

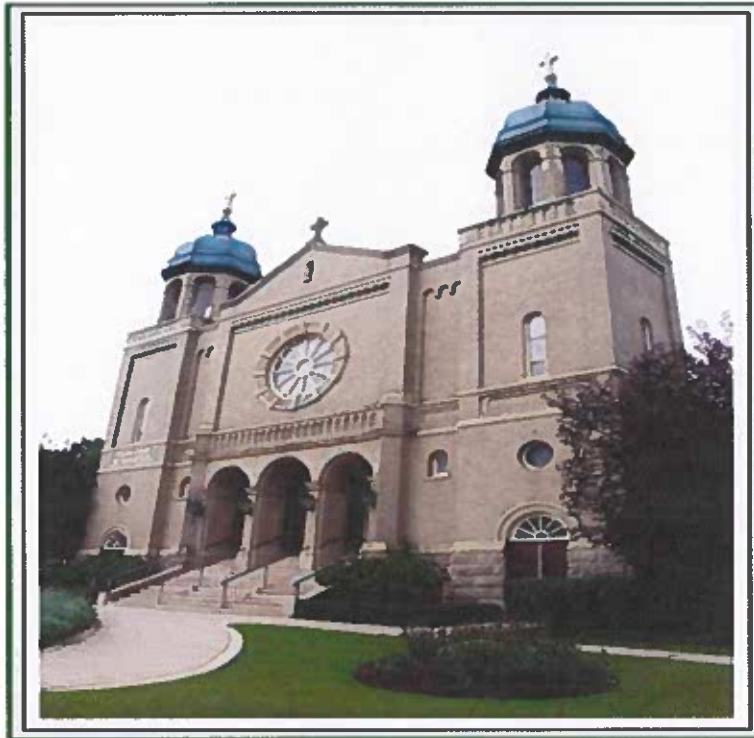
# ***SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH***

***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)

## **Pentecost Sunday — May 24, 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

### Requests for Sacraments and Home Visits:

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

### Saturday, May 23:

8:00 AM Susana Gomez—Garcia  
 & DeLugo Family  
 4:00 PM Carmela & Louis Picchione &  
 John, Jr.—Mom, Dad & Family  
 6:30 PM Int. of those receiving Confirmation

### Sunday, May 24:

7:30 AM Virginia Bromley  
 —Mike & Antonia Farkas  
 9:30 AM Francesca Mariani—Luisa Ferrante  
 11:00 AM Alfonso & Rosa Bottone—John Pepe  
 5:00 PM Intentions of Parishioners

### Monday, May 25:

6:30 AM Memorial Day Veterans' Mass  
 12:05 PM Ciaran O'Reilly—Doran Family

### Tuesday, May 26:

12:05 PM Earl Gonzalez—Zobia DeLeon

### Wednesday, May 27:

12:05 PM Ciaran O'Reilly—Doran Family

### Thursday May 28:

12:05 PM Donald Kager—Phil & Maggie Curran

### Friday, May 29:

12:05 PM Oreste Casciaro—Daughter

### Saturday, May 30:

8:00 AM Vocations to Married Life  
 4:00 PM Keith & Pat Dean—Dean Family

### Sunday, May 31:

7:30 AM Mary Mikucki—Ron  
 9:30 AM Mary Ann Newsome—Levi Newsome  
 11:00 AM Harry Nipper (40th Anniv. )  
 —Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Nipper  
 5:00 PM Intentions of Parishioners



The Sanctuary Candle will burn  
 this week in memory of

**Susana Gomez**

Requested by: Garcia & DeLugo Family

## **Pastor's Corner for Pentecost Sunday**

Christ has Risen, alleluia!

On this Pentecost Sunday, we recognize those who are preparing themselves to receive the sacrament of Confirmation as adults as well as those young ones who will be receiving this sacrament next weekend with Bishop Caggiano. Jesus made this promise to His disciples when He said, "I will send you the Advocate" after He ascended into heaven. This weekend is the perfect opportunity to reflect and deepen the commitment to the great gift that dwells in all of us who have received the gift of the Holy Spirit at our own Confirmation.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks about the sacrament of Confirmation by saying: "Baptism, the Eucharist, and together (with Confirmation) constitute the 'sacraments of Christian initiation,' whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of (Confirmation) is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For 'by , [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.'" (CCC #1285). You may notice that there is nothing here that speaks of "becoming an adult in the faith", which has been a common misconception of what the sacrament of Confirmation is and does. For far too long, people have spoken of Confirmation similar to a bar mitzvah or a bat mitzvah in the Jewish faith. It can be argued that this view of the reception of the sacrament would fulfill the final line from the catechism which reads, "...they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed", but then, why would the reception of this sacrament be possible for infants or for those near death (in cases of necessity)?

