

# ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

64 Pompey Hollow Rd., Ashford, CT 06278



**Father Michael Giannitelli, Pastor**  
Rectory Phone 860-477-0188

## **TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Main Office	860-429-2860
Parish FAX	860-429-2860
Ann Phillips	Secretary
Patricia LaBonte	Bookkeeper
Paula Vincent	Bulletin Editor

## **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Thursday 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM  
Closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and also  
Monday Holidays.

## **PARISH EMAIL & Bulletin Announcements**

[stphilipstjude@gmail.com](mailto:stphilipstjude@gmail.com)

## **PARISH WEBSITE**

<https://saintphilipct.com>

## **NEW PARISHIONERS**

We are delighted to welcome you and encourage you to register by filling out a registration form or emailing the office.

## **WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday	4:30 p.m.
Sunday	9:00 a.m.
Sunday	11:00 a.m.

## **DAILY MASS SCHEDULE**

Tuesday	8:00 a.m.
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.
Thursday	8:00 a.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m.

**CONFESSION:** Saturdays 3:30-4:00 pm

## **SACRAMENTS**

Please call the office for information on Baptism, Marriage, and Pastoral Visits.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Sundays in the Parish Center

*St. Philip's is Handicap Accessible*



December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent/Gaudete Sunday

† Mass Schedule and Intentions †

Readings start on page 954 St. Augustine Hymnal

Sat Dec 16, 3:30-4:00 pm Confession
Sat Dec 16, 4:30 pm Mass
† William Carpenter by Dorothy Boisvert
† Cecelia Pudelkewicz, 7th Anniversary by Ann Phillips
Sun Dec 17, 9:00 am Mass
† Jimmy Clifford, 2nd Anniversary by Roger & Mary Bowen
† Ken Udal by The Family
Sun Dec 17, 11:00 am Mass
† Thomas Henson, Jr. by Kathleen and John Rook
Tues Dec 19, 8:00 am Mass
For the Intentions of Bishop Cote
Wed Dec 20, 8:00 am Mass
For the sick of Our Parish
Thurs Dec 21, 8:00 am Mass: St. Peter Canisius
For Our Parish

Fri Dec 22, 8:00 am Mass
† John Doughty, Sr. and John Doughty, Jr. by Caroline Doughty
ADORATION following Mass; Benediction 12:00 noon

Sat Dec 23, 3:30-4:00 pm Confession
Sat Dec 23, 4:30 pm Mass
† Thomas J. Heaney, 11th Anniversary by Ryan & Erick Bora
Ed Conlan for his Health & Wellbeing by His Students

Sun Dec 24, 9:00 am Mass
† Lynn K. Cote by The Family
Sun Dec 24, 11:00 am Mass
† Ethel Krapf by Marion Varga and Family
† Ruth Yulo by Ralph Yulo
Sun Dec 24, 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass
For Our Parish
Sun Dec 24, 11:30 pm Music Program
Sun Dec 24, 12:00 Christmas Eve Midnight Mass
For Our Parish
Mon Dec 25, 10:00 am Christmas Day Mass
For Our Parish

If you have a Mass Intention for a loved one, please bring up the gifts during that Mass.

If you need the Eucharist brought to you at Mass, please raise your hand after Communion, the Eucharistic Minister will bring it to you.

THE PRAYER BASKET is for your special intentions to be placed on the altar during Mass.

Coffee and Donuts in Parish Center after 9:00 am & before 11:00 am Sunday Mass!

Church open: Mon-Thurs, 9:30-2:30 & Fri Adoration. Office closed Monday, Dec 25, Christmas.

FLAG MEMORIAL FOR DECEMBER

Eugene J. Alassi

U.S. Navy served in WW II
May 1943 to February 1946

Australia, Milne Bay, New Guinea and
Sonic Bay, Philippines. He received

Philippine Independence Award, Asiatic Pacific
Campaign Award, and a Presidential Unit Citation.
Father of Jeanne Alassi Monty

PRAYER LIST: For current requests please call 860-429-2860 or email stphilipstjude@gmail.com.

