

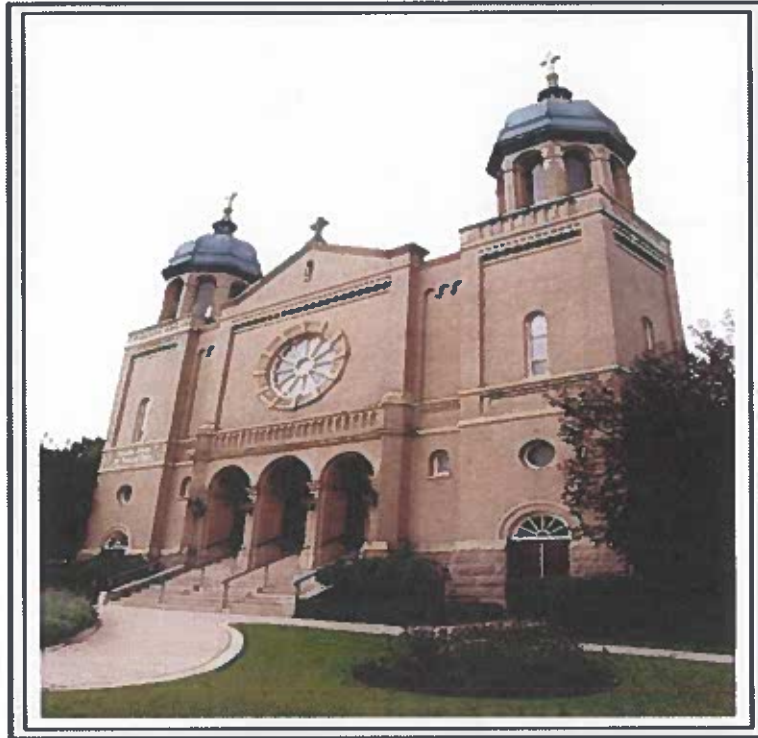
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3rd Sunday of Advent, December 14, 2025



REV. ERIC W. SILVA, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

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.

MASS INTENTIONS**Saturday, Dec. 13:**

8:00 AM St. Lucy—M/M Frank Sullivan
4:00 PM Ida Merenda—Sister

Sunday, Dec. 14:

7:30 AM Peter Seiler—Hood Family
9:30 AM Catherine Valente—M/M Frank Sullivan
11:00 AM Bethany Mass
5:00 PM Intentions of Parishioners

Monday, Dec. 15:

12:05 PM Myda Cook—Asistin Family

Tuesday, Dec. 16:

12:05 PM Aurora & Sal Cappello—Cousin

Wednesday, Dec. 17:

12:05 PM Paul Wemitt—Wemitt Family

Thursday Dec. 18:

12:05PM Carol Novella—Lori Novella

Friday, Dec. 19:

12:05 PM Adelia Potenziani—Donna & Kristen Palmer

Saturday, Dec. 20:

8:00 AM Dec. of Sullivan Family—M/M Frank Sullivan
4:00 PM Picchione Family & John, Jr. —Marie & John

Sunday, Dec. 21:

7:30 AM Michael James Comer—Stillson Family
9:30 AM Milano Family—Family
11:00 AM Scott Doreson—Denise & John Raniolo
5:00 PM Intentions of Parishioners



The Sanctuary Candle will burn
this week in memory of

Catherine Valente

Requested by Mr. & Mrs. Frank Sullivan



Please Pray for the Repose
of the Souls of:

Barbara Cole
Frank Charles Ross, Jr.
Grace Ruggiero

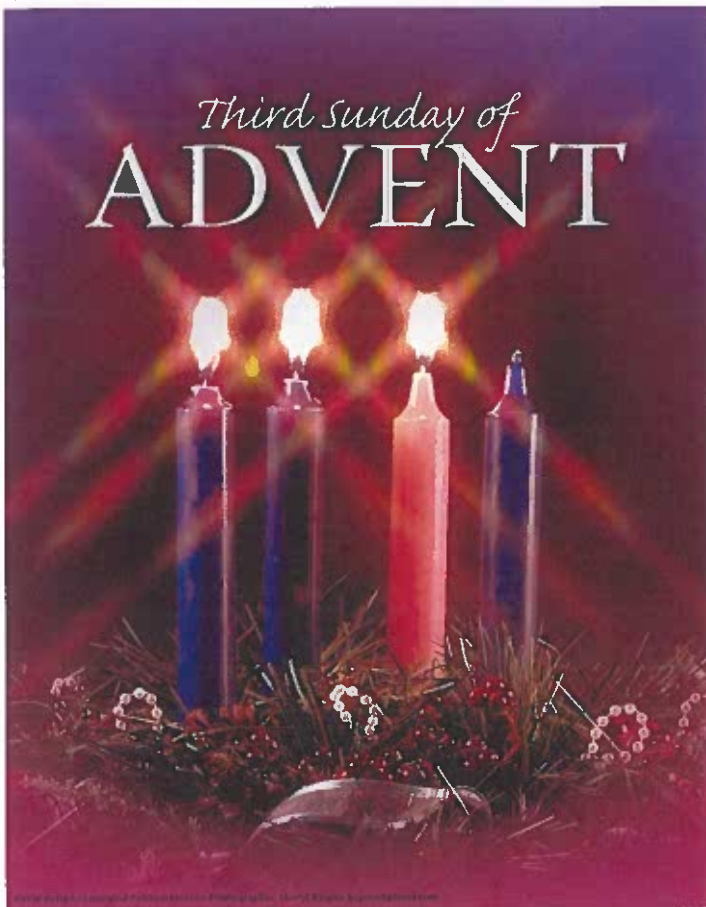
**Bulletin Blurb for the
Third Sunday of Advent**

Praised be Jesus Christ!

