



SAINT LOUIS DE MONTFORT PARISH

August 30, 2026



PARISH STAFF AND MINISTRIES

Pastor: Rev. Matt Collins

Pastor's Assistant: Aidan Stewart

Pastoral Associate: Anthony Belske

Religious Education Director: Emma Belske

Finance Operations Director: Cate Corwin

Cemetery Director: Bob Zavagnin

Parish Property Manager: Doug Corwin

PARISH OFFICE

49 South Street, P.O. Box 97, Litchfield, CT

Monday - Wednesday 9am-1pm,

Friday 9am-12pm

(860) 567-5209

office@stlouisdemontfortparish.org

litchfieldhillscatholic.org



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." - Mt 16:24b-25

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Saint Anthony of Padua Church

49 South Street, Litchfield, CT 06759



Sunday Mass: 8:00am & 11:00am

Daily Mass: Monday - Friday 8:00am

Adoration & Confession:

Mondays from 7:00pm-8:00pm

Saint Thomas of Villanova Church

71 North Street, Goshen, CT 06756



Sunday Mass: 9:15am

Our Lady of Grace Church

715 Bantam Road, Bantam, CT 06750



Vigil Mass: Saturday 4:00pm

Rosary: 3:30pm before Mass

Sacrament of Confession:

Saturdays 3:00pm - 3:45pm



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – AUGUST 23RD, 2026

Welcome to Saint Louis de Montfort Parish in the towns of Litchfield, Goshen, and Bantam. Here at St. Louis de Montfort Parish, we are a welcoming community rooted in Christ, dedicated to deepening our faith, serving others with compassion, and nurturing spiritual growth. We strive to be a light of Faith, Hope and Love in our parish and beyond by “Building Bridges to Christ!”

• • MASS INTENTIONS • •

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026

OLG 4:00 PM + *Alec Walters* ~ By Helen Simko

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026

SAP 8:00 AM ~ Living & Deceased of the Parish

STV 9:15 AM + *Gilbert Clement* ~ By Family

SAP 11:00 AM + *Leo Moynihan* ~ By Family

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2026

SAP 8:00 AM ~ Ariel Salama

~ By Cecilia & Angelina Salama

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

SAP 8:00 AM + *Terrance Evers* ~ By Leonardo

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

SAP 8:00 AM + *Stuart & Mary Schmiedel Jr.*

~ By Ruth Keefe

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

SAP 8:00 AM ~ Health & Intentions of Catherine

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

SAP 8:00 AM + *Francis Chester* (10th anniversary)

~ By Fran & Phil White

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

OLG 4:00 PM + *Paul Evans* ~ By Family

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

SAP 8:00 AM + *Jeanne Patnode*

~ By the Deneault & LaRosa Families

STV 9:15 AM + *Ginette Clement* ~ By the Clement Family

SAP 11:00 AM ~ Living & Deceased of the Parish

SACRAMENTS AT OUR PARISH

Sacrament of Baptism: Call the office for more information.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Every Saturday at Our Lady of Grace Church (3:00 - 3:45pm); during Adoration on Mondays 7:00 - 8:00pm at St. Anthony's Church.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Please call the office at least six months in advance before making any other arrangements.

Anointing of the Sick: Please call the office.

Religious Education: Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation: Please contact the Parish Office.

Adult Sacraments: Any adult wishing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communions, and/or Confirmation are welcome to join the OCIA and Adult Confirmation process. Please call the office for more information.



Collections: *THIS Weekend is the Parish Weekly.*
NEXT Weekend will be the Parish Weekly
and the Parish Monthly.

Saint Louis de Montfort Parish

August 22nd & 23rd

Our Weekly Collection Goal: \$6,500

WEEKLY + ONLINE : \$ 5,535.50

SEMINARIAN : \$ 1,068.00

*Thank you for Your Continued Generosity to
Saint Louis de Montfort Parish.*

Parish Website



Online Giving



Request a Mass



SAP = Saint Anthony of Padua Church

STV = Saint Thomas of Villanova Church

OLG = Our Lady of Grace Church

· · · PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS · · ·

Save The Date! October 20-22 @ Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. Only 50 tickets available! Call the Parish office for inquiries or to sign up.