PRAYER LIST: Seth Beebe, John Bergeron, Jr., John Bergeron, Sr., Brian Berry, Megan Berry, Paula Bonin, Penny Boomer, Ed Borowski, Don Chapman, Elizabeth Clifford, Ed Conlan, Tanner DeJesse, Tony DeMonte, Camille Delisle, Yvette & Maurice Dionne, Charles Dobrowolski, Alison Dodd, Helen Donnelly & Family, Kyle Ernst, Agnes Flynn, Barry G., Myles Gratton, Joyce H., Henry Hansen, Kathy Hills, Mikey Harakaly, P.J., Marie James, Joshua, Tom Joyal, Melinda King, Patrice Lucas, Barry Madden, Matthew Madden, Noah Markowycz, Ray McCaughey, Jackie Mozzicato, Jesse Narwicziks, Bob Ogden, Laura P., M.P., Pauline Picard, Diane Piccoli, Emil Poirier, Heather Poulin, Chad Pramuka, Jim Rook, Mike Schwartz, Skyler Sherman, Maureen Smith, Patrick Stenglein, Mason Studley, Mary Jane Tynan, Joseph Tyson, J.W., Greg & Jocelyne Wakefield, Terri Warren, Caroline Williams.

FINAL CHRISTMAS CHOIR
REHEARSAL Sunday,
Dec 17th at 6:30 P.M.



ST. PHILIP ADULT EDUCATION.

Led by Ed Conlan, The Parables of Jesus. Dec 20, 10:00 am All are welcome.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will meet Tues, Jan 2 at 7pm in the Parish Center.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY Next meeting January 16th. Studying "Walking with Mary" by Edward Sri.

Blessed Mother's Stitches: Tue, Jan 30, 10 am. Please join us as we create Baptismal blankets and hats, scarves, and gloves for needy people.



PORK ROAST DINNER
Saturday, Jan 6, after the 4:30
Mass, with a snow date of Jan
7th, 3 pm. Tickets will go on sale

Dec 16th and will be available after all Masses and in the office, Mon-Thurs, 9:30am-2:30 pm.



Our condolences to the family of
Deacon Albert J. Cote,
a Permanent Deacon of Norwich Diocese,
who died Mon, Dec 11, 2023.



Congratulations to **Stella Grace Marchand** who was baptized by Fr. Michael Giannitelli on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at St. Philip.

Parents: Justin Marchand and Daphne Myers. The Godparent is Jamie Coleman and Drew Brown is a Christian Witness.

**RCIA Retreat** The Office of Faith Events and the Awaken team will assist Candidates and Catechumens prepare to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Discover God's unconditional love for you, learn about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, develop a meaningful prayer life, and experience God's mercy in reconciliation.

The Holy Spirit Awaken Retreat for RCIA is **Sat, Feb 24<sup>th</sup> at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Quaker Hill from 9:30am – 5pm** with Mass from 5pm to 6pm. To register, contact Marianne Nicholas call 860-848-2237 ex.305 or [manicholas@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:manicholas@norwichdiocese.net).

**The Giving Tree**

The giving tree is in the lobby of the Church. On it you will find gift tags with items needed by Birthright, Ashford Services, Willington Services and for the Seminary Gift Card Campaign.

If you are able to help a family in need or a seminarian this Christmas, please pick a tag of your choice. Then bring the items to Church by 12/17. Please secure the tag to the gift to ensure the right family receives the gift.

This year, when you bring in your gift, please take an angel ornament from the basket and place it on the tree. Let's see how many angels we have here at St Philip!

If you seek hope, strength and comfort from a loss, burden, or sorrow, join us for **A Journey with Mary Through Her Seven Sorrows**, a virtual 7-week program that will explore each of the 7 sorrows of Mary's life and the message of strength and encouragement each one contains. The program will meet online Mondays, 7-8:15 pm. Jan 8, 15, 22, 29 and Feb 5, 12, and 19, 2024. Each week will include a reflection on one of Mary's sorrows, guided prayer imagery and discussion. The program is free, but registration is required. For info, contact the Catholic Family Services Office, 860-848-2237, Ext. 312, email [mmclaughlin@norwichdio7thcese.net](mailto:mmclaughlin@norwichdio7thcese.net).

**3rd Sunday of Advent** "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18). This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.




**Our Holy Family Women's Retreat** theme this



year is **Only Say the Word**. During this women's retreat, Jan 26-28, 2024, we will explore where healing is needed in us and in the world. Contact: Burtie: 617-939-4234 or

Marsha: 860-429-4926 or <https://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/themed-retreats>.

**GIFT CARDS ARE NEEDED** Please consider donating a card from Walmart, Stop & Shop or Big Y for requests that come from the needy in our community. Put them in an envelope marked "office" and place them in the collection basket. *Thank you.*

**Norwich Diocesan Our Lady, Queen of Hope Award**  
To honor a woman in the Diocese for  
**Vision and Leadership in the Catholic Church**

This award will be given out by Bishop Michael Cote to a woman of faith in the Norwich Diocese. The award is named after Mary, our mother, who is our role model and in whom we place our hope.

