



St. Jerome Norwalk
August 23, 2026
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Schedule

Weekends

Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am & 10:00 am
(10:00 am live streamed)

Confessions

Saturday 3:00-3:30 pm

Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass
at 9:00 am every first Friday of the
month

Solemnity of the Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary at 9:00 am on
August 15th

Devotion Mass followed by Holy Rosary
at 9:00 am every first Saturday of the
month

Monday - Friday

9:00 am Mass
Confession available after 9 am
Mass and anytime upon
request

Mass of the Sick (Healing mass)
at
5:00 pm every last Tuesday of
the month

Wednesdays

8:00 am Adoration of
the Blessed Sacrament
and benediction

On Wednesday, August 26, Father Hygi marks the 31st anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. We invite our parishioners to remember Father Hygi in their prayers as he marks this important milestone in his priestly ministry.

Pastor's Desk

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today's Gospel gives us one of the most important questions Jesus ever asked His disciples: "Who do you say that I am?" Jesus first asks them, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" The disciples give different answers. Some people think Jesus is John the Baptist. Others think He is Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. But Jesus does not stop there. He brings the question closer to home: "But who do you say that I am?" This is not only a question for Peter. It is a question for every one of us sitting here today.

Who is Jesus for you? For some of us, Jesus is the person we call upon when we are in trouble. When someone is sick, we pray to Jesus. When we have financial difficulties, we pray to Jesus. When there is a problem in our family, we pray to Jesus. That is good. But Jesus wants something deeper. He does not want to be only the person we remember when we have a problem. He wants to be the Lord of our whole life. Peter answers Jesus: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Peter recognizes something that is greater than what the crowds understood. Jesus is not simply a good teacher. He is not simply another prophet. He is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. And Jesus tells Peter that this understanding did not come simply from human wisdom. It was revealed to him by the Father. My brothers and sisters, this teaches us something important about faith. Faith is not simply knowing many things about God. Faith is opening our hearts so that God can reveal Himself to us. Many of us have been Catholics for many years. We know the prayers. We know when to stand and when to sit at Mass. We know the Our Father and the Hail Mary. We know many traditions of our faith. But there is a difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus personally. We can know the prayers and still have a heart that is far from God. We can come to Mass every Sunday and still carry anger, resentment, jealousy, or unforgiveness in our hearts. Today Jesus invites us to go deeper. He asks, "Who do you say that I am?" Our answer should not only come from our lips. It should be seen in the way we live. If Jesus is truly the Son of God, then He should influence how we treat our husband or wife. He should influence how parents treat their children and how children treat their parents. He should influence how we speak about our neighbors. He should influence how we treat the poor, the elderly, the sick, and those who are struggling. He should influence the choices we make when nobody is watching. Jesus then says to Peter: "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church." What a beautiful message for us as a parish community. The Church is not just a building. The Church is not simply the priest. The Church is not only the people who work on parish committees or volunteer at parish events. We are the Church. Every person sitting here has a place in the life of the Church. Some serve by teaching children. Some help at Mass. Some visit the sick. Some provide food for those in need. Some quietly pray for other people. Some give their time. Some give financial support. Some simply encourage another person who is going through a difficult time. Not every ministry is visible. But every act of love matters to God. Perhaps someone may say, "Father, I am just an ordinary parishioner. What can I do?" The answer is: more than you think. A kind word can change someone's day. A phone call to a lonely person can give hope. Forgiving someone can heal a family. Welcoming a new person to our parish can help that person feel that they belong. Praying for someone who is suffering can be a great act of love. We do not have to do extraordinary things to follow Jesus. We need to do ordinary things with extraordinary love. Peter himself was not perfect. He would make mistakes. He would become afraid. Later, he would even deny Jesus. Yet Jesus still chose Peter. That should give every one of us hope. Sometimes we look at our own lives and think, "I have made too many mistakes. I am not holy enough. God cannot use me." But Jesus does not call perfect people. He calls ordinary people and helps them become faithful disciples.

That is the beauty of our faith. God knows our weaknesses, but He also sees what we can become through His grace. So, my dear brothers and sisters of St. Jerome Parish, let us take this Gospel seriously this week. When you go home, ask yourself quietly: "Who is Jesus in my life?" Is He only someone I come to church to see on Sunday? Or is He the One who guides my decisions every day? When I am angry, do I remember Jesus? When someone hurts me, do I remember Jesus? When I am tempted to gossip, do I remember Jesus? When I have an opportunity to help someone, do I remember Jesus? When life becomes difficult, do I trust Jesus? Our parish will become stronger not simply because we have more programs or activities. Our parish will become stronger when each one of us grows closer to Jesus Christ. If Christ is at the center of our hearts, He will also be at the center of our families. If Christ is at the center of our families, He will be at the center of our parish. And if Christ is at the center of our parish, we can become a place where people who are hurting can find hope, where strangers can find welcome, where sinners can find mercy, and where everyone can discover the love of God. Today, Jesus asks each one of us: "Who do you say that I am?" May our answer be the same as Peter's: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And may we not only say those words today. May we live them tomorrow, next week, and every day of our lives. May Jesus be our foundation, our strength, our hope, and our salvation. And may St. Jerome Parish always be a community where people can encounter Jesus Christ and experience His love. Amen.

