



# Branches on the Vine

MARCH 1 - 7, 2025

## LENTEN MISSION TO HIGHLIGHT BELOVED SAINT FOR LOST CAUSES

Story by Karen A. Avitabile



A relic, an arm bone of St. Jude's right hand, can be venerated during a special mission from March 10 to 12 at Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles Parish in Derby.  
Credit: Submitted by the Dominican Shrine of St. Jude

A special mission at a Derby parish will include veneration of a first-class relic of St. Jude Thaddeus, one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ.

The relic, an arm bone of St. Jude's right hand, can be venerated during the "St. Jude Mission, Mass and Veneration" from March 10 to 12 at St. Mary the Immaculate Conception Church, part of Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles Parish.

Born around the year 5 A.D., St. Jude is venerated as the patron saint of lost causes and desperate situations. His intercessions have inspired devotions for centuries. If people pray to St. Jude in times of distress, it is said he will intercede and help them find the strength to continue.

The mission will mark the beginning of Lent and celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025 designated by Pope Francis. The event will also honor the patron saint of the former St. Jude Church, now part of Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles Parish.

"I feel like the Holy Spirit brought this together for us in the Jubilee Year and for people to come together and deepen their friendship with Christ and with the Holy Spirit, who is the well-spring of hope and is fueled by the work of the apostles, like St. Jude," says Father Jeffrey Gubbiotti, pastor.

The St. Jude mission will be conducted by Father Michail P. Ford, O.P., director of the Dominican Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus in Chicago. He travels throughout the United States, teaching on a myriad of topics including Catholic devotions.

As the universal Church embraces the Jubilee Year of Hope, the Shrine of St. Jude continues to serve as a powerful symbol of faith and perseverance. "It reminds the faithful that even in the most desperate situations, hope prevails," Father Ford says. "St. Jude is the apostle of seemingly impossible situations."

After his martyrdom, St. Jude's body was buried in Iraq, formerly known as Mesopotamia. It was later moved to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome where it rests with other apostles.

Centuries ago, a small relic from St. Jude's forearm was encased into a silver reliquary and preserved for many years in three different locations: Armenia, Turkey and Turin, Italy. In 1949, the Dominicans in Turin presented the relic to the Dominican Shrine of St. Jude on its 20th anniversary dedication.

Mission preaching, oil blessings, confessions, a prayer service with music and veneration of the relic will begin at 7 p.m. on March 10 and 11 at St. Mary the Immaculate Conception Church, 212 Elizabeth St., Derby. The mission will conclude with a St. Jude Mass and veneration at 7 p.m. on March 12, at the Church. Father Ford will also speak at all Masses in the parish during the weekend of March 8 and 9.

For more information about the St. Jude mission, visit Our Lady, Queen of the Angels Parish at [olqaderby.org](http://olqaderby.org) or call 203.735.3341. All are welcome to attend.

"The true impact of these missions lies in the powerful faith-filled stories we hear," Father Ford says. "At a recent mission, a young woman tearfully shared how her faith in St. Jude's intercession never wavered when her husband was on the brink of death. Now, though not yet fully recovered, he stood beside her, a living testament to faith and hope."

Prayer request can be placed on the Dominican Shrine of St. Jude website, [the-shrine.org](http://the-shrine.org), or by calling the prayer line, 385.330.9005. A friar at the shrine regularly listens to these requests and prays for the requestor's intentions.



# Upcoming Events



03/4 WEDNESDAY 10AM - 2PM  
**PRAYER: ABIDING WITH GOD, WITH FR. DAVID CINQUEGRANI, C.P.**  
Holy Family Retreat Center, 303 Tunxis Rd, West Hartford

When you pray, go to your room and pray in secret, then God, who sees in secret, will reward you. (Matthew 6:6) We hear these words from Matthew's Gospel each year on Ash Wednesday, but what is Jesus asking of us during this season of prayer?

The day program includes a conference, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Mass, and the distribution of ashes.  
\$50, includes lunch or dinner. 860-760-9705.  
(Option of 10AM-2PM in person or 6-9PM in person or online)



03/7 - 03/9 FRI - SUN  
**MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT: "IN MY LOVE, ABIDE"**  
Holy Family Retreat Center, 303 Tunxis Rd, West Hartford

Come quiet your mind and nourish your spirit as you learn ways to maintain the sacred connection to God through Christ. Dynamic teaching, home-cooked meals, and uplifting music. \$350. For more information, please call: 860-760-9705.



03/8 SATURDAY 1 - 3:30PM  
**SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS AND LOVERS OF THE EUCHARIST**  
St. Teresa of Avila Church, Woodbury

Begin your Lenten journey with a beautiful afternoon of adoration, prayer, and fellowship with scripture-based learning about the Eucharist and the sacred ministry of distributing Holy Communion to the faithful.

Registration Required - Limited Space  
Suggested Free Will Offering \$10  
Call 203-263-2008 to Register



03/14 - 03/16 FRIDAY 1PM  
**NATIONAL VOCATION SUMMIT**  
Legionaries of Christ Novitiate and College of Humanities, 475 Oak Ave, Cheshire

Join religious, diocesan and lay vocation leaders for the 2025 National Vocation Summit. The annual summit provides a unique opportunity to collaborate with leaders from every state of life with speakers, testimonies and workshops focused on formation, strategic planning and team building. Topics include Discernment, Building your Vocation Team, and becoming a Vocation Apostle.

A limited number of scholarships are available. For more information, please contact Corinne Murphy at [Coordinator@NationalVocationSummit.org](mailto:Coordinator@NationalVocationSummit.org), or visit [NationalVocationSummit.org](http://NationalVocationSummit.org)

**LENTEN SMALL GROUP**  
*For Miscarriage, Infant Loss, and Infertility*

A mix of in-person and Zoom gatherings, using the "Grief" devotional on the Hallow app by Laura Kelly Fanucci. For more information and registration, scan the QR code or visit [tinyurl.com/grieflentensmallgroup](https://tinyurl.com/grieflentensmallgroup). With questions, email Emily Naylor at [info@newhavencatholic.org](mailto:info@newhavencatholic.org).  
Hosted by Blessed Michael McGivney Parish, New Haven, CT

THE NATIONAL TOURING PRODUCTION OF  
**Tolton**  
*From Slave to Priest*  
Performed Live by  
**Jim Coleman**

**Performing Live**  
**March 21<sup>st</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Sponsored and paid for by The Father Nadolny Good News Fund. To arrange a live performance at your church or school, please contact Father Edmund Nadolny at (860) 335-2342.

*Saint Luke PRODUCTIONS* [www.ToltonDrama.com](http://www.ToltonDrama.com)

