



St. Jerome Norwalk
July 12, 2026
15th Sunday of 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

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

To make a donation for the 2026 Bishop Appeal please visit

www.2026BishopsAppeal.org

or call 203-416-1470 with your phone or scan QR code

Goal: \$69,200 Pledged: \$69,200



Pastor's Desk

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Have you ever planted something in your garden or in a flowerpot and wondered why it never grew? You bought good seeds. You watered them. You gave them sunlight. Then you realized the problem was not the seed—it was the soil. That is exactly what Jesus wants us to understand today. The first reading from Isaiah gives us a wonderful assurance. God says that His Word is like the rain and snow that fall upon the earth. They never return without making the earth fruitful. In the same way, God's Word is always effective. It has the power to heal, forgive, strengthen, and transform. If God's Word is not changing my life, it is not because the Word has lost its power. It is because something in my heart is preventing it from taking root.

Jesus describes four kinds of soil, and if we are honest, we have probably been all four at different times in our lives. Sometimes our hearts become like the path—hard and closed. We hear the Scriptures every Sunday. We know the prayers by heart. Yet nothing changes. We have become comfortable hearing the Gospel without allowing it to question us. Pride hardens the heart. Bitterness hardens the heart. Refusing to forgive hardens the heart.

Then there is the rocky ground. These are the people who gladly receive God's Word until it costs them something. It is easy to follow Christ when life is peaceful. But what happens when illness comes? When marriage becomes difficult? When our children disappoint us? When we are asked to forgive someone who deeply hurt us? Too often our faith disappears because it never developed deep roots. Then Jesus speaks about the thorns. This may be the greatest challenge for many of us today. The thorns are not always bad things. They are the worries of life, the desire for more possessions, endless busyness, constant entertainment, and the distractions that slowly crowd God out of our lives. We say we are too busy to pray, but we can spend hours scrolling on our phones.

We say we cannot come to weekday Mass because we have no time, yet we easily make time for shopping, television, sports, or social media. We say family is our priority, yet we often give our families what is left after work and everything else.

The danger is not that we reject God outright. The danger is that we become so distracted that we simply leave no room for Him. Finally, Jesus speaks of the good soil. Notice that good soil is not perfect soil. It is soil that is open, humble, and willing to receive the seed. Good soil allows itself to be broken open so that life can grow. That is what conversion means. It means allowing God to change us instead of asking Him to bless us while we remain the same.

Every Sunday God scatters His seed generously. He does not ask whether we deserve it. He simply keeps sowing. That is His mercy. But He also respects our freedom. He will not force His Word into a closed heart. So today each of us should ask: Which soil am I? Is my heart hardened by resentment? Are there rocks of hidden sin that prevent deeper faith? Have the thorns of money, anxiety, comfort, or constant distractions taken over my spiritual life? Or am I becoming the good soil where Christ can truly live?

The beautiful promise from Isaiah is still true today. God's Word never returns empty. If we open our hearts, it will accomplish what God intends. It will make us more forgiving, more generous, more faithful husbands and wives, better parents and grandparents, more compassionate neighbors, and more joyful disciples. When we come forward in a few moments to receive the Eucharist, let us not only receive Christ into our hands. Let us receive Him into our hearts.

Amen

God bless

Fr. Hygi.

Mass Remembrances

This week we pray for the following...

Weekend of July 11 & 12 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time

- +Eileen Kennedy requested by Brian Kennedy
- + Rosalind Serna requested by Tricia Giglio
- +Grace DeMilo requested by Theresa and Neil Buono
- +Sam, Sue, Rose Testa requested by Testa Family

Monday, July 13

- + Iwona Lewonczuk requested by Krystyna Cielez

Tuesday, July 14

- + Giovanni Casale requested by the family

Wednesday, July 15

Parishioners of St. Jerome

Thursday, July 16

- + Sahara and Teodosio Lopez requested by July Mendoza

Friday, July 17

Parishioners of St. Jerome

Weekend of July 18 & 19 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

- +Ann & Wally Regan requested by Vento Family
- +Umberto and Teresina Librandi requested by Cathy Librandi
- +Mary and Tom Oess requested by Barbara Bagnato
- +Reynaldo Santos requested by Helen Santos
- +Joe O'Callaghan Sr. requested by Florence Loch

HOW ARE WE DOING?

