

SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN DANBURY

EIGHT ROBINSON AVENUE

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810-5517

Rectory Telephone: (203)748-8177

Web Page: www.stjosephchurchdanbury.org



REVEREND SAMUEL V. SCOTT, M.Div., M.A., PASTOR

REVEREND DAVID W. FRANKLIN, M.Div., PAROCHIAL VICAR

REVEREND RAYMOND M. SCHERBA, M.Div., PART-TIME PAROCHIAL VICAR

DEACONS LOUIS F. HOWE, DONALD J. NAIMAN, RICHARD P. KOVACS

MASSES

Saturday Vigil – 4:00 P.M.

Sunday – 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 A.M.,
12:00 Noon and 5:00 P.M.

Daily – 7:00 A.M. and 12:05 P.M.

Saturday – 8:00 A.M.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 11:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon

3:00 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The second and fourth Sundays of each month.

Please call the Rectory to register for pre-baptismal instruction. Classes held on the first Sunday of each month.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Couples should contact a parish priest one year in advance, **BEFORE** any social arrangements are made. **NO** Sunday Weddings.

SICK CALLS, COMMUNION CALLS,

ANOINTING OF THE SICK,

HOSPITAL VISITS

Due to the Federal health privacy laws, HIPAA, hospitals cannot issue names of patients to parishes; you or a family member must let the Admissions Office know of your desire to have a visit during your stay. If you would like a visit at home please call or have a family member call the Rectory Office: 203-748-8177.



Saint Joseph Church is wheelchair accessible. Parking for the physically challenged is located at the side of church.

We thank you for turning off all personal electronic devices before entering the church.

**Saturday, December 22**

8:00 AM Thomas Oldis—Daughter, Patricia
 4:00 PM M/M Beniamino Cefaloni—Maria

Sunday, December 23

7:30 AM Jonathan W. David—Mother
 9:00 AM Thomas Levesque—Son
 10:30 AM Joseph & Mary Mahalik—M/M T. Mahalik
 12:00 PM Tom & Harold George—Family
 5:00 PM Joseph H. Bogues—Family

Monday, December 24

7:00 AM Dr. Francis J. Grandieri—Wife, Mary
 4:00 PM Thomas Oldis—Daughter, Patricia
 6:00 PM Deceased of the Meerman & Shost Families
 12:00 AM Intentions of Parishioners

Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day

7:30 AM Philip & Florence Paonessa—Son & Family
 10:30 AM Deceased of the Milano Family—Claire
 12:00 PM Deceased of the Cesca-Farrah Families

Wednesday, December 26

7:00 AM Ralph Burdick—Eileen Burdick
 12:05 PM Bob Lewis—Linda

Thursday, December 27

7:00 AM Patricia Tribble—Family
 12:05 PM Charles Kachmarik—Wife, Joan

Friday, December 28

7:00 AM Marge Carmignani—Family
 12:05 PM James Deakin—Family

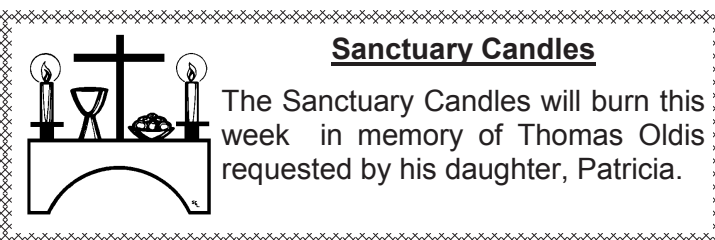
Saturday, December 29

8:00 AM James Deakin—Family
 4:00 PM Sullivan Family—Mary & Frank Sullivan

Sunday, December 30

7:30 AM Mary Mikucki—Family
 9:00 AM Gabe Bardo—Emma
 10:30 AM Anne Macauley—Bill & Roe Fasano
 12:00 PM Bernadette Comer—Husband, Jim
 5:00 PM Ralph Burdick—Eileen Burdick

	<u>Mass</u>	<u>Presider</u>
Saturday, Dec. 29	4:00 PM	Fr. Franklin
Sunday, Dec. 30	7:30 AM	Fr. Scherba
	9:00 AM	Fr. Scott
	10:30 AM	Fr. Franklin
	12:00 PM	Fr. Scott
	5:00 PM	Fr. Scherba



