

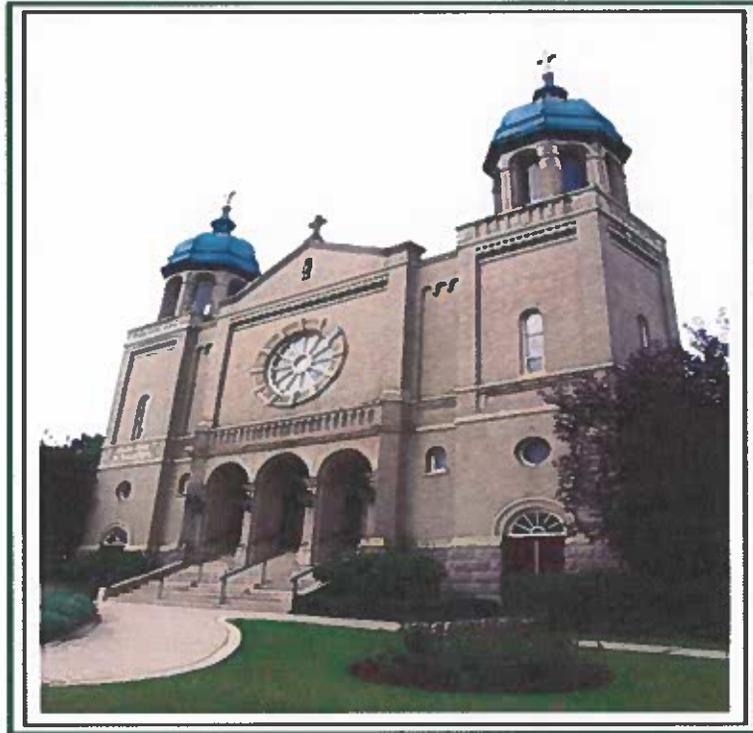
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8 ROBINSON AVENUE, DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810-5517

Rectory Telephone: (203)748-8177 Web Page: www.stjosephdanbury.org

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 15, 2026



REV. ERIC W. SILVA, PASTOR

DEACON WILLIAM C. TIMMEL, J.D.

MR. ROBERT FERTITTA, B.A., M.A., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

MASSES

SATURDAY ANTICIPATORY MASS – 4:00 PM

SUNDAY – 7:30, 9:30, 11:00 AM AND 5:00 PM

DAILY WEEKDAY – 12:05 PM

SATURDAY – 8:00 AM

(MASS TIMES IN GREEN ARE ALSO LIVE-STREAMED)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM, 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM

HOLY HOUR AND CONFESSIONS

MONDAY EVENING 7:00 PM–8:00 PM



Saint Joseph Church is wheelchair accessible at the church side entrance. Parking is located at the side of church.

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH CONTACTS

Rev. Eric W. Silva: frsilva@diobpt.org

Parish Office: Tel. (203) 748-8177
 Email: recstjoseph@yahoo.com
 Office Hours: Monday–Thurs 9:00AM-4:00PM
 Friday 9:00AM-12:00PM
 Office Manager: Carol Shepherd
 Parish Manager: Anne Leclercq

Liturgical Ministries / Music:

Altar Servers: Fr. Silva
 Extraordinary Ministers; Readers: Anne Leclercq
 Ushers: George Godfrey 203-748-8177
 Director of Music & Organist: Mr. Robert Fertitta
profrobfert52@gmail.com 203-722-8425

Saint Joseph Faith Formation 203-778-1920

Director: Maria Merino-Schweitzer
 Secretary: Cintia Weber
 O.C.I.A. Anne Leclercq 203-748-8177

Parish Organization Contacts

Parish Corporation Trustees:
 Gerald Palanzo, Jr., M.B.A.
 Barbara Whitlock, M.S.
 Parish Council: Mary Ellen Ryer 203-748-3256
 Finance Committee Chairperson:
 Lisa Schneider 203-746-5223
 Catholic Charities of Northern Fairfield County
 Board Member:
 Dr. Roger LaGratta rlagratta@comcast.net
 Council of Catholic Women:
 Antonia Stalzer 203-456-5170
 Knights of Columbus: Ryan Moore 203-744-9562
 Men's Faith Group: Mark Azzara 203-947-4012
 Lay Carmelites: Diane Chirido 203-470-0444
 Respect Life Group:
 Lani Gonzales 203-512-1629
 Scouts (Boy): Gerald Gibson 203-797-1788

