



**St. Jerome Norwalk**  
**October 26, 2025**  
**The 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in 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 November 1st**

**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**  
**5PM on the last Tuesday of every**  
**month. Next mass on Oct. 28th**

**Wednesdays**

**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**

All Souls Mass  
Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>  
8 AM and 10AM

# Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today's Gospel invites us into a quiet, intimate moment with God, a moment that reveals the deepest attitudes of the heart. In Luke 18:9–14, Jesus tells the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. Two men go up to the temple to pray, but their prayers rise to heaven from two utterly different places: the Pharisee's self-assured posture and the tax collector's contrite heart. As we gather as a community, let us open our hearts to the Spirit's gentle invitation: to approach God not with a show of piety to impress others, but with honesty, humility, and a childlike trust that God alone is merciful. This parable challenges us to examine our own approach to prayer and to life before God.

Attitude of Approach: How we Come to God in Prayer:

1) Humility over Self-Attention: The Pharisee's prayer makes much of himself: "I thank you, God, that I am not like others." His righteousness is a performance designed to garner approval. The tax collector's prayer is simple and honest: "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." He does not present a polished resume; he presents need. Our prayer is most authentic when we recognize our dependence on God's mercy. Humility is not humiliation but honest assessment before a loving Father.

2) Truth over Calculation: The Pharisee counts his good deeds and his abstinence; he measures his status by comparison. The tax collector does not compare himself to others; he compares himself to the holiness of God and recognizes a chasm he cannot cross on his own. In prayer, truth sets us free. Name your needs, your fears, your failures, and your gratitude. God already knows them but naming them opens our hearts to grace.

3) Interior Relational Focus: The Pharisee prays to display piety, but not in relation to God; it's a conversation with self and others' opinions. The tax collector prays to God, in relationship with a Father who longs to be merciful. His focus is communion, not conquest. Prayer is a dialogue of love. Approach God as a beloved child who trusts the Father's mercy more than the world's judgment.

4) Dependence on Mercy: The core of the parable is mercy: who receives mercy is grounded in the posture of the heart. The tax collector's appeal is entirely dependent on God's mercy; he does not claim justification on his own terms. We too come to God expecting mercy, knowing we do not merit salvation by our own efforts. We receive grace as a gift.

5) Practice in Everyday Life: Sunday liturgy is the summit of our worship, but the school of prayer is every moment: family conversations, work, service, and repentance. Let our daily routines become opportunities to return to the Father, to acknowledge our need, to forgive others, and to be forgiven.

Practical Ways to Live the Message: Begin and end each day with a short act of humility: acknowledge one way you failed today and ask for God's mercy. In prayer, resist the urge to "perform." Close your eyes, open your heart, and simply say, "God, I am listening; I am yours." When praying with others, avoid self-promotion. Let your prayers be focused on God's will and the needs of others.

Cultivate gratitude. Name two things you are grateful for each day, recognizing that all gifts come from our gracious Father. Practice reconciliation. If there is a broken relationship, take a small step toward healing, mirroring the mercy we receive. Loving Father, you welcome all who come to you with honesty and humility. Help us to lay aside the masks of perfection and to approach you as your beloved sons and daughters. May our prayers be sincere, our hearts contrite, and our lives transformed by your mercy. Teach us to imitate the tax collector's trust in your mercy and to grow in humility, charity, and faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God bless  
Fr. Hygi.

# SAVE THE DATE

## SPECIAL INVITATION



ST. JEROME CATHOLIC CHURCH

Invites you to the

*Installation Mass*

OF THEIR PASTOR

**REV. HYGINUS  
N. AGU**

By His Excellency,  
**MOST REV. FRANK CAGGIANO**  
Bishop of Bridgeport

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**Date: Dec. 14th 2025. Time: 10AM.**  
@ St. Jerome Catholic Church 23 Half Mile Rd.

# **Mass Remembrances**

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

**Weekend of October 25 & 26** 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Ann & Wally Regan; Anna Vona; Mary Chuba; In honor of Andrew Pearson; Mary DiMeglio; and Albert Bruno**

**Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> - In honor of Lucy Allocca**

**Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> - Parishioners of St. Jerome**

**Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> - James Muro**

**Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> - Vito Roca**

**Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> - Parishioners of St. Jerome**

**Weekend of November 1 & 2** The Commemoration of All The Faithful Departed

**Joseph Mastrianna; Anna Pesce; Francesco DiConstanzo; Mary DiMeglio and Albert Bruno**

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# HOW ARE WE DOING?

