

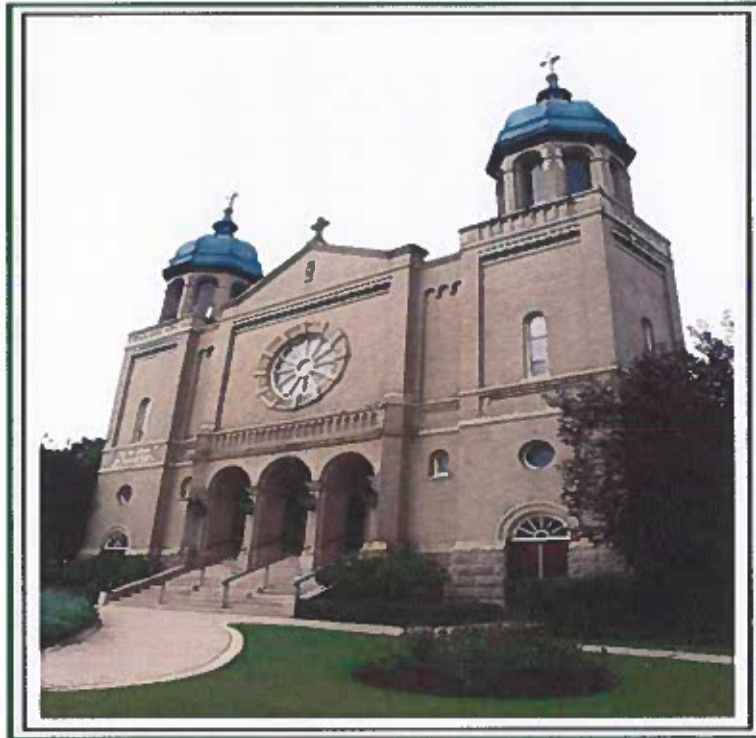
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Rectory Telephone: (203)748-8177 Web Page: [www.stjosephdanbury.org](http://www.stjosephdanbury.org)

**Fifth Sunday of Lent     March 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](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



### **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

### **Monday, Mar. 23:**

12:05 PM Alfonso & Rosa Bottone—John Pepe

### **Tuesday, Mar. 24:**

12:05 PM Int. of Diane Herzman -Linda Schneider

### **Wednesday, Mar. 25:**

12:05 PM Rita Hoyt—JoAnn DeCicco

### **Thursday Mar. 26:**

12:05 PM William Mahoney—Family

### **Friday, Mar. 27:**

12:05 PM Virginia Roberts—Family

### **Saturday, Mar. 28:**

8:00 AM Cecilia Guernsey—John Perry  
 4:00 PM John Crowell, Jr.—Mom & Dad & Family

### **Sunday, Mar. 29: PALM SUNDAY**

7:30 AM Francesca Mariani—Dick & Joyce  
 9:30 AM Patrice Nadeau—St. Joseph School PTO  
 11:00 AM George Shehl, Jr.—Shehl Family  
 5:00 PM Intentions of Parishioners



The Sanctuary Candle will burn  
 this week in memory of

**Mario & Patricia Riccardi**

Requested by:  
 Ivo & Alberta Riccardi



Please Pray for the Repose  
 of the Soul of:

**Henry Stalzer**



We welcome our newly baptized:

**Amy Sofia Valdiviezo**

Please keep her and her family in  
 your prayers.

## **Pastor's Corner for the Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Praised be Jesus Christ!

During this sacred Lenten season there are many traditions that enable us to enter more deeply into the mysteries of walking this pilgrimage towards Calvary. If you have been to the 11am Mass these past two Sundays, you would have seen those who will be receiving the Sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil taking part in the scrutinies. During this time, another sacred tradition is both the "Handing on of the Creed" as well as the "Handing on of the Lord's Prayer". Typically these small rites in the Church are done during the weekday and they are moments where those who will receive Baptism, their first Eucharist, and Confirmation are "handed" the Creed and the "Our Father" similar to how people are given gifts. The tradition is as if the Church is giving the Elect these sacred prayers as a gift, to be kept in a sacred and intentional fashion. During the "Handing on of the Creed" the rite itself reads, "My dear friends, listen carefully to the words of that faith by which you will be justified. The words are few, but the mysteries they contain are great. Receive them with a sincere heart and treasure them." The Creed itself comes from the first words of that declaration that we as a community make each time we celebrate Sunday Mass: "I believe" (from the Latin, *Credo*). Fun fact: most of our prayers are entitled what the first words of the prayer are (i.e., "Hail Mary", "Our Father", etc...). Why is it so important that we hand these prayers over to those who are taking on the responsibilities of our faith? These prayers, which we hold so dear, are something that we must seek to form our lives after. We do not keep them for ourselves but rather, we seek to both bring others to come to know and believe them and we simultaneously seek to adhere the whole of our lives towards. Please join me in praying earnestly and wholeheartedly for those who will take on not just the responsibilities of the faith this Easter season but those who will be entering into this family. God bless you all and know of my prayers for a faithful and fruitful remainder of this Lenten season.

