

# 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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# EASTER SUNDAY RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

APRIL 4, 2010

*To him all the prophets bear witness,  
that everyone who believes in him will receive  
forgiveness of sins through his name.*

— Acts 10:43

## MASSSES for the WEEK

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Sat. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7:30 p.m.	Great Easter Vigil	Fri. 9 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m.	Dave McCue
Sun. 4 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 a.m.	Frank D'Amico	Sat. 10 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 a.m.	Andrew R. Soltes
Sun. 4 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m.	All Parishioners Living & Deceased	Sat. 10 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 p.m.	Leavitt Pope
Sun. 4 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m.	Theresa Nolan	Sun. 11 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 a.m.	Patricia & Leon O'Branski
Sun. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Noon	Anna Ploder	Sun. 11 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m.	Helen Hojnacki & Michael Gibbons
Mon. 5 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m.	Ann Howard	Sun. 11 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m.	All Parishioners Living & Deceased
Tue. 6 <sup>th</sup>	7:45 a.m.	Edyth Kran Kota	Sun. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Noon	Donald Patrick Moriarty
Wed. 7 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m.	John Creegan			
Thu. 8 <sup>th</sup>	7:45 a.m.	Gwen Yeandel			

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

*Monday – Friday*

*9 a.m. – 5 p.m.*

*Father Palmer, Father James, Father Breen, Father Calabro,  
Deacon Tom McManus and Sister Mary Jane wish you all a  
Blessed and Joyful Easter!*

**PLEASE PRAY** for the happy repose of the souls of **Emery Field**, husband of Anita Field, formerly of our parish and for **Elizabeth Kager**, mother of parishioner Christopher Kager. May Jesus, our Lord and Savior, grant them eternal rest and joy.

**WE ARE HAPPY TO WELCOME** **Gabriela Rose Weiss** and **Brayden Chace Preisano** baptized

into the new community of the church and to a new loving relationship with Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**THE COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF 3/21-22 TOTALED \$15,652** versus prior year of \$14,862. Thank you for your generosity. The Palm Sunday collection will be reported in next weekend's bulletin.

**THERE WILL BE TWO COLLECTIONS TODAY, EASTER SUNDAY.** Whether you are giving a weekly offering or the monthly offering, please put it in the **FIRST** collection.

**THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION** is the special Easter collection for the needs of the Parish. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## PARISH NEWS

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** tomorrow, Monday, April 5th. The office will reopen at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 6th.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:** Join us next Sunday, April 19th, at 3 p.m. beginning with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the Chaplet of Mercy, and Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image. We encourage you to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before this special Feast Day and Holy Communion at Mass this day. Jesus has promised His graces to those who trust in his mercy.

**NEXT WEEKEND — APRIL 10 AND 11 — AT ALL THE MASSES WILL BE IN-PEW SUNDAY FOR THE 2010 ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL (ABA)** ABA envelopes will be in the pews to enable you to indicate: 1) whether you have already pledged your donation; or 2) what level you will be able to pledge as you donation to the ABA for this year. Our ushers will collect these envelopes.

Thank you to the **178** parishioners who have contributed **\$66,330** to the ABA in cash or pledges thus far. This represents **29%** of our parish goal of **\$230,000**. If you have not already made your gift or pledge to this year's Appeal, your help is very much needed and we encourage you to participate to the best of your ability.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the winners of the Blue Ribbon Raffle! The grand prize winner of \$10,000 was parishioner Joan Soldo, 2nd prize of \$3,000 went to parishioners Chris & Lisa Emanuel, and 3rd prize winner of \$2,000 was Linda Manso. Thank you to all who supported this successful raffle which is the largest fundraiser for OLF's educational programs including OLF Religious Education, OLF School and OLF Youth Group.

**PLEASE PRAY** for all our service men and women

who are protecting our freedom, and especially **Jake Hutchings, Matthew Smarrella, 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.

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★ **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 en- ★  
★ ergized 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 fol- ★  
★ low ... ★  
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## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**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.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES FOR GRADES ONE THROUGH FIVE** conclude on April 14.

**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 [angels225@aol.com](mailto: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 Edu- - 3 -

cation office (203-7562-9080). Confirmation candidates may use this for service hours!

**WE HAVE BEGUN TO SCHEDULE CONFIRMATION INTERVIEWS** for ninth graders. Candidates will be receiving notification of their appointments through an e-mail from the Religious Education Office.

**HOME SCHOOL REMINDERS:** 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Home School Students should have already taken their final tests. If you were sick or unable to take the test, please call the Religious Education office at 762-9080 to schedule an appointment to make up the test. ***Also, 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.*** If you are unable to take the test at the scheduled time, please contact the Religious Education office to make alternate arrangements asap. Students will not be able to register for Religious Education next year until all home school tests are taken & passed.

