

# Branches on the Vine

News from the Archdiocese of Hartford · February 1 - 7, 2025

## 2025 RESPECT LIFE MASSES AND MARCHES UNDERWAY



Fr. Michael Ruminski offers a pro-life reflection on Jan. 20 to attendees at a Mass for Life at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Windsor Locks.

For those who recognize the value of all life, the early months of the year offer many opportunities to publicly declare the sanctity and dignity of every human person.

On Jan. 19, Archbishop Coyne was the main celebrant for a Pro-Life Mass & Baby Shower Collection at St. Mary Church in New Haven, part of Blessed Michael McGivney Parish. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, the Mass provided time for prayer and the chance to donate baby items for the Connecticut Pregnancy Resource Centers.

Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish hosted a Mass for Life on Jan. 20 at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Windsor Locks. Father Michael Ruminski, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Bloomfield, was the main celebrant and offered a reflection after the Mass. Prior to the Mass, pro-life advocates recited the rosary for life.

The 2025 National March for Life, set for Friday, Jan. 24 in Washington, D.C., is billed as the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world.

Although Roe v. Wade was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, Sister Suzanne Gross, program coordinator for the archdiocese's Respect Life Ministry, says it's important to keep marching. "We've changed the law but we haven't changed the hearts and minds of people," she says. "We'll still be making a statement. So that's why we go."

The Archdiocese of Hartford pilgrims leave from the Franciscan Life Center in Meriden on Jan. 23 to attend the Vigil Mass for Life at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Next day, they will enjoy a Mass at the Washington Plaza; a concert by the Christian band Unspoken at 11 a.m.; the rally at noon on the National Mall with keynote speaker Bethany Hamilton, a professional surfer who persevered despite her disability; and the March for Life at 1 p.m. to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Closer to home, the 2025 Connecticut March for Life is slated for March 19, and there's still plenty of time to register and sign up for buses.

The rally begins at noon at the Connecticut State Capitol, located at 210 Capitol Ave. in Hartford, followed by the march around Bushnell Memorial Park and along Main Street at 1 p.m. The Connecticut Pregnancy Care Coalition will also host a student sign-making contest between 11 and 11:45 a.m.

"The March shows the importance of what prayerful witness is all about. We're marching for the unborn, who cannot speak for themselves, and for humanity and the dignity of every human person," says Father Glen Dmytryszyn, director of the archdiocese's Respect Life Ministry. "With the inception of human life, all other rights follow. What else can we march for?"

Christopher Healy, executive director for the Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference, strongly recommends participating in the Connecticut March for Life. "Your attendance," he says, "will help send the message to lawmakers that we will not allow laws to be passed that do not respect God's greatest gift to us all."

**Before You Go:** For more details about the Connecticut March for Life, including a map, parking, buses from local parishes, and other events that day, visit [marchforlife.org/Connecticut](http://marchforlife.org/Connecticut). For more information on legislative matters from the Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference, visit [ctcatholicpac.org](http://ctcatholicpac.org).

The 2025 Connecticut March for Life is sponsored by the National March for Life, the Connecticut Catholic Conference and the Family Institute of Connecticut.

Story by Shelley Wolf



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Friday, February 7 at 6:00 PM

*Mass of Healing · St. John Paul the Great Parish, St. Peter Church, 99 East Main St., Torrington*  
In these challenging times, many of us carry burdens – be it physical ailments like cancer and kidney disease, emotional struggles like depression, anxiety, PTSD and grief, or spiritual battles. YOU'RE NOT ALONE. Reconnect, find solace, and embrace the healing powers of our divine physician, Jesus Christ.

The evening begins at 6:00 pm with the Divine Mercy Chaplet followed immediately by the Healing Mass. Let's come together, share our stories, and experience the transformative power of faith. Remember, Jesus is still in the business of healing.

## Friday, February 7 - 9

*Rachel's Vineyard Weekend for Healing After Abortion · Litchfield*  
If you are suffering from an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat weekend February 7-9, 2025 in Litchfield, CT. The weekend healing process includes discussions, Living Scriptures with meditations, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and Mass of Entrustment. Participation is totally confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. Both women and men have participated in past retreats and have ranged in age from teens to mid-eighties. The fee for the weekend is \$175.00 for meals, private room and all retreat materials. Scholarships are available for financial assistance. For more information contact Marie at 203-631-9030, e-mail her at [mlaffin@prolifeministry.org](mailto:mlaffin@prolifeministry.org), or visit [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).



## Friday, February 28 at 4:00 PM & Saturday,

## March 1 at 9:00 AM

*Annual Used Book Sale · Church of Saint Ann, 289 Arch Road, Avon*

Thousands of Books: Fiction, History, Biography, Politics, Music, Travel, Cooking, Sports, Religious, Vintage Books, Children's Books, DVDs, CDs, books on CDs, vinyl records, and puzzles. All proceeds support our Catholic High School Student Scholarships.

Friday, February 28, from 4-7 p.m. with a \$5 admission fee and Saturday, March 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and no admission fee.

## Friday, February 14 at 6:00 PM

*St. Valentine's Day Youth Social (Ages 14 - 17) · Our Lady of Loreto Church, 12 Ardsley Road, Waterbury*

Father Jeff Gubbiotti is a skilled magician and juggler who uses his talents for the Glory of God. He will be entertaining us with his skills and guiding us to deepen our relationship with Jesus! Swing dance lessons, fellowship and more! Invite your friends!

## SAVE THE DATE!

### October 19 - 29, 2025

Fr. Joe MacNeill will be leading a group of parishioners on a pilgrimage to Italy on October 19 - 29, 2025 that includes 5 days in Rome, 2 days in Assisi, and 2 days in Florence. For more details please contact Immacula Didier at [macdi64@gmail.com](mailto:macdi64@gmail.com).

## Archbishop's Annual Appeal Beer Tasting & Cocktail Reception



**Friday, February 21, 2025 · 5:30 - 8:30 PM**  
**Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville, CT**

Enjoy a casual setting with Archbishop Coyne while sampling local beers served with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres.  
21+ · Please RSVP at [aohforms.com/beertasting](http://aohforms.com/beertasting)