You may have noticed that music at Sunday Masses has looked differently than how we have normally had in previous Sundays. We are chanting the entrance and communion antiphons before beginning the entrance and communion hymns, we are omitting organ accompaniment for much of our responses and proper prayers such as the Memorial Acclamation and the Our Father, and we are leaving much more room for silence in the context of the liturgy where there would otherwise be organ playing in the background to aid in our mediation of the Divine Mysteries that we enter into. In the "Order of Prayer for the Celebration of the Eucharist" it reads, "The use of organ and other musical instruments and the decoration of the altar with flowers should be done in a moderate manner, as is consonant with the character of the season, without anticipating the full joy of Christmas".

Our Music Director here at Saint Joseph does an incredible job of ensuring that the selected hymns reflect the readings, the parts of Mass, and accompany the celebration of the feast as well as the season that we are in. During these penitential seasons of Advent and Lent, the silence that we experience in the Mass by the absence of the organ and other musical instruments allows us to enter into these silent mysteries the precede the two biggest celebrations of our faith: the birth of the Incarnate God and the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If we feel a little awkward or uncomfortable, embrace it! All the more will we be able to enter into the awkwardness of that very first Advent season, as we accompany the pregnant Mary journeying to the little town of Bethlehem. Even in the celebration of the Mass itself should we feel a longing in our hearts for the Christ Child's coming into the world. I pray that these last weeks leading into the joy of the Christmas season are equally beautiful as they may be penitential so that the joy of Christmas will be all the more incarnational in even the way in which we worship our Lord at the altar of sacrifice.

In Christ & Mary,
Father Silva



ADVENT PRAYER

Father, in the wilderness of the Jordan you sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the coming of your Son.

Help me to hear His words and repent of my sins, so that I may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for Him, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

December 14 BETHANY MASS

This Sunday, at the **11:00 AM Bethany Mass**, we remember our deceased parishioners, especially the recently deceased with services in November:

Mary Lerario	Kathleen LiVolsi
Manuel Saraiva	Caitlin Saparato
Lucille Share	

Although we miss these parishioners' physical presence, we celebrate their eternal life with Jesus. Please pray for all deceased parishioners, their families and friends.

Order of Mass for the Lord's Day 3rd Sunday of Advent

Processional Hymn

#731 "Rejoice, the Lord is King"

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 *

Resp. Psalm: Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel Acclamation: Isaiah 61:1 (in Luke 4:18)

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

Offertory Hymn

#741 "Savior of the Nations, Come"

Communion Hymn

#594 "Jesus, Priest and Victim"

Recessional Hymn

#651 "O Come, Divine Messiah"

***Readings & Gospel:** Today's Missal: pp. 27-29

Hymns: *St. Michael Hymnal*

DAILY MASS READINGS:

Monday, Dec. 15

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a / Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6&7bc, 8-9 / Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 / Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 & 23 / Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday, Dec. 17

Genesis 49:2, 8-10 / Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 / Matthew 1:1-17

Thursday, Dec. 18

Jeremiah 23:5-8 / Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 / Matthew 1:18-25

Friday, Dec. 19

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a / Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 / Luke 1:5-25

Saturday, Dec. 20

Isaiah 7:10-14 / Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 / Luke 1:26-38

PARISH EVENTS

HOLY LAND GIFTS **December 13 & 14**

Following weekend Masses in the Church Hall
To support Christian artisans in the Holy Land

MONTHLY COFFEE HOUR **Sunday, December 14**

Following the 7:30 AM Mass in the Church Hall
All are welcome.

The TWELVE VOICES OF CHRISTMAS **Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 PM**

Presentation of biblical persons' stories relating to
Jesus' birth. Followed by Christmas Music.
Invite a friend!

HOLY HOUR and CONFESSION **Monday, December 15, from 7:00-8:00 PM**

ST JOSEPH SCHOOL **MONTHLY MASS & COFFEE HOUR** **Sunday December 21 at 9:30 Mass**

St. Joseph School students will participate in the **9:30 AM Sunday Mass**, and the school community will host a **coffee hour in the Church Hall** immediately following Mass. All are invited to join in worship with our parish & school community.

