



ST. ROSE OF LIMA

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 24, 2025



21st Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

[Jesus] answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough." - Lk 13:24

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 4:00 PM (SAT) 7:30 9:30 AM
11:30 AM 5:00 PM
DAILY (M-F) 6:45 9:00 AM
SAT/HOLIDAY 8:00 AM
HOLY DAY 7:30 PM (VIGIL) 6:45 9:00 AM
5:30 PM

REGISTRATION

ALL PARISHIONERS ARE ASKED TO FORMALLY REGISTER WITH THE PARISH AS REQUIRED TO RECEIVE MAILINGS, SPONSOR CERTIFICATES, AND SACRAMENTS. VISIT THE WEBSITE OR CALL THE OFFICE.

46 CHURCH HILL ROAD, NEWTOWN CT, 06470
203-426-1014 FAX 203-426-6222

STROSECHURCH.COM





Mass Intentions for the Week



Monday, August 25

- 6:45 Jerry Schmidt Pat Schmidt
Yanek The Romaniuk-Chan Family
9:00 Linda Manna The Manna Family
Maureen Boyle Family

Tuesday, August 26

- 6:45 Intentions of Anne Stratton . . . Helen & Tom Stretton
9:00 Larry & Patricia Pisani Family
Jill Leary Brian Leary & Family

Wednesday, August 27

- 6:45 Catherine A Welch Family
9:00 Intentions of Bernadette Dunne & Family . . . Billy
& Teresa Tully
Joyce Faith Catellier Tom & Suzanne Roe

Thursday, August 28

- 6:45 Intentions of Diane Lendroth . . The Mitchell Family
9:00 Finnuala Carney Theresa Meany & Family
Frank Saidis Peggy & Tony Baiad

Friday, August 29

- 6:45 Diane Jamieson The Vodola Family
9:00 Judith Leary Brian Leary & Family
Richard Wesselbrand Nancy DeCanio

Saturday, August 30

- 8:00 Sean Stutman Family
4:00 Bernice Brock Pat Schmidt
Louise D'Orlando The Cincotta Family

Sunday, August 31

- 7:30 Lawrence Postel Anthony & Arlene D'Aquila
Thomas Kirrane Family
9:30 Bruce Herring Women's Retreat Team
Giovannina DiMeglio Victoria Brinkman
11:30 David Marusa & Michael Healy The DeCanio
Family
Ita Hardiman The Brestovsky Family
5:00 Audrey McCleary Joan & Ron Fuest
Darlene Valentini The Ventresca Family

Wedding Banns

- BANNS III: Madeline Tatto & Devon Palilla
BANNS II: Madeline Fletcher & John Fox

The Sanctuary Candle

will be lit this week in memory of Elmer & Mary Hunyadi and Frank & Rose Sessa as requested by Ted and Cathy Hunyadi.

RECONCILIATION

Celebrated Saturdays 3:00 - 4:00PM or by special appointment with one of the priests.

BAPTISM

Celebrated on Sundays at 1:00PM. A pre-Baptism class is required. For other important parent and sponsor related prerequisites, please go to strosechurch.com/baptism.

FIRST COMMUNION, FIRST RECONCILIATION, and CONFIRMATION

Religious education classes may begin at age 5. First Grade is prerequisite for First Reconciliation and First Communion. Attendance is required in each grade for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation in Grade 7. For more information go to strosechurch.com, click on Sacraments.

MARRIAGE

Contact the Rectory to make arrangements at least six months prior to the wedding date. For all other important pre-requisites for the marriage sacrament, go to strosechurch.com/marriage.

ANointing OF THE SICK

Please call the Rectory to receive this sacrament or to have Holy Communion brought to your home.

MORNING PRAYER

Weekdays at 8:40AM.

SAINT ROSE CEMETERY

Located at the corner of Cherry and Black Cherry Streets in Sandy Hook. For more information contact the Rectory.

SAINT ROSE RECTORY

Office hours are 9AM to 4PM Monday-Friday. Summer hours 9AM to 2PM Mon-Thurs and 9AM to 12:30PM Fri.

Your Weekly Offertory

can be made here:

Just scan the code and choose *Sunday Offertory* and any other cause you'd like to support.
Thank you!



