

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY 48 East Street Bethlehem, CT 06751

www.princeofpeaceparish-aohct.org Office Email - princeofpeace@aohct.org

ST. TERESA OF AVILA 146 Main St South Woodbury, CT 06798

**Prayer Line:** prayer@princeofpeaceparish-aohct.org or 203-263-2008 EXT 106



#### Rev. George Vellaplackil, Pastor

fr.vellaplackil@aohct.org

#### **MASS SCHEDULE**

#### **SATURDAY VIGIL**

4:00 PM - St. Teresa of Avila

#### SUNDAY

8:00 AM - Church of the Nativity 10:00 AM - St. Teresa of Avila 12:00 PM - St. Teresa of Avila

#### SATURDAY CONFESSION

3:00 PM - St. Teresa of Avila

#### **DAILY MASS**

#### **MONDAY & THURSDAY**

8:00 AM - St. Teresa of Avila

#### **TUESDAY & FRIDAY**

8:00 AM - Church of the Nativity

#### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

THURSDAY following the 8:00 AM Mass St. Teresa of Avila

Please remember our Parish, Prince of Peace, in your Will. Your bequests will help our church and its ministries stay strong, particularly benefiting the younger generation.

#### PRINCE OF PEACE PARISH

#### Welcome to Prince of Peace Parish!

Parish Office: 494 Main Street South

Woodbury, CT 06798 (203) 263-2008

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday: 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Wednesday: Closed

Thursday & Friday: 9:00AM - 3:00PM

#### Staff

Rachel LePine, Secretary 203.263.2008 ext. 100 princeofpeace@aohct.org

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Office Volunteers
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203.263.2008 ext. 105

Stephen Sorriero, Custodian

#### Parish Trustees

**Donald Kelly** 313.506.5688

**David McKirdy** 203.263.3778

Donalddkelly@gmail.com

davidmckirdy1@yahoo.com

#### **Our Parish Ministries**

**Good Shepherds** 

**Clothing Bank** 

Hospitality Ministry

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

St. Teresa Men's Club

Music Ministry

Nurse/Health Ministry

Parish Prayer Line

St John Paul the Great Small Christian Community

Sandwich Saturday

Working Women of Faith

Faith Formation

Sanctuary Ministry

Bereavement Ministry

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** 

Serving Hearts - Volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul



Saturday, October 18th Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00PM Dawn Urso, by Catherine Urso

At St. Teresa Church

Sunday, October 19th Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00AM Richard & Mark Carpino, by Lorraine & Steve Mulhall

At Church of the Nativity

**10:00AM** Annellen Gleissner, by Barbara Tamburri

At St. Teresa Church

**12:00PM** Jack and Georgina Perun, by Jack & Sharon Perun

At St. Teresa Church

Monday, October 20th Weekday

8:00AM NO MASS

Tuesday, October 21st Weekday

8:00AM NO MASS

Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> Weekday

8:00AM Eric Kolenda, by Deirdre Bologna

At St. Teresa Church

Friday, October 24th Weekday

8:00AM Scott A. LedDuke, by Jackie LePine

At Church of the Nativity

Saturday, October 25th Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**4:00PM** Dr. Virginia Perkinson, by Peter & Barbara Perkinson

At St. Teresa Church

Sunday, October 26th Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00AM For the healing of Fr. Josh Wilbur

by Steve & Lorraine Mulhall

At Church of the Nativity

**10:00AM** Fritz Will - Birthday Remembrance

by His Daughter, Kathrine Rutledge

At St. Teresa Church

**12:00PM** Paul & Marie Perun, by Jack & Sharon Perun

At St. Teresa Church

SANCTUARY LAMPS are lit this week in memory of:

ST. TERESA OF AVILA:

Available

**CHURCH OF NATIVITY:** 

**Available** 

Dear friends.

In our readings today, both **Moses on the mountain** and **the persistent widow** remind us of one powerful truth — **prayer has power**. Prayer changes things. Prayer changes people. Prayer moves the heart of God.

**1. Moses' hands lifted in prayer.** In the first reading from Exodus, we see Moses standing on a hill while Joshua fights the Amalekites below. As long as Moses' hands were raised in prayer, Israel had the upper hand. But when he grew tired and lowered them, the enemy began to win.

So Aaron and Hur stood beside him, holding up his hands — a beautiful image of community prayer, support, and perseverance.

This story teaches us that victory in life's battles is not won by strength or weapons — but by prayer.

We all fight our own battles — for our families, our children, our faith, our health. And like Moses, we must keep our hands raised toward heaven.

2. The widow who never gave up. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us about a widow who would not give up. She kept going to an unjust judge, asking for justice, again and again, until the judge finally said, "I will grant her justice, so she doesn't wear me out!"

