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UPCOMING

2023 EVENTS:

- March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Virtual Lenten Mission, 7 P.M.
- March 3, 17, 24, 31, Virtual Stations of the Cross, 7 P.M.
- March 4-5, Diocesan Catholic Schools Basketball Tournament, St. Bernard School, Uncasville.
- March 8, Unbound, Sacred Heart Church, Norwichtown, 7-8:30 P.M.
- March 10, Virtual Couples Happy Hour, 7-8:30 P.M.
- March 9, Brothers in Christ, St. Patrick Church, East Hampton, 7 P.M.
- March 18, Confirmation Retreat, Sacred Heart School, Taftville, 8:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.
- March 19, Healing Mass, Church of the Holy Family, Hebron, 2 P.M.
- March 21, Virtual Project Rachel Rosary, 3 P.M.
- March 22, Women's Conference, Inn at Middletown, 6 P.M.

Office of Faith Events



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

860-848-2237, ext. 304 ; e-mail: faithevents@norwichdiocese.net

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MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2023



Eucharistic Revival Moves Toward Parish Level



Here we are on the cusp of Spring – anxiously awaiting all the wonders that warmer weather and longer days provide. As Christians we look forward to every season in our liturgical calendar with anticipation and hope. Every season has its unique joys and contemplations that move us forward in our spiritual journey. We know that Christ is always journeying beside us and that reminds us we are the chosen ones – the ones for whom Christ sacrificed his life. As we look forward to celebrating our Risen Savior at Easter, we also look forward to the new perspective a “new season” brings.

Our Church is currently embracing a “unique season” for the next three years thanks to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). We have all been invited to focus more intently on the gift of the Eucharist. The three-year Eucharistic Revival offers opportunities for us to put our attention right where it belongs as Catholics, on the gift of Christ’s body and blood. Like all religious practices, sometimes we lose sight of the importance and significance for us personally. We continue to practice faithfully but often it feels like an obligation or even a habit.

The revival reminds us that the Eucharist is not to be taken for granted. The strength, peace, and joy that the Eucharist brings into our lives is real and tangible for those of us who take the time to better understand its deep history and life-altering benefits. The aim of the revival is for each of us to come to know the Eucharist on a deeper level through prayer, study, and adoration.

As a diocese, we have provided opportunities for enrichment so that members of Christ’s Body – the Church – can come to understand and appreciate the gift of Eucharist more fully. Starting in June, parishes will be asked to highlight the Eucharist in new and meaningful ways for their own worshipping communities. As an office, we will continue to be available to support you and offer suggestions on how your parish can put a spotlight on the Eucharist.

We pray that you will continue to grow in God’s love and faithfulness. May the gift of the Eucharist touch your hearts and lives in new and far-reaching ways this spring. God’s blessings and peace.

~Andrea Hoisl, director, Office of Faith Events

Workshops to Address Alzheimer’s, Dementia and Brain Health for Seniors

The Office of Faith Events, (OFE) through its Caregiver Spirituality group, will be hosting several workshops this May entitled: **Understanding Alzheimer’s and Dementia & Healthy Brain and Body for Seniors**. The Keynote Speaker will be Kristopher Sortwell, MSW, the Eastern Region director of education and

outreach for the Alzheimer's Association's Connecticut Chapter. Andrea Hoisl, OFE director, will lead prayer and reflection. The workshops will be held throughout the Diocese. Look for upcoming communication from our office on the specifics of dates and location in your area.



