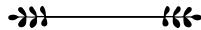


Branches on the Vine

News from the Archdiocese of Hartford · November 30 - December 6, 2024



TAKING A PRAYER WALK IN ROCKY HILL

Before her passing at age 91 this past July, Jeannine Laraia watched her nephew, Father George Couturier, celebrate Mass at one two churches in Rocky Hill that make up St. Josephine Bakhita Parish.

Laraia, a Port Charlotte, Fla., resident, watched a livestream of the Mass on her computer by visiting the parish website, saintjosephinebakhita.org.

"She would usually watch Mass every Sunday at St. Elizabeth Seton Church," Father Couturier says of his aunt. After her passing, he celebrated her funeral Mass at the church.

As a gift to the priest in memory of his aunt, the parish staff planted a crepe myrtle tree on the campus of St. Elizabeth Seton Church, part of St. Josephine Bakhita Parish.

The fast-growing tree, which can withstand cold temperatures, blooms with bright colors in the warmer weather and produces fall foliage in the cooler temperatures.

Planted this past August, the tree is the newest addition to the grounds of St. Elizabeth Seton Church, which offers several outdoor places for group or private prayer in addition to beautiful trees, shrubs, perennials and flowers.



Father George Couturier stands beside a tree planted for his aunt at St. Elizabeth Seton Church campus, part of St. Josephine Bakhita Parish in Rocky Hill.

"There are always people planting on the campuses," says Father Couturier. "People often drive by and say a prayer." The campus was a popular walking spot during the coronavirus pandemic, the priest adds.

On the grounds of St. Elizabeth Seton Church, a garden devoted to Mary is a good spot for prayer. A sheltered gazebo sits in a shaded spot opposite the rectory. Benches on the church porch also offer a quiet place for reflection. A Marian meditation prayer garden was dedicated in September 2020.

St. James Church, also part of the parish, offers several outdoor spots of its own along a prayer path constructed for meditative walking and prayer. They include a labyrinth next to the parish center as well as benches between two buildings on the property.

Another prayerful area on the St. James campus is a statue of Jesus Christ situated behind the parish center. Last year, a shrine to St. Anthony of Padua was rebuilt and graces a corner on the backside of the property.

In addition to the outdoor places for prayer and walking, books are available to read on church properties or to take home. Check out the selections in the Little Free Libraries located on both church campuses.

St. James Church is located at 767 Elm St., Rocky Hill. A few miles away, St. Elizabeth Seton Church is located at 280 Brook St., also in Rocky Hill. The grounds of both churches are open to the public daily for walking and prayer.

Story and photos by Karen A. Avitabile



ARCHDIOCESE of HARTFORD

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UPCOMING EVENTS

HOSTED BY FR. ANTHONY FEDERICO

YOUNG MEN'S RETREAT

The Masculinity of Jesus

MEN AGES
18 - 39

DECEMBER
14TH AT 10 AM TO
THE 15TH AT 1 PM

\$100 PER
PERSON

On this transformational retreat, we will encounter the masculine heart of Jesus and learn to be men like him.



Call to register: (860) 761 - 7456

Registration Deadline: December 5th

Married, Single & Discerning Men Invited

Saturday, January 11 at 5:30 PM
St. John Bosco Parish Country Dance · St. Therese Hall, Branford
Fried chicken, corn bread, beverages, potluck.
Tickets \$10 indiv., \$35 family max.

Thursday, January 23 - Friday, January 24
Pilgrimage for Life · Washington, DC

Mark your calendars for the annual pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. to March for Life with thousands from across the country. More details to come!



Saturday, February 15 at 4:00 PM
Archdiocese of Hartford Wedding Anniversary

Mass · Cathedral of St. Joseph, Hartford

On Saturday, February 15, 2025, The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne, Archbishop of Hartford, will be honoring couples celebrating milestone marriage anniversaries: first and five-year increments from 5 to 60 years, and every year beyond 60 years during 2024 – 2025.

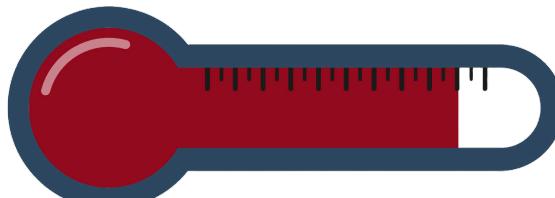
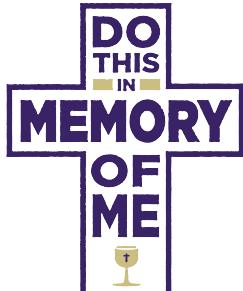
The Marriage Anniversary Mass will be at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford at 4:00 p.m.

Registration closes January 28. Register at: catholicedaohct.org/anniversary-mass

For more events, please visit: archdioceseofhartford.org/events

To submit an event for consideration, please email: communications@aohct.org

2024 Archbishop's Annual Appeal



90.18% as of 11/15/24
\$9,018,196.30 of \$10M goal

