

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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 30, 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 5:00PM

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 7:00pm—8:00pm



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–Thur 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

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: Dan Alvarez 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, August 29:

8:00 AM Vocations to the Priesthood for
 the Diocese of Bridgeport
 4:00 PM Fr. Naji Kiwan - *Cheri & John Jowdy*

Sunday, August 30:

7:30 AM Brian Michael Schelp
 - *Salvatore & Camille Cioffalo*
 9:30 AM Angelo & Blanche Masi
 - *Ron & Katrina Freier*
 11:00 AM Sean Michael Stutman - *Parkis Family*
 5:00 PM Intentions of Parishioners

Monday, August 31:

12:05 PM Eleanore Mikucki - *Ron*

Tuesday, September 1:

12:05 PM Int. of Baby Theodore - *Nancy*

Wednesday, September 2:

12:05PM Jaime Perez - *Fr. Silva*

Thursday, September 3:

12:05 PM Henry Stalzer - *John & Nancy Justiniano*

Friday, September 4:

12:05 PM Nancy Cuttita - *LaGratta Family*

Saturday, September 5:

8:00 AM Int. of Our Parishioners
 4:00 PM Viola & Pius Cesca - *Family*

Sunday, September 6:

7:30 AM Medlar & Casale Families
 - *Sue & Vinny Casale*
 9:30 AM John Wilk - *Stillson Family*
 11:00 AM Bethany Mass
 5:00 PM Intentions of Parishioners

Requests for Sacraments and Home Visits:
 For Communion, Confession, and/or
 Anointing homebound visit, please call the
 Parish Office: 203-748-8177



The Sanctuary Candle will burn
 this week for
Michael James Nikis
 Requested by: Mom & Family

Pastor's Corner for the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Growing up having attended public schools until I entered high school, the world of Catholic elementary and middle schools is admittedly foreign to my experiential knowledge. This week our school of Saint Joseph is back in session, and with the start of classes brings a whole new feel to our parish grounds. The school children will be coming to daily Mass on Wednesday mornings, the parking lot and playground will be filled throughout the day with kids playing with their friends, and various school and extracurricular functions will bring even more life to our parish community.

Many will ask about the relationship between the parish and the school and even though I may have explained it before (albeit, imperfectly, I am sure!), I think it important to do so again as we begin another academic year. The relationship between the parish and school can be summed up in four distinct ways: historical, financial, relational, and spiritual.

Historically, the parish and the school are intimately connected. Ask any of our long-standing parishioners about how they attended the school "way back when" and how all their children did the same. For many of our parishioners, it is nearly impossible to distinguish memories of parish life and school life as separate. So many of our parishes have been blessed with schools that gave the community all the more life because school functions were fed by parish functions and vice versa. It allowed those who grew up in that era the blessing of associating their childhood with their parish. There are even some in city parishes when asked, "Where do you live?", to respond with their parish rather than their neighborhood...because they were one and the same!

Financially, the parish has an obligation to the school and that (on paper) looks like one of landlord and tenant. While the school is responsible for financial decisions that affect the majority of decisions inside of the building, the parish is responsible for major projects and the outside of the physical property (i.e., oil burner, parking lot repairs, etc...). This is one of the reasons why I started having a monthly collection for the school because of the ever-growing needs of building maintenance on a school that is over 100 years old.

Relationally, this is where the most fruit is born. With Catholic schools very seldom being run by religious orders of sisters and brothers as well as the significant decrease in priests over the past 100 years, it is important to prioritize visits and relationships with the faculty, staff, students, and parents. No longer will Catholic school students be exposed to the life of priests or religious simply by attending Catholic schools. While these Catholic schools can be instrumental in educating and forming students to be faithful and knowledgeable Catholics, that knowledge cannot replace relationship. The relationship between the parish and the school should be so intertwined that at times, it will be difficult to tell them apart.

