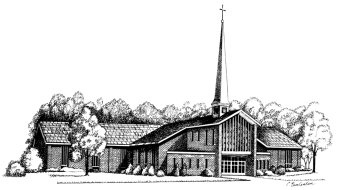
THE DIVINE MERCY FAITH COMMUNITY

A group of three parishes that share a collaborative ministry. Members from any of the three parishes are welcome and encouraged to participate in the ministries and activities of any parish within the Community.

Serving the Parishes of . . .
www.divinemercyfaithcommunity.org

Served by:
Reverend Robert F. Buongirno, *Pastor*
Reverend James J. Sucholet, *Parochial Vicar*
Deacon William T. Herrmann



Our Lady of the Lakes Church

752 Norwich-Salem Turnpike, Oakdale, CT 06370

Telephone: 860-859-1575
Email: oll.oakdale@gmail.com

Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil ..... 5:00 pm
Sunday ..... 8:00 & 10:15 am

Daily Masses
Monday ..... 7:00 pm
Wednesday & Friday ..... 8:00 am

Reconciliation
Monday ..... 6:00 - 6:30 pm
Saturday ..... 4:15 - 4:45 pm
(or by appointment)

Saint John the Evangelist Church

22 Maple Avenue, Uncasville, CT 06382

Telephone: 860-848-1257
Email: stjh4@sbcglobal.net

Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil ..... 4:00 pm
Sunday ..... 11:00 am

Daily Masses
Monday ..... 7:30 am
Wednesday ..... 12:05 pm
Thursday ..... 7:30 am

Reconciliation
Wednesday ..... 12:30 - 1:00 pm
Saturday ..... 3:00 - 3:30 pm
(or by appointment)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

63 Old Norwich Road, PO Box 329, Quaker Hill, CT 06375

Telephone: 860-443-1875
Email: olphquakerhill@yahoo.com

Weekend Masses
Sunday ..... 8:00 & 9:30 am

Daily Masses
Tuesday ..... 7:30 am
Friday ..... 7:30 am

Reconciliation
Friday ..... 8:15 - 8:45 am
Saturday ..... 2:30 - 3:00 pm
(or by appointment)

Sacrament of Baptism
Please call the rectory to arrange for Pre-Baptismal Instruction and time of ceremony.

Sacrament of Matrimony
Preparation for marriage must begin at least 8 months before actual ceremony.

Sacrament of the Sick and Ministry to the Sick
Please call the Rectory when weekly visitation of the sick is requested and anytime person is sick or infirmed.

Sacrament of Holy Orders
If interested in becoming a priest or deacon, please contact the Vocation's office in Norwich at 860-887-9294.

Welcome to the Divine Mercy Faith Community

We welcome all visitors. If you wish to be a parishioner, please register in the parish office. Every family in the parish should be properly registered and have a set of envelopes. Single adults over 21 years of age should register separately from their parents. This registration is our only means of certifying anyone as a member of our Parish Family.

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The Divine Mercy Faith Community

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 9, 2018

OUR LADY OF THE LAKES CHURCH

December 9th – December 15th
Diane DeWick – Birthday Intention
Requested by: Fred and Family

MASS INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 8, 2018–Vigil Mass
5:00p.m. – †Sharon Kivlin – In Memoriam
(Requested by: Her Parents)

Sunday, December 9, 2018
8:00a.m. – † Brynn Levitsky – 1st Anniversary
(Requested by: Her Family)
10:15a.m. – † Walter and †Clara Maleszyk – In Memoriam
(Requested by: Family)

Monday, December 10th –Weekday
7:00p.m. – Angelina Manwaring and Family – For Good Health
(Requested by: Grandparents)

Wednesday, December 12th - Weekday
8:00a.m. – †Monsignor Robert Brown – 1st Anniversary

Friday, December 14th – Weekday
8:00a.m. – †Janice Kolodziej – 13th Anniversary
(Requested by: Robert Kolodziej)

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 15, 2018–Vigil Mass
5:00p.m. – †Elizabeth DeWick – 6th Anniversary
(Requested by: Fred and Diane DeWick)

Sunday, December 16, 2018
8:00a.m. – † Edward Davies, Sr., his wife †Dorothy Davies, their son †Edward Davies, Jr., and daughter †Kathleen Harris
(Requested by: The Davies Family)
10:15a.m. – † F. Raymond Viens – In Loving Memory
(Requested by: His Wife, Children and Their Spouses)

Sacrament of Baptism

We welcome into the Family of God
Skyler Marie Green,
the daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Laura Bendjy Green,
who was baptized on Sunday, November 18, 2018.

