

Saint Nicholas Parish



February 22, 2026

Seymour, Connecticut

Parish Staff

Rev. Thomas J Cieslikowski, Pastor
 Natalie Aspinwall, Office Manager
 Michael Bylo, Bookkeeper
 Denny McNamara, Cemetery Director
 Debi Durette, Coordinator of Religious Education
 Glenn Durette, Director of Music (Good Shepherd)
 Allan Dabkowski Organist (St. Augustine)
 Frank Parda, Building and Grounds (Good Shepherd)
 Michael Vignola, Bulletin Editor, Webmaster Parish Website



Church of the Good Shepherd
 135 Mountain Road

Vigil Mass Saturday 4:30 pm
 Sunday Mass 11:00 am
 Weekdays (M,T,W,Th,) 9:00 am
 Sat. Confession 3:30 - 4:00 pm



St. Augustine Church
 35 Washington Ave

Sunday Mass 9:00 am
 Handicap Accessible Side Entrance

Parish Website www.stnicholasct.org
 Email - stnicholasct@comcast.net
 Telephone 203-888-9243 - Fax 203-888-6016

Rectory Office Hours

Good Shepherd	Mon. to Thur.	9:00am - 3:00pm
	Fri.	Closed

Baptisms

Registration is required.
 Please call the rectory office.

Marriages

Please contact rectory office at least
 six months in advance.

Office of Vocations

Phone: 860-242-5573
 Web site: www.vocationshartford.org

Sick Calls

We are happy and honored to visit the sick
 or homebound.

First Sunday of Lent, February 22, 2026

Good Shepherd	Mass Intentions
Sat. 2/21 4:30 pm	✠ Diane Coleman <i>(Rosary Group)</i>
Sun. 2/22 11:00 am	✠ Mary Ann Boratko <i>(Niece Jessica)</i>
Mon. 2/23 9:00 am	✠ Debby Sciaraffa 2 Yr Remembrance <i>(Friends)</i>
Tue. 2/24 9:00 am	✠ Marcia Dralus <i>(Daughter)</i>
Wed. 2/25 9:00 am	Parishioners of St Nicholas
Thur. 2/26 9:00 am	✠ Josephine & ✠ Stanley Zygmunt 15th Anniversary for Josephine <i>(John Zygmunt)</i>
Fri. 2/27	No Mass
Sat. 2/28 4:30 pm	✠ Bertha O'Connor <i>(Strubbe Family)</i>
Sun. 3/1 11:00 am	✠ Al Mongillo Jr. <i>(Wife & Family)</i>
St. Augustine	Mass Intentions
Sun. 2/22 9:00 am	Mass Available
Sun. 3/1 9:00 am	Mass Available

- Readings for the week of February 22, 2026
- Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/ Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11
- Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46
- Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/ Mt 6:7-15
- Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/ Lk 11:29-32
- Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12
- Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/ Mt 5:20-26
- Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48
- Next Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9
- Observances for the week of February 22, 2026
- Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent
- Monday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
- Tuesday:
- Wednesday:
- Thursday:
- Friday: St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
- Saturday:
- Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent ©LPi

P A R I S H G I V I N G	Thank You for your Generosity	
	February 1	\$6,010
	February 8	\$3,516
	February 15	\$5,114
	February 22	
	OnLine Giving January	\$4,137
	Fuel Collection	\$1,795
	Total Collections	\$20,572
	Cathderaticum Fee	\$1,440
	Total Stay in Parish	\$19,132



Morning Weekday Mass will be canceled at Good Shepherd Church if the Seymour Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather.



40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses.

Saint Nicholas Parish of Seymour and St Thomas the Apostle Parish of Oxford have committed to prayer vigil times on **Mondays 12-2pm** during the Spring 2026 Campaign, **February 18 - March 29**, in front of Planned Parenthood, 345 Whitney Ave, New Haven.

Change your life! Join us for just one day for just one hour!

40daysforlife.com/newhaven John and Gerry McGuirk
mcguirk13@att.net

First Sunday of Lent, February 22, 2026

The Community Awards Program gives each Ion Bank customer the opportunity to vote for their favorite non-profit organization to help the Ion Bank Foundation give away \$100,000. Enrolled non-profits will receive a donation of \$25 from the Ion Bank Foundation for every vote for their organization.

