



Our Lady of Fatima RC Church
229 Danbury Road ♦ Wilton, CT 06897 ♦ 203-762-3928

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

**Behold, the virgin shall conceive
and bear a son, and they shall
name him Emmanuel**

Matthew 1:23

PASTOR
Fr. Paul Hrebenko
pastor@olfwilton.org

Office Manager
Nancy O'Connell
bookkeeperolf@gmail.com

Faith Formation
(203)762-9080
Kathleen Rooney, DRE
kr Rooney@olfwilton.org

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 Dec. 20

- PH 8 a.m. ☩ Collective Intentions
 PH 4:30 p.m. ☩ Mary Ann Rubsam 1yr anniversary

Sunday Dec. 21 (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

- PH 8 a.m. ☩ All Parishioners Living & Deceased
 VP 9:30 a.m. ☩ Richard Metz
 VP 11 a.m. ☩ Marilyn Ruegg
 PH 4:30 p.m. ☩ Patricia Dellipoali

Monday Dec 22

- PH 9 a.m. ☩ Henry K. Burda

Tuesday Dec. 23 (St. John of Kanty)

- PH 12:15 p.m. ☩ Angela Tucciarone

Wednesday Dec. 24

- PH 4:00 p.m. ☩ Gene Rooney
 VP 6:00 p.m. ☩ Ripp, Nolan & Tierney Families
 PH 7:30 p.m. ☩ Alice Sharkey
 PH Midnight ☩ Carole DiGiovanni

Thursday Dec. 25 (Nativity of the Lord)

- VP 9:00 a.m. ☩ Frank J. Pipp, Gloria C. Pipp
 PH 10:30 a.m. ☩ Nick Zinicola
 PH Noon ☩ Doris Driscoll

Friday Dec. 26 (St. Stephen)

- VP 9 a.m. ☩ Charles Gebbia 10th anniversary

Saturday Dec. 27 (St. John)

- VP 8 a.m. ☩ Norma Younie
 PH 4:30 p.m. ☩ Fran Golen

Sunday Dec. 28 (The Holy Name of Jesus, Mary and Joseph)

- PH 8 a.m. ☩ All Parishioners Living & Deceased
 PH 9:30 a.m. ☩ Chris Terranova
 VP 11 a.m. ☩ Anthony & Rose Galasso
 VP 4:30 p.m. ☩ Jan Hrebenko

Parish Office will be closed Wed. Dec. 24 until Monday Dec. 29 at 9 am.

This week's readings for Dec. 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent #792A

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel : Matthew 1:18-24

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dec. 23	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
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Advent has prepared us for the coming of Christ, and this last week brought it all together. "God so loved the world that he sent his only Son" (John 3:16). And it is because of that love that we are called to be loving to the stranger, oppressed, and marginalized.



*Father Paul,
 Faith Formation, and the
 Parish Office Staff wish you all a
 most Blessed and Merry Christmas
 with God's blessings this
 Christmas 2025!*

OUR LADY OF FATIMA RC CHURCH



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. \$1,220.00		Sun. Nov. 30	Pastor Fund	Sun. Dec. 7	Dec. Monthly
8 a.m. \$1,028.00	Collection Envelopes used	\$7,370.08 89	\$1,378.00 31	\$9,444.00 156	\$2,578.55
9:30 a.m. \$894.58	Online Giving Online users	\$5,462.33 119	\$253.00 3	\$2,792.00 77	\$1,137.00 16
11 a.m. \$1,571.50	TOTALS	\$12,832.41	\$1,631.00	\$12,236.00	\$3,715.55
4:30 p.m. \$926.00	Weekly Goal for budgeted expenses	\$13,750.00		\$13,750.00	
Mail \$1,730.00	Shortfall	\$917.59		\$1,514.00	

Immaculate Conception: \$1,013.00

What we would need support for in the future:

- ◆ Remaining air conditioner unit in church
- ◆ School roof-plan
- ◆ Convent will need to be resided
- ◆ New windows for the Convent
- ◆ Continued maintenance of trees
- ◆ Parish Center needs new flooring and painting
- ◆ Church parking lot



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.

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.

Please Pray For Our Military

Stephen Acosta
Michael Chiappone
Thomas Correll

Rocco D'Amato
LCDR Brian A. Fritz

Mariah Kelly
Sgt. Jack Mariani
Ryan Meehan

Kathleen Murphy, Ensign
Marshall A. Paul

Thomas Prackup
CDR James Scianna

Matthew Smarrella
Senior Airman Timothy Sullivan, Jr.

Elliot Walker, Jr.
Robert Wendell

MINISTRY

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CANDLE

Will burn for Seven Days

starting

December 24 for
Chris Terranova



You know when God keeps placing something on your heart, repeatedly, until you can no longer ignore it?



