

# *St. Lawrence Parish*

505 Shelton Avenue - Huntington, Connecticut 06484  
203-929-5355



**October 22, 2023 ~ Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



*Ella **Mary** Bacoulis*  
*Christina **Jacinta** Chaves*  
*Nicholas **Luke** Choromanski*  
*Gina **Catherine** Coppola*  
*Kirsten **Theresa** Costanzo*  
*Tyler **Joseph** Craft*  
*Matthew **Michael** DeAndrade*  
*Jaggar **John** DeBenedet*  
*Anthony **Sebastian** DeDona*  
*Vera **Anne** DiZenzo*  
*Jack **Pio** Dunford*  
*Terrence **Gabriel** Dunn, III*  
*Madison **Carmella** Durante*  
*Chiara **Clare** Espineli*  
*Jake **Sebastian** Failla*  
*Austin **Carlos** Fernandes*  
*Ralph **Joseph** Franco*  
*Hunter **Patrick** Frascatore*  
*Christopher **Patrick** Fraser*  
*Brandon **Vincent** Gilbey*  
*Jacob **Michael** Gilbey*  
*Aurelio **Michael** Gracia*  
*Alyssa **Maria** Grich*  
*Liam **Mark** Guelakis*  
*Sofia **Mary** Guelakis*

*Zachary **John** Jansen*  
*Dante **Andrew** Lia*  
*Gavin **Michael** Long*  
*Lena **Abigail** Lussier*  
*Julian **Francis** Martinez*  
*Madelyn **Veronica** McKeon*  
*Keira **Teresa** Ostrom*  
*Brianna **Philomena** Pereira*  
*Mason **Peter** Puttock*  
*Adam **Charles** Quinn*  
*Ivana **Teresa** Rajkumar*  
*Kathryn **Frances** Recker*  
*Luke **Sebastian** Recker*  
*Emelia **Joan** Reilly*  
*Antonio **Albert** Rio*  
*Jake **James** Rios*  
*Nicolas **Joseph** Sabin*  
*Mario **John** Salluhi*  
*Michael **Michael** Skeffington*  
*Henry **Andrew** Snow*  
*Alexandra **Catherine** Suarez*  
*Philip **Patrick** Sullivan*  
*Alex **John** Tillson*  
*Angela **Mary** Vostinak*  
*Rachel **Margaret** Vostinak*  
*Kyle **George** Wicker*

## *Confirmation*

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the Hearts of Your Faithful;  
and kindle in them the Fire of Your Love.*



## Mass Intentions

### Monday, October 23rd

**9:00AM Richard Eisenman**  
(Req. by family)

### Tuesday, October 24th

**9:00AM Noel Zanchelli**  
(Req. by Melanie and Nick Kalapos)

### Wednesday, October 25th

**9:00AM Nick Luise**  
(Req. by Joan Farley)

### Thursday, October 26th

**9:00AM Angie and James Salce**  
(Req. by family)

### Friday, October 27th

**9:00AM William Solimeno**  
(Req. by Eileen and Bob Caponi)

### Saturday, October 28th

**9:00AM Manny Neves**  
(Req. by his wife)  
**5:00PM Thomas Jensen**  
(Req. by Francee Karpiej)

### Sunday, October 29th ~ Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**7:30AM Stella Ingram**  
(Req. by children and grandchildren)  
**9:30AM Richard Novack**  
(Req. by Janice and David Hugya)  
**11:30AM Saint Lawrence Parish Family**  
**5:00PM Gerald Bertie**  
(Req. by Ann and John Gueterman)



## Candles

For the Week of  
October 21st ~ October 28th

### ***A Lamp Burns for a Special Intention***

*The Sanctuary Lamp* burns in loving memory of  
**Kay Wood** offered by the Wood family

*The Mary Candles* burn in loving memory of  
**Wendy Trejo** offered by Rosa Neubauer  
and

**A Special Living Intention** offered by Carol Reh

*The Saint Joseph Candle* burns for  
**Irene Vesely (living intention)**  
offered by Martha Radwill



We give *because*  
**GOD** Gave first

### **Weekly Offertory**

#### **Weekend of October 14th/15th**

Sunday Offertory: \$10,327.00

Online giving: \$3,465.00

Total: \$13,792.00

**Thank you for your continued generosity!**



Wednesday, November 1st, is All Saints' Day and a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be at 7:00 and 9:00 am, and 12:10 and 7:00 pm

On Thursday, November 2nd, we celebrate the Feast of All Souls. We will have a special Mass at 9:00 am to commemorate all the individuals in our parish who have died this past year.

