



ST. FRANCIS  
CATHOLIC

# THE BULLETIN

MARCH 15 - MARCH 28, 2026



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Service to God*  
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# Welcome to Saint Francis Catholic

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## Mass, Confession & Adoration Times

### Weekends

<p><b>Saturday Vigil</b> 4:00 pm St. Jerome <i>Confession 3:00-3:30 pm</i></p>	<p><b>Sunday</b> 8:30 am St. Maurice</p>	<p><b>Sunday</b> 10:30 am* <i>Temporarily Moved to St. Jerome through Easter Sunday</i></p>
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### Weekdays (all at St. Francis)

<p><b>Daily (Monday-Saturday)</b> 8:00 am Mass <i>Confession 7:30-7:50 am</i></p>	<p><b>Lenten Monday</b> <b>Confession &amp; Adoration</b> <i>Adoration 5:00-6:00 pm</i> <i>Confession 5:15-5:45 pm</i> No Mass</p>	<p><b>Wednesday Evening</b> 6:00 pm Mass <i>Adoration 5:00-6:00 pm</i> <i>Confession 5:30-5:50 pm</i></p>
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### Our Parish Churches

<p><b>St. Francis</b> 1755 Stanley Street New Britain, CT 06053</p>	<p><b>St. Jerome</b> 1010 Slater Road New Britain, CT 06053</p>	<p><b>St. Maurice</b> 100 Wightman Road New Britain, CT 06052</p>	<p><b>St. Joseph*</b> 195 S. Main Street New Britain, CT 06051</p>	<p><b>St. Peter*</b> 98 Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051</p>
<p><i>*St. Joseph and St. Peter Churches are no longer used for regular Masses.</i></p>				

## Community - Liturgy - Formation - Holiness

*St. Francis Catholic exists to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bring all people into relationship with God, and form the next generation of evangelical Catholics. We do this by means of 4 pillars: welcoming community, engaging liturgical prayer, doctrinal formation, and commitment to growing in personal holiness.*

# Parish Leadership Contact Information



**Rev. Michael Casey**  
*Pastor*  
fr.casey@stfranciscatholic.org



**Rev. Sean Yates**  
*Parochial Vicar*  
fr.yates@stfranciscatholic.org



**Omar Acosta**  
*Facilities Manager*  
omar@stfranciscatholic.org



**Deacon Alan Bielawski**  
*Deacon*



**Andrew Blaski**  
*Headmaster*  
headmaster@chestertonsfa.org



**Elizabeth Famularo**  
*Music Director*  
elizabeth@stfranciscatholic.org



**Kristyn Figbie**  
*Communications Director*  
kristyn@stfranciscatholic.org



**Katie King**  
*Faith Formation Coordinator*  
katie@stfranciscatholic.org



**Jack Lacey**  
*Campus Minister*  
jack@stfranciscatholic.org



**Patti Pavia**  
*Parish Secretary*  
patti@stfranciscatholic.org



**Sofia del Rio**  
*Pastoral Associate*  
sofia@stfranciscatholic.org



**Janet Trainer**  
*Business Manager*  
janet@stfranciscatholic.org

## Address:

1010 Slater Rd., New Britain, CT 06053

## Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

## Phone:

860-224-2411

## Fax:

860-224-6838

## Email:

parishoffice@stfranciscatholic.org

## Connect on Social Media & Online



[www.stfranciscatholic.org](http://www.stfranciscatholic.org)



## FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

### Weekly Collection

**February 22, 2026: \$10,473.58**

**March 1, 2026: \$9,345.06**

**March 8, 2026: \$13,376.81**

**Second Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe: \$1,841.00**

*This amount includes the basket, mail in and online donations.*

### Mass Attendance

**February 22, 2026: 625**

**March 1, 2026: 602**

**March 8, 2026: 595**

### Online

Visit [www.stfranciscatholic.org](http://www.stfranciscatholic.org)

Click Donate to launch the Parish Giving website

Select *Give Now* for a one time donation or create an account to set up recurring contributions

### Venmo

@StFrancisCatholicNB

Please Note: Venmo should be used for donations to the church.

Mass Intentions must be paid cash or check to St. Francis Church



### SECOND COLLECTION: CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

On the weekend of March 15, we will take up a second collection for Catholic Relief Services. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad.

