

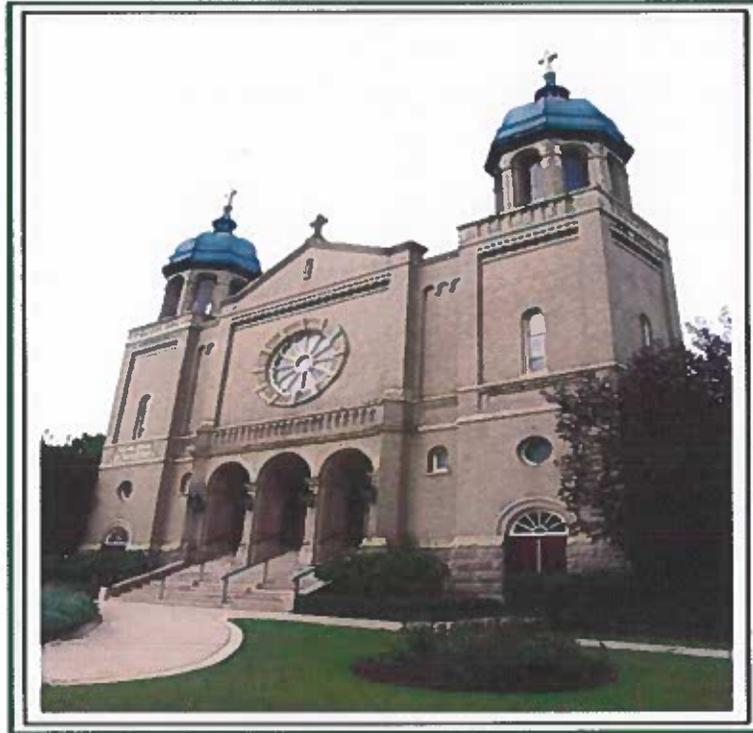
SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN DANBURY

8 ROBINSON AVENUE, DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810-5517

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

First Sunday of Lent, February 22, 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

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

Monday, Feb. 23:

12:05 PM Int. of Amy Germin—Jenn & Dara

Tuesday, Feb 24:

12:05 PM Int. of Denise Cavallo—Lawrence

Wednesday, Feb. 25:

12:05 PM Alphonse Battone—John Pepe

Thursday Feb. 26

12:05 PM Ronaldo Flores

Friday, Feb. 27:

12:05 PM Maria Bragaglia—Sister

Saturday, Feb. 28:

8:00 AM Elizabeth Reynold—M/M F. Sullivan
 4:00 PM Francesca Mariani
 —Notaro & Butera Families

Sunday, Mar. 1:

7:30 AM Medlar & Casale Families
 —Sue & Vinny Casale
 9:30 AM Joseph Duffy, Jr.
 —St. Joseph School Staff
 11:00 AM Bethany Mass
 5:00 PM Intentions of Parishioners

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



The Sanctuary Candle will burn
 this week in memory of
Mary & John McNeil
 Requested by the McNeil Family

Pastor's Corner for the First Sunday in Lent

Praised be Jesus Christ!

A very blessed start of the Lenten Season to you all! The *Ceremonial of Bishops* reads, "The annual observance of Lent is the special season for the ascent to the holy mountain of Easter. Through its twofold theme of repentance and baptism, the season of Lent disposes both the catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the paschal mystery. Catechumens are led to the sacraments of initiation by means of the rite of election, the scrutinies, and catechesis. The faithful, listening more intently to the word of God and devoting themselves to prayer, are prepared through a spirit of repentance to renew their baptismal promises." In short, the Lenten Season should look differently than the rest of our liturgical calendar year. It should be a time of intentional prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in our personal lives, that better prepares us in this penitential season to more joyfully celebrate the Easter Season. You may notice that the church itself appears differently and even our liturgical celebration should be noticeably different as well. "During Lent the altar should not be decorated with flowers, and musical instruments may be played only to give necessary support to the singing." We use these outward expressions of prayer to help with an interior change of heart. As we have done in the past here at our parish, during the Lenten Season, we have remembered the suggestions of the Second Vatican Council when it wrote, "the use of the Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin rites... since the use of the mother tongue, whether in the Mass, the administration of the sacraments, or other parts of the liturgy, frequently may be of great advantage to the people". We will be imploring varied use of the "mother tongue", which is Latin, in our Masses this season and even a little Greek for our "Lord Have Mercy" (*Kyrie Eléison*). The "Lord Have Mercy" can be found in the *St. Michael Hymnal* as the *Kyrie* (#100), the "Holy, Holy, Holy" or the *Sanctus* (#101), and the "Lamb of God" or the *Agnus Dei* (#104). Our liturgy as our personal lives should look differently during the Lenten season, so by changing them and using these varied methods of chant in our form of worship, we too step out of the norms of our lives into the fullness of the season. I pray that this Lenten season, the Lord works tirelessly in your own lives so that when the Easter season comes, He works an even more glorious resurrection. As always, be assured of my prayers for you all and have a blessed Lenten Season!