If an *unjust judge* can respond to persistence, how much more will our *loving Father in heaven* respond to His children who cry out to Him day and night?

Jesus ends the story by saying, "Will not God see justice done for His chosen ones who cry to Him?" But then He adds a question that pierces the heart: "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?" Will He find people still praying? Still trusting? Still believing?

**3. Prayer in our modern world.** We live in a world that moves at lightning speed. Everyone is "too busy." We scroll more than we pray. We talk more to our phones than to our God. And yet, never before has prayer been more urgently needed.

Our children face dangers we never imagined — violence, drugs, online temptations, false friendships, and a culture that often confuses right and wrong.

Parents today must be **like Moses** — standing in prayer over their children, hands lifted to heaven for protection, guidance, and faith.

Mothers and fathers, your prayers are more powerful than you think.

When you kneel before God, you stand between your children and evil.

You may not always see the result right away — but God is working behind the scenes.

**4. Real examples of persevering prayer. St. Monica** prayed for **17 years** for the conversion of her son, Augustine. He became one of the greatest saints and doctors of the Church.

**A mother today** prays every night for her teenage son who has drifted from the faith. She may not see instant results, but her prayer is a shield around him. **A father** prays for his family's unity even when misunderstandings arise. That unseen prayer brings peace that words cannot.

**5. Perseverance and confidence.** Prayer is not magic — it is relationship.

Sometimes God answers "yes," sometimes "not yet," and sometimes "I have something better." But **He always answers**.

When we pray, we are not trying to change God's mind — we are opening our hearts to His will. The key is **perseverance** — never give up praying, even when nothing seems to change. Like Moses, keep your hands lifted. Like the widow, keep knocking. Like Jesus in Gethsemane, say, "Not my will, but Yours be done." So, Prayer is the breath of our soul. Without it, our faith weakens. With it, we become strong even in weakness.

Let us be people of prayer — faithful, patient, and confident. Let us pray for our children, for our families, for our Church, and for this troubled world. Because in the end, **the greatest protection we can give our children is not money, not success, not security — but prayer**. When we place them in the hands of God, they are safe.

So, let us lift our hands like Moses, and keep them lifted. Let us knock like the widow, and keep knocking. For as Jesus promised: "Ask, and you shall receive. Seek, and you shall find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you." Amen.

#### Have a great week and here is a thought.

I heard about these three men who were out in the wilderness when they came upon this violent, raging river. They needed to get to the other side.

The first man prayed, "God, please give me the strength to cross this river." *Poof!* God gave him big arms and strong legs. He swam across — it took him two hours, but he made it!

The second man saw that and prayed, "God, please give me the strength **and the tools** to cross this river." *Poof!* God gave him a boat. He rowed across in 30 minutes.

Then the third man prayed, "God, please give me the strength, the tools, **and the intelligence** to make it across." *Poof!* **God turned him into a woman**. She looked at the map, walked five minutes upstream... and crossed the bridge!

#### **Ministry & Event Calendar**

#### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18**

8:15AM Gr. K - 8 Faith Formation (Parish Office)

10:00AM Sandwich Saturdays (St. Teresa)

3:00PM Confession (St. Teresa)

#### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19**

9:00AM Donuts and... (Church of the Nativity)

11:00AM 2026 Mission Trip Info Session (St. Teresa)

3:00PM Confirmation Session (Parish Office)

7:00PM F.A.C. Youth Ministry Meeting (Parish Office)

#### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 20**

9:30AM New England Catholic Bible School Class (Parish Office)

7:00PM St. Paul the Great Small Christian Community (Zoom)

7:00PM Working Women of Faith (Parish Office)

#### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21**

1:00PM Nurse/Health Ministry Meeting (St. Teresa)

7:00PM St. Paul the Great Small Christian Community (Zoom)

#### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22**

9:00AM Wednesday Bible Study (Church of the Nativity)

11:00AM St. Paul the Great Small Christian Community (Nativity)

#### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23**

2:15PM Gr. 6 & 7 Faith Formation (St. Teresa)

3:30PM Gr. K - 5th Faith Formation (St. Teresa)

#### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24**

10:00AM Friday Disciples Bible Study (Church of the Nativity)

10:00AM Bereavement Ministry Meeting (Parish Office)

3:00PM Clothing Bank Open 3p-5p (Church of the Nativity)

#### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25**

8:15AM Gr. K - 8 Faith Formation (Parish Office)

10:00AM Sandwich Saturdays (Church of the Nativity)

10:00AM Clothing Bank Open 10a-12p (Church of the Nativity)

3:00PM Confession (St. Teresa)

5:00PM Saturday Social (St. Teresa)

#### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26**

9:00AM Donuts and... (Church of the Nativity)

3:00PM Confirmation Session (Parish Office)

#### St. Teresa's Men's Club Scholarship Fund

Nintendo Switch 2 Console Raffle

\$20 a ticket. Only 100 tickets being sold! Winner will be chosen Friday, November 28, 2025

All proceeds benefit the scholarship fund.

