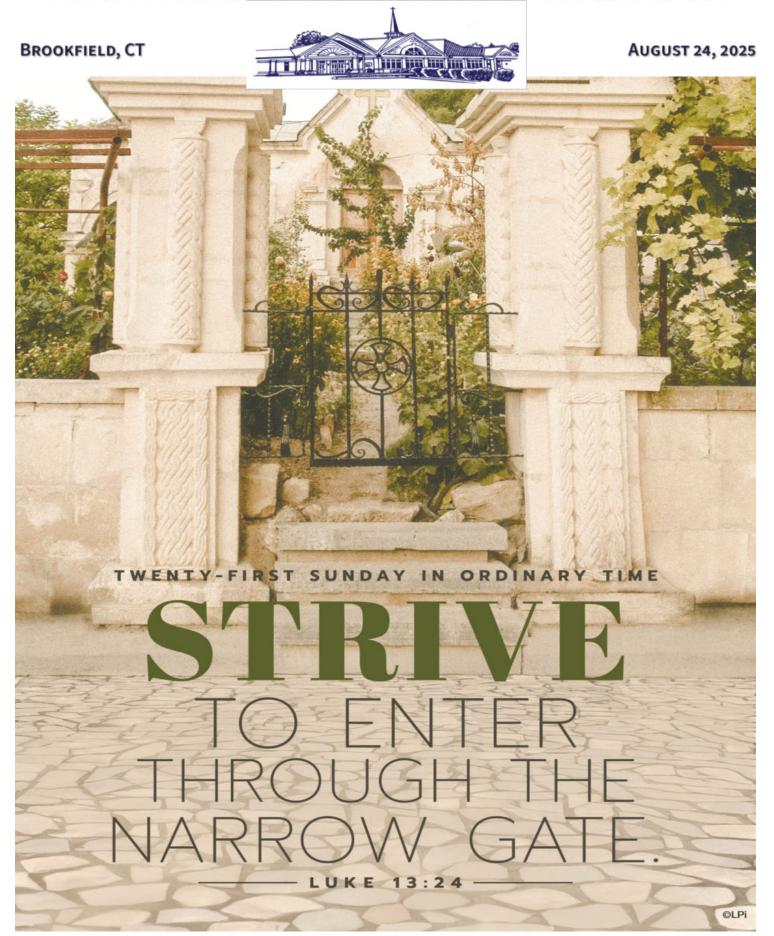
SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH A COMMUNITY OF PRAYER FOCUSED ON PERFORMING CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY: FEEDING THE HUNGRY



PARISH STAFF

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

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

Msgr. Robert E. Weiss, Non-Resident Priest

MsgrWeiss@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

MusicDirector@stjosephbrookfield.com

Arianna Hanley, Choir Director Cantor@stiosephbrookfield.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
Hours: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Monday thru Friday*
Emergencies: (203)209-4908

Mail:

163 Whisconier Road Brookfield, CT 06804

GPS Address: 1 Obtuse Hill Rd Brookfield, CT 06804

*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)
Saturdays: 4:00-4:45 PM

WELCOME TO SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

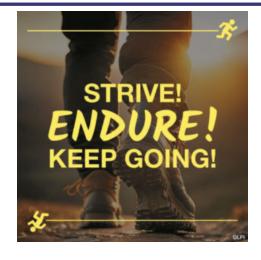
YOU BELONG HERE

THIS WEEK @ ST. JOSEPH

Mon 25	7:45 AM 8:30 AM 6:30 PM	Mass Morning Prayer Picnic Meeting
Tues 26	7:45 AM 8:30 AM 7:00 PM	Mass Morning Prayer Confession & Adoration
Wed 27	7:45 AM 8:30 AM	Mass Morning Prayer
Thurs 28	7:45 AM 8:30 AM	Mass Morning Prayer
29	7:45 AM 8:15 AM 6:30 PM	Mass Eucharistic Adoration for Life Movie Night: Secret of Roan Inish
30	8:00 AM 4:00 PM 4:30 PM 5:00 PM	Mass Confession Rosary for Persecuted Catholics Mass
31	7:30 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	Mass Mass 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. The Prayer to St. Michael can be found on the back inside cover of the St. Augustine Missal.



Brookfield, CT



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow-a day at a time.

Sunday, Aug 24, 2025

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME The only way to make an impression on God

A teacher asked his class for examples of words that describe the current crop of college students. He expected to hear "highly educated" or "sophisticated" but was surprised at the honesty of a young woman who responded "entitlement. We think everything is owed to us." An overstatement, yet such an attitude can often be attached to a particular social class, race, gender, ethnicity, or nationality. But scripture makes it clear that simply being a member of a chosen race or having rank upon rank of wealthy, noble, or accomplished ancestors makes no impression on God. Only one thing does: goodness.

Isaiah 66:18-21; Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13; Luke 13:22-30 (123). "They shall proclaim my glory among the nations.'