The final way that the school and the parish are bound to one another is a matter of spiritual formation. As the pastor of Saint Joseph Church, for reasons known by the Almighty Himself, I have been entrusted with the souls of all those who call this parish their home and this applies to the school families as well. While many of our school families attend other parishes, they spend more time here than they do if they are attending Sunday Mass at their parish. The responsibility of forming young men and women into virtuous and prayerful people who know and love our Lord, is one that, to a degree, belongs to all of us. I pray and hope that this new school year will bring about an even greater renewal on both our parish as well as our school. God bless!

In Christ & Mary,
Father Silva

PARISH EVENTS

WEEKLY HOLY HOUR & CONFESSION

Monday, August 31 7:00-8:00PM

Holy Hour is held every Monday evening.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday, September 4

Eucharistic Adoration is held on the **first Friday** of each month, immediately following the 12:05 PM Mass and ending at 8:00 PM. A sign-up sheet is at the church side entrance. Walk-ins are welcome.

HOME ESSENTIALS GOODS COLLECTION

Thank you to all of our St. Joseph parishioners and friends who contributed to last weekend's Home Essentials Goods Collection to benefit the Catholic Charities Morning Glory Breakfast Program.

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

"Sell Your Old Gold Fundraiser"

FOR THIS FUNDRAISER, YOUR CHECKBOOK STAYS HOME...
AND THIS TIME, YOU TAKE HOME THE MONEY!!!

Friday Sept. 18th 10 AM to 4 PM Rel. Ed. Bldg.

Saturday Sept. 19th 10 AM to 4 PM Rel. Ed. Bldg.

Sunday Sept. 20th 8 AM to 4 PM Rel. Ed. Bldg.

There, our good friend, Bob the gold man, will buy your "old gold" and hand you a check. Then, OVER 70% of whatever profits are made after the refining process, will be donated, in your name, to ST. JOSEPH PARISH !!!.

Any questions, please email: bob@libertygoldct.com

St. Joseph Annual Tag Sale September 11, 12, and 13, 2026

We are back and once again we are looking for donated items to sell at our **Annual Tag Sale**.

We appreciate your donations of the following:

- TOYS, GAMES
- DVDs, CDs
- KITCHEN & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
- PUZZLES & BOOKS
- HOLIDAY DECORATIONS
- BEDDING
- BABY ITEMS
- LAMPS
- PICTURE FRAMES
- SMALL FURNITURE
- TOOLS & SMALL GARDEN EQUIPMENT
- COSTUME JEWELRY

DROP OFF TIMES:

You may **drop off** your donated items in the Church Hall (beneath the Church) on the following dates/times:

Friday, Sept. 4: 9:00a to 11:30a & 4:00p to 8:00p

Saturday, Sept. 5: 8:30a to 5:00p

Sunday, Sept. 6: 8:30a to 5:00p

Monday, Sept. 7: 8:30a to 5:00p

PLEASE NOTE that we do NOT accept any of the following items:

- Televisions
- Computer Equipment and Printers
- Typewriters
- Suitcases
- Sporting Equipment
- Clothes
- VHS or Cassettes or Vinyl Records
- Textbooks, Encyclopedias
- Coffee Table Books
- Car Seats

The Tag Sale will be held in the Church Hall on:

Friday, Sept. 11:

8:30a - 9:30a (Early Bird Admission is \$10)

9:30a - 3:30p Free Admission

Saturday, Sept. 12 9:30a - 3:30p

Sunday, Sept. 13 10:00a - 4:00p

Please contact Antonia Stalzer at 203-456-5170 with any questions.

Thank you for your support!

Parish Support

Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure Worship Offerings

for the Week of 8/18–8/24/26

Weekly Offertory \$ 8,919.00

Columbia Earthquake Relief \$ 1,238.00

**This weekend's 2nd collection is for:
Youth Ministries.**

**Next weekend's 2nd collection is for:
Monthly Collection.**

ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL:

Saint Joseph Parish	
2026 Bishop's Appeal as of 7/31/26	
Bishop's Appeal Goal:	\$98,000
Total Pledged:	\$111,680 (114%)
Donors to Date:	273 Donors
	
To make a gift, or for more information, please visit us at 2026BishopsAppeal.org, call (203) 416-1470 or scan with your phone.	