Dear parishioners and friends of St. Joseph Parish,

St. Joseph's part in the story of our Savior's birth is often overlooked. In St. Luke's Gospel, it is written:

And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the City of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. (Lk. 2:4-5)

This Bible passage is a reminder that the birth of Jesus is a story about people who were invited to be part of salvation history. They were invited not because of what they did or how important they were, but simply as ordinary persons. Joseph the carpenter was far away from his tools and his work when Jesus was born. He did not even have to build the manger.

You and I are invited to be part of the Christmas story and the Lord's life, too. It may be difficult to believe that we are part of the Lord's life not because of what we do, but rather for who we are. We are the Lord's. God made us, and it is God's love which sustains us.

You are invited to join us for our Annual Ceremony of Lessons and Carols this Sunday, December 23rd at 3:00 PM. This Ceremony is a community-wide worship offering to the Lord which includes nine Scripture readings as well as Advent and Christmas music.

The **Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)** which will be celebrated beginning with the **4:00 PM Vigil Mass on Monday, December 24th**. Our complete Christmas schedule is included following my letter. Christmas, of course, is not a day but a season, and the Christmas season extends liturgically until **Sunday, January 13, 2019**, which is the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**.

This Christmas, may we allow the love of Jesus to touch our hearts so that we may be transformed by it and grow in spiritual maturity as servant leaders in the Church. Please be assured of my profound gratitude for your ongoing commitment to St. Joseph Church. Your friendship and gracious support enables us to fulfill the mission of this historic Danbury Parish. Father David W. Franklin, Father Raymond M. Scherba, Deacon Louis F. Howe, Deacon Donald J. Naiman, Deacon Richard P. Kovacs, and I hope that this Christmas will be the most joyous Christmas you have experienced as disciples of Christ, alive in His Spirit.

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year,
Rev. Samuel V. Scott
 Pastor



Holiday Schedule

Christmas Eve Masses

Monday, December 24, 2018

4:00 PM Vigil Mass

6:00 PM Vigil Mass

11:30 PM Christmas Carols

12:00 Midnight Solemn Mass

Christmas Day Masses

Tuesday, December 25, 2018

7:30 AM, 10:30 AM & 12:00 Noon

NO 9:00 AM, NO 5:00 PM Masses

New Year's Eve Mass

Monday, December 31, 2018

4:00 PM Vigil Mass

New Year's Day Masses

(Feast of Mary, Mother of God)

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:05 PM



Saint Joseph Music Notes

The Ceremony of Nine **Lessons and Carols** is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus. The story of the Fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choral music.

The format was based on an Order of Worship drawn up by Edward Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury but at that time Bishop of Truro, in Cornwall, for use on Christmas Eve 1880. Although it is used most often in Anglican churches, the original liturgy has been adapted and used by churches all over the world.

The best-known version is broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. It features carols sung by the famous Choir of King's College. Groton School of Groton, Massachusetts, has performed the festival longer than any institution other than King's, holding its first Lessons and Carols in 1928.

Saint Joseph will celebrate this service on **December 23rd at 3:00 PM**, showcasing our choirs and encouraging the congregation to sing along with the carols. Come and join us!

Order of Mass

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cycle B

ENTRANCE

St. Michael Hymnal # 652 - "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

KYRIE

"Lord Have Mercy" - Heritage Mass (Alstott)

FIRST READING

Missal pg. 27 - Micah 5: 1-4a

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Missal pg. 28

SECOND READING

Missal pg. 28 - Hebrews 10: 5-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Missal pg. 28

GOSPEL

Missal pg. 29 - Luke 1: 39-45

HOMILY

OFFERTORY

St. Michael Hymnal # 586 - "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

SANCTUS

"Holy"- Heritage Mass (Alstott)

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

"Save Us Savior of the World"- Heritage Mass (Alstott)

AGNUS DEI

"Lamb of God"- Heritage Mass (Alstott)

COMMUNION

St. Michael Hymnal # 582 - "In the Bleak Midwinter"

CLOSING HYMN

St. Michael Hymnal # 712 - "People, Look East"



The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has

been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure
Worship Offerings

December 15 - December 16, 2018	\$7,738.00
Christmas Flowers	\$4,354.00
Online Giving	\$7,907.00

2018 Special Parish Annual Collection

Goal: \$40,000.00
Amount raised thus far: \$25,309.00

Many thanks for your generous stewardship!