## IN LOVING MEMORY

*we pray for:*



**Hilda Sampt**

*Passed away  
March 2, 2026*



**Saul Berrios**

*Passed away  
March 4, 2026*

*May the souls of the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace.*



The Sunday 10:30 am Mass will continue to be at St. Jerome through Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

March 15 & March 22, 2026

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

*All weekday Masses are at St. Francis unless otherwise noted*

### Saturday, March 14

**8:00 am: St. Francis:** Special Intention

**4:00 pm Vigil: St. Jerome:** +David Kennedy

### Sunday, March 15 *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

**8:30 am: St. Maurice:** +Antonina & Sebastiano Failla

**10:30 am: St. Jerome:** Deceased Members of the Meyer Family

### Monday, March 16

**8:00 am:** Pro Populo

### Tuesday, March 17

**8:00 am:** Special Intention

### Wednesday, March 18

**8:00 am:** Special Intention

**6:00 pm:** Intention of the Celebrant

### Thursday, March 19 *Feast of St. Joseph*

**8:00 am:** Intention of the Celebrant

**6:00 pm:** Intention of the Celebrant

### Friday, March 20

**8:00 am:** +Arthur Steinbruck

### Saturday, March 21

**8:00 am: St. Francis:** Special Intention

**4:00 pm: St. Jerome:** Deceased Members of the Mackiewicz & Valentine Families

### Sunday, March 22 *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

**8:30 am: St. Maurice:** +Chrissy DeBlasio

**10:30 am: St. Jerome:** +Dinh Ho & +Ut Nguyen

### Monday, March 23

**8:00 am:** +Michael Blaisdell

### Tuesday, March 24

**8:00 am:** Pro Populo

### Wednesday, March 25

**8:00 am:** Intention of the Celebrant

**6:00 pm:** Intention of the Celebrant

### Thursday, March 26

**8:00 am:** Intention of the Celebrant

### Friday, March 27

**8:00 am:** Special Intention

### Saturday, March 28

**8:00 am: St. Francis:** +Krystyna Kosiorek

**4:00 pm Vigil: St. Jerome:** Intention of the Celebrant

### Sunday, March 29 *Palm Sunday*

**8:30 am: St. Jerome:** Intention of the Celebrant

**10:30 am: St. Jerome:** Intention of the Celebrant

*Note: The Sunday 10:30 am Masses are ASL interpreted.*

## SNOW POLICY

If there is active snow on a Sunday, all Sunday Masses (8:30 & 10:30 am) will be held at St. Francis to allow for consistency of snow removal and safe entrance to all buildings. If implemented, it will be announced on parish social media and our notifications email list.



# SINGLE-MINDED *Service to God*



By Monsignor Frank Matera

In my last column on the Sermon on the Mount, I discussed how Jesus called us to do our works of charity, prayer, and fasting in a way that only God can see. In the section of the sermon that I will examine in this column (Matthew 6:19-35), Jesus teaches us how we can be perfect,” that is, how we can be single-minded and whole-hearted in our devotion to God alone.

Earlier in the sermon (Matthew 5:48), Jesus called us to be “perfect” as God is perfect. In calling us to be perfect, Jesus is not talking about perfectionism; he is speaking about the need to be single-minded and whole-hearted in our devotion to God. In the material we are looking at today, Jesus gives several examples of what it means to be single-minded in our devotion to God.

First, he says that where our treasure is, there is our heart (Matthew 6:19-21). What we treasure and value most reveals the deepest feelings of our heart. If our treasure is focused on wealth, that is where our heart is. If our treasure is in heaven, that is where our heart is. Ask what you treasure most in life and you will know who you are.

Second, Jesus says that if our “eye” is healthy, we will be filled with light, but if it is not we will be filled with darkness (Matthew 6:22-23). A healthy eye is a metaphor

for single-minded devotion to God. If we are completely devoted to God, we are filled with light. If not, we are filled with darkness.

Third, Jesus warns us that we cannot serve two masters simultaneously (Matthew 7:24). We will serve one or the other. This is another metaphor for single-minded devotion to God. To be “perfect” we must serve God alone.

Finally, Jesus provides us with a beautiful description of the lilies of the field in order to teach us not to be anxious (Matthew 7:25-34). This is a passage worth rereading in this time when so many people are anxious about their lives but are not even sure why they are anxious. We worry because we are concerned. What is going to happen to me and to my loved ones? How am I going to survive? But anxiety doesn’t solve anything as we well know. As a parishioner who was suffering from cancer once said to me, “worry is spent energy.” So what is the cure for anxiety? How can I stop being so anxious? Jesus’s answer is as simple as it is profound. Trust in your heavenly Father and all will be well. All will be well.

