

Our Lady of Fatima RC Church

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

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 14, 2025

Everyone who believes in
him may have eternal life.

PASTOR

Fr. Paul Hrebenko
pastor@olfwilton.org

Office Manager

Nancy O'Connell
bookkeeperolf@gmail.com

Faith Formation

(203)762-9080
Kathleen Rooney, DRE
krooney@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.

JOHN 3:15

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 Sept 13 (St. John Chrysostom)

- VP 8 a.m. Intentions of Ryan Rauccio
VP 4:30 p.m. ✠Elvira Cody

Sunday Sept. 14 (The Exaltation of the Holy Cross)

- VP 8 a.m. ✠Jane Colihan
VP 9:30 a.m. ✠All Parishioners Living & Deceased
VP 11 a.m. ✠Carmelo Tomas
VP 4:30 p.m. ✠Stephen LaSala

Monday Sept. 15 (Our Lady of Sorrows)

- VP 9 a.m. Intentions of the Gunderson Family

Tuesday Sept. 16 (Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian)

- VP 12:15 p.m. Intentions of Fr. Paul Hrebenko

Wednesday Sept. 17 (St. Robert Bellarmine, St. Hildegard of Bingen)

- VP 9:00 a.m. ✠Collective Intentions

Thursday Sept. 18

- VP 12:15 p.m. ✠Chris Terranova 9th anniversary

Friday Sept. 19 (St. Januarius)

- VP 9 a.m. ✠John Pascarella

Saturday Sept. 20 (St. Andrew Kim Tae-gun and Paul Chung Ha-sang and Companions)

- PH 8 a.m. ✠Edda Latassa
PH 4:30 p.m. ✠Daniel Costello 1 yr anniversary

Sunday Sept. 21 (Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

- VP 8 a.m. ✠Walter F. Fritz
PH 9:30 a.m. ✠Emily Kurpiel
PH 11 a.m. ✠Alice G. Sharkey
VP 4:30 p.m. ✠All Parishioners Living & Deceased



BRING YOUR BACKPACKS!
Blessing of your backpacks will take place at the 9:30 Mass on September 21.

This week's readings for Sept. 14, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross #966 are

First Reading: Numbers 21:4b-9

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: John 3:13-17

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sept. 15	7:30 p.m.	Knights Mtg
Sept. 16	10:30 a.m.	Soup Kitchen Food Pickup Spiritual Break
Sept. 17	12:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Duplicate Bridge Columbiettes
Sept. 18	4:30 p.m. 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Children's Choir Adult Choir Mom's Book Club

This weekend, two collections, Sunday & Catholic University

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WAYS TO GIVE

1 Participate in the Annual National Collection at your parish.

2 Donate online at collection.catholic.edu



Won't you help us meet our goal?

Our Lady of Fatima Parish

2025 Bishop's Appeal as of 9/5/25

Bishop's Appeal Goal:	\$140,000
Total Pledged:	\$129,181 (92.27%)
Donors to Date:	186 Donors
To make a gift, or for more info, please visit us at 2025BishopsAppeal.org , call (203) 416-1470.	

OUR LADY OF FATIMA RC CHURCH

We raised \$1,819 for Gaza.
Thank you for your generosity

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



4:30 p.m. \$703.00		Sun. Aug. 31	4:30 p.m. \$1,115.00	Sun Sept. 7	Monthly Sept.
8 a.m. \$950.00	Collection Envelopes used	\$6,245.00 83	8 a.m. \$1,332.00	\$5,482.15 90	\$1,648.50 38
9:30 a.m. \$1,466.00	Online Giving Online users	\$3,238.33 87	9:30 a.m. \$1,183.00	\$5,444.33 153	\$3,781.00 40
11 a.m. \$992.00	TOTALS	\$9,483.33	11 a.m. \$400.65	\$10,926.48	\$5,429.50
4:30 p.m. \$654.00	Weekly Goal for budgeted expenses	\$13,750.00	4:30 p.m. \$742.50		\$16,355.98
Mail \$1,480.00	Shortfall	\$4,266.67	Mail \$709.00		\$2,605.98

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George Seeberger
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Please Pray For Our Military



Please Pray For Our Sick and Infirm:

Sean Allan	Special Intention
Baby Gracie	Jack Kelly
Jacqueline Benson	Mackenzie Keogh
Vikram Bhandari	Sheila Lane
Donna Britto	June Lentini
Kathleen Canarro	Mark Montesano
Joe Cardoso	John O'Connor
Jane Cavanna	Ted Packard
Gregory Clarke	Maria Reile
Ethan Collins	Ron Sands
Mary Ann Cote	Jack Scofield
Mia Cunningham	Erasmus Signore
Darcy Driscoll	Cliff Smith
John Esposito	Carl & Kay Ullman
James Gunther	Joshua Vahlsing
Alex Grano	Donald Verrilli
Gina Hil	Karen Volpe
Kim Juhase	Vivienne Wilkinson
Janet & Chris Karabin	Rose Zarb
John Kealy	

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.

