

# ***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](http://www.stjosephdanbury.org)

**Fourth Sunday of Lent    March 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](mailto: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  
[profrobert52@gmail.com](mailto:profrobert52@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](mailto: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): John Zilliox 203-770-3454

Information about our Parish Groups can be  
 found on the Parish website  
[www.stjosephdanbury.org](http://www.stjosephdanbury.org)  
 Parish Life tab: *Ministries & Organizations.*



### **Saturday, Mar. 14:**

8:00 AM Catherine Valente—Family  
 4:00 PM John Masi—Michele & Family

### **Sunday, Mar. 15:**

7:30 AM Pasquale Perry—Son, John  
 9:30 AM Dolores Barrett—Ray & Maria  
 11:00 AM Juan Ramirez—Family  
 5:00 PM Intentions of Parishioners

### **Monday, Mar. 16:**

12:05 PM Mary C. Smith—M/M Frank Sullivan

### **Tuesday, Mar. 17:**

12:05 PM Int. of Mary Lou Scebelo  
 —Szurawski Family

### **Wednesday, Mar. 18:**

12:05 PM Natividad Gonzalez—Zobia DeLeon

### **Thursday Mar. 19: *St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary***

9:00 AM Intentions of Parishioners  
 12:05 PM Giuseppe & Nina Ferraro—Cousin  
 5:00 PM Intentions of Parishioners

### **Friday, Mar. 20:**

12:05 PM Fr. Naji Kiwan—Cheri & John Jowdy

### **Saturday, Mar. 21:**

8:00 AM Intentions of our Parishioners  
 4:00 PM Kenneth Ruppell—Daughter, Brenda

### **Sunday, Mar. 22:**

7:30 AM Caroline & Eugene Montalto  
 —Donna Montalto  
 9:30 AM Mario & Patricia Riccardi  
 —Ivo & Alberta Riccardi  
 11:00 AM Thomas A. Smith—M/M Frank Sullivan  
 5:00 PM Intentions of Parishioners



The Sanctuary Candle will burn  
 this week in memory of

**Francesca Mariani**

Requested by:  
 Rocco & Angela Cefaloni

## Pastor's Corner for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

Praised be Jesus Christ!

This coming Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate our patronal feast day of Saint Joseph! There are many practices and devotions to Saint Joseph that have been passed down through the generations, such as, the Litany of Saint Joseph", the Novena to Saint Joseph (or the Holy Cloak of Saint Joseph), the Cord of Saint Joseph, the Rosary of Saint Joseph, the devotion to the sleeping Joseph, the consecration to Saint Joseph, and so many more. One particular devotion to Saint Joseph is incredibly powerful and has been prayed in a variety of ways throughout the centuries: the Seven Sorrows and Seven Joys of Saint Joseph. This devotion meditates on seven joyful moments in the life of Saint Joseph as well as seven sorrowful moments in his life. It is rooted in the biblical text and it allows all those who are willing to set aside intentional time for meditation on these moments to delve into the relatively clandestine life of our patron saint. The devotion has sometimes been prayed on the seven Sundays leading up to the feast day of Saint Joseph but it need not be prayed in that way because it is also a beautiful and powerful meditation that can (and should!) be prayed throughout the entirety of the year. The devotion is a prayerful opportunity to "help us find out what God is telling us through the simple life of Mary's husband" (St. Josemaría Escrivá; *Christ is passing By*, no. 39). Read the scriptural passages, reflect, and pray on the individual sorrows and joys; it is customary to say one "Our Father", one "Hail Mary", and one "Glory be" after reflecting on each individual sorrow or joy. I would encourage families to pray this together, possibly before dinner or bedtime, in order to grow in our love for Saint Joseph, as well as to grow in our love of his virginal son, Jesus. We could never love Saint Joseph as much as Jesus but we certainly can try! God bless you all, a very blessed feast day of Saint Joseph, and a most fruitful rest of your Lenten season. Saint Joseph, pray for us!