A MESSAGE FROM *Father Peter*

Widening the Narrow Gate

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough."

Many will try, but it seems only a few will make it. Initially, that is not a very comforting thought and should cause one to pause: will I be of the many or of the few?

We know that life is tough but to consider the possibility of spending an eternity in Hell can be just down right discouraging. How then can and do we keep ourselves strong?

Discipline. Our entire lives really are built upon either a strong or weak foundation of discipline. A student must exercise discipline in his or her studies to earn a diploma. An employee must exercise discipline to complete his or her work in order to receive that pay check.

Or perhaps the best example of all, an athlete who must exercise all sorts of discipline in order to accomplish the great goal of victory. Discipline is synonymous with hard work, tireless dedication, sacrifice, and consistency. Imagine an athlete who refuses to put in his time at practice, refuses to train and listen to his coaches?

At any given time, exercising discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain as we go through the routines and demands necessary to achieve an accomplishment.

But when we taste the fruits of victory, earn that diploma, collect that paycheck, or marry the person we have worked so hard to be and stay in love with and who with see their children provided for and successful because of the many sacrifices and investments of disciplined love made...the feeling of satisfaction is priceless and is safeguarded as a treasure in Heaven for you to enjoy forever once arriving there.

We have been given the gift of faith much like an athlete is given the gift of talent. And such gifts require development so that they can be used to achieve success not simply for oneself but one's entire team and fan base, if you will. If we were given jerseys, the name on the front would be Catholic. Now Catholic does not refer to a religious denomination. The word Catholic means "universal", as in, all people. Obviously all people are not Catholic but God certainly wants all people to be saved and so He chooses to rely on our efforts to get that done.

There is nothing greater at stake in a person's life than salvation and to fail to achieve Heaven means one goes to Hell. Jesus is very insistent about this. There will come a time when Jesus will lock that door and people will pound on it, demanding to be let in, and, in one of those more terrifying Jesus responses, He will say, "Depart from me, all you evil doers."

Initially it may seem harsh. Jesus is probably making a veiled reference to that moment in History when, with the exception of Noah's family of about 8, all of humanity was wiped out by the flood since it had become so wicked and depraved. It is interesting that with only a few people engaged in building the Ark—and it was a massive Ark—it literally took decades for it to be completed; this is really a testament to God's patience and mercy.

With the constant sound of construction all around the people and having daily access to Noah and his family, the people were more than aware of what was happening and why. And despite repeated warnings for decades and, therefore, countless chances to repent and convert, the people refused to do so. When those rains came the people ran to the Ark pounding on the big boat...but it was too late and the many perished and the few survived.

Hell is real. In 1917 in the midst of the horrors of World War One, the Blessed Mother appeared to a group of children at Fatima. She told the children, *"People must amend their lives, and ask pardon for their sins. . . . They must no longer offend Our Lord, Who is already so much offended. Pray much and make sacrifices for sinners, for many souls go to hell because there is no one to make sacrifices or pray for them."* She insisted that if people do not repent, pray the Rosary and return to the faith, a worse world war would erupt during the pontificate of Pius the XI. And sadly we know it did.

So that is the bad news. The good news is that you are here in this Church, which is referred to as the modern day Noah's Ark. And the sounds of construction that one hears are the sounds of your prayers for those who for the moment are turning a blind eye and deaf ear to God's constant invitations to embrace His love and mercy.

The doors of this Ark, like the doors of your hearts, are now wide open...If not, how could you have received the graces that have enabled all of you to love your faith, to want to nourish it so that, in its growth, like the food of the Eucharist, your commitment to Christ will help strengthen the weak?

And when they arrive at that Narrow Gate feeling too weak and beaten down by the challenges of life and the awful burden of sin and shame, you few will be able to carry them across that threshold into everlasting life and joy.





Regular Meetings

Adoration.

Worship the Lord Tuesdays at 7:00PM (Confession available), Thursdays/Fridays at 3:00PM, and first Fridays from 10:00AM-4:00PM in church.

Cancer Support Group.

Meets second Wednesday of month at 7:00PM via Zoom.

Columbiettes.

Meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00PM in Knights Hall.

Communion and Liberation (C&L).

Meets every Wednesday evening at 7:00PM via Zoom.

Children's Rosary.

Meets every third Thursday of the month during school season in the church at 4:30PM.

Divine Mercy Cenacle.

Meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 3:00PM in the Chapel.

Family Life Ministry.

Meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00PM in the Rectory conference room. Off for the summer. Rosary for Life after 8:00AM Mass every First Saturday.

Health Ministry.

Meets quarterly, meeting place and time to be determined.

Job Networking.

Meets the second Tuesday of the month via Zoom. Guest speakers featured.

Kennedy Rosary Project

Meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00PM at 38 Church Hill Road.

Knights of Columbus.

Meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:00PM in Knights Hall.

Lay Missionaries of Charity.

Meets on the first Tuesday of each month after 9:00AM Mass and 5:30PM in the Bride's Room. Holy Hour in the church every 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00PM.

Men's Faith Network.

Meets every Saturday at 7:30AM via Zoom.

Rosary Prayer Group.

Pray the Rosary in front of the Blessed Mother after 9:00AM Mass weekdays, 8AM Mass Saturdays.

Spiritual Journey.

Meets every Thursday at 10:15 in Holy Innocents bldg.

Squires.

Meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM in Knights Hall.

United Youth Ministry.

Meets most Sundays at 6:30PM on Parish grounds.

Women's Club.

Meets every second Tuesday to pray the Rosary following 9:00AM Mass in the Bride's Room, breakfast afterward. Book Group meets third Thursday at 10:00AM in Holy Innocents bldg, Sept-May. Bring Your Own Lunch gathering, Sept-May, first Thursday at 11:30AM in Holy Innocents bldg.

Women's Enrichment Book Study.

Meets Tuesdays at 9:45AM in Holy Innocents bldg.

Walking with Purpose.

Women's guided Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 7:00PM or Wednesdays at 10:00AM.

Broken Rosary Beads

Sheila and Cosmo Civale collect, repair, and redistribute broken Rosary beads. Please put broken Rosaries in a small plastic bag.

Rosaries can be dropped off at 139 Louis Hill Rd, Sandy Hook, CT 06482 (Leave them at the front door. If they are in a plastic bag with handles they can be hung on the doorknob inside the storm door) or at the Saint Rose Religious Education Office at 38 Church Hill Road.

Saint Rose Social Concerns Committee will redistribute these restored Rosaries.

Find the details! for all ministries
including contact info at strosechurch.com

Project Rachel

Are you or someone you know experiencing pain and sorrow from losing a child to abortion? You are not alone! For information and resources or to find out about our upcoming local Days of Prayer and Healing, contact Maureen at 203.416.1619 or projectrachel@diobpt.org. God's mercy, healing, and forgiveness are waiting for you!





Watch...Listen...live and archive.

Go to Strosechurch.com/live-stream. Watch daily and weekend Mass plus Catholic community content on audio-only stream from the Vatican and other sources. Special celebrations at St. Rose can be live-streamed for a fee. We are always looking for operators. Call the office for all the info.

Stay Connected with St. Rose Parish.

We share current updates, happenings, and important announcements on social media, our website, and email. Write to Content@strosechurch.com to get on our Parish email list and go to strosechurch.com to connect via Facebook, Instagram, X, and YouTube.

Use Online Giving.

It's easy to give to the many causes at St. Rose Parish. Our online giving page is easy to use - make one-time donation or set-up recurring payments. Go to strosechurch.com and click on Giving to start!

Get VIRTUS trained to be a volunteer.

In compliance with Diocesan Safe Environment Policy. If you wish to help in any way within the Parish please register at virtus.org. If you attended the class more than 5 years ago, you need to be recertified. Call the office with questions or help.

Have a Minute?

It only takes that long to watch a weekly spiritual and inspirational message from Fr. Peter. In our **Fr. Cip Clips** series Fr. Peter offers thoughts and reflections on what it means to live a faith-filled life as a Roman Catholic and navigate through the challenging world around us. See it on strosechurch.com and all our social media channels.

