

Church of  
Saint Peter Claver  
Ministries



Church of Saint Peter Claver  
47 Pleasant Street • West Hartford, Connecticut 06107  
860-561-4235

# CHURCH OF SAINT PETER CLAVER MINISTRY BOOKLET

## Our Mission Statement

*“We must speak to them with our hands before we try to speak to them with our lips.” ~ St. Peter Claver*

By being faithful to the mission given to each one of us at baptism, we, the people of St. Peter Claver Parish, try to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ by imitating the example of our patron St. Peter Claver.

- To respond actively and generously to the Commandments of the Gospel within and beyond our parish family.
- To strive to become a united and prayerful parish through a deeper understanding of, and an active participation in, the liturgy and in our faith.
- To provide faith-based educational opportunities for parishioners of all ages.

We will encourage and support parishioners to share their time, talents, and resources to work to build the kingdom of God – a kingdom of love, justice, and peace.

Fall 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We are a vibrant and welcoming faith community that has wholeheartedly embraced the **stewardship way of life**. That means that as best we can we reach out in real concrete ways to assist those who are in need of our help. It is our hope that every member of our parish generously offers their time, talent, and resources to accomplish this as we follow Jesus' command to "Love our neighbor, as we love ourselves."

You will find in this booklet information about our currently active ministries within our parish including those that reach out to the larger community. There is something loving in this booklet that is meant for you to embrace depending on your interests, your time, and your ability. I invite you to prayerfully consider how you can embrace the **stewardship way of life** in a deeper way or for the very first time.

I write this letter on the feast of our patron St. Peter Claver (September 9<sup>th</sup>) who said, "We must speak to them with our hands before we try to speak to them with our lips."

May our Lord Jesus, the Savior of the world, bring us and those we serve His choicest blessings.

Love,

Fr. Bob

## STAFF, DIRECTORY & MASS SCHEDULES

### PARISH STAFF:

**Pastor:** Reverend Robert M. Kwiatkowski

**Deacon:** James E. Hickey, Jr.

**Deacon:** Robert M. Pallotti

**Pastoral Associate:** Gigi Frailey

**Director of Religious Education:** Angela Clement

**Religious Education Assistant:** Beth Boehm

**Director of Music & Organist:** Tim Stella

**Cantor:** Ray Hardman

**Business Manager:** Debbie Walgren

**Secretary:** Joanne Therrien

**Office Hours (Monday through Friday):** 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Parish Office:** 860-561-4235

**Fax:** 860-561-0552

**E-Mail:** [st.peterclaver@sbcglobal.net](mailto:st.peterclaver@sbcglobal.net)

**Website:** [www.stpeterclaverparish.com](http://www.stpeterclaverparish.com)

**Religious Education Office:** 860-521-2904

**Religious Education E-Mail:** [spcreled@sbcglobal.net](mailto:spcreled@sbcglobal.net)

### MASS SCHEDULES:

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:** 7:00 a.m.

**Saturday:** 4:30 p.m.

**Sunday:** 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

*Please consult the weekly Parish Bulletin for special Mass schedules during Lent, Advent, Holy Days and other Holidays throughout the year.*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturday – 3:15 to 4:00 p.m.  
or by appointment

