



# **St. Jerome Norwalk**

## **August 24, 2025**

### **21st Sunday of Ordinary Time**

## **Mass Schedule**

### **Weekends**

**Saturday 4:00 PM**

**Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM (10 AM live streamed)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month  
9:00 AM Mass.  
Next Mass on September  
6th.**

### **Confessions**

**Saturday 3:00 - 3:30 PM**

### **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. Next mass on August 26th.**

### **Wednesday**

**8:00 AM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction**

**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](http://BishopAppeal.org), or call 203-416-1470  
with your phone or scan QR code*



**Date: 8/22/25 Goal: \$69,200 Pledged: \$71,395 Percentage Goal: 103%**



# Pastor's Desk

Brothers and sisters of St. Jerome Parish, Norwalk,

Today's Gospel, Luke 13:22–30, invites us to look honestly at our journey of faith and to fix our eyes on the fidelity of God who will not deny us if we walk in trust and truth. Jesus travels toward Jerusalem, teaching about the Kingdom, and He says to us: "Strive to enter through the narrow door." The door is narrow not because God is petty, but because salvation requires focus, conversion, and a life transformed by grace.

The reality of the narrow door

The image of the narrow door is not about legalism, but about choosing rightly, prioritizing God above all else. It is a call to persistence in faith, to generous love, and to conversion that bears fruit. Jesus presses this point with a sobering line: there will be those who say, "We ate and drank in your presence," and He will reply, "I do not know where you come from." Mere outward association with the Church or with religious routines is not enough; what matters is a heart surrendered to God's mercy and a life aligned with His will.

A universal invite, yet a demanding response

As Jesus teaches, people will come from the east and west, north and south, and will recline at the table in the Kingdom of God. The invitation to salvation is universal, not limited to a favored few. Yet this invitation comes with a demand: fidelity, repentance, and a perseverance in faith. The feast is prepared for those who endure, not for those who try the door half-heartedly and walk away when it becomes inconvenient.

The last and the first

Jesus ends with a startling paradox: "Behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last." This is not a trick of categorization, but a sobering reminder that appearances deceive. The world's measure of success—status, power, certainty of comfort—cannot determine God's verdict. What matters is alignment with God's will, humility before Him, and faith that clings to His mercy even when life is uncertain.

God's faithfulness: He will not deny you on the last day

This is the heart of our reflection: God will not deny those who trust Him, who seek Him with a sincere heart, and who cooperate with His grace. He does not keep a ledger to deny the penitent sinner but lavishes mercy on those who come to Him in truth. The last day is not a fearsome final exam if we daily live in the truth of Christ's redeeming work: we are forgiven, renewed, and called to persevere.

What this means for us, here and now

Cultivate a persevering faith: Set time for prayer, Scripture, and the sacraments. Seek to live each day in pact with God's will, not merely in conformity to appearances. Embrace conversion as a daily discipline: Acknowledge where you have fallen short, confess, receive mercy, and begin again with renewed zeal.

# Pastor's Desk

Practice hospitality to God's invitation: Be attentive to the ways God calls you—through the Word, through a moment of grace, through the needs of a neighbor. Extend the mercy you have received to others.

Trust in God's mercy: If you fear you are far from the door, remember that God's mercy is greater than your weakness. He longs to draw you close, to bring you to the feast, to assure you that you belong to Him if you cling to Him in faith.

Practical steps for St. Jerome Parish

Daily worship and silence: Begin and end each day with a simple prayer, opening your heart to God's invitation and asking for the grace to respond with faithfulness.

Eucharistic life: Let participation in the Eucharist strengthen your resolve to live in charity, truth, and integrity. Allow the Body and Blood of Christ to form you into a living temple for the Holy Spirit.

Confession as renewal: Do not fear the mercy of God made present in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession is not a barrier but a doorway to renewed communion with the Lord.

Love in action: Serve the poor, feed the hungry, comfort the grieving, welcome the stranger. The Kingdom is made visible where love is concrete and neighbor is treated with dignity.

A word of encouragement to you, the people of St. Jerome

You are a parish marked by history and faithfulness; you are a people who have witnessed mercy in little and large ways. The Gospel message today is a call to deepen that witness: to trust in the God who will not deny you on the last day if you keep your hands firmly in His, your heart open to His grace, and your life shaped by the law of love. Do not fear the narrow door, beloved; walk toward it with courage, supported by the community of faith that surrounds you, by the sacraments that feed you, and by the Holy Spirit who strengthens you.

Closing exhortation

Beloved brothers and sisters, the invitation is clear: enter through the narrow door by faith, repentance, and perseverance. The last day will reveal not what we imagined, but what we chose to become—disciples who trusted in the fidelity of God, who would not deny us if we remained faithful to Him. Let us, as a parish, renew our commitment: to seek first the Kingdom, to love as Christ loves, and to trust that He who began a good work in us will bring it to completion on the day of Christ Jesus.

God bless

Fr. Hygi



# **Mass Remembrances**

*This week we pray for the following...*

**Weekend of August 23 & 24** 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

**Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> William Bullard**

**Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> Olga Iossa**

**Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> Michael Bonacci**

**Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup> Modestino Mazzucco**

**Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup> Kathleen Meenan**

**Weekend of August 30 & 31** 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Eileen Kennedy; Babe and Kay Ferris; Luciana Buono; Teresita Padilla Escoto**

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# HOW ARE WE DOING?

## WEEKLY OFFERTORY

2025

Week of August 17

In-Pew	\$3,052
Online - Our Sunday Visitor	\$3,297
Total Weekly Offertory	<hr/> \$6,349 <hr/>
<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](http://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



**Registration for our Faith Formation program is now open on-line.**

This year, our program will cover grades Kindergarten - 12, and will include an OCIA program from adults who would like to receive their sacraments.

Classes begin on September 7th.

Thank you to all of our members of our 100% volunteer Faith Formation team.

This year, we have over 25 team members, including 8 youth and 10 new adults.

Together, this inspired team will make a meaningful difference in the lives of our children as we mentor, teach, and form them to be Compassionate, Faithful, Joyful Christians.





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

**Couples celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@stjeromenorwalk.org)  
or calling 203-847-5349.**



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### **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

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### **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

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### **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.

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### **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

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### **All Saints Catholic School Pre K - Grade 8**

203-847-3881

www.allsaintsnorwalk.com

139 West Rocks Road Norwalk, CT

Linda Dunn - Principal

### **OSV - Online Giving**

Visit our website

www.stjeromenorwalk.org  
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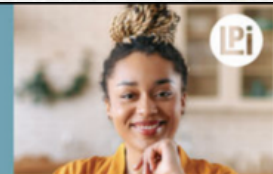
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