God bless you

Fr. Hygi.

Mass Remembrances

This week we pray for the following...

Weekend of August 22 & 23 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

+Mary C. Sullivan requested by Maureen Faulkner

+Mary Ann and William Lockhart requested by Liz Lockhart

+Giuseppe Mercuri requested by Theresa, Neil and Angie Buono

+Jack Laracca (4th Annivarsary) requested by Granata Family

Monday, August 24

St Jerome Parishioners

Tuesday, August 25

+Diana Mesa requested by Daniella Norena-Mesa

Wednesday, August 26

St Jerome Parishioners

Thursday, August 27

+Frank and Olga Iossa requested by Family

Friday, August 28

Kim Kuppenheimer requested by Family

Weekend of August 29 & 30 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

+Joe O'Callaghan Sr. requested by Don Parks

+Eileen Kennedy requested by Brian Kennedy

+Maria Teresa Molano, +Achilles Molano & +Alicia Villaneva requested by Hobayan Family

**This week the Sanctuary Candle is offered in
Memory of
Mary C. Sullivan
requested by Maureen Faulkner.**



HOW ARE WE DOING?

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

2026

Week of August 16

In-Pew	\$2,945
Online - Our Sunday Visitor	\$3,553
Total Weekly Offertory	\$6,498
Budget	\$7,200.00

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.*

ONLINE GIVING
SUPPORTS
ST. JEROME



ST. JEROME CHURCH FESTIVAL & RAFFLE

Sunday, October 4, 2026 • 11AM - 2PM

FOOD, KIDS' GAMES & ENTERTAINMENT



RAFFLE - \$50 a ticket

Only 1,000 tickets will be sold.

First Prize \$ 5,000

Second Prize \$1,500

Eight Prizes of \$500 each

For tickets, go to stjeromenorwalk.org, Or call Parish office at 203-847-5349.

Or scan the QR code below with your phone.



Wedding Anniversary Blessing

Are you celebrating your 10th, 15th, 20th, 30th, or any higher wedding anniversary this year? If you would like to receive a special blessing from Fr. Hygi at the 4:00 p.m. Mass on October 3, please notify the Parish Office.



DIocese of BRIDGEPORT

Wedding Jubilee Mass

For all those married couples
celebrating their 25th, 40th, 45th or 50+ year anniversaries
are invited to gather at the Cathedral of Saint Augustine in Bridgeport

on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026**

at 11:00 am for a Mass celebrated by Bishop Caggiano

Registration is required.
Please contact Sharon Colihan at 203-416-1454

Donations for the Carver School Supply Drive: August 15 through September 6th.

Please place all donations on the metal rack in the Parish Hall.

Thank you for your support.



NORWALK HOSPITAL Make a Difference. Volunteer Today!

We're looking for compassionate volunteers to support our patients and community.

Current Opportunities

🚗 **Volunteer Transport (18+)** Help patients get to and from appointments and assist with discharge transportation using wheelchairs.

🧸 **Designs for Recovery** Have sewing skills? Join our at-home volunteer team and create teddy bears for patients. All materials and patterns are provided.
Interested?

Contact Jennifer Cebrian ☎ 203-852-2054 ✉ Jennifer.Cebrian@nuvancehealth.org

NEW DAY BEREAVEMENT PROGRAMS **FALL SESSION REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

St. Jerome Church Tuesday afternoons 2:00 – 3:30pm

September 15 – November 10

Church of the Assumption Wednesday afternoons 2:00 – 3:30pm

September 30 – December 2



Your loss may be recent or long ago.

We are here to help you on your journey to healing where you are invited to share your story, and to find comfort in a supportive, confidential environment.

God will support you in your sorrow, and He will walk with you as you begin your journey through loss to healing.

Meetings take place in a small-group confidential setting at:

St. Jerome Roman Catholic Church	Church of the Assumption
23 Half Mile Rd.	98 Riverside Ave.
Norwalk	Westport

Meetings are led by trained bereavement facilitators. There is no charge.

St. Jerome Church and Church of the Assumption are partnering with the Bereavement Initiative of the Fairfield County Catholic Cemeteries to offer this program. Please go to their website to submit a Program Inquiry Form or you can contact Carolyn Killian at 203-404-0023.

www.Thegrief.org

Once the form is submitted, you will hear from one of our bereavement ministers regarding the next steps.