Money Counters Needed

Our Lady of the Lakes Parish is looking for people to count the weekly offertory the first Sunday morning a month and also when there is a fifth week in a month from 9:45 to 11:30. If interested please call Carolyn Besade at 860-848-0037.

Our Lady of the Lakes Church Support

The Weekly Collection Needed: $4,385.00

December 2, 2018

Weekly Offertory: $6,853.02
Diocesan Fuel Fund: $759.00
Second Collections:
December 9th: Monthly Maintenance Collection
Thank you for your continued generosity to all our Parish and Diocesan Collections.

Our Parish

The Perpetual Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Mondays, following 7:00p.m. Mass.
The Rosary the Legion of Mary leads the Rosary prior to 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. The fourth Sunday every month the Rosary is in Spanish. All welcome.
Parish Book of Prayer is located in our Church Sanctuary. All are welcome to enter their intentions.
Parish Prayer Line Please contact: Janet Bucko, 860-537-1752 or Jean Farr, 860-859-1189 to request prayer. These parishioners will contact others for prayer.
Eucharistic Adoration First Friday of every month from 3:00p.m. to 6:00p.m.
The Legion of Mary weekly meeting is held on Wednesday at 8:30a.m. in our Church. All welcome!
Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament every Friday following 8:00a.m. Mass in our Church.
Our Lady of the Lakes Church invites the Faithful to visit and have quiet prayer time Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 to 3:30. Please enter and exit from the side door by the rectory. All are welcome!

Faith Formation Program

Schedule for Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6
Sun., Dec. 16th from 8:45 to 10:00am
First Communion Class
Sun., Dec. 9th and 16th from 8:45 - 9:45am
For questions please contact: Jennifer Wojcik, Faith Formation Director, at: faith.formation@att.net.
Schedule for Grade 7, 8, 9 & Confirmation Program
Sunday, Dec. 16th from 5:00 - 7:00pm
Please contact Deacon Bill or Connie Herrmann with questions: 860-848-7144 or williamherrmann@sbcglobal.net

Knights of Columbus Council 8903

Monthly meeting will be this Tuesday, December 11, at 7:00 p.m. starting with the rosary in the Parish Hall. If you are interested in this active men's organization and its many benefits please call Membership Director Paul Robillard, 860-892-0018 or Grand Knight Joe Tycz, 860-859-1871.

The Divine Mercy Faith Community

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 9, 2018

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

This week the Sanctuary Candle burns in memory of ...

December 9th – December 15th
†C. Joseph Storey –
Birthday Remembrance
Requested by: His Wife and Family

MASS INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday, December 8, 2018

9:00 a.m. – Saint John the Evangelist Church and Our Divine Mercy Faith Community

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 8, 2018 - Vigil Mass

4:00 p.m. – Saint John the Evangelist Church and Our Divine Mercy Faith Community

Sunday, December 9, 2018

11:00a.m. – †Patricia Austin – 2nd Anniversary
(Requested by: Her Family)

Monday, December 10th - Weekday

7:30a.m. – †Gloria Deshefy
(Requested by: Her Husband and Family)

Wednesday, December 12th - Weekday

12:05 p.m. – †George and †Mary McCulley
(Requested by: Shirley)

Thursday, December 13th - Weekday

7:30a.m. – †Robert Plikus – 10th Anniversary
(Requested by: Shirley)

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 15, 2018 - Vigil Mass

4:00 p.m. – †Roy A. Menders
(Requested by: Claire)

Sunday, December 16, 2018

11:00a.m. – †Richard Schlink
(Requested by: Mary and Family)

Our Lady of Fatima Pilgrim Statue

You have the opportunity to have the Blessed Mother, Mary visit your home. Sign up for a specific week. Fill out the application located at the entrances of our Church or please call Louise Lamothe at 860-848-8560. Jesus loved his Mother and while hanging on the cross gave her to us to be our Mother. Who better to take our prayers, sorrows, requests and gratitude to our Lord?

Bingo

We are seeking a Member-in Charge for Bingo.
No experience required! Please call the Parish office for more information. Thank you.

