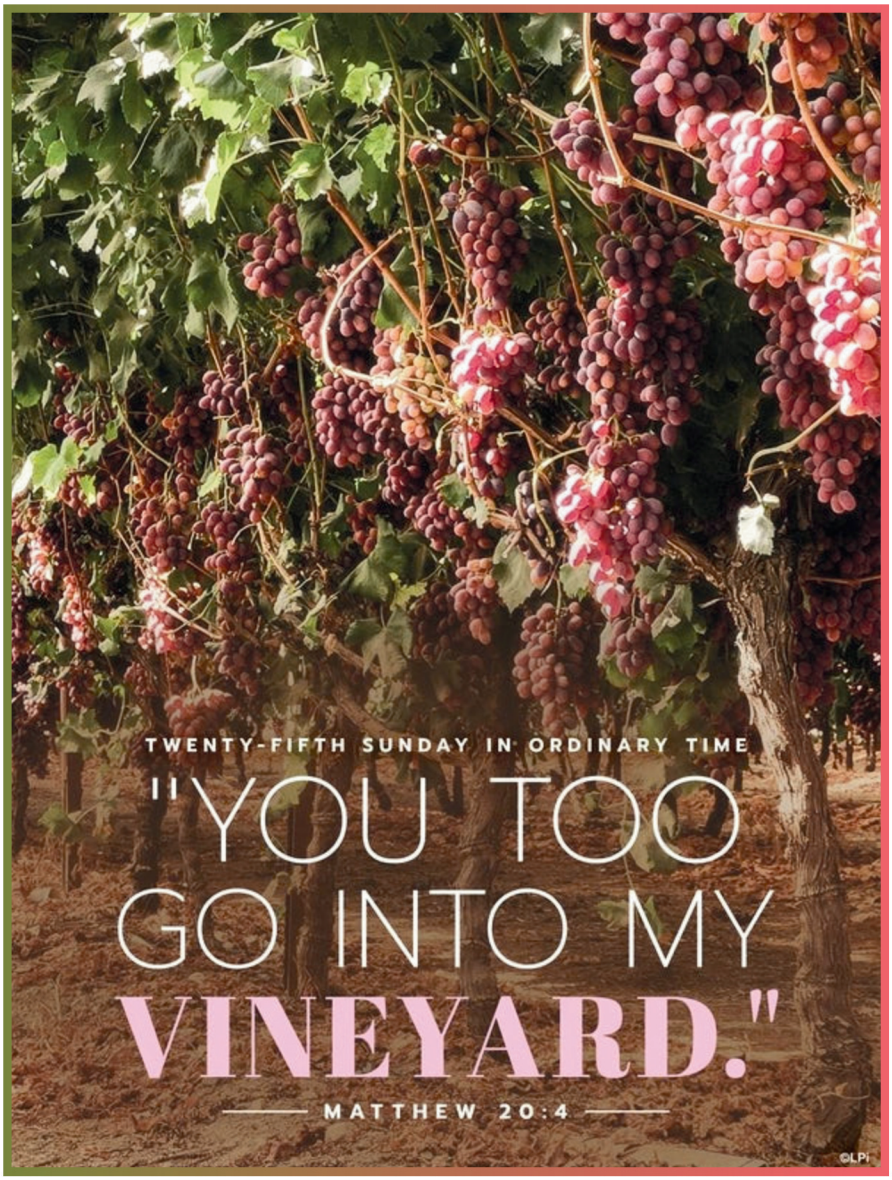
Saint Louis de Montfort Parish

September 20, 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

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-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 20, 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, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

