

# Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

545 Stratfield Road  
Fairfield, CT 06825-1872

Tel. (203) 333-9065

Fax: (203) 333-2562

Email: [info@olaffld.org](mailto:info@olaffld.org)

Website: <https://www.olaffld.org>

*“Ad Jesum per Mariam”  
To Jesus through Mary.*

## Clergy/Lay Leadership

Rev. Peter A. Cipriani, Pastor

Rev. Michael Flynn, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Raymond John Chervenak

Deacon Robert McLaughlin

Michael Cooney, Director of Music

Daniel Ford, Esq., Trustee

## Masses (Schedules subject to change)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4 PM

Sunday Masses: 7:30 AM, 9 AM 10:30 AM  
and 12:00 PM (Subject to change)

Morning Daily Mass: (Mon.-Sat.) 7:30 AM

Evening Daily Mass: (Mon.-Fri.) 5:30 PM

Holy Days: See Bulletin for schedule

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 1:30- 2:30 PM or by appointment.

Every Tuesday: 7-8:00 PM

## Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet

7 AM Monday-Saturday, Rosary

8 AM First Saturday of each month, Rosary

3 PM Monday-Friday, Divine Mercy  
Chaplet and Rosary

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of each month from 8 AM

Friday to 7:15 AM Saturday. To volunteer  
contact Grand Knight, Michael Lauzon at  
(203) 817-7528.

