

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 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.

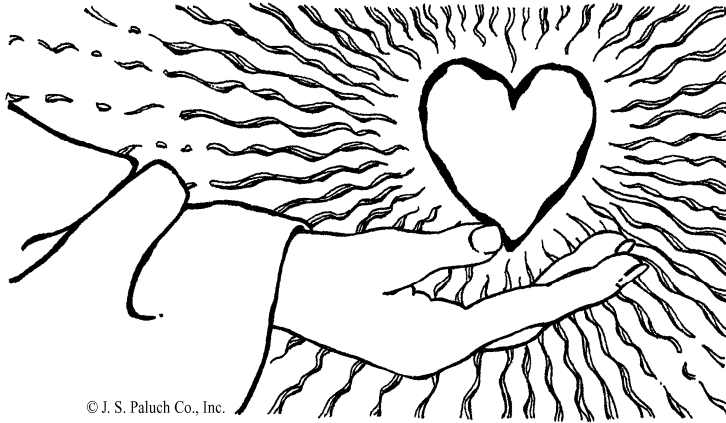
PARISH REGISTRATION: All families or individuals who have moved into the parish should register by filling out the registration card available at the church doors.

Rectory
762-3928
www.olfwilton.org

Church Fax
834-1261

Religious Education
762-9080
www.olfreligioused.org

School
762-8100
www.olfcatholic.org



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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 7, 2010

*Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
slow to anger and abounding
in kindness.*

Psalm 103:8

MASSSES for the WEEK

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Sat. 6 th	5:30 p.m.	Jodi Conte	Thu. 11 th	7:45 a.m.	Angela DiPilato
Sun. 7 th	7:30 a.m.	Dick Masselink	Thu. 11 th	Noon	Ruth Kesicke
Sun. 7 th	9:00 a.m.	All Parishioners Living & Deceased	Fri. 12 th	9:00 a.m.	Daisuke Kaneko
Sun. 7 th	10:30 a.m.	James Connell	Sat. 13 th	8:00 a.m.	Wells Jarboe
Sun. 7 th	Noon	Margaret Koziolkowsky	Sat. 13 th	5:30 p.m.	Angela DiPilato <i>(3 year anniversary)</i>
Mon. 8 th	9:00 a.m.	Helen Aiello	Sun. 14 th	7:30 a.m.	All Parishioners Living & Deceased
Mon. 8 th	5:15 p.m.	Giovanni Aloj	Sun. 14 th	9:00 a.m.	Catherine & Joseph Montesano
Tue. 9 th	7:45 a.m.	Marjorie L. Murray	Sun. 14 th	10:30 a.m.	Pat & Jack Ryan
Tue. 9 th	Noon	Hazel Morrissey	Sun. 14 th	Noon	Richard Shea
Wed. 10 th	9:00 a.m.	Rose Kobuskie			

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

PLEASE PRAY for the happy repose of the souls of **Linda Mayer**, mother of Michael O'Dea of our parish, and for parishioner **Birute Petrikas**, wife of Aloyzas Petrikas, and mother of Paul Petrikas of our parish. May Jesus, our Lord and Savior, grant them eternal rest and joy.

THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION last weekend was \$14,044. Last year's comparable weekend was \$16,300.

NEXT WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION is the Catholic Relief Services Collection. This Collection helps fund six Catholic organizations that improve the quality of life and protect human dignity. Your gift will support

agricultural development to strengthen economies and create food sustainability, provide outreach services to survivors of human trafficking, and supply pastoral care and advocacy for immigrants and refugees. By helping the marginalized and impoverished, you give hope to Jesus in disguise. Please be charitable in next week's Catholic Relief Services Collection.

TO ALL PARISHIONERS: Included in this weekend's bulletin, please find Our Lady of Fatima Parish's Statements of Financial Activities for the six months ended 12/31/09 and 12/31/08.

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 CONFESSION CAMPAIGN Our Lady of Fatima, along with all of the other parishes in our Diocese, will be offering Confessions on every Tuesday evening during Lent from 7-9 p.m. Our Holy Father says that "Confession must not be a mere formality in a Christian's life, but rather an essential ingredient to nourish and sustain a commitment to follow Christ."

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.

