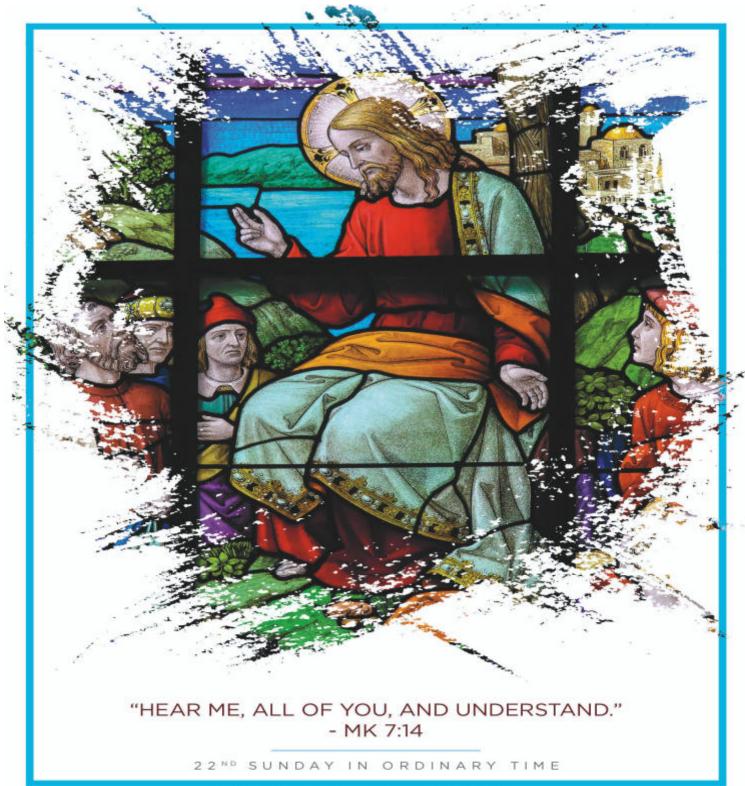


SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH BROOKFIELD, CT AUGUST 29, 2021





PARISH STAFF

Rev. George F. O'Neill, Pastor Pastor@stjosephbrookfield.com Rev. Lawrence F. Carew, Non-Resident Priest FrCarew@diobpt.org Deacon Jeffrey J. Font DcnJeff@stjosephbrookfield.com Deacon Louis F. Howe, Sr. DcnLou@stjosephbrookfield.com Deacon Peter J. Kuhn DcnPeter@stjosephbrookfield.com Deacon William J. Shaughnessy BillShaughnessy703@gmail.com Rita Golaszewski, Parish Secretary RitaG@stjosephbrookfield.com Patricia Smith, Religious Education Coordinator PatSmith@stjosephbrookfield.com Kathy Bailo, Religious Education Assistant KathyBailo@stjosephbrookfield.com Christine Blonski, Bookkeeper chrisblonski@stjosephbrookfield.com David Kendall, Director of Music Music Director@stjosephbrookfield.com Arianna Carlo, Choir Director Cantor@stjosephbrookfield.com Renzo Ortega, United High School Ministry Coordinator rortega@ctunitedyouth.com

PARISH OFFICE

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Mail: 163 Whisconier Road
Brookfield, CT 06804
Office Open 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Monday thru Friday
Emergencies: (203)209-4908

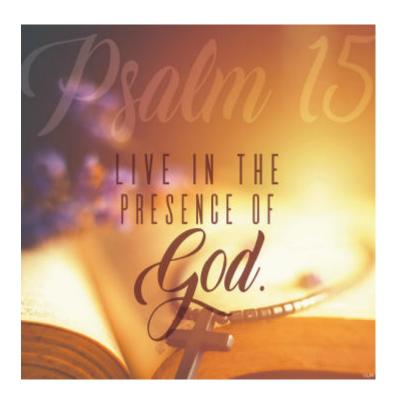
MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil – 5:00 PM Sunday - 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 AM Monday-Saturday - 8:00 AM

All Masses live-streamed on the Parish Website

CONFESSIONS:

Tuesday: 7:00-8:00 PM (With Eucharistic Adoration) Saturday: 4:00-4:45 PM



THOSE FOR WHOM WE PRAY

FOR THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S HEALING, STRENGTH AND COMFORT: Kathleen Travis, Mike McGorty, Theresa Fuller, Ralph Sloan, Peter DeMato, Betty Potenza, Frank Bonacci, Theresa Von Thaden, Bill Schappert, Bill Manton, John Rooney and Alberta Gregus

FOR THE PROTECTION AND SAFE RETURN OF THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: Joshua Jugler, Michael Ayala Lopez, Kurt Mann and Michael Moreira.

