ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

A community focused on performing corporal works of mercy



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

It is like a man traveling abroad.
He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.

Mark 13:34

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND

Saturday
8:00am, 5:00pm
Sunday
7:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am

CONFESSION

Tuesday
7:00-8:00pm
Saturday
4:00-4:45pm

WEEKDAY

Monday
7:45am
Tuesday
7:45am
Wednesday
7:45am
Thursday
7:45am
Friday
7:45am

NOVEMBER 29, 2026

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH!

We're so glad you're here!

Whether you are joining us for the first time or are part of our parish family, we pray that you feel welcomed and encouraged as we pray together.

May you experience God's presence, find encouragement in His Word, and leave renewed in faith and hope.

163 Whisconier Road Brookfield, CT 06804 | www.stjosephbrookfield.com | Phone: 203.775.1035

WELCOME!



MASS INTENTIONS

MON., NOV. 30: St. Andrew

7:45am Giuseppe & Rosiana Frangella, req. by Robert Frangella

TUES., DEC. 1

7:45am Giovanna & Leonardo Emanuele, req. by their children

WED., DEC. 2

7:45am Intentions of All Our Parishioners

THURS., DEC. 3: St. Francis Xavier

7:45am Vincent Verlezza, req. by Anna Verlezza

FRI., DEC. 4: St. John Damascene

7:45am Harold Vincent O'Connell, req. by the Sanchez-Uribe Family

SAT., DEC. 5

8:00am Jack Anderson, req. by his wife

5:00pm Frank Greco, req. by Pam Greco

SUN., DEC. 6: 2nd Sunda of Advent

7:30am Barbara Buczek, req. by Matt & Maureen Farrell

9:00am Jose Miguel & Israel Illescas req. by the Illescas Family

11:00am Eugene Golaszewski, req. by Maria Fernandes

FILLING UP ON ADVENT

I've learned the hard way to keep Saltines on the top shelf, far out of the kids' reach.

Saltines are a perfectly lovely little snack, but they're so light and salty and full of air that my children consume entire sleeves of them without realizing it. "I'm not hungry — I ate a bunch of Saltines!" they protest when I call them to the table for dinner.

I think I'm going to have it tattooed on my hand, just so I don't have to keep saying it: what fills you up doesn't necessarily feed you.

This, unfortunately, is so often how I am with Advent. I gorge myself on the nonsense that looks, sounds, and tastes like Christmas — but never really feels like it. It all appears harmless — light and full of air — these decorations, these social engagements, these consumeristic spirals of gift-giving, these drive-through light shows. I don't even realize it's happening until, on December 25, I find myself so tired I can barely drag myself across the finish line.

The lie at the heart of all that excess is the same as the lie at the heart of any evil: I am empty, and all this nothing can fill me up.

Because December 25 isn't the finish line, is it? It's the beginning. Advent is supposed to be the time of preparation, the time of stillness and calm, of watching and waiting, reflection and renewal. A time that — gasp! — reenergizes you, so that when the lord of the house comes, he won't find you passed out in a pile of tinsel and cookie dough.

So be watchful. Be alert.

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman , ©LPi

THOSE FOR WHOM WE PRAY

For those in need of God's healing, strength, and comfort. Please scan the QR code to share a prayer intention or pray for those in need.

SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTION



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in Memory of Kay Yomazzo at the reqest of Pat Tharrington