Upcoming Faith Event Programs Offer Enriching Experiences for All Ages



UPCOMING 2023 EVENTS:

- **March 25, The Prodigal Son Retreat, St. Mary Church, Portland, 8:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.**
- **March 29, Unbound, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Quaker Hill, 7-8:30 P.M.**
- **April 1, Virtual Women's Conference, 9:15 – noon.**
- **April 2, Virtual Confirmation Retreat, 1 P.M.**
- **April 13, Virtual Brothers in Christ, 7 P.M.**
- **April 13, Awakening Prayer Sharing group, St. Pius X, Middletown, 6:30 P.M.**
- **April 18, Virtual Project Rachel Rosary, 3 P.M.**
- **April 18, 20, 25, 27, Awakening, St. Mary, Groton.**
- **April 23, Scouting Mass, Cathedral of St. Patrick, 2 P.M.**
- **April 25, Virtual Rosary for healing and prevention of child abuse, 3 P.M.**
- **April 30, Virtual Bingo, 3:30 P.M.**
- **May 3, Healing Mass, St. Sebastian Church, 6:30 P.M.**
- **May 11, Awakening Prayer Sharing Group, St. Pius X, Middletown, 6:30 P.M.**
- **May 11, Virtual Brothers in Christ, 7 P.M.**
- **May 12, Virtual Couples' Happy Hour, 7 P.M.**
- **May 16, Virtual Project Rachel Rosary, 3 P.M.**

Couples' Happy Hour

The next two virtual Couples' Happy Hour will be Friday, **March 10 and May 12**. Both evenings will include presentations on topics relevant to today's couples. Couples will have time to share privately on questions pertinent to the evening's topics. There is no cost but registration is required. To register, call Mary-Jo McLaughlin at 860-848-2237, Ext. 312 or email her at mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.net. A link to the program will be sent prior to each event. If you have previously registered, you will automatically receive the link.

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**Brothers in Christ, Men's Faith Group**  
Brothers in Christ is both a virtual and in-person group of men who share faith, witness, Scripture, and discussions. Sessions meet the second Thursday of each month from 7-7:45 P.M. with the exception of three in-person church events. The group will meet in-person **March 9** at St. Patrick Church, East Hampton. The guest speaker will be Glen Miller, a member of the Awakening Spiritual Renewal Team who will speak on the topic of Christ in the workplace. The **April 13** and **May 11** meetings will be virtual. If you are interested in developing fellowship and discipleship with other men devoted to Christ, register by emailing Liza Roach at [lroach@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:lroach@norwichdiocese.net) or call 860-848-2237 Ext. 305.

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Prodigal Son Retreat

Take time away from the busyness of the world this Lenten season and spend quality time with Jesus by attending a retreat on the Parable of the Prodigal Son Saturday, **March 25** at St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave, Portland, CT. Join us as we take a deeper look at this well-

known parable from the perspective of each of the three main characters: the prodigal son, the elder brother, and the father. How are each of us like these characters? What is the lesson this parable has for all of us in living our call to be in relationship with Jesus and His Father? How do we cultivate and deepen these relationships? The retreat, which will run from 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., will include time for guided imagery prayer and personal reflection. For more information, or to register, call Mary-Jo McLaughlin at Catholic Family Services, 860-848-2237, Ext. 312 or email her at mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.net. The retreat is free and open to all participants. Registration is required.

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### Virtual Lenten Mission

Join us this Lent for the Office of Faith Events sponsored Virtual Lenten Mission entitled **Faith: Witness and Wisdom**. Each week will feature new presenters who will share faith testimonies about how they have encountered Jesus Christ in their lives and how He has inspired their call to discipleship. Presenters include, Judith Hughes, retired co-director of the Diocesan Spiritual Renewal Center; Fr Jacob Ramos, parochial vicar of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Coventry; Deacon Frank Hann, St. Luke Parish, Ellington; Seminarian Alex Pandolfe; and Alex Soucy, from Crossroads Young Adult Ministry. The Virtual Lenten Mission is an opportunity to deepen your faith, take time for reflection, and pray. The mission will begin on Thursday, **March 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 7 P.M. and continue weekly with the last session on Thursday, **March 30<sup>th</sup>**. To register, contact Marianne at (860)848-2237 ex. 304 or email her at [manicholas@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:manicholas@norwichdiocese.net).

### Trust in the mercy of God's Love

If you are carrying the grief and sorrow of past abortions, confidentially call the church's post-abortion healing ministry, **Project Rachel ~ 860-861-4439**.