THE 2010 ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL: "LIVING OUR FAITH" HAS BEGUN and so far, 119 parishioners have donated \$42,160. This is a good start, but our goal is \$230,000 so we have a long way to go and could really use everyone's help! Bishop Lori & Father Palmer have both sent letters encouraging your support to this important appeal which serves so many needy people through Catholic Charities, and helps to support our Catholic Schools, Parish Life & Ministries, vocations & seminarians and many other organizations and ministries. Although envelopes have been mailed to all registered parishioners, envelopes are available at the Church doors. For more information, please visit

www.bridgeportdiocese.com/aba. Thank you for your support.

* **OLF CASH RAFFLE** Our Lady of Fatima's Home *
* School Association (H.S.A.), with the support of the *
* Parish, is holding a **BLUE RIBBON CASH RAFFLE!** *
* Purchase your ticket today for a chance to win *
* **\$10,000 (grand prize), \$3,000 (2nd prize) or** *
* **\$2,000 (third prize)!** Tickets are **\$25 each** and *
* will be sold after all Masses **beginning this week-** *
* **end.** The drawing will be held at 9:00 p.m. on *
* March 19, 2010, at the OLF Blue Ribbon Gala at the *
* Dolce Center in Norwalk. *All proceeds will directly* *
* *benefit our youth-related programs and in particu-* *
* *lar, Our Lady of Fatima School, Our Lady of Fatima* *
* *Parish Religious Education Program and Our Lady of* *
* *Fatima's Youth Group!* You may purchase tickets *
* after all Masses, by emailing the Raffle Committee *
* at Blue.Ribbon.Raffle@gmail.com, calling the Raffle *
* Committee at 203-216-6194, or contacting the Par- *
* ish Office at 762-3928. **GOOD LUCK!!!** *
* *The OLF H.S.A. reserves the right to cancel the raffle if a* *
* *minimum of 1,000 tickets are not sold. In that event, all* *
* *monies will be returned to ticket holders. Taxes will be* *
* *withheld by the OLF H.S.A. prior to awarding the grand* *
* *cash prize to the winner.* *

THE 2011 MASS BOOK will open on **Wednesday, March 17th at 10 a.m. in the Parish Office.** To provide all parishioners with the opportunity of selecting some of their desired dates, parishioners may schedule no more than **two** Sunday Masses and **three** weekday Masses until after May 31st.

A SPECIAL INVITATION TO THE MEN OF OUR PARISH who have not yet experienced the Mens' Ministry, which is now in its third year. A prayerful setting, the sharing of our lives as Catholic men with a good dose of humor, as well as the deepening of our spiritual lives has been the rewarding result for the many men who have taken part. Do something for yourself, your family and other men who give themselves to this ministry. We gather each Saturday morning in the Church Parish Center, beginning around 6:30 am (a time that has proven itself to be effective in starting off the week-end without taking away time from Saturday's other family activities). You WILL be spiritually nourished. There is no further obligation. 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 11, 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. We welcome home Patrick Donohue; his family is so grateful for OLF's prayers!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES FOR NINTH GRADE STUDENTS concluded on February 28. Any ninth grade Religious Education student who was unable to take the final exam on February 28, should call the Religious Education Office (203-762-9080) this week to schedule an appointment to take the test no later than March 14. Thank you for your cooperation. Please note that sixth, seventh, and eighth grade Religious Education students will attend classes through April 11.

REMINDER TO EIGHTH GRADE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS: On Sunday, March 21, the eighth graders will attend the 10:30 Mass after classes. Any student who would like to do a reading, bring up the gifts, or participate in another way may call Mrs. Rooney at 203-762-9080 or email at angels225@aol.com.

WHAT DOES THE POPE DO? WHY DO CATHOLICS SAY THE ROSARY? WHAT IS THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION? These are some of the questions non-Catholic adults have asked our parishioners. If you know a man or woman who has shown an interest in our religion, extend an invitation to him or her to our next inquiry session. This will be an opportunity to understand the RCIA process, to ask questions relating to the Catholic faith, and to share faith stories. Please call Kathleen Rooney (203-762-9080) for time and place.

IF YOU ARE, OR KNOW OF, a Catholic adult who is thinking about returning to Mass and the sacraments after being away for a period of time, but are not sure how to go about it, please call Father Palmer or Father James (203-762-3928) in confidence to make an appointment to talk about being an active member of our family of faith once again. We want you back!

YOUTH MINISTRY

THE MACKENZIE TREC RETREAT (Teens Really Encountering Christ): Please keep our high school students & adult mentors who are on retreat this weekend in Danbury in your prayers.

