

# Our Lady of Fatima Church

*"WE ARE A WELCOMING COMMUNITY"*

229 Danbury Road  
Wilton, Connecticut 06897



**REV. MICHAEL C. PALMER**  
PASTOR

Rev. James C. Vattakunnel, VC  
Assistant Pastor

Thomas J. McManus  
Deacon  
Financial Council Chairman 762-7142

Sister Mary Jane Card  
Ministry to the Elderly 761-9879

Mrs. Kathleen Rooney  
Director of Religious Education

Miss Sharon E. Lynn  
Director of Youth Activities

Mr. Clay Zambo  
Music Director and Organist 847-4987  
czambo@mac.com

Mrs. Mary Bozzuti - Higgins  
Adult Choir 563-9697

Mrs. Betsy McGowan  
Children's Choir Director 856-6459

Paul Niche, Grand Knight  
Knights of Columbus 203-650-6394  
pمنية@optonline.net



## **MASSES:**

Daily: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:00 AM  
Tuesday and Thursday 7:45 AM  
Saturday 8:00 AM and 5:30 PM  
(5:30 for Sunday Obligation)  
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, and 12:00 Noon  
Holy Day: 5:30 PM (Eve of Holy Day)  
7:00, 9:00, Noon, 8:00

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:** Saturday 4:00-5:00 plus 5:00 PM on Eve of Holy Day

**BAPTISMS:** Arrangements for Baptism can be made at the Rectory

**MARRIAGES:** Arrangements must be made at least eight months in advance. However we encourage they be made one year in advance.

**SICK AND HOMEBOUND:** Please notify the Rectory if anyone in your home is seriously sick or homebound.

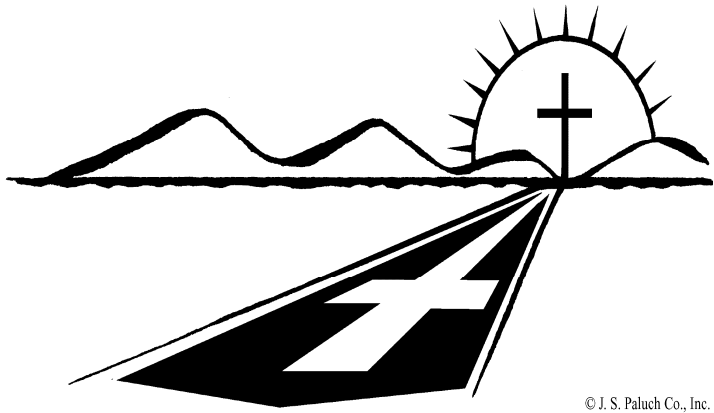
**PARISH REGISTRATION:** All families or individuals who have moved into the parish should register by filling out the registration card available at the church doors.

Rectory  
762-3928  
[www.olfwilton.org](http://www.olfwilton.org)

Church Fax  
834-1261

Religious Education  
762-9080  
[www.olfreligioused.org](http://www.olfreligioused.org)

School  
762-8100  
[www.olfcatholic.org](http://www.olfcatholic.org)



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## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 21, 2010

*I consider everything as a loss  
because of the supreme good of knowing  
Christ Jesus my Lord.*

— *Philippians 3:8*

### MASSSES for the WEEK

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Sat. 20 <sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m.	Dominic Gurliacci	Thu. 25 <sup>th</sup> 7:45 a.m.	Michael & Evelyn Musterson
Sun. 21 <sup>st</sup> 7:30 a.m.	Deceased Members of Farrugia & Vassallo Families	Thu. 25 <sup>th</sup> Noon	William Dawley
Sun. 21 <sup>st</sup> 9:00 a.m.	James Boyle	Fri. 26 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.	Joseph Williams
Sun. 21 <sup>st</sup> 10:30 a.m.	Margaret Gillen	Sat. 27 <sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m.	Esther DePada
Sun. 21 <sup>st</sup> Noon	All Parishioners Living & Deceased	Sat. 27 <sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m.	Thomas James Card
Mon. 22 <sup>nd</sup> 9:00 a.m.	Lillian Suchy	Sun. 28 <sup>th</sup> 7:30 a.m.	George & Ruby Davala
Mon. 22 <sup>nd</sup> 5:15 p.m.	Harry Ricca	Sun. 28 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.	All Parishioners Living & Deceased
Tue. 23 <sup>rd</sup> 7:45 a.m.	Leopold Lebel	Sun. 28 <sup>th</sup> 10:30 a.m.	Raffaele & Micolina Laracca & Maria Durso
Tue. 23 <sup>rd</sup> Noon	Adele C. Giordano	Sun. 28 <sup>th</sup> Noon	Helen & Stephen Hojnacki and Ray Mis
Wed. 24 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.	Marjorie Dunn Houngringer		

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**PLEASE PRAY** for the happy repose of the soul of parishioner **Jerry Morin**, husband of Lucy Morin. May Jesus, our Lord and Savior, grant him eternal rest and joy .