## Novenas

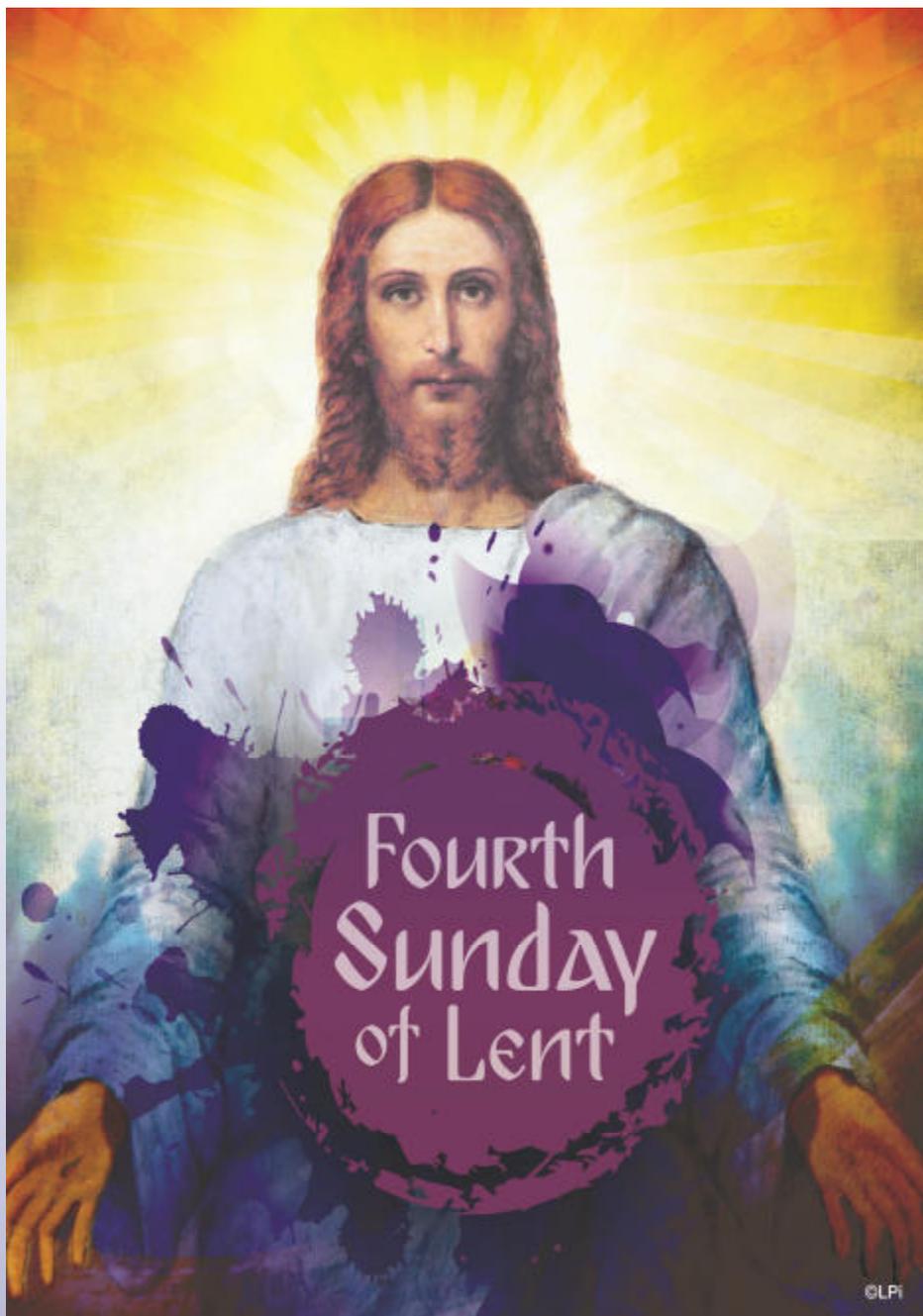
Miraculous Medal-8 AM. Monday

Saint Joseph-8 AM. Wednesday

Divine Mercy-8 AM. Friday

## Parish Membership

Our parish family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life. Every family moving into the parish is requested to register at the Rectory or go to our website for a registration form. If you move to another parish, or change your address, notify the Rectory.



## Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Anyone interested in becoming a Roman Catholic becomes a part of this process, as can any adult Catholic who has not received all the Sacraments of initiation. For further information contact the Faith Formation office.

## Sacrament of Baptism

This Sacrament is celebrated on Sundays at 1:00 PM. It is required that parents participate in a Pre-Baptismal class. Classes are held on the third Saturday of the month. Registration is required by calling the parish office.

## Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact the parish office as soon as possible so as to ensure a proper time and adequate preparation for this Sacrament. Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounters are required.

## Anointing of the Sick Ministry to the Sick and Elderly

This Sacrament of healing expresses the love of God and our Church for our sick, our shut-ins and the elderly, unable to come to Church. For the dying, please contact the Rectory immediately. For the confined, the elderly and our shut-ins, whether at home, or in the hospital, please inform the Rectory.

## From The Pastor's Desk

### - THE PROPHETIC CHURCH -



A prophet of God is similar to an ambassador who represents the particular leader of the country he or she has been sent from...and serve the purpose in discussions of speaking for that leader as though the leader him or herself.

Prior to the coming of Christ, whenever the people of God went astray, to call them back, God first sent to them Prophets who spoke in His name in hopes of drawing them away from their self destructive sin to the holiness that is demanded of a people not only chosen by God, but created in His image and likeness.

For the most part, the people's reaction...as we will rediscover during Holy Week with Jesus...was to arrest and kill these prophets as a means of shutting them up so that they could live life according to their own terms and not God's... ever reaching for that forbidden fruit...so that as Satan insisted to Adam and Eve...that in seizing it...you too can become like gods.

From today's first reading we hear:

"Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets."

Now to ignore the words and commandments of God is to do so at one's peril, as the Jewish people time and again discovered...in this instance in the worst possible way: the Temple was destroyed, their country overtaken by foreign invaders until taken from their land...they were placed in exile to be ruled by a foreign power. Whatever autonomy they had hoped to demand from God had been eradicated by the Babylonian Invaders and they were terribly enslaved and "by the waters of Babylon there they sat and wept" remembering those by-gone days of peace and prosperity and freedom which they forfeited due to their willful sinfulness.

Closer to home, one of the watershed prophetic moments occurred in the Church when Pope Paul VI released what was perceived as one of the most controversial documents ever promulgated by the Church regarding sexual intimacy especially by way of Artificial Contraception: *Humane Vitae* in 1968.

*Humane Vitae* discussed the beauty of both the spiritual and physical elements of love in marriage. Within the pages of the document, the pope reaffirmed what the Catholic Church teaches about birth control. He also emphasized that the Catholic Church calls couples to marriages that are free, total, faithful and fruitful. The encyclical contained a holistic approach to human relationships.

Though regarded by its detractors as controversial, the wisdom of the document for those taking the time to truly study and pray it, is truly a great guide for marital and family bliss and better understanding and appreciation of the sacred sexual nature of each human person. Ridiculed and mocked for releasing the document, today, if one carefully examines the evidence, now SAINT Paul the VI proved prophet as what he "warned" against if ignoring the document's wisdom seems to have come to pass.

