

SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

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

BROOKFIELD, CT

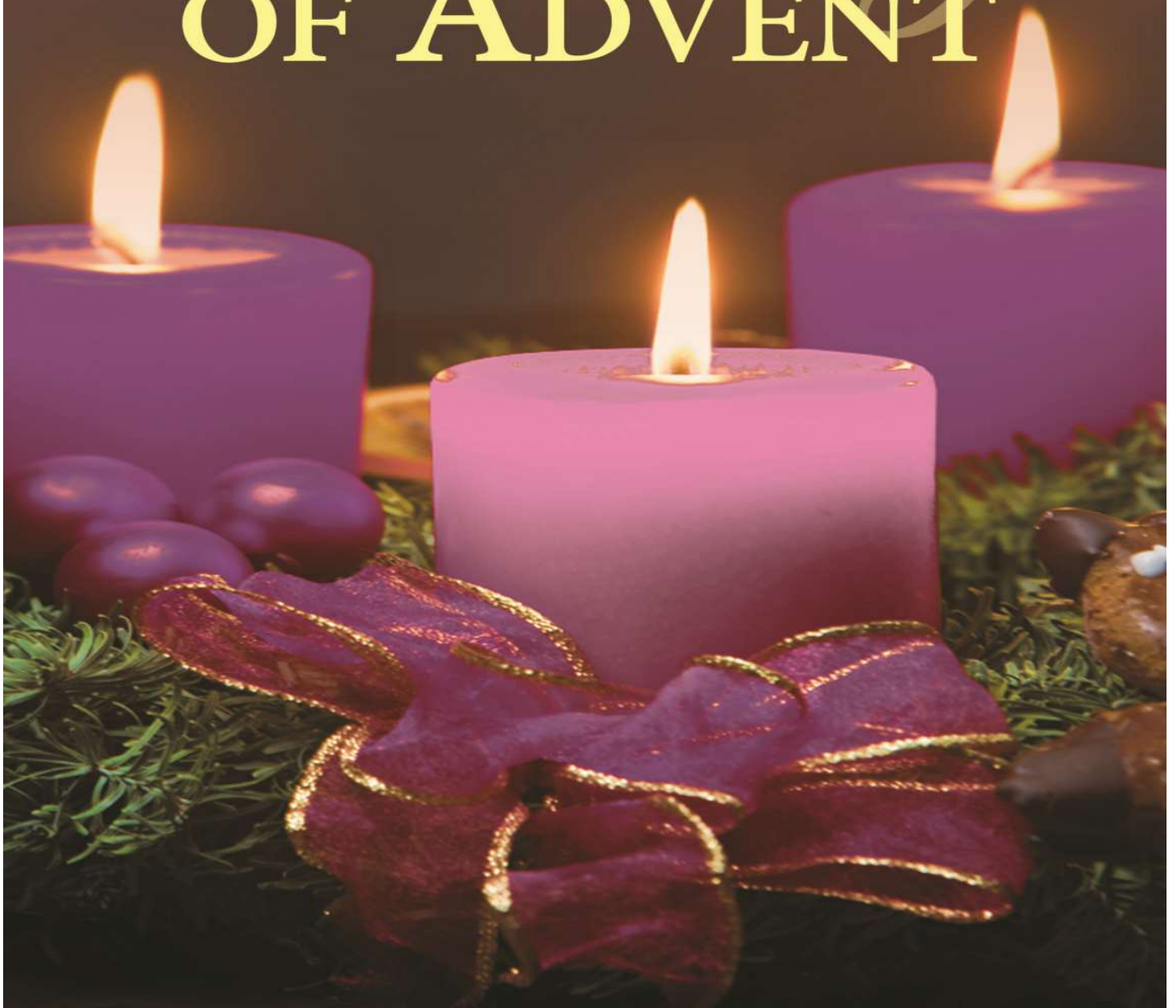


DECEMBER 14, 2025

3rd

Sunday

OF ADVENT



PARISH STAFF

Rev. George F. O'Neill, Pastor

Pastor@stjosephbrookfield.com

Rev. Lawrence F. Carew, Non-Resident Priest

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Msgr. Robert E. Weiss, Non-Resident Priest

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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.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

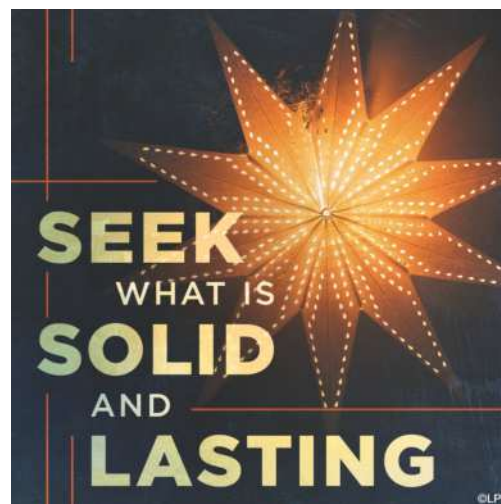
CONFESSIONS

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
15**7:45 AM Mass
8:30 AM Morning Prayer**Tues
16**7:45 AM Mass
8:30 AM Morning Prayer
7:00 PM Confession & Adoration
7:15 PM WRAP Advent Study**Wed
17**7:45 AM Mass
8:30 AM Morning Prayer**Thurs
18**7:45 AM Mass
8:30 AM Morning Prayer**Fri
19**7:45 AM Mass
8:15 AM Eucharistic Adoration for Life
6:30 PM Ignite Youth Group**Sat
20**8:00 AM Mass
4:00 PM Confession
4:30 PM Rosary for Persecuted Catholics
5:00 PM Mass**Sun
21**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.*