Completion of baptismal grace and being more perfectly bound to the Church while being enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit are those primary effects of the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation. Similar to the reception of the sacrament of Baptism, this sacrament can only be received once because it imprints an indelible mark on the souls of all of those who receive it. In heaven, one will be able to tell who has received Confirmation and who has not. This mysterious sacrament is what sealed the gifts of the Holy Spirit first given in Baptism and brought about the reception of incredible gifts such as speaking in tongues and steadfast courage to evangelize the world, in the face of some of the fiercest persecutions the world has ever known. Do we recognize that the same Holy Spirit that came down on Jesus' disciples at Pentecost dwells in us who have received the sacrament of Confirmation? How often do we pray to the third Person of the Trinity who now dwells in us in a more profound way because of that Sacramental grace? In the same way that we priests observe Holy Thursday (the anniversary of the creation of the priesthood) as an opportunity to renew our priestly promises, we all should use the Solemnity of Pentecost as an opportunity to renew our dedication to those gifts that we received at our own reception of Confirmation.

In Christ & Mary,  
Father Silva

## PARISH EVENTS

### MEMORIAL DAY VETERANS' MASS

Monday, May 25 6:30 AM  
Danbury Council of Veterans



### WEEKLY HOLY HOUR & CONFESSION

Monday, May 25 7:00-8:00 PM

### ENCOUNTER TRANSFORMATION EVENING

Friday, May 29 6:00-9:00 PM

St. Joseph Church, Danbury

Sponsored by  
Encounter School of Ministry

6 PM Praise & Worship

7 PM Special Session: Fr. Jason Brooks

"Transformation through God's Dynamic Love"

8 PM Prayer Ministry

Registration is Free:

[EncounterSchool.org/Fairfield](http://EncounterSchool.org/Fairfield)

### KOFC COUNCIL #29 FOOD DRIVE

Saturday-Sunday, June 6-7

After All Masses

Please see donation items information on this page, for Daily Bread Food Pantry.

### CHANGE IN CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 30

The 3:00 PM Confessions are cancelled.

Confessions will still be heard at 8:30 AM.

### THANK YOU!!

Our Dorothy Day Food Drive was a success. Thank you for your donations.



### OFFICE CLOSURE

Monday, May 25

Our Parish offices will be closed on Monday, May 25th, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.



Knights of Columbus Council #29

# FOOD DRIVE

Help us fill the bins in the vestibule at all Masses!

### WE ARE COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

Dried beans (1 or 2-pound bags), Rice (1 or 2-pound bags), Pasta (especially spaghetti), Cooking oil, Tea and coffee, Baby food, Breakfast cereal (hot or cold), Condiments such as ketchup, mustard, mayo, vinegar, and hot sauce, Sugar, flour, and baking items such as cake mix, Any little luxuries or oddball items you yourself might like as a treat, Canned staple items such as tuna, soup, and vegetables are always welcome, as are mac & cheese, and pasta sauce

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At All Masses June 6th and 7th @ St. Joseph's Parish, Danbury

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THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

# ST. JOHN VIANNEY TRUST

A FUND TO SUPPORT OUR RETIRED PRIESTS

MSGR. EDWARD SURWILO

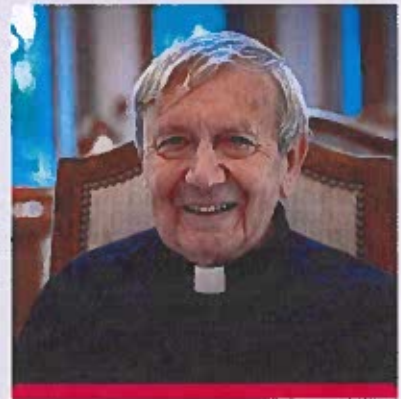
## 'The People Make the Priest'

**W**hen Monsignor Edward Surwilo was a newly ordained priest, he anointed a woman who had been in a car crash near his rectory in the early hours of the morning. Forty-five years later, his mother met the woman's daughter, who remembered the name Surwilo with gratitude. "That was a message to me: we don't know what good is happening through us," said Msgr. Surwilo.

Reflecting on fifty years of ministry in the Stamford area—where he also grew up—the 88-year-old priest says that the main theme is *presence*: "I was always present to people's lives. I was very available," he said.

As chaplain for Stamford Catholic High School for ten years, then pastor of Our Lady, Star of the Sea (OLSS) for thirty years, he witnessed countless milestones in the same families, from baptisms to weddings to funerals—once, even officiating all three for the same person.

Of course, he attributes all the good he has done to Christ, and to parishoners: "The people make the priest. They call us to do what we're called to do by Christ. They are responsible for our priestly formation and growth, by asking us to do those things, even when we're tired. And their affirmation keeps us going."