**Baptisms & Weddings:** Call the Parish Office for information and scheduling.

## **OUR PATRON SAINT, HISTORY AND CHURCH**

### **Our Patron Saint – St. Peter Claver**

Peter Claver was born of an impoverished family in Verdu in the northeastern province of Catalonia, Spain in 1580. As a young man he joined the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and pursued studies in theology and philosophy. Although he excelled at his scholarly work, he was restless; he felt that God was calling him to a different vocation. He felt a strong call to work in the West Indies, then a Spanish colony. In 1610, along with three other Jesuit companions, Peter Claver sailed in the galleon San Pedro for Cartagena, Colombia, a seaport in South America. Cartagena was a terminus for ships that transported people from Africa to the new land where they were sold into slavery. When the ships arrived, they brought holds full of sick, injured, frightened people. When Peter Claver came to Cartagena, his doubts and restlessness about his life's work disappeared; he was ordained a priest and dedicated himself to ministering to the enslaved. For over forty years of active ministry, Peter Claver met the boats, bringing food, medicine and comfort. He constantly spoke to the enslaved peoples of God's love for them – and personally baptized over 300,000. Near the end of his life, weakened by illness, Peter had to be tied onto his horse so he could ride to meet the boats and continue his work. Peter Claver died on September 8, 1654. Canonized in 1888 with Pope Leo XIII proclaiming, "No life, except for the life of Christ has so moved me as that of St. Peter Claver". His feast day is celebrated annually on September 9.

### **Our History**

On September 9, 1966, with the growth of the Catholic population within the territory of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in West Hartford, Archbishop Henry J. O'Brien decreed the division of that parish and the canonical erection of St. Peter Claver parish. The Reverend John T. Shugrue was appointed the founding pastor. In the early days Sunday Mass was celebrated locally at Braeburn School, affectionately known to parishioners of the time as "St. Braeburn's". Daily Mass,

baptisms, confessions were conducted, and spiritual activities took place at a rectory located at 1105 Farmington Avenue.

With a deep seated faith in God and the wholehearted generosity of the parishioners the formal building of the new parish community quickly commenced. Eighty acres of land known as Mooney's Woods was purchased for the site of the new church. On May 3, 1970 the completed church and parish center were formally dedicated. The contemporary design reflected the many changes and innovations of Vatican II – no pew had a visual obstruction; no altar rail separated clergy from congregation; and no unseen balcony divided musicians from worshippers. Truly innovative for its time, the church is listed among famous churches in New England and received awards for architecture on state, regional and national levels.

Following Fr. Shugrue's death in 1988, Reverend Joseph P. McGarry was appointed pastor. The parish continued to grow and prosper as did the parish's commitment to social outreach programs. Faced with the growing religious education needs, the original parish center was expanded. The size of the parish center was doubled with the addition of eight classrooms, a music room and library. At the same time the parish center was connected to the church and the bell tower was constructed. The new facility was formally dedicated in December 1995.

Upon the retirement and death of Fr. McGarry, the Reverend James F. Leary was appointed the third pastor of St. Peter Claver in July 2004. Fr. Leary retired in October 2015 and the Reverend Robert M. Kwiatkowski was appointed the fourth pastor in November 2015. The parish has now grown to over 1,100 lively and dedicated families.

## **Our Church**

Father John Shugrue's vision for the church was one that would reflect the life and work of its patron, Saint Peter Claver while at the same time be compatible with the beautiful wooded area surrounding it.

Designed by John Riley of the West Hartford firm of Russell, Gibson and von Dohlen, the church was constructed to resemble the hold of a slave ship, such as those experienced by the men to whom St. Peter Claver ministered. Fieldstone walls, natural wood, black ceiling beams and two stained glass windows combined to reflect a ship while also establishing an atmosphere of simplicity, and peace. Furnishings included Italian marble altar, ambo, baptismal font and presider's chair, a contemporary bronze crucifix, carved walnut statues of Saint Joseph and the Blessed Mother.

As part of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Saint Peter Claver parish, extensive restoration and renovation of the church was undertaken. The project was under the direction of John Canning, a restoration artist, whose philosophy is to conserve and construct at the same time respecting the original design concepts. Hence, his plan considered the unusual floor plan, the magnificent stone walls, and the black accents found in the large beams, on the marble pieces and on the Stations of the Cross.

The new design for the church incorporated Italian tile flooring in two colors which complement the fieldstone; solid oak pews reinforced with black panels and kneelers; a refurbished baptismal font with flowing water into an immersion pool; an ambry etched with images of water; and enhanced lighting. In addition to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, a place for quiet reflection and prayer, and a permanent choir space were constructed. The choir space included room for the new state-of-the-art Dobson pipe organ.