Our Parish Weekly Offering

Weekly Financial Need: $3,885.00

December 1 & 2, 2018

Weekly Offering: $3,069.00
Monthly Collection: $683.00
Haiti – Rainbow House: $1,185.00

You may place your Monthly Maintenance envelopes in the offertory basket at any Mass this month.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity to our Parish and special Collections.

Special Collections

Please make all special collection checks payable to Saint John Church. The money is counted and one check is mailed to the organization the special collection is designated for. Thank you!

Bake Sale

We wish to thank our volunteer workers, all who donated the delicious baked goods, and everyone who attended our bake sale to make it successful. The totals of this fundraiser will be posted in next weekend's bulletin. Thank you!

Eucharistic Adoration

Holy Hour followed by benediction on Wednesdays at 11:00am. The Legion of Mary will be reciting the Scriptural Rosary on the 1st Wednesday and the "Divine Mercy Adoration Companion" will be recited on all other Wednesdays.

Legion of Mary

We meet every Wednesday after the 12:05 Mass at the Emmaus Building. All parishioners are welcome.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus next meeting is Wednesday, December 12th at 7:00pm in the Community Center. New members are welcome.

Saint Vincent de Paul Collections

St. Vincent de Paul food pantry serves many towns, including Montville and does a great job serving over 100 households. Our coffee and tuna collection takes place the last weekend of every month. You may place your donations in the basket at the entrance of our church at any time during the month.

St. John's Prayer Line

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please call: Mary 860 848-3578 or Louise at 860 848-8560.

Parish Council

Our next meeting will be January 15th at 6:30pm in the Community Center. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

The Rosary

The Legion of Mary will pray the Rosary every Tuesday at 2:00pm in our Church. All are welcome to join us!

The Divine Mercy Faith Community

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 9, 2018

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH

This week the Sanctuary Candle burns in memory of ...

December 9th – December 15th
†Irene McGayhey
Requested by: The Cho Family

MASS INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 9, 2018 Masses

8:00 a.m. – †Margaret A. Cote – Month's Mind
(Requested by: Father Bob, Father Jim, Deacon Bill and the Divine Mercy Faith Community)

9:30a.m. – †Helen Malaras
(Requested by: The OLPH Choir)

Tuesday, December 11th –Weekday

7:30 a.m. – Elaine Kowalewski – For Good Health
(Requested by: Rose Harman and Nancy Henry)

Friday, December 14th – Weekday

7:30 a.m. – In Thanksgiving to Saint Anthony
(Requested by: Rose Harman)

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 16, 2018 Masses

8:00 a.m. – †Margaret A. Cote
(Requested by: Father Bob, Father Jim, Deacon Bill and the Divine Mercy Faith Community)

9:30a.m. – †Boguslaw Holszanski
(Requested by: Zenona Holszanski)

Collection for Catholic Charities

When you are doing your weekly shopping please let us remember those who are hungry and pick up something for Catholic Charities. Items may be dropped off in the sacristy. Suggested items are posted on the sacristy door. Thank for your help and God Bless!

Christmas Cards

Have You Bought Your Christmas Cards Yet? We have some beautiful cards featuring our church altar. They are only $10.00 per pack for ten cards (5 of each design). You can pick up a pack in the back of the church on the small table and put your money in the accompanying envelope. Ladies Guild

Church Decorating

We will be decorating the Church on December 16th, 18th and 21st. Volunteers able to help on any or all days will be greatly appreciated.

Our Parish Collections

Weekly Financial Need: $3,135.00

December 2, 2018

Offertory Collection: $2,494.49
Monthly Offering: $331.00
Annual Collection to Date: $9996.00

Second Collections
This weekend:
Christmas Flower Remembrance Offering
December 16th: Parish Energy Offering

Thank you for your support and generosity to all of the Parish and Diocese collections.

Praying the Rosary

The rosary will be prayed every Wednesday night at 6:30pm in the Church. All are welcome to attend.

OLPH Choir

The adult choir will practice weekly on Mondays in the Church starting at 6:45p.m.
Children's choir will meet in the Convent on scheduled Monday's at 5:00 pm.

Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will be held Tuesday, January 8th at 6:00 pm in our Parish Hall. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

The Knitting Cluster

The Knitting Cluster will meet on Saturday, December 8th from 9:00a.m. - 11:00a.m. Join us as we share our talents, faith and friendship.