## WEEKLY OFFERTORY

2025

Week of October 19

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| In-Pew                      | \$3,821           |
| Online - Our Sunday Visitor | \$2,078           |
| Total Weekly Offertory      | <u>\$5,898</u>    |
| <i>Budget</i>               | <i>\$6,925.00</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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# UPDATES

Our Youth Leadership & Mentorship Compassion Mission for this month was in support of the "Make-a-Wish" foundation. Our Youth Leader, Kylie Barrera, led our faith formation children to raise funds by making and selling wooden crosses. Lot's of wood and glue, but it was worth it...our Youth & Children raised over \$500!

This profound foundation makes wishes come true for critically ill children, and now the parish of Saint Jerome's is a passionate sponsor! Thank you, Kylie & children!

Our next Youth Leadership & Mentorship Compassion Mission (this November) will be to support the Fisher House, which helps the families of sick and wounded veterans right here in Connecticut.



## FAITH FORMATION & CONFIRMATION PREP SESSIONS

| OCTOBER       | FAITH FORMATION: GRADES 1-6                   | OCTOBER       | CONFIRMATION FORMATION & YOUTH GROUP                            |
|---------------|---|---------------|---|
| Sunday, 10/19 | Saint Jerome Faith Formation Session (9-11am) | Sunday, 10/19 | Grades 7-8: Saint Jerome - Confirmation Formation (9am to 11am) |
| Sunday, 10/26 | Saint Jerome Faith Formation Session (9-11am) | Sunday, 10/26 | Grades 7-8: Saint Jerome - Confirmation Formation (9am to 11am) |
|               |   |               |   |
| NOVEMBER      | FAITH FORMATION: GRADES 1-6                   | NOVEMBER      | CONFIRMATION FORMATION & YOUTH GROUP                            |
| Sunday, 11/2  | Saint Jerome Faith Formation Session (9-11am) | Sunday, 11/2  | Grade 7: All Saints (3pm to 5:15pm)                             |
| Sunday, 11/2  | Grade 6 All Saints Session (3pm - 5:15pm)     | Tuesday, 11/4 | Grade 8: Saint Philip - Confirmation Prep (6:30-8pm)            |
| Sunday, 11/9  | Saint Jerome Faith Formation Session (9-11am) | Sunday, 11/9  | Grades 7-8: Saint Jerome - Confirmation Formation (9am to 11am) |
| Sunday, 11/16 | Saint Jerome Faith Formation Session (9-11am) | Sunday, 11/16 | Grades 7-8: Saint Jerome - Confirmation Formation (9am to 11am) |
| Sunday, 11/23 | Saint Jerome Faith Formation Session (9-11am) | Sunday, 11/23 | Grades 7-8: Saint Jerome - Confirmation Formation (9am to 11am) |
| Sunday, 11/30 | No Session - All Grades                       | Sunday, 11/30 | All Grades: No Session  |

# MEETING

The Social Concerns Committee next meeting is on Monday, October 27th at 6:30 PM. Emily Crosby from Experience Camps CT will come to speak about this special organization that provides a free, one-week summer camp for children and teens who have experienced the loss of a parent, sibling, or primary caregiver to help them navigate their grief. The committee wants to raise awareness about the mission of Experience Camps and explore ways our parish community can support their work. All interested parishioners and anyone who would like to learn more are warmly encouraged to attend.

The Food Pantries at Person To Person & Open Doors are in need of items to distribute to their clients. If you want to help people in need in Norwalk, you can leave items in the boxes in the church hallway beginning October 18 - October 27. Suggested items are canned beans, tuna, chicken, canned soups, rice and cereal. Thanks for your help.



**TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NORWALK**

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY BANK**

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**CLOTHES FOR KIDS FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**AND**

**OPEN DOORS NORWALK**

**ITEMS CAN BE PLACED IN ST. JEROME'S CHURCH HALLWAY MARKED BOXES**

Thank you to Steven Filizziola, Jean Pagliuca, Gina Granata, and Florence Loch for your dedication and service with the Christian Art Sale and Fellowship Breakfast.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to all our parishioners for their enthusiastic participation and support.



# Wreath Order form

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Or mail to: St. Jerome Church 23 Half Mile Road Norwalk, CT 06851.

You can also order on line by using the QR code above or visiting <https://osvhub.com/stjeromenorwalk/forms/wreath-fundraiser-1>.

**Orders due by November 2 for pre thanksgiving delivery.**

We appreciate your support!



**Please support those that support us!!!**

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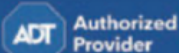
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