



ST. FRANCIS
CATHOLIC

THE BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 13 - SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

CHESTERTON ACADEMY FOUNDING FIRST DAY

Jesus at Prayer
by Msgr. Matera
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First Day: In Pictures*
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*September
Parish Events*
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Welcome to Saint Francis Catholic

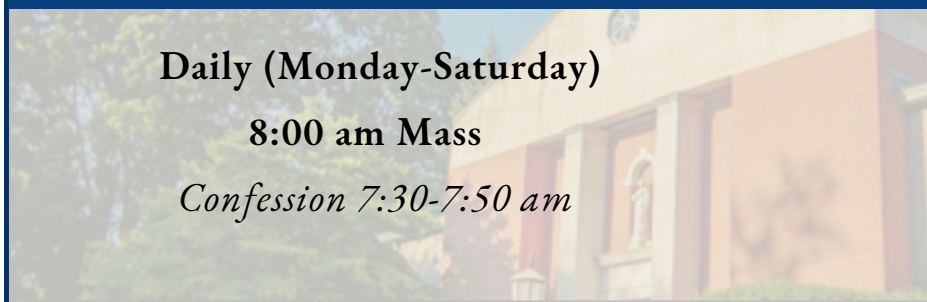
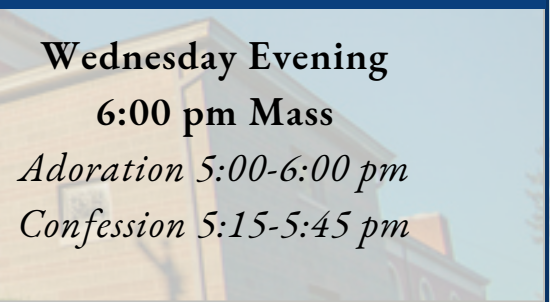
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Mass, Confession & Adoration Times

Weekends

 Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm St. Jerome	 Sunday 8:30 am St. Maurice	 Sunday 10:30 am St. Francis
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Weekdays (all at St. Francis)

 Daily (Monday-Saturday) 8:00 am Mass <i>Confession 7:30-7:50 am</i>	 Wednesday Evening 6:00 pm Mass <i>Adoration 5:00-6:00 pm</i> <i>Confession 5:15-5:45 pm</i>
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Our Parish Churches

St. Francis	St. Jerome	St. Maurice	St. Joseph*	St. Peter*
1755 Stanley Street New Britain, CT 06053	1010 Slater Road New Britain, CT 06053	100 Wightman Road New Britain, CT 06052	195 S. Main Street New Britain, CT 06051	98 Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051

**St. Joseph and St. Peter Churches are no longer used for regular Masses.*

Community - Liturgy - Formation - Holiness

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

Parish Leadership Contact Information



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



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



Deacon Alan Bielawski
Deacon



Omar Acosta
Facilities Manager
omar@stfranciscatholic.org



Elizabeth Famularo
Music Director
elizabeth@stfranciscatholic.org



Kristyn Figbie
Communications Director
kristyn@stfranciscatholic.org



Katie King
Faith Formation Coordinator
katie@stfranciscatholic.org



Jack Lacey-Giugno
Campus Minister
jack@stfranciscatholic.org



Patti Pavia
Parish Secretary
patti@stfranciscatholic.org



Sofia del Rio
Pastoral Associate
sofia@stfranciscatholic.org



Janet Trainer
Business Manager
janet@stfranciscatholic.org



StFrancisCatholic.org

Address:

1010 Slater Rd., New Britain, CT 06053

Office Hours:

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

Phone:

860-224-2411

Fax:

860-224-6838

Email:

parishoffice@stfranciscatholic.org

Chesterton Academy of St. Francis of Assisi



Andrew Blaski
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ChestertonSFA.org

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Due to early publishing deadlines, the Count & Collection for September 6 was not available at the time of publication. It will be published in our next issue.

Weekly Collection

August 30, 2026: \$10,501.06

**Little Sisters of Mary Immaculate of
Gulu Mission Appeal: \$7,000**

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

Mass Attendance

August 30, 2026: 679

Thank you for your continued generosity in support of our parish!

Online

Visit www.stfranciscatholic.org

Click Donate to launch the Parish Giving website
Select *Give Now* for a one time donation or create an account to set up recurring contributions

Venmo

@StFrancisCatholicNB

Please Note: Venmo should be used for donations to the church.
Mass Intentions must be paid cash or check to St. Francis Church



SECOND COLLECTION: CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

On the weekend of September 20th, our parish will participate in the Archdiocese of Hartford's annual HOPES (Help Our Parish Educators & Students) Collection. This collection directly benefits all Catholic elementary schools by providing grants that strengthen academic excellence and deepen faith formation. Thank you for supporting Catholic education in the Archdiocese.