Here are some of those predictions:

#### **The objectification of women**

Pope Paul VI commented about the consequences of artificial contraception in *Humane Vitae*: "Another effect that gives cause for alarm is that a man who grows accustomed to the use of contraceptive methods may forget the reverence due to a woman, and, disregarding her physical and emotional equilibrium, reduce her to being a mere instrument for the satisfaction of his own desires, no longer considering her as his partner whom he should surround with care and affection." That pornography and sex trafficking are grossly highly lucrative industries today lends a lot of credence to that statement.

#### **Unfaithfulness in marriage**

Pope Paul VI reiterated: "Responsible men can become more deeply convinced of the truth of the doctrine laid down by the Church on this issue if they reflect on the consequences of methods and plans for artificial birth control... Let them first consider how easily this course of action could open wide the way for marital infidelity and a general lowering of moral standards."

The pope's words seem highly prophetic given the 2015 release of over 37 million user names and identities from the company Ashley Madison. The website specialized in providing environments for spousal infidelity.

#### **A disrespect for human life**

Pope Paul VI promoted the dignity and beauty of human beings created in the image of God. His message didn't sit well with a world tainted by sin.

"Men rightly observe that a conjugal act imposed on one's partner without regard to his or her condition or personal and reasonable wishes in the matter, is no true act of love, and therefore offends the moral order in its particular application to the intimate relationship of husband and wife," the

pontiff wrote. "If they further reflect, they must also recognize that an act of mutual love which impairs the capacity to transmit life which God the Creator, through specific laws, has built into it, frustrates His design which constitutes the norm of marriage, and contradicts the will of the Author of life. Hence to use this divine gift while depriving it, even if only partially, of its meaning and purpose, is equally repugnant to the nature of man and of woman, and is consequently in opposition to the plan of God and His holy will."

If it seems implausible this disrespect for human life, then one need only refer to current Abortion statistics in this country alone. God's most creative act...creating new life...no act more sacred...by His Providential design is through the intimate and affectionate love of a husband and wife whose unity in marriage represents the ideal setting for a child to be securely and confidently raised.

- Based on available state-level data, approximately 891,000 abortions took place in the United States in 2019, up from 876,000 abortions in 2018.

### **Marriage under attack**

"It is to be anticipated that perhaps not everyone will easily accept this particular teaching," Pope Paul VI reflected.

"There is too much clamorous outcry against the voice of the Church, and this is intensified by modern means of communication. But it comes as no surprise to the Church that she, no less than her divine Founder, is destined to be a sign of contradiction. She does not, because of this, evade the duty imposed on her of proclaiming humbly but firmly the entire moral law, both natural and evangelical."

"Mandating marriage redefinition across the country is a tragic error that harms the common good and most vulnerable among us, especially children," Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky wrote in 2015. "The law has a duty to support every child's basic right to be raised, where possible, by his or her married mother and father in a stable home."

Finally, Pope Paul VI wrote on man's desire to define his own morality. This subject is particularly relevant in today's culture of relativism.

"But the most remarkable development of all is to be seen in man's stupendous progress in the domination and rational organization of the forces of nature to the point that he is endeavoring to extend this control over every aspect of his own life—over his body, over his mind and emotions, over his social life, and even over the laws that regulate the transmission of life."

Again, looking at the current data from the CDC regarding STD's...they have increased at an alarming rate effecting more and more younger people, not to mention the incidences of depression that many feel are related to this culture's current lack of understanding and respect of authentic intimacy and the beauty of life in general.

Despite how supposedly controversial this information may seem, especially for people of faith, it would make much sense to review and consider the Church's teaching on sexuality, marriage, family and relationships in general. With all the doom and gloom statistics of disease, death, infidelity and unhappiness going through the roof of the universe...what does anyone have to lose reflecting on this information?

More than an organization or one more voice of social conscience...the Church is the body of Christ...and every body has a voice that speaks...though in this instance the voice that speaks is Christ Himself and no one speaks more from the Heart than He does...His Most Sacred Heart, the fullness of God and Man's love...a "fullness" that is without limit, who when listened to will lead us to great happiness in this life and the greatest happiness in the life to come. As Jesus says: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me, give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand."

**Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 14, 2021**

**Temporary Parish Office Hours:**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM  
Closed on Wednesday, Friday, 9 AM to 12 PM

**Assumption Catholic School**

Mr. Steven J Santoli, Principal - (203) 334-6271  
Grades: Pre-K 3 through 8 Hours: 8:40 AM - 3 PM  
Before and After School Programs Available  
(Before School program begins at 7:00 AM and After School program ends 5:30 PM)

**Faith Formation**

Mr. Frank Macari, Director - (203) 367-1108  
Email address: Our.lady.assumption@snet.net  
Tuesday Classes For Grades 1-5 from 4-5 PM  
For Grades 6-8 from 7-8 PM  
Office of Faith Formation Hours: Weekdays 10 AM - 3 PM  
and Tuesdays 10 AM-5:30 PM

**Parish Finance Council**

Our parish Finance Council is a consultative body of lay persons established to advise the pastor in matters pertaining to the financial affairs of the church. The chairman is Ron Fiske, (203) 330-0375.

**Parish Activities**

**American Heritage Girls Troop #4862:** Monthly (except summer), 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 4:00 PM, parish center. For girls ages 5-18. Jillian Plomin at jplomin@gmail.com. Currently suspended

**Altar Society of St. Joseph the Worker:** Monthly, 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month following 7:30 AM Mass. Cleans and beautifies the Sanctuary and chapels in the church.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** Friday, 8:00 PM, parish hall.  
**Narcotics Anonymous** Wednesday 7:30 PM, parish hall.

**Bible Study:** Thursdays, 9:15 AM and 7 PM, parish center. Study sessions will be posted in our bulletin. Currently Suspended

**Choir: Adults:** Wednesday, 7 PM in the church.

**Resurrection Choir:** Sings at funeral Masses. Contact Michael Cooney, Director of Music, at (203) 572-2213 or email music@olaffld.org for details. Currently suspended

**Knights of Columbus:** Monthly, 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7 PM parish hall. Grand Knight Michael Lauzon at (203) 817-7528 or email mplauzon@aol.com.

**Parish Nurses:** Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, Sept. to June, at 7 PM St. Vincent Medical Center

**Blood pressure screening:** Currently suspended

**Sisters in Faith:** Monthly, 2nd Monday, 7 - 9 PM, parish hall, except July & August. Ministry for women of Assumption Church. Mary Garbe at marygarbe@gmail.com.

**Mass Intentions**



**Saturday, March 13th**

4:00 p.m. Donald Casazza

**Sunday, March 14th**

7:30 a.m. Assumption parishioners & families

9:00 a.m. Rita Purcell

10:30 a.m. Leonard Alaimo

12:00 p.m. Mabel Connelly

**Weekday Masses**

Mon. 3/15 7:30 a.m. Shelly Lawrence

5:30 p.m. Alice Eichhorn

Tues. 3/16 7:30 a.m. Ernest Errichetti

5:30 p.m. Joseph Federici

Wed. 3/17 7:30 a.m. Bowles Laws &

Pelagia Danilowicz

5:30 p.m. Kathleen McCartin

Thurs. 3/18 7:30 a.m. Christopher Robles

(1 year Anniversary)

5:30 p.m. Joseph Metellus

Fri. 3/19 7:30 a.m. Barbara Zumstag

5:30 p.m. Jose Fraga

Sat. 3/20 7:30 a.m. Shelly Lawrence

**Saturday, March 20th**

4:00 p.m. Robert Hull, Jr.

**Sunday, March 21st**

7:30 a.m. Special Intention of John Cipriani

9:00 a.m. Harry Ricca

10:30 a.m. Lauren Karpinski DeSiena

12:00 p.m. Paddy Joe Curtin



*Our Sanctuary Light  
Will burn this week  
In loving memory of  
Jose Fraga*



*Our Devotional Light  
Will burn this week for  
In remembrance of  
George A. & Robert Raiselis*