*The winner will be presented with an award and a check for \$200 made out to the Catholic charity, parish or diocesan ministry of her choice.*

Nominees should...

- \*Display strong faith
- \*Be committed to living out Catholic values
- \*Display spiritual leadership at the local or diocesan level(s)
- \*Display a spirit of love and service to the Catholic Church
- \*Have been part of successful initiatives that benefit the Church
- \*Have moved the parish community forward through her vision

The award winner will be determined by the Women's Conference Committee. The nomination form must be completed in full by **JANUARY 12, 2024**. Contact the Office of Faith Events with any questions or concerns 860-848-2237, ext. 304 or [manicholas@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:manicholas@norwichdiocese.net).

**\*To access application go to the Office of Faith Events Website\***

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## ADULT VIRTUAL CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Have you not completed your Sacraments? Did you make Baptism and First Communion but never completed your Sacraments of initiation by making Confirmation? Have you ever thought about completing Confirmation in the Catholic Church? If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, you should register for the Diocesan Adult Virtual Confirmation Classes. Beginning in January, The Office of Faith Events will be offering a 7-week online course taking place on Tuesday evenings that will prepare adults for Confirmation in their home parish. **To join the class, please call the Office to register for this program. 860-429-2860.**

## PROJECT RACHEL ROSARY AT THE CATHEDRAL

The third Tuesday of each month at the Cathedral of St. Patrick following the noon mass, join the Office of Faith Events as we pray the Project Rachel Rosary. The Project Rachel Rosary focuses on hope, healing, and forgiveness for those affected by an abortion and also for an end to abortion. Please join us for this in-person Project Rachel Rosary on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> following the noon mass at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich.

## FRIENDS OF ECOLE AGAPE'S 2024 CHILI COOKOFF SATURDAY JAN. 13<sup>TH</sup> NOON-3:30 PM



\$15

ST. PHILIP CENTER  
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**RCIA  
RETREAT  
THE HOLY  
SPIRIT  
Awaken**



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24<sup>th</sup>  
At Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
in Quaker Hill, CT  
Retreat 9:30 - 5PM with Mass 5-6:00PM

Catechumens and Candidates are welcome to attend the day filled with prayer, witness, talks and more. To register, contact Marianne at [Manicholas@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:Manicholas@norwichdiocese.net) or call (860)848-2237 ex.305

Dear Parishioners:

St. Philip the Apostle Church held its Annual Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday, November 25, 2023, in the parish center. The Christmas Craft Fair was an awesome success due to the volunteer parishioners of the parish. During Thanksgiving Week, we had a group of volunteers who assisted with the vendor layout to organize and prepare for the event. It was like putting a jigsaw puzzle together. We had volunteers who placed numbers on each table along with a coupon for a free coffee and donut. Big Y in Tolland sponsored the donuts for us. In addition, a vendor list was given to each participant of the craft fair.



On Friday night, the parish center was open from 5 to 8 P.M. in order for vendors to set up their tables and for parishioners to bring their baked goods. Again, with parish volunteers we were able to organize and price the baked goods for Saturday morning. We had NEW volunteers who worked at the bake sale table. We had an array of breads, pies, brownies, fudge, and cookies. In addition, we had one parishioner who made potholders for the table, which she has done repeatedly over the years. The baked goods sold, and we had none for the following masses.

The raffle tables in the entrance foyer were organized by a couple of hard-working parishioners. To our surprise, we received more raffle items from the generous vendors. All raffle baskets were beautifully done by our parishioners who donated their time and monies for the benefit of our parish. One generous parishioner donated 2 baskets. The 40 – inch screen Smart TV was displayed inside the parish center and a dedicated parish volunteer sold the tickets for us.

On Saturday morning, the center was open for the vendors to display their artistic talents beginning at 7 A.M. We had vendors from our parish family, but the majority of the vendors came from outside the parish. For example, Willimantic, Mansfield, Storrs, South Windsor, Glastonbury, and Vernon participated in our craft fair which brought an array of different items to display and purchase.

The kitchen provided the vendors breakfast sandwiches, a variety of different sandwiches, pizza, and pierogies. The pierogies and pizza were donated by parishioners. A special thanks to the donors for their generosity. The pierogies cooked by a parish volunteer sold out quickly. Our parish chef kept the kitchen running smoothly and once again, the parish volunteers made the kitchen a success. The parish volunteers were extremely busy and on their feet for the duration of the craft fair. I am sure that several volunteers slept well Saturday night.