Can we be perfect as God is perfect? Yes, if we are single-minded and whole-hearted in our devotion to God. For when God is the focal point of our life, all else falls into place. When our primary concern is the will of our heavenly Father, all is well. If you want to learn more about the Sermon, attend our adult enrichment series on the Sermon on Monday, March 16 and 23.

“  
*Can we be perfect as God is perfect?*  
YES,  
IF WE ARE SINGLE-MINDED  
AND WHOLE-HEARTED IN  
OUR DEVOTION TO GOD.  
”

# ONGOING LENTEN EVENTS

## Stations of the Cross

Join us every Friday for Stations:  
12:00 pm at St. Jerome  
7:00 pm at St. Francis.

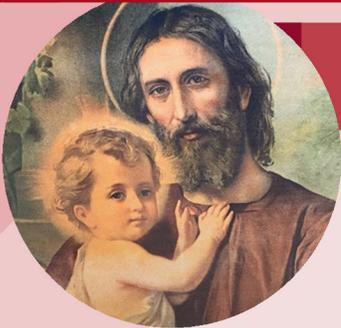
## Monday Night Adoration & Confession

Join us every Monday at St. Francis for  
Adoration (5:00-6:00 pm)  
Confessions (5:15-5:45 pm)

## Adult Enrichment: *The Sermon on the Mount & Its Meaning for our Lives Today*

Join us for the remaining sessions of Monsignor Matera's series on the Sermon on the Mount. If you would like to know more about the Sermon on the Mount & how it can help you grow in discipleship, join us for this adult enrichment session, held on **Monday March 16 & 23 in the St. Francis School Hall at 6:30 pm.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## ST. JOSEPH'S DAY MASS

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

6:00 pm at St. Francis

Join us for a special Mass celebrating St. Joseph, the Patron of our Archdiocese and of the Universal Church.

## KNIGHT'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29

After 8:30 & 10:30 Masses at St. Jerome

Join our Knights of Columbus for a breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage and fruit! Tickets are \$10 each (kids 8 and under are free) maximum \$40 per family. Proceeds benefit the Knights' Scholarship.

*Tickets available after Masses on March 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> or the day of the event.*



## CHRISM MASS

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

11:00 am at the Cathedral of St. Joseph

All parishioners of the Archdiocese are invited to attend the Chrism Mass, where Archbishop Coyne will bless the 3 Holy Oils for the year and the priests of the diocese renew their ordination vows.

# COMMUNITY

Snapshots



2026 St. Joseph Medal of Honor Recipient Bryan Anderson

Congratulations

## Bryan Anderson

2026 St. Joseph Medal of Honor Recipient

*Bryan is a lifetime parishioner of our parish (St. Joseph's Church), a faithful member of our Knights of Columbus, & serves as a Sacristan for our weekend, daily, and funeral Masses. He is always willing to assist with any needs of the parish and we are grateful for his dedication and service!*



Baptism of Michael Therrien



Baptism of Nicholas Blais



Confirmation of Stephanie Aforismo & Michelle Varela



Eucharistic Minister Training at St. Jerome



*Monsignor Matera's Lenten Bible Study*



*Monsignor Matera's Lenten Bible Study*

# Meet our Elect

These are the newest members of our church, set to be baptized & confirmed at the Easter Vigil



*My name is Haley and I am a junior majoring in communication at CCSU! I decided to become Catholic because I want to be even closer to God. With the help of one of our FOCUS missionaries on campus, I attended a retreat in the fall where I encountered Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and it changed my life. I am very excited for what God has planned for me!*

*My name is Dashon, I'm a freshman at CCSU and a defensive lineman for their football team! I'm from Waterbury, and first received the call to conversion encountering Our Lord in the Eucharist at a Steubenville Conference while in high school. I've been a member of the Catholic Center ever since joining the community at SEEK 2026 and I'm excited to join the Church this Easter Vigil!*



*My name is Paula, and I live in New Britain with my husband and two children. I grew up in a Jewish household and later became a member of the Unitarian Universalist church. I began attending Mass at St. Francis this past year and felt a real connection with the Catholic faith. I'm grateful for the warm welcome the parish has shown to me and my family.*



# Holy Week 2026



## PALM SUNDAY

4:00 pm Vigil

8:30 am

10:30 am

March  
29

All Palm Sunday Masses will be at St. Jerome



## HOLY THURSDAY

7:00 pm

St. Jerome

April  
2



## GOOD FRIDAY

3:00 pm

St. Jerome

April  
3



## EASTER VIGIL

8:30 pm

St. Jerome

April  
4



## EASTER SUNDAY

8:30 am

10:30 am

April  
5

All Easter Masses will be at St. Jerome



# CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



ChestertonSFA.org



**Learn More &  
APPLY TODAY**  
*Prospective families joined us for an Open House on March 8<sup>th</sup> and more acceptance letters continue to go out! Apply today and be a part of our founding class!*



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 31 SCHOLARSHIP

Our New Britain Knights of Columbus Council 31 is offering a scholarship of up to \$3,000 for Catholic students in need. Applications are available in our office and on our website.