Information about our Parish Groups can be
 found on the Parish website
www.stjosephdanbury.org
 Parish Life tab: *Ministries & Organizations.*



Saturday, Feb. 14:

8:00 AM Grace Perry—Son, John
 4:00 PM Catherine Valente—Family

Sunday, Feb 15:

7:30 AM Virginia Bromley —Rich & Isabel King
 9:30 AM Anna & Joseph Gallucci—Family
 11:00 AM John & Adelaide Pepe—John Pepe
 5:00 PM Intentions of Parishioners

Monday, Feb. 16:

12:05 PM John P. O'Neill—John Pepe

Tuesday, Feb 17:

12:05 PM Mr. & Mrs. Mario Tomaino
 —Friend of the Family

Wednesday, Feb. 18: ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 AM Liturgy of the Word Service with
 Ashes (No Mass)
 9:00 AM St. Joseph School Mass
 12:05 PM Winnie Murphy
 —Bernadette & Family
 4:15 PM Faith Formation Masss
 7:30 PM Liturgy of the Word Service with
 Ashes (No Mass)

Thursday Feb. 19:

12:05 PM Int. of Mary Ann Bird—Lawrence

Friday, Feb. 20:

12:05 PM Ann Buccitti—Maggie & Phil Curran

Saturday, Feb. 21:

8:00 AM Vocations to Married Life
 4:00 PM Dolores Barrett
 —Donna & Greg Jacobellis

Sunday, Feb 22

7:30 AM Dolores Barrett —Colleen Taylor
 9:30 AM Louise McDevitt—Bill McDevitt
 11:00 AM Domingo Gutierrez
 —Sonia Madera & Family
 5:00 PM Intentions of Parishioners



The Sanctuary Candle will burn
 this week in memory of
Catherine Valente
 Requested by Family

Pastor's Corner for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Praised be Jesus Christ!

This weekend and next weekend in the Diocese of Bridgeport, we are having what is entitled, "Called by Name" weekend, where parishioners will receive a card (located in all the pews) to be filled out and placed in the collection basket the following weekend. We all know that priests are not called in a vacuum and while they are most definitely called by God, they are often invited by people...those people may very well be yourselves! We have all heard in recent decades about the shortage of priests in the world and the dire need for more men to step up and respond to the call to the priesthood. Parishes, very much like our own, used to house five or six priests, are now homes for a single priest, or are being merged with other parishes. Let me be perfectly honest: I do not believe that there is a shortage of priests. While there are certainly less priests than there were 100 years ago, there are also far fewer Catholics. There were many principles that emerged out of the Second Vatican Council, but none were as important as the emboldening of the laity to embrace their role as evangelizers in the world; no longer can the Church rely on ordained priests and religious brothers and sisters to bear the burden of evangelizing the world because that mission is for all who proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. While I do not believe we have a shortage of priests, I do still believe in the diligence that is owed to the process of promoting priestly and religious vocations. Every priest, myself included, can trace their call back to individuals (and some a sole individual) who encouraged them to heed the call to "Follow" Jesus Christ in their path to the altar. That is why this weekend is so very important because without the input of all of the faithful in the matter of pursuing vocations to the priesthood, there are many men who would slip through the cracks. While I may see men out in the pews who may or may not be a good candidate to enter the seminary, you all have the capability of interacting with them before or after Mass on a deeper level. Remember this most important point for all who promote a vocation to the priesthood or religious life and to all who may be thinking about one: **entering the seminary or the convent does not mean that you are going to become a priest or religious!** We must begin to create a culture where entering the seminary or the convent is as normal a path (while, albeit far less common) as going to college. Rather than ask oneself, "What does this mean for me to enter seminary or the convent if I am not sure if this is what God wants me to do with my life?", ask yourself, "What do I really lose from a year of intentional discernment in the seminary or the convent?". That is why I am asking all of you, the faithful, to prayerfully consider submitting a name or multiple names of young men who may be a good candidate to explore entering the seminary. That does not mean that they are sure they want to be a priest or that they are actively considering it, but rather, that you see something in them that would make them a good candidate to consider entering the seminary. The world does not just need more priests, the world needs more good and holy priests. Those future priests may be among your sons, your nephews, your cousins, your classmates, or they may even be sitting next to you at church every single Sunday.

