

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.

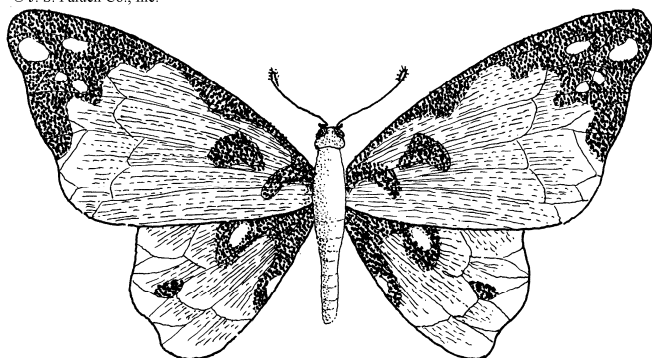
PARISH REGISTRATION: All families or individuals who have moved into the parish should register by filling out the registration card available at the church doors.

Rectory
762-3928
www.olfwilton.org

Church Fax
834-1261

Religious Education
762-9080
www.olfreligioused.org

School
762-8100
www.olfcatholic.org



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 14, 2010

*Whoever is in Christ is a new creation:
the old things have passed away;
behold, new things have come.*

2 Corinthians 5:17

MASSes for the WEEK

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Sat. 13th 5:30 p.m.	Angela DiPilato (3rd Anniversary)	Thu. 18th 7:45 a.m.	Wells Jarboe
Sun. 14th 7:30 a.m.	All Parishioners Living & Deceased	Thu. 18th Noon	Jim Dunn
Sun 14th 9:00 a.m.	Catherine & Joseph Montesano	Fri. 19th 9:00 a.m.	Pat Emro
Sun. 14th 10:30 a.m.	Pat & Jack Ryan	Sat. 20th 8:00 a.m.	Joe Williams
Sun. 14th Noon	Richard Shea	Sat. 20th 5:30 p.m.	Dominic Gurliacci
Mon. 15th 9:00 a.m.	Salvatore Porrizzo	Sun. 21st 7:30 a.m.	Deceased Members of Farrugia & Vassallo Families
Mon. 15th 5:15 p.m.	Anthony Trano	Sun. 21st 9:00 a.m.	James Boyle
Tue. 16th 7:45 a.m.	Collective Intentions	Sun. 21st 10:30 a.m.	Margaret Gillen
Tue. 16th Noon	Janice R. Ellsworth	Sun. 21st Noon	All Parishioners Living & Deceased
Wed. 17th 9:00 a.m.	Ken Kelly		

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

PLEASE PRAY for the happy repose of the souls of **Mary Vella** and **Angelina Scully**, cousins of Theresa Fritz and nieces of Lorraine Vallaso of our parish. May Jesus, our Lord and Savior, grant them eternal rest and joy .

WE ARE HAPPY TO WELCOME Connor James Davis 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 \$14,493. Last year's comparable weekend was \$12,975.

LAST WEEKEND'S MONTHLY COLLECTION for the needs of the parish totaled \$4,549. Thank you for your generosity.

THIS 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 this week's Catholic Relief Services Collection.

CASH RAFFLE — MARCH 19th
GRAND PRIZE OF \$10,000
2nd prize: \$3,000
3rd prize: \$2,000

Tickets are **\$25 each**. The drawing for this Blue Ribbon Raffle will be held on March 19, 2010 at 9:00 p.m. at the Dolce Center in Norwalk.

Tickets will be sold at all the Masses this weekend, March 13th and 14th at the Church doors. All proceeds go directly to help our youth-related programs: *Our Lady of Fatima Parish Religious Education Program, Our Lady of Fatima School, and Our Lady of Fatima's Youth Group!*

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!!

In addition to purchasing tickets at this weekend's Masses, you may also purchase tickets by calling the Parish Office at 762-3928 — Mon-Fri, 9-5, emailing the Raffle Committee at Blue.Ribbon.Raffle@gmail.com, or calling the Raffle Committee at 203-216-6194. **GOOD LUCK!!!**

OLF 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.

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 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 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, 147 parishioners have donated \$55,590. 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. Thank you for your support.

