

# 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  
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 857-0467

Peter Slavin, Grand Knight  
Knights of Columbus 722-9415  
pslavin@metliffe.com



## **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.

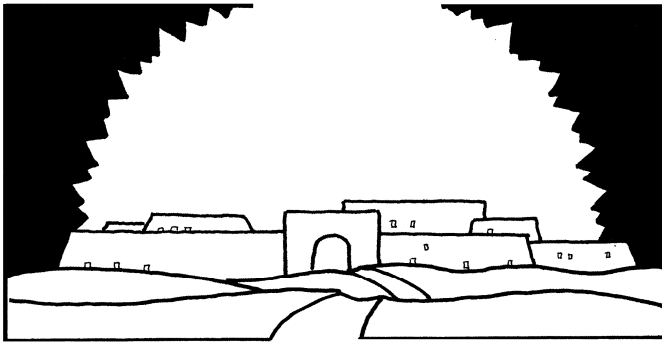
**PARISH REGISTRATION:** All families or individuals who have moved into the parish should register by filling out the registration card available at the church doors.

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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## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**JANUARY 3, 2010**

*Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!  
Your light has come, the glory  
of the Lord shines upon you.*

— *Isaiah 60:1*

### MASSes for the Week

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<b>Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Jim Dunn</b>	<b>Thu. 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Frank D'Amico</b>
<b>Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>7:30 a.m.</b>	<b>All Parishioners Living &amp; Deceased</b>	<b>Fri. 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Carmela Maceri</b>
<b>Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Chet Wayne Burchett III</b>	<b>Sat. 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Lillian Wachter</b>
<b>Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Joseph Dugan</b>	<b>Sat. 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Jean Lord Bartek</b>
<b>Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Mary Flanagan</b>	<b>Sun. 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Marion &amp; Ara Cambere</b>
<b>Mon. 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Betty Piza</b>	<b>Sun. 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>All Parishioners Living &amp; Deceased</b>
<b>Tue. 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Frank D'Amico</b>	<b>Sun. 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Helen Hojnacki</b>
<b>Wed. 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Michael Gray, Jr.</b>	<b>Sun. 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Eugene Flanagan, Jr.</b>

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

**PLEASE PRAY** for the happy repose of the souls of **Louise Grizzaffi**, mother of Michele Gabriele of our parish, and for **George Mingrone**, father of Julie Kazi of our parish. May Jesus, our Lord and Savior, grant them eternal rest and joy.

**WE ARE HAPPY TO WELCOME** **Edward Andrew Sherman, Sadie Clare Sherman, Elliott James Garcia McLaughlin** and **Hannah Elizabeth Petre** baptized into the new community of the church and to a new loving relationship with Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION** for the weekend of December 19/20 totaled \$9,163 versus prior year of \$14,177. Thank you.

**THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION AND LAST WEEKEND'S OFFERTORY** collection will be reported next week. Because of the holiday, the bulletin had to be submitted early.

**THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION** is the Monthly Offertory for the needs of the parish. Thank you for your generosity.

**IF YOU ARE AN ELECTRONIC DONOR**, 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. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.



## TIMELY NEWS

**M.O.M.'s—MEETING OTHER MOMS:** Please join us this Thursday, January 7, 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.

**MENS' MINISTRY** will meet this Saturday, January 9, 2010.

## PARISH NEWS

**FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP** – It's time once again for the annual OLF Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship, to be held **next Sunday, January 10th**, from 1:00–2:30 p.m. in the Our Lady of Fatima School Gym. All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to step up to the line to compete. Prizes will be awarded for each age group and winners will have the opportunity to compete in regional, state and national finals. For additional information please contact Peter Rubsam at 761-1461 or Chris Terranova at 762-7307.

**SPIRITUAL BREAK GROUP** "Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain" (Mark 4:1-33) Have you been thinking of finding out what our group is all about? We meet once a month for an hour in a relaxed atmosphere. Each month we will be focusing on one chapter of Father Donders' book, Seven Days with the Gospel of Mark. Join us on **Tuesday, January 19th at 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Center** for discussion, prayer and meditation while listening to spiritual

music. Come once or join us each month. Questions? Terry Lynn @ 762-7413 (trlynn@optonline.net) or Gale Roeder @ 762-3784 (galeroe33@aol.com). All are welcome!

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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES RESUME** for first through fifth graders **tomorrow**, Monday, January 4. Sunday classes resume on January 10. We wish all of our Religious Education families a blessed New Year!

**NINTH GRADERS:** Service Hour reports are due when you return to class on January 10. Please use the form in your red folder to complete your report.