*Even in retirement—and after open-heart surgery—Msgr. Surwilo keeps serving. He is the chaplain of the Stamford Knights of Columbus, celebrates Mass at several parishes each week, and substitutes for the current pastor at OLSS. He says, "I'm retired, but I'm still working!" †*

## What is the Saint John Vianney Trust?

Faced with the rising number of retired priests, as well as skyrocketing medical costs, Bishop Caggiano established the St. John Vianney Trust as a dedicated 501(c)(3) to support retired priests of the Diocese of Bridgeport. This fund supplements the priests' pension, covering the costs of rising living expenses. Our goal is to raise \$2.5 million annually to meet our priests' growing needs.



Make a Legacy Gift  
*Please remember our priests in your estate planning*

[VIANNEYTRUST.ORG/GIVE](http://VIANNEYTRUST.ORG/GIVE)

*"Kindness to a father will not be forgotten." Sirach 3:14*

# Parish Support

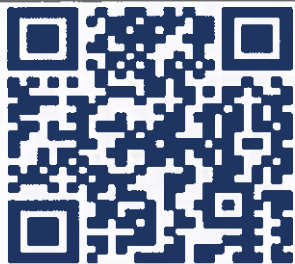
## Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure Worship Offerings for the Week of 5/12-5/18/26

Weekly Offertory	\$ 8,500.00
Ascension of the Lord	\$ 2,271.00
Catholic Communications	\$ 1,679.00

- ◇ **This weekend's second collection is for the Maintenance Fund.**
- ◇ **Next weekend's (May 31) collection:  
St. Joseph School Capital Projects Fund**  
*Please make checks payable to St. Joseph School.*

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| Saint Joseph Parish                                                                                                                                                               |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 2026 Bishop's Appeal as of 5/1/26                                                                                                                                                 |                |
| Bishop's Appeal Goal:                                                                                                                                                             | \$98,000       |
| Total Pledged:                                                                                                                                                                    | \$90,381 (92%) |
| Donors to Date:                                                                                                                                                                   | 238 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> |                |

### 2026 BISHOP'S APPEAL MINISTRY VIGNETTE: *Diaconate Formation*



#### **Answering God's Call to Serve**

For Andres Grajales, the call to the diaconate came quietly but unmistakably, encouraged by three different priests and supported by his family, parish community, and the Charismatic Renewal. Entering formation has been a deeply rewarding journey, allowing him to grow in faith and prepare to serve others.

Andres hopes to reflect Christ's love as a deacon, **bringing His light both to the Church and to those who have not yet encountered Him, fostering unity and renewal in the Diocese.** The Bishop's Appeal helps make diaconate formation possible, providing education, spiritual guidance, and pastoral training for men discerning this sacred vocation.

Support the next generation of deacons by giving to the Bishop's Appeal.

Learn more at [2026BishopsAppeal.org](http://2026BishopsAppeal.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*



## *Wedding Banns*

**Nathaniel Leiby & Natalia Szurawski – 1st Banns**

## FAITH FORMATION

### 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.

**203-778-1920**

### PRE-BAPTISM CLASS:

**The next pre-baptism class will be held on  
Sunday, June 7 at 1:00 PM.**

Pre-baptism class is required for all parents who  
would like to have their child baptized at St.  
Joseph Church.

Class is required before a baptism is scheduled.

Class meets in the Religious Ed Building.

Please call the office to register: 203-748-8177



**REMEMBER**  
*in your prayers*

Rose Marie Abramo  
Kelli Barrett  
Miguel Boni  
Marie Bovaird  
Ernestine Clark  
Irene Clark  
Chuck Daudt  
Jonathan DeMarco  
Albert Docktor  
Edith Donald  
Anita Edwards  
Anand Gokhale  
Marie Hallas  
Henry James  
Jessy Jos  
P.M. Joseph  
Gavin King  
Dorothy Koellmer  
Livio Malta  
Catherine McCarthy  
Eileen McCarthy

Jim McNerney  
William Morrison  
Michelle Mott  
Nick Munoz  
Victor Munoz  
Marjorie Nodine  
Joseph Parkis  
Michael Pedicini  
Joseph Ponmankal  
Christine Preisser  
Lilian Rivera  
Catherine Robinson  
Barbara R. Schirmer  
Gael Sifuentes  
Michael Skomro  
Jeanne Soraghan  
Lorraine Squillante  
Kenneth Towery  
Jim Wheeler  
Rebecca Zaccardo



Please Pray for the Repose  
of the Soul of:

**Levi Newsome**



## 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)

## OPEN ENROLLMENT

St. Joseph School is pleased to announce that  
Open Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year  
is now underway for Pre-K3 through 7th Grade.

Please contact us to check availability.

Tours available.

Email us at: [Admissions@sjsdanbury.org](mailto:Admissions@sjsdanbury.org)

ST JOSEPH  
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