

SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

A COMMUNITY OF PRAYER FOCUSED ON PERFORMING CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY: FEEDING THE HUNGRY

BROOKFIELD, CT



DECEMBER 10, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ONE MIGHTIER
THAN I IS
COMING.

— MARK 1:7A —





PARISH STAFF

Rev. George F. O’Neill, Pastor
Pastor@stjosephbrookfield.com

Rev. Lawrence F. Carew, Non-Resident Priest
FrCarew@diobpt.org

Deacon Jeffrey J. Font
DcnJeff@stjosephbrookfield.com

Deacon Louis F. Howe, Sr., Facilities Manager
DcnLou@stjosephbrookfield.com

Deacon Peter J. Kuhn
DcnPeter@stjosephbrookfield.com

Deacon William J. Shaughnessy
BillShaughnessy703@gmail.com

Rita Golaszewski, Parish Secretary
RitaG@stjosephbrookfield.com

Patricia Smith, Religious Education Coordinator
PatSmith@stjosephbrookfield.com

Kathy Bailo, Religious Education Assistant
KathyBailo@stjosephbrookfield.com

Grace Zaloski, Ignite Youth Ministry Coordinator
Grace.Zaloski@stjosephbrookfield.com

Christine Blonski, Bookkeeper
chrisblonski@stjosephbrookfield.com

David Kendall, Director of Music
Music Director@stjosephbrookfield.com

Arianna Carlo, Choir Director
Cantor@stjosephbrookfield.com

Renzo Ortega, United High School Ministry Coordinator
rortega@strosechurch.com

PARISH OFFICE

Phone: 203.775.1035 Fax: 203.775.1684
 Web Site: www.stjosephbrookfield.com
 Email: ParishSec@stjosephbrookfield.com
 Mail: 163 Whisconier Road
 Brookfield, CT 06804
 Office Open 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Monday thru Friday*
 Emergencies: (203)209-4908
***CLOSED HOLIDAYS AND HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION**

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday – 8:00 AM
 Saturday Vigil – 5:00 PM
 Sunday - 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 AM
 Monday-Friday - 7:45 AM

All Masses live-streamed on the Parish Website

CONFESSIONS

Tuesday: 7:00-8:00 PM (With Eucharistic Adoration)
 Saturday: 4:00-4:45 PM

Interested in becoming a Catholic? We’d love to have you!
 Call the Parish Office to learn about our R.C.I.A. Program.

**To add parish events, to the calendar, contact
Bulletin@stjosephbrookfield.com*

This Week @ St. Joseph*

MON 11	7:45am 8:30am	Mass Morning Prayer
TUES 12	7:45am 8:30am 7:00pm	Mass Morning Prayer Confession & Adoration
WED 13	7:45am 8:30am	Mass Morning Prayer
THUR 14	7:45am 8:30am	Mass Morning Prayer
FRI 15	7:45am 8:15am 6:30pm	Mass Eucharistic Adoration for Life Ignite Youth (7th/8th grade)
SAT 16	8:00am 10:00am 4:00pm 5:00pm	Mass Bereavement Ministry Confession Mass
SUN 17	7:30am 9:00am 11:00am	Mass Mass - EDJE Grades 4-6 Mass

PRAYING FOR PEACE AND REPARATION

We invite you to stay at the end of Sunday Mass – following the closing hymn – and join us in praying three “Hail Mary’s” for Peace: in our World, in our Families and in our Hearts. We also pray the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel, for healing and reparation in our Church.

WELCOME

TO SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

YOU BELONG HERE



There are 3 easy ways to register:

1. Scan the QR code below.
2. Fill out the form below, cut on the dotted line, and place it in the collection basket.
3. Contact our Parish Office



PARISH REGISTRATION

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Sign me up to become a Prayer Warrior



Sunday, Dec 10, 2023

A voice cries out

This year the Universal Declaration of Human Rights turns 75. The world could use a reminder that human rights belong to each of us and must be defended without exception. We live in an age marred by misinformation. Attacks on others grow more destructive online and in our common spaces. Climate change, hunger, and poverty are unequally borne by those whose rights are not recognized or protected. Advent is the perfect time to identify the rights that resonate most powerfully for you. Claim them. Discover ways to stand up for them. Create alliances with those whose rights are in jeopardy.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8 (5). "In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!"

