

Saint Josephine Bakhita Parish



MERRY
Christmas

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace
to men on whom his favor rests." – LUKE 2:14

PASTORAL STAFF:

Rev. George M. Couturier, Pastor

Deacon Michael J. Ward, Deacon Emeritus Michael A. Shelto

To visit our website go to: www.saintjosephinebakhita.org or www.sjbrh.org

To follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/saintjosephinebakhita/>

A Roman Catholic Community

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26 ANTICIPATED SUNDAY MASS
4:00PM At St. James Church
BENEFACTORS OF SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,
MARY AND JOSEPH

7:30AM At St. Elizabeth Seton Church
PARISHIONERS OF SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA
UPDATE: 9:00 MASS LIVE ON FACEBOOK & WEBSITE-PLEASE JOIN US!

9:00AM At St. Elizabeth Seton Church
GENEVIEVE PARE (3rd Anniversary),
Requested by Leonard Pare

UPDATE: 11:00 MASS LIVE ON FACEBOOK & WEBSITE-PLEASE JOIN US!
11:00AM At St. James Church

MARIA LOURDES MADDEN,
Requested by husband & sons

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28 THE HOLY INNOCENTS,
MARTYRS

8:30PM At St. Elizabeth Seton Church
FRANCESCO PALAIA, Requested by wife

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29 FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE
OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF
THE LORD

8:00 AM At St. James Church
BRIGIT VARKEY, Requested by Wilson family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30 NO MASS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE
OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY
OF THE LORD

8:00AM At St. James Church
PARISHIONERS OF SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1 THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE
NATIVITY OF THE LORD,
SOLEMINITY OF MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD

8:30AM At St. Elizabeth Seton Church
BENEFACTORS OF SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2 ANTICIPATED SUNDAY MASS
4:00PM At St. James Church
PARISHIONERS OF SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
7:30AM At St. Elizabeth Seton Church
BENEFACTORS OF SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

9:00AM At St. Elizabeth Seton Church
KATHYRN & NORMAN RAYMOND,
Requested by family

11:00AM At St. James Church
SUSAN WEBER NEVICO, Requested by
Constance

**SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA PARISH WEEKLY
MASS SCHEDULE**

AT THE CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH SETON

Sunday 7:30AM (temp. suspended) & 9:00AM
Monday & Friday 8:30AM

AT THE CHURCH OF SAINT JAMES

Saturday Vigil 4:00PM & Sunday 11:00AM



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION AND CELEBRATION

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Mondays - 6:00pm at St. Elizabeth Seton until further notice - masks, hand sanitizer, and social distancing required.

Baptism: For information about preparation class and to set a date please contact office.

Matrimony: The Archdiocese of Hartford requires a minimum of six month notice and preparation. Please contact Pastor.



SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE UPDATE

Saturday - 4:00pm at St. James - capacity of 80 people
Sunday - 9:00am at St. Elizabeth Seton - cap. of 50 people
Sunday -11:00am at St. James -capacity of 80 people

Reservations will be required!

Note: We have suspended the 7:30am Mass Temporarily

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 27, 2020

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



*Mary Jane Owen
Mary Verderame*

Christmas Greetings and Blessings.

This Christmas, I am reminded of an old story that seems to capture, for me at least, the heart of the matter this year. Maybe you remember this story too. In the play, *Green Pastures*, there is the angel Gabriel who walks on stage with his horn under his arm. He approaches the Lord who is deep in thought. God is very troubled about what is happening on earth: So much anger and fighting, so much pain and sadness, so many blindly ruining their lives. God is very troubled because God has already sent any number of prophets and special messengers, but God's people just cannot or will not hear them.



Gabriel offers to blow his horn and bring the whole sorry mess to a quick end. But God takes the horn away. Gabriel presses the Lord about what to do. And finally, the Lord answers, "This time I'm not going to send anybody. This time I'm going myself!"

That seems to me to be what we are celebrating this and every Christmas season: God has given us the best gift he had: His own son as our guide, our brother, and our friend. And God will never take the gift back—not for all eternity.

So, what are we to do with this incredible Christmas present, especially considering this past challenging year? Take it in, all the way. Unwrap the gift and savor the beauty of the birth of Christ in your life and the life of the world. Silently and simply, speak his name, "Jesus," and know that no matter what, all will be well. All will be well!

On behalf of the entire staff, I wish you and yours every blessing and peace now and in the New Year!

Fr. George



A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE BY BUD OZAR DECEMBER 27, HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY

The gospel today shows Mary and Joseph were not "perfect" parents. If you have ever been "amazed" and "astonished" at what came out of your child's mouth, then you are in good company. If there were times you "didn't understand" your children or felt "anxious" about their behavior so did Mary and Joseph. Parenting is tough but It is also the stuff of holiness.