In Christ & Mary,
Father Silva

CALLED BY NAME

HONORING FAITHFUL YOUNG MEN

Weekend of February 22

Bishop Caggiano would like to honor young men in our diocese who love Christ and the Church, and invite them to consider a vocation to the priesthood. **Will you submit the names of faithful teens and young men from your parish and school?** These men will receive a letter from Bishop Caggiano, inviting them to learn more about discerning a vocation to the priesthood. Our Vocations Team will accompany these men on their journey of discernment.

Cards are available in church this weekend, on which you can submit names. Please place in offertory basket, mail to the Diocese Vocations Office, or you may also submit names through the Diocese of Bridgeport website: www.bridgeportpriest.org/called

PARISH EVENTS

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL COFFEE HOUR
Sunday, February 22
After the 9:30 Mass in the Church Hall
All are welcome

WEEKLY HOLY HOUR & CONFESSION
Monday, February 23
from 7:00-8:00 PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Friday, February 27
from 5:00-6:00 PM
(And all Fridays in Lent)

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**PRE-BAPTISM CLASS**  
Sunday, March 1  
at 1:30 PM

Pre-baptism class is required for all parents who would like to have their child baptized at Saint Joseph Church. Class is required before a baptism is scheduled. Class meets in the Religious Ed Building. Please contact the Parish Office to register. 203-748-8177

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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 10-16 \$ 7,420.00
Heating Fuel / Utility \$ 2,905.00

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This weekend's **Second Collection** is for:  
**LOAVES and FISHES (2/22)**

**Loaves & Fishes Donations are accepted  
throughout Lent.**

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Next weekend's Second Collection will be for:
MONTHLY COLLECTION

DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT
2026 LENTEN PILGRIMAGE
February 18th - April 1st
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. All are encouraged to participate.

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

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

Our ABA in-pew collection will take place next weekend, Feb.28-Mar. 1. Pledge cards will be available in the church pews.



Lent: A Journey of Hope

As we enter the holy season of **Lent**, the Church invites us to deepen our lives of **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving**. These sacred practices draw us closer to Christ and strengthen our communion with one another.

Lent is a journey of the heart, a time to reflect on God's mercy, renew our commitment to the Gospel, and grow in hope. This hope is not meant to be kept to ourselves; it reaches out, lifts up, and transforms lives.

United as **One in Christ**, we are called to share this hope with our brothers and sisters throughout our diocese. As you prayerfully make your Lenten sacrifices, please consider offering a gift to the **Bishop's Appeal**. Your generosity becomes a living sign of hope and a witness to our shared mission as the Church.

Be assured of our prayers as you begin your Lenten journey. May this season draw us ever closer to Christ and to one another.

Make your gift to the Bishop's Appeal today!
Visit: 2026BishopsAppeal.org

FAITH FORMATION

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), after Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil. However, Jesus resists these temptations by drawing on his religious upbringing and tradition as taught to him by Mary and Joseph. In today's Gospel, Matthew 4:1-11, we learn that Jesus rebuked the devil's temptations by quoting Scripture. When we say the Lord's Prayer, we ask God to help us against temptation with the words "and lead us not into temptation." Just as Jesus trusted God's word in Scripture and was able to resist the temptations of the devil, we too can use Scripture to help us resist temptation. When we read the Bible, we learn about God and what God wants of us. (Sunday Connection, LP)

Our last classes in February will meet on Tuesday, February 24, and on Wednesday, February 25. **For the month of March**, our classes will meet on Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, and on Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, and 25.

Our Confirmation candidates continue to rehearse 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.

St. Joseph Faith Formation Office: 203-778-1920

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
Office 203-748-6615

Dr. Louis Howe, Jr., Principal
lhowe@sjsdanbury.org

School Advisory Board: Mrs. Jeanne Spain

Parent Teacher Organization:

Mrs. Katie Duncan ptopresident@sjsdanbury.org

ST JOSEPH SCHOOL ANNUAL

GOLF TOURNAMENT 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

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

FOR QUESTIONS OR TO HELP CONTACT DENIS:
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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