Northern Fairfield Professionals Meeting

5:30 - 8 pm, September 9, Knights of Columbus building
Topic: Elevator speech workshop
Guest speaker: Rob Phillips, Chief Learning Officer at M&T Bank

Please join us for an elevator speech workshop where Rob will provide a worksheet and discuss the 6 key steps in creating an elevator speech. The attendees will have the opportunity to practice their elevator speech and connect on any potential leads. Meet and network with peers, managers, and professionals.

To receive an NFP Evite email and other information on upcoming NFP meetings, please email johnbarryitech@gmail.com

Bereavement Counseling and Funeral Planning.

Please call the office to schedule a meeting with Sister Mary Ellen Genova.

Health Ministry.

- ♦ The Health Council supports health-related special events and services.
- ♦ Seminars on informative health topics are scheduled periodically. See the website for details.

Friendly Visitors.

Spend time once a month with elderly who are isolated at home.

Lift-A-Spirit Meal Ministry.

Make a home cooked meal for parishioners facing chronic illness or medical emergencies.

Pastoral Visits.

We bring Communion to parishioners who are homebound, hospitalized, or not able to attend Mass for any reason.

Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Volunteers meet on the second Tuesday, September to November and February to May, in Holy Innocents Building at 10:00AM. Requests for a prayer shawl for someone who is ill, grieving, or lonely are welcome any time.

Social Concerns Committee.

Help support parishioners and neighbors in need.

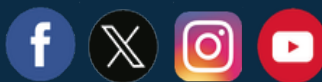
- ♦ Volunteers meet first Tuesday of every month (except July/August) at 11:30AM in Holy Innocents Building.
- ♦ Religious Articles are sold in the vestibule every third weekend of the month.
- ♦ Cares Box is always in the back of the Church for donations.
- ♦ **Parishioner to Parishioner:** Know someone who needs household furniture? Please email Robinlynann@aol.com or call the rectory. Families that are moving or downsizing have furnishings to offer!

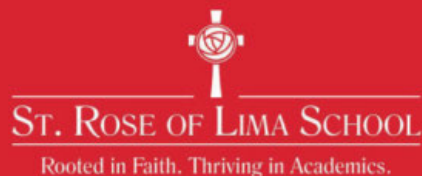
St. Joseph Project.

Supports parishioners who have housing issues due to job loss, illness, or unexpected emergency. Donations accepted on the fourth Sunday of the month in the house shaped collection box in the vestibule.

Contact Us! for a directory of all

Outreach Ministries: Go to strosechurch.com/parish-outreach for contact names, numbers, and email.





Backpack Blessings Appreciated Our thanks to Father Peter, Father CJ, and Deacon Michael Ronan for leading our backpack blessings at all of the Masses last weekend. It was wonderful to see the children of St. Rose Church walk up and receive a blessing for themselves and their backpacks. We also offered backpacks to any child in need of one. The majority of these backpacks were donated last year among the many school supplies. We are always grateful for the generosity of our parishioners. If you know of a child who still needs a backpack to start the school year and cannot afford one, or the supplies they need for school, please call Cate Gosselin in the Religious Education office.

Special Ed Aides needed. We are quickly filling up and closing classes for the coming school year. Our office is diligently working on student placement for all grades. Though we had a wonderful response to our request for Catechists and Assistants, we are still looking for adults to help students who benefit from a one-to-one aide. Adults must be VIRTUS trained and go through a Background check. Special Needs assistants, like all aides, work within the classroom with the catechist and other adults. A stipend is offered to our Special Needs assistants. If you have a background in education or special education, it is most helpful, but not required. Please contact Cate Gosselin to get more information on which days are available (203) 426-2333, Ext. 1.

Attention High School Students: Every classroom benefits from having "an extra set of hands" to help guide students, especially for art projects or for young students who are emerging readers, or to help hand out materials. If you are a high school student, 16 years or older, and Confirmed in the Catholic faith, we would love to have you join our classes as a teacher's aide. This is a wonderful opportunity for any high schooler considering a career in education or childcare. Great opportunity to earn service hours. Please contact Cate Gosselin to get more information (203) 426-2333, Ext. 1.