***Precious in the eyes of the LORD is  
the death of his faithful ones.***

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



**Each First Friday following the 9:00 am Mass  
until 6:00 pm with Benediction at 5:45 pm**

*"Eucharistic Adoration is the secret to knowing  
the love of Jesus Christ"*





New parishioners are invited to visit  
the Rectory Office to register at  
St. Lawrence Parish  
You can download a registration form  
at [stlawrenceshelton.org](http://stlawrenceshelton.org)

### Contact Information

**Office Administrator:** Maureen Cole  
**Communications:** Kathy Kelly  
**Religious Education:** 203-929-8421  
Karen O'Keefe, Coordinator  
**Cantor/Music Director:**  
Jennifer Haddon, 203-640-7242  
**Parish Council President:** Bill Farmer  
**Parish Trustees:** Carol Calandra and  
James Woods

~~~~~  
**Holy Trinity Catholic Academy:**  
**Phone:** 203-929-4422  
**Head of School/Principal:** Lisa Lanni

**PLEASE  
TAKE  
NOTE!**



The Development Office of the Diocese of Bridgeport would like to make you aware that there have been recent Post Office challenges in Bridgeport with mail not reaching the Catholic Center. The Catholic Center is investigating this problem. No missing payments made by check or credit card have been cashed or charged. If you suspect your payment may not have made it to the Development Office, you can place a stop payment on the check if you wish. If you wish to replace a lost payment, or make a new payment, please feel free to drop off a check in the parish office or place it in the offertory basket, made out to Bishop's Appeal, so it is not co-mingled with your offertory funds. You can also mail a payment to a new post office box at:  
D.O.B.  
P.O. Box 110410  
Trumbull, CT 06611-9998  
Also, donations can be made online at [2023BishopsAppeal.org](http://2023BishopsAppeal.org)

### From the Pastor's Desk



### Dear Parishioners,

Part of the personal growth is when, at certain points of our lives, we decide to take a higher step and face a new challenge. The courage and enthusiasm we show and the way we use our gifts and skills are proof of a higher level of maturity.

The young men and women of our parish who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this Saturday are facing this blessed challenge as a sign of their growth and especially in the maturity of their faith. For too long a time unfortunately, Confirmation was perceived as a graduation, a nice accomplishment but after which you leave everything behind including church attendance and the practice of your faith. On the contrary, we invite these newly equipped people with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and God's heavenly Grace to take a higher step in their life of faith. We encourage them and their families that this is the time to get involved in the life of our community and in their relationship with God more than ever. Thus, at this point the challenge of a stronger participation in the life of faith lies not only in their ability but in their willingness to become witnesses of God's Grace and Glory.

Congratulations to them and their families! May God always accompany, inspire and bless our newly confirmed members of our parish community!

*Father Ciprian Bejan, Pastor*



### Congratulations Confirmands!

*May the Holy Spirit bless you and  
guide you in all that you do.*

### Pre-Baptismal Class

First-time parents are required to attend this class before having their baby baptized. Please call the Rectory Office to register.

**Please Note: The next class is on November 5th**



### In Memoriam

Please pray for the recently deceased. Saint Lawrence Parish Family extends our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of the faithful departed, especially:

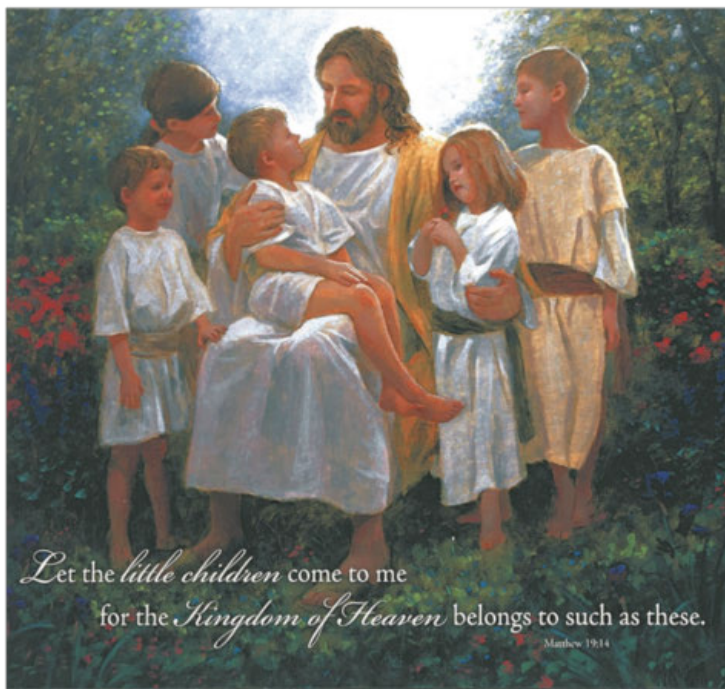
**Joseph Slovak, Sr.**  
May he Rest in Peace.



### PARISH OFFICE HOURS PLEASE NOTE:

The Rectory Office will be  
Closed on Friday, October 27th





