

SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

BROOKFIELD, CT



JANUARY 9, 2022



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. - Lk 3:21-22a



PARISH STAFF

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PARISH OFFICE

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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

This Week @ St. Joseph*

MON 10	7:45am	Mass & Live Stream
TUES 11	7:45am 7:00pm 7:15pm	Mass & Live Stream Confession & Adoration WWP group: Reclaiming Friendship
WED 12	7:45am 9:30am	Mass & Live Stream WWP group: Living in the Father's Love
THUR 13	7:45am	Mass & Live Stream
FRI 14	7:45am 6:30pm	Mass & Live Stream Ignite Youth Group (7th/8th grade)
SAT 15	8:00am 4:00pm 5:00pm	Mass & Live Stream Confession Vigil Mass
SUN 16	7:30am 9:00am 11:00am 6:30pm	Mass & Live Stream Mass & Live Stream - No EDJE Mass scheduled, students may attend any Mass Mass & Live Stream UNITED Sunday (High School Youth Group) @ St. Rose Of Lima in Newtown

*To add parish events, contact Bulletin@stjosephbrookfield.com

THOSE FOR WHOM WE PRAY

FOR THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S HEALING, STRENGTH, AND COMFORT: Catherine Conlon, John Donohue, Maureen Marlowe, Mike Doré, Ruth Doré, Wayne Tomascak, Cyril Tomascak, Peter Tomascak, Mary Beth Smith, Pat and Kelly Jennings, Joseph Buzcek, 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.



Sunday, Jan 09, 2022

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Tell it like it is

The hidden days are over. When the Spirit descends on Jesus and the heavenly voice proclaims him beloved, Jesus is effectively outed as the Divine Son. Did Jesus know this was the hour when his private life would come to an end? When any dreams he may have had for a quiet domestic existence were surrendered for good? The underlying truth is that on the day of our Baptism, we each surrender the notion of a private world that's all about us. As Pope Francis puts it, "Immersing us in Christ, Baptism also makes us members of his body, which is the Church, and participants in its mission in the world." Be the beloved. Share the love.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or 40:1-5, 9-11; Acts 10:34-38 or Titus 2:11-14; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 (21).* "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Monday, Jan 10, 2022

Give every child a chance

According to the National Center for Child Poverty, about 15 million children in the United States—21 percent of all children—live in families with incomes below the federal poverty line. The Christ Child Society seeks to address the critical needs of these children. U.S.-born Servant of God Mary Virginia Merrick, who died on this day in 1955, founded the Christ Child Society in 1887 at the age of 20—despite being paralyzed from a childhood injury. Today, its 6,000 members volunteer nearly 400,000 hours and serve more than 75,000 children and their families annually. You may find a chapter—or start one—at nationalchristchild.org.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 1:1-8; Mark 1:14-20 (305).* "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Tuesday, Jan 11, 2022

Pray the way to a more perfect union

Dom Lambert Beauduin, a Belgian Benedictine monk, died this day in 1960—but not without influencing the way we pray at Mass. As a liturgical scholar, Beauduin championed—years before Vatican II—the idea of worshipers actively participating in the Mass rather than sitting in pews to pray their private devotions. He promoted the idea of congregants literally "being on the same page," able to follow along with the Latin by using worship aides to translate the words of priests and prayers. "Beauduin had an insatiable thirst for unity," notes a biographer. Pray for greater unity in our church today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28 (306).* "On the sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught."

Wednesday, Jan 12, 2022

Here I am, Lord

Jesus saw his healing ministry of the sick and spiritually oppressed as a call from God. It is the same call each of us receives, not only to serve God and his people but to serve ourselves—to be our best selves, which will bring us the greatest joy. Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, known as an apostle of love, explains the profound grace that comes with responding to God's call in his "Jesus, the very thought of thee" hymn: "... how kind thou art! How good to those who seek! But what to those who find? Ah, this No tongue nor pen can show; The love of Jesus, what it is None but His loved ones know."

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39 (307).* "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come."

Thursday, Jan 13, 2022

MEMORIAL OF HILARY, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

In defense of the faith

Saint Hilary (d. 468) was a bishop during a time of great contention in the early church. He was popularly selected to lead, and he undertook scholarship that continues to be recognized today. His informal title, "Hammer of the Arians," has a violent ring to it, but in fact, he defended the Trinity against the Arian heresy through his writing, even though his opponents used the more forcible method of exile. Living a truly Christian life—loving those who oppose you, forgiving wrongs, turning the other cheek—has often been ridiculed by those who prefer the use of force. You can "defend" the faith by the way you choose to live.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45 (308).* "A leper came to him and kneeling down begged him and said, 'If you wish, you can make me clean.'"