THE 2011 MASS BOOK will open **this 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.

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!



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 **Friday, March 26.**

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 18, 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

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 21, MORNING EIGHTH GRADE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS will attend class as usual from 8:45 to 10:15 and then walk over to church for the 10:30 Mass. Evening eighth grade students are also expected at the 10:30 Mass AND at their 5:30 P.M. classes.

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 emailing us at angels225@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!

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 11th** at either 8:45 am or 5:30 pm. 4th - 6th grade home school students will be taking Test 2 on either **Sunday, March 28th** at 9:15 am or on **Thursday, April 1st** 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 28th as it must be returned to the office by April 6th. *Students should remember to bring their text books on the test dates as they will be checked for completion.*

IF YOU KNOW A NON-CATHOLIC ADULT WHO ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR FAITH and has expressed an interest in Catholic teachings and traditions, now is the time to invite him or her to an inquiry session at which the RCIA process will be explained. Call Kathleen Rooney at 762-9080 for information on our next gathering.

DO YOU KNOW A CATHOLIC WHO WOULD LIKE TO "RETURN HOME"? If a friend, relative, neighbor, or co-worker has been away from Mass and the sacraments for some time, please let that person know that it is never too late to be an active Catholic once again. A call to Father Palmer or Father James at 762-3928 will be welcome and confidential. Why not try to be God's instrument in encouraging non-practicing Catholics to re-join their family of faith? What a wonderful way to celebrate Easter, the greatest feast of the year!

YOUTH MINISTRY

MACKENZIE TREC REUNION PARTY will be held on **Sunday, March 21st at 7:30 pm** in the OLF Parish Center. Families of the teen candidates & team are welcome too! We'll have delicious desserts and a slide show of the weekend events.

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 now available in the Religious Education office. (note: submission of ap-

plication 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)

MARK YOU CALENDARS FOR SATURDAY, MAY 22nd 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 22nd!

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.



WHAT DOES A NEW CREATION LOOK LIKE?

The movement of Lent is a journey to Easter, when we will renew our baptismal promises and pledge once more to live a life that renounces the power and attraction of evil and com-mit ourselves more fully to living in union with the Trinity. Today's readings offer us some images of what it means to be a new creation.

INSIDE THE READINGS

In today's second reading Paul explains what it is to be a new creation in Christ, how that has occurred, and how it continues. We are reconciled to God in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18). Reconciliation means that God did not make our sins an obstacle to reunification (5:19). God's intent to reconcile humanity is so great that this mission has been extended through the ministry of Paul and his coworkers (5:18). So much does God wish to be united with us that God "appeals" to us through Paul, who mirrors this divine desire by "imploping" people to act in ways that make this reconciliation possible (5:20). When such reconciliation occurs, we become a new creation. In other words, new life is given through a new association. Because this association is with God, this new life is God's life. This is why Paul says that those who are reconciled "become the righteousness of God" in Christ (5:21). The new creation, then, is a change from the type of life that a person has led, a shift from alienation from God to union with God. The union occurs through our becoming "the righteousness of God." The word dikaiosune, which our Bible translates as "righteousness," also means "justice." This characteristic was considered in both the Jewish and Greek cultures to be the key virtue. Paul claims that the new creation makes people not only have this essence of humanity in them, but also reconfigured into "the righteousness of God." This perspective energizes us for the task of remaining reconciled to God by adhering to the message. Paul implores the Corinthians to "be reconciled to God" (5:20b). The gift of being a new creation is one that must be accepted continually through personal effort to be open to God's gift.

THOUGHTS FOR ACTION

The path to being a new creation can take forty years, forty days, forty minutes, or forty seconds. Sometime it involves an outer journey; it is always an inner one. We pray that what-ever form our journey takes, we will persevere in becoming, individually and communally, a new creation. We ask the Father to send forth the Holy Spirit upon us so that we will be recreated as this same Spirit continues to renew the face of the earth.

Excerpted and edited from LIVING THE WORD for the Fourth Sunday of Lent commentary by Dennis D. Sylva and Rev. James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R., 2010 by J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. 3/14/10