**WE ARE HAPPY TO WELCOME** Benjamin Robert Cannavino, Bridget Sophia Chase, Ian Quinn Chase and Ella Kate Lamprey baptized into the new community of the church and to a new loving relationship with Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION** last weekend was \$9,558. Last year's comparable weekend was \$12,975. Thank you for your generosity.

**LAST WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION** for the Catholic Relief Services Collection totaled \$1,640. Because of you, millions of people all over the world will receive vital assistance. You have truly given hope to Jesus in disguise. Please visit [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections) to learn more about the programs and projects supported by The Catholic Relief Services Collection.

**IF YOU ARE AN ELECTRONIC DONOR OR WOULD LIKE TO BE**, and have not yet turned in your 2010 forms, please return them to the Parish Office as soon as possible. If you misplaced your forms, or would like to sign up to become an electronic donor, you may pick up forms in the Parish Office during regular business hours, or download the forms from our website — [www.olfwilton.org](http://www.olfwilton.org). Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

## PARISH NEWS

**FAST AND ABSTINENCE:** Catholics over the age of 14 years are required to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and every Friday during Lent. All Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are required by Church law to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Only one full meal is permitted to persons in this age group on those two days, plus two lighter meals. In the case of children under the age of 14, the Church recommends that parents encourage them to perform some kind of voluntary penance suitable for their age.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND BENEDICTION** will be held on the Fridays of Lent at 8 p.m. All families and parishioners are invited to participate in this longtime Lenten devotion.

**I WAS HUNGRY, LOAVES AND FISHES:** This Lenten collection is a program to feed the hungry in our Diocese. Your spirit has been generous in the past and much appreciated by those who benefit from it. The envelopes marked "I WAS HUNGRY" are included in your set of monthly envelopes. They are also available at the Church doors.

### LENTEEN WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

**Monday: 9 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.**

**Tuesday: 7:45 and Noon**

**Wednesday: 9 a.m.**

**Thursday: 7:45 a.m. and Noon**

**Friday: 9 a.m.**

**Saturday: 8 a.m.**

**LENTEEN CONFESSION CAMPAIGN** Confessions are being heard here at Our Lady of Fatima (as well as all the other parishes in our Diocese) on every Tuesday during Lent from 7-9 p.m. Take advantage of this special opportunity to receive this healing sacrament.

**LENTEEN COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE** will be held on Tuesday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m. This communal form of penance helps us to point out our common need for God's forgiveness. While each of us has sinned, our joining together for this sacrament through scripture,

prayer and song reminds us that penance looks beyond the sinful past to the growth and healing that God offers us as His people. This service involves all the basic steps in going to Confession: Examination of Conscience, Act of Contrition, Individual Confession and Absolution from a Priest; and the Acceptance of Penance to do satisfaction for our sins. There will be four priests available to hear confessions.

**THE 2010 ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL: "LIVING OUR FAITH" HAS BEGUN** and so far, 161 parishioners have donated \$59,495. Our parish goal is \$230,000 so we have a long way to go and could really use everyone's help! Please support this important appeal which serves so many needy people through Catholic Charities, and also helps to support our Catholic Schools, Parish Life & Ministries, vocations & seminarians and many other organizations and ministries. Envelopes have been mailed to our registered parishioners within the letters from Bishop Lori & Father Palmer. **Envelopes are also available at the Church doors.** For more information, please visit [www.bridgeportdiocese.com/aba](http://www.bridgeportdiocese.com/aba). Thank you for your support.



**EASTER FLOWERS** The Easter Flower offering is a way to memorialize your deceased loved ones. Envelopes for this are in your March packet or can be found in the back of the Church. This list will be an addition to the Easter Sunday Church bulletin. Please return your envelopes to the Parish Office by **this Friday, March 26.**

**OLF MENS MINISTRY** gathers each Saturday morning beginning with coffee and bagels at 6:30 a.m. in the Parish Center. A chosen discussion topic within a prayerful setting helps us to share our lives as Catholic men with a good dose of humor. The deepening of our spiritual lives has been the rewarding result for the many men who have taken part. In this season of Lent, do something for yourself, your family and other men who share this ministry. Come — you WILL be spiritually nourished. There are no additional obligations. Just put us on your schedule and come when you can!

