatini • Fish Tacos
- Clam Chowder • Mac n' Cheese • French Fries • Cole Slaw

- \$12 meals • \$7 fish only
- \$5 kids meals
- and while supplies last
- \$13 fish tacos
- \$4 clam chowder

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SAVE THESE DATES

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February 20th February 27th
March 6th March 13th
March 20th

American Red Cross

Give *Blood* Save Lives



BLOOD DRIVE

St. Stephen's Church

Church Basement
6948 Main Street
Trumbull, CT 06611

Saturday, February 28, 2026

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

LENTEN STATIONAL CHURCH PILGRIMAGE AT NOTRE DAME OF EASTON

Join us daily for our Lenten Stational Church Pilgrimage!

On Monday, March 30, the stational church is Notre Dame of Easton and includes the following events:

- Morning Daily Mass: 7:30 am
- Evening Daily Mass: 7:00 pm



For a full Lenten Stational Church Pilgrimage schedule please scan QR below



Food Collection

Help nourish our neighbors! **Blessed Sacrament** is the **ONLY** food pantry on the East Side of Bridgeport, and they serve approximately **800 families** each week!



There is an ongoing, urgent need for **PROTEIN** based food items like **canned tuna**, **salmon**, cans of **Spam**, **Vienna Sausages**, **canned beef ravioli**, **small jars of peanut butter**, and all varieties of **canned beans**.

Non-perishable needs include **ALL** travel-size toiletry items.



Please bring your donations to the kitchen in the lower church hall. **Please** do not leave your donations outside of church.



All donations are welcomed and appreciated!

Thank you

DONATE

Online



From Fr. Ford's Desk



Dear Friends,

Lent is not just a season on the calendar. It is an invitation to change. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, the Church asks us to take an honest look at our lives and decide, again, who we are becoming. That question is personal, but it's also communal.

We've been in an ongoing journey of renewal here at Notre Dame, but that cannot be limited to just the introduction of new programs. True renewal means deeper prayer. Stronger Sunday Mass participation. Families rooted in faith. A parish that moves from maintenance to mission. Lent gives us the spiritual foundation for that work.

When Jesus enters the desert, He comes back clearer and more focused on His mission. The desert doesn't distract Him, it strengthens Him. If we take Lent seriously, it will do the same for us. It will reorder our priorities and remind us what matters most.

No initiative can substitute for hearts that are open to God. The continued renewal of our parish will only be as deep as our personal renewal. If we grow in prayer, the parish grows. If we return to Mass with intention, the parish strengthens. If we invite others, the parish expands.

So let your Lenten commitments stretch beyond yourself. Pray for the renewal of our parish. Offer sacrifices for families who have drifted away. Practice generosity in ways that build up our community.

Lent trains us to move from good intentions to concrete action. Renewal requires the same thing. If we allow the Lord to transform us this Lent, He will truly transform our parish through us. And that is where the future full of hope begins.

In Christ,
Fr. Ford

Save the Date

Sunday, February 22, 9:30 AM
First Holy Communion #2

Sunday, February 22, 9:30 AM
Part II : Secrets of the Mass

Monday, February 23, 7:00 PM
Part II : Secrets of the Mass

Tuesday, February 24
Elementary Faith Formation
EDGE

Wednesday, February 25, 6:30 PM
Bible Study

Friday, February 27, 6:00 PM
Stations of the Cross

* Cookies & Lemonade Saturday, February 28*
after 5:00PM Vigil

Coffee & Donut Sunday, March 1
after both 8:00am and 11:00am Mass



STATIONS OF THE CROSS & LENTEN DINNER

Join us every [Friday at 6:00 p.m.](#) during Lent for the Stations of the Cross.

Special Lenten Dinners

March 6 - hosted by the Cor Men's Ministry

March 13 - hosted by the Women of ND

Dinners immediately following Stations of the Cross

Dinners are free, walk-ins are welcome. Kindly RSVP to plan for food: 203-268-5838 or events@ndeaston.org.

Donations will be gratefully accepted at the door.

Thank you!



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feedingamerica.org



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