In Christ & Mary,
Father Silva



DIOCESE
OF
BRIDGEPORT

January 14, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in our Lord Jesus Christ.

As your bishop, one of my greatest responsibilities is to ensure that the faithful of our diocese will always have good and holy priests to shepherd them. And yet, priestly vocations are never the work of one person alone. They arise when the whole Church prays for, encourages, and calls forth those men whom God has chosen.

For this reason, our diocese is once again hosting **Called by Name on February 21-22**, during which I ask you to help me identify young men who demonstrate faith, generosity, and leadership.

You may recall this initiative from last year, through which the Vocation Office received over 300 submissions. We have seen tremendous fruit from this effort, with more men in discernment groups, attending events, and being accompanied by our Vocation Team.

In fact, I am pleased to report that we accepted **10 new seminarians this past fall, bringing our total number of seminarians for the diocese to 38. We also have at least 4 men in application for the next academic year.** I thank you for your prayers, support, and participation in last year's Called By Name campaign, which have all meaningfully contributed to this growth. But our work is not done!

To continue this momentum, we want to connect with even more incredible young men this year! I invite you to nominate young men in your community who live their faith with integrity, serve generously, and show potential for Christian leadership. Your nomination may be the spark that helps a young man open his heart more fully to God's call. Don't hesitate to nominate a young man again, we want to continue to support him.

You may use the cards provided at Mass or submit names online at bridgeportpriest.org. For those under 18, please include their parents' names as well.

This effort is dear to my heart. With your thoughtful participation, I am confident the Lord will raise up many new shepherds for his people. May this campaign bear lasting fruit for our diocese and for the salvation of souls.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank J. Caggiano".

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport

PARISH EVENTS

WEEKLY HOLY HOUR & CONFESSION

Monday, February 16
from 7:00-8:00 PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, February 20
from 5:00-6:00 PM
(And all Fridays in Lent)

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**The Parish Offices will be closed on  
Monday, February 16  
For the Presidents' Day holiday**  
~~~~~

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS / SERVICE SCHEDULE Wednesday, February 18

- 7:00 AM Liturgy of the Word Service with
Ashes (No Mass)
9:00 AM St. Joseph School Mass—
(Parishioners welcome to attend)
12:05 PM Daily Mass
4:15 PM Faith Formation Mass—
(Parishioners welcome to attend)
7:30 PM Liturgy of the Word Service with
Ashes (No Mass)

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Please Pray for the Repose
of the Souls of:

Joseph Mannino
James Gravius
Donald Donnatucci
Anne Mastrianni

DIocese EVENTS

Diocesan Men's Retreat, Radical Discipleship Saturday, March 14, 2026 | 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM St. Catherine of Siena Church, Trumbull

All men of the diocese are invited to a powerful day of renewal focused on spiritual friendship and radical discipleship. The retreat includes Mass with Bishop Caggiano, Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, small group discussions, and inspiring talks by Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR. Breakfast and lunch are included. **Register:** <https://formationreimagined.org/event/radical-discipleship-diocesan-mens-retreat/>

Lenten Concert of Sacred Music Sunday, March 22, 2026 | 4:00 PM

Cathedral of Saint Augustine, Bridgeport
As the Church enters Passiontide, all are welcome to a beautiful afternoon of prayerful music and reflection: Choral Meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross, featuring diocesan and cathedral choirs with guest instrumentalists. Free and open to all. For more information: (203) 368-6777 x22 or william.atwood@diobpt.org <https://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Lenten-Concert-2026-Flier.pdf>

Youth Day — Follow Me to the Cross

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM
St. Matthew Church, Norwalk

All teens are invited to a diocesan-wide Youth Day featuring dynamic speakers, faith-filled community, Confessions, and Eucharistic encounter. Celebration of Mass with Bishop Caggiano. Lunch included, and Confessions are available.

Register: <https://formationreimagined.org/event/follow-me-to-the-cross/>

CNEWA 100th Anniversary Lenten Reflection- Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Saint Aloysius Parish, New Canaan
Presentations at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM

Join Msgr. Peter Vaccari, President of CNEWA, for an inspiring Lenten reflection marking 100 years of healing and hope through the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, founded by Pope Pius XI. He will explore the Church's mission of service and Christ's enduring question: "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29)

More info: <https://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/cnewa-flyer-Feb2026.pdf>

Parish Support



Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure Worship Offerings

February 3-9 \$ 7,736.00

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This weekend's **Second Collection** is for:  
**UTILITY FUND**

~~~~~

Next weekend's Second Collection will be for:
LOAVES and FISHES (2/22)

Donations are accepted throughout Lent.