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Mary Alberico	Nicholas DeMaio	Christian Kong
Josephine Amiot	Michael Devaney	Tim Lambert
Christopher Amiot	Fred Eichhorn	Robert Lancia
Solange Anziano	Diane Fasanella	Sandy MacArthur
Lorraine Artale	Charlie Gordon	Eugene Madara
Ellie Art	Holly Graham	Peter Maioriello
Carol Bertanza	Edward Grosso	Noah Martinez
Michael Black	Suzanne Hannan	Leroy Moye
Eleanor Bruckmann	Dcn. Vince Heidereich	Dave Reynolds
Letitia Ciccio	Leonard Iwanski, Jr.	Donna Schmidt
Brendan Crosby	Clare Kelleher	Lillian Squilla

March 6/7

2021

Weekend Offertory: \$3,925.00

Online Giving \$3,191.00

Thank You



### Online Giving

We realize many of our parishioners are still not be able to attend Mass regularly, please consider making your offertory through Online Giving. Please visit our website and click on the Tab "Donate" and create an account.

### Mass Capacity Update

As you may have read, effective March 19th, there is no capacity limitation on Mass attendance. However, the state still requires masks, social distancing, and regular cleaning. Given the requirement of social distance, we **MUST** continue to use every other pew and maintain six feet distance between individuals/household units. We will continue to require on-line registration for our weekend and Holy Day Masses. In addition, we will live-stream our weekend Masses (with the exception of the 7:30 AM Mass) to accommodate more people in the parish hall..

### A Guide to Confession

Has it been a while since your last confession? Interested, but worried you don't remember how to make a "good" confession? Simple pick up "A Guide to Confession" brochure in the vestibule for helpful "how to" guidance. Then attend **confession offered at 1:30 PM on Saturdays, or on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.**

### Lenten Fish Fry

Our WONDERFUL SeptemberFest Committee WILL be going forward with a fish fry on THREE Fridays in March: 12th, 19th, 26th. It will be pre-ordering on-line only, there will be NO walk-ins. **On-line order form March 19th will be send out via email or on our website**

**Sunday evening.** Cut off time to place order is **Thursday, March 18 at 12:00 PM.** When placing order choose the time slot you would like to pick up your order in **parish hall.** Food will be packaged hot and ready for pick up during your designated time slot, you will be asked to enter with a mask through one door of the hall, pay, and pick up food, then exit through another door to maintain social distancing. **Payment for your order can be cash or check (make payable to OLA), no credit cards accepted.**

### Rosary

Join us on **Tuesday, March 16th at 7:00 PM in the church, for a special Saint Patrick Themed recitation of the Holy Rosary.** The service will be live-streamed as well. In addition, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place and Confession will be available.



### Solemnity of Saint Joseph Mass

In honor of the year dedicated to Saint Joseph, at **7:00 PM Friday, March 19th**, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Bishop Caggiano will be celebrating a special Mass of Saint Joseph and will consecrate the Diocese of Bridgeport to Saint Joseph who is the Universal Patron Defender and Protector of Holy Mother Church.

As a show of both Spiritual Strength and Solidarity, the Bishop has asked individual Parishes to conduct a Mass that coincides with the Mass he will be celebrating that evening at the Cathedral in Bridgeport. For that evening **in lieu of the Stations of the Cross, we will have a special Mass of Saint Joseph beginning at 7:00 PM here in the Church.** The Mass will be live-streamed as well. Masks are required.

### Save the Date for LOVE LIFE DAY

In celebration of the Conception of Jesus Christ, we will have a celebratory LOVE LIFE DAY on **Thursday, March 25th.** There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Holy Rosary and in the evening, a Movie (TBD) will be shown highlighting the beauty and sanctity of human life. Stay tuned for more specific times and details.

### Stations of the Cross

As we celebrate the season of Lent, please join us each **Friday during Lent at 7:00 PM in church** as we pray and meditate the Stations to commemorate the Passion of Christ and His sacrifice for us. **Due to special Mass in Honor of the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Stations of the Cross with not be held.** All are welcome to follow the journey of Christ. Mask are required.

### Easter Flower Remembrance

Your loved ones who are memorialized and honored with your Easter Flower contributions will be remembered at the Paschal Vigil, the first celebration of the risen Christ, which will be celebrated at **8:00 PM on Saturday, April 3rd.** If you would like to include the names of your loved ones, please submit your envelope by **Monday, March 22nd (please note earlier deadline).** The names of your loved ones will also appear in our parish bulletin. Easter Flower envelopes have been included in your envelope packet. You may also give through Online Giving.



