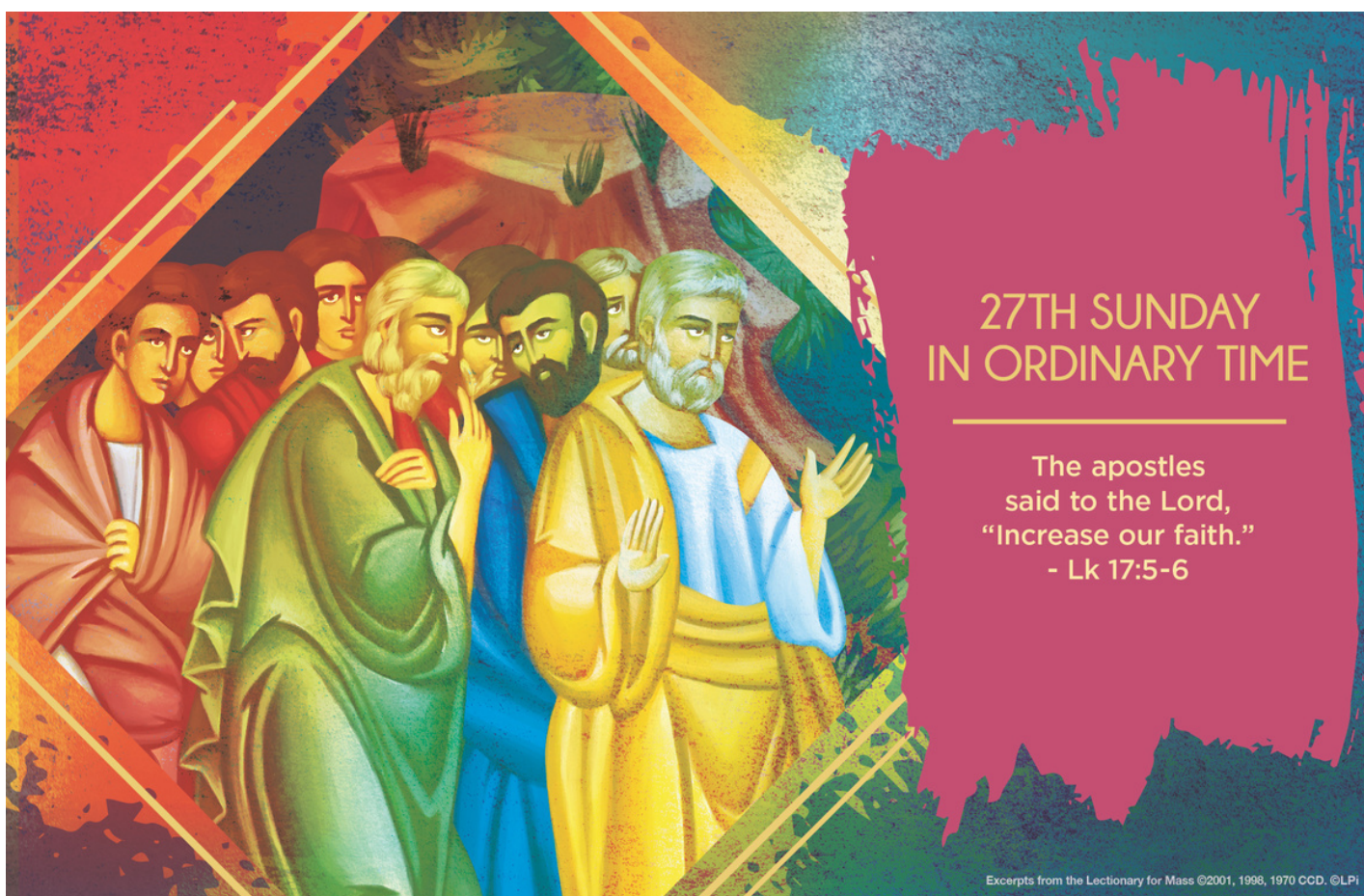




ST. JOHN BOSCO *Parish*

October 5, 2025 || Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



SAINTJOHNBOSCOBRANFORD.ORG

731 Main St, Branford, CT
203-488-1607 || office@saintjohnboscobranford.org

Rev. Ryan Lerner
Pastor
fr.lerner@aohct.org

Rev. Msgr. David M. Walker
Retired
msgr.walker@aohct.org

WELCOME TO SAINT JOHN BOSCO PARISH

Uniting the Catholic Communities of St. Elizabeth, St. Mary & St. Therese
Established June 29, 2017