In Christ & Mary,  
Father Silva

### Seven Sorrows & Seven Joys of Saint Joseph

**1<sup>st</sup> Sorrow:** "The Doubt of Saint Joseph"  
(Matthew 1:19)

**1<sup>st</sup> Joy:** "The Message of the Angel"  
(Matthew 1:20)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sorrow:** "The Poverty of Jesus' Birth"  
(Luke 2:7)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Joy:** "The Birth of the Savior"  
(Luke 2:10-11)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sorrow:** "The Circumcision"  
(Luke 2:21)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Joy:** "The Holy Name of Jesus"  
(Matthew 1:25)

**4<sup>th</sup> Sorrow:** "The Prophecy of Simeon"  
(Luke 2:34)

**4<sup>th</sup> Joy:** "The Effects of the Redemption"  
(Luke 2:38)

**5<sup>th</sup> Sorrow:** "The Flight into Egypt"  
(Matthew 2:14)

**5<sup>th</sup> Joy:** "The Overthrow of the Idols in Egypt"  
(Isaiah 19:1)

**6<sup>th</sup> Sorrow:** "The Perilous Return From Egypt"  
(Matthew 2:22)

**6<sup>th</sup> Joy:** "Life with Jesus and Mary at Nazareth"  
(Luke 2:39)

**7<sup>th</sup> Sorrow:** "The Loss of the Child Jesus"  
(Luke 2:25)

**7<sup>th</sup> Joy:** "The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple" (Luke 2:46)

## PARISH EVENTS

### CCW IRISH SODA BREAD SALE & RAFFLE BASKETS

Weekend of March 14-15  
In the Main St. Vestibule After Masses

### COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (CCW) MEETING

Monday, March 16  
1:00 PM in the Rel. Ed. Building

### WEEKLY HOLY HOUR & CONFESSION

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

### ST. JOSEPH FEAST DAY MASS SCHEDULE

9:00 AM—St. Joseph School & Parishioners  
12:05 PM & 5:00 PM

### \*\*\*\*ST. JOSEPH FEAST DAY RECEPTION\*\*\*\*

Thursday, March 19  
After 5:00 Mass in the Church Hall  
Italian pastries and fellowship for all!

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

*St. Joseph's Council of Catholic Women (CCW) Presents:*

## St. Patrick's Day Irish Soda Bread Sale + 7 Big Beautiful Raffle Baskets

Weekend of March 14 & 15  
In Main Street Vestibule After All Masses

Irish Soda Bread — Back by Popular Demand!  
\$7.00 each for both Plain and Seeded

#### 7 Big Beautiful Raffle Baskets:

- For the Ladies—Spa Day Basket
- For the Men—Tools & Spirits Basket
- For the Soul—Spiritual Reflection & Study Basket
- For the Family—#1 Mangia! Mangia! Italian Basket
- #2 "Dat, pizza!"—"Come on, pizza!" Italian Basket
- #3 Buon Appetito! Italian Basket
- For the Irish in Us All—St. Patrick's Day Basket

Raffle Tickets are \$5 each and 3 for \$10

*We look forward to seeing you!*

## 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 is underway with **daily Masses in 30 churches** (Ash Wed.) 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 welcome and encouraged to participate in this special devotional opportunity.

### Missionary Sponsorship Opportunity

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
This summer I am serving as a Service Corps high school missionary with the Apostolate for Family Consecration in Ohio. There, over 1,000 families encounter Christ through the Fatima message during a week-long vacation/retreat. I am a parishioner of St. Joseph. My family loves the AFC's retreats, and I have been attending ever since I was a baby. I humbly ask you to partner with me in supporting the AFC's mission. Your prayers and your sacrifices are irreplaceable. Financial support goes to the AFC, helping to house the summer missionaries and keep costs down for families to attend the AFC's retreats.

If you are willing to donate, scan the QR code, scroll down to "Monica Suess" on the page it directs you to, click the "Support" button beneath my name, and fill out the information. To find out more about the AFC, visit [afc.org](http://afc.org).

I truly appreciate your partnership with me to support the AFC. I am praying and sacrificing for you as I serve this summer.

In Christ,  
Monica Suess



# Parish Support

## Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure Worship Offerings

Weekly Offertory 3/3/26—3/9/26      \$ 8,786.00

This weekend's **Second Collection** is for *Catholic Relief Services & Aid to Church in Central & Eastern Europe*

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

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES - PART 2

All interested parishioners (and guests) are invited to participate in the upcoming session of our adult bible study program.