## Religious Education

### Next class:

Grades 1-4 - Tuesday, October 24th

Grades 5-8 - Monday/Tuesday October 23rd/24th\*

\*Family Catechesis for Grades 5-8, a parent must attend class with their child(ren) on October 23rd/24th. Fr. Ciprian will lead class for everyone in the gym. Attendance will be taken. Students should check-in with their teacher upon arrival to the gym. If available, please bring your rosary beads to class.

### Grade 3 Penance Session #1

Saturday, October 28th, 9:00 am—12:00 Noon

Don't forget your banner, snack, review sheet and name tag

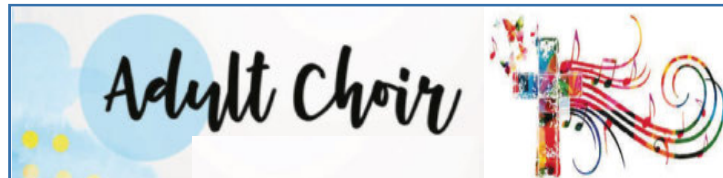
Parent meeting in the Parish Center 9:00—9:30 am

**MASS PASSES have started.** All students in grades 1-8 are required to attend mass every weekend and get a Mass Pass from the Priest or Deacon at the end of mass. Students should hand in their Mass Passes to their religion teacher at class. to their religion teacher at class.



### Bulletin News

Please submit all entries for the parish bulletin by noon, on the **Monday** before the weekend. All submissions should be made in writing and emailed to [stlawrpar1@aol.com](mailto:stlawrpar1@aol.com), attn: bulletin, or dropped off in the Rectory Office. Information will be included/edited to conform with policies and space allowance.



**"Come join us and sing with joy!"**

Anyone who would like to join our Adult Choir is welcome to join us for rehearsals. We rehearse in the music room beginning at 10:45 am on Sunday mornings and then sing at the 11:30 am Mass. Come and give it a try! No experience is necessary. We meet each Wednesday evening from 6:30—8:00 pm in preparation of singing for Christmas masses. Please see or text/call Jenn at 203-640-7242 for more information.



**Do you love to sing???**

**We need you in our group!!! Give it a try!**

We would love to have our beautiful children's choir back again this year.

I have spoken with many of the parents, and we have decided to try 12 weeks at a time. We sing at the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday (rehearsal 9:00 am sharp in the music room). We will sing until Christmas (Christmas rehearsals will begin on Saturday afternoons in November).

Hope to see you all back again, along with some new faces!

Please contact music director, Jennifer Haddon, at 203-640-7242 for more information

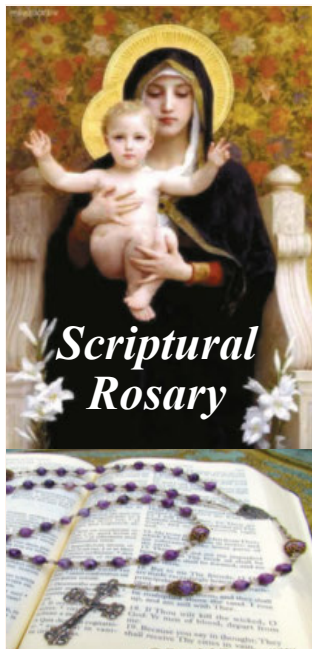


**If you would like to support Saint Lawrence Parish** through online giving, please visit our parish website at [www.stlawrenceshelton.org](http://www.stlawrenceshelton.org), and click on the online giving logo for more information and enrollment instructions.

Online giving provides a secure, convenient, time-saving solution for weekly offertory and extraordinary collection giving.



***We appreciate your generous support!***



The month of October is dedicated to the Devotion of the Most Holy Rosary. Please join us to pray the SCRIPTURAL ROSARY this October in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary in worshipping her Son, Jesus.

*"When you say your Rosary, the angels rejoice, the Blessed Trinity delights in it, my Son finds joy in it too, and I myself am happier than you can possibly guess. After the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, there is nothing in the Church that I love as much as the Rosary."*

Our Lady to Blessed Alan de la Roche

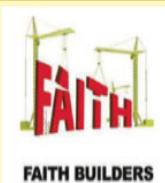
For our final Scriptural Rosary on Thursday, October 26th, at 7:30 pm, we will pray the Glorious Mysteries. It is said that to pray all the Mysteries of the Rosary is to pray the whole New Testament.

\*IN ADDITION, the DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET and ROSARY are prayed weekdays by the outdoor Mary Statue, weather permitting, otherwise in the Church.

(There is no afternoon prayer on First Friday or Thursday evenings during October.)

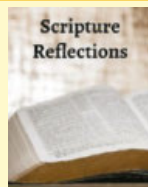
The Rosary is prayed on Saturday morning following the 9:00 am Mass.