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR (ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT)

On the weekend of September 27th, the Little Sisters of the Poor will be visiting St. Jerome, St. Maurice & St. Francis. Donations exclusively support the care of the elderly poor who reside with the Sisters at St. Joseph's Residence in Enfield. The Little Sisters of the Poor have been serving the needs of the elderly poor in Connecticut & Western Massachusetts for over 100 years. *Checks should be made to 'Little Sisters of the Poor-St. Joseph's Residence'.* Thank you for your generosity.

IN LOVING MEMORY

we pray for:



Dennis Collins

*Passed away
August 30, 2026*



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

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

All weekday Masses are at St. Francis unless otherwise noted

Saturday, September 12

8:00 am: **St. Francis:** +Ursula Violette

4:00 pm **Vigil: St. Jerome:** +Nicholas Salerni Jr.

Sunday, September 13 *Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:30 am: **St. Maurice:** +Catherine Madden

10:30 am: **St. Francis:** +Giuseppe & Gino Ricciardi
and +Ralph Petrillo

Monday, September 14

8:00 am: Intention of the Celebrant

Tuesday, September 15

8:00 am: +Maria & Isadore Hernandez

Wednesday, September 16

8:00 am: +Marilyn Ronalter

6:00 pm: +Jesus Rodriguez

Thursday, September 17

8:00 am: Pro Populo

Friday, September 18

8:00 am: Deceased Members of the Roy Family

Saturday, September 19

8:00 am: **St. Francis:** +Ursula Violette

4:00 pm **Vigil: St. Jerome:** +Lucy Agostinucci &
+Bill Candelori

Sunday, September 20 *Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:30 am: **St. Maurice:** +Alice Cap

10:30 am: **St. Francis:** +Vito Zaffarana

Monday, September 21

8:00 am: +Rosalie Rizzo

Tuesday, September 22

8:00 am: Pro Populo

Wednesday, September 23

8:00 am: +Donald & Patricia Washburn

6:00 pm: Intention of the Celebrant

Thursday, September 24

8:00 am: +Joseph Vaina

Friday, September 25

8:00 am: +Florence Kragiel

Saturday, September 26

8:00 am: **St. Francis:** +Nick Selva & +Jacinta Mohanraj

4:00 pm **Vigil: St. Jerome:** +Khoat Nguyen & +Linh Tran

Sunday, September 27 *Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:30 am: **St. Maurice:** +Patricia Ambroszewski

10:30 am: **St. Francis:** +Everett Manning, Jr.

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

EMAIL NOTIFICATION

In the event of inclement weather, schedule changes or cancellations, this will be the primary way to notify parishioners. To opt in, email your name and email to: notification@stfranciscatholic.org. *We cannot send texts or make phone calls.*



JESUS AT PRAYER: PART ONE

Early in the Morning, Before Dawn



By Monsignor Frank Matera

Prayer is at the heart of the Christian life. It is the way we speak to God and God speaks to us. It is the way we enter God's presence. But how are we to pray? What can we learn about prayer from the New Testament? With this column, I am beginning a series on prayer that addresses these questions by studying how Jesus prayed.

Prayer was a constant part of Jesus's ministry. In addition to proclaiming the kingdom of God, healing the sick, and driving out demons, Jesus prayed. For example, in the Gospel of Mark, there is an interesting episode that occurs at the beginning of Jesus's ministry. After calling his first disciples, Jesus enters the house of Peter where he cures Peter's mother-in-law. He then heals all the sick and demon-possessed in the village of Capernaum. By this mighty display of power, Jesus reveals that the kingdom of God is making its appearance in his ministry.

The next day, Jesus rises early, before dawn, and goes into the wilderness to pray. When Peter and the other disciples find him, they say, "Everyone is looking for you" (Mark 1:36). Peter wants Jesus to get back to work. Cure the sick! Expel demons! Show people another display of your power. But Jesus knows that if he is to proclaim the kingdom of God with power he must be in communion

with his heavenly Father. He must pray. The first lesson Jesus teaches about prayer, then, is this: Prayer is the life-giving source of all we do. If we do not pray, if we are not in communion with the Father, our work will eventually collapse like a house of cards.

For some people, however, prayer seems a waste of time. Why spend time in silent prayer, doing nothing, when we could be accomplishing something important? This is the great temptation of modern life: to always be doing something, to always be active. To avoid silence at any cost. But Jesus knows better, and so should we. Moments of silent prayer, when we are in communion with God, are the most important moments of the day. They are the source of the power we need for the rest of the day. At such moments we speak to God and, if we are silent and attentive, God speaks to us.