Santa Claus made his appearance around 10 A.M. He delivered candy canes to the children and the vendors. The candy canes were donated by a parishioner. Again, a parish volunteer made it possible for us to be entertained by Santa.

The craft fair was extremely industrious all day. The raffle baskets and several additional items were raffled around 3 P.M. Two ladies from the parish volunteered their time with a raffle basket from the Holy Family Monastery. On Sunday morning, a group of active volunteers assimilated the outside furniture and disassembled the brown tables from the parish center.

The craft fair was an astonishing success from the beginning to the end due to all the amazing VOLUNTEERS from the parish who collaborated and displayed a sense of comradery throughout the event. Your sincere contributions whether it be a raffle basket, a baked good item, or a donation to the event wasn't unnoticed, but greatly appreciated. A special thanks to all the parishioners of the parish who volunteered their time and supported the craft fair.

The Christmas Craft Fair yielded a profit of \$5,214.30.

God Bless You!

Sincerely,

Linda Joyal, Rose Bergeron

## **CHRISTMAS 2023 CATHOLIC CHARITIES ASKS YOU TO HELP OUR FAMILIES CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS**

Catholic Charities will be providing "A Very Merry Christmas" to our families and we are asking the parishioners to join in this special celebration of gifts and prayers for our many families and individual in financial need. Your gift of an unwrapped children's toy, for a child up to the age of 12 or a gift card to Walmart or Target for a teenager will be greatly appreciated. Grocery store gift cards are also enjoyed by the families. Our Food Pantry is busy throughout the year as food assistance is the single largest service provided and it is often the entry point for people to receive additional necessary services, utility, rental assistance, Financial Empowerment classes for self-sufficiency to identify a few services. Please bring your unwrapped toy to Catholic Charities 331 Main St. Norwich CT, 06360 or send the gift cards or checks with Christmas 2023 written in the memo line to the same address. Our kids, parents and grandparents look forward to Christmas as much as your family and our staff, as we all prepare for the true meaning of Christmas, the Birth of our Lord and the Holy Family. Thank you from the staff at Catholic Charities and we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### **Four County Catholic Weekly Newsletter**

Get the latest news and announcements from around the diocese emailed right to your inbox. Connecting area Catholics to church, faith and the common good with news, upcoming events and spiritual reflection, the new digital newsletter will keep you updated. Discover the good work being done in our two dozen ministries as well as learning about employment and volunteer opportunities. It's informative, it's weekly and it's free! Sign up today! Your email address is safe with us. <https://www.norwichdiocese.org/newsletter>.

**The December 17<sup>th</sup> Healing Mass at Church of the Holy Family in Hebron** with Fr. Ray Introvigne and Fr. Michael Philippino is **CANCELLED**. Please join us again in the New Year on January 21<sup>st</sup> at Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., Hebron at 2 PM.

### **A NOTE ABOUT PARISH REGISTRATION**



If you regularly worship with us, please register with St. Philip parish to provide accurate census data to the diocese. Return registration forms (orange) from the vestibule to the office. **Thank you.**

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter: Third Sunday of Advent: Rejoice Always!** Isaiah 61:1: "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24: "May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it." Let the Lord transform your marriage. Give your spouse a gift. Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. Some of the dates to sign up are:

January 26-28, 2024 in Derby Line, VT

February 9-11, 2024 in Huntington, NY

March 15-17, 2024 in Upton, MA

Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsors a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call Frank & Margie Pearson at 860-337-2447 or <https://www.mectw.org/>.

**2023 ACA UPDATE:** As of November 28, 2023, **St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Ashford** has donated **\$28,935.69** or **99.17%** of its goal, and **27.73%** of parishioners have donated. We are striving for as close to 100% participation as possible. **URGENT – PLEASE HELP US REACH GOAL - THERE IS STILL TIME TO DONATE!** Our campaign year ends **December 31, 2023**. With your donation, our ACA supported ministries do the work of Christ every day. If you have not made your contribution to the 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal, "One Faith, One Family", or would like to make an additional gift, donation envelopes are still available within the church or you can contact the Development Office at (860) 886-1928 or [www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org](http://www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org). **Thank you to everyone for your support!**

### **VIRTUAL BINGO FOR ALL AGES**

The Office of Faith Events invites people of all ages to participate in Virtual Bingo! **Bingo will take place on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 5pm.** You will receive your cards online, mark them and even remark them for the next game or you can print them and play. Through video conferencing, we will call the numbers and play different BINGO games from regular bingo, double bingo, picture frame, and finally black out! It will be great fun with lots of gift certificates for prizes! The cost is \$6 per card for the whole Bingo event! To purchase your Bingo cards, go to: <https://bit.ly/2Laol7Y> or call Marianne at 860-848-2237 ex. 304.

