

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

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

Rev. Marcel Saint Jean, In Residence

Deacon Raymond John Chervenak

Deacon Robert McLaughlin

Michael Cooney, Director of Music

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: 3:00-3:45 PM or by appointment.

Every Thursday: 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

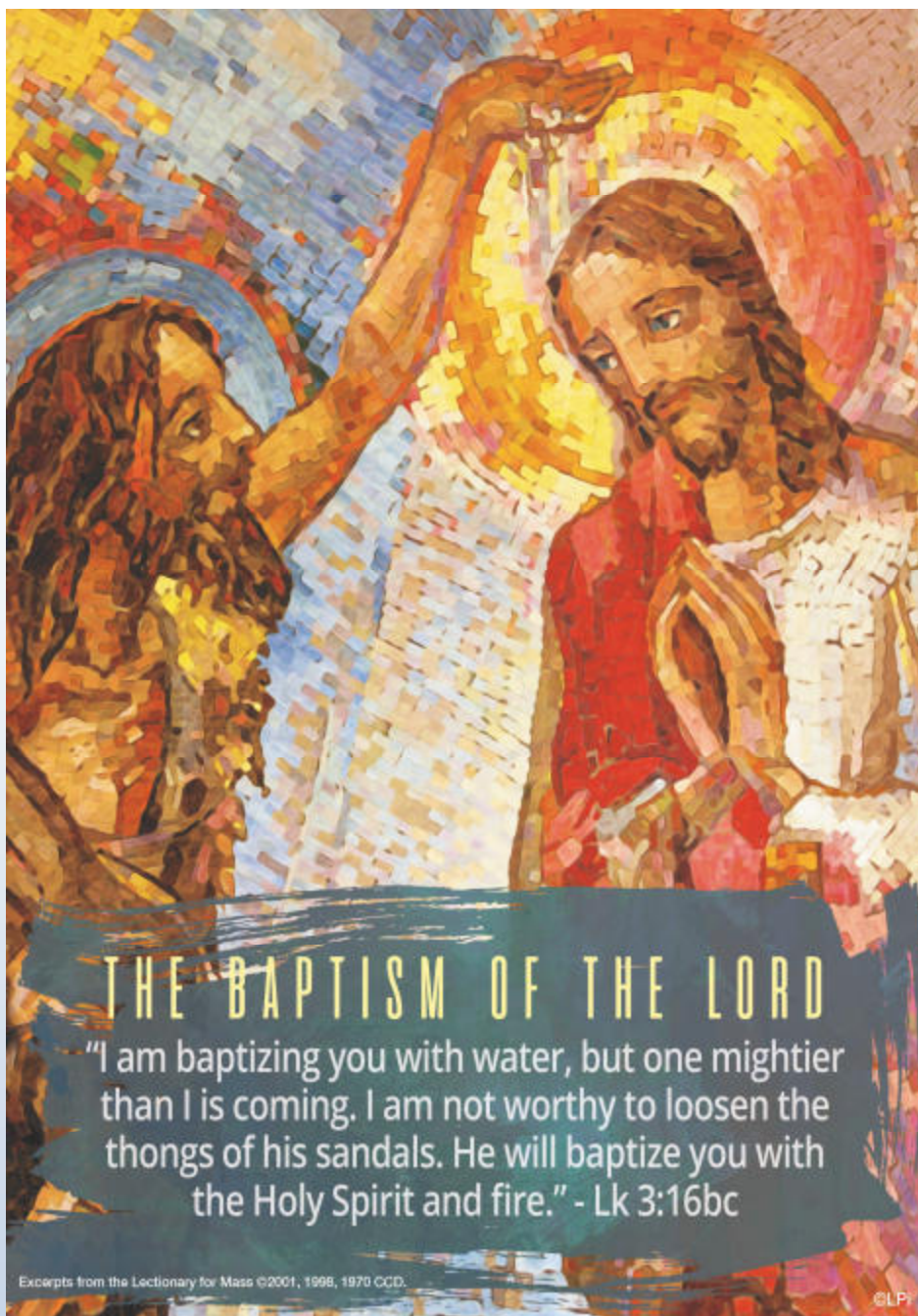
Miraculous Medal-8 AM. Monday

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.



