

SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

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

BROOKFIELD, CT



NOVEMBER 30, 2025

1st Sunday OF ADVENT



PARISH STAFF

Rev. George F. O'Neill, Pastor

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Phone: 203.775.1035

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Web Site: www.stjosephbrookfield.comEmail: ParishSec@stjosephbrookfield.com

Hours: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Monday thru Friday*

Emergencies: (203)209-4908

Mail: 163 Whisconier Road
Brookfield, CT 06804GPS 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

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

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

TO SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

YOU BELONG HERE**THIS WEEK @ ST. JOSEPH****Mon****01**7:45 AM Mass
8:30 AM Morning Prayer**Tues****02**7:45 AM Mass
8:30 AM Morning Prayer
7:00 PM Confession & Adoration
7:15 PM WRAP Advent Study**Wed****03**7:45 AM Mass
8:30 AM Morning Prayer**Thurs****04**7:45 AM Mass
8:30 AM Morning Prayer**Fri****05**7:45 AM Mass
8:15 AM Eucharistic Adoration for Life
6:30 PM Ignite Youth (Grades 7-12)**Sat****06**8:00 AM Mass
8:30 AM Respect for Life Rosary
9:00 AM Breakfast with St. Nicholas
4:00 PM Confession
4:30 PM Rosary for Persecuted Catholics
5:00 PM Mass**Sun****07**7:30 AM Mass
9:00 AM Mass
11:00 AM 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.

**2025
Holy Days Of Obligation****JAN
1**SOLEMNITY
OF MARY,
MOTHER
OF GOD**MAY
29***ASCENSION
OF
JESUS**AUG
15**ASSUMPTION
OF THE
BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY**NOV
1**ALL SAINTS
DAY**DEC
8**IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
OF THE
BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY**DEC
25**THE NATIVITY
OF
OUR LORD

EVERY SUNDAY IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION



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

Sunday, Nov 30, 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Expect the unexpected

It may seem strange to talk about Christ's Second Coming when we're just starting to prepare for the celebration of his first. But that's exactly what the scripture readings for the first two Sundays of Advent do; it's not until the third and fourth Sundays that we get to the Incarnation part. "You . . . must be prepared," we hear, "for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." What gives? Why speak of the End at the Beginning? Because in both cases Jesus becomes present to the world. Our task is to be ready to receive that presence, at the beginning and the end and all the time in between.

Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44 (1). "Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed."

Monday, Dec 01, 2025

An inspiration for the centuries

To become a Roman centurion, a soldier had to be literate, come highly recommended, be at least 30 years of age, and have already served some time in the Roman army. This was no cushy job. Centurions suffered heavy casualties in battle because they led their "century" of troops from the front. However, their brave example inspired courage in the soldiers who followed behind them. One well-known centurion also became an inspiration of faith for centuries of Christians when he asks that Jesus "only say the word" to heal his ailing servant. Do you have such faith in Jesus' healing power in your own life?

Isaiah 4:2-6; Matthew 8:5-11 (175). "Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith."

Tuesday, Dec 02, 2025

Living Christmas

'Tis the season when scenes of peace and serenity start arriving in our mailboxes daily. Every Christmas card is a bid for a more hopeful world. A star shines against the darkness of a fearful nation. A child is born into a culture sadly given over to ways of death and destruction. Wild animals learn to live together as people never do. Even Saint Nick brings gifts through a spirit of generosity as wide as his belly. This year let's bring those Christmas scenes to life, so that, in the words of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, "When Christ comes to you in Christmas, He may find in you a warm home, warm love like that of a heartfelt of love."

Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24 (176). "Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid."

Wednesday, Dec 03, 2025

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST

How to build a fire

One of the founding members of the Jesuits, Saint Francis Xavier (1506-52) is considered to have been one of the greatest missionaries since the apostles. Appointed to re-evangelize portions of the Far East, Francis placed himself with the lowest castes, preaching to the sick and dying at hospitals and orphans and slaves in the street. He understood that if the fire of Christianity were to spread through the East, the kindling must begin at the base of society. Rather than arriving like a royal ambassador, Francis clothed himself with rags and made his home in the lowliest shelters. Francis' humble appearance proved to be the greatest tool for bringing the message of Christ to others. "It is not the actual physical exertion that counts towards one's progress," Francis explains, "nor the nature of the task, but by the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken." Gather a spirit of faith as you set out on your own daily

missions.

Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37 (177). "My heart is moved with pity for the crowd."