MINISTRY

Join us at the Food Truck September 26 at 6 PM in the lot behind the Parish Center for Pizza (6 varieties), Hamburgers, Cheese burgers, chicken tenders gluten free items and lots more. It's BYOB- lemonade, soda, water will be available.

Adult Choir - 7th grade and up
Thursday Rehearsals at 6:00 p.m.
Rehearsal: Sunday 10:15am.
Mass: Sunday 11am



The Exaltation of the Holy Cross is a special day when we remember and celebrate the cross that Jesus died on. It reminds us that Jesus loved us so much that He gave His life for us. The cross, which might seem sad because it was where Jesus died, is also a symbol of hope and love because He came back to life!

This feast shows us how important the cross is in our faith. It helps us understand that even when things are tough, God is always with us and loves us. Remember, Jesus died for our sins and the cross is a sign of His love.

So, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is a happy celebration of that love!

Congratulations

Congratulations to
Tara Downey & Johnny Davis and
Alyssa Rubsam & Oliver Pflieger
who were both recently married in the Catholic Church.

Is there a member of your family who is away at college and could use a little encouragement in the form of a care package?

The Columbiettes would love to include them in our annual fall semester mailing. The package generally includes snacks and treats as well as small personal care items, spiritual items and a note of encouragement so that they know their home parish family is praying for their success.



email OLF.Columbiettes@gmail.com

Please consider a donation to cover the cost of postage. We'll handle the rest.
Respond by September 15



BANNS I
Neha Kapate & Jonathan Highland

Let us welcome into

Our Lady of Fatima
 Parish Family



Mark, Christie, Reid, Brooke & Paige Koolis

Benjamin, Allyson, Emma & Abigail Schiano

Raffaello, Victoria, Leonardo & Matteo Trofa

Christopher, Amanda, Reagan, Gemma & Grace Guarniere

Steve, Louise, Liam & Colin Sintra

Jacek, Agnieszka, Tymon, Ernest & Ella Trojak

David, Emily & Frank Branning

John, Nancy, Caroline, John & Grant Moore

Spiritual Break Group

Next meeting is on Sept. 16 at 10:30 in the Parish Center.
 We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. If you have any questions or would like more information: please call or email Ann Scozzafava at 203.858.1867 or annscozz99@gmail.com



Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to all men 18 years of age or older who are practicing Catholics. Meetings are monthly in the Parish Center at 7:30 PM for one hour. Male Parishioners interested in becoming a Knight may attend any meeting or request further info from Mike Healy, Grand Knight at: Wilton-KnightsOfColumbus@gmail.com . Next meeting is **9/15**

Faith FORMATION

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

We are thrilled to welcome our middle school students to the first Mass and Faith Formation class for the

2025-26 school year. Please gather in church for the 4:30 Mass on September 14 and move to the school afterward. Pick up time is 6:30 in the church parking lot.

Elementary school Faith Formation students will attend the 9:30 Mass on September 21 and walk with their parents to the school for class. There will be student lists on each classroom door. Teachers will have sent an email to parents outlining instructions for the first day.

Welcome! **Don't forget to bring backpacks to be blessed!**



On Monday, September 22, Eighth Grade Confirmation candidates and their parents will meet in church at 6:00 PM. At that time, the eighth grade program will be discussed and the requirements for the year will be explained.

Save the date: There will be a meeting for parents of those attending homeschool on Wednesday, September 24, in the church, at 5:15 PM. Note the time change, as it was adjusted to accommodate those going to a school meeting that night.

SHARING OUR FAITH



OCIA is for adults who would like to pursue membership in the Catholic Church. Whether from another Christian or non-Christian religion or from no religious tradition at all, you are welcome to join a small group of people who will explore the tenets of our faith and decide during the process if they want to convert to Catholicism. There is opportunity to ask questions as well as hear about the faith journeys of others who have joined the Church through this process. No strings attached! "Come and See." Contact Kathleen Rooney (krooney@olfcatholic.org) to hear more!

Catholic adults who have not been active in their faith are invited to talk with a priest about the issues that have kept them away. There is no judgment made, only a good listener who will walk with you through this time. If you know someone in this situation, please encourage him or her to call a priest to take the first step in re-joining his or her family of faith. We miss you!



The Music Ministry is looking for new members!

