

Blessed

ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT,
FOR THEIRS IS THE
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

MATTHEW 5:3

Our Lady of Fatima RC Church

229 Danbury Road ♦ Wilton, CT 06897 ♦ 203-
762-3928

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Feb 1, 2026

PASTOR
Fr. Paul Hrebienko
pastor@olfwilton.org

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(203)762-9080
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Ali Lombardi, Assistant
Alison.Lombardi@olfwilton.org

Music
Daniel Alasuvanto
dalasuvanto@olfwilton.org

Parish Office
(203)762-3928

Office Hours:
Monday—Friday
9a.m. to 5p.m.

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday	8 a.m.
Saturday	4:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m.
Children's	9:30 a.m.
Choir	11 a.m.
Teen	4:30 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday	3:30 p.m.
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Monday-Wednesday-Friday: 9a.m. Mass ♦ Tuesday- Thursday 12:15 pm Mass

WEBSITE: OLFWILTON.ORG

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Jan. 31 (St. John Bosco)

VP 8 a.m. ☩ George Dang

VP 4:30 p.m. ☩ Francesco Siano

Sunday Feb. 1 (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

VP 8 a.m. ☩ All Parishioners Living & Deceased

VP 9:30 a.m. ☩ Anthony & Rose Galasso

PH 11 a.m. ☩ John A. Mauracade

VP 4:30 p.m. ☩ Kelly Marie McLaughlin Heise

Monday Feb. 2 (The Presentation of the Lord)

VP 9 a.m. ☩ Jane Colihan

Tuesday Feb. 3 (St. Blaise, St. Ansgar)

VP 12:15 p.m. ☩ Philip R. Catugno

Wednesday Feb. 4

VP 9 a.m. ☩ Angela Esposito

Thursday Feb. 5 (St. Agatha)

VP 12:15 p.m. ☩ Robert T. Lynn

Friday Feb. 6 (St. Paul Miki and Companions)

VP 9 a.m. ☩ Betsy Zelles 1yr. anniversary

Saturday Feb. 7

PH 8 a.m. ☩ Sr. Noreen Nolan OP
15 yr anniversary

VP 4:30 p.m. ☩ Charlie Kirk

Sunday Feb. 8 (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

VP 8 a.m. ☩ Brian Banas

VP 9:30 a.m. ☩ All Parishioners Living & Deceased

VP 11 a.m. ☩ Mark Durma

VP 4:30 p.m. ☩ Janina Bartnit

Beginning Feb. 2 we will be taking down the rest of the Christmas decorations. If you would like free poinsettias, please help yourself. They will be in the Parish Center.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Lucille Ambrosino, mother of Jen (Ryan) Felipe**. May Christ, Our Savior, grant her everlasting rest.



This week's readings for Feb. 1, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time #862 A

First Reading: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Gospel : Matthew 5:1-12a

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feb. 3	10 a.m. 6 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Soup Kitchen Food Pickup 1st Eucharist Mtg-Church Bible Study
Feb. 4	12:30 p.m.	Duplicate Bridge
Feb. 5	4:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Children's Choir Adult Choir

SECOND COLLECTION

Today's second collection is our Monthly Collection for the needs of the Parish. Thank you for your generosity.

Feast of St. Blaise

After Mass on **Tuesday, Feb. 3**, Fr. Mirek (Pastor of Our Lady of Assumption) will bless the throats. He will call each side up and you will line up as we do for Communion.



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION OF THE BLESSED EUCHARIST

will be on **FRI-DAY, Feb. 6**. Daytime adoration begins downstairs after the 9 am Mass at the Church Altar and continues for nocturnal adoration until the 8 am Mass on Saturday. To join any of the Adoration Teams, email Brian Highland at olnnocturnaladoration@gmail.com.

Remember only the center door will be unlocked for entering and exiting once the sun sets. Park in the front circle please.

This weekend the Bishop's Appeal begins throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport. In 2026, the Appeal will invest in important initiatives that accomplish the following for all people in Fairfield County: - Accompanying Our Neighbor – education focused - Fostering the Works of Goodness – charity focused - Celebrating the Truth in Jesus Christ – faith focused • As your Pastor, I want to let you know that I am in complete support of the Appeal, and I am asking you to join with me to do everything we can to make the Bishop's Appeal successful in our parish. I am counting on you, the members of our parish family, to participate sacrificially in this vital appeal for the good of the Diocese of Bridgeport and its ability to address urgent needs and build new ways to advance our mission as the Body of Christ in Fairfield County.

Our Lady of Fatima Parish

2026 Bishop's Appeal

ABA Goal: \$140,000



To make a gift, or for more information, please visit us at 2025BishopsAppeal.org, call (203) 416-1470 or scan with your phone. Thank you!