The Blessed Sacrament Chapel located behind the altar was constructed from fieldstones and stained glass windows which symbolize the flowing waters on which the slave ship traveled. The beautiful windows incorporating a quotation from Saint Peter Claver were designed by Scott McDaniel of Stained Glass Resources in Hampden, Massachusetts. They remind us of our patron's ministry and inspire us to remember our call to service.

## ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

**Building Committee** Responsible for advice and oversight of proposed improvements to the church, parish center and grounds.

**Contact:** Moe Fradette, 860-521-9214, [mfradette@comcast.net](mailto:mfradette@comcast.net)

**Communications** - Keeping the Parish informed through our website, Facebook page, email and printed materials.

**Contact:** Debbie Walgren, 860-561-4235, [st.peterclaver@sbcglobal.net](mailto:st.peterclaver@sbcglobal.net)

**Finance Council** This Council is composed of three to six parishioners with appropriate expertise in finance, business, law and accounting. Members are appointed by the Pastor who regularly consults the Council. It assists the pastor in the fulfillment of his administrative and financial responsibilities by offering advice, and undertaking related tasks requested by the pastor, including assistance with developing the annual parish budget, reviewing actual results compared to budget and the preparation of the Annual Financial report to the parish and the Archdiocese.

**Parish Pastoral Council** The council, is composed of parish members, articulates the parish mission and pastoral plan, and sets parish priorities. The pastor depends on the council to assist him in his ministry as leader of the parish community. Interested parishioners are sought out in May each year. The Ex-Officio Members serve as a result of their position with the parish.

**Name:**

Collie Gardner, Chair

Vinny Farrell, Vice Chair

**Elected Members:**

Jeff Amell

Dennis Carroll

Christine Daly

Thomas Danehy

Steven Gorss

Peg Gould

Kim Green

Robert Metzler

Jean-Michel Sibille

Ann Vaughan

## **Parish Pastoral Council (Continued)**

### **Ex-Officio Members:**

Rev. Robert M. Kwiatkowski, Pastor

Gigi Frailey, Pastoral Associate

Angela Clement, Director of Religious Education

Ann Siczewicz, Trustee

**Meetings:** Once a month on the second Thursday (September through June) at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**Stewardship Committee** Focuses on developing a better understanding of stewardship as “A Way of Life” for all parishioners. Encourages a more active role in one’s Catholic faith by the sharing of their **time, talent and treasures.**

**Contact:** Gigi Frailey, 860-561-4235, [ggfrailey@gmail.com](mailto:ggfrailey@gmail.com)

## **FAMILY LIFE**

**Fellowship & Service** A group of parishioners who enjoy knitting, sewing, crocheting and other handicrafts. Items made each year provide winter clothing for residents of Immaculate Conception Shelter and are given to local agencies.

**Meetings:** Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. –12:00 noon in the Parish Center

**Contact:** Jean Kilfoil, 860-561-1798

**Knights of Columbus** This is the men's fraternal group of the parish. The major emphasis of the council has been on charitable projects at our church, community and beyond. All social and spiritual activities are structured to establish a bond of faith among the men of the parish.

**Meetings:** First Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. (September through June) in the Parish Hall

**Contact:** Kevin Walsh, 860-338-3826, [kjw.westhartford@gmail.com](mailto:kjw.westhartford@gmail.com)

**Playgroup** Our Playgroup promotes parent support and preschool readiness. St. Peter Claver Playgroup is a relaxed, friendly environment where caregivers come to connect with others while their children learn to play, socialize and just have fun. Bring your child(ren) to play and meet new friends! All

ages are welcome on selected Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Center. Dates are listed on the Church bulletin board, website or by calling the Parish Office.

**Contact:** Callie Barnes, [callie.barnes01@gmail.com](mailto:callie.barnes01@gmail.com)

**Retreats** Annually, both the men and women of the parish have the opportunity to attend weekend retreats. The retreats provide parishioners an opportunity to more fully experience their Catholic faith with quiet time, good rest, good company and inspiring talks and workshops.