Please e-mail or call

**Daniel dalasuvanto@olfwilton.org
(516)697-7960**

Children's Choir - Grades 1-5 Thursday Rehearsals at 4:30

Rehearsal: Sunday 9am Mass: Sunday 9:30am

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.wiltonknightsforcolumbus.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
mcsharon100@optonline.net

Soul Suppers:

Marie DeSantis
marie@desantis7.com

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

Kate MacDonald kfmack6@gmail.com

The Cross Is a Sign of God's Love

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

You can easily picture the scene. A parade down Main Street of "Any Town, USA" to honor the local Medal of Honor winner. There she sits, dressed in her military uniform, riding atop the back seat of a shiny convertible, festooned with red, white, and blue, smiling and waving to the crowds at the curbside. We could say that, for a time, she is being "exalted."

Today's Feast gives us a spiritual time to honor the instrument of our salvation, the Holy Cross on which Our Savior died for our salvation. Such exaltation would have shocked our earlier sisters and brothers in the early Church. It took a few centuries before they would ever think of the Cross as deserving of praise, much less in a place of honor in a church. They knew it only as the instrument of cruel Roman punishment for criminals.

Just for the sake of understanding, consider if Christ came to earth in modern times and was executed in the electric chair. It would take a lot of convincing to get us to decorate our churches with replicas of that chair. Or sewn on to priestly vestments!

Over time, the Church began to see that the once awful item was really the greatest sign of God's love. An instrument of His decision to save us from eternal damnation. After all, our human ancestors, Adam and Eve, had chosen through weakness to sin the Paradise Garden away and hear the clang of shutting gates behind them as they left. When the onlookers at Calvary heard the bang of hammers on nails thrust through the divine Hands and Feet, they had no idea that this was necessary to save them and all of us. With time and prayer, they would learn what we know now.

Today is a good day to ask you: do you have a crucifix on display in your home? Does it hang on the first floor, where visitors can see it? In other words, do you personally "exalt" the cross as the truest sign of love ever given?

You see, this is one easy way to evangelize, that is, spread the gospel in the world. It takes very little effort. We must be more adept at making clear to the apathetic world we live in that faith in Christ and thanks to His inestimable love is the main reason we have for living, for getting up from sleep each new morning with a trustful outlook. In other words, we need to remember what Steven Covey, the gifted motivational speaker once said, namely that "the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." That way, we can one day join the parade in the new Paradise, with no fear that the parade will pass us by.

Happy 70th Birthday, Pope Leo XIV, and God grant you many more!



Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati Author Italian Catholic Activist Member of the Third Order of Saint Dominic	Saint Carlo Acutis "...The First Millennial Saint." - Pope Francis
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Canonized as Saints September 7, 2025



BISHOP'S LECTURE SERIES

Next speaker: Fr. Jeff Kirby
September 24, 2025 at 7PM
St. Francis Assisi, Weston
Topic: The Legacy and On-Going
Mission of the Second Vatican
Council

**All Saints Catholic School
San Gennaro Festival**
September 20th
139 West Rocks Road
Norwalk, CT
11am - 4pm

Kids Zone **Vendor Market**

Music Food Fun **Pizza Fritta By St. Ann's Club**

1pm Procession
Performances by Allegro Dance Company
Music by DJ Serg
Best Tasting Meatball contest

 allsaintsnorwalk.com
Raindate 9/21



Visit Our Prayer Garden!

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.

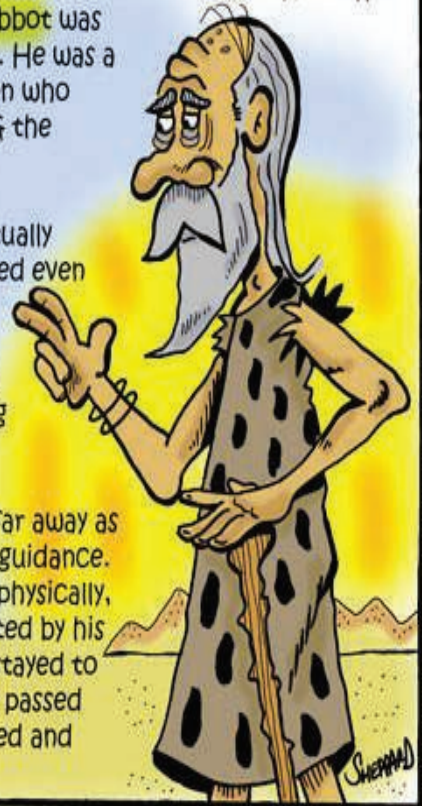
SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

St. Anthony the Abbot was an Egyptian hermit. He was a very spiritual person who believed in **LIVING** the Jesus life.

When people eventually found him, he moved even further away, eating only bread and water, praying, fasting and wearing skins as clothing.

Wise men from as far away as Greece sought his guidance. Some were healed physically, many were comforted by his words and others stayed to learn from him. He passed away at one hundred and five years old.



Feast Day of St. Anthony the Abbot: January 17

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