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

Sunday, Dec 14, 2025

Examine the evidence

When John the Baptist sends his disciples to Jesus to ask if he is the Messiah, Jesus doesn't give them a direct answer but suggests they look at what they see and evaluate for themselves: The blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised. If someone as close to Jesus as John had to ask, we can forgive ourselves if at times we wonder about Jesus' saving power in our own lives. Like the disciples of John, we're challenged to figure out for ourselves by examining the evidence—in scripture, in prayer, and in our lives and the lives of loved ones. Jesus doesn't force himself on us; he trusts we have the smarts to see for ourselves.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11 (7). "Go and tell John what you hear and see."

Monday, Dec 15, 2025

A vision of hope

Children and prophets see things others don't. The prophet Balaam saw beyond the injustice of his own generation to a time when the nation would be led by a great king who would arise in Israel. We too are called to see with that same prophetic clarity—the clear-eyed wonder of a child who perceives hope where others see only hardship. Consider the hope that comes with a little baby born in a manger as Saint Alphonsus describes it: "Mary invites all, rich and poor, just and sinners, to enter the cave of Bethlehem, to adore and to kiss the feet of her newborn Son. Go in, then, all ye devout souls; go and see the Creator of heaven and earth on a little hay, under the form of a little Infant; but so beautiful that he sheds all around rays of light. Now that he is born and is lying on the straw, the cave is no longer horrible, but is become a paradise." *Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27 (187). "I see him, though not now; I behold him, though not near."*

Tuesday, Dec 16, 2025

Permission to enter

Today begins the traditional Mexican festival of Las Posadas, a commemoration of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Customarily neighbors gather together in a procession led by a child in angel's garb and statues of the Holy Family. Together they seek out shelter at three local houses, only to be accepted at the last, where the family hosts a celebration. Seeking to share the path of the Holy Family places one in the vulnerable position of begging entrance into another's home. Remember that vulnerability when you seek to enter the shelter of God's kingdom. For quick reference, think of Saint Augustine's answer to the question of the most essential elements of Christ's teaching: "The first is humility, the second is humility, and the third is humility." *Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32 (188). "Jesus said to them, 'Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of God before you.'"*

Wednesday, Dec 17, 2025

Give me an O!

These days before Christmas are a time of final preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth. To mark this time the church prays the "O Antiphons." An antiphon, from the Greek word for "responsively," is a short prayer after psalms or biblical songs. They come up in the Liturgy of the Hours, but you also pray a kind of antiphon every Sunday: the psalm response between the first and second readings. We add the O Antiphons—so called because they all begin with "O"—to evening prayer to make this time before Christmas special. Drawn from Hebrew scripture, each of them

helps us to understand Jesus. Time to get to know your Os. *Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193). "O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love; come to teach us the path of knowledge!"*

Thursday, Dec 18, 2025

Power to the people

The word righteousness may sound a little quaint these days, but the concept behind the word is central to an understanding of what God asks of us. The Hebrew word it corresponds to appears more than 500 times in the Old Testament, and the Greek word it corresponds to more than 200 times in the New Testament. Righteousness is chiefly concerned with ethical conduct: It implies faithfully keeping promises, treating people justly, and adhering to a high moral code. With justice of righteousness, "faith, hope, and charity are poured into our hearts," says the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "and obedience to the divine will is granted us." We have the power to be obedient to God's will; why not use it?

Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25 (194). "O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!"

Friday, Dec 19, 2025

Where to find true royalty

When it came time for the prophet Samuel to anoint a new king to replace Saul, God instructed Samuel to invite Jesse and his many sons to a sacrifice. When Jesse paraded his boys in review before the prophet, God told Samuel that not the oldest, the tallest, nor the most kingly looking were the leader God sought; the next king was to be David, the youngest and lowliest, whom Jesse left tending the flocks and did not even bother to bring along. "The Lord," God says, "does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." If you look past appearances to the hearts of others, you're likely to find true royalty, namely the Prince of Peace.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM)

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195). "O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!"

Saturday, Dec 20, 2025

What's inside?

Some years ago, Saint Teresa of Calcutta visited the neonatal intensive care unit of a Boston hospital. As she walked through the doors of the unit, the machines that usually hum and buzz and beep somehow stopped making noise, and every single baby fell silent. Mother Teresa stopped at each crib, spoke with the nurses and parents, had her picture taken holding a premature infant in the palm of her hand, and left. As the doors closed behind her, the usual cacophony of the unit resumed unabated. The calm that surrounded Mother Teresa was a reflection of the peace in her heart. Advent is a good time to notice our own interior state and how it's reflected in the world around us.

Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38 (196). "O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!"

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3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT





Peace be with you!

As we enter the third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday—we joyfully anticipate, along with the faithful throughout the world, the nearness of the birth of our Savior.

The name “Gaudete” comes from the Latin word *gaudete* (“rejoice”), the first word of the traditional entrance antiphon for this day, taken from Philippians 4:4–5: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.”

Gaudete Sunday falls exactly two weeks before Christmas. Advent is generally a penitential season of preparation and waiting, similar in tone to Lent; this is reflected in the traditional use of purple vestments and a subdued mood. Yet Gaudete Sunday offers a brief moment of joy that interrupts this penitential character, reminding Christians that the coming of Christ—both at Christmas and at His Second Coming—is near and is cause for rejoicing. It serves the same function as Laetare Sunday does in Lent: a mid-season “mini-Easter” of joyful anticipation. So, once again: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.”

Father O'Neil



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.



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Season That Gives Back

I don't have anything left to give.

You can't pour from an empty cup.

All I do is give. Who is giving to me?

Raise your hand if these thoughts have ever run through your head. I'm sure they occur to all of us from time to time. We can become so easily depleted by the fast pace of life and whatever vocation God has called us to, whether that's parenthood, a demanding professional career or the caretaking of friends and family (or as so often happens, a hybrid of all three). Many of us also undergo certain seasons — seasons of the year, but also seasons of life — that seem to sap us of energy and leave us totally empty.

In these times, it seems impossible to continue in the spirituality of Everyday Stewardship. Graciousness, mindfulness, prayerfulness, gratitude, accountability — maintaining some semblance of these characteristics in our daily life feels not only overly optimistic, but totally impossible.

The Church gives us certain liturgical seasons that are meant to fill us up, almost like spiritual pit stops. Advent is one such season, and the Scriptural passages we reflect on at Mass during these four weeks are filled with images of nature defied. We see the dry steppe blooming. We see the weak made firm. We see the frightened made strong. We see the lame walk. We see the Virgin give birth.

If you think you don't have anything left to give this Advent, think again. This is the season of miracles when what we thought was depleted brings new life.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS, ©LPi

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One Youth.



ELEMENTARY



HIGH SCHOOL



EDJE STUDENT GOOD DEEDS

"I helped my sister play with her toys."
Submitted by Mickey

"I helped with the pancakes at the St. Joe
Pancake Breakfast with St. Nick." Submitted
by Cooper

EDJE ONLINE WORK DUE DECEMBER 14

My Catholic Faith Delivered

Grade 1	Lesson 13: Jesus Begins His Work & Assessment
Grade 2	Chapter 14: Jesus Our Teacher & Assessment
Grade 3	Lesson 13: God's Tender Mercy & Assessment
Grade 4	Lesson 12: A King for the People of God & Assessment
Grade 5	Lesson 12: Born in the City of David & Assessment
Grade 6	Lesson 12: Charity Toward All & Assessment

EDJE NEWS

Reminder to parents of children who will be receiving their First Reconciliation on March 14, 2026.

You received a folder at the start of this year's Religious Education Program that contained questions related to the videos your child is required to watch prior to receiving the Sacrament of First Reconciliation.

This work is to be completed and returned to us no later than Sunday, January 11, 2026 at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. This will allow Fr. O'Neill time to review the work prior to your child receiving this Sacrament.

Thank you for your cooperation!

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

UNITED: for Grades 7-12

www.ctunitedyouth.com



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.



UNITED YOUTH GROUP

6:00-8:00PM SUNDAYS

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

NOV 30	HAPPY THANKSGIVING! THERE IS NO REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING DUE TO THE HOLIDAY
DEC 7	ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT OPEN TO GIRLS 9-12 GRADE ST ROSE SCHOOL GYM/HALL
DEC 14	NIGHT OF WORSHIP OPEN TO 7-12 GRADERS AT ST MARY BETHEL
DEC 21	CHRISTMAS PARTY OPEN TO 7-12 GRADERS ST ROSE SCHOOL GYM/HALL

2025-2026
youth@strosechurch.com

MASS Intentions

Monday, December 15

7:45 AM - Doris Maynard, req. by her friends

Tuesday, December 16

7:45 AM - Debra Budet, req. by Louise & Stuart Klapprott & Family

Wednesday, December 17

7:45 AM - Paul Sullivan, req. by Mike & Cathi Sullivan

Thursday, December 18

7:45 AM - Intentions of All Our Parishioners

Friday, December 19

7:45 AM - Carmine Rubbo, req. by the Collins Family

Saturday, December 20

8:00 AM - Deceased Members of the Hosszu Family

5:00 PM - Angie & John Martino, req. by the Martino Family

Sunday, December 21 - 4th Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM - Joan Snyder, req. by Matt & Maureen Farrell

9:00 AM - Francois Hascouet, req. by Danielle & Xavier LeRoux

11:00 AM - Deceased Members of the Laragh Fennell Families, req. by the Laragh 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



Rebecca Roos & Mark Vetter

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: \$14,662.50

Includes \$7,790.50 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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CONTACT ME
Erica Johnson

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