In Christ & Mary,  
Father Silva

## PARISH EVENTS

### COFFEE HOUR & Book Sale

Sunday, March 22

After the 9:30 AM Mass, in the school gym.



All parishioners are invited. At this month's coffee hour, the 2nd Grade is hosting a used book sale:

“\$5 to fill a bag.”

### WEEKLY HOLY HOUR & CONFESSION

Monday, March 23 from 7:00-8:00 PM

### COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN THANK YOU

Thank you for your support for our Irish Soda Bread and Basket Raffle sale this past weekend.

The winners were:

*Spa* —Joe Ferrara

*Mangia-Mangia* —L. Schneider

*Buon Appetito*—B. Linstrum

*Spiritual Reflection*—C. Gilotti

*Pizza Time*—Marcy Rudolf

*Tool Basket*--Andrew Agnew

## 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.

### RECONCILIATION MONDAY

The Diocese will once again hold "Reconciliation Monday" during Holy Week. **Monday, March 30, 2026 from 3:00 to 9:00 PM** at these local parishes:  
**St. Peter:** 104 Main Street, Danbury  
**St. Joseph:** 163 Whisconier Road, **Brookfield**

Please join us on **Friday, March 27, at 7pm in the church** as our **Confirmation candidates** present a moving enactment of ***The Living Stations of the Cross.***

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, tortured for our iniquities. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, and by His wounds we are healed. We had all strayed like sheep; each of us had gone our own way; But the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all.” Isaiah 53:3-6



### SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

For anyone interested in volunteering at St. Joseph Parish and/or St. Joseph School, we are hosting a **Safe Environment training session on Monday, March 30, 2026** from 10:00am to 1:00pm in the Carmen Buck Religious Education building. Please contact our Safe Environment Coordinator, Maria Merino-Schweitzer, at [maria.schweitzer@stjosephdanbury.org](mailto:maria.schweitzer@stjosephdanbury.org) to register.

# Parish Support

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

Weekly Offertory 3/10/26—3/16/26 \$ 8,581.00  
Catholic Relief Services \$ 2,264.00

This weekend's **Second Collection** is for **St. Joseph School Capital Projects Fund**  
**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.



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

As of 3/13/26, St. Joseph, Danbury raised gifts worth \$38,918 bringing the parish to 39% of our goal.

We are hopeful that 100% of our registered households will respond to the 2026 Bishop's Appeal.

**Each gift matters.**

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

Pledge cards are available at the bulletin stand.

**MINISTRY VIGNETTE:**  
**Accompanying Neighbors in Need**

Aaron lost his job and his home, leaving him hurt, overwhelmed and unsure where to turn. But through the support of Catholic Charities' New Covenant Center in Stamford, he found compassionate accompaniment on his journey forward.

Staff walked with Aaron as he searched for housing, regained focus, and re-entered the job market. Today, he has a new apartment and renewed hope, thanks to their guidance and the programs that serve those who are unhoused, seeking employment, and ready to rebuild their lives.

Stories like Aaron's are made possible through the Bishop's Appeal. Your generosity helps accompany neighbors in crisis and transform lives every day.

Support Catholic Charities by making your gift to the Bishop's Appeal today!

Visit: [2026BishopsAppeal.org](http://2026BishopsAppeal.org)

## FAITH FORMATION

The notion of someone being raised from the dead may seem “too good to be true.” This Sunday’s Gospel tells us that Jesus does indeed have power over death. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. With our catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin’s power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ. We believe that by Jesus’ death and Resurrection, he conquered death and won eternal life for us. (Sunday Connection, LP)

**Please join us on Friday, March 27,** at 7pm in the church as our **Confirmation candidates** present a moving enactment **of the Living Stations of the Cross.**

**Our last classes in March** will meet on Tuesdays, March 24 and 31, and on Wednesday, March 25. Our schedule for April begins on Wednesday, April 1. We will not be meeting during the week of April 6 to 10, which is spring break for Danbury Public Schools.

**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.

**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)

### Monthly School Mass

**This Sunday, March 22,**  
St. Joseph School 2nd & 6th Grade students  
will participate in the **9:30 AM Sunday Mass.**  
**Coffee hour will follow in the School Gym.**

**ST JOSEPH  
SCHOOL ANNUAL**

**GOLF  
TOURNAMENT  
2026**

**BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW**

**JUNE 10, 2026**

**RICHTER PARK  
GOLF COURSE**

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

### Requests for Sacraments and Home Visits:

For a Communion, confession, and/or anointing homebound visit, please call the Parish Office:  
203-748-8177

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