Monday, Aug 25, 2025

Of icons and idols

The First Council of Nicaea, convened on this day in 325, condemned the Arian heresy and affirmed both the divinity of Christ and the Trinitarian nature of God through the Nicene Creed. Four centuries later, the Second Council of Nicaea addressed the Iconoclastic Controversy, condemning the destruction of religious images. The council affirmed the legitimacy of displaying and venerating icons as a way to connect with Christ and the saints, while carefully distinguishing between veneration, which honors the person represented, and worship, which belongs to God alone. These ancient debates—about who God is and how we approach the divine—echo throughout salvation history. Idolatry, the act of placing anything above God, remains a constant temptation. Consider using religious art as you take time to examine your own life. What false idols might stand between you and God?

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10; Matthew 23:13-22 (425). "Blind fools, which is greater, the gold, or the temple that made the gold sacred?"

Tuesday, Aug 26, 2025

Duty to imitate

To share the gospel is to share a part of yourself. Your life experience brings the word of God to life. We are the living wordwitnesses to the gospel in our everyday actions. When you share yourself with others through acts of love, the gospel becomes more real—not only for those you encounter, but for you as well. As Saint Augustine reminds us: "It is the highest duty of religion to imitate Him whom you adore.'

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 23:23-26 (426). "We were determined to share with you not only the Gospel of God, but our very selves as

Wednesday, Aug 27, 2025 MEMORIAL OF MONICA

In her own words

In the early centuries of the church, women's importance was often tied to the social standing of the men in their lives, and their stories were told through a male voice. Saint Monica's story comes to us through the writings of her son, Saint Augustine of Hippo. He described Monica as a model of womanly virtue: hard working, persevering, submissive, and holy. Yet we know nothing about Monica in her own words. We do not even know if she could write. Monica, like many women, past and present, lacked the social power to speak for themselves. Perhaps today we can entrust to her saintly patronage all the people who struggle to find—or to be heard in their own voice.

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:27-32 (427). "You received it not as the word of men, but as it truly is, the word of God."

Thursday, Aug 28, 2025

MEMORIAL OF AUGUSTINE, BISHOP, DR OF THE CHURCH Be inspired by a good book

Looking for a good book? Try Augustine's Confessions, a classic of literature by one of the greatest thinkers of all time. Augustine's account of his search for God contains all the elements of a great adventure story: exotic locations, decadence and dissolution, complicated maternal relationship, philosophical and theological struggles, despair and confusion, and finally a profound religious experience: "No further would I read; nor needed I: for instantly at the end of this sentence, by a light as it were of serenity infused into my heart, all the darkness of doubt vanished away." Augustine's search for the only source of true peace is our search, too. "You have made us for yourself, O Lord," he wrote, "and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Matthew 24:42-51 (428). "May the Lord make you increase and abound in love."

Friday, Aug 29, 2025 MEMORIAL OF THE PASSION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST Sin doesn't get the last word

We tend to divide up people into good guys and bad guys. Yet the truth about any given person defies those categories. Just think if you were to be permanently judged and labeled based on a particularly bad day when all your weak points showed up like yellow dandelions on a green lawn. Take Herod for instance, one of the villains of the gospel stories. Despite his bad behavior, Mark presents him as having a heart with at least a reasonable potential for goodness. As Just Mercy author Bryan Stevenson says, "Each of us is more than the worst thing we've ever done." And our Christian faith teaches that everyone is worthy of our compassion. Indeed, as Jesus said in one of Saint Faustina's visions: "The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to my mercy."

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Mark 6:17-29 (429/634). "God did not call us to impurity but to holiness.'

Saturday, Aug 30, 2025

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY A prayer that speaks to all

Saturdays are not only the traditional day to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary but also the day of the week to pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, the preeminent "Marian" prayer. In prayerfully meditating on the events of the Annunciation of Gabriel to Mary, the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, the Birth of Jesus, the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, and the Finding of Jesus in the Temple, we "weave our intentions, thoughts, imagination, emotions, and desire for union with Christ," says Alice Camille in her award-winning article for VISION Vocation Network, "Full of grace: Reclaiming the Rosary." The Rosary is a prayer that speaks to everyone as the church but also to each person as an individual. What is it saying to you today?

1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Matthew 25:14-30 (430). "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

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Why did the M&M go to school? Because it really wanted to be a smartie.

What do librarians take with them when they go fishing? A bookworm.

Which school supply is the king of the classroom?

What does a thesaurus eat for breakfast? A synonym roll.



Peace be with you!

Jesus is asked a question in this week's Gospel which I am certain has crossed all our minds at some point in our lives—"Will only a few be saved?" or, more to the point, "Will I be saved?!" His response is typically cryptic and thought-provoking as he paints a picture of someone knocking on the door of the master's house (presumably heaven) and the ominous response of the master to the individual. It causes us to refocus on his initial guidance to strive for the narrow gate and how well we have fared in that regard in our life's journey. There is always hope.