**Contacts:**

Men - Tony Torsiello, 860-561-1877, [atorsiel@travelers.com](mailto:atorsiel@travelers.com)

Women - Gigi Frailey, 860-561-4235, [ggfrailey@gmail.com](mailto:ggfrailey@gmail.com)

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Provides a formation of our Catholic faith for all youths in grades 1-10. Religious Education classes are scheduled during the regular school year (September through May). For the current class schedule, contact the Director of Religious Education. Registration takes place in the spring prior to the academic year (see weekly bulletin for schedule). Families must be registered and contributing members of the parish in order to enroll their children in religious education classes.

**Director of Religious Education:** Angela Clement

**Religious Education Assistant:** Beth Boehm

**Contact:** 860-521-2904 or [spcreled@sbcglobal.net](mailto:spcreled@sbcglobal.net)

**Sacramental Preparation** In keeping with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, this program seeks to empower parents as the primary catechists of their children. Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist is completed in Grade 2, through parent meetings, workshops and classroom lessons. Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation takes place in Grades 9 & 10. In addition to classroom lessons, guest speakers and retreats, the students are encouraged to

become adult members of the parish community through a commitment to Christian service.

**Baptism** The Sacrament of Baptism is offered on the first and third Sunday every month. Parents anticipating the Baptism of a child should call the Parish Office regarding the Baptismal Preparation Class and to schedule a date for the Baptism.

**Contact:** Joanne Therrien, 860-561-4235, [st.peterclaver@sbcglobal.net](mailto:st.peterclaver@sbcglobal.net)

**Adult Confirmation** An Adult Confirmation Preparation program is offered through the Archdiocese of Hartford for individuals who are at least 18 years old, have already been baptized and have received First Communion.

**Contact:** Gigi Frailey, 860-561-4235, [ggfrailey@gmail.com](mailto:ggfrailey@gmail.com)

**Catechists (Teaching Ministry)** Essential to the success of the religious education program is having a dedicated group of adults and high school age teaching ministers willing to help nurture our faith in our youth. Participants have the opportunity for additional and on-going training and education through the Archdiocese. We encourage you to contact the Director of Religious Education if you are interested in serving in this vital ministry.

**Youth Ministry** Encompass our Parish's teens sharing Faith, Fellowship, Fun and Service. Throughout the year various Youth Events are held in the Parish Hall. These events can be found in the monthly Stewardship Newsletter and in the bulletin.

**Adult Enrichment** Adult Faith Enrichment Committee provides a variety of spiritually enriching program opportunities for adults who wish to deepen their relationship with God. Offerings include: weekly Lectionary Bible Study, periodic lectures, ongoing Lectio Divina (praying with sacred scripture), book discussion groups, study of papal encyclicals/exhortations such as "On Care for Our Common Home", and "The Joy of the Gospel" and guest speakers.

**Contact:** Maria Roja, [mroja@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mroja@sbcglobal.net)

**Bible Study** Lectionary based scripture study meets on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. (mid-September through Pentecost). The group reflects on the upcoming weekend scripture.

**Contact:** Gigi Frailey, 860-561-4235, [ggfrailey@gmail.com](mailto:ggfrailey@gmail.com)

**WHCAE** The West Hartford Catholic Adult Enrichment Team is composed of parishioners from participating West Hartford parishes who work collaboratively to bring quality Catholic Adult enrichment opportunities to all the parishes of West Hartford.

**Contact:** Gigi Frailey, 860-561-4235, [ggfrailey@gmail.com](mailto:ggfrailey@gmail.com)

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

**Altar Servers** Young men and women (Grades 4 - 12) who assist the priest/deacon at weekend Masses, Christmas, Easter Season and at Confirmation, First Communion and other special Masses.