St. Mary Church

731 Main St., Branford, CT

St. Therese Church

105 Leetes Island Rd., Branford, CT

PARISH OFFICE

731 Main St, Branford
Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:30AM - 4:30PM
Ronald F. Shea, Business Manager
Cari Codino, Parish Secretary
Nick Corso, Facilities Manager
203-488-1607 | Fax: 203-483-9208
office@saintjohnboscobranford.org

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

105 Leetes Island Rd, Branford
Jenny Smith, Faith Formation Coordinator
Regina Martindale, Faith Formation Office Admin
203-488-2998 | Fax: 203-488-8542
faithformation@saintjohnboscobranford.org

EAST SHORELINE CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Cheryl Panzo, Principal
62 Cedar Street, Branford, CT 06405
eastshorelinecatholicacademy.org
203-488-8386

ST. MARY & ST. AGNES CEMETERIES

Brian Reynolds, Operations Manager
stagnescemetery@sbcglobal.net
203-488-1950

YOUTH MINISTRY

Kim Reinwald, Youth Minister
203-488-1607, ext. 120
youth@saintjohnboscobranford.org

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE FOR SICK & ELDERLY

Nadine Toren
Pastoral Associate for Sick & Elderly
203-488-1607, ext. 119
ntoren@saintjohnboscobranford.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

Jorge Prego
Music Director & Live-Stream Production
jprego@saintjohnboscobranford.org
203-488-1607, ext. 122

OCIA & ADULT CONFIRMATION

Nadine Toren
203-671-8002
ntoren@saintjohnboscobranford.org

PARISH TRUSTEES

Lisa Arpin || Peter Bassermann

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Stephen Burke Andrea Duffy
Jeff Klarman Donna J. Perrone
Joseph Montesano

E.S.C.A. SCHOOL BOARD

Richard Caponera (St. Pio)	Carlo Caserta (St. Margaret)
Dianne Coyle (St. Margaret)	Yollande Eldridge (St. George)
Frank Hall (St. John Bosco)	Albert Koerner (St. George)
Christopher Mayne (SJB)	Robert McKenna (St. Margaret)
Andy Perrone (SJB)	Barbara Travisano (St. George)

STAY CONNECTED

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL OF THE LATEST NEWS

My Parish App || saintjohnboscobranford.org
facebook.com/saintjohnboscobranford
youtube.com/saintjohnboscobranford

**The 10:30am Mass is livestreamed on our Facebook and YouTube Channels every Sunday*



ONLINE GIVING

An ever-growing number of parishioners are taking advantage of our online giving option, signing up for everything from ongoing weekly offerings to gifts for Easter or Christmas flowers. Make a one-time gift or sign up for recurring donations. To register, visit saintjohnboscobranford.org/onlinegiving

BAPTISM

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule baptisms.

MARRIAGE

Contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance to begin Marriage Preparation.

VOCATION

Interested in a Vocation? Contact the Office of Vocations at vocations@aohct.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Livestream · 10:30 AM · Facebook & YouTube

DAILY MASSES || MON—FRI || 7:30AM AT ST. MARY
CONFESSIONS || SATURDAY - 3:30PM AT ST. THERESE
OR BY APPOINTMENT

SATURDAY VIGIL || 4:30PM AT ST. THERESE
SUNDAY MASSES || 7:30AM AT ST. MARY ||
9:00AM AT ST. THERESE || 10:30AM AT ST. MARY

MINISTRY AND EVENT CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

OCIA - 9:00am-10:15am
in St. Mary Conference Room
Peer Leadership - 12:00pm in St. Mary Hall
Confirmation Class - 4:00pm -8:00pm
in St. Mary Hall

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

Prayer Quilt - 2:30pm-5:00pm at St. Mary Hall
Legion of Mary - 6:00pm at St. Mary Hall
Youth Bible Study - 6:30pm-8:00 pm
at St. Therese Parish Center

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Walking With Purpose Bible Study
9:30am - 11:00am at St. Mary Hall
Lunch Bunch - 12:00pm at St. Mary Hall
Youth Ministry Bible Study
6:30pm - 8:00pm at St. Mary Hall C
Walking With Purpose Bible Study
6:30pm - 8:00pm at St. Mary Hall
Candlelight Rosary - 7:00pm at St. Mary Courtyard