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

2026

Week of July 5

In-Pew	\$2,989
Online - Our Sunday Visitor	\$1,926
Total Weekly Offertory	<u>\$4,915</u>
<i>Budget</i>	<i>\$7,050.00</i>

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

**Second Collection on July 18th and July 19th
Co-Operative Mission Sunday**

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



Tabernacle Candle For Loved One

Tabernacle Candle Memorial Offering

This is a special opportunity to remember and honor a loved one by sponsoring the lighting of our Tabernacle Candle. The offering is \$25, and the candle burns for seven days, beginning and ending on Saturday.



The name of your loved one, along with the requesting individual or family, will appear in the bulletin as follows: "The Tabernacle candle burning in the Sanctuary of the church this week is in memory of [Name], as requested by [Individual or Family Name]." If you'd like to reserve a week or need more information, please send email to office@stjeromenorwalk.org or call at 203-847-5349.

Votive Candle Offerings

Votive candles on our candle racks may be lit for your loved ones. The offering is \$2 for small votives and \$5 for large votives. Lighting a votive candle is a simple and meaningful way to hold someone in prayer throughout the day.

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport will celebrate the **Annual Diocesan Wedding Jubilee Mass on Saturday, October 3, 2026 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.

🎵 **JOIN OUR CHOIR!** 🎵

DO YOU LOVE TO SING OR PLAY AN INSTRUMENT? OUR ADULT CHOIR IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!

WHETHER YOU'RE AN EXPERIENCED MUSICIAN OR SIMPLY ENJOY SHARING YOUR TALENTS, WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US.

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF INTERESTED.



**Mass at 9AM
Rosary after Mass
Confessions at 3 PM**

First Saturday

Devotion

Join us

Earthquakes Devastate Venezuela

Help Families Today!

On June 24, 2026, two powerful earthquakes struck northern Venezuela just seconds apart, causing widespread destruction across Caracas and surrounding states. The twin earthquakes—the strongest to strike the South American country in decades—flattened buildings, damaged roads and left families searching for safety. Within the first 12 hours, more than 160 deaths were reported, nearly 1,000 people were injured, and thousands of families were displaced. These numbers are sure to rise as the full extent of the damage becomes clearer. As aftershocks continued, the president

declared a state of emergency, schools and non-essential services were suspended, and Caracas' airport was temporarily closed after sustaining heavy damage.

As search and rescue efforts continue, Catholic parishes in Venezuela have opened their doors to shelter displaced families and provide emergency assistance. Through its longstanding partnership with Caritas Venezuela, CRS is supporting rapid assessments and preparing to deploy additional humanitarian workers to expand lifesaving relief for people who have lost homes, livelihoods and a sense of security.

How to Help



Donate online: crs.org/donate/venezuela-earthquake



Donate by scanning the QR code:



Donate by phone:
1-877-HELP-CRS



Donate by check:
CRS/Venezuela Earthquakes
P.O. Box 5278, Tipton, IA 52772-0517

Emergency Relief Priorities

The earthquakes have intensified humanitarian needs in a country already facing one of the region's worst humanitarian crises. An estimated 7.9 million people were already in need of assistance due to years of economic crisis, food insecurity and weakened public services.



Experience Camps offers free one-week summer camps for kids and teens who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, or primary caregiver. This year's camp will take place August 18–23, 2026, at KenMont and KenWood Camp in Connecticut.

Each of the 16 cabins (8 girls and 8 boys) receives a Self-Care “Bunk Bag” filled with items the campers can use and share throughout the week. The St. Jerome Social Concerns Committee would like to support these campers by helping provide supplies for these bags. If you would like to participate, please bring your donation to the metal rack in the church hallway, located across from the stairway to the office. We are collecting: coloring books, puzzle books, sudoku books, Word search books, activity books (for boys and girls), crayons, colored markers and colored pencils. Our goal is to gather at least two of each type of item for all 16 bags. The collection for Experience Campers will run from June 27 through July 19, 2026. Thank you for helping brighten this meaningful week for these young campers.

The Social Concerns Committee is creating a list of local, reliable businesses that may be able to assist parishioners who need help with home repairs or other household needs. We are also gathering names of volunteers who would be willing to drive fellow parishioners to medical appointments or shopping trips. If you are interested in being included on either list, please contact the Parish Office and leave a message.

If any parishioner is in need of food please reach out to the Parish Office for assistance.