



Saint Matthew • St. Gregory the Great Parish

April 13, 2025 — Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Fr. John Dietrich, *Pastor*

Fr. Nathaniel C. Labarda, *Parochial Vicar*

Brian Armstrong, *Deacon* — James Arena, *Deacon*

St. Matthew • (860) 583-1833

120 Church Avenue , Forestville, CT

rectory@stmatthewrcc.com • smsgparish.org

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday 9 — 12, 1 — 4

Sonia Shavel, *Parish Secretary*

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 a.m., 5:00 pm

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. Saturday: 8:30 a.m.

Confession: Saturdays 3 — 3:45 pm

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Dr. Liz Plasky, *Principal* Kate Ricci, *Secretary*

St. Gregory the Great • (860) 589-2295

235 Maltby Street, Bristol, CT

rectory@stgregoryrcc.com •

smsgparish.org

Office Hours:

Monday— Friday 9 — 12, 1 — 4

Jennifer York, *Parish Secretary*

Maureen Stella, *Office Assistant*

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 10:00 a.m.

Monday through Saturday: 9:00 a.m.

Confession: Saturdays 3 — 3:45 pm

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Heavenly Father, You have created us for a definite purpose. Grant us the grace to know the path You have planned for each of us in this life, and to respond with a generous "Yes."

Make my parish, my home and my heart fruitful ground for Your gift of vocations to the priesthood of Jesus Christ. May our young men respond to Your call with courage and zeal. Stir among them a desire and the strength to be good and holy priests. We make our prayer for priestly vocations to You, Father, in the Holy Spirit, through Christ our Lord. Amen. Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us. Saint Joseph, Patron of our Archdiocese, pray for us. Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us.



Mass Intentions



Saturday 4:00pm	April 13th Vigil Palm Sunday † Jean Gilles & Carmen Bolduc <i>by the Bolduc family</i>
Sunday 8:00am	April 13th Palm Sunday † Jessica Hanna <i>by Jackie Furniss</i>
10:00am	† Anne Normoyle <i>by the Normoyle family</i>
Monday 9:00am	April 14th Monday of Holy Week † Anne Normoyle <i>by Mike & Shiho Normoyle</i>
Tuesday 9:00am	April 15th Tuesday of Holy Week † Theresa Letizia Darby <i>by family</i>
Wednesday 9:00am	April 16th Wednesday of Holy Week † Chester Lewandowski <i>by the estate of Rev. David J. Lewandowski</i>
Thursday 7:00pm	April 17th Holy Thursday All Living and Deceased Members of St. Matthew & St. Gregory Parish
Friday 3:00pm	April 18th Good Friday All Living and Deceased Members of St. Matthew & St. Gregory Parish
Saturday 8:00pm	April 19th Vigil Holy Saturday All Living and Deceased Members of St. Matthew & St. Gregory Parish
Sunday 8:00am	April 20th Easter Sunday All Living and Deceased Members of St. Matthew & St. Gregory Parish
10:00am	All Living and Deceased Members of St. Matthew & St. Gregory Parish



THIS WEEK THE
SANCTUARY LAMP
BURNS FOR THE
GREATER
GLORY OF GOD
AND IN
HONOR OF

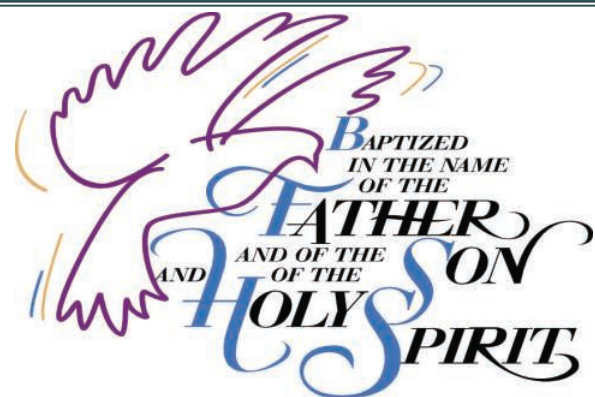
Anne Normoyle

Lord, grant eternal rest to the souls of all our dearly departed, especially the souls of your loving servants:



Sandra McCarthy
Gilman Damboise
Elizabeth Walston

St. Gregory Parish Family extends sincere sympathy to their family and friends at this time.



We welcome into the Church and the Parish Family of St. Gregory, through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Madeleine Grace Kenney

May the grace of God remain with them and may they grow in the love and friendship of their loving Father. Congratulations!



Weekly Offertory

We are most grateful for your continued generosity.

