

# SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

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

BROOKFIELD, CT



JANUARY 4, 2026

## *Epiphany* OF THE LORD



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11



**PARISH STAFF**

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*FrCarew@diobpt.org*

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*Cantor@stjosephbrookfield.com*

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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**

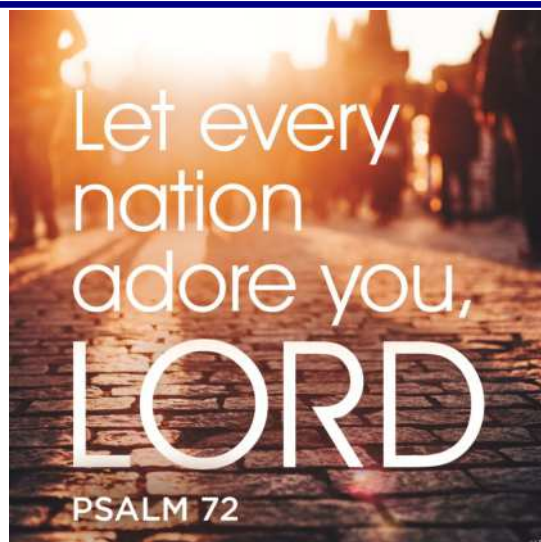
TO SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

**YOU BELONG HERE****THIS WEEK @ ST. JOSEPH**

<b>Mon</b> <b>05</b>	7:45 AM 8:30 AM	Mass Morning Prayer
<b>Tues</b> <b>06</b>	7:45 AM 8:30 AM 7:00 PM 7:15 PM	Mass Morning Prayer Confession & Adoration WRAP Whispers of Mary
<b>Wed</b> <b>07</b>	7:45 AM 8:30 AM	Mass Morning Prayer
<b>Thurs</b> <b>08</b>	7:45 AM 8:30 AM	Mass Morning Prayer
<b>Fri</b> <b>09</b>	7:45 AM 8:15 AM	Mass Eucharistic Adoration for Life
<b>Sat</b> <b>10</b>	8:00 AM 4:00 PM 4:30 PM 5:00 PM	Mass Confession Rosary for Persecuted Catholics Mass
<b>Sun</b> <b>11</b>	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.





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

**Sunday, Jan 04, 2026**

**SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**Give a warm welcome**

America was once renowned as the land where people could come to breathe freely. The country was less settled then—but can feel quite crowded now, depending on where you're living. The planet's resources are scarcer and the natural environment more endangered. Still, Isaiah's prophecy and the gospel both remind us of the considerable gift that migrant people bring with them. Whether king or commoner, each person offers what they have to make the dynamic community that is the United States. Let's welcome the newcomer and remember that the infant Jesus was once a migrant, too.

*Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20). "Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you."*

**Monday, Jan 05, 2026**

**MEMORIAL OF JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP**

**Surrender to God's will**

At St. Alphonsus Church in downtown Baltimore you can visit the parish where Saint John Neumann served before he became a bishop. You can even step into his austere bedroom where a bed, tiny desk, kneeler, and picture of the Madonna make up his belongings. Simplicity was his obsession; becoming the bishop of Philadelphia certainly didn't fit into that plan. Yet he embraced his office and took on the task of serving the burgeoning immigrant church by learning 10 languages and doing what was best for the people he served and loved. When God speaks to you, try the gentle path of surrender.

*1 John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25 (212). "We receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him."*

**Tuesday, Jan 06, 2026**

**MEMORIAL OF ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS**

**Love begets love**

A prayer to André Bessette, a brother of the Holy Cross order who spent a lifetime counseling and praying for people from his desk at the entrance to his community's residence in Montreal, says: "Grant us the grace to imitate his piety and charity so that, with him, we may share the reward promised to all those who care for their neighbor because of their love for you." Love comes from God, and we love others because we love God and find God's love in our love for others. Speaking of poor people, but in words that describe all Christian love, Catholic Worker cofounder Dorothy Day once said we start by loving the poor for Jesus but we soon love them for themselves and see each one to be special. Today, find God in others and others in God.

*1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44 (213). "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God."*

**Wednesday, Jan 07, 2026**

**Soften your heart**

How often have you walked down a street, looking down at the sidewalk or your phone, and not noticed a tree, or a sign, or even an entire building? When you finally notice it, you wonder how you could have missed it all this time. This phenomenon of not seeing what is right in front of us is not uncommon, nor is it limited to the physical realm. We are often blind to spiritual realities as well. When this happens, we know our hearts are "hardened." What does it take to soften our hearts so that we can perceive the love that surrounds and permeates us every moment of every day? It begins with desire, which forms an intention, which evolves into

practice, which turns into prayer, which relies on God. Consider this prayer from Sister Marianne Cope, O.S.F. for inspiration: "Let us make best use of the fleeting moments. They will not return." *1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52 (214). "They had not understood the incident of the loaves. On the contrary, their hearts were hardened."*

**Thursday, Jan 08, 2026**

**The ABCs of the human heart**

Did Jesus know how to read? You may think that a strange question—various scripture passages say he did, and how could he not be able to do something that most schoolchildren in the United States today have learned by the age of 6 or 7? But for most of recorded history, being able to read and write was reserved to a small, elite segment of society. In the Roman Empire at the time Jesus lived, estimates say that only 3-10 percent of the population was literate. Judaism has always emphasized reading and study of the Torah, however, so it should not surprise us that Jesus likely could read—he certainly read the human heart with complete understanding. What does he find written on your heart?

