



St. Jerome Norwalk
August 17, 2025
20th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Mass Schedule

Weekends

Saturday 4:00 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM
(10 AM live streamed)

Monday - Friday

9:00 AM Mass

Confession available after 9 AM Mass
and anytime upon request

Mass of the Sick (Healing mass) at 6PM
on the last Tuesday of every month

Confessions

Saturday 3:00 - 3:30 PM

Wednesday

8:00 AM Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament and
benediction

Holy Day of Obligation

Mass of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
on Friday, August 15th
9AM & 7PM

Outdoor Stations of the Cross open daily from 9-5pm (weather permitting)

Church is open for prayer Monday - Sunday from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM



*To make a donation please visit
BishopAppeal.org, or call 203-416-1470
with your phone or scan QR code*



Date: 8/15/25 Goal: \$69,200 Pledged: \$71,295 Percentage Goal: 103%

Pastor's Desk

Beloved brothers and sisters of St. Jerome Church, Norwalk,

Today we hear a challenging passage from the Gospel of Luke, a portion of Luke 12:49–53. It is not easy reading. Jesus speaks of bringing fire to the earth and of bringing division within families: “Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.” Then: “From now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three.” This is the Word of the Lord for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C.

At first glance, these verses can feel jarring. We know Jesus as the Prince of Peace, the One who teaches us to love even our enemies, to forgive seventy-seven times, to bear one another’s burdens. And yet here He speaks of fire and division, of setting people at odds even in their closest relationships. How are we to understand this? And how does it apply to our life here at St. Jerome, in Norwalk, as a parish that seeks to be a home of welcome and mission?

First, a heartfelt reminder of the context. Jesus speaks to a world where the proclamation of the Kingdom disrupts the powers of this world. His mission is not to smooth over every political or personal disagreement, but to reveal truth and to call every person to allegiance—to God the Father in a radical, uncompromising way. The fire He speaks of is not arson or hatred; it is the Holy Spirit’s purifying and transformative presence. Fire clarifies, purifies, and gives light. It is a symbol of mission, zeal, and the cost of discipleship.

Second, the “division” Jesus describes is not a call to sow discord for its own sake, nor a justification for cruelty. It is a consequence of choosing the Kingdom in a world that often runs on alternative loyalties: wealth, status, comfort, fear of scandal, or the idols we clutch more tightly than the truth. When the Gospel confronts us with the demands of love—radical mercy, justice for the poor, integrity in word and deed—we may find that not everyone is ready to follow or to change. That is the hurtful, still-sounding note of the Gospel: allegiance to Christ often requires a clear-eyed judgment about what truly guides our hearts.

With that clarification, what is the good news for us here, as the parish family of St. Jerome?

1) The fire is a gift of vocation: It is the Holy Spirit igniting in us a fervent desire to live the truth of the Gospel with courage. Jesus wants our hearts to burn not with judgment of others, but with love that can endure suffering in order to bring about the Kingdom. In our own lives, this means asking: Where is the Spirit asking me to be more courageous in believing, more generous in serving, more honest in my relationships? Where is God inviting me to let go of safety and to risk for the sake of the Gospel?

2) Division calls for discernment, not despair: When we encounter conflict—within families, within friendships, within communities—let us discern what is at stake. Are we clinging to a personal preference or to a truth that must be spoken with charity? Are we avoiding confrontation when truth must be proclaimed for the sake of justice or the protection of the vulnerable? Jesus is inviting us to a discerning, courageous witness that seeks reconciliation and truth. Sometimes that witness divides; other times, it invites deeper unity through repentance and mercy.

3) The Gospel is not a call to abandon family bonds but to re-order them around the primacy of God: In Luke’s Gospel, the point is not to undermine family life but to remind us that ultimate loyalty must be to the Lord. Family life is a school of charity, forgiveness, and mutual submission, and it finds its highest form when all members are formed by the grace of Christ. When the Gospel divides, may it be division that pushes each member toward a more authentic love and fidelity to God, so that the family can grow in holiness together.

Pastor's Desk

4) The witness of the parish must be one of truthful compassion: Here at St. Jerome, we are called not merely to preach to ourselves but to invite others into the heat of the Spirit's work. Our mission is to be a community where truth is spoken gently, where mercy heals wounds, and where the love of Christ is tangible in acts of service, care for the poor, and welcome for the stranger. If the Gospel brings division, let that division be tempered by the cross: a cross that reconciles hearts, not simply a cross that separates.

How might this look in practical terms for our life in Norwalk?

In our parish gatherings, let us practice courageous witness with charity. If a belief or behavior is not in accord with the Gospel, speak the truth in love, not in harshness. And if a brother or sister struggles, come with patience, listening, and practical support. In our families, let the Gospel teach us to listen first, to forgive quickly, and to place God at the center. If tensions arise around faith, let prayer lead the way: asking for the Holy Spirit to soften hearts and to renew hope.

In service to the broader community, let our fire be a flame of justice: feeding the hungry, sheltering the weary, defending the voiceless, and inviting others to know the God who is love. The Church's mission is not simply to condemn what harms; it is to heal, to build, to proclaim life in abundance in Christ.

In personal life, let us cultivate discernment through prayer, Scripture, and the teaching of the Church. Ask: What is the Lord asking of me today? Where is my heart divided? Where do I need to surrender more fully to His truth and love?

A few practical steps you might take this week:

Spend five minutes daily in discernment prayer before the Blessed Sacrament or a simple Marian devotion. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one area where fear or convenience competes with truth, and one concrete step you can take to align more closely with Christ.