## **6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL YOUNG ADULT MASS WITH**

**BISHOP COTE** On Sunday- January 21<sup>st</sup>, St. Thomas Aquinas in Storrs is delighted to host Bishop Michael Cote for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Young Adult Mass & Reception. All Young Adults (ages 18 - 39, single and married) are invited and encouraged to attend and are encouraged to invite friends to join us! Mass with Bishop Cote will begin at 7:00 pm and following the liturgy there will be a small reception in the Catholic Center.

## **ADVERTISE IN OUR BULLETIN**

\$200 for six months for a small ad. (See above).  
\$300 for a double-sized ad. Discount for an entire year is \$550 for a double ad. Funeral Homes will receive a triple-sized ad. Ads may be submitted each year in July and January to the Parish Office email: [stphilipstjude@gmail.com](mailto:stphilipstjude@gmail.com). If you or someone you know would like to advertise and support the Church bulletin, please let us know.

## **Please share your e-mail address with The Office of Faith Events of the Diocese of Norwich!**

Be the first to know about all the faith enriching programs, virtual and live, that we offer throughout the year. This will also enable you to receive our bi-weekly Hope and Faith Video series. Email Marianne at [manicholas@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:manicholas@norwichdiocese.net) to be added to the list today!

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Fr. Michael would like parents to consider having their daughter or son volunteer for the privilege of serving at the altar during Mass. If interested, please leave a message with the Canavan family at 860-429-4116.

Please do not respond to any messages on the internet from Father Michael Giannitelli. He does not communicate via the internet. If you see anything that bears his name, it is fraudulent. Thank you.

From September to June the **Office of Faith Events: Hope and Faith video series** will ask the question, "What is your favorite part of mass and why?" If you would like to share your answer to this question in a short 2 minute video that would be shared with the whole diocese, please contact Marianne at 860-848-2237 x 304 or email: [manicholas@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:manicholas@norwichdiocese.net)

**REMINDER:** If you do not currently use our church envelopes and would like an end-of-the-year statement, please register in our parish and include your check or cash in an envelope with your name and address on it. We need this information for our software program. Thank you.

## **Marriage Preparation Classes to Meet Virtually**

The Catholic Family Services Office will be offering virtual or one-on-one marriage preparation classes for engaged couples. Couples getting married should contact Mary-Jo McLaughlin at the Catholic Family Services Office to establish class dates. She can be reached Mon – Wed at 860-848-2237, Ext 312 or email: [mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.net).

We all know how important the ministries and programs of the **ACA** are, to provide spiritual, educational, physical, financial and emotional support to the people of our Diocese and Haiti. Unfortunately, less than 14% of us are making the commitment to donate and help do the work of Christ. Looking back at the last 5 years, an average of 21% of our parishioners donated! We know that together, we can do better! Our programs will be threatened without your help. We ask you to do what you can to bring us closer to our 2023 ACA goal. We are currently only months away from the end of the year and still close to \$500k shy of our goal. If you, who are members of the 86% who have not yet given, decide to contribute, we will be all set! You can make your gifts by calling Heather Harris, ACA Campaign Manager at 860-886-1928 ext. 111 or online at [www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org](http://www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org). Thank you very much for sharing your blessings.

**WHEN PLANNING YOUR ESTATE:** Please consider putting St. Philip in your will as a way to be remembered while supporting the ongoing needs of the parish.

## **DID YOU KNOW!?**

Catholic Charities is a SNAP Outreach agency. We help with SNAP applications and redetermination of benefits in all four offices. For assistance, please contact a Catholic Charities office near you:  
331 Main St., Norwich: 860-889-8346  
28 Huntington St., New London: 860-443-5328  
88 Jackson St., Willimantic: 860-423-7065  
16 Stack St., Middletown: 860-346-0060  
Spanish Speaking Case Workers available.

**Pregnant? Need help? CATHOLIC CHARITIES** Pregnancy and Adoption Programs provide concrete help & answers. Call 1-800- BABYDUE, even if you simply want to talk.

**Natural Family Planning** is scientific, safe, and is 99 % effective for conceiving or responsibly postponing a baby. For information, call Craig and Liz Schantz at 860-464-1184. [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org).