OLG 4:00 PM + *Emil Locke* ~ By Jackie & Earl Mills

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

SAP 8:00 AM + *Mary Cardillo* ~ By Lisa Bauer

LOURDES SHRINE & PARISH PICNIC 10:00 AM

~ Living & Deceased of St. Louis de Montfort Parish

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

SAP 8:00 AM ~ Clare Stewart - 18th Birthday

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

SAP 8:00 AM ~ A Special Intention

~ By Margaret & Joseph Barra

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

SAP 8:00 AM + *Frances Scaia* ~ By Bill and Patti Mascetti

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

SAP 8:00 AM + *Joseph & Anne Blazek &*

Joe "Skipper" Blazek III ~ By Carole Weaver

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

SAP 8:00 AM + *Lyn Swirda* ~ By Helaine Swirda

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

OLG 4:00 PM + *Edith Thibault* ~ By the Thibault Family

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

SAP 8:00 AM + *Lynn Reeves* ~ By the Csehak Family

STV 9:15 AM ~ Living & Deceased of the Parish

SAP 11:00 AM + *P.J. Bialoglowy* ~ By his Family

Please note: Mass Intentions for most of 2027 open up on October 1st. Please inquire about scheduling Mass Intentions for the rest of 2026 in the meantime.

Sacraments At Our Parish

Sacrament of Baptism: Please contact or visit the parish 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 parish office at least six months in advance before making any other arrangements.
Anointing of the Sick: Please call the office and dial ext. 0.
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 parish office for more information.



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

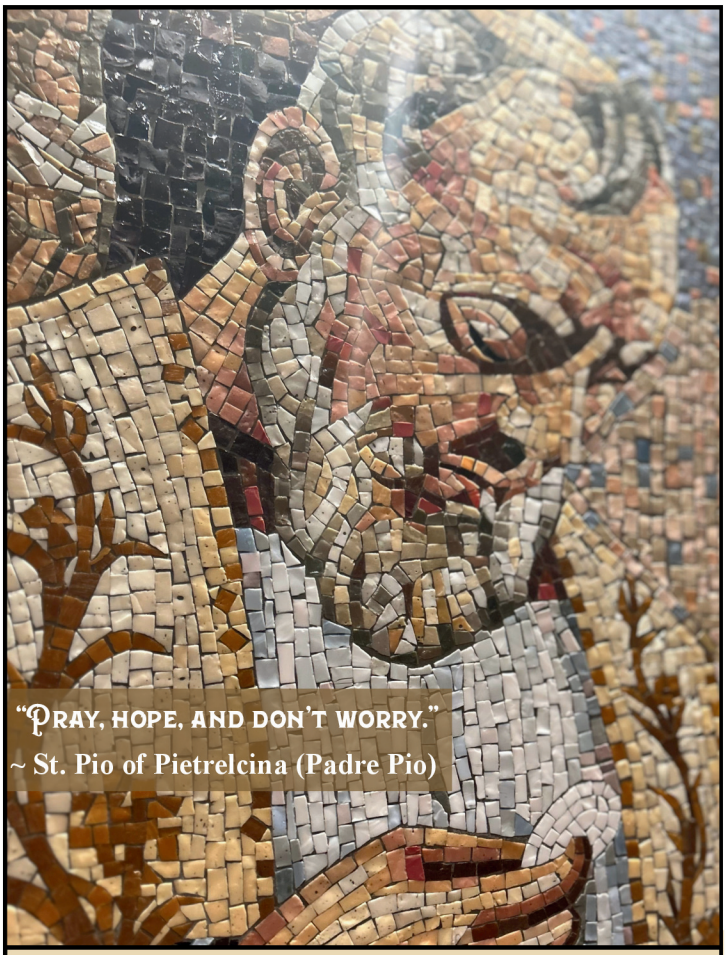
Saint Louis de Montfort Parish
September 5th & 6th
Our Weekly Collection Goal: $6,500
WEEKLY + ONLINE : ..... $ 7,364.75
MONTHLY : ..... $ 2,242.00
September 12th & 13th
WEEKLY + ONLINE : ..... $ 4,967.75
***HOPES* CATHOLIC EDUCATION FUND: .. $ 834.00**

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 · · ·



Feast Day: September 23
Mosaic credit:
Abbey of Regina Laudis, Bethlehem, CT

Saint Louis de Montfort Parish Faith Formation 2026-27

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 10/1 for grades K-7. Please contact the Pastor's Assistant regarding Confirmation if you are yet to register for it.

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.

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

The Parish Office is temporarily closed on Thursdays until the week of October 4th.

The Five Wishes Program

Oliver Wolcott Library – 160 South Street

Wednesday – September 23, 2026

1:00PM – 2:00PM

Scan the QR code to register to attend this free information session, or contact the OWL Library to sign up.