Morning and evening are especially important times to pray. Before reading the newspaper, before opening any electronic device, let the first word you hear be the word of God. Listen in silence and you will know what you must do the rest of the day. Then, at the end of the day, rest in the Lord. Let the last word you hear be the word of God. Turn off all electronic devices and listen in silence.

Prayer takes many forms, and we should pray in the words that we have been taught since childhood. But it is important to pray in our own words as well, to speak personally and intimately with God. Then, after speaking, be silent and listen for the tiny whispering sound that comes from the Lord.

“
PRAYER IS THE
life-giving source
OF ALL WE DO.

”

September 13 & September 20, 2026

JOIN US FOR THE



FALL FESTIVAL

FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

AFTER THE 10:30 AM MASS

All Masses this weekend will be at the St. Jerome Campus

Join us on the St. Jerome Campus for:

Hotdogs | Hamburgers | Snacks | Lawn Games

Music | Fun | Community | and more!

*Interested in bringing a dessert to share?
Call the office at 860-224-2411 to sign up.*

BLESSING *of* ANIMALS

Saturday, October 3 at 9:30am

St. Francis Church

Animals must be safely secured





The Bulletin

CHESTERTON ACADEMY of St. Francis of Assisi



First Day of School!

Chesterton Academy of St. Francis of Assisi officially opened its doors to its Founding Class on Friday, August 28, 2026! The historic occasion was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony, officiated by School Headmaster Dr. Andrew Blaski and Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Valerie Mara, with a blessing of the school led by Fr. Casey.



Enrollment is ongoing - Apply Now!

September 13 & September 20, 2026

OFFICIALLY OPENS! FIRST DAY 2026



After the Ceremony

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, a reception was held inside before the students were off to their classroom for orientation. The day wrapped up with gym class, where students enjoyed their first rugby lesson!



Visit us at ChestertonSFA.org

CALLING ALL MEN

Join us for CORE, a new Men's Group!
Saturday Mornings Beginning September 12th
8:30 - 10:00 am at St. Francis Church Hall
Runs for a six-week session



Men of the parish are invited for a morning of fraternity, formation and prayer. Coffee and treats will be served. Come when you can, stay for as long as you can.

Contact Fr. Yates (fr.yates@stfranciscatholic.org) with any questions.

FATIMA HOLY HOUR



The next Fatima Holy Hour will be **Sunday, September 13**, at 2:00 pm at St. Francis Church. Join us for:



Begins September 14th

Learn how to
DEFEND YOUR FAITH

Join Deacon Al for
our Monday night
ADULT BIBLE STUDY
on Catholic Apologetics

Mondays 6:00 pm
St. Francis Church Hall

Inviting all Men & Women 60+!

Movie Afternoon & Senior Fellowship

Join us for a special afternoon of faith, fellowship, and fun as we watch the inspiring movie *Chariots of Fire*.

We'll also be choosing a name for our new 60+ group, so come ready to share your ideas and help us pick a name that represents our group!

Thursday, September 17th, 2026
at St. Jerome Hall

A light lunch served at 11:30 am and the movie begins at 12:00 pm
RSVP to Sofia del Rio at 860-224-2411
or sofia@stfranciscatholic.org

Knights of Columbus Chapter 31 presents a

WINTER HOMELESS DRIVE

We need the following items:

Winter gloves (men/women)

Winter hats (men/women)

Scarves (men)

Socks (men/women)

Deodorant (men/women)

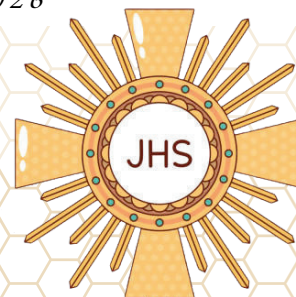
Hand warmers

10 ride bus passes (available from Stop N Shop)

Drop off locations at the church entrances

Thank you for your generosity!

From September 19 - November 1



Family Adoration

AND SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

17

OCTOBER

ST. FRANCIS

CHURCH

9 AM

TO 11 AM

CALLING ALL FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN! CHECK OUT THE SCHEDULE & RESERVE YOUR SPOT WITH THE QR CODE (RSVP IS REQUIRED):



GOT QUESTIONS?

How do I complete my sacraments?

What do I have to do to become Catholic?

How long does it even take?

We've got answers.

Reach out to Katie King to learn about our OCIA and Adult Confirmation Programs.