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Revival**

**July 17-21, 2024, Lucas Oil Stadium,  
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**A Catholic Experience Unlike Any Other**

Join your Catholic brothers and sisters at the 10<sup>th</sup> National Eucharistic Congress. For the first time in a generation, the Church will gather to ask Jesus to breathe his life into our dry bones and then send us back to our community to share his love. This historic 5-day gathering of missionary disciples will be a new Pentecost, a powerful anointing and personal commission to invite others to know Christ. Your life—and our Church—will never be the same. <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/schedule>.

**WHY DON'T OUR ADULT CHILDREN ATTEND**

**MASS?** REPLAY – Did you miss the virtual presentation of “Why Don’t our Adult Children attend Mass?” with Deacon Dennis Dolan and Mary-Jo McLaughlin, Catholic Family Services Coordinator? You can watch it again at your leisure from the comfort of your home by adding the link <https://bit.ly/3SR2slk> into your browser. Join Deacon Dennis and Mary-Jo as they explore the topic of adult children who stopped going to Mass. Listen to parents who are burdened by this knowledge as they reflect on the presentation. The session covers why adult children have chosen not to attend, encouragement for them to come back to church, and time for prayer and reflection.

**LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC CDs: We have lots of**

**CDs** you can trust to provide correct Catholic teaching. Thank you for all your donations that help to keep the program going. Contact Donna Vertefeulle: 860-429-4508 or email [donna@vertefeulle.org](mailto:donna@vertefeulle.org).



**BROTHERS IN CHRIST WITH DEACON TOM**

**CASEY** Join us on Thursday-January 11<sup>th</sup> from 7pm – 7:45pm for our virtual session with Deacon Tom Casey speaking on evangelism. Brothers in Christ is a gathering of men who share faith, personal experiences, and discussion. Brothers in Christ fellowship meetings are held the second Thursday of the month either virtually or in-person. If you are interested in developing fellowship and discipleship with other men devoted to Christ, please register for the group by email Liza Roach at [lroach@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:lroach@norwichdiocese.net) or call (860)848-2237 ex. 305.

**YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE** – If your marriage has become troubled or stressed, unloving or uncaring, even if you are divorced or separated but want to try again, the Retrouvaille program can help. Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness and simply shut down. Others experience conflict and arguments in their relationship. Most don’t know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. For info, call confidentially 1-800-470-2230, email [3002r@retrovaille.org](mailto:3002r@retrovaille.org) or visit the national website at: <http://helpourmarriage.org>.

**RACHEL’S VINEYARD RETREAT WEEKEND**

If you are silently grieving or suffering from an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a **Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat** which includes discussions, Living Scripture with meditations, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and Mass of Entrustment. Participation is confidential and offers an opportunity to experience God’s love, forgiveness, and compassion, for both women and men. Call Marie at 203-631-9030 or e-mail her at [mlaffin@prolifeministry.org](mailto:mlaffin@prolifeministry.org); or visit the national website at [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org). “**PROJECT RACHEL**” is our Diocesan ministry for anyone seeking healing and forgiveness from an abortion. Priests in the **Project Rachel** ministry are there for you with God’s Grace and Mercy. Call 860-861-4439. All inquiries are confidential.

**DEEPENING OUR FAITH THROUGH THE**

**SACRAMENTS** Join us on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 8:15PM virtually for a deepening of our faith through the **Sacrament of Vocation-Marriage**. Our keynote is Sr. Elissa Rinere, C.P. the former Diocesan Chancellor. When the Catholic Church teaches that marriage is a Christian vocation, it is saying that the couple’s relationship is more than simply their choice to enter a union which is a social and legal institution. In addition to these things, marriage involves a call from God and a response from two people who promise to build, with the help of divine grace, a lifelong, intimate and sacramental partnership of love and life. Let’s explore Marriage together. To register, please contact Marianne at [manicholas@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:manicholas@norwichdiocese.net) or call 860-848-2237 ext. 304.



**DEEPENING OUR FAITH THROUGH THE SACRAMENTS** Join us on Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 8:15PM virtually for a deepening of our faith through the Sacrament of Vocation-Holy Orders. Our keynote is Sr. Elissa Rinere, C.P. the former Diocesan Chancellor. The Catholic Church's sacrament of Holy Orders is a sacrament of apostolic ministry. It continues the mission that Christ entrusted to his apostles until the end of time. It includes three degrees: episcopate (*bishop*), presbyterate (*priest*), and diaconate (*deacon*). "Holy orders" means "set apart for a sacred purpose"; let's explore this purpose together. To register, please contact Marianne at [manicholas@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:manicholas@norwichdiocese.net) or call 860-848-2237 ext. 304.