Contact Eva Marie Duffy at (203) 305-3522 with questions.



## Faith Builders

Scripture  
Reflection Group



Faith Builders is a weekly scripture group for all stages of faith.

Come and join us as we explore the readings for the upcoming weekend.

**We meet every Wednesday from 9:30—11:00 am in the Parish Center**

No previous knowledge of scripture is necessary, no mandatory attendance, and there is no cost to attend.

The group provides an opportunity for spiritual formation by nurturing an intimate relationship with Christ through prayer, fellowship, and the study of His word.

For better insight, we watch Jeff Cavins reflections on the readings.

For more information, please contact Susan Rowan @ [msrow2729@yahoo.com](mailto:msrow2729@yahoo.com)



**SAVE THE DATE:  
COMMUNION BREAKFAST  
November 12th**

### Who are the Women of St. Lawrence?

We are faith-oriented women who pray together, socialize together, and do community outreach together.

All women of St. Lawrence are members of WOSL. Please contact Pat Fedak at 203-929-4176 with any questions.



walking with purpose



# Come as you are.

**YOU ARE WELCOME HERE**

WWP Bible studies combine personal study with small group discussion, linking our everyday challenges to solutions given through Scripture. If you desire to grow in your faith—in a supportive community of Catholic women—join us!

### **Living in the Father's Love**

Mondays 6:30—8:00 pm  
(6 weeks beginning 10/2/23)  
Upstairs in the Religious Education building

### **Touching the Divine**

Tuesdays 9:45—11:15 am  
(22 weeks began 9/12/23)  
St. Lawrence Parish Center

For questions or to register contact:

Jill Stowe: [stowej7@gmail.com](mailto:stowej7@gmail.com), 224-805-1262

Sandy Matthew: [sandy.matthew@att.net](mailto:sandy.matthew@att.net), 203-260-1226

[www.walkingwithpurpose.com](http://www.walkingwithpurpose.com)





***Dear Friends,***

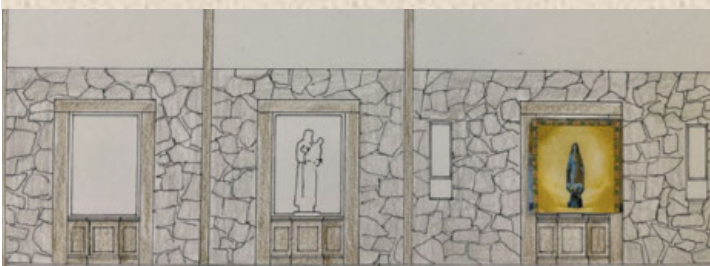
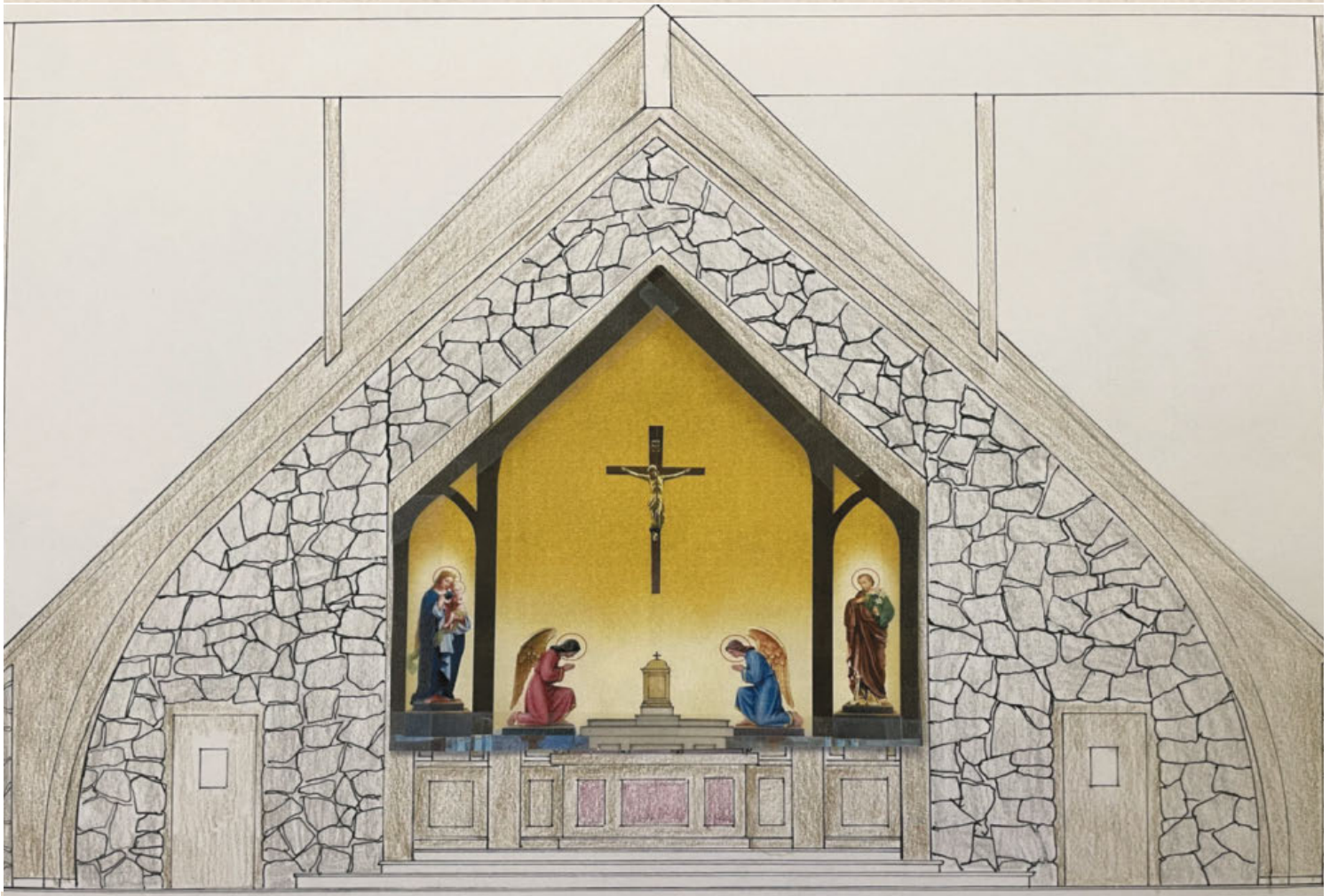
This week we will begin the work in the church on our Sanctuary Improvement Project. For many months we have been working and planning this Project which will improve the sanctuary behind the altar and also the sides of the church. The estimated time-frame for the project is from Monday, October 23rd, until Thanksgiving, November 23rd. Our regular mass schedule will continue during the improvements. Most of the work will be behind the altar, but also on the sides of the church and those areas that may need little touches. The goal is to bring more beauty and sacredness into our place of worship, providing a deeper and stronger relationship with God and one another.

The project is funded by free will offerings only. Special envelopes are available in the back of the church for anyone who wishes to participate.

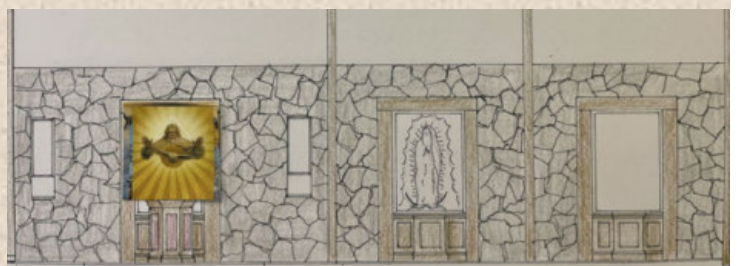
Bishop Frank Caggiano will rededicate the sanctuary on Saturday, December 2nd, at the 5:00 pm Mass.

As Always we appreciate and thank you for your continued support.

***Father Ciprian Bejan, Pastor***



Blessed Mother side, left of the Sanctuary



Baptismal Font side, right of the Sanctuary





### Prayers and Petitions:

***Please hold especially in your prayers all the members of our Parish who are in the hospital, nursing homes, homebound, or in need of the comfort of prayer:***

Maria Albano, Ed Arkison, Lyndon Bauer, Roseann Blanco, Joseph Burger, Frank Busa, Betty Butts, Thomas Cain, Louis Chkowski, Patricia Colbert, Kyle Colucci, Jennifer Coppola, Robert F. Curley, Judy Curran, Gabrielle Dana, Elizabeth Davison, Peter DeSanto, Gina DiFederico, Irene Farmer, Michael Fazio, Richard Fazio, Gilda Festa, Christine Gargano-Rosso, Mike Gemma, Kristin Graf, David Griff, Kevin Gydus, Jean Hadden, Ann Haste, Andrew D. Hernon, Deborah Horvath, Jennifer Jaworski, Robert Jevartian, Amy Job, Audrey Kaszuba, John Konecny, Jim Kotschilidis, Christina Lake, Stephanie Leko, Connie Leniart, Christopher Madden, Joey Mandanici, Mary Jane Martucci, Betty Maulucci, Jean McCormick, Taylor Miller, Sr., Martina Mirci, Richard Monte, Kathryn Morales, Alice Moran, Joseph O'Neil, Paisley, Cheryl Peterson, Jennifer Phelps, Kelly Pineau, Julie Porzio, Helene Prokop, Edward Quick, Paul Rigoli, Michael Saul, Kristin Sciarappi, Jack Bradford Scofield, Joseph Sheridan, Antonio Silveira, Manuel Silveira, Maria Silveira, Mary Sorge, John Spodnick, Tom and Betsy Swank, Joyce Sweeney, Patricia Szube, Campbell Taft, Alejo Verdes, Irene Vesely, Dan Verrilli, Jeff Van Vooren, Pearl Walsh, Ray Yonco