Dear Friends in Christ,

We offer profound thanks to all who are helping with the unfinished work that is necessary for the preservation of our physical plant. The Phase One repaving of the asphalt parking lot is meant to help us make a start on a big project, and we are grateful for all who have contributed thus far to the Special Parish Annual Collection.

If you have not done so, please prayerfully consider making a contribution before the end of the year. Please simply designate your gift for the "Special Parish Annual Collection."

You may be wondering about the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) passed in December 2017 on your charitable contributions. Please be advised that you can still save capital-gain taxes! When you make a charitable gift using assets owned more than a year, you still receive a charitable deduction for the market value and you are not taxed on the capital gain. Because of this double benefit, giving an appreciated asset can greatly reduce the net cost of the gift.

Please be as generous as your means will allow.

Devotedly in Christ,
Rev. Samuel V. Scott
Pastor

"Prayer is the food of the soul . . . Anyone who restricted himself to dining every three or four days would soon become weak and would run the risk of dying, or, if he lived, would be exhausted, incapable of performing any useful function, a mere carcass without either force or vigor: so the soul which does not nourish itself with prayer, or does so only rarely, will become tepid and sickly, without either courage or virtue, a nuisance to others an unbearable to itself."

--St. Vincent de Paul



Carmen Buck
Religious
Education Building
203-778-1920

Merry Christmas from the Religious Education Office!

Wednesday classes for Grades 1-6 will resume on January 2nd. **Tuesday students in Grades 1-6** will meet again on January 8th.

January Sunday Levels I and II classes will be held on January 6th, 13th, and 27th. **Wednesday Levels I and II classes** will meet on January 2nd, 9th, 23rd, and 30th.

Attention All Level II and SJS 8th Grade students and parents - A mandatory meeting with Dr. Joan Kelly will be held in the Church on Thursday, January 17th (snow date is January 24th) at 7:00 p.m. All students who will be confirmed in March 2019 and at least one parent of each student must attend this meeting.

All Level I and SJS 7th Grade Students must attend the 9:00 a.m. Commitment Mass on Sunday, January 13th. Students will sit with their classes and teachers.

Attention All Level II Students - January Rehearsals for Living Stations of the Cross will be held on Monday, January 14th and 28th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Church. Attendance is required.

Our Office is located in the Carmen Buck Religious Education Building. Our hours are Monday - Wednesday from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM and Friday from 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon. We are closed on Thursday.

Sunday Mass is expected for all of our students. Please sign the book at the back of the Church following Mass.

St. Joseph Youth Ministry

The St. Joseph High School Youth Group meets Sunday nights from 5 to 8 PM and is open to all teens of our Parish in grades 9 through 12. Our mission is to provide every teen with a unique and personal opportunity to grow closer to Christ by providing them with a safe and engaging environment. Teens that come to our Sunday meetings will encounter Christ's love through the celebration of Mass, our Life Nights, social outings, their fellow classmates, and our Adult Core of volunteers. Our teens will also be challenged to grow deeper in relationship with Christ through participation in the Sacraments, prayer meetings, retreats, and community outreach. Our December schedule is as follows:

December 23 - Keeping Christ in Christmas: With Christmas right around the corner, how do we prepare for His Coming?

December 30 - Youth Idea Night: What are you wanting to get out of Youth Group? Bring a friend, and let's have an open discussion.

For any questions, or more information, please reach out to Tyler Moore, Youth Minister, at (203) 826-4038 or at saintjosephyg@gmail.com.