**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.

**ANY OF YOUR SPOUSES, FRIENDS OR RELATIVES** who are not Catholic but would like to know more about the Catholic faith are invited to call Kathleen Rooney ( 203-762-9080 ) or one of our priests ( 203-762-3928 ) to learn about our RCIA process here at OLF. Many men and women over the years have gathered together weekly with parishioners in prayer, reflection of the Scriptures, and discussion of the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church. Please feel free to call one of us---no strings attached.

**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 members of your family of faith? Be renewed and filled with the hope, joy, and peace of our Easter faith! It only takes a call to Father Palmer or Father James to get you---or someone you know---on the road to active participation in the Catholic church once again. We want you to

come "home."

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**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.

**JAMAICA SUMMER OUTREACH MISSION TRIP:** OLF High School Youth Ministry is sponsoring a trip to work at the St. Patrick's Foundation in Kingston, Jamaica helping the poor inner-city children & abandoned elderly from June 20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. **Applications are due ASAP** as final details are being confirmed now. Contact Sharon Lynn at 762-9080 or at OLFYouthGroup@aol.com for information.

**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 Capt'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 OLFYouthGroup@aol.com or 762-9080.

**HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS — SAVE THE DATE:** You and your families are invited to attend a special "graduation" Mass in your honor on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 noon. A reception in the parish center will immediately follow the Mass. Plan to attend this memorable occasion! Details will be forthcoming.

**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 - 4 -

further details, contact Sharon Lynn in the Religious Education office.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

**DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES:** Bishop William Edward Lori, S.T.D., will celebrate a Mass, in which the commemoration of significant marriage anniversaries will occur, at Saint Theresa Church, Trumbull, on **Sunday, April 25, at 3:00 p.m.** Bishop Lori will be the homilist and will administer both the renewal of marriage vows and the presentation of commemorative certificates. Couples who have or will be celebrating (during the months of January - June) one of the following wedding anniversaries: 15TH, 20TH, 25TH, 30TH, 35TH, 40TH, 45TH, 50TH, AND 50 PLUS YEARS, are invited to participate with family and friends. Interested couples should register with one's own parish office as soon as possible. The deadline for registration is Monday, **April 12.**

## SCHOOL NEWS

**SAVE THE DATE** for the **OLF GOLF CLASSIC & TENNIS OPEN** to be held on **Monday, May 24, 2010** at **Shorehaven Golf Club** in **East Norwalk**. \$275 per golfer which includes lunch, cocktail reception and beverages on the course; \$125 per tennis player which includes 4 hours of play time with a pro, lunch and beverages (cocktail reception additional). Driving range opens at 11 a.m., shot gun start at 1 p.m. Lunch at noon. For additional information, to reserve your spot, or to find out more about sponsorship opportunities, please call Julie Murray at (203)831-0088 or email at [jmurra11@mac.com](mailto:jmurra11@mac.com).



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## IN THE BEGINNING, DARKNESS

New life often begins in the dark—the darkness of the earth where seed has been planted, the darkness of the bed-room where the love of a husband and wife brings life to the world, the darkness of the mind where a quest to seek the truth begins. Today we remember that morning when new life began in the darkness of a tomb.

### INSIDE THE READINGS

Today's Gospel passage is John's account of the empty tomb experienced first by Mary of Magdala and then by the Beloved Disciple and Simon Peter. The unique features of this version of the Easter story encourage us to wonder what makes the Beloved Disciple beloved and how we are all called to be beloved disciples.

The Beloved Disciple is not so called in this passage, but rather he is called "the other disciple," as he is in John 18:15–16.

Upon hearing the message about the empty tomb from Mary of Magdala, both he and Simon Peter run to see it (John 20:1–3). The Beloved Disciple outruns Peter but waits and allows Peter to enter the tomb first. But it is only the Beloved Disciple who at this time is said to believe (20:8). This is all the more striking because right after this we read, "For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead" (20:9).

In this passage the Beloved Disciple appears to represent belief based on personal experience. After he sees the cloths in which the body of Jesus had been wrapped lying on the ground, he believes (20:6–8). His readiness to believe suggests a person whose faith arises out of reflection on the significance of his experiences. Jesus had previously told bystanders to take the cloths off the body of Lazarus when he raised him (11:44). Similar ideas and words in each passage suggest that the Beloved Disciple has learned from the Lazarus experience the power of God to effect resurrection.

Mature faith must remain rooted in the experience of God in our lives. Being able to observe and reflect on these experiences opens us to new types of experiences of God.

### THOUGHTS FOR ACTION

Not all darkness is to be feared. Sometimes it may even be necessary, summoning God to create once again, dispelling the shadow of death and despair that can settle over the human heart. We pray to God on Easter "for the life that shall never again see darkness," asking God to "breathe on our minds and open our eyes that we may know him in the breaking of bread and follow him in his risen life" (Alternative Opening Prayer for Easter Sunday).

*Excerpted and edited from LIVING THE WORD for Easter Sunday commentary by Dennis D. Sylva and Rev. James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R., © 2010 by J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. 4/4/10*