March 23, 2025 offertory \$6,642.00

Please remember to mark your envelope so that you may receive proper credit.

SAINT MATTHEW AND SAINT GREGORY

300+ CLUB



Week 28 \$20 - 3
\$10 - 242
\$10 - 5

CONGRATULATIONS!!

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon—Sat	Rosary	8:15am
	Divine Mercy	9:30am
Monday	Lenten Confessions	6:00pm
Tuesday	Holy Hour	7:00pm
Friday	Stations of the Cross	7:00pm



The parish office will be closed on Friday, April 18th for Good Friday and on Monday, April 21st for Easter Monday.



Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

Every Tuesday at 3:00 pm at St. Matthew Church

- ◆ Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- ◆ Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary
- ◆ Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers

“The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy.”
St. Faustina’s Diary—723

Divine Mercy Sunday
Holy Hour

St. Matthew Church
Sunday, April 27, 2025
at 3:00 pm

- ◆ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- ◆ Reflection on the Message of Divine Mercy
- ◆ Chaplet of Divine Mercy Sung
- ◆ Benediction

Confessions will be heard throughout the Holy Hour.



Holy Week Schedule

Holy Week Confession

Monday, April 14th: 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Holy Thursday, April 17

Mass of the Lord’s Supper: 7:00 pm
(no 9:00 am Mass)

Good Friday, April 18

Passion of the Lord: 3:00 pm
Stations of the Cross: 7:00 pm
(no 9:00 am Mass)

Holy Saturday, April 19

Blessing of the Food: 11:00 am—12:00 pm
Easter Vigil Mass: 8:00 pm
(No 4:00 pm Vigil Mass)

Easter Sunday, April 20

Masses: 8:00 am and 10:00 am



Presentation of Gifts

If you are having a Mass said for a loved one and would like to bring the gifts to the altar, please see a greeter/usher before the Mass.



We Pray For All Our Military Personnel

COLONEL KIRSTEN G. AGUILAR,
SGT TYLER D AKERLEY,
CAPTAIN GREGORY W. ALLEN,
LANCE CORPORAL, MICHAEL BANKS,
CAPTAIN JASON BARBER,
COLONEL PAUL T BARTOK ,
W2 TODD BOEHM, FT2 JOSEPH BOMBASSEI,
MASTER SERGEANT
DAVID BONACCORSO RETIRED,
COLONEL RUSSELL BONACCORSO,
MASTER SERGEANT,
MARY BONACCORSO CONKLIN,
WO 3 PETER CONKLIN RETIRED
STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL CORRY,
CORPORAL FRANK DENOTO,
E4 MICHAEL DENOTO,
GUNNERY SERGEANT WILLIAM T DOYLE IV,
LANCE CORPORAL JOHN DUNCAN,
MAJOR STEPHAN D'URSO,
LT COLONEL MELISSA FOX,
LT DANIEL GOLSCHNEIDER,
AIRMAN HUNTER R GOSLIN,
AIRMAN ABAAA DAKOTA GREGER,
CORPORAL JARED GREGER,
PFC STACEY LYNN GUERRETTE,
STAFF SERGEANT DAVID GULINO,
SERGEANT ELIJAH KING,
E-2 STEPHANIE LANDRY,
LANCE CORPORAL AUSTIN LAUSIER,
STAFF SERGEANT KAREN-ROSE LEWIS,
PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS
JONATHON MARCHETTI,
SERGEANT TAYLOR MARTEL,
E1 JACK MCCARTHY,
PFC JOSEPH MORELLI, JR.,
U.S. NAVY BRANDON MYERS,
PRIVATE NICHOLAS NADEAU,
BRIAN PAGE, JACOB PELLETIER,
SPECIALIST RICHARD PERRI,
LT. COLONEL DANIEL R. RABOIN,
LANCE CORPORAL JAMES RIDER,
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5,
LT JAKE SHEEHY,
SERGEANT STEFAN SQUILLANTE,
E3 SEAMAN B J SULLIVAN,
E2 NICHOLAS ZAWILINSKI,
STAFF SERGEANT KEITH ZANETTI,
LT COMMANDER CRAIG ZECCHIN

(If you know of anyone serving in the military, please call the office and we will be honored to list them.)

St. Matthew—St. Gregory the Great
Parish presents:

Maine Lobster!

Kennebunkport, ME

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Enjoy a Lobster Dinner at **Bull N Claw** in Wells, Maine. Here you will find good food, good spirits, and great company! Menu: Cup of Clam Chowder, salad, choice of: 1 1/8 lb. Maine Lobster, OR Prime Rib, Blueberry Crisp for dessert, coffee, tea, or soda. *Entrée choice in advance, please.*

Enjoy a **guided driving tour of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport**. Drive past the sandy beaches and rocky coastline, past the George Bush estate at Walker's Point, hear the history of these shipbuilding towns and the legend of the Wedding Cake House.