Monday, Dec 11, 2023

MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE

Backstory on the Bible

The 73 books in the Catholic Bible were written hundreds, and in some cases thousands, of years before they were officially compiled. It wasn't until the late fourth century that the Catholic Church decided upon the list of sacred scripture to be included. Pope Damasus I presided over the Council of Rome of 382 that determined the scriptural canon, and he commissioned Saint Jerome to translate these texts from Greek into Latin. This collection of sacred books is the inspired word of God, reveals the truth of Revelation, and forms the core of Catholic beliefs. Pass on the Good News!

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26 (181). "We have seen incredible things today."

Tuesday, Dec 12, 2023

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Mysterious mother of the Americas

On a wall, under glass, is the life-sized image of Our Lady of Guadalupe—enshrined in the Basilica of Guadalupe, on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico City, where Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego in December 1591. As mysterious and symbolic as the Woman of the Apocalypse described in Revelation 12, it continues to defy human explanation, including analysis from a NASA scientist. The humble cactus fiber cloak it appears on hasn't deteriorated in more than 400 years, nor has the image, which experts from Kodak likened to a photograph though photography wasn't invented yet. Countless miracles are associated with Guadalupe, but the greatest is the conversion of an entire continent. Pray for the people of the Americas with the Center of Concern prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe that begins: Hail Mary, Lady of Peace, We pray for the peace in our world; make us peacemakers.

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47 (690A). "A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun."

Wednesday, Dec 13, 2023

MEMORIAL OF LUCY, MARTYR

Keep your eye on the divine

Like many early Roman saints, little is known about Saint Lucy. Tradition says that her eyes were removed in an act of torture before her death for being a Christian. As such, she is the patron saint of the blind. We often take sight for granted, but Lucy should remind us, especially in hard times, to look beyond our own vision—and see with God's eyes. The reward for our faithful acts is the beatific vision. Or as Saint Paul puts it: "We see now in a glass darkly, but then face to face" (I Cor. 13:12). Work to improve your vision.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 (183). "Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these things."

Thursday, Dec 14, 2023

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DR OF THE CHURCH
He wasn't afraid of the dark

Today is the memorial of Saint John of the Cross, a Spanish Carmelite mystic, poet, and reformer who died in 1591. He may be best known for Dark Night of the Soul, which develops the idea that suffering—including the sense of God's absence—can actually lead to unity with God. "The endurance of darkness is the preparation for great light," he wrote. John came to his insights through experience, having been maltreated and even imprisoned by his own religious community. If God ever seems far away, let John of the Cross guide you to the light.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184). "Whoever has ears ought to hear."

Friday, Dec 15, 2023

The secret to our success

Damned if you do, damned if you don't. That is Jesus' complaint about public opinion. John the Baptist fasted and they called him crazy. Jesus feasted and they called him a glutton and drunkard. We've all been there. The best response to criticism is success. What is success in the spiritual life? "In God's will, there is great peace" is the answer Saint Josephine Bakhita offers. Wise words. Ignore your critics, and follow Jesus' path to peace.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185). "Wisdom is vindicated by her works."

Saturday, Dec 16, 2023

Modernism gets its say

Maude Petre, who died on this date in 1937, was a British writer and religious sister best known for her work on Catholic modernism. She was a prolific author, writing on a wide range of topics, including theology, philosophy, politics, and literature. She openly supported women's suffrage, which the church opposed at the time. Her 1907 book Catholicism and Independence got her kicked out of her order and she was refused the sacraments by her bishop. Her views were controversial, but they helped form Catholic thinking for the Second Vatican Council. Prayerfully consider that the Catholic controversies of today may lead to the church of tomorrow.

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). "Elijah will indeed come and restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come."



Christmas Mass Schedule

4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23: 5:00 PM

Sunday, December 24: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM

Christmas Masses

Sunday, December 24: 4:00 PM, 6:30 PM, 10:00 PM
(Note: Children's Mass @ 4 PM)

Monday, December 25: 7:30 AM & 11:00 AM
(Note: No 9am Mass on Christmas Day)