Mark your calendars:

Mandatory Meeting of All Catechists - Sunday, Sept 14 at 1:00 pm (in HI)
 New Catechist Meeting/Training - Tuesday, Sept 16 at 7:00 pm (in HI)
 Homeschool Parents Meeting (Student workbooks will be distributed) - Wednesday, Sept 24 at 7:00 pm (in HI)
 First week of Religious Ed classes - Sept 28 at 9:15 am; Sept 29 and 30 at 4:30 pm. (all buildings)

Please see our full calendar on the Religious Education webpage for more dates and details.

St. Rose of Lima School News

Where students bloom in Heart, Mind and Soul

The halls of St. Rose are filled with excitement and anticipation as we prepare to begin the 2025–2026 school year! Last week, our principal joined fellow leaders from the Diocese of Bridgeport for a day of meetings filled with inspiration, collaboration, and a renewed commitment to Catholic education.

On Tuesday, our teachers gathered for a special Mass, lifting prayers for a year filled with faith, learning, and growth. Throughout the week, faculty and staff have been hard at work preparing classrooms and making final plans to welcome students back.

We are especially grateful to our Ambassador Families, who will warmly welcome our new families on Monday, ensuring they feel right at home in the St. Rose community. Meanwhile, our students are eagerly getting ready for their return next week.

Please continue to keep our teachers, students, and families in your prayers as we embark on another blessed school year rooted in faith, excellence, and community.

Support Our Mission!

As we begin this new year, we invite you to partner with us in the mission of Catholic education. Scan the barcode in the bulletin to help us raise vital funds toward the cost of educating every child who walks through our doors. Your generosity directly impacts our students, their families, and the future of our faith.



Summer Office Hours:

Monday–Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Donate Baptismal Gowns

The Columbiettes collect Christening/Baptism gowns/ outfits for girls and boys, any size from newborn to toddler. These donations are sent to Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Bridgeport, CT. Perhaps you have an outfit that you will no longer be using or passing down. Please consider donating! Donations may be dropped off at the Rectory Office. Any questions, please call Janis at 203-470-5651. Thank you!!




ST. ROSE OF LIMA
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Annual School Supply Collection

for St. Rose Religious Education Classes and Bridgeport's Inner-City Schools.



Supplies will be collected Aug 1 - 31.

Donation bins will be located in the church - at all entrances, and at the Religious Education office entrance (back door).

THANK YOU

Procession in honor of St. Rose our Patroness

Saturday, August 23 after 4pm Mass



Donate a ROSE to support St. Joseph Project Ministry.
We will have roses available after all Masses for the weekend. We are grateful for your support and presence!

ST. ROSE, PRAY FOR US.





Newtown Knights of Columbus presents their


TRIVIA KNIGHT

KOFC




 Saturday
Sept. 27, 2025

 7:00-9:00pm
(doors open at 6:00pm)

 Holy Innocents
Building


PRIZE FOR 1ST PLACE TEAM
50/50 RAFFLE
RAFFLE PRIZES THROUGHOUT THE EVENING



SCAN TO SIGN UP!

Entry Fee: \$10 per person / Max \$50 per team of 6
Bring your own snacks and drinks

SCAN ME



SAVE THE DATE

7TH ANNUAL  **RUN 4 HUNGER & HEALTH**

9.13.2025 • NEWTOWN, CT

Religious Education is still looking for catechists. Openings include:

Monday:

Kindergarten - catechist & co-catechist/aide
Grade 2 - catechist & co-catechist/aide
Grade 3 - catechist & co-catechist/aide
Grade 6 - catechist & catechist aide

Tuesday:

Grade 1 - co-catechist/aide
Grade 5 - co-catechist
Journey of Faith (8-10)

*Journey of Faith applies to ages 8-11 that need to be caught up to the appropriate level of catechesis, and may or may not need sacraments.
Please contact the Religious Ed office at (203)426-2333 for more information.



FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT, LLC

**Blessing
of the
Little Angels Shrine**

On Saturday September 6 at 11:00 am

Bishop Frank Caggiano will bless our new shrine located at Resurrection Cemetery
208 South Main Street | Newtown, Connecticut

This sacred space will be available to bury the remains of a miscarriage, stillborn baby or infant
in consecrated ground. We will also memorialize those with no remains with a plaque on our memorial wall.
Join us to pray for the babies who have gone home to heaven.