**REMINDER TO PARENTS OF FIRST RECONCILIATION STUDENTS:** There will be a meeting for parents only at 7:30 p.m. in OLF Church on Monday, January 11. At this time, we will discuss the final details for the First Reconciliation ceremonies. Priests will be available to hear confessions. This is a wonderful opportunity to give good example to your children and show them that you value the sacrament of Reconciliation.

**THOSE PREPARING FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION** will have their books checked the week of January 11 during their Religious Education classes. Please be sure your child has completed the book and knows his/her prayers.

**HOME SCHOOL REMINDERS:** 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> home school students who did not take Test 1 should contact the Religious Education office at 762-9080 to schedule an appointment asap to make up the test. Students should remember to bring their text books on the test dates as they will be checked for completion.

**RCIA** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a process through which non-Catholic adult inquirers meet with a few parishioners to talk about the truths of our faith, reflect on Scripture, and

pray together. Over the past twenty-four years, many men and women of other religious traditions have joined our family of faith through RCIA. All non-Catholic adults who have an interest in learning more about the Catholic religion are invited to call Father Palmer or Father James at 762-3928 or Kathleen Rooney at 762-9080.

**AS WE PREPARE TO BEGIN A NEW YEAR** and many resolutions come to mind, let us think of our relationship with our good God. If you have not been attending Mass regularly---or at all---isn't the New Year a perfect time for a fresh start? It is never too late to return to Mass and the sacraments. A simple call to one of our priests (762-3928) can make 2010 a very special year for you. Come and be part of our family of faith once again.

## 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.)

**JR. YOUTH ARTS & CRAFTS PARTY:** Save the date of Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>! 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to join us when we visit Sunrise Assisted Living after school to 5:00 pm for an Arts & Crafts Party with the elderly. We'll pick you up at Middlebrook or OLF School and go to Sunrise for some delicious snacks and to make crafts with the residents. Sign up with a permission slip is a must by Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> to Sharon Lynn in the Religious Ed office. It's a fun way to earn service hours needed for Confirmation!

**MARCH FOR LIFE — TEEN PILGRIMAGE:** Our Diocese of Bridgeport is sponsoring a mini-retreat & pilgrimage to Washington, DC on January 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> to pray & petition our government to protect human life! The group will leave by bus at 8:00 am on the 21<sup>st</sup> and return at 11:00 pm on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The cost is \$175 which includes transportation, one night hotel stay, most meals as well as evening prayer vigil, youth rally & Mass for life, fantastic

musicians, inspiring reflections and the March to the Capital & Supreme Court. Teens will need to plan on missing 2 full days of school for this program. For details & to sign up, contact Sharon Lynn at OLFYouthGroup@aol.com or at 762-9080 ASAP!

**FATIMA LEARNS ABOUT FATIMA:** High Schoolers - Save the date of Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm (after the Noon Mass) as we'll be watching the powerful new movie – The 13<sup>th</sup> Day. We'll meet for pizza, watch the movie & have group discussions to learn more about the mysteries of Fatima. Details will be forthcoming.

**HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT — SAVE THE DATE:** The Mackenzie Trec (Teens Really Encountering Christ) is coming for OLF High School Teens the weekend of March 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. This exciting retreat will be held at the Seton Neumann Center in Danbury. The cost for the retreat is \$95 (includes lodging, meals, & much more). For details & permission slips, please talk to Sharon Lynn in the Religious Ed office or Teen Leaders, Tim Becker & Jackie Sallarelli.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

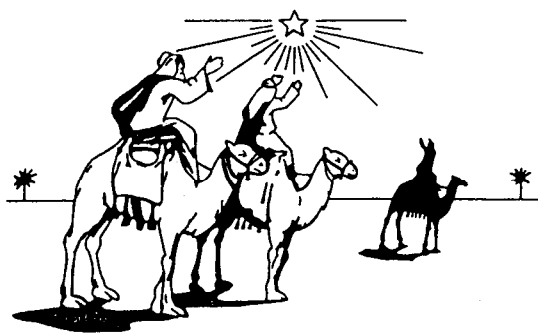
**PRO-LIFE MASS – SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2010 AT 12 NOON AT ST. PIUS X PARISH, 834 BROOKSIDE DR., FAIRFIELD.** Please join Bishop William E. Lori, S.T.D., the Sisters of Life, Parishioners from throughout the Diocese, the Knights of Columbus, Youth from our Catholic Schools and Religious Education Programs, and Pro-life Advocates from various institutes and organizations who will be participating in this event. In accord with the God-given sacredness and dignity of every human life which begins at the moment of conception, it is our obligation and privilege to participate in activities that proclaim, support, and enhance the basic right to life. Let us come together to pray and to witness in promoting the overall respect for every unborn child. The basic right to life of every unborn child must be ensured. For more information, please contact the Respect Life Ministry at the Catholic Center (Mimi Giannino, 203-416-1444).