Encounter God's love and mercy and be drawn back into a deep relationship with Him and His Church. We would love to have you train to be a Eucharistic Minister or a Reader for Masses. Maybe you would just like to serve the homebound or minister at a nursing home. Training is free and easy. Please call the office 203.762.3928 or let Fr. Paul know and we will be happy to lead you to the right direction. Your rewards will be plenty .

Our minds often tend to consider Dec. 25 as the end of Christmas, but on the Church calendar, it's just starting. December 25 to January 5 is recognized as the twelve days of Christmas, ending the day before the Epiphany when we remember the Wise Men's visit to worship the Christ Child.

We can easily pass through these twelve days without much thought when the excitement and exhaustion of Christmas set in. The sometimes dreary days of winter mix with a time of reflection on the past year and the wonder of a new one. It's easy to take a bit of a break in our usual faith strengthening way and routines. Keep focused on God's words and ways.



THE GIVING TREE Your generosity has once again been overwhelming. Thank you all for your gifts, gift cards and monetary donations. You have made many happy. May you too receive the joy this Christmas!



Thank you to the Columbiettes for your most generous donation from the profit of the poinsettia plant sale.

And thank you for hosting the pasta dinner held after the tree lighting last weekend. It was a fun night had by all.



Look who arrived after the 9:30 Mass on December 7

St Nicholas!



Christmas is such a busy time but I wanted to thank all the helpers that came to stuff the Christmas mailing and got all the labels on the envelopes in speedy time. Thank you, thank you for your generosity of time and talent.

During Advent and Christmas, the Church invites us to meditate on the Light of the world - A light that shines from the heart of the Trinity, a light that enters humanity hidden beneath Mary's heart in her womb, a light that ultimately shows itself to the world from a manger in Bethlehem marked by the light of a star. Jesus turns all of creation into a sanctuary - a holy place where the presence of God dwells. And, that same light still burns for us today in every Catholic church, represented by the small yet powerful flame of the sanctuary lamp. The sanctuary candle gently shows them that the Light who came at Christmas comes to us again at every Mass, offering His love to our hearts.

FAITH FORMATION



Reminder to parents of children participating in the Pageant at the 4:00 Mass on Christmas Eve: Please arrive at church by 3:30 and check in with Mrs. Rooney, Mrs. Terranova, or Mrs. O'Connell.

The next Faith Formation classes for both elementary and middle school students will be held on January 11. Please remember to attend Mass before class.

Reminder: Second grade Faith Formation students will have their BLESSED Reconciliation books and their prayers checked on January 11 during class. Parents, please work with your children so they will have completed their books and learned their prayers in time for January 11.

Thank you all for your generosity that was received by families from Blessed Sacrament in Bridgeport. You really know the meaning of giving and Christmas.



SHARING OUR FAITH



There are many men and women who are not affiliated with any religion. They may be looking for the comfort, peace, and strength that our Catholic faith offers. Do you know people in this circumstance?

They may be very happy to talk with you or a priest who will listen to their stories and invite them to consider becoming part of our community of faith through the OCIA process. Approach them with a warm and welcoming attitude and let God do the rest. For information about OCIA, please contact Kathleen Rooney (krooney@olfwilton.org).

Please share this message with an inactive Catholic: At this time of the year, our thoughts turn to being prepared to welcome our Savior. It is time to get our spiritual life ready for Christmas. If you or someone in your life have been "away" from the Church, now is the time to come home. Fill your empty heart with the love and joy that Jesus brings to us every day. It is never too late to return, regardless of how long you have not been a practicing Catholic. Begin the road back by making an appointment with a priest. He will be non-judgmental and will guide you through re-joining your spiritual family. Give yourself this gift for Christmas and make it the best Christmas ever!



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:

Patty Terranova
p.a.terran@gmail.com

Funeral Hospitality:

Jeannie Rubsam
therubsam5@sbcglobal.net

Growing For Good:

Kathleen Rooney
roonskath@gmail.com

High School Bible Study

Maggie Kelly
kmaggiechris@gmail.com

Kennedy's Rosary Project:

Mae Tighe maetighe@aol.com

Knights of Columbus:

Grand Knight—
Mike Healy
WiltonKnightsOfColumbus@gmail.com
<http://www.wiltonknightsofcolumbus.com/>

Lectors:

Louis Furlo
louis.furlo@morleynet.com

Men's Ministry:

Marty Kennedy
mkenne3@optonline.net

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
mcs Sharon100@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

The Birth Account Ignites Peace and Joy

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Holidays and holy days each create a certain atmosphere around them. To mix them up, or to confuse them, is a mistake. So, for instance, decorating your home with all kinds of red, white and blue stressing patriotism does not really show the spirit of Christmas with its red and green.

The weak secular appraisal of the Christmas event as mainly a call to reignite brotherhood among nations is just atheism trying to suppress Christ's coming. A much worse error than mixing up colors.

The simple and straightforward telling of the birth account of Jesus in St. Matthew's gospel puts forth the truth and nothing but the truth. A baby was born to a Jewish couple of humble origins as part of a long held and well prepared plan to save mankind from sin and invite him to turn back to God.