Contact Mike Dannenhoffer at 203-233-0577 to buy tickets

#### OCTOBER 12, 2025 OFFERTORY

 REGULAR
 \$9,257.00

 ONLINE
 \$2,443.00

 Total Offertory Income
 \$11,700.00

## Prince of Peace Parish's Clothing Bank

Free clothing and footwear for area people in need.

#### The Clothing Bank will be open as follows:

Fri, Aug 8, 3 to 5pm Sat, Aug 9, 10am to 12pm Fri, Aug 22, 3 to 5pm Sat, Aug 23, 10am to 12pm

Fri, Sept 12, 3 to 5pm Sat, Sept 13, 10am to 12pm Fri, Sept 26, 3 to 5pm Sat, Sept 27, 10am to 12pm

Fri, Oct 10, 3 to 5pm Sat, Oct 11, 10am to 12pm Fri, Oct 24, 3 to 5pm Sat, Oct 25, 10am to 12pm

Discreetly located in the rear of the Church of Nativity building at 48 East Street (Rt 132), Bethlehem, CT 06751

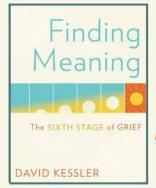
# Sandwich Saturdays 10:00AM Start

#### October 2025

OCT 4<sup>TH</sup> CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
OCT 11<sup>TH</sup> ST. TERESA OF AVILA
OCT 18<sup>TH</sup> ST. TERESA OF AVILA
OCT 25<sup>TH</sup> CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY



Every Other Friday Morning @ 10am Parish Office - Wisdom Room Next Meeting - October 24<sup>th</sup>



Join our next meeting. covering the 1<sup>st</sup> section, to pg 83.

Explore how healing can begin through the power of meaning & remembrance.

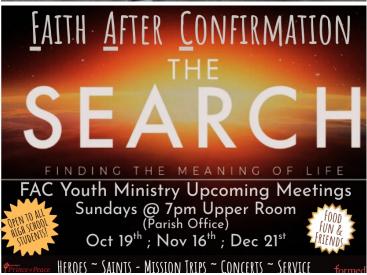
Contact the Parish Office for More Information at 203-263-2008

## Support Santa's Kitchen

Every year, the town of Woodbury hosts their Annual Christmas Festival, the first weekend of December. In years past, our parish has offered a lovely little luncheon spot where young children could visit Santa and all ages could enjoy a lunch of soup and sandwiches and cookies. We are looking for adult volunteers to help in decorating, preparing soups and sandwiches, and help supervise the Confirmation Student Servers.

Contact Parish Office to Help - 203-263-2008





#### **Eucharist for the Homebound**

Please notify the Parish office if you have a family member or loved one who is ill, in a nursing home or hospital, or otherwise unable to attend Mass and wish to have our Eucharistic ministers bring communion to those individuals.



#### **Today is World Mission Sunday!**

Today, every parish across the globe joins together for the only **worldwide collection** mandated by Canon Law—**World Mission Sunday.** Your generosity today supports the Pope's missions in more than 1,124 territories where the Church is young or struggling.

This year's theme—"Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples"—is a call to embody the love of God, poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 5:5). Your offering today provides hope where despair too often dominates—through the building of churches, formation of seminarians and religious sisters, healthcare clinics, and Catholic schools.

Thank you for responding with faith, love, and generosity. As Pope Francis told us, "Each of us is a mission on this earth" (Evangelii Gaudium, 273). Together, we share in that mission by ensuring that no one is excluded from the invitation to encounter Christ.

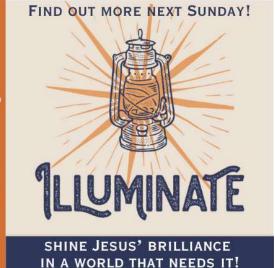


## MISSION TRIP

JOIN US NEXT JULY!
TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE TO
GROW IN FAITH, BUILD
COMMUNITY & CHANGE
OUR WORLD!

SAVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

TRIP DATES: JULY 19-25
LOCATION: HAZLET, NJ
SERVING: THOSE IN NEED
AGES: HIGH SCHOOL AND UP



#### **NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD**



# Branches on the Vine

OCTOBER 18 - 24, 2025



The fourth archdiocesan Celebration of Our Lady of the Americas and All Nations began with the holy rosary being prayed. Father Alexander Avendano, rector of the Shrine of Maria Reina de la Paz in Hartford, leads the group outside St. Lawrence O'Toole Church. PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



As the celebration moves indoors, each participating group processes into the church with a representative image of the Blessed Mother and the flag of their country with their national anthem playing the background. Archbishop Christopher J. Coyne blesses the images of Our Lady as they are presented to him. PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

 ${
m M}$  ore than 800 people representing 12 countries came together for the fourth annual Mary of the Americas celebration in a display of faith, unity and cultural pride. There was prayer, there was pageantry and there was a festival of Latin American food.

