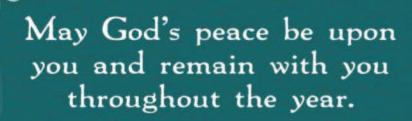


SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

BROOKFIELD, CT JANUARY 2, 2022

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

-2 Cor 5:17 (ESV)





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 Grace Zaloski, Ignite Youth Ministry Coordinator GraceZ@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

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Email: ParishSec@stjosephbrookfield.com
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 – 8:00am 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) Saturday: 4:00-4:45 PM



THOSE FOR WHOM WE PRAY

FOR THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S HEALING, STRENGTH, AND COMFORT: Catherine Conlon, John Donohue, Maureen Marlowe, Mike Doré, Cyril Tomascak, Peter Tomascak, Mary Beth Smith, Pat and Kelly Jennings, Joseph Buzcek, Sandra Cramer, Theresa Fuller, Frank Bonacci, Theresa Van Thaden, Katheen Travis, John Rooney and Alberta Gregus.

FOR THE PROTECTION AND SAFE RETURN OF THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: James Dillon, Joshua Hanley, 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 2



Sunday, Jan 02, 2022

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The sanctity of home

"Home is where the heart is" is an ancient proverb. Many folks find their deepest level of satisfaction and fulfillment in family life. But home is also where the hearth is: the place to which we come in from the cold to restore ourselves, where we put up our feet, sigh, and relax. Our homes are sacred to us; why not commend them to God? On Epiphany, we're invited to gather with our loved ones to bless the door, walls, and table of our dwelling. Compose your own blessing together or visit the USCCB's Blessing of the Home and Household on Epiphany for the rite of home blessing.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20). "The star they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

Monday, Jan 03, 2022

MEMORIAL OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS Initial reflections

Do you have anything monogrammed with your initials, perhaps towels or clothing? While monogramming is decorative, it also marks your belongings as yours. Jesus has a monogram too: "IHS," which stands for the first three letters of the Greek spelling of the name of Jesus. Later the monogram was associated with the Latin phrase Iesus Hominum Salvator (Jesus Humankind's Savior). There is power in the very name of Jesus and so Catholics venerate it. Perhaps you've seen this monogram on altars or vestments. Jesuits use the IHS monogram as the emblem of their society. You can bear his monogram too—by calling on his name and showing to the world that you belong to him.

TODÁY'S READINGS: 1 John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25 (212). "And great crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan followed him.

Tuesday, Jan 04, 2022

MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS Fed by the bread of life

Raised Episcopalian, Elizabeth Ann Seton knew about Jesus multiplying loaves. On Sundays, she was a devout communicant at historic Trinity Church on Wall Street. But it wasn't until Elizabeth went to Italy with her children and husband in 1803, attending Mass with Catholic friends, that she was drawn to the Real Presence in the Eucharist. "How happy would we be, if we believed what these dear souls believe," she wrote, "that they possess God in the sacrament, and that He remains in their churches and is carried to them when they are sick!" In honor of Mother Seton, the first U.S-born saint. resolve to receive Communion more often this year

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44 (213). "He said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people."

Wednesday, Jan 05, 2022 MEMORIAL OF JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP Get to know your neighbors

Today we celebrate the feast of Saint John Neuman, the first Redemptorist priest ordained in the United States and the first male U.S. citizen named a saint. Neumann, who emigrated to the United States from Bohemia as a young man desirous of being a missionary, is revered for his tireless work among immigrants in the Northeast. He had a talent for understanding people and knowing what would bring them peace and comfort. Seek to emulate this holy man, who one of his fellow bishops observed, "had a solution for every question posed," and an "unruffled composure, which beto-kened deep humility and perfect self-control. I always regarded him

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52 (214). "If we love one another, God remains in us, and [God's] love is brought to perfection in

Thursday, Jan 06, 2022

MEMORIAL OF ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS

The comeback kid of Québec

Saint André Bessette's remarkable life began when he was born into poverty in 1845. Orphaned by age 12, considered a failure in school, he practiced unskilled trades until his pastor encouraged him to join the Congregation of the Holy Cross. The congregation reluctantly admitted him, concerned about his frail health. Brother André defied expectations, living to age 91 and becoming famous throughout Québec for the many healings people experienced after visiting him in his role as a humble doorkeeper. Why not ask Brother André for his intercession, be it for mental, spiritual, relational, or physical

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:19—5:4: Luke 4:14-22 (215). "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor."