For more information go to Ctcemeteries.org/LittleAngelsShrine or call 203.404.0820

*Please note that no burials will take place during the blessing on September 6. A separate service will be held
at the shrine on Saturday September 13 at 11:00 am. If you have remains for burial or want a plaque to honor your child,
you must register in advance via the website link or telephone number above.*

In the future, services will be held on one Saturday each month. Those dates will be available in advance on the website.





**National Day
of Remembrance
for Aborted Children**

**Saturday
Sept. 13
2025**

On Saturday, Sept. 13th,
Americans will honor the
memory of more than 66
million unborn victims of
abortion during the
National Day of
Remembrance for Aborted
Children.

Join us for the National
Day of Remembrance for
Aborted Children and help
ensure that our unborn
brothers and sisters will
not be forgotten

MEMORIAL MASS FOR VICTIMS OF ABORTION

Date & Time

**Saturday, September
13th, 11:00 AM**

Location

**Saint Rose Cemetery
20 Cherry Street
Newtown, Connecticut**



Serving the Spiritual Needs of Grieving Parents Who Have Suffered Perinatal Loss

This special retreat is for mothers and fathers who have lost a baby due to miscarriage,
stillbirth or infant loss, no matter how long ago.

Losing a child under any circumstance is horrific.
Focusing on the spirituality of the grieving process can help tremendously.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED Please join us. All are welcome.

**Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents
One-Day Spiritual Retreat**

To register, please contact:
Carolyn Killian at 203-404-0023
carolyn.killian@ctcemeteries

**At St. Rose of Lima Church
16 Church Hill Road, Newtown
Saturday, October 4, 2025
9:00am – 6:00pm**



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Part time tutors needed
Brookfield, CT Location
Mondays & Thursdays

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Rev. Peter Cipriani, Pastor
 Rev. Cajetan Oleaghara (Fr. CJ), Parochial Vicar
 Rev. Msgr. Robert Weiss, D.Min, LCHS, Pastor Emeritus
 Deacon Norman Roos
 Deacon Michael Ronan
 Sr. Mary Ellen Genova, CSFN, Outreach Ministry

St. Rose Rectory Staff

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 Larry Rice, Bookkeeper
 Elizabeth Ludanyi, Bulletin Editor
 David Cicchesi, Maintenance

Lay Members of the Corporation

William McCarthy ~ James Gerbo

Liturgical Ministries

Joseph Jacovino, Music Director
 Marge Griffin, Extraordinary Minister Coordinator
 Michael Talluto, Reader Coordinator
 Terry Tortora, Altar Angels

St. Rose School

Dr. Bardhyl Gjoka, School Principal
 Mary Jo Bokuniewicz, Dean of Students
 Sr. Thaddeus Rajca, CSFN, Religion Coordinator
 Crystal Mok, Admissions Director
 Lisa Jackson, Mission Advancement
 Stephanie DeBartolomeo, Board Chairperson
 Carrie Sirois & Michelle McRuiz, HSA Co-Presidents

St. Rose Religious Education

Cate Gosselin, Dir., Parish Faith Formation
 Laura DeFelice, Gr K - 3, First Communion
 Mary Craig, Gr 4 - 8, Confirmation
 Silvia Harper, Registration/Database Mgmt.
 Donna Locke, R.C.I.A. Coordinator
 Deacon Norman Roos, Adult Formation Coord.

Youth Ministry

Renzo Ortega, United High School Youth Minister

Finance Council

Don Studley, 203 426-3651

Security

Christopher Locke, Security Team Leader

Contact

Rectory Office	203 426-1014
Outreach Ministry Office	203 426-2572
St. Rose School Office	203 426-5102
St. Rose Religious Ed. Office	203 426-2333
All Ministries/ leaders	www.strosechurch.com

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Scott Lavelle - Broker



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Church Hill Village

Dementia Caregiver

SUPPORT
GROUP

4th Thursday
of Every Month
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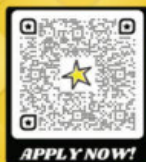
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