**Training:** Two training sessions are held in the fall.

**Contacts:** Sue Farrell, 860-212-4201, [sfarrell03@snet.net](mailto:sfarrell03@snet.net) and Deacon Jim Hickey, 860-670-0165, [deaconjimhickey@yahoo.com](mailto:deaconjimhickey@yahoo.com)

**Adult Altar Servers** Our adult altar servers assist our priest and serve at funerals.

**Contact:** Polly Maglio, 860-521-6079, [pollymaglio@speedreadingpeople.com](mailto:pollymaglio@speedreadingpeople.com)

**Art and Environment** Ensures the beauty of our worship space with careful attention given to the use of liturgical banners, flowers and special decorations for Christmas, Easter and throughout the year.

**Contact:** Renee McCarthy, 860-796-8109, [reneeinwh@comcast.net](mailto:reneeinwh@comcast.net)

**Baptismal Garments** A white garment is presented to each child that is baptized. Parishioners are invited to help sew the garments (sewing skills and the ability to machine embroider or serge are required).

**Contact:** Michelle Kiley, 860-205-5544, [rkileyesq@att.net](mailto:rkileyesq@att.net)

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** Allows the youth of our parish (ages 4-7) to become more fully engaged in celebrating our Eucharist. The participants are dismissed during the regular Mass and gather in the Parish Hall. The scriptures are read and discussed. Program is scheduled once a month at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Volunteer adult presiders are always welcome and needed to make the program a success.

**Contact:** Vacant (Please call the Parish Office 860-561-4235)

**Eucharistic Ministers** Assist priest in the distribution of Holy Communion at weekend Masses and bring the sacrament to the homebound.

**Training:** Scheduled by the Archdiocese four times a year

**Contact:** Ann Vaughan, 860-521-9047,  
[anndvaughan9@yahoo.com](mailto:anndvaughan9@yahoo.com)

**Greeters** A welcoming committee of the church. He or she is the first person who greets our fellow parishioners when they enter our church. The responsibilities of being a greeter include arriving 15 minutes before mass begins, greeting our parish community with a smile and a friendly acknowledgement and answering any questions they might have. This could be a great family stewardship activity.

**Contact:** Sue Fradette, 860-521-9214, [sfradette@comcast.net](mailto:sfradette@comcast.net)

**Lectors** Prepare for and Proclaim the Word during weekly Masses and all weekend Masses, as well as reading the Prayers of the Faithful and all announcements.

**Contact:** Evelyn Benoit, 860-521-9458, [tlgeab@aol.com](mailto:tlgeab@aol.com)

**Liturgy Committee** Provides support, planning, and time in preparing liturgical celebrations throughout the year, including participating in decorating the church, with additional time and attention devoted to Christmas and Triduum rehearsals and services.

**Contact:** Evelyn Benoit, 860-521-9458, [tlgeab@aol.com](mailto:tlgeab@aol.com)

**Music Ministry/Choir** Men and women who provide music for liturgies and at special seasonal events. Members sing each Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. New members are encouraged and always welcome.

**Rehearsals:** Sundays prior to the 10:30 a.m. Mass

**Contact:** Tim Stella, 860-677-6718, [timstella@comcast.net](mailto:timstella@comcast.net)

**Sacristans** Assist priest in preparations for the weekend Masses. Prepares the altar, selects the gift bearers, and coordinates with the ushers

**Contact:** Vacant (Please call the Parish Office 860-561-4235)

**Ushers** Assist in the offertory collection, seat people and distribute bulletins at weekend and special Masses.

**Contact:** Vacant (Please call the Parish Office 860-561-4235)

## **COMMUNITY LIFE/SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY**

Saint Peter Claver parishioners participate in a wide range of social action ministries that benefit our community. These include:

**Christmas Baskets** The Christmas Food Basket Program has been in existence at St Peter Claver Church for over 30 years. This is a well supported activity which parish families look forward to participating in each Christmas. The mission of the program is to provide a basket/box of food for Christmas Day for families in need. We work with our contacts at Hartford Hospital, St Francis Hospital, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, The Town of West Hartford, Holy Trinity Church, and St Augustine Church, to secure a list of families to whom we can share our Christmas spirit in the target towns of Hartford, West Hartford, and Bloomfield. Included in each food basket/box is a gift card for Stop and Shop in the amount of \$25. Many parishioners make their box extra personal by including small Christmas gifts along with the food items. The program could not be run without the many volunteers both within our parish, and also the Conard hockey community who assist in

delivering boxes each year. We typically provide for 140 families although the need has been increasing over the years. Planning starts in September and culminates with deliveries to families on the Sunday before Christmas.