KNIT, CROCHET, AND SEW GOOD WORKS MINISTRY

Would like to thank everyone who purchased Irish Knit Sweaters, Baby items, table runners, etc.

YOUR SUPPORT
IS TRULY APPRECIATED!

A Prayer for Hope After A Hard Year

God, Thank you for helping us to make it through this difficult year. Thank you that you've carried us through the uncertainty of deep waters, through the flames of trials, and through the pain of hard losses. We are constantly aware of how much we need you, your grace, your strength, your power working through even the toughest days.

Help us to keep our focus first on you this season. Please forgive us for giving too much time and attention to other things, for looking to other people before coming to you first. Help us to reflect again, on what Christmas is really all about. Thank you that you came to give new life, peace, hope, and joy. Thank you that your power is made perfect in our weakness.

Help us to remember that the gift of Christ, Immanuel, is our greatest treasure, not just at Christmas, but for the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. For you never leave us. Thank you for your daily powerful Presence in our lives, that we can be assured your heart is towards us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to our prayers. Thank you that you surround us with favor as with a shield, and we are safe in your care.

We choose to press in close to you today, and keep you first in our hearts and lives. Without you we would surely fail, but with you, there is great hope. Thank you for your healing power, thank you for bringing us into this new semester that will undoubtedly be filled with many challenges and opportunities. We look forward to all that You still have in store. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**JOIN FATHER GEORGE 5:00PM
FOR DAILY PRAYER**

Fr. George will livestream Evening Prayer on Monday-Friday at **5:00pm** using Facebook live. The recording will also be available afterward on the Parish Facebook page at the link below. You do not have to have a Facebook account to watch. You can click 'not now' when invited to join Facebook. Click on "Videos" on the left hand side of the Facebook page. On the "Videos" Page, click on the red "live" button to watch the livestream starting at 5:00PM. If you visit the "Videos" Page after short prayer time is over, you can click the most recent image of Fr. George to watch the recording.

Please join us!!

<https://www.facebook.com/saintjosephinebakhita/>

**2020 Archbishop's Annual Appeal
Commitment Weekend**

To the extent that you are not adversely affected financially by the pandemic, please respond to the 2020 Archbishop's Annual Appeal as best you can. Any gift, no matter the size, is truly appreciated and can make a significant difference. This weekend is Commitment Weekend, if you have not made your gift to the 2020 Appeal, please give prayerful consideration to including the Archbishop's Annual Appeal this year in your year end giving, as all gifts can be paid through December 31, 2020. All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/>. No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.

**Merry
Christmas!**
*and a
Blessed New Year*

**AT ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA PARISH
December 27, 2020**

Join Us on Facebook or Through the Website

Fr. George will bring Mass to you **LIVE**
at **9:00am & 11:00am Masses**
and following Sundays if needed

**LIVE)))
STREAM**

at <https://www.facebook.com/saintjosephinebakhita/>
www.saintjosephinebakhita.org or www.sjbrh.org

Please join us!!!

Christmas Reminders

*Joy
to the
World*

- * May the Christmas **GIFTS** remind us of God's greatest gift, His only son.
- * May the Christmas **CANDLES** remind us of Him who is the "Light of the world."
- * May the Christmas **TREES** remind us of another tree upon which he died.
- * May the Christmas **CHEER** remind us of Him who said, "Be of good cheer."
- * May the Christmas **FEAST** remind us of Him who is "the bread of Life."
- * May the Christmas **BELLS** remind us of the glorious proclamation of His birth.

- * May the Christmas **CAROLS** remind us of the son the angels sang, "Glory to God in the Highest!"
- * May the Christmas **SEASON** remind us in every way of Jesus Christ our King!



Saturday, January 9 – Together We Rise

Women's online retreat day with Holy Family's Retreat Team – 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. During these months of isolation and separation, we have felt a *longing* to gather together as a community. Many of us are struggling with loneliness and mourning a sense of normalcy in our lives. It's time to regroup, come together, and process this experience so that we can look forward to rebuilding our Christian community. Please join us on our journey of re-connection. Together We Rise – as a community of Christ's followers and as interdependent human beings. Register online at holyfamilyretreat.org or contact us at [860.760.9705](tel:860.760.9705) for more info.

*Looking for a great gift idea?
Start the new year off on the right path!!*



THANKS YOUR FOR YOUR GIVING

Due to early Holiday submissions of the bulletin, you will notice our Parish Giving totals will be delayed.