**Students applying must meet these Scholarship Requirements:**

- Must be an active parishioner of St Francis of Assisi Parish
- Must be attending a tuition based Catholic Elementary, High School or College in the coming school year

*Note: Preferences will be to active Knights of Columbus Council #31 members, their children or grandchildren*

**Applicant must provide the following:**

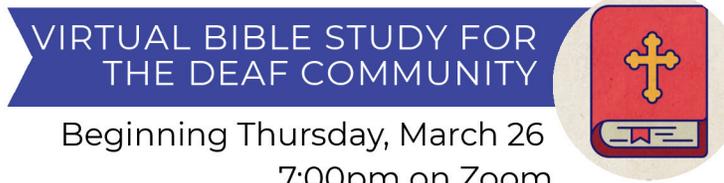
- Completed application
- Letter of acceptance from the school
- Essay (250 word minimum)
- Letter of support from your Pastor, Parish Priest, or Religious
- Faith in Action summary

*The full application package must be received by the New Britain Knights of Columbus Council 31 by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Submit by email to [ccarlozzi@hotmail.com](mailto:ccarlozzi@hotmail.com) or in person to the Parish Office.*



SIGN LANGUAGE  
CONFESSION

Sunday, March 22  
9:45am at St. Jerome



VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY FOR  
THE DEAF COMMUNITY

Beginning Thursday, March 26  
7:00pm on Zoom  
Contact Fr. Yates  
[fr.yates@stfranciscatholic.org](mailto:fr.yates@stfranciscatholic.org)

*LIVING*  
**Stations  
of the  
Cross**

MARCH 20TH - 4:30PM & 7PM

ST. MAURICE SCHOOL  
100 WIGHTMAN RD.  
NEW BRITAIN, CT 06052

Join us for a prayerful presentation of the Stations of the Cross. Through reverent student reenactment, accompanied by a choir, we hope to provide an opportunity to enter more deeply into this traditional Lenten prayer.

ADMISSION IS FREE, BUT PLEASE RESERVE YOUR SEAT AT  
[WWW.ADOROTE.ORG](http://WWW.ADOROTE.ORG)

PRESENTED BY (A.M.D.G.)<sup>2</sup>



## ARCHDIOCESE of HARTFORD

Office of the Chancellor

### The Relegation to Profane but Not Sordid Use of Saint Peter Church in New Britain, Connecticut

On March 31, 2026, the Saint Peter Church, located at 98 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut, will be relegated to profane but not sordid use in accordance with the Code of Canon Law (CIC, c. 1222 §2). On March 10, 2025, Archbishop Christopher J. Coyne issued a decree effecting the relegation that Saint Peter Church is no longer a sacred place for divine worship.

During the weekend of March 14/15, 2026, the decree will be read at all Masses, and its substance will be communicated to all parishioners by means of a notice in the weekend bulletin of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, including the display in appropriate places at the churches, so that parishioners can read it as they enter or exit the churches. It will also be available on the Archdiocese of Hartford website, under the News/Public Notices Section, [<https://archdioceseofhartford.org/category/news/public-notice/>]. Canonical recourse may be made within the preemptory time limit of ten (10) days from the legitimate notification of the decree and in accordance with the norm of law (CIC, c. 1734 §2).