### HOUSE BLESSING

Please consider having your house blessed, especially if it hasn't been blessed before or in recent years. Contact the Rectory Office 203-929-5355 to schedule a blessing. This can also apply to businesses.



### Men's Spirituality

Men of St. Lawrence, a spiritual battle rages all around us. The nations rage, inspired by the dragon and his beasts, bringing the rebellion of the fallen angels onto earth. One thing defeats them: the blood of the Lamb.

Come join us starting each week to understand our call as men to practice our faith and be better men, brothers, husbands and fathers. Over a 40 day period or prayer and penance, we will imitate the practice of St. Francis of Assisi called St. Michael's Lent. St. Michael's Lent will prepare us for battle by taking up the spiritual weapons of prayer, asceticism, and fraternity. During this time, we will prepare for the great feast of the Archangel Michael by joining the heavenly praise of the angels.

For more information see:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Slpl\\_apaVRw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Slpl_apaVRw)

<https://app.exodus90.com/j/CF2LQAC>

**To join, contact:** Dave Stowe, [Stowe.dave@gmail.com](mailto:Stowe.dave@gmail.com)

### Bereavement Ministry

**Sometimes it's not only the lyrics of a song that brings you to tears, it's all the memories that flood your mind when you hear it.**



Please contact Mickie Hope at 203-929-8499 for further information on how we may help you.

As part of our Bereavement Ministry, we offer "Transitions": a support group for those grieving the loss of a loved one. You may contact Jim Linden at 203-561-3410, or Mickie Hope at the number above.



### "Masks Only" Pews

We have designated "Masks Only" pews in our church to accommodate those parishioners who are more comfortable attending Mass while wearing a mask and prefer to be seated in an area with other masked parishioners. If you choose to sit in a "Masks only" pew, please be considerate of those parishioners seated in these pews and wear a mask throughout the Mass.

Please note that it is not necessary to sit in these pews if you are wearing a mask, however, these pews are reserved for only those parishioners who are wearing a mask. Parishioners who choose to attend Mass while unmasked should refrain from sitting in the "Masks Only" pews. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Mass and Candle intentions may be scheduled TUESDAY—FRIDAY between the hours of 9:30 am and 12:30 pm**

**In order to accommodate and serve everyone fairly, the following policies will be adhered to:**

**Each family may schedule a limit of four (4) Masses** with individual (non-collective) intentions for 2024. This includes weekdays and/or weekends, with no more than one (1) Saturday 5:00 pm Mass requested per family;

There are still candle intentions available in 2023. Candle intentions are unlimited.



### Lay Carmelites

Join the Mystical Rose Community of Lay Carmelites and experience God through prayer, silence and reflection centered around devotion to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

**Next Meeting, November 11th, 10:00 am—Noon**

For information, contact Marie Zyskowski, Formation Director, 203-924-1929.

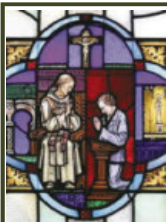