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.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism – The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on Sundays at 12:30 PM. A Pre-Baptism class is required for both parents prior to the Baptism of their first child. Register with the Parish Office: 203.775.1035.

Marriage – Weddings generally are celebrated on Friday evening or Saturday afternoons and must be scheduled at least six months in advance. Please do not make final arrangements for your reception prior to contacting the Parish Office.

The Diocese of Bridgeport offers formation for couples who wish to be married in the Catholic Church. Formation is available online in English and in person in Spanish. For more information, please visit https://formationreimagined.org/marriage-prep-reimagined/.

R.C.I.A. – Interested in becoming a Catholic? Call the Parish Office.

Brookfield, CT Page 3



Sunday, Aug 29, 2021

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Purity is not an abstinence test

Many of us who grew up in a moralizing culture were taught to imagine purity as having mainly to do with chastity. In which case, our aim was higher than the almost-but-not-quite perfection you might get from Ivory Soap, which years ago advertised itself as 99 and 44/100 percent pure. We may therefore be astonished that, according to the apostle James, purity in religion has something to do with how we respond to the abandoned in this world. Think charity, not chastity, to bump up your purity percentile.

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8; James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (125). "Religion that is pure . . . is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction."

Monday, Aug 30, 2021

Remember your name

After being baptized with water, Catholics are anointed with oil and these words are said over them, "As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body . .." That means we share in those offices of Christ. Those are big roles—how to live up to them? Priests worship and make offerings to God, prophets speak the truth and live the gospel, royalty leads and takes care of others. If you remind yourself regularly of the sacred titles you were given at Baptism, how might that help you fulfill your promise?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Luke 4:16-30 (431). "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

Tuesday, Aug 31, 2021

Hope works

Today, in Poland, it's the Day of Solidarity and Freedom—a modern Independence Day celebration after years of oppressive Soviet rule. In the 1980s, labor activist Lech Walesa helped stoke the flames of democratic social change. But it was Poland's favorite son, Pope John Paul II, who provided the spark. In his 1979 papal visit, John Paul II gave the people an electric hope that change was possible. "Let the Spirit descend and renew the face of the Earth. This Earth," he said. With Labor Day nearly here, remember how solidarity and workers' rights are cornerstones of Social Teaching.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11; Luke 4:31-37 (432). "They were all amazed and said to one another, 'What is there about His word?'"

Wednesday, Sep 01, 2021

Living waters run deep

The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation celebrated today "offers to individual believers and to the community a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation," says Pope Francis, who elevated this day in 2015 with the publication of his encyclical on the care of creation, *Laudato Si*. As we move past August, Water Quality Month, be particularly mindful of your stewardship over the precious resource of clean drinking water. May all of us "come to the water" together as we care for our common home.

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 1:1-8; Luke 4:38-44 (433). "I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent."

Thursday, Sep 02, 2021

Get unstuck

In today's gospel Simon Peter is so overcome by his own sinfulness, he tells Jesus to go away from him. What exactly is "sinfulness"?

Lots of actions and inactions fall into that category, but the essence of Catholic teaching on sin is that it separates us from God. Selfishness, violence, and other sins drive a wedge between us and God. Peter knew that instinctively. Remove that wedge by asking God for forgiveness, and ponder what you can do to free yourself to reconcile a relationship that has become estranged.

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 1:9-14; Luke 5:1-11 (434). "Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."

Friday, Sep 03, 2021

GREGORY THE GREAT, POPE, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Keep it all in balance

It's never easy to find the right balance between sitting quietly and attentively on the sidelines and joining in the scrum of life's adventures. Our life of prayer helps us to discern how best to hold these together and to respond with love for ourselves and the common good. Gregory was a Benedictine monk of the late sixth century and loved his life as a contemplative. Yet, when called upon to take the helm of a Church suffering from the fall of Rome and the plague, he stepped up and found his calling expressed in new ways through prayer, caring for those in need, and leading compassionately. Find the right balance between action and contemplation.

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 5:33-39 (435). "In

Saturday, Sep 04, 2021

The fruits of creation for all of creation

Him all the fullness was pleased to dwell."

It's interesting to note that in the story of Jesus' hungry disciples eating the grain from a farmer's field, the objection raised by the Pharisees is not that they took the grain, but that they did so on the Sabbath. In fact, eating grain or produce from a neighbor's farm while passing through was permitted by Jewish law (Deuteronomy 23:25-26), provided one did not carry off any surplus. It was considered a common courtesy and obligation of charity to share the abundance of creation with one's neighbor. Perhaps we can embrace that same ethic in our own stewardship of the abundance God has entrusted to us.

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 1:21-23; Luke 6:1-5 (436). "While Jesus was going through a field of grain on a sabbath, His disciples were picking the heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands, and eating them."

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Question: My friend has never heard of Christ and I want to share the Gospel with her but I'm afraid to. How do I share my faith?