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Children's Choir - 4:15pm in St. Mary Church
Adult Choir - 5:30pm in St. Mary Church
Youth Ensemble - 6:30pm in St. Mary Church
Women's Group - 7:00pm in St. Mary Hall

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Rosary - 1:00pm at St. Mary Church
Red Cross Blood Drive - 12:30pm-6:15pm
in St. Mary Hall
Adult Confirmation - 4:30pm-6:00pm
at St. Mary Conference Room

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

Holy Hour - 8:00am in St. Mary Church

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

Confession - 3:30pm at St. Therese
KofC Soctober - Collection Weekend
Monthly Food Collection Weekend
KofC Family Game Night - 6:00pm-8:00pm
at St. Mary Hall

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

OCIA - 9:00am-10:15am
in St. Mary Conference Room
KofC Soctober Collection Weekend
Food Collection Weekend
Coffee "And" After Mass in both church Halls

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 - ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

3:30PM (St. T) Confessions
4:30PM (St. T) +Dec. Members of the Cesar & Marian
Nobile Family (Joe & Gloria Nobile)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

7:30AM (St. M) +Rose & John DeJager (Family)
9:00AM (St. T) +Grace & Daniel McPadden (Family)
10:30AM (St. M) +Stephen & Kathleen Hanchuruck (Sons)
-Wedding Ann. Rem.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

7:30AM Pro Populo

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7 - OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

7:30AM +Emma Resurreccion & Raynor Taroy

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

7:30AM +Richard Guy Paolillo (Beth Jone)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

7:30AM +Alice Malcolm, George Malcolm,
Michaela Malcolm & David Malcolm
(Noy Lim)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

7:30AM +Thomas Kelly (Wife, Theresa)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

3:30PM (St. T) Confessions
4:30PM (St. T) +John V. Owcarz & Edward Gohsler
(Family)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

7:30AM (St. M) +Fr. Daniel Keefe (Morgan Family)
9:00AM (St. T) +Benjamin Filardi (Family)
10:30AM (St. M) +Kinney & Xeller Families
(Kinney & Xeller Family)



PARISH NEWS, MINISTRIES AND EVENTS

Praying for Peace with Our Blessed Mother and with All the Saints, throughout the Month of October

We have reached the end of the Season of Creation, through which we have been invited to rediscover God's presence in all created things. As our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV beautifully prayed, "Help us discover Your presence in all creation, so that, in fully recognizing it, we may feel and know ourselves to be responsible for our common home where You invite us to care for, respect, and protect life in all its forms and possibilities."

Now, we enter October, a month radiant with the memory of the lives of the saints. As the author of Hebrews writes, "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us persevere in running the race... keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus." (Heb 12:1-2) Among those witnesses:

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux (Oct 1) Doctor of the Church and a patroness of our parish, who taught us the "little way of love"; our Guardian Angels (Oct 2); Saint Francis of Assisi (Oct 4), lover of peace and creation; Saint Faustina (Oct 5), apostle of Divine Mercy; Our Lady of the Rosary (Oct 7), whose feast invites us deeper into prayer with Our Blessed Mother, Mary; recently canonized Saint Carlo Acutis (Oct 14); Saint Teresa of Avila, Doctor of the Church (Oct 15); Pope Saints John XXIII & John Paul II (Oct 11, Oct 22); Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque (Oct 16), visionary of the Sacred Heart; Saint Ignatius of Antioch (Oct 17), early Church Father, martyr and teacher of Church unity; and Saint Luke (Oct 18), evangelist and author of "the Gospel of the Poor."

That's just to name a few of the saints we celebrate throughout this month, culminating on the Eve of All Saints on October 31st.

October is also dedicated to our Blessed Mother, and to the Rosary. Mindful of what Pope Leo XIV describes as the "ruins of murderous hatred," experienced not only by our neighbors living in "war-torn lands," but even the daily manifestations of it here in our own land, calls upon Catholics "throughout the globe" to pray the Rosary daily "for peace—personally, in the family, and in community," and to join him in praying a global Rosary for peace on October 11 at 6:00 PM Rome time (12PM EDT). Let us join in spirit, praying with Mary and all the saints for peace in our world, and for peace to reign in our hearts.