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

“I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” - Lk 3:16bc

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

CLP

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.



- Baptism -

We know from the Gospels that Jesus was baptized in the Jordan by John the Baptist.

Not because Jesus had sin, but so that in Him our human nature could be sanctified. The rule of thumb to remember is that whatever happens to Jesus is for our benefit and profit...and this especially includes our baptism.

It is interesting that no sooner is Jesus baptized the Scriptures say that He is driven into the desert by the Holy Spirit to do battle with Satan and all his weapons of seduction and temptation. You would think that in being baptized there would be a great celebration of sorts not a being called forth into a fight. This is important because the nature of baptism implies training and warfare and not just the removal of that stain of original sin. No, at the moment we are baptized we receive our mission or are commissioned to go forth into life as a true son and daughter of God the Father because of the sacrifice of our true Big Brother Jesus Christ whose disciples we now are.

The flip side of this coin is that there is another family, an opposite or antagonistic "family" that wants to destroy God's family with the weapons of hatred, despair, impurity, dishonor, selfishness and what not. From the very beginning of human history we are made aware of these two opposing families. In the Book of Genesis chapter 3 verse 15...after Satan has tempted Adam and Eve to fall...God shouts down the devil by saying: "I will put enmity/hatred between you and the woman, between your children and hers, and she will crush your head while you lie in wait to strike at her heel." Notice the violent imagery...it implies a battle that involves a woman fighting the devil with her children against his.

How can the devil have children? Well, just as through sanctifying grace we become children of God...through mortal sin...we become children or more like slaves in the service of Satan spreading his hatred and destruction...using and abusing people and God's creation for wicked and self serving purposes.

In the Book of Revelation, the children of this woman are described as those who follow Jesus Christ, and that woman is the Blessed Virgin Mary; because of her Immaculate Conception...never committing sin...it is she who is truly at enmity with the devil and has thus been given the authority to crush his head.

So from the very beginning, humanity has been at war...this is the reality of life...it is difficult...it is demanding...it is disappointing...even if we choose to ignore the existence of the devil and the fallen angels

who seek 24/7 without sleep our eternal ruin, they believe in us...except that their belief is focused on our utter ruin. With this in mind...we need some serious training to successfully fight this war...and the best possible training we can receive is through the instruction of our faith.

Much as a coach helps to prepare his team through practice and game films and play books to be ready for the opponents they will meet on the field of competition, so the Church like any good mother...prepares her children to confront the demands of life through her teachings. This process begins in earnest at baptism which throws wide open the door through which we enter to live as children of God and fight as disciples and soldiers of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom against the kingdom of Satan.

To give you an idea of how real this battle is and how it connects to baptism...look passed the river Jordan to the Cross at Calvary. Jesus has just squared off with the fiercest opponent and enemy of all: death, which too is our greatest enemy and one like it or not we all must face one day. Whether we believe in God or not...death comes for us all...and so when it does...how prepared are we going to be to confront it and what will the outcome of that fight be...utter darkness or eternal light and joy?

It seems at first that Christ is conquered on the Cross by Satan, sin and death. The roman soldier on duty wanting to make sure that Jesus is in fact dead...takes his spear and plunges it right into the heart of Jesus and His heart bursts. Then the Gospel of John narrates that from out of His pierced heart there flowed out water and blood.

The Church believes that this marks THE moment when God initiated the power of the sacraments to be made available for all people of all times. The water is for baptism and the blood for the Eucharist. This is why the Church is referred to as Mother. She gives birth to us through the waters of baptism and we are drawn forth from the baptismal font like a child from the womb into the light of day...except through baptism it is the light of eternal day...and of course, what good Mother would allow her child to starve? The Eucharist is the bread of life, it is our ultimate nourishment because it is the body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ Himself.

It all comes down to Faith and Love...and the question is...are they worth fighting for?

The Baptism of the Lord January 9, 2022

Parish Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM
Friday, 9 AM to 12 PM

Assumption Catholic School

Mrs. Stacy Clements, 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 4:15-5 PM
For Grades 6-8 from 7-7:45 PM
Office of Faith Formation Hours: Weekdays 10 AM - 3 PM
and Tuesdays 10 AM-5:30 PM (during school year)

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), 3rd Saturdays, 2:30 PM, parish center. For girls ages 5-18. Jillian Plomin at jplomin@gmail.com.