Second Saturday Films

Second Saturday Films will present a new movie each month. December movie will be shown on December 15th. The movie will begin at 6:30 pm with refreshments served.

Jesse Giving Tree

The Parish Family Group will be collecting Christmas gifts again this year for some agencies, the Soup Kitchen and seminarians from our Diocese.
The Jesse Giving Tree is decorated with tags designating children and adults who need Christmas presents.
We hope you will purchase something on that person's wish list, and return the unwrapped gift with the tag on it to OLPH by December 16th.
This is a wonderful opportunity for us to do something to brighten the holidays of others.

The Divine Mercy Faith Community

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 9, 2018

*****Office Hours*****

Reverend Robert Buongirno, Pastor

Fr. Bob will be available on Tuesdays mornings from 8:00a.m. - 11:00a.m. at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and Tuesday afternoon from 1:00p.m. – 4:00p.m. at Our Lady of the Lakes Church; You may call the rectory for an appointment with him for these times.

Deacon William Herrmann

Deacon Bill's office for the Divine Mercy Faith Community is located in Our Lady of the Lakes Church Rectory. To arrange for an appointment to meet with Deacon Bill regarding the Sacraments or questions relating to the Catholic Church you may telephone: 860-848-7144 or email williamherrmann@sbcglobal.net

Divine Mercy Faith Community Advent Penance Service

Thursday, December 20th 7:00 p.m.

Saint John the Evangelist Church

All are welcome to attend to prepare the way of the Lord for Christmas.

DMFC Thursday Prayer Groups open to ALL!

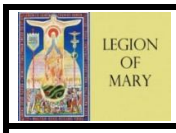
Have you ever thought about it? Is God calling you? Please come to Emmaus Building at St. John's Church. Thurs mornings (1st &3 rd) 10:00am-11:30am. Rachel Lee @ joeraelee34@gmail.com (860-848-9359). Thurs evenings (1st & 3rd) 7:00pm–8:30pm. Kathy Pickowitz @ dpickowitz@snet.net (860-287-6372/860-912-2111).

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) for the Divine Mercy Community will be starting soon. The program is intended for adults who have not been baptized, who were baptized in a different Christian denomination, or who have not received the sacrament of Confirmation. Current parishioners would also be welcome to participate, either as instructors or as possible sponsors. For more information, please contact any of the three parish offices or call Christopher Hammond at (860) 389-6623.

Father Mark's Honey

Local honey is available at the all Divine Mercy Faith Community Parish Offices during regular business hours. Two pound jars are $13.00 and One pound jars are $7.00.



Legion of Mary Corner

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Presidium, Our Lady of the Lakes Church

"Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee. Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death Amen."

"One Hail Mary well said fills the heart of Our Lady with delight and obtains for us indescribably great graces. The Hail Mary is like a mine of gold that we can always take from but never exhaust. Is it hard to say the Hail Mary well? All we have to do is to know its value and understand its meaning." Source – catholictradition.org

During this Christmas season may the Blessed Mother come into your life with special blessings for you. May you always be grateful for the Blessed Mother. Without her we would not have Jesus. Our Savior.

Keep Christ in Christmas!!

2018/2019 Retreat Theme:

No Ordinary Path: Holiness in Everyday Life

God has called all of us to lives of holiness. No Ordinary Path will explore ways that we can be attentive, intentional, and cooperative with God's grace in serving the world. Together we will take a journey, with the hope of discovering that who we are and what we do matters. We'll reflect on how living an ordinary life of holiness can lead to extraordinary happiness and peace.

Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations

On Thursday, December 13th, come join in praying with Bishop Cote a Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations. This month the holy hour will be at Our Lady of Lourdes, Gales Ferry from 6:00pm – 7:00pm. Come pray for those who are called to priestly or consecrated religious life.

Stewardship Reflections

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value…"

(PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10)

Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that are in need.

The Divine Mercy Faith Community

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 9, 2018

♪♪ Music Notes ♪♪

Mark your calendars: The 26th Annual Festival Service of Lessons & Carols will be held next Sunday, December 16th at 4 pm at St. John. Come hear the rich scripture stories of the coming of our Messiah, sing beloved Christmas carols, and enjoy sweet songs from our Divine Mercy Choirs. Bring family and friends to this celebration as we prepare for Jesus' birth!