MISSION CO-OP COLLECTION FOLLOW-UP

Parishioners continued for several weeks to respond very generously to Fr. Jude Thaddeus' appeal in August on behalf of the work of the Claretian Missionaries in Cameroon. Final results totaled \$30,485, the highest amount in parish history! God bless you for your generosity.

OCTOBER COUNTS

Did you ever wonder about the source of statistics you see in articles in the secular media about trends in church attendance? One source is the "October Count," which has been taken in every church in our archdiocese (and most others) for many decades. This is why you may notice parish staff or Knights of Columbus volunteers with "clickers" walking up and down the aisles during the early part of Mass, and stationed near the sanctuary at Communion time. This process will be performed at all the Masses during the month of October. We hope it doesn't cause too much distraction.

Candlelight Rosary & Adoration for Life

Join us on the Feast of
Our Lady of the Rosary
on **Tuesday, October 7th at 6pm**
to pray a Rosary for Life in front
of the Statue of Mary in the St. Mary
Courtyard, followed by Adoration
in St. Mary Church at 7pm.



PARISH NEWS, MINISTRIES AND EVENTS



Service Opportunities for Youth & Families

We are all called to love and serve! Our Faith Formation and Youth Ministry programs keep a running sign-up sheet of current service and ministry opportunities for youth of all ages (including our Confirmation students) and families in our parish, as well as some through St George and St Margaret Parish. Get involved, make a difference, and sign up today! Go to bit.ly/SJBYM_SignUp or scan QR Code:



Women's Group Retreat DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE THROUGH SOCIAL JUSTICE

November 8, 2025
9:00am-3:00pm
St. Mary Parish Hall

In a world marked by indifference, choose to be a beacon of care. Together, we will ignite a passion within ourselves and others to see the divine in every person and to serve those in need as we would serve Jesus Himself.

\$10 for members / \$20 for non-members
Breakfast and lunch will be provided.
Please include Name, Email and Phone Number with your registration.

Registration can be mailed or dropped off at the Parish Office at 731 Main St, Branford, CT. Please address registration to SJB Women's Group. Any question please contact Kathy DePonte k.deponte3@gmail.com.

SJB PARISH *Mothers Group*

Upcoming Dates:
Thursdays | St. Therese Parish Center | 6:15-8:00pm
OCT 30, NOV 11, & DEC 4

Come to one or all
Bring your friend and/or your mother!

We gather in good friendship and encourage one another in the challenges of all seasons of motherhood. We hope to read aloud and discuss a bit of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation; *C'est La Confiance*, On the Confidence in the Merciful Love of God.



Join our Prayer Chat by
Scanning the QR Code
or going to:
bit.ly/mothersgroupme

For more info reach out to
Catherine Shannon at 203-767-6670
or cathshan@gmail.com.

SJB MUSIC MINISTRY

JOIN US TODAY AND
SING A NEW SONG TO THE LORD!!

CHILDREN CHOIR

GRADES 3-8

Rehearsals Wednesdays 4:15pm-5pm

YOUTH ENSEMBLE

GRADES 9-12 (singers)

GRADES 6-12 (instrumentalists)

Rehearsals Wednesdays 6:30pm-7:30pm

ADULT CHOIR

AGES 18 & UP

Rehearsals Wednesdays 5:30pm-6:30pm

If you like to sing, or play an instrument, join us!
If you are interested in knowing more about our choirs, please email our Music Director Jorge Prego at jprego@saintjohnboscobranford.org

PARISH NEWS, MINISTRIES AND EVENTS

Thank You

On behalf of myself and the entire Saint John Bosco Parish community, thank you all for a truly wonderful afternoon together at our Parish Picnic!

We began with a beautiful and prayerful celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on the grassy hill overlooking the Sound. On that truly glorious afternoon, it felt like the Sermon on the Mount, as if we were those first disciples gathering with Jesus on the hillside over the Sea of Galilee. Deep thanks to our liturgical ministers, musicians, and the Knights of Columbus for setting up such a moving and memorable outdoor liturgy.

The joy continued into the afternoon, with burgers and hotdogs from the grill, the delicious sides and desserts you yourselves provided for each other, and time spent in laughter, recreation, and fellowship. One parishioner remarked on having felt “a great deal of camaraderie amongst our parish family—the meetings and greetings among us was really heartwarming.” I couldn't agree more.