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, January 8th

4:00 p.m. Jane Schweitzer

Sunday, January 9th

7:30 a.m. John Danilowicz

9:00 a.m. James McInerney (1 Year Anniversary)

10:30 a.m. Pedro Checo

12:00 p.m. Dying souls in most need of God's Mercy

Weekday Masses

Mon. 1/10 7:30 a.m. Robert Piscitelli
5:30 p.m. Francisco Garcia

Tues. 1/11 7:30 a.m. Wilfredo Carreon
5:30 p.m. Ivan & Jelena Kolarich

Wed. 1/12 7:30 a.m. Special Intention of
Sophie Danilowicz
5:30 p.m. Deceased Maurice family &
Francine Gaspard

Thurs. 1/13 7:30 a.m. Montano DelaRea
5:30 p.m. Matteo Paliologo

Fri. 1/14 7:30 a.m. Eugene Bandumba
5:30 p.m. Robert E. Barnes

Sat. 1/15 7:30 a.m. Florence Nevelson

Saturday, January 15th

4:00 p.m. Rev. Msgr Ernest T. Esposito
(3rd Year Anniversary)

Sunday, January 16th

7:30 a.m. Lachance & Grondin Families

9:00 a.m. Mary Iassogna

10:30 a.m. Dr. Edward McPadden

12:00 p.m. Solange Anziano



*Our Sanctuary Light
Will burn this week in
Loving Memory of the deceased
Maurice Family*

*Our Devotional Light
Will burn this week for in
Loving Memory of Pedro Checo*



PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Mary Alberico	Michael Devaney	Robyn McDaniel
Paul Alvarez	Larry DiPalma	Allison McGrath
Josephine Amiot	Tricia Duffy	Kaitlin McLaughlin
Christopher Amiot	Sandy Erickson	Norma McInerney
Ellie Art	Dolores Kuczo	Rita Meyers
Rita Bellavance	Diane & Anthony	Frank Minardi
Michael Black	Gilbertie	Meghan Moore
Eleanor Bruckmann	Holly Graham	Leroy Moye
Francisca Campos	Leanne Gransden	Al Panico
Letitia Ciccio	Amy Hanson	Craig Renzulli
Brian Coleman	John Howley	Gerry Ressigue
Lucille Costello	Dragen Lesko	John Salgado
Marilyn Croce	Harold Liskov	David Van Vlack
Jayne D'Amico	Jamie Mack	Patty Vitola
Fran Daly	Noah Martinez	K.J. Webb

December 252021

Christmas Offertory: \$14,867.00
 Online Giving: \$ 528.00

December 262021

Weekend Offertory: \$ 3,384.00
 Online Giving: \$ 2,493.00

January 1/22022

Weekend Offertory: \$ 6,314.00
 Online Giving: \$ 2,786.00

There is no second collection for next weekend.

Thank You**DONATE Online**

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.

Statements for 2021

Contribution Statements will be going out at the end of January to all households whose annual contributions **totaled \$250.00 and above**. If you are not expecting to receive a statement, but would like one for your records, please call Janet at the parish office.

The Use of Parish Support Envelopes

Our parish mails collection envelopes to households who members are registered in our parish. Using the envelope system is one way that a parish can verify your participation in weekly Masses should you request a sponsor certificate, signed parish affiliation form, sacraments for your child, and the Sacrament of Marriage for adults. When you use the envelopes provided for the parish collections, all your contributions are recorded so that an end-of-year summary may be sent to you for income tax preparation. If you are not sure of your registration status or you currently do not receive weekly collection envelopes, **please contact the parish office**.

Center of Mercy Reconciliation

As a Center of Mercy parish in the Diocese of Bridgeport, we offer the **Sacrament of Reconciliation each week on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:00 PM**. As Catholics we have the gift of Confession to restore our relationship with God and share in His glory. This is a wonderful opportunity to set aside our sinful ways and to draw nearer to the Lord. **In addition, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** will be offered during this time as well, as long as there will be people present during this time to adore our Lord.