**Catholic Charities** is Providing Help, Creating Hope as we are sharing the Promise of Christmas with you during this Holy Season. Your donations are transforming Christmas into a time of joy, hope and peace for those in our Diocese who live daily with the hardships of hunger, rental and utilities insecurities, loneliness, and an uncertain future. Thank you for your continuing support for our clients, staff and Board of Directors and we wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

**THE PARISH FLAGPOLE** is available through the kindness of some of our parishioners. Any parishioner is invited to fly our flag in honor and memory of a deceased military family member or friend, for one month. To participate, please call Ann at 860-429-2860, during office hours. Thank you to all our veterans who have served, both living and deceased.



**PROJECT RACHEL ROSARY AT THE CATHEDRAL** The third Tuesday of each month at the Cathedral of St. Patrick following the noon mass, join the Office of Faith Events as we pray the Project Rachel Rosary. The Project Rachel Rosary focuses on hope, healing, and forgiveness for those affected by an abortion and also for an end to abortion. Please join us for this in-person Project Rachel Rosary on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> following the noon mass at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich.

**FRIENDS OF ECOLE AGAPE'S**  
**2024 CHILI COOKOFF**  
**SATURDAY JAN. 13<sup>TH</sup>**  
**NOON-3:30 PM**

**\$15**

**ST. PHILIP CENTER**  
**Rt 44 ASHFORD CT**

**MONEY AWARDS TO**  
**LOCAL NON-PROFITS**

**BE A CHEF OR A TASTER**  
**VOTE FOR THE BEST CHILI**  
**HOT DOGS/ SIDE DISHES**  
**ENJOY LIVE MUSIC**  
**SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE**



**For information**  
**[www.Friendsofecoleagape.org](http://www.Friendsofecoleagape.org)**  
**Text/call 860-810-6656**





## Norwich Diocesan Our Lady, Queen of Hope Award

To honor a woman in the Diocese for  
**Vision and Leadership in the Catholic Church**

This award will be given out by Bishop Michael Cote to a woman of faith in the Norwich Diocese. The award is named after Mary, our mother, who is our role model and in whom we place our hope.

*The winner will be presented with an award and a check for \$200 made out to the Catholic charity, parish or diocesan ministry of her choice.*

Nominees should...

- \*Display strong faith
- \*Be committed to living out Catholic values
- \*Display spiritual leadership at the local or diocesan level(s)
- \*Display a spirit of love and service to the Catholic Church
- \*Have been part of successful initiatives that benefit the Church
- \*Have moved the parish community forward through her vision

The award winner will be determined by the Women's Conference Committee. The nomination form must be completed in full by **JANUARY 12, 2024**. Contact the Office of Faith Events with any questions or concerns 860-848-2237, ext. 304 or [manicholas@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:manicholas@norwichdiocese.net).

**\*To access application go to the Office of Faith Events Website\***



## Our Lady, Queen of Hope Award Application

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish and town: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Or pastor can email [ahoisl@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:ahoisl@norwichdiocese.net) stating confirmation of this nominee)

In 500 words or less and using specific examples please describe why you believe this individual displays the following:

**A strong faith, a commitment to living out Catholic values, spiritual leadership, and a spirit of love and service to the Catholic Church. Explain her involvement in successful initiatives that have benefited the Church and how she has helped move the parish/diocesan community forward through her vision.**

Submit with this application via email to [faithevents@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:faithevents@norwichdiocese.net) or via US mail to:

Bishop Flanagan Ministry Center  
199 Broadway  
Norwich, CT 06360

Nominated by (print name): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION IS JANUARY 12, 2024.**

*Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest. -Matthew 11:28*

**Come join us for a**  
**Healing Mass & Healing Service**

2:00-3:00 pm

3:00-4:00 pm

*2 PM the third Sunday of every month*  
with Fr. Ray Introvigne and Fr. Michael Philippino  
Music by Joe D'Ambrose, and Jayvee & Tina Mateo



2024 All masses will be celebrated at the  
Church of the Holy Family  
185 Church St, Hebron (Rte. 85)

**December 17- CANCELLED**

*Join us in*  
*the New Year!*

January 21  
February 18  
March 17  
April 21  
May 19  
June 16  
July 21  
August 18  
September 15  
October 20  
November 17  
December 15

For more information contact Andrea Hoisl at [faithevents@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:faithevents@norwichdiocese.net)

Or 860-848-2237 ext. 203



## Christmas Miracle Bags 2023

Miracle Bags are gift bags that contain warm hats, gloves and personal hygiene items. We estimate we will distribute **600 Miracle Bags** this year to our guests along with a hot Christmas meal on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Donate one or more of the following:

Warm hats and gloves\*  
Shampoo/Conditioner  
Toothpaste/Toothbrushes  
Shaving cream  
Razors  
Deodorant  
\$5 or \$10 gift cards to Walmart,  
Dunkin Donuts, McDonalds, etc.