Imagine being part of an organization that fills your heart and your mind with the joy of giving to others and the feeling that comes with making a difference."

To join or for more information about the Knights, please call Carlos Perez at 203-395-8086

† Knight's Corner †  
Saint Lawrence Council #14014



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



### LOCAL CONFESSION TIMES

For your convenience, we are happy to provide the times during which the Sacrament of Penance is available on different days of the week at parishes in the area:

#### **Mondays**

Christ the King, Trumbull 7:00—8:00 pm

#### **Tuesdays**

St. Catherine of Siena, Trumbull 6:00—8:00 pm

#### **Wednesdays**

St. Pius X, Fairfield, 7:00—8:00 pm

#### **Thursdays**

St. Theresa, Trumbull 7:00—8:30 pm

#### **Saturdays**

St. Lawrence, Shelton 4:00—4:45 pm

St. Mark, Stratford 3:30—4:30 pm

St. Stephen, Trumbull 3:30—4:30 pm

Christ the King, Trumbull 4:00—4:45 pm

#### **Sundays**

St. Lawrence, Shelton 11:00—11:30 am

### ~ Guidelines for Sponsors ~

Any Parishioner of Saint Lawrence who has been asked to act as a Godparent for the Sacrament of Baptism or a Sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation should contact the Rectory Office for a Sponsor Certificate.

To act as a Sponsor a Catholic must:

- ~ Be at least 16 years of age
- ~ Have received all three sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation)
- ~ If married, be in a valid marriage recognized by the Church
- ~ Attend Mass regularly on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

In addition, in order to obtain a Sponsor Certificate from Saint Lawrence, you must be an active, registered Parishioner at Saint Lawrence for a period of at least 6 months.

**Please note: When requesting a Sponsor Certificate, please contact the Rectory Office at least 2 weeks in advance and allow up to 10 business days for processing.**



### St. Lawrence Parish Drive-Through Food Drive for Merton House and Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, November 11th, 10:00 am—12:00 Noon

Donations will be delivered directly to Merton House and  
the Food Pantry at Blessed Sacrament  
Thank you in advance for your generosity

#### **HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:**

Before leaving home, place food donations in bags in your trunk. Follow the signs to the area where food donations will be collected. **NO NEED TO LEAVE YOUR CAR.**

Open your trunk from the inside of your car. (If your car is not equipped with a means to open your trunk from inside the car, kindly step outside the car to open your trunk)

It is not necessary to wear a mask when bringing your donations, but feel free to wear a mask if you choose.

Monetary donations are welcome.

Please make checks payable to "**St. Lawrence Church,**" with the notation "Food Drive."

#### **ITEMS NEEDED:**

Merton House: Meals at Merton House are being bagged and handed out on the street. For that reason, the "wish list" is very specific.

Full size cereal boxes, Oatmeal (box of assorted flavors), Apple sauce cups or fruit cups, Granola bars, Vegetable/canola oil, Spaghetti sauce in can (Ragu, Prego, etc.), Pancake syrup (gallon or quart size), Cookies (individual size packages), Pretzels or chips (individual size packages).

Pantry Needs canned meats, grape jelly in squeeze bottles; boxed 1% milk, black, red and chili beans.

Blessed Sacrament: Boxed macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, pasta, canned tuna, canned chicken, toilet paper.





|                                |                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 22nd                   | RCIA, 2:00 pm in the church                                                             |
| October 23rd                   | Adult Faith Formation with Deacon Anthony, 10:00—11:30 am, Parish Center                |
| October 24th                   | Adult Faith Formation with Deacon Anthony, 7:00—8:30 pm, Music Room                     |