Again, a special thanks to the Knights of Columbus, Council 10, for all the thought, prayer, and work that went into the planning and preparation for our Parish Picnic. We are all very grateful.

And a very special thanks to John Bloomquist, the Operations Manager of the Owenego Inn & Beach Club, who generously hosted us for free in that beautiful setting. Please take a moment to sign the card in the vestibule as an expression of our gratitude for John. Thank you, and God bless you everyone!



SJB Parish Picnic 2025



PARISH NEWS, MINISTRIES AND EVENTS



SJB Parish Picnic 2025



40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Sept 24 - Nov 2

WHAT IS IT?

40 Days for Life, which began on September 24th and concludes on November 2nd, the Solemnity of All Souls, is a coordinated, worldwide campaign that aims to end abortion locally through concentrated prayer and fasting, community outreach/education, and 24-hour peaceful prayer vigils outside abortion facilities. Check out the 40 Days website for more information: 40daysforlife.com/en/.

PRAY

Prayer, and seeking God's favor to heal a suffering humanity, is vital to bringing an end to abortion, and changing hearts and minds. Our prayers offer hope to women in crisis and save the lives of the vulnerable unborn. More than 25,000 unborn children have been saved from abortion during 40 Days for Life campaigns.

FAST

Prayer and fasting are an essential part of Catholic life. Engaging in self-denial, uniting our suffering with Christ, and doing so with intention for a specific person or situation, can be effective in the conversion and redemption of not only ourselves, but of others. Try making a small, daily sacrifice – doing less of what you love and more of what you do not love – with the intention to turn the hearts and minds of humanity from a culture of death to a culture of life. Pray, and ask Jesus what that daily sacrifice might look like for you.

GET INFORMED

There is a rich tradition of Catholic Social Teaching on protecting the dignity and sanctity of life from conception to natural death, bearing witness to the Gospel of Life, and living a consistent ethic of life. Perhaps consult the US Conference of Catholic Bishops: usccb.org/prolife. Or listen to the Sisters of Life, Let Love podcast, Season 6 introducing the Gospel of Life: youtube.com/watch?v=sAQ5hJ-sJtA. Here at St. John Bosco, we invite you to join a small group viewing of the Into Life series: sistersoflife.org/resources/into-life-love-changes-everything-video-series-from-the-sisters-of-life-touches-hearts/. For more information, contact Catherine Shannon: 203-767-6670; cathshan@gmail.com.

DAILY MASS

For each day of the 40 Days for Life, the 7:30 Daily Mass will conclude with a special prayer, and then a white cross will be placed at the Monument to the Unborn.

PARISH NEWS, MINISTRIES AND EVENTS

 **Knights of Columbus Council 10** 

Sock-toberfest **New Sock Drive** **October 11 - 19th**



Help Us Spread Kindness!

BIG SOCKS, SMALL SOCKS, EVEN IN-BETWEEN SOCKS. ORANGE SOCKS, BLUE SOCKS, AS LONG AS THEY ARE NEW SOCKS!

Please drop off NEW socks of all sizes (Toddler through Adult) in original packaging in the drop-off boxes located at both churches. Monetary donations can be made through the online giving portal.

For more information email wgk@branafordkofc.org

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 **Council 10 Knights of Columbus PRESENTS**



Family **GAME NIGHT**

October 11
St. Mary Hall
FROM 6PM-8PM

THERE WILL BE GAMES AVAILABLE TO PLAY
OR
YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN AND INTRODUCE IT TO A NEW AUDIENCE!

For more info or to RSVP email wgk@branafordkofc.org

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Knights of Columbus Council 10

JOIN US!



The Knights of Columbus exists to protect the Catholic family by strengthening the Catholic man. We empower men to become better husbands, better fathers, and better disciples of Jesus Christ. And our council would be able to do so much more for our parish and community if we had more help.

All practicing Catholic men, eighteen and older, are invited to join our council. You can join online today by visiting kofc.org/join or using the QR code to the right.

When prompted for a "Preferred Council Number" please enter 10. Use promo code "BLESSEDMCGIVNEY" to receive your first year of membership free*.

Please contact Grand Knight Darryl Barrios at wgk@branafordkofc.org with any questions.