*1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22 (215). "He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah."*

**Friday, Jan 09, 2026**

**Some rules are meant to be broken**

Why, when Jesus heals a leper, does he always tell the person not to say anything to anybody? Perhaps it is because the Lord broke a rule there. You see, according to the law of Moses, he wasn't supposed to touch the leper. But he did. Jesus broke a lot of rules. That's why he got into so much trouble. But Jesus was concerned with following God's laws, not humanity's, and such obedience, as Saint Philip Neri says, "is a shortcut to perfection." Jesus pointed out that the law was made for the sake of people, not the other way around. Mercy and compassion always manage to break a few rules.

*1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16 (216). "He ordered him not to tell anyone."*

**Saturday, Jan 10, 2026**

**Do your groundwork**

If you came to Earth from outer space, the sheer amount of teaching on chastity—the virtue of expressing sexuality appropriately—would convince you that it's the one non-negotiable item on your spiritual checklist. While chastity is essential, humility is the fundamental virtue upon which a holy life is based. Humility comes from the word humus, earth or ground. It reminds us that we're dust—or "not the Christ," as John the Baptist famously put it. As we decrease in centrality, God and others increase. Start from this "ground" and work your way up.

*1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30 (217). "John answered ... 'So this joy of mine has been made complete. He must increase; I must decrease.'"*

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What was the caterpillar's New Year's resolution?  
*To turn over a new leaf.*

What's the best way to toast the New Year?  
*With a loaf of bread!*

What's a spider's New Year's resolution?  
*To spend less time on the web.*

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD







Peace be with you!

Happy New Year and 2026!

Since my last note, we have celebrated the birth of our Savior, the Feast of the Holy Family, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, and today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. That is a lot of our salvation history covered in just a short 11 days! *Tempus fugit* when you're loving God.

Our Gospel reading today from St. Matthew tells the story of the Magi following the star that they believed would lead them to the newborn King of the Jews. Their pursuit was genuine, and their intent to pay Him homage was as well. King Herod's intentions were not so noble. He was looking to dispose of this child, who was a potential threat to his kingship. He never let anything or anybody stand in his way—consider his wife and children, whom he murdered for the very same reason.

The Magi visited the child Jesus and paid Him homage. Upon leaving for home, they decided to return by another way because their consciences warned them in a dream that King Herod's intentions were not honest. Listen to your conscience... it is God's GPS.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all who volunteered this Christmas to allow our Masses to be celebrated with the beauty and grandeur they so deserve. Thank you to:

- Our creative Christmas decorating volunteers;
- The extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist and readers for the Masses;
- Our incredible children's choir, who worked so hard and sang like little angels at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Children's Mass;
- Our dedicated altar servers, who remarkably stepped up to make sure all the Masses were covered;
- our ushers and greeters, who worked double time at all the Masses;
- All of our regulars who pitch in quietly wherever there is a need to be filled—you know who you are.

Thank you to all of you for everything you do and I look forward to working with you all for a faith-filled and joyous 2026!

*Father O'Neil*



# THE SPIRIT OF Christmas TOUR

## WHEN

Saturday, January 17, 2026. Tour starts at 10:30am in New Haven.

## WHERE

Knights of Columbus Pilgrimage Center,  
1 State Street, New Haven, CT 06511  
203-865-0400

## WHAT

FREE, private tour sponsored by members of the St. Joseph and St. Marguerite Knights of Columbus. The tour will include an exhibit of a variety of crèche's with different stables and mangers from around the world.

## WHO

All St. Joseph and St. Marguerite parishioners and their families are invited.

## HOW

Drive individually or join our car pool that will leave from St. Joseph parking lot at 9:00 am. Parking at the museum is under the building and is FREE.

## RSVP by Jan 16, 2026

Call Greg Dembowski: 203-733-7209  
or e-mail GregDembowski@yahoo.com

## OPTIONAL

Following the tour there will be a group lunch at a local restaurant.



"December 24, 1882: The Nativity at St. Mary's Church"

Photo courtesy of Paul Haring.

## Wedding Feast & Epiphany

**Q:** How are the feasts of the baptism of Jesus and the account of the wedding feast of Cana related to the Epiphany celebration?