**NEW COVENANT HOUSE FUNDRAISING CONCERT, JANUARY 16:** On Saturday, **January 16, 2010**, at the Palace Theater in Stamford,

New Covenant House of Hospitality and the Stamford Symphony Orchestra will be making music together to benefit the hungry in our community. Beginning with cocktails and hearty hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 p.m., the evening includes a "Behind the Baton" presentation by Music Director Eckart Preu, a breathtaking Mozart concert featuring violinist Elena Urioste, intermission dessert and coffee, and a post concert cordial. Tickets are \$200 per person. All proceeds benefit New Covenant House of Hospitality. New Covenant House's soup kitchen, food pantry and after-school meal program serves more than 350,000 meals annually to the poor, homeless, and disadvantaged in Stamford, Greenwich, Darien, and New Canaan. For tickets, please contact Terry Laughren at [laughren@optonline.net](mailto:laughren@optonline.net).

**RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT FOR HEALING AFTER ABORTION** If there is an abortion in your past that you need to make peace with, The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Bridgeport offers Rachel's Vineyard Retreats. The next retreat weekend is January 22-24, 2010 in Fairfield County. For more information, call the retreat director at 203-218-0291 or email her at [Jeremiah31v17@aol.com](mailto:Jeremiah31v17@aol.com). Visit the website at [www.rachelsvineyardbpt.com](http://www.rachelsvineyardbpt.com). All inquiries are kept in the strictest of confidence.

**'NUN RUN'** is a 24+ hour experience during which single, Catholic women ages 18-45 who may be considering a vocation to the religious life are invited to visit 4 different convents in Connecticut. Sisters from these communities will offer you transportation, overnight hospitality, meals, prayer and an enjoyable experience! The Nun Run is scheduled for January 16-17. Call Sr. Maria Iannuccillo, SSND at 203-762-4152 or email [miannuccillo@amssnd.org](mailto:miannuccillo@amssnd.org) for more information or to register (by Monday, January 11). Hosted by the Connecticut Vocation Council.



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## A TALE FOR OUR TIME

*The story of the magi is especially meaningful in our day. While our own country is becoming more multicultural and multireligious, the importance of the message of today's celebration becomes more urgent: God's son Jesus was sent by God to bring all peoples together. The Epiphany speaks of God's desire that all live in peace as God's children.*

### INSIDE THE READINGS

The word "epiphany" itself means "to appear" and is often used in reference to the appearance of God. The Church celebrates on this day both the coming of God in Christ and the coming of God in Christ into the lives of Christians.

Today we reflect on the first reading, which speaks about the effects of God's coming into our own lives. This reading is from a section of the book of Isaiah that scholars call Third Isaiah, which was written when the Jewish people returned from exile in Babylon in the sixth century B.C. Life back home was very difficult, and the prophet writes to give them hope about what God can and will do for them.

Isaiah speaks in poetry, with radical images to counter the spiritual shortsightedness caused by the people's disappointments. These images will provide them with a new perspective that opens their spirits to be able to receive confidently what God's coming means for them. So he appeals to their imaginations to suggest the richness of God for them. It is like light in the midst of darkness (Isaiah 66:1-2). This light will enlighten them regarding how to live. Isaiah says that the people themselves will become this light so that others will use them as examples of how to live (60:3). God comes for the transformation of people, and transformation spreads as more and more see what enlightened living looks like.

Finally, Isaiah writes about God's presence to them in terms resonant with the deepest desires of our hearts: God's coming will create family togetherness and family blessings.

In the light of God's epiphany in Jesus Christ we realize that these blessings are fully realized in the next life. The Isaiah reading informs us, however, of how God is already at work in some ways even now to achieve these ends.

### THOUGHTS FOR ACTION

We can pray that the divisions and hatreds that continue to plague our planet will be resolved through the wisdom that is the gift of God. We pray for an increase of wise men and women who are attuned to the signs of God drawing them to join together in worship and live together in peace. The ultimate destination of all people is to arrive in the presence of God.

*Excerpted and edited from LIVING THE WORD for the Epiphany of the Lord commentary by Dennis D. Sylva and Rev. James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R., © 2010 by J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. 1/3/10*