

# 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)



**PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORDS' PASSION**  
**MARCH 28, 2010**

*The Lord God is my help,  
 therefore I am not disgraced.*

— Isaiah 50:7a

**Masses for the Week**

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|  |  |                                       |   |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Sat. 27<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m.</b>  | <b>Thomas James Card</b>                                 | <b>Tue. 30<sup>th</sup> 7:45 a.m.</b> | <b>Theresa Nolan</b>                          |
| <b>Sun. 28<sup>th</sup> 7:30 a.m.</b>  | <b>George &amp; Ruby Davala</b>                          | <b>Tue. 30<sup>th</sup> Noon</b>      | <b>Pat Emro</b>                               |
| <b>Sun. 28<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.</b>  | <b>All Parishioners Living &amp; Deceased</b>            | <b>Wed. 31<sup>st</sup> 9:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Collective Intentions</b>                  |
| <b>Sun. 28<sup>th</sup> 10:30 a.m.</b> | <b>Raffaele &amp; Micolina Laracca &amp; Maria Durso</b> | <b>Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:30 p.m.</b>  | <b>Great Easter Vigil</b>                     |
| <b>Sun. 28<sup>th</sup> Noon</b>       | <b>Helen &amp; Stephen Hojnacki and Ray Mis</b>          | <b>Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> 7:30 a.m.</b>  | <b>Frank D'Amico</b>                          |
| <b>Mon. 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.</b>  | <b>Louise O'Hare Mantini</b>                             | <b>Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.</b>  | <b>All Parishioners Living &amp; Deceased</b> |
| <b>Mon. 29<sup>th</sup> 5:15 p.m.</b>  | <b>Aunt Mary</b>   | <b>Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> 10:30 a.m.</b> | <b>Theresa Nolan</b>                          |
|  |  | <b>Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> Noon</b>       | <b>Anna Ploder</b>                            |

*We have arrived in our Lenten journey at the holiest week of the year. This week, let us come together and celebrate as a parish family, the Sacred Events of Our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. The Holy Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, is the most meaningful spiritual period in our Church year. A schedule of our Holy Week Schedule was mailed to registered parishioners and is available at the Church doors.*

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**  
**MASSES**

*MONDAY: 9 a.m. & 5:15 p.m.; TUESDAY: 7:45 a.m. & Noon; WEDNESDAY: 9:00 a.m.  
 HOLY THURSDAY: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, 8 p.m.  
 GOOD FRIDAY: Solemn Liturgy, Veneration and Communion, 3:00 p.m.  
 HOLY SATURDAY: Great Easter Vigil (First Mass of Easter), 7:30 p.m.  
 EASTER SUNDAY: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and Noon*

**CONFESSIONS AND SPECIAL DEVOTIONS**

*TUESDAY, March 30th, 7:00 p.m. Communal Penance Service  
 HOLY THURSDAY, April 1st, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by  
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11 p.m.  
 GOOD FRIDAY: Confessions 11 a.m.— Noon  
 8:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross*

**WE ARE HAPPY TO WELCOME Andrew Basler** baptized into the new community of the church and to a new loving relationship with Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**LAST WEEKEND OFFERTORY COLLECTION TOTALS** will be reported in next weekend's bulletin. Due to the upcoming Easter holiday, the bulletin had to be submitted early.

**NEXT WEEKEND'S** second collection is the Monthly Collection for the needs of the Parish. Thank you.

**HOLY LAND GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING** will be taken up on Good Friday at the 3:00 Good Friday Service. This collection is taken up at all the Catholic churches throughout the world and is used to maintain and preserve the churches and shrines in the Holy Land.

**NEXT SUNDAY IS EASTER SUNDAY** and there will be two collections. Whether you are giving a weekly offering or the monthly offering, please put it in the **first** collection. Please give your special Easter offering in the **second** collection. While there are Easter collection envelopes in your envelope packet, there are extra envelopes at the Church doors.

## PARISH NEWS

**LENTEN COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE** The last of our Tuesday evening Lenten confessions will take place this Tuesday of Holy Week, March 30th at 7:00 p.m. and it will be a Communal Penance Service. 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.

**DAY OF FAST** All Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are required by Church law to fast on Good Friday. Only one full meal without meat is permitted to persons in this age group on this day, 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** will take place this Friday, April 2nd which is **Good Friday** at 8:00 p.m. If you have not yet been able to attend this excellent Lenten devotion, please make a special effort to "be with our Lord" on this day when he voluntarily gave up His life for

us so that we might live with Him forever.

**I WAS HUNGRY, LOAVES AND FISHES:** Easter Sunday is the last day for you to participate in this diocesan program to feed the hungry in our midst. Your support of the "I Was Hungry" program is especially appreciated during this year when the number of those seeking help has increased due to our much weaker economic condition. 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.

**FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION** Because the first Friday of April is Good Friday, there cannot be the usual First Friday Adoration. Indeed, this is the one day of the year when the tabernacle is empty, emphasizing the fact that Jesus died on Good Friday and it is the most solemn day of the Church year. As the schedule for Holy Week tells us, the Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday with prayers, Veneration of the Cross, and Communion (but not a complete Mass) will take place at 3 p.m.

In addition, individual confessions will be offered from 11 a.m. until 12 noon, and Good Friday Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at 8 p.m.

First Friday Adoration of the Eucharist will be celebrated on the next First Friday, that is, **May 7<sup>th</sup>**.

**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.

**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)

**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!

**SAVE THE DATES** for Our Lady's Association's upcoming spring events: Mary Ronan will return to OLF on **Tuesday, April 13th**. Mary will be speaking in the Parish Center from 9:30-11:30 a.m. — come find out why everyone feels so energized and empowered after hearing Mary speak ... Also, the OLA Spring Luncheon will be held on **Thursday, May 13th**. Come & view the Fatima movie, "The 13th Day" shown in the Parish Center beginning at 10:30 a.m., followed by a lovely luncheon. More information to follow ...

**PLEASE PRAY** for all our service men and women who are protecting our freedom, and especially **Jake Hutchings, Matthew Smarella, Nate Snaric and Andrew Avallone**. 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.

**FIRST COMMUNION GIFT SALE:** The Religious Education office will be selling various products & gifts for First Communions including veils, rosaries, jewelry, photo frames, holy books, & more. To view the display table, please stop by the Religious Education office in the basement of OLF School Monday-Friday between 8:30 am – 5:00 pm or call us at 762-9080 for additional information.

**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. 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. 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. 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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.)

**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 7:00 – 8:15 pm (*note earlier time*) in the OLF Parish Center. Come grow in your own spiritual faith journey at these amazing meetings.

**A LOBSTERBAKE FUNDRAISER** (for adults), sponsored by our High School Youth Ministry, will be held on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 6:30 pm in the OLF School Gym. Tickets are \$60/person (\$55 if purchased by Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>). Dinner, catered by Cap't'n John's, includes lobster or grilled chicken, steamers, mussels, new potatoes, corn-on-the-cob, salad, along with tasty appetizers and scrumptious desserts - BYOB. Come for delicious food, dancing, & great fun. All tickets must be purchased by Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> with your name(s) and payment (cash or check made payable to OLF) to Sharon Lynn in the OLF Religious Ed office. For questions, contact Sharon at OLFYouth-Group@aol.com or 762-9080.

**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.

## JESUS, THE DIVINE COMPASSION

*For Luke, Jesus is the prophet of God's compassion. We see this especially in the parables found only in Luke, like those of the prodigal son and the good Samaritan, and in certain events of Jesus' ministry also found only in Luke, like the raising of the widow's son at Nain. Today we encounter his compassion during his final hours.*

### INSIDE THE READINGS

The three readings for today address the notion of service to others, what it entails, and what it accomplishes. The first reading is one of the Suffering Servant Songs from Isaiah. It talks about service in terms of a resolve to give testimony despite the hostility that such witness may engender. In these songs the prophet Isaiah shows how God acts through this faithful servant. Today's song emphasizes the faithful witness of the servant, whose testimony rouses the weary (Isaiah 50:4). Thus, the servant will inspire a greater religious zeal in the people by faithfully witnessing despite all the opposition that he experiences. This resistance is intense: people beat the servant, pluck his beard, strike him, and spit on him (50:6-7). Commitment despite opposition is a motivating force for others. The second reading is the famous kenotic hymn in Philippians. "Kenotic" refers to the self-emptying of Jesus. In this hymn we learn the extent of Jesus' service and, by implication, what perspective on service we should have. Jesus not only did not grasp at equality with God, he became a servant who served even to the point of death, a most violent death on a cross (Philippians 2:6-11). As Jesus "did not regard equality with God something to be grasped," so, too, should we "humbly regard others as more important than" ourselves (2:3, 6). This is not an issue of low self-esteem. Rather, it means acting in the interests of others as a servant does for a master. As Jesus gave himself completely for us, so, too, should each of us be concerned "not for his own interests, but [also] everyone for those of others" (2:4). The Gospel passage from Luke is the account of the acme of Jesus' self-giving in his passion and crucifixion and the covenant that it brings about. Here we have the vivid account that inspires all Christian service.

### THOUGHTS FOR ACTION

We pray to experience the compassionate love of Jesus and to be able to respond to it with all our heart and mind and soul. We ask that his spirit enter us in such a way that we will be able to pray each day as he prayed with his final breath: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46).

Excerpted and edited from *LIVING THE WORD* for Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion commentary by Dennis D. Sylva and Rev. James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R., © 2010 by J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. 3/28/10