Thursday, Dec 04, 2025

Spoken through the prophets

Historically speaking, the various deities revered by tribes and cultures around the world usually did little more than reinforce the position of those in power. From the Egyptians to the Aztecs, civilizations usually were led by a religious elite who controlled the resources, made the decisions, and "spoke for the gods." That is what makes the testimony of the Jewish prophets so remarkable. They regularly took the rich and powerful to task while advocating for the poor and marginalized. Anyone who doubts the authenticity of biblical literature should pause to consider the striking originality of the prophetic testimony. Surely that testimony would not have survived the censorship of the Jewish elites unless a Higher Power was calling the shots! Take time to read the divinely inspired scriptures that are foundational to our faith.

Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178). "The LORD is an eternal Rock. He humbles those in high places."

Friday, Dec 05, 2025

Do you understand?

At First Sight is a movie that tells the true story of a blind man who, at the urging of a friend, undergoes experimental surgery to restore his sight. The operation is successful; his retina works and he can see. Or at least his eyes function. But he finds he must still finger objects to "know" what they are. He can "see" a cheese grater, for example, but he doesn't know what it is until he has felt it with his hands. Seeing is a function of light striking the retina, but it takes the mind to interpret what we are looking at. Sight is one thing; understanding what we see is another. Take time today to consider the meaning behind the glory of God's creation.

Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31 (179). "Out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see."

Saturday, Dec 06, 2025

The cure for what ails us

As Jesus sent out the 12 apostles after empowering them to proclaim God's kingdom and heal the sick, he admonished them not to charge for their services: "You received without payment; give without payment." As the nation struggles with difficult questions of effective, affordable, and universal healthcare, it is good to take a step back from the heat of the debate and look at larger principles. The U.S. Bishops recently stated in a letter to Congress: "We firmly believe that all people have the right to those necessities needed to live, found a family, and flourish. It is in this reality that we recognize that the right to healthcare is a fundamental necessity for the preservation of life and human flourishing." And for Jesus such care was a way of proclaiming the kingdom of God. Lend a healing hand to others and help build up God's kingdom.

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180). "The LORD binds up the wounds of his people."

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HELP WANTED

Dorothy Day House Clothing Distribution

We are seeking a person or group of people to sort and display clothing as our long-time volunteer, Lynn Taborsak, prepares to step down from this task. If you have good retail or organizational skills and can offer 10-12 hours a week to sort and display donated clothing, we'd love to hear from you. Training will be provided.

Our guests deeply appreciate having clean, well-organized clothing available, and maintaining a good selection—sorted by size—helps them quickly find what they need. Lynn has done an outstanding job developing this program, and we are looking for individuals or a small team to carry it forward.

If you're interested, please contact Lynn at ltaborsak@gmail.com.



Peace be with you!

Happy Thanksgiving! Many thanks to those who joined me at the Congregational Church this past Sunday for the Annual Ecumenical Clergy Thanksgiving Service with the other Christian churches in Brookfield. Fr. Nate Lee from St. Paul's Episcopal gave a wonderful sermon on the true meaning of "thank you" and from where all our most fundamental blessings truly flow. Not only is Fr. Nate a superb homilist, but he also proved to have natural comedic timing. He had us all, as they say, in stitches! We are truly blessed here in our faith community in Brookfield.

And welcome to the First Sunday of Advent—the first of four Sundays prior to Christmas, spent in prayerful anticipation and joyful expectation of the coming of our Lord and Savior. During these days, we will reflect upon three great comings of Christ:

- His first coming in Bethlehem at the first Christmas;
- His second coming at the end of time;
- And His coming into our own hearts, leading to our personal rebirth into eternal life.

We anticipate His promise fulfilled in John 14:3: "I go to prepare a place for you, and I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be." This is a time to reflect upon the past, the present, and our future in faith. Heaven is our goal, and Jesus is the way.

As we bless the Advent wreath and light the first candle—the candle of Hope—this weekend, may we focus our minds and hearts on this season of preparation. Amidst all the external preparations, let us also take time to prepare internally for the greatest gift we have ever received.

Many thanks to Diana O'Keefe and Dawn Cioffi, our "Library Angels," who volunteer to keep our wonderful parish library up to date. In commemoration of this Advent season, they have created a beautiful new display featuring Pope Leo and St. Peter—the rock upon whom Jesus built His Church—along with the famous "Jesus Knocking" painting and several places of prayer, including our own St. Joseph's Church. If you have a moment, please stop by and enjoy the display.

Thank you, Diana and Dawn!



Father O'Neil



ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of **preparation** that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest wears violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose may be worn (GIRM, no. 346). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season.

Source: USCCB Website



One Truth.
One Youth.