Time to visit the shops in quaint **Kennebunkport** on the beautiful Maine coast.

Cost: \$155pp based on 35-50

Depart: 7:30am, St. Gregory Church
Parking Lot, 235 Maltby St.

Estimated Return: 9:00pm, Bristol

Reservations: Angela Rakowski 860-677-7074
or Anna Sellers 860-747-8440

Tickets are non-refundable

Seats still available!



St. Matthew - St. Gregory the Great Parish

Religious Education

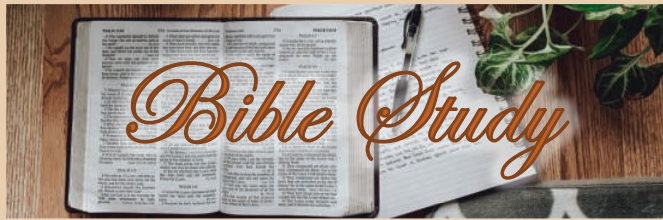
Register now for 2025-26

Religious Education classes!

Introducing our new online
registration system:



For more information, please visit our webpage
at smsgparish.org or contact
mewdre@stmatthewrcc.com



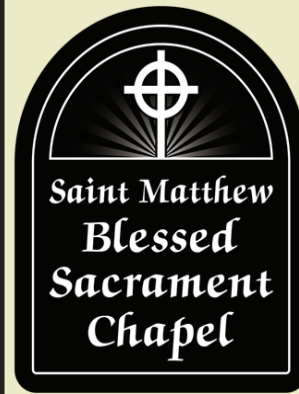
Join us for Bible study on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 pm in Rosary Hall.

There is no cost. Bring your Bible. I am using the New American Revised Catholic Edition.

Bring your questions, thoughts, and coffee

Looking forward to sharing time with you,
Georgianna Roy

St. Matthew Blessed Sacrament Chapel



Adoration Schedule:

- ⇒Thursdays : 8 am - 8 pm
- ⇒Fridays:8 am - 6 pm
- ⇒Saturdays: 9 am - 3:30 pm
- ⇒Sundays: 12 pm - 4:45 pm

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, the Chapel is open during the day from 7 am until 4:30 pm.

All are welcome!

We love our SMS alumni!



Once a student, you are always a member of our SMS family. We believe that it is important for our alumni, Parish, and greater community to keep up-to-date with all that's happening at our school.

We'd love to keep in touch!

Please let us know how to keep in touch...even if you think we already know how! Visit us at smsct.org or email advancement@smsct.org



Bereavement Ministry

Our Parish offers a bereavement ministry to help those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Past participants in our bereavement ministry have told us how beneficial it was to them.

Our 10 week bereavement group entitled "New Day/New Life" is a combination of prayer, reflection and sharing. It will begin on Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Center.

For more information and to register, please call Rita Lagasse at 860-583-6674. The program is free and open to all. Please extend this invitation to members of your family who might benefit from our bereavement ministry. *Everyone is welcome.*



MASS INTENTIONS ONLINE

If you would like to reserve an intention, please call the Parish Office at 860-589-2295 or visit our webpage at www.smsgparish.org.

Choose the MASS INTENTIONS tab at the top of the page. This will give you access to all available Mass intentions.

You may pay your offering with a credit card, which is easy and safe.

Intentions can also be scheduled in person at the rectory if you need assistance.

Thank you for your support!



BOOK CLUB

Sponsored by Ladies Guild

The Ultimate Gift
by Jim Stovall

Wednesday, May 13 9:30 am
Meeting at Panera, Bristol
(Shop Rite Plaza)

For more information,
please call Natale Barrett at
860-888-9563

*All are welcome
ladies and gentlemen!*





Branches on the Vine

APRIL 12 - 18, 2025

JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE BECKONS ALL CATHOLICS

- Story by Shelley Wolf



PHOTO BY BOB FALCETTI
Father Michael Ruminski, director of Divine Worship for the Archdiocese of Hartford, discusses the current "Jubilee Year of Hope" during a Theology on Tap event hosted by St. Bridget of Sweden Parish at a local restaurant in Cheshire.

The "2025 Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope," declared by Pope Francis, is a rare opportunity for special graces. Father Michael Ruminski, the archdiocese's director of Divine Worship, attempted to demystify the "Jubilee of Hope" during a recent Theology on Tap event hosted by St. Bridget of Sweden Parish in Cheshire.