SPARK YOUR FAITH

Rosary Every Thursday

The Rosary Group meets every Thursday at 1:00pm in St. Mary Church. Pray the rosary together in honor of our Blessed Mother. Pray for the intentions of our parish and for those who are ill, as well as individual intentions. All are welcome!

Adoration Every Friday

St. John Bosco Parish has weekly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays from 8:00am to 9:00am in St. Mary Church, following morning Mass. All are invited to come spend time with Our Lord!

Adult Confirmation

First Meeting:
Thursday, October 9th
4:30-6:00pm at St. Mary Church

Adult Confirmation classes begin this month. For any adult over 18 seeking the sacrament of Confirmation (must have received your baptism and first communion). If married, but outside of the Catholic church, there will be a convalidation process.

For more information or to register for any of these, please contact: Nadine Toren, Pastoral Associate, at 203-488-1607, ext.119
Or ntoren@saintjohnboscobranford.org.

+ A CALL TO SERVE AT THE AT THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF MASS +



Our parish invites Altar Servers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to step forward in service at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Altar Servers

If you have been baptized and received your First Holy Communion, and are in 4th grade or above (including high school, college or adult), consider this invitation! Serving at the altar offers a uniquely intimate vantage point from which to behold the sacred mysteries of our redemption. To stand near the altar is to participate more deeply in the liturgy—and many who begin as servers find this experience opens their hearts to further vocations of service and ministry in our Church.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

This ministry is a profound act of collaborative service with our priests and deacons, bringing the Body and Blood of Christ to the faithful. With the reimplementation of the cup and reception of the Precious Blood, we now need more EMHCs who are willing to serve at **all Masses in both of our parish churches**, as well as minister to those who cannot attend Mass. In doing so, you become living instruments of unity in the Body of Christ.

Training and formation will be provided. If you feel drawn to be closer to Christ in the liturgy, to serve your parish, or to support the community in worship, please contact Nadine Toren, Pastoral Associate at 203-488-1607, x 119 or ntoren@saintjohnboscobranford.org.



SJB YM HOLY HOUR

FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
SOCIAL FROM 6:30-7 | ST. MARY HALL
ADORATION FROM 7-8 | ST. MARY CHURCH

FOR MORE INFO REACH OUT TO KIM AT YOUTH@SAINTJOHNBOSCOBRANFORD.ORG

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

203-488-2998 | saintjohnboscobranford.org/faithformation | saintjohnboscobranford.org/youthministry



We were so appreciative of Father Lerner welcoming back catechists, inspiring them for the important work ahead, and praying for their efforts with the children and families of our parish. Anyone interested in joining our team to teach, mentor, or help with Children's Liturgy, please reach out to Jenny Smith at faithformation@saintjohnboscobranford.org.

Faith Formation Bible Blast

Did you know? The Pentateuch is the first 5 books of the Bible in the Old Testament. These are referred to as the books of the Law and include Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, and Numbers. They are the foundation for Christianity and Judaism.

Question: "Testament" means promise – what are some important promises made between God and His people in these books?

Challenge: Memorize the books of the Pentateuch. There are only 5; you can do it!

SJB Family Formation October 2025



CHILDREN'S LITURGY & MASS CHAT

Children's Liturgy of the Word + Craft
(Grades K-gr 4): during part of the Mass in the hall

MASSES ON OCT. 4 + 5

Mass Chat (gr 5-8): immediately following Masses during "Coffee and" to make sense of the readings and homily and apply them to their lives.

K-8 FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Session A: 7:30-10:00 AM (9am Mass included)

Session B: 9:00-11:30 AM (9am Mass included)

Session C: 4:00-5:30pm (Mass slip will be submitted from attendance at any weekend Mass in or outside of our parish)

OCT. 19 ST. THERESE

Make-up classes are offered on Tuesday evenings following the monthly Sunday sessions from 5:00-6:30 PM at St. Therese, with a Mass slip from one of the weekend Masses.

"I went to Mass" slips are available in the baskets at all church entrances for families having to miss any of our K-8 class/Mass sessions or attending the 4pm Class.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Grade 7+8: 4:30 – 6:00pm; parents join for meeting from 4:30 – 4:45pm.

Grade 9: 4:30 – 6:45pm; parents join for meeting from 4:30 – 4:45pm.