\*Men's gloves (L, XL)  
are most needed.

We make Miracle  
Bags from donations.  
Any donations are  
appreciated.

You can donate small or large amounts. You may also compose a card with uplifting quotes or drawings to include with the bags. Donating the items in bulk or in separate bags is appreciated. Some of our guests spend time alone during the holidays and they value handwritten notes.

Please bring donations on or before **December 18** to:

St. Vincent de Paul Place  
120 Cliff St.  
Norwich, CT 06360

For more information contact:  
Celia Siefert  
Cgs99@aol.com  
860.889.7374

Our website [svdpp.org](http://svdpp.org) accepts all major credit cards for donations.

*You saw me hungry and fed me. Thank You.*

Donations to St. Vincent de Paul Place, Norwich are fully tax deductible.  
120 Cliff Street Norwich, CT 06360 860-889-7374

For more information, visit us at [www.svdpp.org](http://www.svdpp.org) or [Facebook.com/svdppnorwich](https://www.facebook.com/svdppnorwich)



*Is someone on your list hard to shop for?  
Give a gift to St Vincent de Paul Place in their name.*

We will send them a Christmas card acknowledging your gift in their name.  
To have this done for Christmas we need a few days to get the card out.

-----Cut and send to us (Please Print)-----

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone in case there is a question \_\_\_\_\_

Giver wishes to remain anonymous check here \_\_\_\_\_

The acknowledgement card should be sent to:

Recipient Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail the completed form to  
St. Vincent de Paul Place  
120 Cliff Street  
Norwich, CT 06360**

*May God's love fill your heart at this blessed season!*

Follow us on [Facebook.com/svdppnorwich](https://www.facebook.com/svdppnorwich)  
Our website [svdpp.org](http://svdpp.org) accepts all major credit cards for donations.  
Jillian Corbin, Executive Director



**Find hope, strength, and comfort from  
a loss, burden, trouble, or sorrow**

*The Catholic Family Service Office is sponsoring*

# **A Journey with Mary Through Her Seven Sorrows**

Join us for a seven-week virtual program that will explore each of the Seven Sorrows of Mary's life and the message of strength and encouragement each one contains. The program is based on the book *Your Sorrow Is My Sorrow* by Sr. Joyce Rupp.

**Monday evenings from 7-8:15 P.M.  
January 8, 15, 22, 29; Feb. 5, 12, 19, 2024**

Each night will include a reflection on one of Mary's sorrows, guided prayer imagery and discussion. The program takes place online and requires participants to have an internet connection.



*"Everyone can find their struggles and sadness hidden  
in the folds of Mary's robe of sorrows." ~ Sr. Joyce Rupp*

*For more information or to register, call Mary-Jo McLaughlin at the Catholic Family Services Office,  
860-848-2237, Ext. 312 or email [mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.net)*





# VIRTUAL BINGO

SUNDAY  
January 7th  
2024

3:30 - 5PM

GREAT PRIZES AND  
FUN FOR ALL AGES!

**Cards are \$6 each and will  
be emailed, Bingo played  
through internet! Only 200**

**cards so act fast! To**

**register go to**

**<https://bit.ly/2Laol7Y>**

**or call Marianne at**

**(860)848-2237 ex. 304**

## The Quiet Corner Chapter of the Disabled American Vets



Are you a Veteran who has combat or service related disability and need assistance with filing for Veterans Administration Benefits? Are you interested in learning more? We are looking for you.

Contact:

**Rocky Daigle 860 – 918-0532**

**Barry Bernier 860 – 830-5443**

The Disabled American Veterans are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering Veterans to lead high quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by making sure Veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interest of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of Veterans returning to civilian life.



## Office of Faith Events

Diocese of Norwich

Enriching the Faith of Youth, Young Adults, Adults, and Families.

Please LIKE us on [Facebook](#)

[www.facebook.com/Office-of-Faith-Events-Diocese-of-Norwich](http://www.facebook.com/Office-of-Faith-Events-Diocese-of-Norwich)

**Get up to date info on fun,  
faith-filled events!**