EDJE ONLINE WORK DUE NOVEMBER 30

My Catholic Faith Delivered

Grade 1	No work due this week
Grade 2	Chapter 12: The Holy Family & Assessment
Grade 3	No work due this week
Grade 4	No work due this week
Grade 5	No work due this week
Grade 6	No work due this week



IGNITE for Grades 7-12
Friday Nights during the school year

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

www.stjosephbrookfield.com/ignite-youth-ministry

If Friday Nights don't work for you but
Sunday nights do, please check out

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JOY OF CHRISTMAS



Warm Winter Wear Donations Kicks off November 1 and ends
January 6 to support the working poor and homeless in our
community.

We need: New hats, gloves, scarves, and coats for kids ages 10-
18. Gently used coats and outerwear will also be accepted.

Donation receptacles, decorated by our Ignite Youth, will be
located in the vestibule for donation drop off.

BREAKFAST With St. Nicholas

Hosted by The Young Families Ministry

Join us for a delightful morning, where children can share their holiday wishes, enjoy a delicious breakfast, and experience the joy of the season.

- ✓ Meet and greet with Santa Claus
- ✓ Delicious pancakes, sausage, juices, coffee, and water
- ✓ Holidays crafts plus a 50/50 raffle

Saturday, December 6 | 9-11 AM
St. Joseph School Gym, Brookfield, CT

RSVP by Dec 1

SCAN THE CODE TO RSVP TO HELP US ENSURE WE HAVE ENOUGH FOOD AND CRAFTS, OR EMAIL:
CHRISTINE.ERRICHELLO@GMAIL.COM

Instead of a traditional fee, we kindly ask that you bring a pair of new socks, which will be donated locally.

MASS Intentions

Monday, December 1

7:45 AM - Intentions of All Our Parishioners

Tuesday, December 2

7:45 AM - Clifton Bailey, req. by family

Wednesday, December 3 - St. Francis Xavier

7:45 AM - Vincent Verlezza, req. by Anna Verlezza

Thursday, December 4 - St. John Damascene

7:45 AM - Harold Vincent O'Connell, req. by the Sanchez-Urbe Families

Friday, December 5

7:45 AM - Catherine Conlon, req. by the Conlon Family

Saturday, December 6 - St. Nicholas

8:00 AM - Mary & Robert Hatcher Sr., req. by Betty Stahl

5:00 PM - Frank Greco, req. by the Greco Family

Sunday, December 7 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM - Frank & Marilyn DeGaray, req. by Marie D'Amico

9:00 AM - Emma Ortez, req. by her Great Grandchildren

11:00 AM - James & Joseph Filingeri, req. by family

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, Teresa Von Thaden, Kevin Elston



Sarah Broggy & Antonio Capanna III

PARISH MINISTRIES

Liturgy

Altar Servers 203.775.1035
Choir Director - Arianna Hanley 203.775.1035

Faith Formation and Sacraments

Religious Education Coord. - Ms. Pat Smith 203.775.1035, ext. 3807
RCIA 203.775.1035
Scheduling Baptisms - Mrs. Rita Golaszewski. . . 203.775.1035, ext. 3802
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

Men's Ministry Meeting - Mr. Andy Pacuk 917.514.5974

Parish Councils and Administration

Parish Council - Mr. Andy Pacuk, Chairman. 917.514.5974
Finance Council - Christopher T. Raines, Chairman. . . 203.775.1035

Other Ministries & Organizations

8th 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



Sunday Offertory: \$14,135.50

Includes \$6,418.50 in Online Giving

Correction: Sunday Nov 15-16 Offertory: \$13,725.50

Includes \$6,683.50 in Online Giving

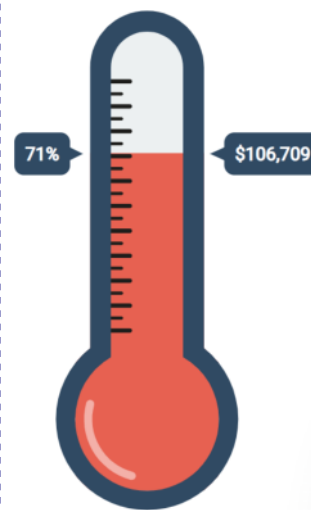
Thank you so much for your generosity. May God Bless You now and always.

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SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH ANNUAL APPEAL

GOAL: \$150,000



The Saint Joseph Annual Collection is underway. Over the years your generous financial support has been one of our greatest blessings.

Our Finance & Parish Councils have earmarked the proceeds of this 2025 Annual Collection for a particular project, the cost of which, as in past years, exceeds what can be funded through the regular weekly offertory. This year, our plan is to replace all the flooring in the church, both the seating area and the sanctuary, as well as the narthex and hallways.

Please take a moment to prayerfully consider your support of this project. Thank you for your continued faith, love, and generosity.

Give Now by scanning the code and going to the St. Joseph Parish Annual Collection tile.



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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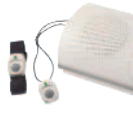


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