| October 26th                   | Scriptural Rosary, 7:30 pm                                                              |
| November 11th                  | Food Drive, Drop off in upper parking lot 10:00 am—Noon                                 |
| November 12th                  | Women of St. Lawrence Communion Breakfast, Brownson Country Club following 9:30 am Mass |
| Faith Builders                 | Wednesday mornings, 9:30—11:00 am in the Parish Center                                  |
| Walking With Purpose           | Mondays 6:30—8:00 pm, upstairs Rel Ed building, Tuesdays 9:45—11:15 am, Parish Center   |
| Choir Practice                 | Wednesday evenings, 6:30—8:00 pm, in the Music Room                                     |
| Children's Choir               | Rehearse Sundays at 9:00 am in the music room before singing at 9:30 am Mass            |
| Lay Carmelites                 | Meet the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:00 am in the Parish Center                     |
| Knights of Columbus            | Meet the 3rd Thursday of the Month                                                      |
| Rosary                         | Monday—Friday 3:00 pm, Saturday following 9:00 am Mass                                  |
| Adoration of Blessed Sacrament | Each First Friday following the 9:00 am Mass                                            |



## Respect Life Ministry

**Proclaiming and supporting God's truth that life is a sacred gift from the moment of conception to natural death.**

The Respect Life Ministry invites all to join in our prayers and activities to protect babies in the womb, help parents in need, the elderly, and to pray for the conversion of those who do not currently value life from conception to natural death.

**Join others from Shelton to pray on Thursdays.** We meet in St. Joseph's Church Parking lot at 2:00 pm to carpool, and return by 4:00 pm.

**Now through November 5<sup>th</sup>:** 40 Days for Life prayer campaign is underway! Sign up at [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com), or call Linda Kosko at 203-913-4661 to sign up or to pray with others from Shelton. This is an international prayer campaign in 70 nations, with over 9,200 local campaigns, and one million volunteers and 20,000 churches involved.

**Thank you to the many who braved the rainy weather last Saturday to pray at the Annual America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally.** Our Blessed Mother and God heard us and others at thousands of rallies throughout our country that day. Intentions included to show God and His Blessed Mother our love and veneration, for the conversion of America, in reparation for sins, for our national leaders to seek and honor God's law, for the Catholic church, for an end to offenses against God including abortion, pornography, and same-sex "marriages" and all offenses against God, for us and our enemies, for the dying, and for those who preserve in virtue, those who struggle between virtue and vice and more.

If you know someone who may need help, please pick up a copy of "Services and Resources for Pregnant Moms, Dads, and Families," found in the back of the church, which identifies local resources and services for families.



### IT IS NOT TOO LATE!

**Please join us this Sunday, Oct. 22nd, at 2:30 pm to find out more about this program**

If you or someone you know is interested in discovering or rediscovering our Catholic faith, our parish is offering the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program. This program is directed towards non-Catholics who may have an interest in our religion, those who were baptized Catholic but did not finish the Sacraments of Initiation (Holy Communion and/or Confirmation), and those who were fully initiated but have a desire to explore and have a better understanding of the catholic faith.

Those who wish to enter the Catholic Church will be received at the Easter Vigil, and those who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation will be confirmed on Pentecost next year.