Answer: There are a lot of ways to bring up the topic of religion, without being judgmental or pushy. Begin by asking what her thoughts are about religion, or what her experience was growing up. Finding common ground is often easier than you think, because the questions and problems we have about God, the presence of evil, our purpose in life, and our relationship with God are universal concerns.

Why are you afraid? If you do not want to insult or offend someone, don't be pushy or judgmental. If you are uncertain about how to explain your own faith, do a little reading or practice with a friend. If you measure success only by this person converting, focus your attention more on beginning the conversation, not on bringing it to a perfect close! Faith is a journey of many acts of belief, many discussions about God, and many choices about how we practice what we preach. In some we will have great success; in others we will need forgiveness and perseverance. The most important thing to keep in mind is that the Holy Spirit is always at work and our most humble efforts can bear great fruit. Have faith in God because he has faith in you!



August 29, 2021 | Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dt 4:1-2, 6-8 | Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27 | Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

As I began reading the Gospel for today, I initially thought, "Here we go - those hypocritical Pharisees are at it again! They are always questioning Jesus, always judging others, and always looking for ways to make themselves look 'holier' than everyone else." Uh oh; then I realized that I was feeling pretty smug as I judged the Pharisees! Sadly, it can be easy for me to fall into a "Pharisee attitude," thinking I "walk blamelessly and do justice" when really I am just deluding myself. While Jesus uses this encounter to point out the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, he also calls the crowd to a greater understanding of the source of evil in their lives, "From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts." Maybe I need to hear these words, too, and examine my own thoughts and actions before judging others.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

St. James provides an answer to combating the evil we discover in our hearts: "Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls." The Word, Jesus, came to us and has given us the way to free ourselves from the evil within. Our relationship with him is the key. We know we are to "be doers of the word and not hearers only." We have the Holy Spirit to help us stay close to him and access his saying power that transforms our hearts to reflect his goodness and truth. It requires us to humbly assess and own the things we need to change; and to turn to him for guidance so that we may have nothing within us - no evil thoughts, greed, malice, envy or arrogance (etc.) - to defile us. Only then are we most free in Christ - truly free to "care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world."

PRAY The Daily Examen, created by St. Ignatius of Loyola, is an ideal way for growing closer to Jesus and seeking his guidance. Suggested for the day's end, this prayerful reflection helps you recognize God's presence in the day's events, assess your thoughts and behavior, ask for his help in growing in goodness, and discern his plans for you.

ATTENTION ALL PARISH VOLUNTEERS

In advance of a State of Connecticut audit of the St. Joseph Parish VIRTUS database for the Protecting God's Children initiative, the Parish Office has sent an email to all registered volunteers to ensure everyone is current with VIRTUS requirements. Volunteers will be given instructions for logging into their VIRTUS accounts to certify that they have read the 2020 Safe Environments Handbook.

This requirement pertains to all volunteers, including those who may have been inactive during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is necessary to complete the certification process in order to remain eligible to volunteer for any parish ministry. Call Rita in the Parish Office for additional information.

DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS



The Diocese of Bridgeport will hold two gatherings for those celebrating anniversaries on Saturday, September 25, at St. Matthew parish in Norwalk. One will be held at 10:30 AM and the other will begin at 1:00 PM. Bishop Caggiano will celebrate Mass at both times

Since the event did not take place in 2020, we anticipate a larger-than-normal crowd. Cou-

ples who celebrate(d) their 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th or 50-plus anniversary in 2020 or 2021 are welcome to register via the advertisement that will appear in the August edition of the Fairfield County Catholic or online via the diocesan web site: www.diobpt.org.







August 29, 2021 Page 4



WEEKEND OF August 21-22, 2021 Sunday Offertory \$11,255.50.50 Includes \$5,197.50 in Online Giving



COMING TO ST. JOSEPH CHURCH IN THE FALL! Why is life this way? Why are we here? Not just here in these bodies on this planet and in this year. But why do we exist? Why are we filled with longing?

The Augustine Institute has created an award-winning video-based series that's turning heads as it explores fundamental questions and mysteries like these. It's called The Search, and the national reception to it has been so enthusiastic that we are bringing it here, to our parish, for all our spiritual benefit and growth. Hosted by well-known Catholic evangelist Chris Stefanick, The Search is a multipart video based spiritual experience from the producers of the FORMED online platform and will be offered as a Zoom program. Plan now to be part of the experience. Dates and times to be announced soon!

St. Joseph & St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Family Picnic! Sunday, September 19 Noon to 3:00 PM Ticket sales and volunteer sign-ups in the vestibule after Masses.

