

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 8 Immaculate Conception**

8:00 AM Thomas A. Smith—Eileen Burdick
 12:05 pm Tommy Duddy—Mom & Denis
 4:00 PM Stephen Shost, Jr.—Family

Sunday, December 9

7:30 AM Intentions of Parishioners
 9:00 AM Loren & Antionette Nissly—Family
 10:30 AM Hugh Winters—Bob & Beth Bongo
 12:00 PM Tom George—Family
 5:00 PM Jeanette & Jack Dinho—Family

Monday, December 10

7:00 AM Dec. of the Farioly Family—Family
 12:05 PM Michael Arnone—Carmine Arnone

Tuesday, December 11

7:00 AM Ann Cappellano—Betty Jane Dinto
 12:05 PM Thomas A. Smith—Eileen Burdick

Wednesday, December 12

7:00 AM Jim LiVolsi—M/M George Godfrey
 12:05 PM Tommy Duddy—Mom & Denis

Thursday, December 13

7:00 AM Dominico Ferrante—Sister
 12:05 PM Ida Merenda—Sister

Friday, December 14

7:00 AM Gregory Palumbo—Family
 12:05 PM Ralph Burdick—Eileen Burdick

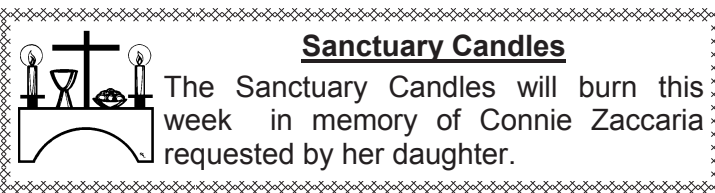
Saturday, December 15

8:00 AM Charles Speruzzi, Jr.—Cathy & Jim Smith
 4:00 PM Dec. of the Bongo & Winters Families & Richie

Sunday, December 16

7:30 AM Grace Perry—Son, John
 9:00 AM Intentions of Greg & Julie—Family
 10:30 AM Philip Milano—Claire Milano
 12:00 PM Ron Cortina—Family
 5:00 PM Intentions of Parishioners

	<u>Mass</u>	<u>Presider</u>
Saturday, Dec. 15	4:00 PM	Fr. Scherba
Sunday, Dec. 16	7:30 AM	Fr. Scherba
	9:00 AM	Fr. Franklin
	10:30 AM	Fr. Scott
	12:00 PM	Fr. Franklin
	5:00 PM	Fr. Scott

**Please Pray For The Repose Of The Souls Of:**

Marilyn Brassard
 Mario Tomaino

Dear parishioners and friends of St. Joseph Parish,

*The word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert (Luke 3:3). Upon hearing God's Word, John responded with a **specific action**. We are told in today's Gospel for this Second Sunday of Advent that John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, **proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins**.*

St. John the Baptist, the forerunner, proclaimed the way of the Lord. He is the prophet of Advent and the preacher of repentance. He takes "center stage" in this Gospel because his call to repentance is universal. We need to hear his call now as much as the people of the whole region of the Jordan did so many years ago.

While we may not be familiar with the Judean wilderness, there is another wilderness much closer, a spiritual wasteland in our own hearts that keeps us captive to the status quo. We are being called to a spiritual awakening; to grow in our lives as Christ's disciples and to love God with an undivided heart.

Many stores have been decorated for the "holidays" for weeks and "holiday" music has been playing for days, but are these decorations and this shallow music really going to make us ready to receive the Savior of the world anew at the anniversary of His birth? To prepare to experience the transforming love of Jesus at His birth and in glory is a call to open our hearts and help Him find a way into our lives.

This season of preparation, then, is a gift to help us – to help us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. It is difficult to do that because we are constantly being bombarded by "values" which are contrary to our Catholic Faith.

We are called to be different. We are called to Gospel values of compassion and mercy; forgiveness and new life. We are called to stand up and witness to that voice of John crying out in our spiritual wasteland: "Make straight the way of the Lord!"

We are not called to be constantly searching for pleasure and new ways to be self-indulgent. Instead, our faith challenges us to seek the joy, the peace, and the hope that is at the heart of Christmas.

Last week, our Pastoral Planning Team met on Wednesday evening and we were encouraged by the report on the cumulative number of participants in the ARISE Together in Christ parish process for renewal. We have concluded Season Three and I am happy to share here that 221 parishioners have participated in ARISE. We were able to come together this fall for Stewardship Sunday and the Stewardship and Ministry Fair because of how well we are organized for action through our small groups.

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Like St. John the Baptist, hearing the Word of God at Mass, in our small groups for ARISE, in a Bible study, or in our own devotional lives, can be the catalyst we need right now. May the Word of God be a graceful invitation to act in our lives.

Alone or with a spiritual director or a spiritual companion, take time this week to examine possible places in your life where conversion is most needed. Set aside prayer time this week specifically to ask God for forgiveness. If possible, participate in the Sacrament of Confession which we offer here every Saturday (11:00 AM to 12 Noon or 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM) Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you where reconciliation is needed here in our community and how you can facilitate bringing that about for the common good. You may also decide on a specific action to lift up those who are poor or care for those who have been neglected.

May our common witness truly make a difference and may our lives reflect the joy of this time of year not simply in word but in deed.

Devotedly in Christ,
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

Calendars: Many thanks to our Patrons for providing our Parish Calendar, **Mitchell Oil** and **Knights of Columbus McGivney Council #29**. We appreciate their generosity.