Choose one family or parish relationship that feels tense and offer a gesture of reconciliation or support. It could be a sincere apology, an offer to listen without defensiveness, or a practical act of service.

Join or renew a ministry at St. Jerome that embodies the Gospel's justice and mercy—feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, mentoring youth, or welcoming newcomers. Let your participation be a sign of the fire within that purifies and unites.

Reflect on the Gospel reading during Sunday Mass; perhaps write a short line in your notebook: "Where is the Lord asking me to have courage today?"

God bless

Fr. Hygi.

Mass Remembrances

This week we pray for the following...

Weekend of August 16 & 17 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**In honor of Mike Roberts; Anne Regan; Lynn Regan; Richard Serna;
Franco Ialeggio; Aurelio Escalante; Florence Mirti; Peter Gordan**

Monday, August 18th Eleanor Stoni

Tuesday, August 19th Mark Durma

Wednesday, August 20th Giovanni Casale

Thursday, August 21st Frank Iossa

Friday, August 22nd In honor of Kim Kuppenheimer

Weekend of August 23 & 24 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Mary Sullivan; Anna Vona; Leo & Louise O'Rourke; Patick & Elizabeth
Guilfoyle; Jack Laracca (3rd Anniv) and Frank D'Alessandro**

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Week of August 10

In-Pew	\$2,437
Online - Our Sunday Visitor	\$2,503
Total Weekly Offertory	<u>\$4,940</u>
<i>Budget</i>	<i>\$6,850.00</i>

Note: Gifts, and Annual Offertory are reported at month end.

One-time credit card donations can be made on our website by visiting www.osvhub.com/Stjeromenorwalk/giving/funds and click on my Account on top toolbar.

If envelopes are your thing, you can drop in the basket, drop off or mail those to the church office at any time!! *Thank you for your support.*

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Faith Formation



Our Faith Formation Program will begin in early September, and registration is now open.

This year, we are expanding our growing program from grades 1-7 to grades kindergarten - eight.

Our children will be formed to be faithful, compassionate, loving children of God in a meaningful, fun, profound & prayerful program.

Please join us as a volunteer.

We have various roles available and you will be proud of the difference that you make with the children.

Please see us in the back of Church after the Saturday 4pm and the Sunday 10am Mass for more details.



Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport will celebrate the **Annual Diocesan Wedding Jubilee Mass on Saturday, October 4th at 11:00 AM at the Cathedral of Saint Augustine** in Bridgeport.

Couples celebrating their 25th, 40th, 45th, 50th and more years of marriage are eligible to attend. All couples who are recognized at the Mass will receive a commemorative certificate in recognition of this important milestone in their married life in addition to pictures with the Bishop.

Sharon Colihan is coordinating the registration process for the Mass and is available to answer whatever questions you may have. She can be reached at Sharon.Colihan@diobpt.org or (203) 416-1454 and she will provide instructions on how to register.

Celebrating Father Hygi's 30th Priestly Anniversary

Join us for a special lunch honoring Father Hygi's
dedicated service, and contributions to our Parish
Community.

St Jerome Church

August 24, 2025, at
11:15 AM

Church Hall



**Please RSVP by emailing
Cathy at
office@stjeromenorwalk.org
or calling 203-847-5349.**

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Hyginus Agu -Administrator
frhyginus@stjeromenorwalk.org

Rev. David Blanchfield -Visiting Priest
Rev. Michael Hoag, SJ -Weekend Assistant

Parish Staff Office@stjeromenorwalk.org 203-
847-5349 Cathy Gallup - Administrative
Assistant Kathy Coyne - Funeral Coordinator
Marie Beaumonte - Bookkeeper

Music Ministry

office@stjeromenorwalk.org
Lori Pearson - Director of Music

Newsletter/Social Media

Communications@stjeromenorwalk.org
Cathy Gallup

Parish Council

Office@stjeromenorwalk.org
Steven Filizzola - Chairperson

Finance Council

office@stjeromenorwalk.org
Bill Sweeney - Chairperson

Sanctuary Candle

May be memorialized for a donation of \$25.
Please contact the office several months
prior to the desired week.

How to find us...

Office: office@stjeromenorwalk.org

Elementary Religious Ed:

faithformation@stjeromenorwalk.org

Middle School Faith Formation -

faithformation@stjeromenorwalk.org

Newsletter/Social Media/Website -

communications@stjeromenorwalk.org

203-847-5349
23 Half Mile Road
Norwalk, CT 06851

Mass Times

Weekday – Monday- Friday 9AM

Wednesday 8AM -

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction.

Weekend – Saturday 4pm

Sunday – 8AM & 10 AM

Holy Day of Obligation – 9AM and 7PM

Altar Flowers

May be memorialized for a donation of \$75.
Please contact the office several months
before desired weekend.

Religious Education

Faith Formation - Grades K-6

faithformation@stjeromenorwalk.org
Steven Filizzola - Program Director

Confirmation Prep Grades 7 & 8

faithformation@stjeromenorwalk.org

Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program

faithformation@stjeromenorwalk.org
Steven Filizzola - Program Director

All Saints Catholic School Pre K - Grade 8

203-847-3881

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139 West Rocks Road Norwalk, CT

Linda Dunn - Principal

OSV - Online Giving

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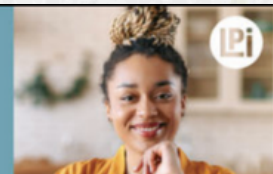
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