DEACON PETER RETIRING



We are reminded in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that there is "a time for every purpose under Heaven." Almost twenty years ago, soon-to-beretired IBMer Peter Kuhn offered his services to incoming pastor Fr. Sam Scott to assist with the administration of our parish. Fr. Sam took him up on his offer, and the rest is history!

In those ensuring years, Peter has worn many hats at our parish. In addition to bulletin editor, Deacon Peter has managed our parish wide communications, financial officer and counting team facilitator. He organized the Mary Martha Ministry, the Turkey Drop at Thanksgiving, the Annual Giving Tree at Christmas (along with his wife Joyce), in addition to serving as social concerns facilitator, Morning Glory Breakfast program server, and many other behind the scenes efforts to bring the loving ministry of Jesus Christ to our community and beyond.

In recent years Deacon Peter decided that he wanted to serve the Lord in health care so he stepped back from some responsibilities here and volunteered as a Catholic Chaplain at Danbury Regional Hospice caring for the terminally ill as they make their final journey home to God.

Deacon Peter has served Our Lord in many purposes under heaven in his life and we were very blessed to have him here with us. He will continue to serve in his retirement as a retired Deacon and we are certainly thankful that he has agreed to remain on here in a limited capacity.

On behalf of the staff, our clergy and faithful of St Joseph Brookfield, we thank you Deacon Peter for all you have done for us and wish your much joy and happiness in your well deserved retirement. Ad multos annos!

Father O'heilf

You're Invited! An informal "retirement party" has been planned for next Sunday, September 5, under the tent after the 11 AM Mass.



The Sacrament of the Sick will be offered at the end of each Mass next weekend and on the first weekend of every month. The sacrament is for those dealing with major illness or facing major surgery.

Page 5 August 29, 2021



Monday, August 30

8:00 AM - Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, req by Jim & Pat Tharrington

Tuesday, August 31

8:00 AM - Intentions of Betty Wojciechowski

Wednesday, September 1

8:00 AM - Intentions of our Parishioners

Thursday, September 2

8:00 AM - Elisa Albano, req. by Anna Verlezza

<u>Friday, September 3 - St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of</u> <u>the Church</u>

8:00 AM - George Marino, req. by Anna Verlezza

Saturday, September 4

8:00 AM - Marie Young, req. by Joan Cushnie

5:00 PM - John R. Magner, req. by Joann Magner

<u>Sunday</u>, <u>September 5 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>

7:30 AM - Gail Kathleen Baird, req. by SJCA friends

9:00 AM - Vittoria Cavalea, req. by Pat Smith

11:00 AM - Albert Pizzirusso, reg. by Cynthia Buczek



Wednesday, September 15 Ridgefield Golf Club

To benefit the needy of St. Joseph and St. Marguerite Parishes

Register at https://macksey-elstongolf.square.site

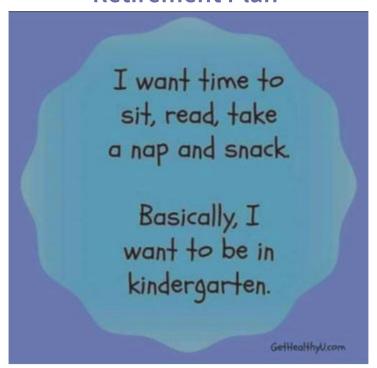
Questions: Contact Greg Dembowski - 203-733-7209 Or <u>GregDembowski@yahoo.com</u>

> Hosted by the Knights of Columbus Candlewood Lake Council

500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Filipino Catholic Apostolate of the Diocese of Bridgeport invites you to join them in celebrating 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Saturday, September 18, at 2:00 PM at the Cathedral of St. Augustine, 399
Washington Avenue, Bridgeport.
The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport, will be the Principal Celebrant.

Deacon Peter's Short-Term Retirement Plan



Banns of Marriage Jasmine George And Rejoy Jacob

PARISH MINISTRIES

Liturgy
Altar Servers
Choir Director - Arianna Carlo
Faith Formation and Sacraments
Religious Education Coord Ms. Pat Smith 203.775.1035, ext. 107
RCIA
Scheduling Baptisms – Mrs. Rita Golaszewski 203.775.1035, ext. 101
Marriage Scheduling/Prep
Prayer & Devotion
Men's Retreat – Mr. Peter Brady
Men of St. Joseph
Jim Steffen
George Lauri
Parish Councils and Administration
Parish Council – Mr. Andy Pacuk, Chairman
Finance Council – Mr. Frank Cavalea, Chairman
Other Ministries & Organizations
8 th Station Bereavement Ministry
Mrs. Mary Shaughnessy
Mrs. Pat Tharrington
Knights of Columbus – Mr. Patrick Jennings203.240.2425
Mary-Martha Ministry – Mrs. Pat Font 203.775.2335
Women's Reflection & Prayer Group – Mrs. Barb Roeder . 203.740.9428
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