Order of Mass

Second Sunday of Advent

Cycle B

ENTRANCE

St. Michael Hymnal # 554 - "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

KYRIE

"Lord Have Mercy" - Heritage Mass (Alstott)

FIRST READING

Missal pg. 21 - Baruch 5: 1-9

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Missal pg. 22

SECOND READING

Missal pg. 22 - Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Missal pg. 23

GOSPEL

Missal pg. 23 - Luke 3: 1-6

HOMILY

OFFERTORY

St. Michael Hymnal # 699 - "On Jordan's Bank"

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 # 497 - "Creator of the Stars of Night"

CLOSING HYMN

St. Michael Hymnal # 492 - "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"

We Welcome You!

Saint Joseph Parish warmly welcomes this newly registered family:

Mr. & Mrs. John Fitzgerald

Mrs. Jean Markewycz

Nativity Play

Christmas Pageant



**December 16th
 9:00 AM**

The children of St. Joseph Parish will be presenting their annual Christmas pageant at the 9:00 AM Mass next Sunday, December 16th. Please join them as they celebrate the "real reason for the season."

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Parish Support

Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure Worship Offerings

December 1 - December 2, 2018 \$7,999.00
Monthly \$3,890.00

2018 Special Parish Annual Collection

Goal: \$40,000.00

Amount raised thus far: \$23,484.00

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



Chocolate Dipped Pretzel Sale

**December 8th & 9th after all
Masses**

This annual event is a community service project of the Level I Confirmation students in Religious Education.

Proceeds will go to the Knights of Columbus
Christian Refugee Relief Fund.

Newly Baptized

**Please keep in your prayers this newly baptized
and his family:**

Allan Manuel Sencion



Carmen Buck
Religious
Education Building
203-778-1920

December classes for **Sunday Levels I and II** students will be held on December 9th and 16th. **Wednesday Levels I and II** students will meet on December 12th and 19th.

Please support our Level I Confirmation students this weekend, December 8th and 9th by buying decorated pretzels after all Masses. Proceeds will be sent to the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund. Thank you!

Advent Confessions will take place during classes on Tuesday, December 11th and Wednesday, December 12th. All Sunday Levels I and II students, please follow the Parish Confession schedule on Saturdays from 11:00 AM - 12:00 Noon and 3:00 to 3:45 PM.

Please join us for Christmas Carols during classes on Tuesday, December 18th and Wednesday, December 19th in the Church beginning at 4:15 PM. All families are welcome! Following the Carols, classes will return to the school for dismissal at 5:15 PM as usual.

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 School News

Mark your calendar for the **St. Joseph School Christmas Concert**. We will offer a special performance for our parishioners on **December 18th** with a 1:00 PM start-time.

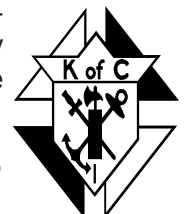
To keep up with the latest School news, like us on Facebook.

Visit our website www.sjdanbury.org for information on upcoming events.

Thank You

The Knights of Columbus McGivney Council #29 wish to thank you for your support of our *Keep Christ in Christmas Campaign* once again this year! Your contributions are greatly appreciated by the many charities supported by the Knights.

Congratulations to **Theresa Bromley**, winner of the Crèche this year!





Saint Joseph Music Notes

The Festival 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.

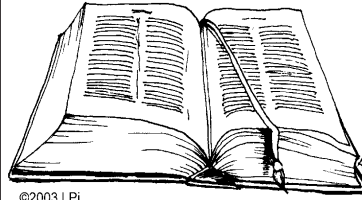
The best-known version is broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. It features carols sung by the famous Choir of King's College. Groton School of Groton, Massachusetts, has performed the festival longer than any institution other than King's, holding its first Lessons and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

SAVE THE DATE!

Please be advised that the Leadership Institute of the Diocese of Bridgeport will be offering a presentation for all current **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (Eucharistic Ministers) and Readers (Lectors)**. All those who are currently serving in either one of these liturgical ministries are asked kindly to attend. More information to follow for all liturgical ministries (including Music Ministers), but all Eucharistic Ministers and Readers are asked at this time please to mark your calendar for a meeting on **Monday, January 14, 2019 at 7 PM**. The location is **St. Gregory the Great Parish, 85 Great Plain Road, Danbury**. The topic is the **Revised Norms Governing Liturgical Ministries**. This meeting is the closest and most convenient in terms of accessibility. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

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.



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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.

To sign-up for online giving, go to www.stjosephchurchdanbury.org and click on the Online Giving logo and create an account.

Daily Mass Readings:

Monday, Dec. 10: Advent Weekday

Isaiah 35: 1-10
Responsorial Psalm 85
Gospel: Luke 5: 17-26

Tuesday, Dec. 11: Advent Weekday, [St. Damasus I, Pope]

Isaiah 40: 1-11
Responsorial Psalm 96
Gospel: Matthew 18: 12-14

Wednesday, Dec. 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Revelation 11: 19a; 12: 1-6a, 10ab
Responsorial Psalm 13
Gospel: Luke 1: 39-47

Thursday, Dec. 13: St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

Isaiah 41: 13-20
Responsorial Psalm 145
Gospel: Matthew 11: 11-15

Friday, Dec. 14: St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Isaiah 48: 17-19
Responsorial Psalm 1
Gospel: Matthew 11: 16-19

Saturday, Dec. 15: Advent Weekday

Sirach 48: 1-4, 9-11
Responsorial Psalm 80
Gospel: Matthew 17: 9a. 10-13

FIRST 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

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: _____

Food Drive



The Knights of Columbus Council #29 has been working to collect food for Catholic Charities here in Danbury. On the Third Sunday of each month (**December 16th**) we will be placing bins at each entrance at the

Church for donations of non-perishable foods. These donations are hand delivered by the Knights to Catholic Charities. These donations are then given out too many needed families in the greater Danbury area. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

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