OUR LADY OF FATIMA RC CHURCH



If you have been out of town or unable to attend Mass due to weather, illness, or an emergency, won't you kindly consider making up your contributions either online or in your next contribution?

To get started log on to :www.olfwilton.org and click on the online giving logo, then follow the easy registration steps.

4:30 p.m. \$2,896.00		Sunday Jan. 25	Church in Latin
8 a.m. \$564.00	Collection Envelopes used	\$4,199.00 48	\$937.00 20
9:30 a.m. \$218.00	Online Giving Online users	\$3,241.00 89	\$60.00 2
11 a.m. \$15.00	TOTALS	\$7,440.00	\$997.00
4:30 p.m. Cancelled	Weekly Goal for budgeted expenses	\$13,750.00	
Mail \$506.00	Shortfall	\$5,310.00	

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Welcome Home!

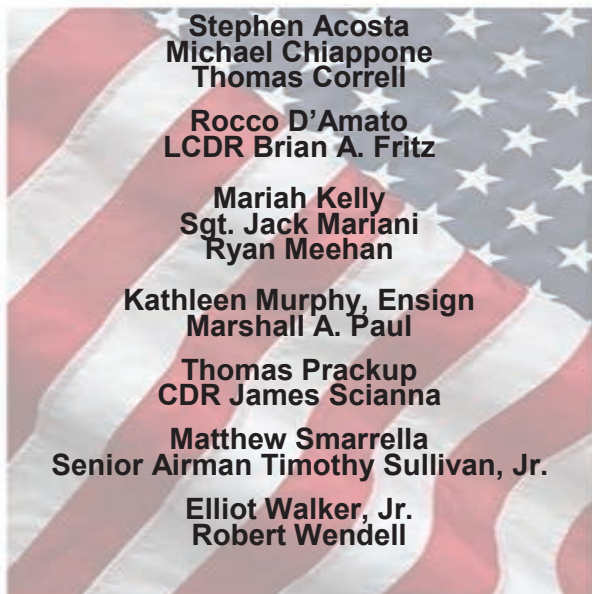
Whether you are a visitor or a Parishioner, welcome! We hope you find Our Lady of Fatima Parish Family

spiritually nourishing, warm and welcoming.
Thank you for joining us for Mass.



Let us welcome into
Our Lady of Fatima Parish Family
David, Marianne, Maisie,
Genevieve & Louise Gutierrez

Please Pray For Our Military



Please Pray For Our Sick and Infirm:

Sean Allan
Baby Gracie
Jacqueline Benson
Vikram Bhandari
Donna Britto
Joe Cardoso
Jane Cavanna
Gregory Clarke
Ethan Collins
Mary Ann Cote
Mia Cunningham
Darcy Driscoll
John Esposito
James Gunther
Alex Grano
Gina Hil
Kim Juhase
Janet Karabin
John Kealy

Special Intention
Jack Kelly
Mackenzie Keogh
Sheila Lane
June Lentini
Mark Montesano
John O'Connor
Ted Packard
Maria Reile
Ron Sands
Jack Scofield
Erasmus Signore
Cliff Smith
Jennifer Smith
Carl & Kay Ullman
Joshua Vahlsing
Donald Verrilli
Karen Volpe
Vivienne Wilkinson
Rose Zarb

Please inform our office (203) 762-3928, of anyone who needs to be added or removed from the list or anyone who has been hospitalized.



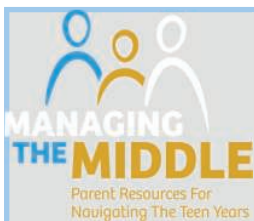
Lenten preparation

A Season of Return

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a journey back to God—not because He has moved away from us, but because we so often wander. Preparing now allows us to begin that return gently, sincerely, and with hope.

As the ashes soon traced on our foreheads will remind us of our mortality, they will also proclaim a deeper truth: God is not finished with us. Lent is not about loss—it is about transformation.

Less than one month remains. Let us not waste it. Let us prepare to enter Lent with hearts ready to be changed.



Self-awareness is a crucial aspect of adolescent development. Studies indicate that self-awareness can significantly improve mental health outcomes for teenagers. For instance, teenagers who practice mindfulness and self-reflection tend to have better emotional regulation, reduced anxiety, and improved overall well-being. Developing self-awareness helps teenagers understand their emotions, strengths, and weaknesses, leading to higher self-esteem and better decision-making skills.

Less than **one month until Ash Wednesday**, the Church gently invites us to begin preparing—not just our calendars, but our hearts. Lent does not arrive suddenly; it is meant to be entered thoughtfully, prayerfully, and with intention. These next weeks are a gift: a quiet threshold before the holy season of repentance, renewal, and deeper conversion.