Grade 10: 6:15 – 8:00pm; parents join for meeting from 7:45 – 8:00pm.

OCT. 5 ST. MARY

Remember to sign up for your monthly Flex Service/Ministry. Confirmation Mass Response slips are available in baskets at all church entrances-drop slips in Offertory Collection Boxes after Mass.

LIFELONG FAITH IS FORMED IN THE HOME AND THROUGH THE MASS!

ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH | BRANFORD YM BIBLE STUDY

MONDAYS - LED BY MATT & OLIVER
8:30-8:00PM | ST. THERESE PARISH CENTER

TUESDAYS - LED BY CHRISTINA & JENNY
8:30-8:00PM | ST. MARY HALL

GRADES 5TH-12TH WELCOME!

FOR MORE INFO:

bit.ly/SJBYM-Bible-Studies

OR SCAN THE QR CODE



FOR QUESTIONS REACH OUT TO KIM AT
YOUTH@SAINTJOHNBOSCOBANFORD.ORG
OR CALL 203-488-1607 EXT. 120



ARE YOU A CONFIRMED TEEN? JOIN OUR PEER LEADERSHIP MINISTRY TEAM!

We meet the first Sunday of every month
at 12:00pm in St. Mary Hall.

First meeting is on October 5th!

Apply today by going to
bit.ly/SJB-PeerLeader
or scan the QR Code:



Reach out to Kim Reinwald at
youth@saintjohnboscobranford.org
for more info!



EAST SHORELINE CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A STREAM MODEL AND SUCCESSOR SCHOOL OF OUR LADY OF MERCY AND ST. MARY SCHOOLS

East Shoreline Catholic Academy (ESCA) is an inter-parish school of St. George, St. Margaret, and St. John Bosco Parishes, serving Pre-K 3 through Grade 8. We place high priority on learning, leadership, and 21st Century skill applications. We guide our children's developing relationship with God in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic faith and provide a rigorous learning environment that fosters academic excellence.

EASTSHORELINECATHOLICACADEMY.ORG | FACEBOOK.COM/EASTSHORELINECATHOLICACADEMY | 203-488-8386



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Msgr. Walker for celebrating Mass at ESCA. We would also like to express our appreciation to the students and teachers who helped celebrate Mass.



East Shoreline Catholic Academy Fall Fundraiser



JUST IN
TIME FOR
THANKSGIVING!



Please Help Support East Shoreline Catholic Academy (ESCA)
Fall Fundraiser

Lyman Orchard Pies (10 flavors), Classic Cookie Dough
(5 flavors), Simply Shipped Collection

Sale begins September 29th through October 21st - Pick up date
for pies and cookie dough will be November 6th at ESCA, 62
Cedar Street, Branford, CT from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. or call
me for other arrangements.

If you would like to participate, please view and order online at:

<https://my.mcmfundraising.com/2025-fall-east-shoreline-catholic-academy/debra-panela/>
The Fall Fundraiser also provides an opportunity for a donation
of a pie to a local food pantry.

Any questions, call or text Deb Panella at 203-415-2668

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

Branches on the Vine

OCTOBER 4 - 10, 2025



Ewa Lotkowska, a member of Young Catholic Professionals of Central Connecticut, weeds the asparagus in the Franciscan Sisters' garden in Meriden.
PHOTO BY SHELLEY WOLF



Sister Faith Marie Woolsey, of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, and volunteer Matthew Ennis work together to prune an apple tree.
PHOTO BY SHELLEY WOLF

On a Saturday in August, nearly 20 members of the Young Catholic Professionals of Central Connecticut gathered in Meriden for a "service day" to help the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist tend their orchards and gardens.

The young adults joined the sisters in picking peaches, pruning the apple trees, weeding around the asparagus and beets, weeding the flower beds and sweeping the walkways.

"We could have spent the day somewhere else, but this was the best way for us to spend a Saturday," says Joe Luchene, a member of the group, as he gathered tree branches into a wheelbarrow. On weekdays, Luchene is employed as a life coach and as a substitute teacher.

After four hours of outdoor labor, the young people prayed with the women religious and were treated to a lunch, breaking bread with the Franciscan Sisters on their patio behind the John Lateran Center in Meriden.