The archdiocesan celebration for the Blessed Mother Mary of the Americas and all Nations was held at the Shrine of Maria Reina de la Paz at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church in Hartford on Oct. 4 and will be held here in years to come.

It began with an international rosary in English, Spanish and Brazilian, which was followed by Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin with Archbishop Christopher J. Coyne as the principal celebrant.

"It is wonderful for us to gather under the devotion of our Blessed Mother because she always points us toward her Son," the archbishop told the packed church. Father Alexander Avendano, rector of the shrine, gave the homily and petitions were presented for people of the Americas and the Caribbean.

The delegations wore colorful traditional dress of their countries. Before Mass, they processed into the shrine, singing their national anthems and waving flags of their native countries, while carrying images of the Blessed Mother, which they venerate under her different titles.

They sang and they clapped as their voices filled the shrine in a joyous display of pageantry.

#### HONORING THE BLESSED MOTHER OF THE AMERICAS AND ALL NATIONS

The delegation representing the United States of America entered as the Star Spangled Banner was sung and carried an image of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception.

For Father Avendano, it was more than a cultural celebration; it was a demonstration of the compassion of "momma Mary," for Latinos far from their homes and their biological mothers who turn to the mother of Jesus for hope and consolation.

"Some are separated from their mothers and cannot return to see them, maybe because of immigration situations or because they have lost their mothers and cannot grieve properly or say goodbye," Father Avendano says. "So there is pain in the people's hearts, and this event lets them know that mama Mary assures them she is here for people, especially for suffering people and for orphaned people. Although they cannot see their natural mothers, their supernatural mother is here for them no matter what happens. This celebration is a message of compassion and companionship and love."

The priest, who comes from Colombia and was appointed rector of the shrine in August, says "mama Mary is the reason for my priesthood, the reason for my work, the reason for my existence.

She is everything and more, and Jesus is OK with that. On this day, we honor her, our cultures and our ancestors as well." At the conclusion, he thanked Archbishop Coyne for celebrating Mass at the event. "We know you are here for us, and we appreciate that so much."

Among those represented were St. George Church in Bridgeport (Mexico - Our Lady of Guadalupe); St. Mary Church in New Britain (Chile - Our Lady of Mount Carmel); North American Martyrs Parish in East Hartford (El Salvador - Our Lady of Peace); St. Augustine Church in Hartford (Guatemala - Our Lady of the Rosary); and The Shrine of Maria Reina de la Paz in Hartford (Honduras - Our Lady of Suyapa) (Peru - Our Lady of Mercy) (Colombia Our Lady of Chiquinquirá) (United States – Immaculate Conception) (Costa Rica - Our Lady of the Angels) (Dominican Republic -Our Lady of High Grace) (Puerto Rico - Our Lady of Divine Providence) (Cuba - Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre).

Mass was followed by a festival of food and displays of different cultures.

- Story by Joe Pisani



## Upcoming Events



#### Catholic Committee on Scouting

The Archdiocese of Hartford, Catholic Committee on Scouting is recruiting new members. This Committee supports Catholic scouts in the Archdiocese as they learn more about their faith within the scouting programs (both Scouting USA and Girl Scouts - includes Campfire). The committee meets four times a year, creates a yearly Retreat for scouts, trains Religious Emblems Coordinators (REC), and hosts an Archdiocesan Award Ceremony each spring. If you are interested in learning more, or how you can use your gifts and talents in service to our shared mission, contact Jennifer McClintock at Jennifer.McClintock@aohct.org.

#### **Upcoming Catholic Scouting Events:**

#### Catholic Religious Emblems Training - Saturday, November 15, 2025

This training is for all Scouts BSA Leaders who want to run a religious emblem program in their Troop/Pack. The training will review the following emblems: Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, Ad Altare Dei, Pope Pius and Adult Awards. We will be meeting at the Pastoral Center, 467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield in the 2nd floor conference room, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Registration is required:



#### Catholic Scouting Retreat - Saturday, November 8, 2025

Join other scouts from around the Archdiocese to learn about the Jubilee Year at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Hartford, We will learn about the Holy Door, what a Jubilee Year is, participate in a service project and more! Registration is required:



#### **Questions? Contact:**

Jennifer McClintock, Coordinator of Faith Formation Programs & Technology, Jennifer.McClintock@aohct.org or 860-242-5573





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