**Contact:** Nancy Byrne, [nancybyrne07@gmail.com](mailto:nancybyrne07@gmail.com) and John O'Gorman, [jogorman.jog@gmail.com](mailto:jogorman.jog@gmail.com)

**Haitian Medial Ministry** The work of the parish Haitian Ministry Committee is focused on three areas. We support Medical Aid to Haiti (MATH) by working with the committee that organizes the Fall annual parish Crafts Fair. We support CT Walks for Haiti, a non-profit that organizes an annual Spring festival and 2.5 mi. walk. Proceeds fund specific projects for established non-profits working in Haiti. Parishioners help as members of the planning committee, and as volunteers, bakers, team creators, and walkers. We support Camp Hispaniola, a non-profit that runs an annual summer children's camp in Haiti. Parishioners help by collecting supplies to make hygiene kits for the campers.

**Contact:** Nancy Ryan, 860-232-0255, [ryanner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ryanner@sbcglobal.net)

### **Outreach Collections**

**Contact:** Susan and Richard Lindberg, [slindberg273@gmail.com](mailto:slindberg273@gmail.com) (unless otherwise noted)

- **Advent Giving Tree** A Christmas program where social service agencies in Hartford provide the parish with a list of needed items. Parishioners are invited to take a needed item request off of the "Giving Tree" during the season of Advent. Assistance is needed in delivering collected items.  
**Contact:** Regina Molloy, [ginafmolloy@yahoo.com](mailto:ginafmolloy@yahoo.com)
- **Ash Wednesday - Soup & Bread Supper** To benefit needy urban charities/shelters. Simple supper provided by parishioners, tickets sold, speaker presents info Soup makers needed, ticket sellers, event workers.
- **Camp for Kids** Collection in June to assist in sending inner city youth to summer camp in conjunction with St. Martin de Porres Catholic Worker House in Hartford.

- **Lenten Corporal Works of Mercy** Various and designated items collected and distributed to local groups during the six weeks of Lent.  
**Contact:** Regina Molloy, [ginafmolloy@yahoo.com](mailto:ginafmolloy@yahoo.com)
- **Plants for the Homebound/shut-ins** Delivered by our Eucharistic Ministers to parishioners for Christmas & Easter.
- **Sandwich collection expanded to Religious Education students and families** Make 10 or more simple sandwiches to be donated to Hartford shelters the second Wednesday of every month. Parishioners donate sandwiches prepared at home or CCD students may bring the necessary food items and prepare them at the church after CCD classes on the second Wednesday. Sandwiches will be picked up in the church parking lot near the CCD wing at 4:45pm promptly. Parishioners needed to oversee students making sandwiches.
- **Snack Bag Project** Make Trail Mix Snack bags for the House of Bread Kidz Cafe. In conjunction with our CCD parishioners, donate cereal, pretzels, raisins, etc. and package baggies for the after school program at the House of Bread.
- **Souper Bowl Sunday** Hearty cans of soup collected on Super Bowl Weekend for the Catholic Worker House.
- **Toiletries Collection** for Interval House/Battered women's shelter in Hartford.
- **White Sox Collection** Benefit South Park Inn/other shelters- desperately needed by the homeless.
- **West Hartford Parish Outreach (WHPO)** Consist of the six Catholic churches of West Hartford working together to reach needy people on a larger scale. Monthly meetings are held at St. Mark the Evangelist church. Scheduled outreach events include: the "used eyeglasses" collection for the Dominican Republic, the "grocery bags food" collection for the Town of West Hartford, the "school supplies collection" for Catholic Worker House and needy Hartford schools, the "hat, mittens, scarves" collection for any inner-city school and shelter, "dinner" for 90 clients at Immaculate Conception Shelter, and a youth "Kids Against Hunger" food packaging for a Third World country.