**A:** The Epiphany season focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. Following the Christmas celebration, the liturgical year lays out a series of manifestation points in which Jesus is made publicly known. From its very beginning, the Christian community highlighted three events in the life of Jesus. These are the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana. The Epiphany discloses Jesus to the world of the Gentiles, represented by the magi from the East. The accounts of Jesus' baptism reveal his identity and mission, along with exposing him to those to whom he was sent to minister. The miracle of turning water to wine at the wedding feast of Cana, unique to John's Gospel, is the first public sign that Jesus performs, thus manifesting his public identity and his powers.

Today in the Roman Church, these are usually celebrated on three successive Sundays: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord which is usually the next Sunday, and the wedding feast of Cana, which is proclaimed on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time in lectionary year C.

These feasts connect around the concept of epiphany, public manifestation of Jesus to the world. They help us get to know more intimately who Jesus is and what he is about. Spend some time delving more deeply into your understanding of who Jesus is. Continue to cultivate these "epiphany" moments in your life.

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One Truth.  
One Youth.



ELEMENTARY



MIDDLE SCHOOL



HIGH SCHOOL



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](http://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](http://www.ctunitedyouth.com)

## EDJE ONLINE WORK DUE JANUARY 4

### My Catholic Faith Delivered

Grade 1	Lesson 15: Jesus Does Wonderful Things & Assessment
Grade 2	Chapter 17: Asking Forgiveness & Assessment
Grade 3	Lesson 15: The Christ Child is Born & Assessment
Grade 4	Lesson 14: King Solomon and the Promise & Assessment
Grade 5	Lesson 14: The Kingdom of Heaven & Assessment
Grade 6	Lesson 15: Backed by Truth & Assessment



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

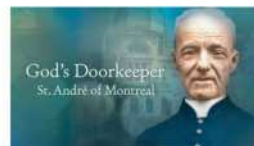
We need: New hats, gloves, scarves, and coats for kids ages 10-18. Gently used coats and outerwear will also be accepted.

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



## This Week on Formed

Week of January 04, 2026



### God's Doorkeeper

This week, we celebrate the memorial of a humble doorkeeper, St. André of Montreal. Learn how this man became a great saint through his small acts of love!



### The Three Wise Men

Ms. Kim explains the Solemnity of the Epiphany and the importance of the wise men's gifts by teaching students how to draw the three magi. She challenges kids to do an act of kindness for someone, offering it as a gift to Jesus.



### Epiphany

Have you ever wondered what the Epiphany is? In this engaging episode of the True Meaning of Christmas, join Dr. Michael Barber to find out what the Epiphany is.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](http://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL GYM- 5 OBSTUSE HILL RD. BROOKFIELD

LOVE, PATTI ORGANIZATION

**3 v 3**

**BASKETBALL**

**JANUARY 11, 2026**

AGES 7-9 1-2:30 (12:30 CHECK IN)  
AGES 10-14 3-4:30 (2:30 CHECK IN)  
AGES 15-21 5-7PM (4:30 CHECK IN)

**\$15/ PLAYER CO-ED \$5 ADMISSION**

**MIN. 3 PLAYERS/ TEAM**

**CONSESSIONS, 50/50 AND SUPERBOWL BOXES FOR SALE**

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# MASS Intentions

## Monday, January 5 - St. John Neumann

7:45 AM - Intentions of All Our Parishioners

## Tuesday, January 6 - St. Andre Bessette

7:45 AM - Margaret Short, req. by the Sues Family

## Wednesday, January 7 - St. Raymond of Penyafort

7:45 AM - Felipe & Albaluz Uribe, req. by the Sanchez-Uribe Family

## Thursday, January 8

7:45 AM - Dorothy Grana, req. by Ray Conroy

## Friday, January 9

7:45 AM - Carol G. Lombardi, req. by Lori & Bob Hutchinson

## Saturday, January 10

8:00 AM - Gregory LiCalzi, req. by Michele Castagna

5:00 PM - Frances Mary Wall, req. by Kathy Legere

## Sunday, January 11 - The Baptism of the Lord

7:30 AM - Judy Murray, req. by Carol Zinser & Fran Anderson

9:00 AM - Joseph Buczek, req. by Janice Leggett

11:00 AM - Paul Aita, req. by Rory Ronan

### **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, Maryann Iamartino



*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

8<sup>th</sup> 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



*The Sunday Offertory information for December 27-28 was unavailable due to an early publisher deadline and will be included in the next bulletin.*

**Sunday Offertory Dec. 21: \$12,830.50**

*Includes \$5,680.50 in Online Giving*

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

If you'd like to try Online Giving, simply scan the code to donate today.



Many Hands. One Vision.



**SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH  
ANNUAL APPEAL**

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

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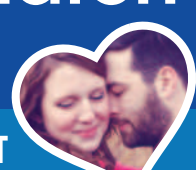
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