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11 | 2 Pt 3:8-14 | Mk 1:1-8

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Can you hear it? The voice crying out in the desert? While John the Baptist was the one literally proclaiming, from the desert, the coming of the Lord, we should listen for echoes of his message today. John foretold that Jesus - the Father's Incarnate Son - was on his way to redeem the world. Through Jesus' passion and death, the gates of heaven were flung open so all who believe in him would have eternal life. This is the Good News he proclaimed then, and the Church proclaims today: *Christ has come! Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again.* This is what we prepare for in Advent - to celebrate, on Christmas day, Christ's coming into the world, and that he will one day return in glory. The Lord gives comfort to his people in his words, and in his presence to us in the Eucharist: "According to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." So, trust in the Lord, remain vigilant, and take heed of the voices that remind us to "prepare the way of the Lord."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Each year, we are given the gift of Advent. It is a season that invites us to slow down, reflect on the gift of Jesus and prepare to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord. Ironically, though, it happens at one of the most frenzied times of the year as we rush to keep up with cookie baking, tree decorating and merry-making. Advent is short - it includes four Sundays but can be three to four weeks long depending on the weekday upon which Christmas falls - and it sometimes doesn't seem long enough to truly prepare our hearts. This year Advent is three weeks and a day - so we are close to reaching the midway point, which is a good time to ask ourselves: How tuned in are we to John the Baptist's message? If we feel like we're being carried along in a wave of consumerism, it's not too late to make a course correction. We can step away from the fray and carve out time to enjoy the stillness of Advent and truly listen to the voice crying out in the desert.

SING *Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.*



Giving TREE

The St. Joseph Giving Tree in our vestibule, is decorated with requests for gift cards from ShopRite and Walmart. Our prayer is that you will purchase one or more cards at either store and return your gift to the collection box next to the tree before Christmas. St. Joseph's uses the cards at Christmas and throughout the year to assist parish families and others in the Brookfield community who are temporarily in need.
Thank you and God bless you.

♥ A Joyful Heart...

What is green, covered in Christmas lights and Christmas bulbs, and goes rabbit?
A mistle-toad.

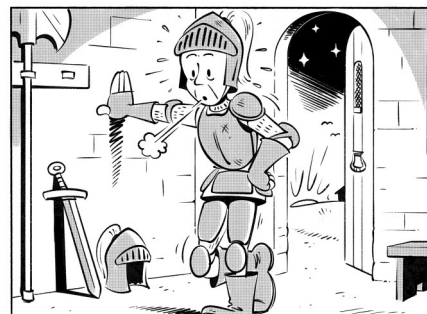
What did the wise men say after they offered up their gifts of gold and frankincense?
Wait, there's myrrh.

What's every elf's favorite type of music?
Wrap!

What do grapes sing at Christmas?
'Tis the season to be jelly.

What did the gingerbread man put on his bed?
A cookie sheet!

"Why was St. George tired?"



"He worked the knight shift."

FUN FACT! St. George is the patron saint of England, he was a soldier and officer in the Roman army who was martyred for his faith in Jesus.

One Truth.
One Youth.



ELEMENTARY



MIDDLE SCHOOL



HIGH SCHOOL



IMPORTANT NEWS & UPDATES

EDJE STUDENT GOOD DEEDS

- "I helped my dad bring in firewood." Submitted by Emily
- "I helped my teacher clean up the classroom toys." Submitted by Lian
- "I read to my grandparents." Submitted by Jax
- "I made a new friend called Lily. So I included her at recess by helping me draw a bunny." Submitted by Alessandra
- "I helped mom with the baby." Submitted by Harley

EDJE ONLINE WORK DUE DECEMBER 17

My Catholic Faith Delivered	
Grade 1	Lesson 12: Jesus Grows Up
Grade 2	Chapter 14: Jesus Our Teacher
Grade 3	Lesson 12: Purity and Truth
Grade 4	Lesson 12: A King for the People of God
Grade 5	Lesson 12: Born in the City of David
Grade 6	Lesson 12: Charity Toward All

**IGNITE for Grades 7 & 8
Friday Nights**

See the [SJC website](#) for registration forms and schedule.

**UNITED: Sunday Nights @
6:30PM
for Grades 9-12**

See www.ctunitedyouth.com for more information.



Our Igniters wish you a Happy (Liturgical) New Year!

The Merriest of Seasons

Immaculate High School Fine Arts invites you to our
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Featuring band, guitar ensemble, piano, inspire choir, junior inspire choir, & senior soloists

Sunday, Dec 17, 2023
4:00 in the Bobby Plumb Memorial Gym
Admission is Free!

Enjoy light refreshments following the concert.

Immaculate High School, 73 Southern Blvd, Danbury, CT



THE ANNUAL COATS FOR KIDS DRIVE IS IN FULL SWING!

This Knights of Columbus-sponsored annual event supports the working poor and homeless in providing warm clothing during the upcoming frigid months. For the past 6 years St. Joseph Church and St. Marguerite have been so very generous when it comes to donating gently used coats, gloves, mittens and hats as well as monetary donations.

