



Branches on the Vine

FEBRUARY 8 - 14, 2025



PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS AND DEACONS

Monthly calendar helps people develop ongoing prayers for men who answer God's call.

Story by Karen A. Avitabile

Anna Maria Dias calls herself a “prayer warrior” and welcomes others to join her.

For the past 10 years, she has designed prayer calendars which includes the names of priests of the Archdiocese of Hartford. In addition, she designs a separate calendar each month for the deacons of the archdiocese. The calendars are distributed through email.

“I never heard of anyone saying they pray for priests,” Dias says. “The thought of praying for priests was foreign to me.”

The goal of the calendars, she says, is to keep the ministry of the priesthood and diaconate in everyone's heart and mind. “They see the struggles and everything the people deal with every day,” Dias says. “It's a lot of burden to carry.”

For the priest's calendar, a different name is printed in a square for each day of the month, with two squares always devoted to Pope Francis and Archbishop Christopher J. Coyne.

After some Connecticut parishioners heard about the Springfield prayer calendar, they contacted Dias and asked if she could produce one for priests within the Archdiocese of Hartford. She began the local calendar here in 2015. Shortly afterward, a calendar for deacons followed.

At the top of the calendar each month, Dias prints a prayer which expresses gratitude to God for priests who have answered the call to ministry. The February prayer reads:

“We thank you God, our Father, for those who have responded to your call to priestly ministry. Fill your priests with the sure knowledge of your love, lead them to new powerful consolation of the Holy Spirit. Increase their profound faith in the sacraments they administer. Grant that your priests may inspire us to strive for holiness by their good example. Heavenly Father, guard your tender care upon these chosen ones, so dear to your infinitely considerate heart.”

A message from Father Gerald Fitzgerald, who founded the community of Handmaids of the Precious Blood in 1947, is also included on the bottom of the calendar.

His current message is: “Be not afraid! When the brief moment of your life is over, the great high priest will come to you and let you take your place in his heart; for what you did for his priests was done for him.”

Father Anthony Federico, director of Vocations and Seminarians for the Archdiocese of Hartford, receives the priest calendar each month. “It's a beautiful gesture to take ownership of promoting vocations in the Church,” he says.

The Archdiocese of Hartford, he adds, is seeing an increase in vocations through several efforts including parish vocations committees, praying the Prayer for Priestly Vocations, parish holy hours and rosaries, the St. John Vianney Vocation Prayer Society and the priestly prayer calendar.

Dias says she is looking for more prayer warriors. “The more prayers warriors, the better,” she adds.

To be placed on the distribution list for the monthly prayer calendars for priests and deacons, email Dias at faithfirst@1791.com.

“Doing the calendar gives me peace to know I'm trying to help the priests with prayers,” she says. “It keeps my mind focused.”

Download the February calendars at www.archdioceseofhartford.org/catholictranscript.



Upcoming Events



02/09 SUNDAY 7PM
**YOUNG ADULT MASS W/
ARCHBISHOP COYNE**
St. Thomas Aquinas Church,
46 Eagleville Rd, Storrs

All young adults, ages 18-39 are invited to attend the 7th annual Mass and reception.



02/12 WEDNESDAY 9AM
**PRAYER SHAWL & BABY BLANKET
MINISTRY**
St. Mary, Church Hall, 731 Main St,
Branford

Prayer Shawl and Baby Blanket Ministry will resume meeting on the second Wednesday of every month from 9AM to noon. For more information, call Maria Batick at 203-488-7426.



02/13 THURSDAY 7PM
**"WHAT DO CATHOLICS BELIEVE &
WHY?" STUDY GROUP**
Our Lady of the Assumption, Church Hall,
81 Center Rd, Woodbridge

Fr. Glen will lead a 6 week session covering the basic understanding of our faith. Join these one hour sessions to dive deeper into your faith! (Ends March 3rd)



02/12 - 3/19 WEDNESDAYS 10AM
SPIRITUAL BOOK STUDY
Sacred Heart on the Lake Retreat Center
194 Candlewood Hill Rd, Higganum

Have you wished to make Lent more meaningful? Brennan Manning in his book "The Signature of Jesus" challenges us to live Christianity radically. Find out what it means to truly be a follower of Jesus. This is a powerful journey where only love can move us to change. (Six Sessions, Wednesdays 10-11:30 AM)
To register either call Sr. Patricia at 203-606-4830
or Email: cigrandpatricia@gmail.com
or online at- www.sacredheartonthelake.org
Suggested donation for each session \$10.00



FEB. - MAY. 6:30PM
DISCERNING HEARTS
Hosted by the Apostles of the
Sacred Heart of Jesus

Hosting several opportunities for women ages 18-35 who are discerning a call to consecrated life to meet the sisters at a tea, followed by a hour of adoration at several of the Archdiocese's parishes.

Feb. 19, Avila House, Newington

Mar. 19, St. Mary, New Haven

May 21, St. Francis, New Britain

Questions? Contact Sr. Colleen at 203-506-4653

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Presents:
An 8-Day Pilgrimage & Mission to the Dominican Republic!
Led by Ivo Jaquez with Fr. Daniel Hackenjos as Chaplain
May 31 - June 7, 2025

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Ground transportation to NYC airport
- Travel insurance
- Round trip airfare
- DR tourist entry fees
- Lodging
- Daily Mass
- Sightseeing
- Breakfast and dinners

TRIP DETAILS

Four Day Mission includes:

- Fusimaña Puerto Plata
- Restoring a station of the Cross Trail
- Visiting Santiago & Cathedral of St. James

Four Day Pilgrimage includes:

- Visiting the first & oldest city in the West
- Hospital & University of America
- Christopher Columbus Mansion & Family Chapel

COST FOR PARISHIONERS: \$1,492.00 **COST FOR GENERAL PUBLIC: \$1,620.00**

Join us for an informational session Saturday, February 8,
11:00 am at St. Jerome Church Hall or contact
Ivo Jaquez at ivo@stfranciscatholic.org

BL. MICHAEL MCGIVNEY PARISH

PAULINE BIBLE STUDY

Study the Letters of St. Paul with Fr. Joe MacNeill!

WEDNESDAYS AT 1PM
ST. JOSEPH HALL

OR LIVE-STREAM ON FACEBOOK
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NEWHAVENCATHOLIC