It's simple – vote for the charity of your choice. Voting will take place from February 1st through March 2nd. You must be an Ion Bank customer to vote. One vote per customer, however, for accounts with multiple owners, each owner may vote. Each customer can vote for only one organization. Please vote for your favorite non-profit organization **St. Nicholas Parish**



Dear Parishioners,
In moments like these, a single act of generosity can bring hope, comfort, and restore dignity to those in need.

Thank you for donating food, pillows, and comforters to the women and children at The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services' safe houses. These items provide warmth, comfort, and a sense of normalcy during an overwhelming time.

Last year, 210 clients found safety in our shelters, and your gifts made a meaningful impact on their daily lives. Fresh food and nourishing items allowed them to enjoy warm meals together, restoring stability and routine. New, comfortable bedding offered a feeling of safety and care, creating a peaceful place to rest and heal.

Your kindness made a real difference, reminding these brave individuals that they are seen, supported, and not alone on their journey toward safety and independence.

Thank you for embodying the true spirit of generosity and caring deeply about others. Your compassion has made a lasting difference, and we are sincerely grateful for your support.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Melissa Simoni
Director of Development and Marketing

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY will be celebrated on Apr. 12 the Sunday after Easter, as instructed to St. Faustina by Jesus.

This Devotion offers complete forgiveness for the temporal punishment (Purgatory time) we have accumulated due to our sins even though confessed and forgiven. A "clean slate"! To obtain this forgiveness we must go to Confession during Lent and receive Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday (Saturday vigil is acceptable.)



We are still able to receive forgiveness and the graces of Divine Mercy Sunday if we on Divine Mercy Sunday:

- ❖ Truly desire to receive them with all our hearts.
- ❖ Trust that we are able to receive them.
- ❖ Make an Act of Perfect Contrition (one that expresses our sorrow for our sins because of our deep love of Jesus). Go to Confession as soon as we reasonably can.
- ❖ Make a Spiritual Communion asking Jesus to come into our hearts.

**The Greater the Sinner,
the Greater His Right to my Mercy!**

Religious Education Class Registration 2026

More info on Parish Website

<https://stnicholasct.org/religious-education-2/>

Please pray for the health and wholeness in body, mind and spirit for:

Greyson H	Ryleigh H	Jeff	John Christopher D	AG
Jim H	Kristen O	Grace F	Ernestine G	EG
Diane C	Ruth S	Linda A	Greyson H	Henry D
Richard D	Carrie D	Paul S	Sean R	Kelly K
Ernest B	Frank S	Mike M	Gary P	AI A
Jennifer S	Joyce O	Michael V	Mary H	Ron T

Please Note:

That we are only reporting first and initial of last name. We ask that if you have a name (1st name and 1st initial of last name) that you would like on the list, you must call the rectory 203-888-9243 - Good Shepherd and resubmit the name. The name will stay on for **2 months** and then be removed unless their name is resubmitted. Using this method we can keep names current. Thank you for your cooperation.

February 2025	St Augustine	Good Shepherd
 Wine	Available	In Memory of Rita Mae Crofut Requested By Daughter Rita
 Sanctuary Lamp Good Shepherd	In Memory Of Jachimowski & Gioielli Families Jean E. Jachimowski Kathleen E. Jachimowski Jamaitis Edward J. Jachimowski Requested by Jachimowski Family	
 Hosts	Available	In Memory of William F. Strubbe Requested By Strubbe Family

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD



Branches on the Vine

FEBRUARY 21 - 27, 2026



Father Martin Chouinard, center, and Father Anthony Federico, far left, chat with attendees and donors at the Archbishop's Annual Appeal Beer Tasting & Cocktail Reception at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville.
PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

This year's Archbishop's Annual Appeal Beer Tasting & Cocktail Reception offered frosty weather and brews in an atmosphere of warm Catholic fellowship.

Approximately 300 people braved the frigid weather Feb. 6 to gather at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, where they shared an evening of fun and fellowship, sampled local beers and wines, and met Archbishop Christopher J. Coyne in a relaxed setting. Donors also learned how the Appeal is making a difference.

"We take care of people," Archbishop Coyne told attendees during brief remarks, sharing the many reasons the Archbishop's Annual Appeal is so vital.

Giving an update on the current landscape of charitable need, Archbishop Coyne reported hearing about college students turning to food pantries, people in cars driving up to soup kitchens, and families appearing at shelters that once served only homeless individuals.

"We're not just seeing the usual people," he said. "What we're seeing now is a lot of rent poor, with no money left for food."

Archbishop Coyne cited agencies on the front lines of providing food and shelter – House of Bread in Hartford, St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Waterbury and St. Vincent De Paul Mission of Bristol – which receive Appeal funds.