With the tagline "Working in Witness for Christ," Young Catholic Professionals of Central Connecticut, or YCP, is a local chapter of a national organization that seeks to help young working adults to live their Catholic faith in the workplace and out in the world.

"One thing I really like about Young Catholic Professionals is that it encompasses a lot of different aspects of life. From the title itself you'd think it's just a work-related group, but

it's very wholistic," says Sister Faith Marie Woolsey, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist and an assistant chaplain for the young adult group.

"The purpose of Young Catholic Professionals is to help young adults connect their faith and their work," says Natasha Hagan, president of the Central Connecticut chapter, who works as an engineer at Pratt & Whitney. "How do you live an undivided life? How do you show up as your full Catholic self, not shying away from talking about faith?"

Those questions get answered, she says, over time during the group's monthly gatherings. Those gatherings encompass the Executive Speaker Series and Panel Discussions at various local churches throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford, the Networking Happy Hour at the Twelve Percent Beer Project in North Haven, and various special events.

The group's primary offering, the Executive Speaker Series, involves talks by senior professionals on development topics, such as leadership in the workplace. Invited speakers often share their own faith journey, providing

insights on how to navigate as people of faith in a secular world. Panel Discussions explore a single virtue, applying it to everyday life.

Over the past two years, the young adults have heard from business owners and professionals working in the fields of law, accounting, marketing, sales, engineering and information technology at companies such as Travelers, Fairfield University, Aetna, Pratt & Whitney, the Knights of Columbus and Santopietro Brewing Company, to name just a few.

Upcoming events: In October, the group will gather for a St. Joseph Saturday Half-Day Retreat on **Oct. 4**, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Sacred Heart Academy, 265 Benham St., Hamden. The retreat includes breakfast, lunch, Mass, confession and Adoration.

In November, the chapter will celebrate its second anniversary with a Mass of Thanksgiving & Reception celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt on **Nov. 6** at 7 p.m. at St. Bartholomew Church, 45 Ludlow Road, Manchester.

All young adults and newcomers are welcome to attend. For more details, visit youngcatholicprofessionals.org/chapter/central-connecticut.

Story By Shelley Wolf



ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Upcoming Events

Green ARCHDIOCESE of HARTFORD
Office of Faith Formation and Parish Life

*A Mass of Remembrance and Healing
from miscarriage, still birth or infant loss*

**Friday, October 17, 2025
6:00 p.m.**

**Saint Francis Church
1755 Stanley Street, New Britain**

All are welcome to attend this Mass of Remembrance and experience the profound peace, love and mercy of Jesus Christ. A special invitation is extended to parents, grandparents and siblings who grieve the death of a child as a result of a miscarriage, still birth or infant loss. These losses may be recent or extend over many years.

A reception to follow the Mass. Scan the QR Code to register.

If you have any questions, contact:
Valerie St. Jean, Associate Director of Adult Faith Formation & Parish Life
Valerie.StJean@aohct.org - 860-541-6491 ext. 2678

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Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Presents
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The exhibit will be open
in the Church Hall:
Sat, Oct. 11 - 10 am - 6 pm
Sun, Oct. 12 - 9 am - 5 pm

Talk on Eucharistic Miracles and
St. Carlo Acutis
The 1st Millennial Saint!

**Sunday, October 12
3:00 pm
(lower church)**

St. Carlo Acutis lived in Italy from 1990 -2006. During his short 15½ years, he was always joyfully sharing the faith, especially his love of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. At the age of 11, as part of his work as a catechist, he created a website which catalogued many of the principal Eucharistic Miracles which have taken place throughout the world and have been recognized by the Church.

1st class relics of both St. Carlo and St. Manuel will be available for veneration

For more info, call the rectory at (203) 756-8981

Coffee and talk on
St. Manuel González García
Bishop of the Abandoned Tabernacle

**Monday, October 13
8:30 am**

Manuel González García was born in Seville, Spain in 1877 and ordained a priest in 1901. He was assigned his first parish mission in the little town of Pilomatón del Río. It was there, where Our Lord spoke to him from an abandoned tabernacle, that was a defining moment in his life and clarified the direction for the rest of his priestly ministry.

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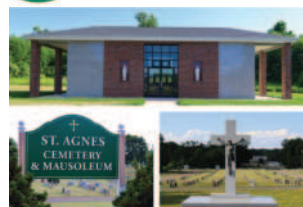
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