We have been very blessed at St. Joseph Church over the years with a wonderful, committed lay staff and clergy who have worked so hard to create a joyful spiritual home for our faithful. As a pastor, I am humbled by the support I receive from so many. A case in point is Deacon Bill Shaughnessy. Deacon Bill and his wife Mary have been parishioners at St. Joseph Church since 1968, when they moved to Brookfield from New Jersey. Both Bill and Mary have been very active members at St. Joseph Church ever since. Bill was ordained a deacon on May 25, 1985, by Bishop Walter Curtis and has served at St. Joseph as his sole assignment. We have been blessed by his ministry. Deacon Bill was a member of the third class of deacons welcomed into the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Over the years, we have been blessed by Deacon Bill's wonderful preaching, using clear, compelling, and memorable stories and examples to make the Scripture come alive—especially drawing from his love of reading and his scientific background as an engineer. We are also blessed by his gift with young people, and he has over the years run and assisted in our youth programs, even to this day assisting in our Ignite Program. He was involved in many other initiatives over the decades with the goal of bringing the Gospel message to whoever needed to hear it.



Deacon Bill officially retired from active ministry 13 years ago when he reached the age of 75, but obviously that was only a formality required from the Diocesan personnel directives. He continues to serve and to be his gentle self as he quietly prays and worships with us each week. Happy 40th Anniversary, Deacon Bill! Ad multos annos!







August 24, 2025 Page 4





EDJE NEWS & UPDATES



Registration for our 2025-2026 Religious Education Program closed as of June 30th. If you missed the enrollment period and wish to register, please call the office (203-775-1035) and ask to speak to Pat or Kathy. We will be happy to forward a registration form to you. Late registrations, submitted after the enrollment period closed on June 30th, will incur a late fee.

REMINDER

Fr. O'Neill is having a meeting for parents of children in our Religious Education Program on Friday, August 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Only one parent from each family needs to attend.



IGNITE for Grades 7 & 8
Friday Nights during the school year

For more information, registration, and calendar, go to:

www.stjosephbrookfield.com/igniteyouth-ministry



UNITED: Sunday Nights @ 6:30PM

www.ctunitedyouth.com

Wedding Jubilee Mass

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport will celebrate the Annual Diocesan Wedding Jubilee Mass on Saturday, October 4th 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.



LAST MOVIE OF THE SEASON!



Summer Friday Movie Nights
@ the
HOLY FAMILY PAVILION
6:30 PM



AUG 29

THE SECRET OF ROAN INISH

1 HOUR, 43 MIN RATED PG



Set on the misty coast of Ireland, The Secret of Roan Inish follows young Fiona as she uncovers the mystical secrets of her family's past and the legend of the selkies—seals who become human. This enchanting tale blends folklore, family love, and the healing of broken connections.

With breathtaking scenery and a gentle pace, this beautiful story celebrates the mystery of creation, the strength of family bonds, and the hope of restoration. It's a film that nourishes the imagination and the soul.

No fee, just come and enjoy!

Page 5 August 24, 2025



Monday, August 25 - St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz

7:45 AM - Ann O'Dwyer, req. by Lori & Bob Hutchinson

Tuesday, August 26

7:45 AM - Ray & Eleanor Steffen, req. by Jim Steffen

Wednesday, August 27 - St. Monica

7:45 AM - Intentions of All Our Parishioners

Thursday, August 28 - St. Augustine

7:45 AM - Angie & John Martino, req. by the Martino Family

Friday, August 29 - The Passion of St. John the Baptist

7:45 AM - Frank Schwartz, req. by Peg Wolfe & Family

Saturday, August 30

8:00 AM - Betty Wojciechowski, req. by June Schutz

5:00 PM - Geraldine Guth, req. by Jim & Pat Tharrington

Sunday, August 31 - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM - Terry Kuruc, req. by the Hosszu Family

9:00 AM - Alfred Potenza, req. by Maria Fernandes

11:00 AM - Patricia & Antonio DiLeo, req. by Silvana DiLeo



Sunday Offertory: \$11,589.50 *Includes* \$6,346.50 *in Online Giving*

We are very grateful for your weekly support of our parish—thank you so much for your generosity. May God Bless You now and always.

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THOSE FOR WHOM WE PRAY

FOR THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S HEALING, STRENGTH, AND COMFORT:

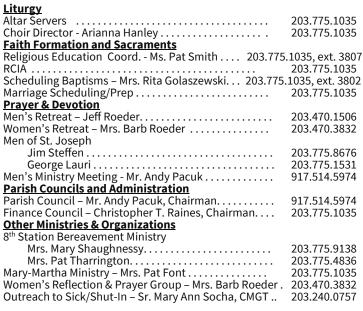
Baby Albert Docktor, Johnathan Iamartino, Wendy Ricard, Fr. Joseph Pettit



SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS

Our Sanctuary Lamp burns this week In Memory of Tomasina Buzzeo, at the request of Marie Buzzeo

PARISH MINISTRIES





Bereavement Ministry

Coping with the loss of a loved one can weigh us down physically, emotionally and spiritually, but it is not a journey we need to walk alone.

St. Joseph's 8th Station Bereavement Ministry offers comfort and help during the grieving process.

This group meets the 2nd Saturday of each month, at 10:00 AM in the Parish Center. The sessions are led by Mary Shaughnessy and Patricia Tharrington.

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> Psalm 91: 4 John 11: 25 Hebrews 12: 1-2

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