OUR STAFF AND CONTACTS

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

Non-Resident Priest
Msgr. Robert E. Weiss
MsgrWeiss@diobpt.org

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

Deacon
Dcn. Peter J. Kuhn
203.775.1035 | DcnPeter@stjosephbrookfield.com

Deacon
William J. Shaughnessy
203.775.1035 | BillShaughnessy703@gmail.com

Parish Secretary
Rita Golaszewski
203.775.1035 | RitaG@stjosephbrookfield.com

Bookkeeper
Christine Blonski, ChrisBlonski@stjosephbrookfield.com

Religious Education Coordinator
Patricia Smith, PatSmith@stjosephbrookfield.com

Religious Education Assistant
Kathy Bailo, KathyBailo@stjosephbrookfield.com

Director of Music
David Kendall, MusicDirector@stjosephbrookfield.com

Choir Director
Arianna Hanley, Cantor@stjosephbrookfield.com

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

FORMATION & SACRAMENTS

Baptism, Marriage, OCIA
Call the Parish Office at 203.775.1035
203.775.1035

Religious Education
See Staff section above

Altar Servers
Call the Parish Office at 203.775.1035

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

Parish Council
Andrew Pacuk, Chairman 917.514.5974

Finance Council
Christopher T. Raines, Chairman 203.775.1035

MEN'S MINISTRIES

Retreats
Tom Wall 203.417.6037

Men of St. Joseph
Jim Steffen 203.775.8676
George Lauri 203.775.1531

Knights of Columbus
Greg Dembowski 203.733.7209

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Retreats, Women's Reflection & Prayer Group
Mrs. Barb Roeder 203.470.3832

Mary Martha
Mrs. Pat Font 203.775.1035

SUPPORT & COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

8th Station Bereavement
Mrs. Mary Shaughnessy 203.775.9138
Mrs. Pat Tharrington 203.775.4836

Outreach to Sick & Shut-In
Sr. Mary Ann Socha, CMGT 203.240.0757

Sandwich Angels
Mrs. Pat Tharrington 203.775.4836

Casseroles for the Hungry
Jen Conlon 203.775.1035

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE
WEEKEND OF NOV 21 - NOV 22

Collection Basket	$6,630.00
Online Giving	$6,165.50
Weekly Total	$12,795.50
Annual Appeal	$44,530.00

DONATE ONLINE

Donating online is easy! Simply aim your phone camera at the QR code and follow the link. Thank you for your support.

Thank you so much for your generosity.
May God bless you now and always.



WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday, Nov 29, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Renew your faith in the new year
While you probably haven't yet made plans for New Year's Eve, for Catholics and other Christians, today is new year's day. The "church year"—the annual cycle of feasts and seasons—begins today with the start of our anticipation of Christ's birth. Interestingly, the scripture readings for the First Sunday of Advent always talk about Christ's Second Coming, not his first, when he will return at the end of time to bring fulfillment to all he had begun on Earth. As we enter once again into one of the great mysteries of our faith, God becoming a human person and revealing God's self in a human being, we have an opportunity to renew what our faith in Jesus means to us. Watch for the "return" of Jesus, both as an infant and the glorious Lord, and for the signs of his presence in your life.
Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37 (2). "What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Monday, Nov 30, 2026
FEAST OF ANDREW, APOSTLE
Be part of the advance team
In celebrating Saint Andrew today, the church gives him a chance to come out from under the shadow of his more famous brother. In the Gospel of John, Andrew is the one who brings Peter to meet Jesus. He also brings forward the boy who supplies the soon-to-be-miraculous loaves and fishes, as well as the Greeks who want to see Jesus. Andrew, patron of fishermen, is one to draw people into his net and usher them toward Jesus. In the spirit of Andrew, what can you do to advance Jesus' interests and usher someone to deeper faith?
Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22 (684). "As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea."

Tuesday, Dec 01, 2026
Rooted in faithfulness
The tradition of the Jesse Tree comes from the prophet Isaiah. A Jesse Tree helps families and church communities connect the Advent season with the faithfulness of God throughout salvation history. The tree incorporates references to God's promises of fidelity through special ornaments placed on the branches. The ornaments are usually a handmade symbol or drawing that represents one of the major stories of the Old Testament, along with a brief scripture verse from that story. On Christmas Eve, the final symbol is added to the tree—usually a Star of David. Allow the season to take root in your heart. Participating in the decoration of a Jesse Tree can help plant the seed.
Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24 (176). "A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom."

Wednesday, Dec 02, 2026
Something from nothing
The story of the feeding of the crowd with a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish is well known and much loved, and it's the only miracle that is told in all four gospels. It is also one reason why the fish was the first symbol of Christianity. At its heart, this story is about abundance, where seemingly there was only lack. But make no mistake: This event is not just something that happened 2,000 years ago; it reveals a reality we live in today. We can't produce a feast for thousands, but we can create peace and comfort out of thin air every time we offer a kind word or a helping hand. As Saint John Chrysostom says, "The rich man is not one who is in possession of much, but one who gives much."
Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37 (177). "Jesus said to them, 'How many loaves do you have?' 'Seven,' they replied, 'and a few fish.'"