This event covers the Five Wishes program, which is an easy-to-understand living will and advance care directive. The presentation explores how the document lays out your preferences for treatment if you become seriously ill, how it helps your family, who should use it, and why.

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.



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.



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**.

Canon Law 101

The *Code of Canon Law* is the book of rules that the Catholic Church, its Parishes, and its people follow regarding just about everything, from the Sacraments, to how Mass Intentions are processed, how priests are assigned to parishes, the obligations of the laity, and much more. Every week or so we will be examining a part of Canon Law and learn more about our Faith. In celebration of the upcoming release of the Second Edition of the *Liturgy of the Hours* (or the *Divine Office*), I wanted to reflect upon the Canons regarding the *Liturgy of the Hours*. Canon 1173 tells us: "Fulfilling the priestly function of Christ, the Church celebrates the liturgy of the hours. In the liturgy of the hours, the Church, hearing God speaking to his people and recalling the mystery of salvation, praises him without ceasing by song and prayer and intercedes for the salvation of the whole world." We also hear in Canon 1174 §1 how priests and religious are required to pray the *Divine Office* every day as part of their vocation, and in §2 it says that all of us are invited to participate in the it "as an action of the Church." The *Liturgy of the Hours* is the people of the Church uniting in the prayer of Christ to give glory to the Father in the Love of the Spirit. To learn more about the *Liturgy of the Hours*, I would like to recommend a YouTube video by Ascension Press titled "The Liturgy of the Hours Explained." The *Liturgy of the Hours* is continuous daily prayer, split up into 5 main parts. The Office of Readings (*Matins*), Morning Prayer (*Lauds*), the 3 Daytime Prayers (*Terce*, *Sext*, and *None*), Evening Prayer (*Vespers*), and Night Prayer (*Compline*). This format fulfills what King David said in Psalm 199:164 "Seven times a day I praise you" as the bulk of the *Liturgy of the Hours* is comprised of the Psalms of David.

In writing this column, I would like you, our parishioners, to ask us questions about our Faith and about Canon Law as a method of engagement with the parish office and our community as a "Q&A on the Faith" type of article. Any questions you would like me to address in this column (no matter how "hot" or "cold" the topic is) can be sent to: pastorsassistant@stlouisdemontfortparish.org

In the Peace of Christ,

~ Aidan Stewart
Pastor's Assistant

Open Mass Intentions for October 2026 (as of 9/16)



10/5 - SAP 8:00 AM	**10/22 - SAP 8:00 AM**
10/9 - SAP 8:00 AM	**10/23 - SAP 8:00 AM**
10/11 - SAP 8:00 AM	**10/26 - SAP 8:00 AM**
10/13 - SAP 8:00 AM	**10/27 - SAP 8:00 AM**
10/14 - SAP 8:00 AM	**10/29 - SAP 8:00 AM**
10/16 - SAP 8:00 AM	**10/30 - 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

koc13128@stlouisdemontfortparish.org

Contact the parish office for more information or to join!

Prayer Corner

Pope Leo XIV's Prayer Intention For September:
For the care of water.
Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Please add the following people to your prayers:

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

· · · A Message from Pope Leo XIV · · ·

Dear brothers and sisters,

I would like to look at one of Jesus' parables again. Also in this case, it is a story that fosters our hope. Indeed, at times we have the impression that we cannot find meaning for our lives: we feel useless, inadequate, just like the labourers who wait in the marketplace, waiting for someone to hire them to work. But sometimes time passes, life goes by, and we do not feel acknowledged or appreciated. Perhaps we did not arrive in time, others appeared before us, or problems held us up elsewhere.

The metaphor of the marketplace is very appropriate for our times too, because the market is the place of business, where unfortunately even affection and dignity are bought and sold, in the attempt to earn something. And when we do not feel appreciated, acknowledged, we risk selling ourselves to the first bidder. Instead, the Lord reminds us that our life is worthy, and his wish is to help us discover this.

Also in the parable we are commenting on today, there are labourers awaiting someone who will hire them for the day. We are at Chapter 20 of the Gospel of Matthew, and here too we find a character whose behaviour is unusual, who surprises and challenges us. He is the owner of a vineyard, who comes out in person in search of his labourers. Evidently, he wants to establish a personal relationship with them.