**DRIVERS NEEDED:** OLF volunteers transport daily food donations from local stores (The Village Market, Stop & Shop, Michelina's, Borders and Starbucks) to the Manna House Soup Kitchen in South Norwalk. Pick-up time is after 10 a.m. We are currently in need of volunteers who can make deliveries on a regular or substitute basis, especially during the summer months. For more information about participating in this rewarding ministry, please call Sharon Steinberg at (203)834-0581.

**M.O.M.'s—MEETING OTHER MOMS:** Please join us this **Thursday, March 25, 2010** from 10:00–11:30 a.m. in the Parish Center for a craft, a snack,

songs and free play. New moms and children (ages newborn to 5) are always welcome. For more information please call Mary Jones at 761-6687 or Martina Kahn at 210-7059.

**PLEASE PRAY** for all our service men and women who are protecting our freedom, and especially **Jake Hutchings, Matthew Smarella and Nate Snaric**. If you have a loved one serving overseas, or know of someone who is, call the Parish Office with their names.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**AFTERNOON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES FOR GRADE ONE THROUGH FIVE** conclude on April 14. Sunday Religious Education classes conclude on April 11. On that date, seventh and eighth graders will take their final exam and dismissal will be at 9:30 A.M. for the morning students and 6:15 P.M. for the evening students. Please note that sixth graders will also be dismissed at these times.

**REMINDER TO PARENTS OF FIRST EUCHARIST STUDENTS:** The children's First Eucharist books will be checked on March 29, 30, and 31 during Religious Education classes. The children will also be asked the questions that were stapled to their books.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** will be held from June 21 to June 25. Registration forms are available in the Parish Office, in the Religious Education Office, or by e-mailing us at [angels229@aol.com](mailto:angels229@aol.com). Sign up now! Cost for the week is \$100 for one child, \$150 for two, and \$225 for three or more children in the same family. This is a fun week which includes music, lessons, arts and crafts and recreation/snacks. Our theme for the week is "The Miracles of Jesus." Children will learn one miracle each day and see how Jesus helped others through his kindness. For more information, please call the Religious Education Office at 203-762-9080.

**ADULT AND TEEN VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** for Vacation Bible School. If you can help us Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon, during the week of June 21, please call Kathleen Rooney or Tracy O'Dea in the Religious Education office (203-7562-9080). Confirmation candidates may use this for service hours!

**ARE YOU A PRACTICING CATHOLIC OVER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN** who has not received the sacrament of Confirmation? On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, at 3:30 P.M., the diocesan celebration of Confirmation for Adults will be celebrated at St. Augustine Cathedral, Bridgeport. Diocesan refresher classes to prepare you for the sacrament of Confirmation are offered on seven dates from April 8 to May 18, from 7-9 P.M. at St. Luke parish in Westport. The cost for the program is \$50. If you require further information, please contact Gina

Donnarummo at the Diocesan Office for Pastoral Services at 203-416-1446 or e-mail at [gdonnarummo@diobpt.org](mailto:gdonnarummo@diobpt.org). These classes are also offered as refresher courses to anyone in the diocese as well.

**RCIA** is for non-Catholic adults who are seeking answers to their questions about the Catholic religion. Please invite someone you know to call one of our priests (762-3928) or Kathleen Rooney (762-9080) to learn more about this process which involves faith-sharing, reflection on Scripture from the Sunday liturgy, and instruction in Catholic beliefs. Gatherings are at the convenience of the participants, so do not hesitate to make that phone call for more information!

**IF THERE IS AN EMPTY SPOT IN YOUR HEART OR SOUL** because of being away from Mass and the sacraments, why not come back to the Table of the Lord with fellow parishioners? Be renewed and filled with the hope, joy, and peace of our faith. It only takes a call to one of our priests at 762-3928 to get you---or someone you know---on the road to active participation in the Catholic Church. We're not whole without you.

**HOME SCHOOL REMINDERS:** Study Guides for home school students are included in the "yellow" handbook that you received at Registration. 7th & 8th home school students will be taking Test 2 on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at either 8:45 am or 5:30 pm. 4th - 6th grade home school students will be taking Test 2 on either Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am or on Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 pm. All tests will be given at OLF School. 3rd grade home school children should pick up Test 2 in the Religious Ed office on or before the March 28<sup>th</sup> as it must be returned to the office by April 6<sup>th</sup>. *Students should remember to bring their text books on the test dates as they will be checked for completion.*

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**2010 SUMMER MISSION OUTREACH TRIP** to the St. Patrick's Foundation in Kingston, Jamaica. From Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, the high school youth group will travel to Jamaica to work in the mission centers & at St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital helping the needy, poor, & abandoned elderly. Cost for the trip is \$1,250. Applications are now available in the Religious Education office. (note: submission of application does not automatically guarantee a spot on the mission trip.)