HOLY HOUR and CONFESSION **Monday, December 22, from 7:00-8:00 PM**

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Wed. December 24: 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM, 11:00 PM
Thurs. December 25: 7:30 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults **(O.C.I.A.) Update**

At last weekend's 11:00 am Mass, our parish O.C.I.A. group members participated in the Rite of Acceptance. During this Rite they affirmed their intent to become fully-initiated members of the Catholic Church.

Please pray for our O.C.I.A. parish community members as they proceed in their faith journey, preparing to receive their sacraments at the Easter Vigil or at Pentecost.

GIFTS OF JERUSALEM

December 13 & 14

In the Church Hall after Masses

Holy Land Gifts

After Mass on December 13 & 14, there will be a display of handmade wood carvings available for purchase, including nativity scenes, crucifixes, rosaries, depictions of the Last Supper, and many other beautiful religious articles.

Due to ongoing conflict in the region, many Christian families in Bethlehem are struggling to make a living. Holy Land Gifts supports over 100 Christian families by helping them sell their traditional olive wood crafts and religious items. When you purchase one of these meaningful gifts, you provide much-needed support to artisans in the Holy Land, enabling them to care for their families and sustain their work with dignity despite the challenges they face.

Thank you for helping to preserve the Christian presence in the land of Jesus' birth. May God bless you!

Please Join Us for St. Joseph's Presentation of
"The Twelve Voices of Christmas"

Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 2:00pm
St. Joseph Church Danbury, CT

As you experience twelve different perspectives of the story of Christ's coming, your understanding will be enriched.

Archangel Gabriel, Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, Simeon and Anna, the Shepherds and Angels, the Wise Men and Herod— Each had a voice in the Christmas story.

Experience the blessing, wonder, joy, and peace in a fresh way as you celebrate the birth of our Lord, Christ Jesus.

Mr. Robert Fertitta, Director of Music and Organist, will provide Christmas hymns for audience participation.



SAINT JOSEPH PARISH CONTACTS

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

Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure Worship Offerings

November 25—December 1	\$ 7,410.00
Retired Priests of DOB	\$ 3,665.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 1,846.00

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### Second Collection: December 14

This weekend's Second Collection is for  
**Retired Religious.**

**This is an annual collection to support retired  
elderly religious members in need.**

The collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious is taken up each year on the second Sunday of December. Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health-care needs of aging members. The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) coordinates the annual Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR) collection and distributes the proceeds to eligible religious communities. Some 31,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests benefit. The RFR underwrites financial assistance, consultation, and education that help religious communities meet the immediate and ongoing needs of aging members.

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MONTHLY COLLECTION To Support

**St. Joseph School Capital Projects
Next weekend, December 20-21,**

we will begin a new monthly second collection to assist St. Joseph School with their fund for capital projects at the school.

Please make checks payable
to St. Joseph School.

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
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
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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

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



## FAITH FORMATION

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as "Gaudete Sunday." Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice!" Advent is a season of hope, in which we acknowledge that salvation is both mysteriously present and yet to be fulfilled. In today's Gospel, we hear John ask Jesus: Are you the One? Jesus does not answer directly, but points to the signs of the kingdom present in his midst. Try to find signs of hope that God is present in your life and at work in our world, and pray that the world will know God's salvation.

**The last Faith Formation classes in December** will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 16 and 17. No classes during the last two weeks of December.

For anyone interested, **Advent Resources**, including calendars in English and Spanish, are available online at: <https://formationreimagined.org/advent-resources-2025/>

**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.



**REMEMBER**  
*in your prayers*

Rose Marie Abramo  
Kelli Barrett  
Matthew Bernabe  
Miguel Boni  
Marie Bovaird  
Ernestine Clark  
Irene Clark  
Chuck Daudt  
Albert Docktor  
Melissa Doreson  
Anita Edwards  
Anand Gokhale  
Marie Hallas  
Henry James  
Jessy Jos  
P.M. Joseph  
Gavin King  
Dorothy Koellmer  
Livio Malta  
David McCann  
Catherine McCarthy  
Eileen McCarthy

William Morrison  
Michelle Mott  
Victor Munoz  
Marjorie Nodine  
Theresa O'Connor  
Ethel Pancotti  
Joseph Parkis  
Michael Pedicini  
Joseph Ponmankal  
Julie Potenziani  
Christine Preisser  
Art Regan  
Catherine Robinson  
Gael Sifuentes  
Michael Skomro  
Barbara R. Schirmer  
George Schur  
Jeanne Soraghan  
Lorraine Squillante  
MaryAnn Storms  
Kenneth Towery  
Rebecca Zaccardo



## 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)

## PARISH REGISTRATION

### Parish Registration

Welcome! If you wish to register with St. Joseph Parish, please complete a registration form and submit it to the Parish Office.

- ◇ Registration can be done online through our parish website, on the *Newcomers* tab:  
[www.stjosephdanbury.org](http://www.stjosephdanbury.org)
- ◇ Or, you can stop into the office and complete a form.
- ◇ Please introduce yourself to Fr. Silva.

### You can help to keep our information current:

Please notify the Parish Office of address changes, new phone numbers and email addresses, so that we may have current information on file.

### Requests for Sacraments and Home Visits:

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

## 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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