"We fill in the gaps. We never ask for credentials," the archbishop said. "We just say, 'How can we help you?'"

At the event, two invited speakers also shared their heartfelt appreciation to donors for making their ministries possible.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL BEER TASTING MIXES FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND THANKS

"Malta House of Care is a great example of what can be accomplished by a grassroots organization when needs are identified and people decide to put their time, their resources and energy into meeting those needs," said Brian Sheehan, board chair for the Malta House of Care.

Today, Malta serves 1,500 uninsured individuals, providing primary medical care. With a \$1.7 million budget, the agency is funded solely by private philanthropy, Sheehan said, which includes the Archbishop's Annual Appeal.

The Appeal contributes to the Malta van and the stationary Malta Clinic located behind the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford.

"Old friends are the best friends," Sheehan said, "and all of you have been great friends to Malta House of Care, since its inception 20 years ago."

Father Anthony Federico, director of Vocations and director of Seminarians for the Archdiocese of Hartford, asked, "Do you know what gets me fired up? Now it's being a part of the Archdiocese of Hartford, as the Lord does an historic resurgence of the Catholic faith in our state.

"Since we started praying the Prayer for Priestly Vocations together three years ago," Father Federico said, "the Lord has been on an absolute heater."

In the last three years, an unprecedented 157 young men have come forward to discern a vocation to the priesthood. Another 22 are

in formation for the diaconate, 33 women have entered convents, and the archdiocese is seeing a surge in sacramental Catholic marriages.

With 30 seminarians in formation next year at a cost of \$65,000 per year for eight years each, the archdiocese must fund their education.

"The good Lord just sent us a bill for \$15 million," Father Federico said with good humor, "and that's where you come in. I want to thank you. The vocations office is funded almost entirely from your generosity."

For more information on the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, or to donate to the 2026 campaign, visit archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal.

- Story by Shelley Wolf



Upcoming Events

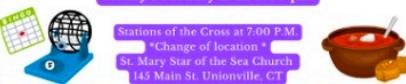


WELCOMING ALL YOUNG CATHOLIC ADULTS
(ages 21+)

Come celebrate Lent with soup and bread followed by Stations of the Cross and bingo

Friday February 27th 6:00 pm

Stations of the Cross at 7:00 P.M.
*Change of location *
St. Mary Star of the Sea Church
143 Main St. Unionville, CT

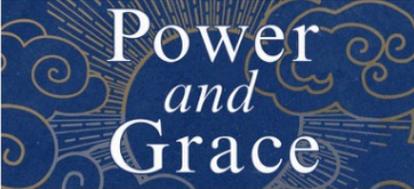


BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? The "New Day" Bereavement Group weekly meetings are here to help you find comfort and explore strategies in coping with grief and loss.

Our next 10-week session will begin on Tuesday, February 10, 4:30 to 6:30pm in St. Mary Hall at St. John Bosco Parish in Branford. Space is limited, pre-registration is required.

Contact Nadine Toren, 203-488-1607 x119



Power and Grace

A Guide to the Catholic Sacraments

This Lent, you are invited to dive into the mystery of the sacraments and explore ways to deepen your experience of God's love as we encounter Jesus in these special divine gifts. Fr. Jeff will present a 4-part multi-media class on Wednesday Evenings from 7:00—8:30 p.m.

Bring your Bible and your questions.

February 25-March 18
St. Mary Church Hall
212 Elizabeth St. * Derby, CT



ARCHDIOCESE of HARTFORD
Office of Faith Formation and Parish Life

Catholic Religious Emblems Training

for all Scouting America Leaders.
The training will review the following emblems:
Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, Ad Altare Dei, Pope Pius and Adult Awards.

Saturday, March 21, 2026
9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Pastoral Center
2nd Floor - Conference Rm. C
467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield

Registration is required.



Questions? Contact:
Jennifer McClintock
Coordinator of Faith Formation Programs & Technology
Office of Faith Formation and Parish Life
Jennifer.McClintock@aohct.org 860-242-5573



Be Vigilant!

It has come to our attention that social media accounts purporting to be Archbishop Coyne's are engaging with users and attempting to solicit money.

Archbishop Coyne does not engage with social media users through private messages and will never ask for donations in this manner.

In addition to the Archdiocese of Hartford's social media pages, Archbishop Coyne's only official and authentic social media page is his Facebook, where you can join him at facebook.com/ArchbishopCoyne.