Thursday, Dec 03, 2026
MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST
Adventures in love
When Ignatius Loyola began sharing a lodging with Francis Xavier at the university of Paris, he slowly persuaded him to consider the priesthood and eventually join in the founding of the Jesuit order. In those early days, Francis couldn't have known that less than a century later they would be canonized together (along with Teresa of Avila, Philip Neri, and Isidore the Farmer). Francis also couldn't have known where the love of Christ would take him. From Paris, Rome, and the founding of the Jesuits, to India, Japan, and beyond, Francis Xavier spent his life spreading the Good News, crossing paths with people from far and wide and witnessing to the love of God that knows no bounds. In honor of Francis, be open to new ideas and adventures of the Spirit!
Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178). "Trust in the LORD forever! For the LORD is an eternal Rock."

Friday, Dec 04, 2026
The eyes of faith
Faith is one of those things you have to enter into for it to really open itself up to you. Once you enter into it, things begin to make sense in a new way. As Saint Augustine put it: "Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe." Several of the healings the gospels tell of have to do with Jesus restoring sight to the blind. Christ healed blindness—and other afflictions—because people believed he could do it. They believed in him. Think of this Advent as a way to deepen your faith in Christ—and to let him do the impossible for you.
Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31 (179). "The blind men approached him and Jesus said to them, 'Do you believe that I can do this?' 'Yes, Lord,' they said to him."

Saturday, Dec 05, 2026
It's not about the money
In Jesus' time there was less reliance on money than now, but it was still important. Jesus wanted his disciples—and that includes us today—to give away more than just money. True charity consists of gifts that defy monetary value: loving attention, compassion, healing, forgiveness, wisdom. So go about your business, and do it well, but also remember to offer to others what is truly precious in life. In doing so, says Saint Ambrose, "you will find the glory of charity more than a match for the parade of power."
Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180). "Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & YOUTH NEWS

BISHOP FRANK TEACHES THE FAITH

Bishop Frank Teaches the Faith is a new weekly series that introduces young children and their families to a different topic of the Catholic faith each week through short, colorful episodes, two to three minutes in length.

There are currently 18 episodes to view with a new one added every Friday. There are also activities associated with each episode that include coloring pages, word searches and jigsaw puzzles. You can access these videos by going to: https://startwithsunday.org/bfttf/

EDJE ONLINE WORK DUE THIS WEEK

Grade 1	No work due this week
Grade 2	Ch. 11: The Savior is Born & Assessment
Grade 3	Ch. 11: Obedience and Love & Assessment
Grade 4	Ch. 10: Great Things Happen & Assessment
Grade 5	Ch. 10: The Words of the Prophets & Assessment
Grade 6	Ch. 10: Church Authority - Our Fathers in Faith & Assessment





IGNITE YOUTH GROUP

GRADES 7-12, FRIDAY EVENINGS

Youth Group is where faith meets real life! Students in grades 7–12 take what they've learned in Religious Education and put it into practice through games, service, conversations, challenges, and community. It's a place to build friendships, ask questions, grow in faith, and discover what it looks like to live out what we believe.

For more information, as well as the full Ignite calendar, please go to:
www.stjosephbrookfield.com/ignite-youth-ministry



CHURCH & DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS



THIS WEEK @ ST. JOSEPH

Scan the QR code to go to our online calendar of events.

SJC 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.



ST. JOSEPH Garden
MEMORIAL GARDEN & COLUMBARIUM
St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

A PLACE FOR PRAYER & REMEMBRANCE

St. Joseph Church is developing plans for a Catholic Memorial Garden and Columbarium on parish grounds, near the church. This special space would provide our parish families with a dignified, sacred place for prayer, remembrance, and the inurnment of cremated remains.

We invite you to learn more about this new opportunity for St. Joseph families. Representatives will be available after Masses to answer questions, share information about the project, show renderings of the proposed layout and design, and provide a nonbinding household interest form.

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

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