Where to donate: Please place your clothing donations in the beautifully designed Christmas Cans created by our Youth Group, Ignite. The cans are located in the front vestibule. Thank you in advance for your support.



MASS Intentions

- Monday, December 11 - St. Damascus I, Pope**
 7:45 AM - Intentions of All Our Parishioners
- Tuesday, December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe**
 7:45 AM - Adelia Soares, req. by Maria Fernandes
- Wednesday, December 13 - St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr**
 7:45 AM - Fern Rajcula, req. by family
- Thursday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross**
 7:45 AM - Beniamino Tropeano, req. by the Feta Family
- Friday, December 15**
 7:45 AM - Bob Wojciechowski, req. by family
- Saturday, December 16**
 8:00 AM - Mary Went, req. by family
 5:00 PM - Suzanne Fennell, req. by Louise Laragh
- Sunday, December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent**
 7:30 AM - Paul Sullivan, req. by Mike & Cathi Sullivan
 9:00 AM - Harrie Humphreys, req. by family
 11:00 AM - John McGrade, req. by the Blanchfield Family



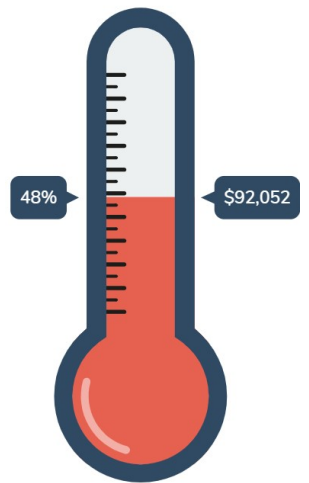
Sunday Offertory: \$12,783.00
 Includes \$5,801.00 in Online Giving



ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

GOAL: \$190,000

Every parish family is asked to support the **2023 Annual Parish Collection**. The purpose of this collection is to generate funds to balance the parish operating budget and to fund parish improvement and maintenance projects, such as a new roof and new carpeting. The participation of ALL parishioners is essential for the success of this effort.



Every gift is welcomed and sincerely appreciated. Thank you.

PARISH MINISTRIES

Liturgy	
Altar Servers	203.775.1035
Choir Director - Arianna Carlo	203.775.1035
Faith Formation and Sacraments	
Religious Education Coord. - Ms. Pat Smith	203.775.1035, ext. 107
RCIA	203.775.1035
Scheduling Baptisms - Mrs. Rita Golaszewski. . .	203.775.1035, ext. 101
Marriage Scheduling/Prep	203.775.1035
Prayer & Devotion	
Men's Retreat - Jeff Roeder	203.470.1506
Women's Retreat - Mrs. Barb Roeder	203.470.3832
Men of St. Joseph	
Jim Steffen	203.775.8676
George Lauri	203.775.1531
Parish Councils and Administration	
Parish Council - Mr. Andy Pacuk, Chairman.	917.514.5974
Finance Council - Mr. Frank Cavalea, Chairman.	203.482.5563
Other Ministries & Organizations	
8 th Station Bereavement Ministry	
Mrs. Mary Shaughnessy	203.775.9138
Mrs. Pat Tharrington	203.775.4836
Mary-Martha Ministry - Mrs. Pat Font	203.775.1035
Women's Reflection & Prayer Group - Mrs. Barb Roeder .	203.470.3832
Outreach to Sick/Shut-In - Sr. Mary Ann Socha, CMGT ..	203.240.0757



SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS
 Our Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for a Special Intention req. by Jack & Phyllis O'Keefe

THOSE FOR WHOM WE PRAY
 FOR THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S HEALING, STRENGTH, AND COMFORT: Fr. James Demko, Frank Lefferman



Please note:
 Oplatek Christmas Wafers are available in the Parish Office.



Clergy Hospital Visitations

If you need to spend time in the Danbury or New Milford Hospital, there is a procedure in place for you to alert us here at St Joseph Church. Once notified, we can arrange for a sacramental visit.

If it is determined that you will be staying at the hospital, you will be asked during your admissions if you would like your parish to be notified.

If you would, please inform them that your parish is St Joseph Church and make sure to specify Brookfield. We will be notified and will endeavor to visit you during your stay.

We also are very blessed to have several St Joseph Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist who make communion visitations to those in Danbury Hospital during the week.

We offer thanks in humble gratitude to our hospital ministers!