Carrie and Pam
Rectory Office Staff

WHY DO WE GIVE GIFTS AT CHRISTMAS?



Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold

watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

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**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR
ORDINARY MOMENTS**

The Gift of Family

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Rosaries as Decorations

Question: I've seen people hang rosaries over the rear-view mirrors in their cars and a few of them wear them around their necks. Is it OK to do that?

Answer: The practice of hanging a rosary or a religious medal off of the rearview mirror of one's car is a fairly popular custom across many cultures. While there is no particular rule approving or condemning this practice, we should also be mindful of the respect and reverence due to religious objects and devotional items (i.e. sacramentals). An important point to consider would be the reason why one chooses to place a rosary or religious medal in our cars. Is it a reminder of the protection and intercession of Mary and the saints? Does it encourage us to be mindful of God's presence, even in such a mundane task as driving? Is it an outward expression of our more private devotions? One advantage of having a rosary or religious medal in our cars is that it can also serve as a reminder to pray when we travel, asking for protection for ourselves and for other motorists or commuters. Certainly, invoking the protection and prayers of the saints is a wonderful practice for families, helping to reinforce our belief in the communion of saints and the care and concern we owe to one another.



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The **RECTORY OFFICE** will be closed on **FRIDAY DECEMBER 31st** for The New Year Holiday. We will re-open on **MONDAY, JANUARY 4TH AT 9:00AM.**

We want to wish you and your families a safe and Happy New Year!

Saint Josephine Bakhita Parish Staff Contact Information

Pastoral Staff

Fr. George Couturier: frgeorge@sjbrh.org 860-529-8655
 Dcn Michael Ward: dcnmichael@sjbrh.org 860-529-3222

Music Ministry

Elizabeth Husmer: elizabeth@sjbrh.org—860-529-3222
 Joy O’Sullivan: joy@sjbrh.org—860-529-8655

Faith Formation

Monica Piombino: monica@sjbrh.org—860-529-1274
 Beth Mulvey: beth@sjbrh.org—860-529-1274

Rectory Office (860-529-8655)

Carrie Silvia: office@sjbrh.org
 Pam Funk: office@sjbrh.org

Gisele Reyngoudt: gisele@sjbrh.org

Parish Pastoral Council: parishcouncil@sjbrh.org

Saint Elizabeth Seton (860) 529-3222
 St. James Church (860) 529-8655

Rectory Office Hrs: Mon—Fri 9:00am-2:30pm
 767 Elm Street Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Church Addresses:

St. James: 767 Elm Street Rocky Hill, CT 06067
 St. Elizabeth Seton: 280 Brook St. Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Food & Cereal Donations

We continue to seek food and cereal donations for our monthly delivery to the Rocky Hill & Amazing Grace food pantries. Cereal & non-perishable food items can be dropped off at either church location.



St James Church: Father Shea Hall, Mon-Fri (9:00AM - 1:00 PM, or before the 4:00 PM and 11:00 AM mass

St Elizabeth Seton Church: Bins located in church entry, Mon-Fri (9:00AM - 12:00noon), or before the 9:00AM

Parish Pastoral Council Members

Kathy Alexander	Lorraine Levesque/Sec.
Sandra Ambrose	John Montalbano
Michael Camilleri/Chair	Ed Mulvey
Sharon Gagne	Robert Murray
Kasey Harding-Wheeler/ViceChair	Lisa Orchen
Steve Hinchey	Carol Rizzo
Sue Kalagher	Deacon Michael Ward
Julia Laurito/Youth Rep.	Fr. George Couturier

Trustees: Frank Scalise and Sandy Ambrose



Not Baptized, and want to be, or do you know someone who is interested?



Because the questions that our Catholic faith addresses are perennial, constantly present in our lives, there are always people interested. Who am I? Why am I here? What am I, or all of us, to do? Is “this” all there is to life? Pray, huh? What does God, and this Jesus, and the Catholic Church have to do with all of this? Wrestling with and responding to these questions and more are part and parcel of coming to the Catholic faith. If you, or someone you know, is on a search like this we can help with that.

Contact Deacon Michael at: dcnmichael@sjbrh.org or call him at 860-529-3222 Ext.14 and leave a message.



Grief Support Do you find yourself in need of a compassionate ear for your grief due to the loss of a loved one from the coronavirus? Send your name , email address and phone number to me via email and I will connect you to a local bereavement minister from the parish:

frgeorge@sjbrh.org



Are you looking for some reading? Food for thought? Chicken Soup for the soul? Please check out the selections in our Little Free Libraries located on the campuses of St. James and St. Elizabeth Seton.

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