Acts, written by St. Luke, is the companion piece to his Gospel. The first half of Acts presents the Ascension of Jesus, the descent of the Holy Spirit, and the subsequent actions of St. Peter and the other Apostles as they converted people to Christianity in Jerusalem.


The second half of Acts concentrates on the conversion of St. Paul, his missionary trips to convert Gentiles, and his arrest and trip to Rome where he was tried, condemned and put to death. Throughout, it is inspiring to see the Holy Spirit in action among some familiar saints who are shown to be very human.

As we have in the past, we are employing a nationally known program "**Little Rock Scripture Study**", published by The Liturgical Press. The study was divided into two sections. The first section (the first 15 chapters of Acts) was presented last Fall. The second section (Acts chapters 16 through 28) will be presented in April and May of this year.

**The group meets each week to discuss the readings. Each session will take place on Tuesday, from 7:00 to approximately 8:30 p.m., in the Carmen Buck Religious Education Building. The meeting dates will be April 14, 21 and 28, and May 5.** Each meeting will also be presented on Zoom. Zoom meetings will be recorded and can be viewed at a later time for those who are not able to attend the live classes.

Those who are just now joining the group for Part 2 may wish to purchase the books which give some commentary on the readings. For more information, to register for the program, or for information on obtaining books, please contact Deacon Bill Timmel at [dadatim@yahoo.com](mailto:dadatim@yahoo.com), or (M-F 9-5) at 203-270-8300.



Saint Joseph Parish	
<i>2026 Bishop's Appeal as of 3/6/26</i>	
Bishop's Appeal Goal:	\$98,000
Total Pledged:	\$30,665 (31%)
Donors to Date:	61 Donors
	
<p>To make a gift, or for more information, please visit us at <a href="http://2026BishopsAppeal.org">2026BishopsAppeal.org</a>, call (203) 416-1470 or scan with your phone.</p>	

**Pledge cards are available at the bulletin stand by the side entrance.**

Please submit completed pledge cards into the box at the bulletin stand, or to the Parish Office.  
If you include payment with your pledge card, please make checks payable to *Bishop's Appeal*.

**Funds pledged or gifts over our goal, by June 30, will be returned to St. Joseph Parish.**

**Thank you to all parishioners who have already contributed to the Annual Bishop's Appeal .**

## FAITH FORMATION

In Baptism, Jesus reveals himself to us. We are called to be like the man in this Sunday's Gospel, accepting the gift from Jesus so that we may truly see Jesus as our Lord and worship him. Jesus heals the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. It was truly a great gift when Jesus healed the man's blindness, but it was an even greater gift when Jesus revealed himself as the Son of Man, the Messiah. And the man received that second gift as willingly as he accepted the first one. He became a believer and worshiped Jesus.

When infants are baptized, parents, with the help of the godparents, assume responsibility for raising the child as a follower of Jesus. The process of maturation in the faith is much like the example found in the story of the man born blind. The man is cured of his blindness. Each time he meets someone after the healing, the man comes to a deeper awareness of who Jesus is. In a similar way, we who are baptized continue to mature in faith as our relationship with and knowledge about Jesus grows. (Sunday Connection, LP)

**Our last classes in March** continue to meet on Tuesdays, March 17, 24, and 31, and on Wednesdays, March 18 and 25. Our Confirmation candidates will present a moving enactment of the **Living Stations of the Cross, on Friday, March 27, at 7pm in the church.**

Please pray for all Faith Formation candidates who will be receiving sacraments this spring.

### Faith Formation Office Hours:

Monday to Wednesday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Thursdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon  
The office is closed on Fridays.

**New Day Bereavement Program  
Spring Session registration now open  
Tuesday afternoons 4:30 – 6:00pm  
April 7 – June 2**

**St. Mary Church, 26 Dodgingtown Rd., Bethel**  
[www.Thegrief.org](http://www.Thegrief.org)  
Carolyn Killian - 203-404-0023



## 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)

ST JOSEPH  
SCHOOL ANNUAL

GOLF  
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2026

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### Requests for Sacraments and Home Visits:

For a Communion, confession, and/or anointing homebound visit, please call the Parish Office:  
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