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**2026 Bishop's Appeal**  
**St. Joseph Parish Goal: \$98,000**

## Ministry Vignette: Seminarian Spotlight



### Supporting Vocations: A Call Answered

From childhood Masses to mission trips in remote villages, God has been faithfully guiding Herley Mendez Torres' call to the priesthood. Through the love and encouragement of his family, parish pastors, seminary faculty, and especially the support of Bishop Caggiano, Herley has grown in faith, fraternity, and joyful service to God's people.

The seminary has transformed his life, teaching him to trust more deeply in God, strengthening his prayer, and preparing his heart to serve the Church. This vital formation is made possible through the generosity of the faithful.

Your support of the Bishop's Appeal helps form future priests, ensuring they are prepared to walk with God's people and lead them to Christ.

Thank you for supporting vocations in our diocese. Please continue to pray for Herley and for all our seminarians as they discern and respond to God's call.

Support our seminarians today!  
Visit: [2026BishopsAppeal.org](http://2026BishopsAppeal.org)

**DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**2026 LENTEN PILGRIMAGE**  
**February 18<sup>th</sup> - April 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**68 Masses in 30 Churches for 38 Days**

### Lenten Stational Churches Pilgrimage

The Diocese's Lenten Pilgrimage will take place with **daily Masses in 30 churches** Feb. 18, 2026 (Ash Wednesday) through April 2 (Holy Thursday morning).

Participation Pamphlets, with Bishop Caggiano's Message, Prayer, and the schedule of Masses, are available at the church entrances.

For more info: <https://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Lenten-Pilgrimage-Schedule-and-Locations-for-Masses.pdf>

## FAITH FORMATION

We are midway through our Faith Formation year. Please say a special prayer for all of the children who are preparing to receive sacraments. **During the month of February**, our classes will continue to meet on Tuesday, February 24, and on Wednesdays, February 18, and 25. (Danbury Public Schools are closed on Tuesday, February 17. Although we do not have class on 2/17, we ask that you please join us for Ash Wednesday Mass on February 18 at 4:05pm.)

Our Confirmation candidates have begun rehearsing for the presentation of the *Living Stations of the Cross*, scheduled for Friday, March 27, at 7pm in the church.

**Faith Formation Office Hours** — Monday to Wednesday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. The office is closed on Fridays.

### Saint Joseph Faith Formation Office:

203-778-1920

Director: Maria Merino-Schweitzer

Secretary: Cintia Weber

## Give Us This Day

If you currently subscribe to the **Give Us This Day** publication, the **March** books are available after Masses.

Please see an Usher at the side entrance after Mass to receive your books.

Please keep our parishioners in prayer, especially those on our sick listing, the homebound, their families and caregivers.

### Mass Intentions

Mass intentions, for Masses in 2026, are available. Please contact the Parish Office to schedule. If you pay for Mass Intentions online, please call the office to schedule the Mass, before scheduling payment through Online Giving. This will allow us to confirm the dates of your Mass requests and ensure that your request is properly recorded. 203-748-8177



## SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL

Website: [www.sjsdanbury.org](http://www.sjsdanbury.org)  
Office 203-748-6615

**Dr. Louis Howe, Jr., Principal**  
[lhowe@sjsdanbury.org](mailto:lhowe@sjsdanbury.org)

**School Advisory Board:** Mrs. Jeanne Spain

**Parent Teacher Organization:**

Mrs. Katie Duncan [ptopresident@sjsdanbury.org](mailto:ptopresident@sjsdanbury.org)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**JUNE 10, 2026** | **RICHTER PARK GOLF COURSE**

FOR QUESTIONS OR TO HELP CONTACT DENIS:  
[SJSGOLFOUTING@SJSDBANBURY.ORG](mailto:SJSGOLFOUTING@SJSDBANBURY.ORG)

## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

*God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons.*

*Send your Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously and courageously to your call.*

*May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults.*

*Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen*

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