God's Freedom vs. Worldly Freedom:

**"How only the Cross and
Resurrection of Christ bestow
the most powerful freedom."**

Presented by Father Brian Gannon,
Pastor and Religious Assistant

Monday, September 21, 2026

at 7pm

St. Theresa School gym

55 Rosemond Terrace, Trumbull

Come and learn more about the
Lay Dominicans. Bring a friend. All are welcome.
Light refreshments served.



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Our Lady of Fatima
Fraternity - St. Theresa
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For more information about the
Lay Dominicans:

Mrs. Michelle Rowe, O.P.
Formation Director

orapronobis20@gmail.com

203 218 6882

Diocesan Wedding Jubilee Mass Saturday, October 3

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport will celebrate the **Annual Diocesan Wedding Jubilee Mass on Saturday, October 3, 2026 at 11:00 AM at the Cathedral of Saint Augustine in Bridgeport.**

Couples celebrating their **25th, 40th, 45th, 50th and more** years of marriage are eligible to attend. All couples who are recognized at the Mass will receive a commemorative certificate in recognition of this important milestone in their married life in addition to pictures with the Bishop. Sharon Colihan is coordinating the registration process for the Mass and is available to answer whatever questions you may have. She can be reached at Sharon.Colihan@diobpt.org or 203-416-1454 and she will provide instructions on how to register.

Little Flowers is a club for Catholic girls K-8 who, with their moms, learn about the saints and how to put virtue into practice! Each meeting has lively presentations, crafts, and activities led by mothers in the group. Badges and medals for the virtues are earned by completing activities at home and are worn on a blue sash, uniting the girls to the Blessed Mother. **Begins September 1st!** We meet once a month on **first Tuesdays from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm** in Saint Joseph's Carmen Buck Religious Education Building. Please contact Jennifer Suess at JenniferSuess1@gmail.com to register.

FAITH FORMATION

Calendar — The religious education calendar will be available soon. Classes are expected to begin on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 6 and 7, 2026. The Enrollment Form for the 2026-27 religious education year has been sent by email and has been posted to our Parish website.

Faith Formation Office Hours — While the Faith Formation office has closed for the summer and will reopen after Labor Day, we are available by appointment. Please contact the Director of RE by email: Maria Merino-Schweitzer maria.schweitzer@stjosephdanbury.org.

Aunque la oficina de Educación Religiosa ha cerrado por el verano y reabrirá después del Día del Trabajo (Labor Day), estamos disponibles con cita previa. Por favor, comuníquese con la Directora por correo electrónico: Maria Merino-Schweitzer maria.schweitzer@stjosephdanbury.org.

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults), is the process by which adults become fully Catholic through the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation.

If you are considering becoming Catholic, or are a baptized Catholic adult who wishes to prepare for First Communion and Confirmation, we invite you to join our OCIA program.

Sessions will begin on September 13.

St. Joseph's OCIA program includes sessions of education, discussion, questions & answers, and fellowship.

For more information, please contact Anne Leclercq at 203-748-8177, or anne.leclercq@stjosephdanbury.org

Safe Environment - Virtus Training Class

St. Joseph Parish will be hosting a Virtus training class in the Church Hall on Thursday, September 17 at 5:00 PM. This session is open to all school parents and parishioners who have not yet completed the training. Please register in advance at the Virtus Online website www.virtusonline.org and create a new account by selecting the green link on the left side of the screen labeled First Time Registrant. Then, follow the instructions on the screen to begin the registration process. Select the Diocese of Bridgeport, and if you are registering to volunteer at the school, please choose "Saint Joseph School, Danbury, CT." If you are registering to volunteer in the church, please select "Saint Joseph Church, Danbury, CT." (Keep in mind that there are numerous St. Joseph Schools and Parishes within our Diocese. Please be sure to choose the ones in Danbury.) You will be asked to authorize a Background Check and to select a training session. From the various options, please select St. Joseph, September 17, with Brian Walsh listed as the facilitator. If you need assistance with the registration process or have any questions, please reach out to our Safe Environment Coordinator, Maria Merino-Schweitzer, at maria.schweitzer@stjosephdanbury.org, or our facilitator, Brian Walsh, at bwalsh@stjosephdanbury.org.

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