Scan here or call us at 860-224-2411

FIND US ON SPOTIFY



Listen to Fr. Casey's homilies anywhere, anytime! Scan the QR Code to get started



COMMUNITY *Snapshots*



Baptism of Jonah & Aaliyah Levesque



Wedding of Andrew Fowler & Lauren Lagassie



CCSU Catholic Campus Ministry kicks off the school year with a variety of activities



CAPTURING *the heart* OF PARISH LIFE

September 13 & September 20, 2026

THIS WEEK IN SAINTS

"All you holy men and women pray for us"

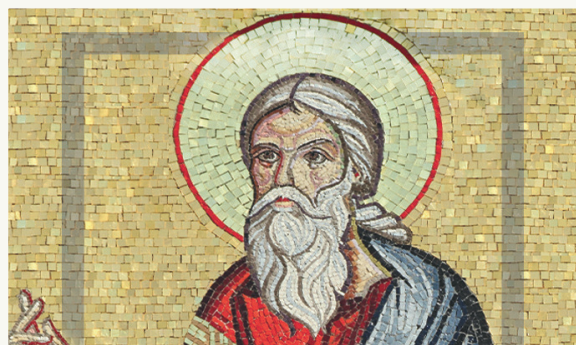


Memorial of SAINT CORNELIUS POPE & MARTYR

Celebrated on: Wednesday, September 16

Feast of SAINT MATTHEW APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

Celebrated on: Monday, September 21



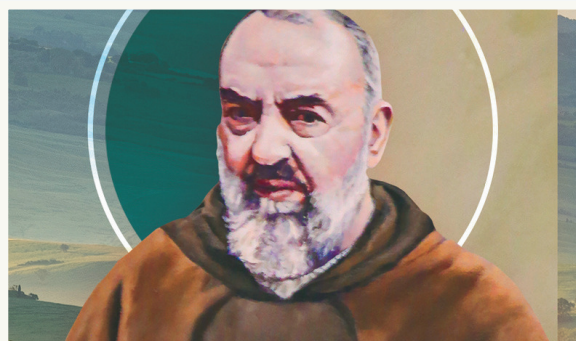
Feast Day of SAINT MAURICE SOLDIER & MARTYR

Celebrated on: Tuesday, September 22



Memorial of SAINT PIUS OF PIETRELCINA

Celebrated on: Wednesday, September 23



Feast Day of SAINTS COSMAS & DAMIAN

Celebrated on: Saturday, September 26



ONGOING MINISTRIES

The Bulletin

AA MEETINGS

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

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Classes will resume Monday, September 14th at 6:00pm at St. Francis Hall.
Deacon Al will teach Catholic Apologetics and how to defend the faith.

BINGO

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

CROSSROADS 4 CHRIST

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

DEAF MINISTRY

Join us for a virtual Bible study every Thursday at 7:00 pm on Zoom
Contact Fr. Yates at fr.yates@stfranciscatholic.org for more information.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

LADIES GUILD

Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00pm at St. Francis Church Hall, and include a speaker, social time and snacks.

MINGLE

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

NA MEETINGS

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

ST. JOSEPH FOOD PANTRY

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

SHOPPING LIST

in support of the St. Joseph Food Pantry

The items most needed this week are:

- ☐ Cereal
- ☐ Pasta Sauce
- ☐ Peanut Butter

thank you

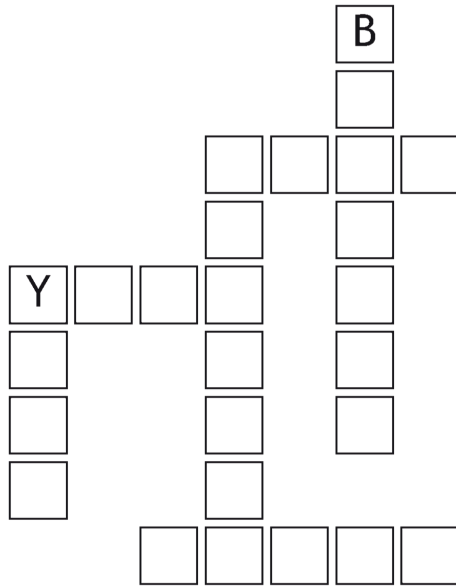
- ☐ Cereal
- ☐ Pasta/Pasta Sauce
- ☐ Canned Soup
- ☐ Instant Oatmeal
- ☐ Canned Fruit &
- ☐ Vegetables
- ☐ Peanut Butter & Jelly

- ☐ Canned Meat/Tuna
- ☐ Instant Potato and Rice
- ☐ Mixes
- ☐ Ramen Noodles
- ☐ Mac and Cheese
- ☐ Snack Items:
- ☐ Cookies, Crackers, etc.



PUZZLE

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:
Forgive your brother from your heart.

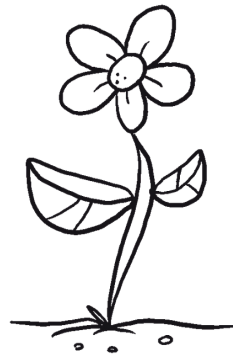


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PUZZLE

Find 8 differences.



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MISSION

Say a special prayer for each person in your family.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 18:21-35

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 20:1-16a