Ash Wednesday will soon remind us of a sobering truth we often try to forget: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Yet this reminder is not meant to discourage us. Instead, it opens the door to hope—a call to turn away from sin and return to the Gospel.

Why Prepare Early?

Too often, Lent catches us off guard. We scramble on Ash Wednesday morning to decide what to give up, only to lose focus days later. The Church, in her wisdom, encourages us to prepare in advance so that Lent becomes more than a temporary sacrifice—it becomes a true season of grace.

Preparing now allows us to:

- Discern meaningful sacrifices rather than impulsive ones
 - Examine areas of our lives where conversion is truly needed
- Enter Lent with purpose, peace, and spiritual readiness

Begin with Prayerful Reflection

The weeks leading up to Ash Wednesday are an ideal time to ask honest questions before God:

- Where have I grown complacent in my faith?
- What habits draw me away from prayer, charity, or humility?
- How is God inviting me to deeper trust and obedience?

Even a few quiet minutes each day—before the Blessed Sacrament, with Scripture, or during a Rosary—can soften our hearts and sharpen our spiritual focus.

Rethinking Fasting, Almsgiving, and Prayer

Lent is built on three pillars: **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving**. Preparing early helps us approach each one intentionally.

- **Prayer:** Consider committing to a daily prayer routine you can sustain—morning offering, Scripture reading, or a nightly examination of conscience.
- **Fasting:** Instead of simply giving up a favorite food, ask whether there is a habit, distraction, or comfort that dulls your spiritual life.

Almsgiving: Plan acts of charity ahead of time—supporting a ministry, helping someone in need, or offering your time and attention more generously.

FAITH FORMATION



Today, February 1, the middle school Faith Formation students will meet for 4:30 Mass, followed by class. On February 8, the elementary students will attend the 9:30 Mass and class afterward. There are no classes on February 15.

Congratulations to the boys and girls who received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time last weekend. May they feel our dear Lord's loving forgiveness throughout their lives.



REMINDER to parents of First Communicants: Please make every effort to attend the February 3 meeting at 6:00 PM in the church. Important details will be discussed and the BLESSED First Communion books for home preparation will be distributed.

SHARING OUR FAITH

If you are ever asked by inactive Catholics, "How do I return to my faith?" assure them that our loving God is longing for their return, regardless of the amount of time they have been away. Then encourage them to make an appointment with a priest for confession and a discussion of any concerns or questions. Encourage them to start going to Mass again to re-join their church family. Be God's instrument in helping someone come back to the faith!



There are many non-Catholic adults who have Catholic spouses and may even attend Mass with them. Invite someone you know in this situation to come to an inquiry meeting. This is an opportunity to ask questions and share their faith stories. No obligation, just a chance to see if they would like to learn more about the Catholic faith. Please email Kathleen Rooney for the date of our next gathering. (krooney@olfwilton.org)



"For the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart"
(1 Samuel 16:7).



If your child has received First Holy Communion and would like to be trained to be an Altar Server, please call the office to let us know so Fr. Paul can start a class.

PARISH MINISTRIES

Adoration:

Daytime & Nighttime:

Brian Highland

olfnocturnaladoration@gmail.com

Altar Servers: Fr. Paul Hrebenko
203-762-3928

pastor@olfwilton.org

Bible Study: Fr. Paul Hrebenko
203-762-3928

Columbiettes:

Patty Terranova

p.a.terran@gmail.com

Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist:

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Funeral Hospitality:

Jeannie Rubsam

therubsam5@sbcglobal.net

Growing For Good:

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High School Bible Study

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Kennedy's Rosary Project:

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Knights of Columbus:

Grand Knight—

Mike Healy

WiltonKnightsOfColum-
bus@gmail.com

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

www.wiltonknightsofcolumbus.com/

Lectors:

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louis.furlo@morleynet.com

Men's Ministry:

Mom's Book Club:

Maggie Kelly & Amy Palma

kmaggiechris@gmail.com

Our Lady's Association:

Anne Novitsky 203-762-7503

Respect Life:

Kathleen Dineen 203-762-7674

Social Media:

socialmedia@olfwilton.org

Soup Kitchen/Food Pantry

Ministry:

Sharon Steinberg

mcsharon100@optonline.net

Spiritual Break Group:

Ann Scozzafava 203-858-1867

Ushers:

Bob Lenihan 203-216-5348

Bigleni@icloud.com

Walking With Purpose-(Girls)