He answered three basic questions: What is a jubilee? What is the Jubilee of Hope? And how can we celebrate it well?

According to Father Ruminski, the term "jubilee" can be traced back to the Latin term meaning "to sound a trumpet." Its roots go back to Mosaic law in the Old Testament, when it was a special year of rest and forgiveness every 50 years.

In Old Testament times, the jubilee involved the forgiveness of debts, the release of indentured servants and the return of ancestral inheritance. "It was supposed to be a kind of resetting of societal obligations in which you begin again," Father Ruminski explains.

The jubilee was introduced into Catholic Church life by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300.

By 1500, jubilees were celebrated every 25 years. The Christian jubilee put greater emphasis on spiritual reconciliation: freedom from sin, forgiveness, and peace. Pilgrimages and plenary indulgences were added.

The current Jubilee of Hope designated by Pope Francis is focused on the virtue of hope and its importance in the modern world.

Pope Francis has identified people in need of prayers or visits, Father Ruminski notes, because they have lost hope: young families afraid to bring children into the world, young people fixated on drugs or technology, the forgotten elderly and the sick, migrants and refugees fleeing dangerous places, and forgotten prisoners.

Hope is essential, Father Ruminski says, in facing the challenges of the world and in proclaiming the message of Christ. "Hope is the virtue given to us by God to direct our expectations for the future," he says. "Without hope, we have no ability to face the future with confidence."

Instead of ruminating on our challenges, he suggests we "look at the world with the supernatural eyes of faith."

"As St. Paul says, 'hope does not disappoint,'" Father Ruminski reminds us. Rather than let the

problems of the moment "dominate us," we should "proclaim something of power to the world around us."

"It's the light of Christ, through his victory on the cross, that should direct the way we interact with each other," he explains, "for us to be able to live right, to be able to forgive well and to be able to proclaim Christ crucified and risen. And so we have to have hope in order to do that."

Other practical steps for celebrating the Jubilee of Hope include making pilgrimages to one or more designated cathedrals or basilicas: St. Peter's Basilica and the major basilicas in Rome or, closer to home, the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford and the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury.

While there, pilgrims are encouraged to engage in the sacraments and acts of prayer: attend a Mass, go to confession, pray in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament or pray the rosary or the stations of the cross.

Conditions for receiving a plenary indulgence include confession, praying for the pope's intentions, receiving Holy Communion and being detached from sin.



Upcoming Events



04/12 - 18 HOLY WEEK
ST. LUKE PASSION PLAY
 St. Luke Catholic School,
 133 Bristol St, Southington

We are a community of people from various places, walks of life, and expressions of Christian faith who gather under the auspices of Saint Luke Parish to reenact the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the "Passion Play."

2025 Passion Play tickets are available at:
Stlukepassionplay2025.eventbrite.com
 For questions or ticket orders over 10 tickets, email:
 Email: passionplay@stlukect.org
 908-902-8404

Tickets are available for five performances:

Saturday, April 12, 6:30 p.m.
 Palm Sunday, April 13, 3 p.m. (earlier time is good for children)
 Tuesday, April 15, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, April 16, 7 p.m.
 Good Friday, April 18, 7 p.m.



04/23 WEDNESDAY 10AM
DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION AND ST. FAUSTINA PRESENTATION
 Sacred Heart on the Lake Retreat Center,
 194 Candlewood Hill Rd, Higganum

Mrs. Meg Bailey will give a Talk and Power Point Presentation on the Divine Mercy Devotion and St. Faustina. A Free Will Offering is asked. To register go online at-
www.sacredheartontheLake.org



04/27 SUNDAY 3PM
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE
 Corpus Christi Church, 601 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield

Christ the King Parish is sponsoring a prayer service at 3:00 PM at the Corpus Christi Church campus, 601 Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield. The service will include recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, veneration of the relic of St. Faustina, and Benediction. All are welcome. No registration is required.



The Mother Theresa Food Pantry at St. Ann Church (215 West Street, Bristol) is open on **Tuesday & Thursday**

mornings from 8:45 to 11:30 am.
Pre-registration is required.

Food collection is the **first weekend** of each month. Please leave your donation in the **St. Matthew Church** vestibule.
Thank you for your support!

2025 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Scan the QR code to learn how you can make a lasting impact!



Total Goal: \$10M

44.96% as of 3/28/25
 \$4,495,622.77 pledges from
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www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal



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Mary C - Alumni Class of 2024

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 or call 860-242-5573 to speak with Jason Rinaldi, Director.



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