As I was saying, it is a parable that gives hope, because it tells us that this landowner goes out several times to go and look for those who are waiting to give meaning to their lives. The landowner goes out immediately at dawn and then, every three hours, he returns in search of workers to send to his vineyard. Following this schedule, after going out at three o'clock in the afternoon, there would be no reason to go out again, because the working day ended at six.

This tireless master, who wants at all costs to give value to the life of every one of us, instead goes out at five. The labourers who had remained in the marketplace had probably given up all hope. That day had come to nothing. Nevertheless, someone still believed in them. What point is there to take on labourers only for the last hour of the working day? And yet, even when it seems we are able to do little in life, it is always worthwhile. There is always the possibility to find meaning, because God loves our life.

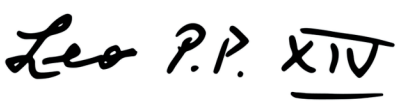
And the originality of this landowner is also seen at the end of the day, at pay time. The master had agreed to pay the first workers, who go into the vineyard at dawn, one denarius, which was a typical day's wage. He tells the others he will give them what is fair. And it is right here that the parable provokes us: what is fair? For the owner of the vineyard, that is, for God, it is just that each person has what he needs to live. He called the labourers personally, he knows their dignity, and on the basis of this, he wants to pay them, and he gives all of them one denarius.

The story says that the labourers from the first hour are disappointed: they cannot see the beauty of the gesture of the landowner, who was not unjust, but simply generous; who looked not only at merit, but also at need. God wants to give his Kingdom, that is, full, eternal and happy life, to everyone. And this is what Jesus does with us: he does not establish rankings, he gives all of himself to those who open their hearts to him.

In the light of this parable, today's Christian might be tempted to think, "Why start work immediately? If the pay is the same, why work more?". Saint Augustine responds to these doubts, saying: "Why dost thou put off him that calleth thee, certain as thou art of the reward, but uncertain of the day? Take heed then lest peradventure what he is to give thee by promise, thou take from thyself by delay".

I would like to say, especially to the young, do not wait, but respond enthusiastically to the Lord who calls us to work in his vineyard. Do not delay, roll up your sleeves, because the Lord is generous and you will not be disappointed! Working in his vineyard, you will find an answer to that profound question you carry within you: what is the meaning of my life?

Dear brothers and sisters, let us not be discouraged! Even in the dark moments of life, when time passes without giving us the answers we seek, let us ask the Lord who will come out again and find us where we are waiting for him. He is generous, and he will come soon!



Pope Leo XIV
General Audience - June 4, 2025

Branches on the Vine

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD SEPTEMBER 19 - 25, 2026

Religious Sister Visits Four Parishes, Offering Monthly *Scripture Reflections*

- Story by Shelley Wolf



Sister Maryann Cantlon, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry, delivers one of her Monthly Scripture Reflections in the parish hall of St. Peter Claver Church in West Hartford. PHOTO BY SHELLEY WOLF

On the first Thursday in September, nearly 20 parishioners gathered in the parish hall of St. Peter Claver Parish in West Hartford, where Sister Maryann Cantlon, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry, stood at the podium, posing a few intriguing questions about sacred Scripture.

"Where is the truth?" Sister Maryann asked. "In the facts? In the interpretation?" Remarking on the Gospel writers in particular, she said, "They knew, without interpretation there is no understanding. We need the interpretation, but we also need faith."

And with that – as well as with excerpts from Scripture, quotations from doctors of the Church, personal anecdotes to bring home key points, and a touch of humor – Sister Maryann began to explain the Catholic Church's overarching understanding of sacred Scripture and tradition, as handed down from the Apostles, from those who knew them, and from the Early Church Fathers.

This helpful context was the start of Sister Maryann's "Monthly Scripture Reflections," which just returned to St. Peter Claver Parish, St. Justin-St. Michael Parish in Hartford, St. Gianna Beretta Molla Parish in West Hartford, and Christ the King Parish in Wethersfield.

She began these parish-based reflections seven years ago, after returning from service in California, starting with St. Peter Claver Parish and then adding others.