Our Lady of the Lakes Children's Choir members were commissioned on Sunday, 12/2 at the 10:15 Mass. These singers were recognized for their faithful service: **Adelaide, Genevieve** and **Veronica Brunelle**, **Elizabeth** and **Sariah Frechette**, and **Quinn Little**. We thank them and their families for the beautiful sounds they bring to our parish worship!

Choir News and Rehearsal Schedules

Remaining combined rehearsals for the upcoming celebrations:
Thurs., December 13th DMFC Christmas Choir at Saint John the Evangelist at 6:45 pm.
Wed., December 19th DMFC Christmas Choir at Saint John the Evangelist at 6:45pm
Celebrate our Lord's birth with special joy in song!

Our Lady of the Lakes Parish

Adults Sundays at 9:00 am
Children's rehearsal: Monday December 10th at **4:30 pm** in the church and December 13th at 5:00pm at the Saint John's loft. This is a great group of young singers--bring your child to rehearsal and/or contact Music Director, Mary Beth Lee to sign up!
Our choirs will sing at Lessons and Carols on December 16th at Saint John's Church and on Sunday, January 6th the 10:15a.m. Mass.

OLL Parish Folk Group

The Folk Group sings and plays for the 5:00p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass. We welcome and encourage teens, adult singers and instrumentalists to share their love of music. All are welcome! December rehearsals: December 12th and 19th at 6:30 pm in the Church. For additional information or to confirm the rehearsal schedule, please contact Folk Group Director, Susan Hollo, at 860-537-9750 or fahollo@sbcglobal.net

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

Adults: Mondays at 6:45 pm in the Church
Children's: Thursday December 13th at 5:00 pm at the Saint John's loft. New members welcome! Stay after CCD twice a month OR contact Mary Beth Lee. Our Choirs will sing next at Lessons and Carols on December 16th at Saint John's Church.

♪♪ Music Notes ♪♪

St. John the Evangelist Parish

Adults: Thursdays at 6:45 pm and will sing at the 6:00pm Vigil Mass Saturday, December 22nd.
Children: Thursdays at 5 pm (Ages 7-12) and will sing this Sunday, December 9th at the 11 am Mass.
Teens: Wednesdays at 4:30 pm and will sing on Sunday, December 16th at the 11:00am Mass.

AOB Organ update

The St. John organ continues to play despite worn out contacts, uneven scales, and poorly functioning pistons/stop capture system. YOUR PRAYERS are keeping this organ playing—thank you!!
The St. John ORGAN FUND total is $26,415.97 due to the $341 from the St. Nicholas Pancake Breakfast. Thank you to our faithful volunteers who sold tickets, cooked, donated all that food, played music, cleaned up. Our gratitude to all who bought tickets. Thank you--EVERYONE'S support is deeply appreciated!!

♫♪ NICKELS FOR NOTES ♫♪

2018 BOTTLE DRIVE: Lots of bottles and cans were donated at all three parishes last weekend for our final quarterly collection of the year. Choir members are busy redeeming them. As soon as all monies are turned in, the amount YOU donated with be reported. With your help our Divine Mercy choirs will make our goal $1,500 for this year! Thank you for your generous support that buys new music and instruments for all our Children, Teen and Adult Choirs.

Sewing Volunteers

The St Joseph Living Center is seeking volunteers who enjoy sewing! We would love to invite those who would be interested in sharing in their talent, their time and energies to assist our residents with anything from small sewing projects, such as hemming and mending; to more involved kinds of endeavors as Quilting! Whatever you are willing and able to give we would be most appreciative and grateful. Please contact Tracey Megson of the Therapeutic Recreation Department @ 860 456-1107 ext. 124 or email tracey.megson@sjlcct.org

Our Lady of Guadalupe!

All are invited to join Bishop Cote and the Latino people of the Diocese in our annual bilingual celebration of the Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Wednesday, December 12, 2018. The celebration begins with the Rosary and opportunity for confessions at 6:30pm, followed by Holy Mass at 7:00pm. Fiesta following. We look forward to honoring Our Lady with you.