The consequent atmosphere is one of true peace and deep joy that comes with renewed hope. Optimism rekindled. Pessimism banished. So, there is no place for raucous shouting and revelry. Much less a frenzy over who gets what as a gift under the artificial evergreen.



The calendar this year has given us a few days after this Fourth Sunday of Advent to stop, look and really listen to the gospel message. To energize our faith in the God who proved His love for us by sending His own Son to save us. As a result of the first Christmas, for the first time in history, men had to look down to see heaven, for heaven lay in a manger.

Remember the distraught man in Mark's gospel whose son was possessed? When Jesus asked him "Do you believe? (I can do this?)" the man's answer becomes a prayer for all of us many times in life, even at Christmas: "Lord, I believe! Help my unbelief."

God love you and yours and have a blest Christmas.

God and Art

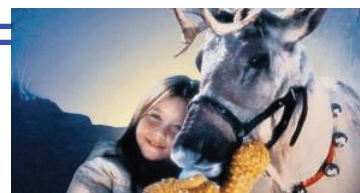
Art and Decorations for Advent and Christmas

Artistic decorations capture the spirit and significance of the seasons and help believers enter the mystery of the Incarnation. The Advent wreath consists of four candles marking the weeks of preparation for Jesus' birth and second coming. The Nativity scene represents the humble and miraculous birth of Jesus. A Christmas tree is adorned with lights and ornaments, and a star or angel at the top represents the Star of Bethlehem or the angelic announcement of Christ's birth.



Prancer

Eight-year-old Jessica still believes in Santa Claus, reasoning that if there's no Santa, then maybe there's no God, and if that's the case, how could her late mother be in Heaven? Living on a struggling apple farm with her widowed father (Sam Elliott) and older brother, Jessica is devastated when she overhears her father discussing plans to send her to live with her aunt because he can barely make ends meet. *Prancer* is a heartwarming yet unsentimental Christmas film, portraying Jessica's faith in Santa with genuine respect while grounding the story in realistic struggles of grief, financial worries, and family. While younger viewers may enjoy Jessica's mission to care for the wounded reindeer, older viewers may appreciate the characters' contrasting perspectives. Jessica holds earnest faith in Christmas magic, while her father struggles under the weight of stress and grief. Though he tries to protect his children from his worries, his stress shows through, casting a shadow on their relationship. The film is rated G, and is appropriate for the whole family. Find it on an App.





Come Pray this Christmas Season

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.

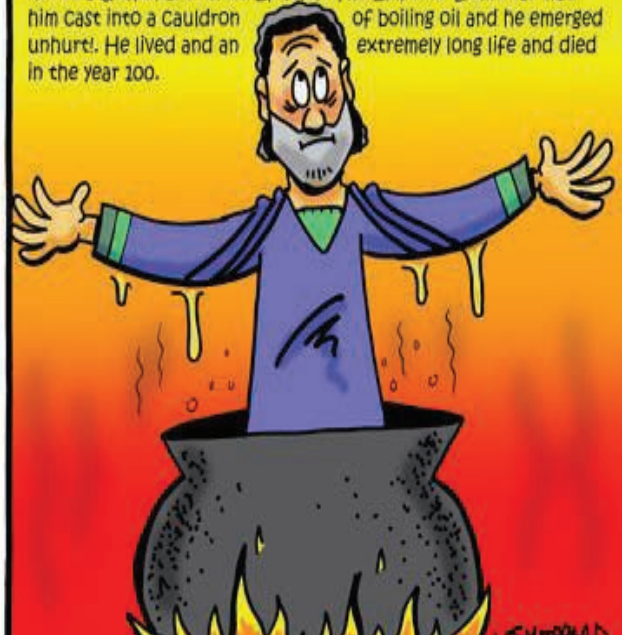
The garden is a spiritual oasis in the midst of a busy community. Benches on either side of the structure provide comfort to those who use the space as a place to reflect and pray.

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

by John Sheppard

St. John was called to be an Apostle in the first year of His public ministry. He was the only one of the Twelve not to forsake our Saviour during His Passion. He founded many churches in Asia, wrote a Gospel and three Epistles. The Emperor Domitian had him cast into a cauldron of boiling oil and he emerged unhurt. He lived and an extremely long life and died in the year 100.



**Feast Day of St. John the Apostle:
December 27**

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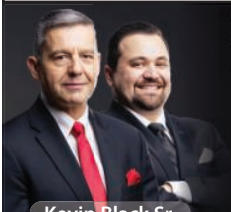
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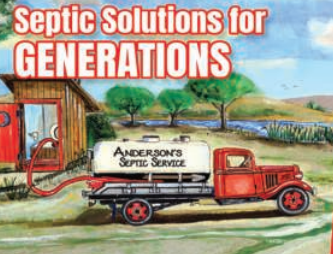
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