"Even when I was younger, I always loved sacred Scripture," Sister Maryann explains, "perhaps because it was open to interpretation and not limited to Catholics. But I prefer to stay with the Catholics and hope the Protestants get converted," she says with a laugh.

Confident in the Catholic Church's view on Scripture, Sister Maryann points out that Jesus promised its leaders would be guided by the Holy Spirit. For her part, Sister Maryann looks to the teachings of the Church and has a master's degree in theological studies from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif., with a concentration in sacred Scripture.

Of course, people can simply read the Bible at home alone, she says. But attending Monthly Scripture Reflections in the parish is an easy way to start reading the word of God with a little help.

"You can sit at home and read the Bible but not get the deepest meaning. You have to go to school for that. You have to have some type of advanced instruction," she says, "and that's what I try to give."

Sister Maryann strives to provide greater insight by discussing that fuller meaning in an informal and approachable way. Running once a month for 30 to 45 minutes, her sessions include time for questions and comments.

Offered all year long at St. Justin-St. Michael Parish, the reflections are offered only during the school year at the three other parishes.

"We start again in September," Sister Maryann says, "and since we're close to year B in the liturgical calendar, and it will be the year of Mark, I'm going to focus this year on the Gospel of Mark."

Fall start dates for the Monthly Scripture Reflections are: at St. Peter Claver Church, West Hartford, the first Thursday of the month (Sept. 3) at 1:00 p.m.; at St. Mark Church, West Hartford, the second Tuesday (Sept. 8) at 7 p.m.; at St. Justin-St. Michael Church, Hartford, the third Thursday (Sept. 17) at 5 p.m.; and at Incarnation Church, Wethersfield, the fourth Thursday (Sept. 24) at 6 p.m.

Anyone who missed their parish's start date is welcome to begin the following month.

2026 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

As of today, 16.47% of all Archdiocesan parishioners raised $10 million for our Archdiocesan ministries.
Imagine the difference if one in four parishioners joined in.
Help us reach 26% participation in 2026!!

WE ARE ONE www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER DATES
THE POWER OF A PRAYING PARENT
St. Catherine of Siena, West Simsbury

Do you worry about your children or grandchildren? Join us for a four-session retreat to discover the power of a praying parent who creates a sacred space for God in their home. "Come" (Matt. 14:29). Email **kostelni@cua.edu** or scan the QR code to register. Morning session offers a light lunch; evening session offers hors d'oeuvres and small plate meal.

Sept. 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14 @ 10AM – 12:30PM OR
Sept. 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17 @ 6:15PM – 8:30PM

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 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.

OCTOBER 3 @ 5PM
TRANSITUS OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI READING
Prince of Peace Parish, St. Tersa of Avila Church, Woodbury

Join the Rosa Mystica Fraternity of Secular Franciscans for the beautiful Franciscan tradition following the 4PM Mass at St Teresa of Avila Church. The Transitus is a reading of St. Francis's passage from Earthly Life, through Death, into Eternal Life. A celebration of hope, resurrection, and the promise that our lives are merely changed, not ended. Following the reading, all will be treated to almond cookies St. Francis's favorite treat! Contact Prince of Peace Parish for more information at **203-263-2008** or **prin-**

SEPTEMBER 25 @ 7PM
MORE THAN MONEY: WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE GENEROUSLY
St. Thomas More Chapel, New Haven

Come join Young Catholic Professionals Central CT (All professionals from 18-39) for our next Executive Speaker Series Event! Enjoy light refreshments and networking along with a talk by Scott Zuffelato the Vice President of Philanthropy of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. We look forward to meeting you there! Email info@ycpcentralconnecticut.org to learn more.

OCTOBER 17 @ 4PM
MARY OF THE AMERICAS / MARÍA EN LAS AMÉRICAS
The Shrine of María Reina de la Paz, Hartford

Mary of the Americas is an Archdiocesan multicultural Marian celebration that brings together Hispanic Catholic communities and participating parishes from across the Archdiocese of Hartford. The event will include the Holy Rosary and a bilingual Holy Mass, followed by cultural and gastronomic presentations representing various countries of the Americas. Through prayer, faith, music, and cultural traditions, the celebration honors the Blessed Virgin Mary while highlighting the unity and diversity of the Church. All are welcome!

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