Reverend Christopher M. Ford, J.C.L.  
*Chancellor*

March 15 & March 22, 2026

# THIS WEEK IN SAINTS

*"All you holy men and women pray for us"*



## *Feast Day of* SAINT PATRICK BISHOP

*Celebrated on: Tuesday, March 17*

*Solemnity of*

## SAINT JOSEPH

SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

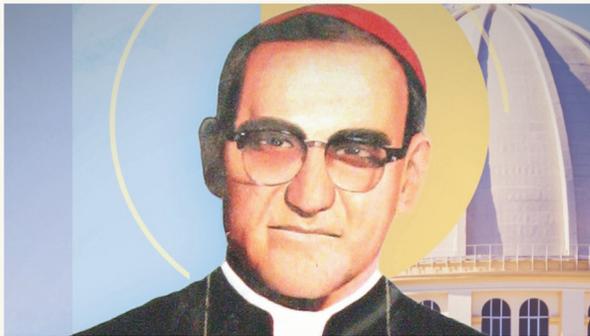
*Celebrated on: Thursday, March 19*



*Feast Day of*

## SAINT OSCAR ROMERO

*Celebrated on: Tuesday, March 24*



## *Solemnity of* ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

*Celebrated on: Wednesday, March 25*



*Feast Day of*

## SAINT RUPERT OF SALZBURG

*Celebrated on: Friday, March 27*



*The Bulletin*

# ONGOING MINISTRIES

## AA MEETINGS

Wednesdays 7pm: St. Francis Church basement (young adults)  
 Fridays 7pm: St. Joseph School (in Spanish)  
 Saturdays 7pm: St. Jerome Church Hall

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Meets Mondays, 6:30pm at St. Francis School. During Lent Msgr. Matera will teach us about the Sermon on the Mount. See page 7 for details.

## BINGO

Sunday Afternoons at St. Joseph School, 29 Edson St., New Britain.  
 Doors open at 11:30am, Games begin at 2:00pm

## CROSSROADS 4 CHRIST

Meetings Tuesdays 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
 Adoration & Confession 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
 All young adults are welcome!

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Meetings are monthly on the second Tuesday of the month, from 6:30-8:00 pm at St. Joseph School

## MINGLE

The Mingle is looking for volunteers Tuesdays 5:00-6:30 pm at St. Joseph School to help with feeding the less fortunate. Volunteers will help with setup, serving, and cleanup. Please call the Parish Office at 860-224-2411 with questions or to sign up.

## NA MEETINGS

Narcotics Anonymous meets Tuesdays at 6:00 pm in the St. Francis Church basement

## SFC YOUTH

Faith-based community for high school students in the New Britain area with a focus on formation, prayer, community, food & games. Meets Monday evenings. Contact [youth@stfranciscatholic.org](mailto:youth@stfranciscatholic.org) or call the Parish Office for more details.

## ST. JOSEPH FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry opens Tuesdays at St. Joseph School from 9:30 -10:30 am. Please see the shopping list below for our most needed items. Monetary donations or gift cards also appreciated. Donations may be brought to any of our open churches.

### SHOPPING LIST

*in support of the St. Joseph Food Pantry*  
**The item most needed this week is:**

Pasta Sauce

*thank you*

Cereal

Pasta/Pasta Sauce

Canned Soup

Instant Oatmeal

Canned Fruit &

Vegetables

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Canned Meat/Tuna

Instant Potato and Rice

Mixes

Ramen Noodles

Mac and Cheese

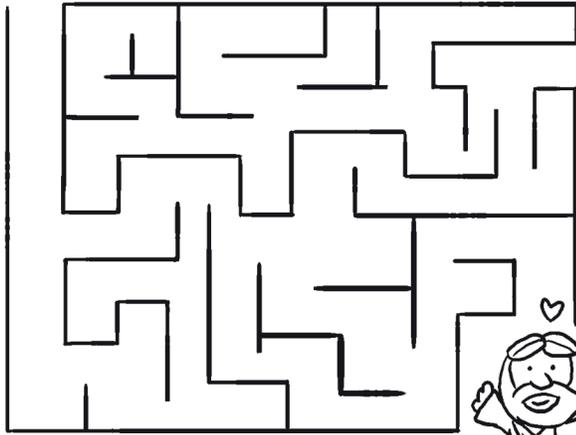
Snack Items:

Cookies, Crackers, etc.



# PUZZLE

Help me to find God!



©LPI



# PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

GOD'S SON  
SICKNESS  
RISE

LAZARUS  
MARY  
MARTHA

BELIEVES  
WEEPING  
WRAPPED

S A O E T R H I E T Y  
 T W R A P P E D H O N  
 O E K R W Y A O Y U T  
 B E L I E V E S T S H  
 H P T S A O M Y N I E  
 T I H E U N A J H C S  
 U N S V M A R Y L K O  
 O G K H E I T D W N U  
 T P A Y N O H S Y E A  
 I S D L A Z A R U S H  
 G O D S S O N F E S R

4th Sunday of Lent • John 9:1-41

5th Sunday of Lent • John 11:1-45