JOSHUA
LIVE ON STAGE

3 Day Trip & Tour of Lancaster

Tour includes:

- Meals - two breakfasts with a traditional Amish dinner & a smorgasbord dinner
- 1 ticket to Sight & Sound Theater
- Visit to the Kitchen Kettle Village
- The Barnyard Art Studio's "Chalk Talk"
- Wilbur Chocolate Factory Tour

Approximate cost per person - \$405. Contact the parish office for more information.




Open Doors, Open Hearts
with Fr. Ray Kelly
A Benefit Concert for Immacare

Wednesday, Sept. 9th
6:30-8:15PM

Northwest Catholic HS, West Hartford

Scan the QR code to purchase tickets or contact
Teresa Wierbicki (860) 580-5644 or
twierbicki@immacare.org

\$25 General Admission
\$45 Reserved Seating
\$80 Meet & Greet (5:45-6:15 PM) signed Where I Belong CD and reserved seating



The *Used Clothing Drop Off* that was previously at Our Lady of Grace has been installed in the back of St. Anthony's parking lot. Donations are welcome and benefit families across the world.

PLEASE NOTE:

The Parish offices will be temporarily closed on Thursdays until the week of October 4th.

SAINT LOUIS DE MONTFORT PARISH FAITH FORMATION!

Registration is now open for Confirmation and Faith Formation 2026-27! Join us from grades K-10 as we journey through our Faith by learning about the Sacraments, following the footsteps of the saints, studying the Liturgical Seasons of the Church, and much more! Registration is open until 9/19 (Confirmation) and 10/1 (K-7).



**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER TODAY**

Please contact the parish office regarding any questions about the new Confirmation and/or Faith Formation processes if you did not attend the August 19th meeting.

Saint Louis de Montfort Parish invites you to our annual **Parish Picnic**, to be held on Sunday, **September 20th**, at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield. Join us for **10am Mass** in the Grotto, followed by a cookout **lunch** on the Shrine picnic grounds. Enjoy Faith, family, friends, Games, and a chance for everyone to pet Fr. Matt's dog, Blaze!

Please note that the 9:15am and the 11am Masses on September 20th will be merged into a 10am Mass at the Shrine.



PICNIC





... FAITH IN ACTION ...



Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications and updates by downloading our **Parish App**, available for iPhone and Android smartphones. Enjoy a bunch of additional features like prayers, daily readings, helpful reminders for Mass, Confession guides, and much more! To learn more or to download our app today, visit myparishapp.com or scan our QR Code.



American Legion Post 27 is holding a service for the 25th anniversary of 9/11. The service will be held at 6:30pm at 418 Bantam Road in Litchfield at the American Legion Post. Fr. Matt will preside over the service. All are invited to attend and remember this tragic day in the history of our country

OCIA / Adult Confirmation Registration

Please cut out this card and place in the collection basket.

Name (Full): _____

Phone Number: (____) ____ - ____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Sacraments interested in receiving: ☐ Convert ☐

Baptism ☐ First Communion ☐ Confirmation ☐

Fr. Matt will be in contact with you soon regarding the beginning of the sessions

Open Mass Intentions for September 2026 (as of 8/26)

9/9 - SAP 8:00 AM		9/24 - SAP 8:00 AM
9/16 - SAP 8:00 AM		9/29 - SAP 8:00 AM
9/18 - SAP 8:00 AM		



COUNCIL 56
Knights of Columbus

Business Meetings:

Second Thursdays of the Month
in the St. Anthony Church Hall

Council 56 is sponsoring a trip to Radio City Christmas show on Monday December 28. The trip includes motor coach from St. Anthony's parking lot to Radio City. We will stop at Carmines Restaurant for lunch then to Radio city. Show tickets are 1st floor 3rd orchestra. Price is \$325. All taxes and tips are included. Show Time is 4:00 pm. More information to come. Please call or email the Parish Office and the Grand Knight will contact you if you are interested.