Friday, Jan 07, 2022

MEMÓRIAL OF RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT, PRIEST Make straight your path

Through its long history, the church has been careful to make a distinction between the canons, or rules, of the church and the laws of the state. The canons, from the Greek kanon for "straight," were meant to guide Catholics toward the mission of the church—to keep them on the straight and narrow of faith, so to speak. There are 1,752 canons, many that pertain to all of us. For example, Canon 210: "All the Christian faithful must direct their efforts to lead a holy life and to promote the growth of the church and its continual sanctification, according to their own condition." In honor of the patron saint of canon lawyers, Saint Raymond of Peñafort, do your best to follow the rules of the church and give witness to God's saving love

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16 (216). "God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

Saturday, Jan 08, 2022

SATURDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Increasing Christ

Tomorrow, the Baptism of the Lord, marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. The days, dates, and seasons of the church's liturgical calendar focus the whole People of God on the same celebrations. During Advent we prepare. In Christmas we welcome. Lent is a time of reflection and repentance. Easter is new life. In Ordinary Time we celebrate the ongoing effects of God's grace. So when "Silent Night" or "We Three Kings" is sung throughout the world, the air fills with the grace generated by God in our hearts. Sing a Christmas hymn today and know that the stars are singing with you.

TODAY'S ŘEADINGS: 1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30 (217). "He must increase; I must decrease." ©2021 TrueOuest Communications





January 2, 2022 | The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

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

My husband is a bird watcher by day and a stargazer by night. I confess it drives me a little bonkers on our evening dog walks. I tend to want to keep moving; between him and our dog (who seems to want to sniff every mailbox), it's the pedestrian equivalent of stop-and-go traffic. Hearing about the journey of the Magi, however, reminds me to pause and look, too. Just as they saw the star rising and followed it to Jesus, we, too, can seek God in our surroundings, our relationships, and the beauty of creation – the next step is to follow where God leads us. As Pope Benedict XVI wrote, the Magi represent "the journeying of humanity toward Christ." (Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives) We may falter from the path from time to time, but Isaiah's prophesy reminds us of our destination: "You shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Epiphany is early this year, falling right on the heels of New Year's Day. If we haven't made our New Year's resolutions yet, now is a good time to do so. In addition to typical resolutions such as reducing clutter or getting fit, we can set some spiritual goals as well. The definition of epiphany (lower case) is "a moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way." As we reflect on today's readings, let us ask the Holy Spirit to provide us an epiphany – into how we can grow closer to Jesus during this year ahead. Just as their encounter with the infant Jesus caused the Magi to be transformed from outsiders to faithful believers, and to take a different route home, our encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist is meant to transform all of us, and set us on a new path to light and life.

RESOLVE New Year's resolutions are great! Why not add a couple of spiritual resolutions to the list - perhaps to pray the rosary more often, spend time in eucharistic adoration, or go on that retreat you have been meaning to attend. Ask the Holy Spirit for

inspiration and see where it leads.

Be Amused...Be Very Amused

I always skip the gym the first week of the new year; I can't deal with the crowds.

I also skip weeks 2-52 but I'm still looking for an excuse for those.

I've given up social media for the New Year and am trying to make friends outside Facebook while still applying the same principles. Every day, I walk down the street and tell passersby what I've eaten, how I feel, what I did the night before, and what I will do tomorrow. Then I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and me gardening. I also listen to their conversations and tell them I love them.

And it works. I already have three people following me... two police officers and a psychiatrist.

Some astronauts wanted to have an New Year's party on the moon. But...they didn't planet in time.

They say New York has the best New Year's Eve Party.

I'd say it's overrated—every year they drop the ball.