# Sunday's Readings

## First Reading:

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus,  
whose right hand I grasp,  
subduing nations before him. (Is 45:1)

## Psalm:

Give the Lord glory and honor. (Ps 96)

## Second Reading:

We give thanks to God always for all of you,  
remembering you in our prayers,  
unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and  
labor of love. (1 Thes 1:2-3)

## Gospel:

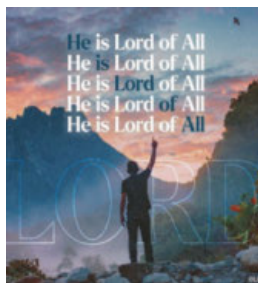
"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar  
and to God what belongs to God." (Mt 22:21)

## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God is greater than this world, and his truth is  
stronger than all its ideologies. Remember that  
no matter how we vote, who we agree with or  
what our background is, we belong to Him alone.

## Observances for the week of October 22, 2023

- Sunday:** 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time;  
World Mission Sunday
- Monday:** St. John of Capistrano, Priest
- Tuesday:** St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop
- Saturday:** Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles
- Next Sunday:** 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time



With little more than a year until the United States' national elections, I find myself feeling, like many Catholics, both dread and energized. Dread, because our democratic republic can be a messy endeavor and campaigns a long, nasty, and unedifying slog; energized, because hope for

positive societal change can be enticing and engaging. As a pastor, I see similar conflicting attitudes in those whom I serve. How can Catholics best engage our political arena in a way which is truly helpful and worthwhile?

This week's gospel reading offers wisdom in this regard. Jesus says, **"Render therefore to Caesar the things are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."** This riddle forces us to answer for ourselves a hidden question: what is the relationship between political and divine authority? Two common but false answers lead to mischief. If we answer that the two are equivalent, politics becomes our absolute authority. This happens whenever religion is slave to the state, as in the travesty of the pro-Nazi German Christian movement in the 1930s and 40s. It also usually occurs when there is an official state religion. If we answer that the two are totally unrelated, we end up with an unchecked aggressive secularist state as we often experience now. Thus, religion becomes a weak and private pastime.

What's a better alternative? At our best, Christians hold that political authority does indeed have its own legitimate autonomy but is nested within God's all-encompassing authority. Think, for example, of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s respect for politics while also being able to criticize unjust human laws because he recognized a higher heavenly law. In other words, Caesar owns politics — *and God owns Caesar*. So, we should allow Jesus' words to lead us to have a deep respect and willingness to peacefully engage in politics without making that engagement our religion. We bring our faith to bear on our politics knowing confidently that Caesar isn't God — but he is indeed God's.

— Father John Muir

## HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE INFORMATION

### Saint Joseph High School

Sunday, October 22nd, 1:30—3:30 pm

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<https://www.sjcadets.org/admissions/visit/open-house>

### Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden

Sunday, November 5th at 11:00 am

For information and to register visit:

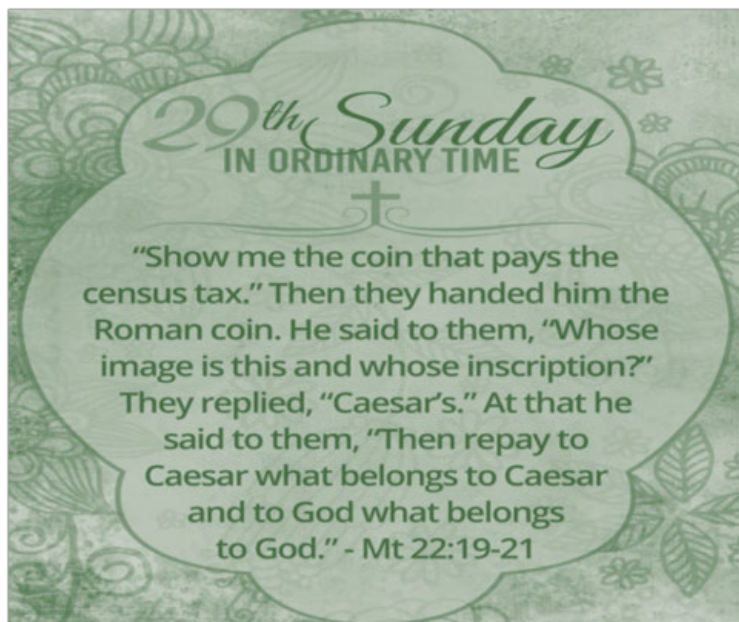
<https://www.sacredhearthamden.org/>

### Fairfield Preparatory School

Saturday, November 18th, 9:00 and 10:00 am

Visit:

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