**Pray to Protect Human Life!
January 19-27, 2022**

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena, 9 Days for Life, which begins Wednesday, January 19 through Thursday, January 27. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and suggested actions to help build a culture of life directly via email by signing up at:

<https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup>

You may also visit our website for the daily novena or we have made available a limited supply of printed copies in the hall entry way.

Respect Life Adoration

Anticipating the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on Saturday January 22nd, **on Friday January 21st, following the 7:30 AM Mass we will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament available until 5:00 PM**. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed as well that day at 3:00 PM followed by the Holy Rosary. Please set aside some prayer time and before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament pray for the sanctity of ALL Human Life beginning in the womb. Without this most fundamental right to life...to be born...there are no other rights one can share and enjoy. And how fortunate and blessed we are to be able to do this, because it is a reminder that we continue to enjoy the great blessing of life.

Special Family Mass

Fr. Peter invites families with young children to attend a special celebration on **Sunday, January 23rd at our 9:00 AM Mass**. What better way for your children to celebrate Mass by participating in the Homily. Being involved at Mass, your children will be reminded of the **REAL** meaning of Jesus' life and teachings!

House Blessing

As we continue to navigate through a very rough and challenging and in many instances heart-breaking and heart-aching year, the need to draw strength from God's blessings seems more necessary than ever. And what better way to receive those abundant blessings of peace, comfort, strength, healing and protection than with a thorough House

Blessing.

If interested, **please call the Rectory to set up an appointment**. Myself, Father Flynn, and Deacons Ray and Rob will be sharing in the distribution of these abundant graces. May this continued New Year be one for all of you of great happiness, health and holiness!



R.C.I.A. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults *Who is it for?*

It is for you:

- If you have not been Baptized or received First Communion/Confirmation
- If you as an adult want to know more about your faith
- If you feel your faith is just a habit and you want to know more

It could be for:

- Someone interested in knowing about the Catholic faith
- Someone who might consider becoming a member of the Catholic Church
- Someone who has no church to call their own
- Someone who is a member of another faith community and has expressed an interest in the Catholic faith

Please contact the Faith Formation office at **203-367-1108** or by email at **our.lady.assumption@snet.net** for more information.

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/>.

Christmas Decorations

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who put together a beautiful flower and nativity display in our parish hall (Our Little Bethlehem). The Christmas spirit came alive as we celebrated the Birth of Christ, Our Lord. Thank you to Diane Kane and her decorating committee: Michael Broderick, Meri Glifort, Ann Okrentowich, Marie Sabo, Irene Orosz, Josh Orosz, Sal Orosz, Maureen Kane, & Charlie Kane.



On behalf of myself, Father Flynn and the Staff here at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, thank you immensely for another wonderful year of support, prayers and service that makes our Parish more than a community and more so a family. From all of us, we wish you and pray for you and your families and friends a New Year filled with great health, peace, faith, hope, healing and joy!

+
Fr. Peter

Crèche Display

Our beautiful Nativity Scene and Christmas tree were displayed on the Church grounds for all to enjoy during the Advent and Christmas Season. A very special thank you to Grand Knight Michael Lauzon and to the many Knights of Columbus Council #11077 members who volunteered this Advent and Christmas Season.

Giving Tree

An enormous and heartfelt THANK YOU to all who donated to the Giving Tree! In these unprecedented times, the generous amount of gift donations exceeded our expectations, again! The abundant generosity of our parishioners was gratefully received by various agencies serving newborn babies, children, teens, adults and the elderly. Delivered by "modern sleighs" that were filled to the brim! Thank you to Lara Linsenmeyer and Reini Knorr for organizing and planning this wonderful act of charity and to the many helpers.

Convalidation of Marriage

Like other couples in your parish or family, you may be wondering if your marriage is fully recognized by the Catholic Church. Catholic Church law ordinarily requires baptized Roman Catholics to marry before a priest or deacon.