### Parishioner's Corner

Looking for some further outstanding reflections on the Sunday Mass Reading? Please visit Assumption's own Dr. Frank DeStefano's wonderful "*Sunday Sunday*" blogs at <https://doctorfrank.blogspot.com/>.

### Loaves & Fishes



The annual Loaves & Fishes campaign, a Lenten offering to feed our Fairfield County neighbors, sponsored by Catholic Charities is currently taking place without the traditional envelopes this year. Catholic Charities

food service programs continue to provide critically needed assistance via our soup kitchens, food pantries, and meal deliveries to the elderly. This year it is more critical to help our vulnerable neighbors struggling to feed their families due to the Covid-19 crisis. Catholic Charities is a leading provider of food resources throughout the county, serving over 1 million meals to individuals, families and the homebound elderly since the pandemic began, something all Catholics should take pride in. There are two ways to make your Loaves & Fishes donations today: 1) Give directly to Loaves & Fishes at [www.ccfairfield.org/donate](http://www.ccfairfield.org/donate) then select Loaves & Fishes when you make your donation. 2) Make your check payable to "Catholic Charities" and mail to **Catholic Charities Finance; ATT: Loaves & Fishes, 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606.**

### Lenten Rice Bowl

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all. Rice Bowl Collection Containers are available in the back of the Church. Please visit the web site that appears on the container for more information on this great Lenten activity.

### Birthright

Birthright needs volunteers! Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service offering free pregnancy tests, friendship counseling, and practical support. Birthright volunteers have served in Connecticut since 1972. Thousands of expectant mothers have received the help they need to bring their babies into the world! There are 7 Birthright centers in our state. Please call **1800-550-4900** for the Birthright nearest you. Training is provided. Spanish speaking volunteers are especially needed. In addition, Birthright needs gently worn maternity and baby clothing. Please call the number above to arrange for donation drop off.

*Newly Baptized:*

*Last weekend we welcomed*

Angelisa Marino Toro  
Angel Juan Toro III  
Emma Joan Medoff

*into the Roman Catholic Faith, through the saving waters of Baptism.*



### Readings for the Week

Sunday:	2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23/Psalm 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Ephesians 2:4-10/John 3:14-21 or 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4m 5, 6 [1]/Ephesians 5:8-14/John 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Monday:	Isaiah 65:17-21/Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/John 4:43-54
Tuesday:	Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12/Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 [8]/John 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Isaiah 49:8-15/Psalm 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 [8a]/John 5:17-30
Thursday:	Exodus 32:7-14/Psalm 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/John 5:31-47
Friday:	2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [37]/Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22/Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a
Saturday:	Jeremiah 11:18-20/Psalm 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/John 7:40-53
Next Sunday:	Jeremiah 31:31-34/Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Hebrews 5:7-9/John 12:20-33 or Ezekiel 37:12-14/Romans 8:8-11/Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

### Communion Antiphon

**"The tribes go up to Jerusalem, to give thanks to your name, O Lord." - Psalm 122:1**



### 40 Days for Life

The life-saving campaign of "40 Days for Life" will run to March 28th. The Lenten prayer vigil will take place at the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood, 4697 Main Street, Bridgeport (adjacent to Bank of America), daily 9 AM to 5 PM. Join this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion. For more information and to sign up, please visit <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/bridgeport> or send email to [snowdenopalak@icloud.com](mailto:snowdenopalak@icloud.com), Lenore Opalak.

### Mourning in the Pandemic

As we celebrate the vaccine, let us not forget the empty chairs around the table for so many families. To help those who are mourning a loved one, The Dioceses of Bridgeport's Leadership Institute has prepared a resource to help. Coming in from the cold of a bleak winter's day is perhaps an analogy for the place that family members, neighbors, and work colleagues, who have lost someone dear to them in the last year, will find themselves. Please visit: <https://formationreimagined.org/mourning-during-the-pandemic/>. In addition, join fellow parishioners **every Sunday evening at 7:30 PM** to pray for a return to health, our front-line workers, and an end to this pandemic at the **Sunday Family Rosary by visiting [formationreimagined.org](https://formationreimagined.org)** and look for the praying hands at the top of the home page.

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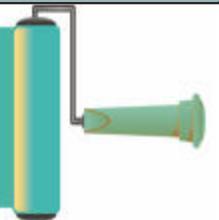
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