COUNCIL 13128
Knights of Columbus

Business Meetings:

First Tuesdays of the Month
in the St. Thomas Church Hall

Contact the parish office for more information or to join!

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Two Hearts Pregnancy Care



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Collection Dates:

August 29th + 30th

Drop-off

Location:

All Church Entrances

For more information:
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socialservices@townoflitchfieldct.gov

#DiaperDrive

Together, we can keep little ones happy and healthy. Thank you for your kindness!



.. PRAYER CORNER ..

Pope Leo XIV's Prayer Intention For August:

For evangelization in the city.

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

Please add the following people to your prayers:

- ♥ Robert Gengler ♥ Marie Sanford ♥ Lois Buchanan
- ♥ Stephen Hayes ♥ Courtney Groo
- ♥ Susan Shepard ♥ Betty Perry ♥ Karen Jennings
- ♥ Fiona Riley ♥ John Pelchat ♥ Eileen Proveaux
- ♥ Bob Grosclaude ♥ Liz Carter ♥ Makenna Mattesi
- ♥ Mary Corbo ♥ Tracey Bassos ♥ Stephen Foster
- ♥ Lacey G & Elliott ♥ Brior Stack-Sweeney ♥ Kevin Stone
- ♥ Bernard Harrington ♥ Fr. Josh Wilbur ♥ Ed Perry

... THE PASTOR'S CORNER ...

My brothers and sisters, St. Augustine, one of the most notable Saints and Doctors of the Church once wrote, "My heart is restless until it rests in thee." This phrase is not new for any of us to hear as we have meditated on it several times before. I speak of this phrase to introduce us to our next series of reflections on St. Augustine. I recently began reading a book about Pope Leo and his favorite Saint, Saint Augustine; and Augustine's feast, August 28, comes just a few weeks before Pope Leo's birthday on September 14. Learning about the Saints is truly inciteful because we get a glimpse into the lives of those who have lived similarly to us if not worse off, and yet now experience the beatific vision.

St. Augustine is one of those Saints who started off in a not so good place. His mother, St. Monica, has always been, as St. Augustine describes her, 'a saintly woman'. Augustine has followed his fathers footsteps of being so secular- going to good schools, becoming intelligent in a variety of fields, falling into lust, etc... This was until finally, through the prayers of St. Monica and the inspiration of St. Ambrose, where Augustine finally comes to terms with the Faith and his relationship with God. As a result, he has become one of the greatest Saints.

In our First Reading today, the prophet Jeremiah prophesizes the overwhelming power of God. "You duped me, O Lord, and I let myself be duped; you were too strong for me, and you triumphed... I say to myself, I will not mention him, I will speak in his name no more. But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones; I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it." This quote can famously describe Augustine's life, and how he tried to run from God on the outside through worldly pleasure, while God was pouring Himself in Augustine from within until he could handle it no more. Many people in our society are like this. We hide or run from God; but yet, God overwhelms us. We cannot hid from Him nor hold Him in. We need to be in Him as He is in us. We need to have the innate desire to search for God.

In our Gospel, after Peter proclaims Jesus to be the Christ and Jesus establishes His papal Primacy in him, Jesus mentions the he must suffer greatly. However, Peter protests. Peter was just overwhelmed with God's grace through Christ choosing him, but neglected the internal pouring in of grace and focused on the outside and what he wanted to see. That's why Jesus said, "Get behind me, Satan!... You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." We as humans only think of what we see. To think of an internal and spiritual reality is of great difficulty. The reason, is because we become so used to the sensual nature of physical reality, that we neglect that the Spiritual exercises we do- the Sacraments, Prayer, Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy, etc... - are what truly matter and are put aside until we allow our 'feelings' to drive us to them, which in hindsight, feelings are also apart of the sensual reality.