**ANNUAL OLF EASTER EGG HUNT!** Sponsored by the OLF Junior Youth Group, Peter Cottontail himself will be on the OLF playground on Holy Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, hopping around on Easter Egg Hunts at 10:00 am sharp with children from age 2 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Bring your own basket. Take a chance on a beautifully-decorated, delicious-tasting Easter cake by Katie Wilbur. The

cost is \$5 per child or \$10 per family. Coffee, water, & munchkins will be served. Advance reservations can be made by calling the Religious Ed. office at 762-9080.

Any Junior Youth Groupers (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> graders) interested in helping with the Easter Egg Hunt on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, should contact Sharon Lynn at 762-9080 or at OLFYouthGroup@aol.com. (Space to help is limited)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SATURDAY, MAY 22<sup>nd</sup>** as OLF Youth Ministry is sponsoring the adult Lobsterbake at 6:30 pm in the OLF School Gym. Details will be forthcoming. Remember OLF is where it's at on May 22<sup>nd</sup>!

**BLAST NIGHTS** (**B**ig **L**oud **A**wesome **S**piritual **T**hing) are coming back for high school teens. The next BLAST will be held on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 – 8:45 pm in the OLF Parish Center. Come grow in your own spiritual faith journey at these amazing meetings.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011** will be held in Madrid, Spain. Join teens & young adults (16 years & older) from our Diocese for this incredible pilgrimage to see Pope Benedict XVI. This Diocese sponsored trip will be held from August 10-23, 2011 that includes a pre-WYD tour to Fatima, Portugal & Santiago de Compostela in Spain. In Madrid, you'll be on a spiritual journey with other pilgrims from all over the world. Cost is approx. \$3,600. For further details, contact Sharon Lynn in the Religious Education office.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

**THE CAROLINE HOUSE** is holding its annual Martini and Mingle benefit at Brooklawn Country Club on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Part of the festivities includes an opportunity to win a pair of Diamond earrings from Altan Jewelers! Come join us for an evening of retro 60's fun as we celebrate 15 years of Caroline House's service to the inner city poor. Founded by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Caroline House educates low income immigrant women and children providing literacy and life skills on the East side of Bridgeport. Since opening our doors we have helped over 1000 women and children. Tickets are \$125 per person. For tickets or further information please contact Mary Ellen Gavin, Development Director at 203-334-0640 or mgavin@thecarolinehouse.org or visit www.thecarolinehouse.org.

## WHEN A STONE BECOMES A BOULDER

*The story of the woman caught in adultery is one of the most dramatic in the New Testament—one man standing up against a crowd, between them a woman they want to stone. The power of Jesus' words transforms the stones they have raised. Literally, these words save a life.*

### INSIDE THE READINGS

The Gospel passage for today is the story of the woman caught in the act of adultery. In this passage we learn that people are never to be made the pawns of larger disputes. The Pharisees have such a dispute with Jesus. They say that the only ones who have been deceived by Jesus are the crowd "which does not know the law" and which is "accursed" (John 7:49).

In today's passage the scribes and the Pharisees bring a woman caught in adultery to Jesus and make "her stand in the middle" of the crowd that is listening to him (8:2-3). There they accuse her before everyone. Their purpose is to test Jesus. They tell him that the Law says that this woman should be stoned, and then ask him what he says about this (8:4-5). They make the woman a pawn in their attempt to prove that Jesus should be arrested. They show no concern for her plight; she is not only in danger of death but becomes the object of public scorn.

Jesus bends over and does not look at her, though (8:6). He does not subject her to his glance at a time when she is suffering the profound humiliation of being a public spectacle. What he does is advocate for her a broader mercy based on the knowledge of how fallible all of us are. His comment, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her," compels everyone to leave the woman alone (8:7). It is then that Jesus straightens up and speaks to her, when looking at her does not add to the unbearable weight of scrutiny (8:10). His message to her is that he will not condemn her; rather, he exhorts her to sin no more (8:11).

The person is never to be sacrificed to political issues.

### THOUGHTS FOR ACTION

We pray that we might have the grace to see ourselves as we are, both graced by God and yet sometimes still sinful in thought, word, and deed. We pray that we might look on others with compassion and be given the power to forgive others who have harmed us, as God has forgiven us.

*Excerpted and edited from LIVING THE WORD  
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commentary by Dennis D. Sylva and Rev. James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.,  
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