St. Joseph Reading Group

The St. Joseph reading group will gather in the Rosasco Room of the Carmen Buck Religious Education Building at 6:00 PM on Sunday, December 30th. We are discussing "The Book of Her Life" (St. Teresa Avila). The book is available at your local library, Catholic book websites or Amazon books. A free download of the book can be found at: www.carmelitemonks.org/Vocation/teresa_life.pdf. You are invited to join in the discussion of this Spanish nun, religious woman, noted mystic and a doctor of the Catholic Church.

The Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Contest comes to St. Joseph School on Sunday January 6, 2019. Everyone aged 9-14 (date of birth 2004 through 2009) is welcome. Registration is open from noon to 1 PM, as the contest begins at 1:00 PM. Winners in each boys' and girls' age bracket will advance to a regional contest.



Walking with Purpose
A Women's Catholic
Bible Study

Do you desire to grow in your Catholic faith? Would you like to connect with other women in our Parish community? Are you searching for purpose? You are invited to consider joining *Walking With Purpose* at St. Joseph Church. *Walking with Purpose* transforms the hearts and lives of women by providing Bible studies that enable women to know Christ through scripture and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. We will do a six-week study of God the Father entitled *Living in the Father's Love*. This study reveals how deeply relevant the Gospels are to our relationships, both with God and those we love. No previous Bible study experience is necessary. Come as you are! Six meetings will take place on Thursdays from 7:00-8:30 PM in the Parish Center beginning **January 10, 2019**. For questions or to RSVP, contact Colleen Slaiby: colleenslaiby@yahoo.com.

Nativity Play



We extend a heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Maria Schweitzer and Mrs. Debra Maloney for directing the Christmas Pageant on December 16, 2018. A special thank you to the children of the parish who participated in this year's pageant:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Viviana Almonte | Ariana Marks |
| Lillian Bergmeier | Emma Reda |
| Jenna Demetrius | Caden Regan |
| Matthew Gibson | Carter Regan |
| Alicia Jos | Emilia Schweitzer |
| Angela Jos | Kayla Schweitzer |
| Alyssa Maloney | Madison Thibodeau |
| Julia Maloney | Malina Zaetz |
| Amaya Marks | Paolo Vernile-Pellitteri |
| Daniella Vernile-Marisenovic | |

Unique Christmas Present idea!

Come join us for a celebration of motherhood!

The Knights of Columbus are hosting an event for all mothers on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at St. Joseph Church during the week of the Feast of St. Margaret of Cortona, the patron saint of single mothers. The event will begin with a 30 minute prayer service including the traditional blessing of candles, followed by food and information on support services in Danbury. If desired, childcare will be provided at St. Joseph School so mothers can attend the event without disruption. We encourage everyone to sponsor a candle and / or accompany the mother to the event where the candles will be distributed. A donation is not required. If you would like to make a donation, a check can be made out to Knights of Columbus #29. RSVP by January 31, 2019 using the self-addressed envelope provided, place in the collection basket or return to the rectory. For more information contact the Knights of Columbus McGivney Council 29 KofC29@gmail.com or (203) 744-9562.

Daily Mass Readings:

Monday, Dec. 24: Late Advent Weekday

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a,16
 Responsorial Psalm 72
 Gospel: Luke 1: 67-79

Tuesday, Dec. 25: Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 52: 7-10
 Hebrews 1: 1-6
 Responsorial Psalm 98
 Gospel: John 1: 1-18

Wednesday, Dec. 26: St. Stephen, First Martyr

Acts 6: 8-10,; 7: 54-59
 Responsorial Psalm 31
 Gospel: Matthew 10: 17-22

Thursday, Dec. 27: St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

1 John 1: 1-4
 Responsorial Psalm 97
 Gospel: John 20: 1a, 2-8

Friday, Dec. 28: Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 John 1: 5-2: 2
 Responsorial Psalm 124
 Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-18

Saturday, Dec. 29: Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

1 John 2: 3-11
 Responsorial Psalm 96
 Gospel: Luke 2: 22-35

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saint Joseph Parish

Parish Office - Tel. (203) 748-8177, Fax (203) 748-2010
Email: recstjoseph@yahoo.com
Office Hours: Mon.– Fri., 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Receptionist: Mrs. Kathee Meerman