My friends, St. Augustine, although became attached to the physical world, eventually broke from those chains in order to be bound to the chains of Christ. Jesus tells us "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be fore one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" St. Augustine gave up the world and now beholds the face of God. Let us follow his example and allow him to be our guide to help us to 'forfeit' the world and our life in it, so that we may be free and allow Christ to over pour us with his grace and glory.

-Fr. Matt

Parish Youth Group

We are Starting a Youth Group!

Join Us for the Inagural Event on September 11 at 6:00 PM
Please join us for the very first get together of the St. Louis de Montfort Recreational Youth Group (for teens 13 - 18). The intention of the group is to create social connection and to provide opportunities to enact the principals of our faith including kindness, empathy and compassion. Our first get together will be

Date: September 11, 2026 (Rain Date: TBD) Time: 6:00 PM

Location: St. Anthony of Padua Lawn

There will be wiffleball, pickle ball, bubbles, badminton, water balloons and more. Any questions: contact the parish office.

GAMES



RSVP



Teen Survey

Branches on the Vine

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

Local Friends of the Cross Group Honors St. Montfort's *Spiritual Legacy*

- Story by Karen A. Avitabile

// A Friend of the Cross is one chosen by God from among ten thousand who have reason and sense for their only guide. He is truly divine, raised above reason and thoroughly opposed to the things of sense, for he lives in the light of true faith." — St. Louis de Montfort

In his book, *The Letter to The Friends of the Cross*, St. Louis de Montfort (1673-1716) points out that holiness comes from walking in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Still published today, the book serves as a guide for lay associations, including one that meets in Waterbury.

Nearly four years ago, Elaine Cerullo of Wolcott established the Friends of the Cross group in Waterbury's St. Patrick Oratory Parish to bring together faithful worshippers dedicated to living in consecration to Christ through the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"It was the perfect name for our group," Cerullo says. "The Letter was one of my favorite reads."

Once a month, some 30 people from St. Patrick Oratory Parish and the greater Waterbury area gather at a local restaurant to enjoy fellowship over a meal, engage in spiritual discussions and offer gratitude through prayer and reciting the rosary. On occasion, a guest speaker gives a presentation.

Cerullo attributes the group's name to a period when she and her husband Louis owned St. Michael's Bookstore in downtown Waterbury and distributed many copies of *The Letter*.



Elaine Cerullo, who founded The Friends of the Cross lay association at St. Patrick Oratory Parish in Waterbury, stands with her husband Louis in front of the sign they created for the monthly gatherings.

After the store closed, several loyal patrons desired to meet socially in a faith-centered environment. Inspired by St. Louis de Montfort's *The Letter*, Cerullo established the Friends of the Cross group to stay in touch with many of her customers and build new friendships.

"We are all church friends," she says, "and have a desire to stay connected."

William O'Brien of Wolcott has been attending the Friends of the Cross gatherings since the beginning. "It's a good time to be with other people," he says. "It's a good social group."

Canon Matthew Weaver, pastor and rector of St. Patrick Oratory Parish, regularly attends the Friends of the Cross gatherings. He praises the group's "dedication, devotion and enthusiasm" and desire to unite as a family in Christ.

"My presence helps to strengthen them," Canon Weaver says. "We are in the presence of the mystical body of Christ. We are all friends of the cross." Father John Mariano, a senior priest of

the Archdiocese of Hartford, has often led the group in praying the rosary. "It's good to get people together and pray," he says, adding, "This is a wholesome experience for me."

To remember Monsignor John Bevins who frequently joined the Friends of the Cross monthly gatherings, the group keeps his spirit alive with his picture, a candle and flowers on a restaurant table. The longtime Waterbury pastor of the Archdiocese of Hartford died on Oct. 13, 2025, at the age of 93.

"He was a devoted spiritual leader of the Friends of the Cross group," Cerullo adds.