Representatives also continue to respond to other needs of the disadvantaged as they are presented always with the hands and heart of Jesus. Help needed with deliveries, serving, etc.

**Sandwich Ministry** Parishioners are invited to come together once a month to help make 200 sandwiches which are then delivered to the South Park Inn homeless shelter in Hartford. We meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. All are welcome, no sign-up is needed, and all supplies are provided.

**Contacts:** Nancy Byrne, 860-521-7317, [nancybyrne07@gmail.com](mailto:nancybyrne07@gmail.com) and Connie Reder, 860-521-0220, [cmrblue@aol.com](mailto:cmrblue@aol.com)

**St. Elizabeth House Dinners** Rotating teams coordinate dinners prepared by our parishioners, delivered and served to the House of Mercy Shelter – St. Elizabeth House in Hartford.

**Contact:** Gigi Frailey, 860-561-4235, [ggfrailey@gmail.com](mailto:ggfrailey@gmail.com)

## EVANGELIZATION

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)** RCIA is a faith sharing and educational process for individuals seeking to learn about the Catholic faith and become Catholic. This process is for non-Catholics and children over 7 years old who have not received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. The formal process begins in September and is completed when full initiation takes place at the Easter Vigil. Sessions are held weekly at a time best suited for all participants. Registration normally takes place in the summer. Lay parish members are also needed for the RCIA team to walk this journey with those who are exploring the catholic faith.

**Contact:** Gigi Frailey, 860-561-4235, [ggfrailey@gmail.com](mailto:ggfrailey@gmail.com)

## PASTORAL CARE

**Prayer Chain** Parishioners pray in private for special intentions and needs. Requests and intentions are accepted any time. The network is activated every Monday and Thursday.

**Contact:** Mary Kelly, 860-232-1810

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** Individuals who are interested in knitting and crocheting shawls and blankets which are distributed to parishioners who are ill, homebound, hospitalized or confined to nursing home and care centers.

**Contact:** Peggy Mullarkey, 860-233-5960

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

### **Grades Pre K – 5:**

Saint Thomas the Apostle School  
25 Dover Road  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
860-236-6257  
[www.stawh.org/school.aspx](http://www.stawh.org/school.aspx)

### **Grades 6 – 9:**

Saint Timothy Middle School  
225 King Philip Drive  
West Hartford, CT 06117  
860-236-0614  
[www.stmswh.org](http://www.stmswh.org)

### **Grades Pre K – 8:**

St. Brigid School  
100 Mayflower Street  
West Hartford, CT 06110  
860-561-2130  
[www.saintbrigidschool.org](http://www.saintbrigidschool.org)

### **Grades 9 – 12:**

Northwest Catholic High School  
29 Wampanoag Drive  
West Hartford, CT 06117  
860-236-4221  
[www.northwestcatholic.org](http://www.northwestcatholic.org)

## Reverend John T. Shugrue and Shugrue Family Memorial Scholarships

Following Father Shugrue's death, parishioners established a scholarship program in his name for students attending Northwest Catholic High School. This seemed an appropriate way to honor Father who had dedicated many years of his ministry to the Catholic school system as an administrator.

Currently two scholarships of \$2,500 each are awarded to entering freshmen who meet the criteria. The students need not be members of St. Peter Claver Parish. The scholarships may be renewed annually. Guidelines and application forms may be obtained from the Office of Admissions at Northwest Catholic.

Additional donations to the scholarship fund may be made at any time and are always welcome. Please contact Patricia Walsh at Northwest Catholic High School regarding the donation process.

**Information:** Northwest Catholic High School – 860-236-4221  
[http://www.northwestcatholic.org/admissions/financial\\_aid.html](http://www.northwestcatholic.org/admissions/financial_aid.html)



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before we try to speak to them with our lips.”*

*~ St. Peter Claver*