The Divine Mercy Faith Community

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — DECEMBER 9, 2018

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Welcome Christ into your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Feb 1-3, 2019 in MANCHESTER, CT and Jul 12-14, 2019 in MANCHESTER, CT. For more information, call Pat & Mary-Jo McLaughlin at 860-315-2127 or visit them at https://wwmectw.org/.

Apostolate of Prayer for Priests

December 9th – December 15th

Sunday	Priests Who Have Left the Ministry
Monday	Reverend Thomas Griffin
	Reverend John Welch MS
Tuesday	Reverend Erik Lenhart OFM Cap
	Reverend Rafal Walczyk OSPPE
Wednesday	Reverend John Antonelle
	Very Reverend David Choquette
Thursday	Reverend Michael Giannitelli
	Monsignor James Carini
Friday	Reverend Gregory Mullaney
	Very Reverend Jan Swiderski
Saturday	Reverend Joseph Castaldi
	Reverend Tadeusz Zadorozny

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

"In every prayer I utter, I rejoice as I plead on your behalf at the way you all have continually helped promote the gospel from the very first day. I am sure of this much, that he who has begun the good work in you will carry it through to completion, right up to the day of Christ Jesus….My prayer is that your love may more and more abound…that you may learn to value the things that really matter up to the very day of Christ."

How many are busy writing greeting cards to relatives, friends and acquaintances. The thoughts expressed, speak of a deep, deep concern for the joy of Christ's presence to touch their lives. At times we might not think twice about the reason for sending a card.

Consider the reasons St. Paul referred to as he wrote the Philippians. He wrote about his prayer for this new Christian community. He offered encouragement for them to grow in their lives as disciples of the Lord. That prayer motivates us as we begin this second week of Advent. Advent reminds of the past coming, but directs us to today and tomorrow where the Lord is leading us. May we find a quiet moment to reflect upon Paul's wish for us today as we anticipate the coming of Christ with His grace and peace. May we seek out the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of our advent.

The Knights Corner

Council 8903 Our Lady of the Lakes

Knights of Columbus Annual Report

At the 136th Knights of Columbus Convention in Baltimore, Maryland, last August, Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson reported on the activities of the KofC. Charitable contributions surged to more than $185 million, up from last year's record of $177 million. Much of the increase was due to the response to multiple hurricanes here in the US and international events in the Middle East.

Over $4.2 million was raised for disaster relief. $1.6 million was spent in Puerto Rico, $1.6 million went to Texas and almost $900,000 was sent to Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

Since 2004, the Knights have committed over $20 million to Catholic and Christians in the Middle East, including Catholics in the Iraqi town of Karamles which has been Christian for centuries before being overrun by ISIS. With $2 million from the KofC, the town is being rebuilt. One project is the McGivney House, a 140 unit apartment for Syrian and Chaldean Christian families.

Time and talent is another component of KofC charity. Last year, KofC members donated more than 75.6 million volunteer hours, an increase of over 500,000 hours the previous year.

In his message to the Knights, Pope Francis said that charity was "the heart of the Church" and "the soul of its mission".

With the words of Pope Francis in mind, our Council 8903, invites all men of the parish to join us; lend your talent and time to help our parish, the Divine Mercy Faith Community, our local area and beyond. You can make a difference.

Please call Paul Robillard at 860-892-0018 or email phrobillard@hotmail.com for more information.

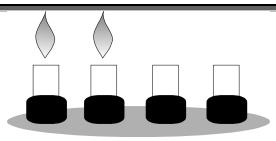
Divine Mercy Faith Community
Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24

Saint John the Evangelist: Monday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Our Lady of the Lakes: Monday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Monday Vigil: 6:00 p.m.
Saint John the Evangelist: Monday Vigil: 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, December 25

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Tuesday: 8:00 a.m.
Our Lady of the Lakes: Tuesday: 10:15 a.m.
Saint John the Evangelist: Tuesday: 11:00 a.m.



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84 Montauk Avenue
New London

"Family Owned and Operated"

John Malia, Director
443-3600

Saint Thomas More School
AT GARDNER LAKE

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167 Old Hartford Rd • Colchester, CT
860-537-9611
auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com

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848-0342

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107 Boswell Avenue, Norwich · 887-1769

Montville Animal Hospital
Jo Michaelson, D.V.M.
907-B Route 32 · Uncasville, CT 06382
860-848-1277
www.montvillevet.com

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www.woyaszandson.com
Jonathan & Elsa Woyasz

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