Friends of the Cross gatherings are held on the last Thursday of the month at Amalfi's Italian Ristorante in Waterbury. Anyone who would like to participate should make a reservation by sending an email to elainecerullo@yahoo.com. Participants are asked to bring rosary beads.

2026 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Scan the QR code to learn how you can make a lasting impact!

10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Total Goal: \$10M 98.84% as of 8/17/26

\$9,884,197.93 in pledges from 27,405 generous donors

WE ARE
ONE

*This figure does not include bequests given to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal

www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal





SEPTEMBER 9 @ 6PM \$25
OPEN DOORS, OPEN HEARTS WITH FR. RAY KELLY | A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR IMMACARE
 Northwest Catholic High School, West Hartford

Join Ireland's beloved Singing Priest, Fr. Ray Kelly, for his only CT performance! Enjoy an unforgettable evening of inspiring music, laughter, and heartwarming stories while supporting ImmaCare's mission to serve individuals experiencing homelessness. Inspired by Fr. Ray's Open Road, Open Heart tour, this special concert celebrates hope, compassion, and new beginnings. 100% of proceeds benefit ImmaCare.

Tickets start at \$25. Doors open at 6:00 PM.
 For tickets or information contact Teresa Wierbicki at **860-580-5644** | twierbicki@immacare.org or scan the QR Code.



SEPTEMBER 22 @ 10AM - 11:30AM
FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT, THE HEART OF JOHN'S GOSPEL
 Archdiocese of Hartford Pastoral Center, Bloomfield

Join us for a mini course on the Gospel of John - Tuesday mornings at the Pastoral Center in Bloomfield beginning September 22. Email Dayanee.Olivieri@aohct.org to register. The spirituality of this Gospel unfolds gradually as each character encounters Jesus, whose mission is sustained by the abiding presence of the Spirit - a presence that strengthens us in our own daily struggles with the world.



SEPTEMBER 8 @ 7AM - 9AM
CATHOLIC CHARITIES HELP AND HOPE BREAKFAST
 Cathedral of St. Joseph, Hartford

Join Catholic Charities for the 2026 Help & Hope Breakfast featuring UConn Coach Dan Hurley. This inspiring morning celebrates hope, resilience, and the power of community while supporting Catholic Charities' mission of providing help and creating hope. Visit www.ccaoh.org/hope for info and sponsorships availability.



SEPTEMBER 12 @ 9AM - 3PM
LOURDES IN A DAY PILGRIMAGE
 Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Hartford

Experience the grace and healing power of Lourdes right here in CT! Join Archbishop Coyne, Bishop Reidy, Bishop Rosazza, and Fr. MacNeill for a day of prayer and renewal. The event is fully handicap accessible, and a complimentary lunch will be served. Please RSVP by September 2. Register with Mark Sullivan at lourdesinaday@gmail.com or scan the QR Code.



SEPTEMBER 15 @ 7PM
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PRESENTATION
 St. Paul Parish Hall, Kensington

All are invited to a human trafficking awareness and prevention presentation sponsored by the Culture of Life and Social Action Ministries at St. Paul Parish. A member of the Human Trafficking Task Force of the Archdiocese of Hartford will provide an overview of human trafficking and introduce a prevention framework for engaging parishioners in this important work. Participants will learn about key elements of prevention and practical steps that parishes, ministries, and individuals can take to reduce vulnerability and strengthen their communities.



SEPTEMBER 20 @ 7:15PM
FOR HUMANITY'S SAKE: POPE LEO XIV AND THE AI REVOLUTION
 St. Thomas More Golden Center, New Haven

A public discussion of Magnifica Humanitas, the pope's long anticipated response to the breakneck advance of artificial intelligence and the implications for human flourishing. Join us for this multi-sided conversation with a panel of distinguished experts about the document's premises, arguments, and response thus far, as well as its potential influence on the most consequential technological development of our time. Visit stm.yale.edu to reserve a spot.



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