Catholics who exchange marriage vows in the presence of only ministers from other religious traditions or authorized civic officials (i.e.. Justice of the Peace) are not considered validly married in the eyes of the Catholic Church, which offers Marriage in the unique form of a Sacrament called Holy Matrimony: a sacrament similar in scope and power to that of Holy Communion/Eucharist. In fact, Holy Matrimony is meant to signify (a sacrament is a visible sign indicating a greater invisible and/or supernatural reality) the enduring and unbreakable love for Jesus Christ the Bridegroom for His Bride the Church.

If you feel as though you are in a position where Convalidation is possible, please call the Rectory to discuss the process involved. Couples who are not in a recognized Catholic Marriage should not receive Holy Communion and are not qualified to be Catholic godparent until the Convalidation process is complete.

Regardless of what happened in the past, the Catholic Church invites you to bring new meaning to your lives by embracing the vocation of marriage and dedicating your family's mission to sharing God's love.

Gospel Meditation - January 9, 2022 The Baptism of the Lord

"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ."

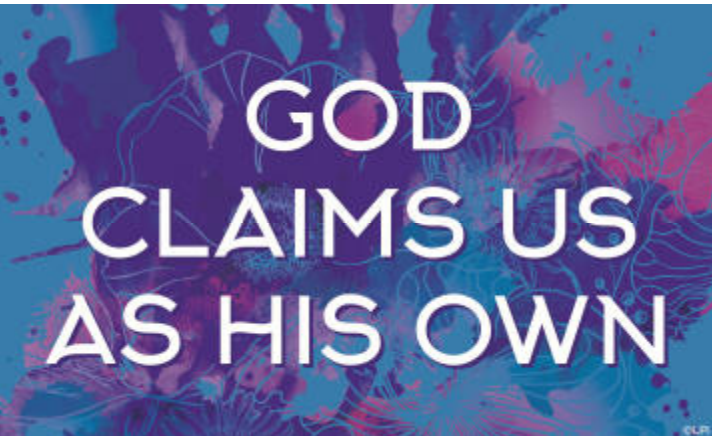
— Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

©LPi



Readings for the Week

Sunday:	Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7/Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11/Psalm 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Luke 3:15-16, 21-22
Monday:	1 Samuel 1:1-8/Psalm 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mark 1:14-20
Tuesday:	1 Samuel 1:9-20/1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mark 1:21-28
Wednesday:	1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20/Psalm 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mark 1:29-39
Thursday:	1 Samuel 4:1-11/Psalm 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mark 1:40-45
Friday:	1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a/Psalm 89:16-17, 18-19/Mark 2:1-12
Saturday:	1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Psalm 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mark 2:13-17
Next Sunday:	Isaiah 62:1-5/Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Corinthians 12:4-11/John 2:1-11

Communion Antiphon

"All who have been baptized in Christ, you have put on Christ, alleluia" - Psalm 29:1



Seek22 Conference

This February 4 – 6, gather with others at St. Pius X in Fairfield, CT for SEEK22. This conference draws in 25,000+ attendees and this year it can be attended locally! Encounter the Source of all your heart's desires and find the true place of the Gospel in your everyday life. You will be empowered, encouraged, and equipped to experience the hope of Jesus Christ. Dive deep into the heart of the Gospel message with some of the world's best speakers!

Pray, share meals, hear inspiring talks, partake in relevant discussions, and enjoy holy leisure together. **What if you said yes?** For details, schedule, and registration please visit: www.bit.ly/spx-seek2022. Contact Paola Peña by email at ppena@st-pius.org if you have any questions.

Safe Return Network

Safe Return Network was developed to assist emergency personnel in locating community members who suffer from conditions which make them susceptible to "wandering" and safely returning them home. The network places critical information at the fingertips of First Responders to help identify, locate and return your loved one home. There are no age restrictions. For additional information, **contact Officer Anthony Krushinski at akrushinski@fairfieldct.org or call (203) 254-4800.**

To register, visit fpdct.com/safereturn.

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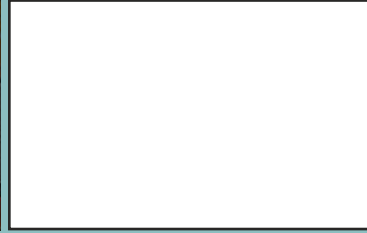
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