2010 SUMMER MISSION OUTREACH TRIP to the St. Patrick's Foundation in Kingston, Jamaica. From Sunday, June 20th to Sunday, June 27th, 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 available in the Religious Education office. (note: submission of application does not automatically guarantee a spot on the mission trip.)

CELEBRATE SPRING — JUNIOR YOUTH ARTS & CRAFTS PARTY : Save the date of Thursday, March 18th! 6th, 7th, & 8th graders are encouraged to join us when we visit Brookdale Place (formerly 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 & go to Brookdale to make crafts with the residents. Sign up with a permission slip is a must by Monday, March 15th to Sharon Lynn in the Religious Ed office. Space is limited. It's a fun way to earn service hours needed for Confirmation!

ANNUAL OLF EASTER EGG HUNT — SAVE THE DATE! Sponsored by the OLF Junior Youth Group, Peter Cottontail himself will be on the OLF playground on Holy Saturday, April 3rd, hopping around on Easter Egg Hunts at 10:00 am with children from age 2 through 4th grade. Details will be forthcoming!

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

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.



REMINDER:
BECAUSE DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 14th,
BE SURE TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS
AHEAD ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY
NIGHT!

IT'S TIME TO TURN—NOW

Lent is a time for conversion, for turning toward God and away from anything that separates us from God. Today we hear the story of Moses turning toward a burning bush and finding the living and saving God. Jesus turns us toward a fig tree.

Dear Father Palmer & Parishioners,

I want to thank you all for the opportunity to be with you during these past few days. I hope my preaching will help you on your journey to the great feast of Easter.

I also want to thank all of you, and especially Fr. Palmer, for your active support for St. Patrick's Foundation where 1,000 poor inner-city youth of Kingston, Jamaica, are offered an opportunity to become wholesome human beings. At St. Patrick's Foundation they learn their academics and skills where they can become self-reliant and contribute to society. Over the past 10 years, the people of Our Lady of Fatima have become real partners with us at St. Patrick's Foundation. The visits of your teens to our centers, and your sacrificial gifts have made a real difference in how we can serve the poor.

Be assured of our prayers for you and please pray for me and the kids that we can fulfill our mission.

*Once again, God bless you all,
Monsignor Richard Albert
Kingston, Jamaica*

*P.S. If you wish to stay in touch, please email me at AlbertRJ09@yahoo.com, or write me at:
221 S. State Rd. 7
MB#3816
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33317*

INSIDE THE READINGS

Most of us might think that we do quite well at living the way we should in comparison with how all people live their lives. Decision scientists tell us that this is a self-affirming bias that has been demonstrated in tests. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus counters this bias in order to motivate in us a higher degree of commitment to moral growth.

What occasions this teaching is the report that Pilate had slaughtered some Galileans. The way this news is conveyed is especially gruesome: it is said that the Roman leader had mingled their blood "with the blood of their sacrifices" (Luke 13:1). Immediately Jesus discerns an attitude that lurks behind these words. He senses a common defense mechanism that people use to deal with the horrors of the world: those who experience them must in some way have brought them upon themselves. Thus it was, and still is, a common attitude to attribute suffering to the sinfulness of the afflicted person. In some cases this is almost a knee-jerk reaction that must be countered. This attitude gives us a sense of control over our lives. We feel that if we live well we can stay clear of the problems in life.

Jesus stands this idea on its head. He says that people who experience tragedies are not worse sinners than anyone else (13:2, 4). Rather all need to repent or they will perish as did those who experienced disasters (13:3, 5). This refers to the apocalyptic destruction at the end of time that Jesus had been talking about in portions of chapter 12. The idea is that every-one is in need of repentance. This perspective subverts the bias that we are living well and inspires us to further growth.

THOUGHTS FOR ACTION

God continues to speak to us through Jesus in the Gospel, calling us to draw closer, to turn our lives more fully toward God so God can enter. The call to repentance was the basic message that Jesus preached. This message has not changed. Many have heard it; not all have responded. We pray that we may hear God's call in our own lives, and that we might take advantage of this holy season to reflect on how God is calling us to change and live in the grace of God more fully.

Excerpted and edited from LIVING THE WORD for the Third Sunday of Lent commentary by Dennis D. Sylva and Rev. James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R., © 2010 by J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. 3/7/10