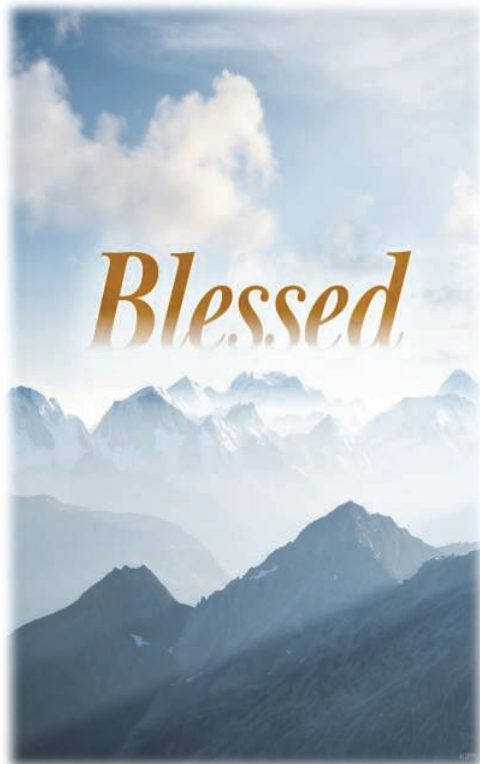
Maggie Kelly kmaggiechris@gmail.com

Youth Group

Be Humble as We Prepare for Lent

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Those among us who have had serious medical issues involving either demanding exams and/or surgeries know all about “remote and proximate preparation.” For the remote kind, that might mean bringing to a temporary halt the intake of certain medications or foods. The proximate kind most often involves fasting from food and drink, even water. Neither regimen is fun, but we accept it. Doctor knows best, right?



You could summarize our Scripture selections this weekend as examples of both kinds of preparation needed for our next life. You know the one I refer to; the one we do not think about enough. Life eternal with God.

Remotely it involves that elusive and challenging decision to be humble and take a long hard look at ourselves before God. He created us out of nothing and that is what we return to after death. That is the point that Ash Wednesday drives home every year.

Proximate preparation invites to acquire humility, which acts as a daily checkup on how well we apply this sense of what is “real” to our daily decisions. A daily honest appraisal of ourselves via a nighttime examination of conscience just before sleep.

We note the humble people being honored by the prophet Zephaniah in our First Reading: The “Anaheim” (AN uh ween) or devout poor among the Hebrews who stayed faithful to the Lord despite the pressure of the pagan atmosphere around them.

Then St. Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, boldly tells us that “God chooses the foolish (or humble) to shame the wise (or proud).” He adds in a caution to his readers about any intended boasting.

Finally, we hear the opening of the great Sermon on the Mount, when Jesus immediately praises the “poor in spirit.” Here He implies the humility of such persons. He thus brings to perfection the Old Covenant, which more often emphasized the external rather than the eternal.

We receive a triple dose of medicine, as today we need to be spiritually healthy. Humility is a key feature of the preparation we need for the Lenten season now just a few weeks away. Some people need a lot of help getting this, as a certain true story illustrates:

The “LA Times” newspaper published a story a few years ago about a commercial airline flight cancellation which resulted in a long line of travelers trying to get booked on another flight. One man in the line grew increasingly impatient with the slow-moving line. Suddenly he pushed his way to the front and angrily demanded a first-class ticket on the next available flight. “I’m sorry,” said the ticket agent, “but I’ll have to take care of the people who were ahead of you in the line.”

The irate man then pounded his fist on the ticket counter, saying, “Do you have any idea of who I am?” Whereupon the ticket agent picked up the public address microphone and said, “Attention please! There is a gentleman at the ticket counter who does not know who he is. If there is anyone in the airport who can identify him, please come to the counter.” Hearing this, the man retreated, and the people waiting in line burst into applause.

God love you and give you, His peace.



A Garden of Remembrance

It's five years since Bishop Frank Caggiano came to Our Lady of Fatima parish on Aug. 15, 2020 to bless and dedicate our Philip Tai Lauria Memorial/Prayer Garden. It is inspiring to see people come by to remember in prayer family members and friends whose names have been inscribed on the granite plaques and pavers placed on and around the cruciform structure.

In his comments that day, the Bishop described the memorial as "a garden of dedication and remembrance," calling it "a great gift" to the parish.

The garden is a spiritual oasis in the midst of a busy community. Benches on either side of the structure provide comfort to those who use the space as a place to reflect and pray.

Close to 75 plaques are in place. More are available. Information on how to purchase a space is available at the Parish Office: (203) 762-3928; bookkeeper@olfwilton.org.

SAINTS FUN FACTS



Saint Agatha is one of the most highly venerated virgin martyrs of Christian antiquity. She was put to death during the persecution of Decius, in Sicily, for her unwavering belief in God.

Feast Day of St. Agatha:
Feb. 5

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