Director of Music: Mr. David Baranowski, 203-778-1920
Adult Choir: Mr. David Baranowski - 203-778-1920
Children’s Choir: Mrs. Jennifer Doherty, 203-748-6615
Youth Ministry: Mr. Tyler Moore, 203-826-4038
Altar Servers: Mrs. Kathee Meerman, 203-748-8177
Eucharistic Ministers: Kathee Meerman, 203-748-8177
Lectors: Mrs. Kathee Meerman, 203-748-8177
Ushers: Mr. George Ziegler, 203-743-1634

Saint Joseph Religious Education

Director of Religious Education : Mrs. Lynn Smierciak,
(203) 778-1920
Secretary: Mrs. Claire Anderson, 203-778-1920
R.C.I.A.: Mrs. Margaret Curran, 203-792-1132
Adult Education Lectures: Dr. Joan Kelly, 203-227-8928

Parish Contacts

Bereavement Ministry: Deacon Donald & Mrs. Stephania Naiman, 203-748-8177
Catholic Charities of Northern Fairfield County Board Members: Mrs. Terri Stramiello, 203-733-0465
Dr. Roger LaGratta: rlagratta@comcast.net
Carmelites: Mrs. Joan Ledoux, 203-743-7813
Coffee Hour: Mrs. Anne Savino, 203-744-5567
Council of Catholic Women: Mrs. Barbara Whitlock
203-791-0232
Finance Committee Chairman: Mr. Gerald Palanzo, Jr.,
203-733-0124
Knights of Columbus: Mr. Tom Mahalik
203-744-9562
Men’s Group: Mr. Mark Azzara, 203-947-4012
Parish Corporation Trustees:
Mr. George Godfrey, III, M.B.A.
Mrs. Constance LaGratta, M.A.
Parish Council: Mr. John Fisher, 203-792-5447
Respect Life Group: Mrs. Anne Leclercq, 203-790-6074
Scouts (Boy): Dr. Gerald Gibson, 203-797-1788

New Diocesan Website: The Diocese has created a new website that outlines how the Diocese of Bridgeport is transparent and fully accountable in its policies, programs, and response to the sexual abuse of minors. The website can be found at <https://www.bridgeportdioceses.org/pledge/welcome/>. The Diocese has also published its **Diocesan Financial Accountability Report** that outlines a full financial report of settlement amounts for past claims of clergy sexual abuse of minors from the establishment of the Diocese to date. The report includes the sources from where the money was obtained to settle those claims and can be found on the diocesan website.

Patronize our advertisers for their support! It is our advertisers that make our Bulletin possible.

Saint Joseph School

Mrs. Kathryn Petrone, Principal
Office 203-748-6615—Fax 203-748-6508
Website: www.sjsdanbury.org
Home School Association: Mrs. Kate Gibowicz,
203-748-6615
Advisory Board President: Dr. John Pitrelli
203-748-6615



Please remember the sick of our Parish in your prayers: Barbara Baker, Kelli Barrett, Max Cassano, Tyrone Freitas, Anne Gallagher, Robert & Alberta Greeley, Leslie Johnson, Gavin King, Teresa O’Connor, Phillip Palanzo, Jr., Ethel Pancotti, and all our parishioners currently in nursing homes, hospitals, or confined to their homes.

To Our Welcome Visitors:
Welcome to Saint Joseph Church! May this be a sanctuary of peace and grace for you! If you attend our parish on a regular basis, will you consider registering with us? It is so helpful whenever the need arises for special sacraments, funeral masses, and sponsor certificates. Please complete the lines below, drop it in any collection basket and our staff will register you. And please be sure to introduce yourself to one of the parish priests.
***** Please help us to keep our list current by informing us when we may remove a name. Thank you.***

PLEASE PRINT

Mr | Mrs | Ms | Mr & Mrs (circle one)
Last Name: _____
First Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
Home Tel: _____
Buss Tel: _____
E-mail: _____
Primary Language Spoken: _____
Children (names, gender, & birthdates):

I am interested in: (circle)
Becoming a member of St. Joseph Parish
First Communion / Baptism / Confirmation
Youth Programs (8th – 12th Grade)
Choirs:
Adults
Children
Adult Religious Education
Liturgy Attended: _____