



Branches on the Vine

APRIL 12 - 18, 2025

JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE BECKONS ALL CATHOLICS

Story by Shelley Wolf



PHOTO BY BOB FALCETTI
Father Michael Ruminski, director of Divine Worship for the Archdiocese of Hartford, discusses the current "Jubilee Year of Hope" during a Theology on Tap event hosted by St. Bridget of Sweden Parish at a local restaurant in Cheshire.

The "2025 Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope," declared by Pope Francis, is a rare opportunity for special graces. Father Michael Ruminski, the archdiocese's director of Divine Worship, attempted to demystify the "Jubilee of Hope" during a recent Theology on Tap event hosted by St. Bridget of Sweden Parish in Cheshire.

He answered three basic questions: What is a jubilee? What is the Jubilee of Hope? And how can we celebrate it well?

According to Father Ruminski, the term "jubilee" can be traced back to the Latin term meaning "to sound a trumpet." Its roots go back to Mosaic law in the Old Testament, when it was a special year of rest and forgiveness every 50 years.

In Old Testament times, the jubilee involved the forgiveness of debts, the release of indentured servants and the return of ancestral inheritance. "It was supposed to be a kind of resetting of societal obligations in which you begin again," Father Ruminski explains.

The jubilee was introduced into Catholic Church life by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300.

By 1500, jubilees were celebrated every 25 years. The Christian jubilee put greater emphasis on spiritual reconciliation: freedom from sin, forgiveness, and peace. Pilgrimages and plenary indulgences were added.

The current Jubilee of Hope designated by Pope Francis is focused on the virtue of hope and its importance in the modern world.

Pope Francis has identified people in need of prayers or visits, Father Ruminski notes, because they have lost hope: young families afraid to bring children into the world, young people fixated on drugs or technology, the forgotten elderly and the sick, migrants and refugees fleeing dangerous places, and forgotten prisoners.

Hope is essential, Father Ruminski says, in facing the challenges of the world and in proclaiming the message of Christ. "Hope is the virtue given to us by God to direct our expectations for the future," he says. "Without hope, we have no ability to face the future with confidence."

Instead of ruminating on our challenges, he suggests we "look at the world with the supernatural eyes of faith."

"As St. Paul says, 'hope does not disappoint,'" Father Ruminski reminds us. Rather than let the

problems of the moment "dominate us," we should "proclaim something of power to the world around us."

"It's the light of Christ, through his victory on the cross, that should direct the way we interact with each other," he explains, "for us to be able to live right, to be able to forgive well and to be able to proclaim Christ crucified and risen. And so we have to have hope in order to do that."

Other practical steps for celebrating the Jubilee of Hope include making pilgrimages to one or more designated cathedrals or basilicas: St. Peter's Basilica and the major basilicas in Rome or, closer to home, the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford and the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury.

While there, pilgrims are encouraged to engage in the sacraments and acts of prayer: attend a Mass, go to confession, pray in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament or pray the rosary or the stations of the cross.

Conditions for receiving a plenary indulgence include confession, praying for the pope's intentions, receiving Holy Communion and being detached from sin.



Upcoming Events



04/12 - 18 HOLY WEEK
ST. LUKE PASSION PLAY
St. Luke Catholic School,
133 Bristol St, Southington

We are a community of people from various places, walks of life, and expressions of Christian faith who gather under the auspices of Saint Luke Parish to reenact the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the "Passion Play."

2025 Passion Play tickets are available at:
Stlukepassionplay2025.eventbrite.com
For questions or ticket orders over 10 tickets, email:
Email: passionplay@stlukect.org
908-902-8404

Tickets are available for five performances:

Saturday, April 12, 6:30 p.m.
Palm Sunday, April 13, 3 p.m. (earlier time is good for children)
Tuesday, April 15, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 16, 7 p.m.
Good Friday, April 18, 7 p.m.



04/23 WEDNESDAY 10AM
DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION AND ST. FAUSTINA PRESENTATION
Sacred Heart on the Lake Retreat Center,
194 Candlewood Hill Rd, Higganum

Mrs. Meg Bailey will give a Talk and Power Point Presentation on the Divine Mercy Devotion and St. Faustina. A Free Will Offering is asked. To register go online at-
www.sacredheartonthe lake.org



OPEN HOUSE
January 27 - April 30, 2025



Come sit in on an online or in-person class!
Study all 73 books of the Bible at the New England Catholic Biblical School!

"It was a lot of work, but it was one of the best things I've ever done in my life!"
Mary C - Alumni Class of 2024

Register:
Visit: NewEnglandCatholicBiblicalSchool.com
or call 860-242-5573 to speak with Jason Rinaldi, Director.



04/27 SUNDAY 3PM
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE
Corpus Christi Church, 601 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield

Christ the King Parish is sponsoring a prayer service at 3:00 PM at the Corpus Christi Church campus, 601 Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield. The service will include recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, veneration of the relic of St. Faustina, and Benediction. All are welcome. No registration is required.

2025 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

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www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal

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Archdiocese of Hartford
467 Bloomfield Ave, Bloomfield, CT 06002
860-541-6491