Upjoke.com



Look at how our E.D.J.E. students are showing the love of Christ to others:

"I helped a friend do her work because it was difficult for her. " submitted by Carly

"I made some cards for kids in the hospital. " submitted by Ryan

 $\mbox{``I went to Toys for Tots}$ and donated new toys for kids who don't have any. '' submitted by Stephen

"I made cookies for the new neighbor. " submitted by Lily

"I included my friends in a game at school. " submitted by Kayla

I" made a bracelet for my teacher to make her feel special. " submitted by Brooklyn

"I held the door open for someone at the post office. " submitted by Justin

EPIPHANY





January 2, 2022 Page 4

Sunday Offertory......\$11,213.50 *Includes \$4,824.50 in Online Giving*

THE 2021 ST. JOSEPH ANNUAL COLLECTION

\$136,149.33 (104% of goal) collected as of Dec 20



To Our Parishioners,

I am truly blown away by the generosity all of you have shown through our annual appeal. It is by your generosity that we are able to fund the critical needs of the church. I am so appreciative that, even during the tough year we had, there continues to be a large outpouring of support from all of you. Thank you.

May God Bless You and Keep You Now and Always,





Q: What happens to a consecrated host if it accidentally falls to the ground?

A: This a very practical question because, as we all know, accidents happen, even during the most careful celebration of the liturgy. The short answer to this question is that nothing happens to the consecrated host. The Real Presence of Jesus remains in the consecrated host or any consecrated wine that might accidentally be spilled.

Another question we might ask is: *How should the minsters respond if the Eucharist is dropped or spilled?* If this happens, the priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion should immediately pick up the dropped host and consume it. If it is a case of the Precious Blood being spilled, the minister would use the purificator (and additional purificators if needed) to clean the spill and then the area should be reverently washed as soon as the Mass is over and the water poured into the sacrarium (a special sink that is located in church sacristies for reverently disposing of holy water, the water used to clean sacred vessels, etc.). ©LPi



"...Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark." James 3:5

Now's the time...the time to start anew. Many confusing things are going on in the world today. Now's the time to prioritize sowing seeds into our younger congregants so that they can blossom into *confident, faith-filled, and productive* members of society. With the right tools, they will be able to face any challenge with peace and wisdom knowing the Lord can handle any "Goliath" that comes their way.

Ignite, our tailor-made program for 7th & 8th graders, is here to help spark the Holy Spirit within them to lead them to a deeper, more personalized relationship with the Lord. They'll be leveling up their faith along with a community of their peers where they'll establish meaningful friendships, and have a lot of fun doing it!

We invite you to check out our fledgling Facebook page, and our page on the SJC website for more details on what your child can expect when they become an Igniter.



The time is now. The commitment is small. The reward is huge.

Enrollment is free, simply fill out a registration form which is available on the SJC website —> Parish Life —> Ignite



Page 5 January 2, 2022



Monday, January 3

7:45 AM - George Nault, req. by his Family

Tuesday, January 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

7:45 AM - Mary Linabury, req. by Elisa Nelson

Wednesday, January 5 - St. John Neumann, Bishop

7:45 AM - Vincent Conte, req. by Anna Verlezza

Thursday, January 6

7:45 AM - Intentions of All Our Parishioners

Friday, January 7

Liturgy

7:45 AM - Felipe Uribe, req. by Gloria Sanchez

Saturday, January 8

8:00 AM - George Stone, req. by Doug & Debra Tricarico

5:00 PM - Thomas LaBarbera, req. by John & Jackie Martino

Sunday, January 9 - Baptism of the Lord

7:30 AM - Mary Skelly, req. by Matt & Maureen Farrell

9:00 AM - Doris Maynard, req. by her friends

11:00 AM - Jennie Savona, req. by Mike & Ruth Dore

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Α	tar Servers
C	noir Director - Arianna Carlo
F	<u>iith Formation and Sacraments</u>
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k	CIA
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	utreach to Sick/Shut-In – Sr. Mary Ann Socha, CMGT 203.794.1486
_	atieach to sick/shut-iii - st. Mary Ailli socha, CMG1 203.794.1460



LIVING IN THE FATHER'S LOVE and RECLAIMING FRIENDSHIP

If you registered to join the St. Joseph's Women's Reflection and Prayer group for one of their six-week *Walking with Purpose* (WWP) programs, they will begin this week.

- Tuesday nights, 7:15-9:00, beginning on January 4: Reclaiming Friendship: Encounter God personally through Scripture, letting Him reshape how you see and experience true friendship.
- Wednesday mornings, 9:30-11:15, beginning January 5:
 Living in the Father's Love: Discover just how much God loves you and how the Gospels are deeply relevant to your relation ship with God and with those you love.



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Light of the Moon

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure—but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Psalm 91: 4

John 11: 25

Hebrews 12: 1-2

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