Friday, Jan 14, 2022

I feel your pain

Healing gospel-style involves assessing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of the ill person. As Pope Francis says, Jesus asks us: "To stop and listen, to establish a direct and personal relationship with others, to feel empathy and compassion, and to let their suffering become our own as we seek to serve them." This holistic approach is slowly being embraced by Western physicians. Today's healthcare providers are encouraged to use such tools as the FICA method to assess a patient's faith; its importance in their decision-making; their connection to a community of like-minded believers; and the recommended action related to the spiritual assessment. We're all commissioned to be healers to some extent; the next time someone comes to you in pain, remember this compassionate approach.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12 (309).* "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk?'"

Saturday, Jan 15, 2022

The stone rejected

In our continued observance of the Amoris Laetitia Family Year, we are reminded by Pope Francis to consider the complexities of people's lives when we're tempted to judge their family or marital situation. "It can no longer simply be said," writes the pope, "that all those living in any 'irregular situation' are living in a state of mortal sin." Non-traditional families need to be offered "understanding, comfort, and acceptance." We need to stop applying moral laws as if they were, in the pope's words, "stones to throw at a person's life." Consider today the grace of God's mercy, compassion, and forgiveness operating in your own life.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Mark 2:13-17 (310).* "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

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This February 4-6, gather with others at St. Pius X in Fairfield, CT for SEEK22.

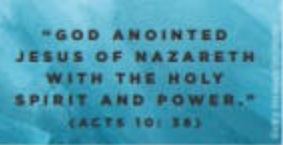


The conference draws in 25,000+ attendees and this

year it can be attended locally! Encounter the Source of all your heart's desires and find the true place of the Gospel in your everyday life. You will be empowered, encouraged, and equipped to experience the hope of Jesus Christ.

Dive deep into the heart of the Gospel message with some of the world's best speakers!

For details, schedule, and registration, visit www.bit.ly/spx-seek2022, or contact Paula Peña at ppena@st-pius.org.



January 9, 2022 | The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11 | Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7 | Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

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

For cradle Catholics, baptism may be the most important step on the Christian journey that none of us actually remembers. Which is too bad! After all, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* instructs us that baptism is "the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit." (#1213) Yes, baptism cleanses us of original sin, but it's much more than that! We need only look to Jesus to see that. Though without sin, Jesus' baptism is a turning point in his life all the same. The Holy Spirit descends upon him and a voice from heaven cries out, "You are my beloved Son." So begins the public ministry, in which Jesus would carry out his Father's saving mission. Through our baptism, at any age, we, too, become God's beloved sons and daughters. Through word and sacrament, Jesus invites us to share in his mission by turning our lives over to our Father as we embrace our Christian journey.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Baptism is often referred to as "the doorway to the Church" because through this sacrament, our sins are forgiven and we are united to Christ and his Church. It is the door which gives access to all the other sacraments. (Cf., CCC 1213) At the conclusion, the celebrant asks God to continue to pour out his blessing upon those being baptized, and send his peace to all who are gathered. As baptized Christians, we are now adopted children of God; we are disciples who are empowered, through the wisdom and strength of the Holy Spirit, to share the Good News and help build the kingdom of God on earth. Sound intimidating? It shouldn't. Each day that we "put on Christ" and do his work, God is re-creating us and making us into something far better than we could ever be on our own. Embrace this faith you have been given and go out and share your gifts and talents with others, confident in the Spirit that guides you.

SERVE Think of something you have been told you are very good at by friends or coworkers - something for which you have been "anointed," in a sense. In what way can you do something specific to lead others with care in this area, or perhaps do a very particular good yourself?

New Year, Fresh Jokes

A young ribbon took her piece-of-string boyfriend home. Her father, a military ribbon, took one look at the string and declared: "Absolutely not. There is no way my daughter is dating a common piece of string." The piece of string ran out of the house, very out of sorts, working himself into a frenzy. When he finally marched back into the house, the father said, "What are you doing here? You're a real piece of string, aren't you?" The string replied, "No, sir. I'm a frayed knot."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

What was the nacho's favorite dance?
Salsa

What about the soda?
Can-can

The rabbit's?
Hip hop

The tree's?
Swing

What was the eyeball's least favorite dance?
The polka

-Daily Dose of Dad Jokes



We will soon see what 2022 has in store for us regarding wintry weather. As a reminder, St. Joseph follows the Brookfield Public Schools for weekday closures. On the weekend, please check our website for real-time updates in the event of inclement weather. Remember, Masses are live streamed on our website should you not be able to travel!

REMINDER - Parish Survey Due

This is the final week to participate in our parish's "Dear Pope Francis" survey on where the Holy Spirit is leading the Church in the Third Millennium.

The survey can be taken online via the parish website or by completing a paper copy of the survey from the supply in the vestibule. All responses are anonymous. Completed copies of the survey may be returned to the collection box in the vestibule or mailed to the Parish Office. The survey closes **Sunday, January 16**.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD





Sunday Offertory (Dec 25/26)..... \$9,960.50
Includes \$5,680.50 in Online Giving

Sunday Offertory (Jan 1/2)..... \$9,844.50
Includes \$5,822.50 in Online Giving

Christmas Offertories

Christmas Offertory..... \$18,855.00
Includes \$3,253.00 in Online Giving

Christmas - Capital Improvement..... \$3,336.00
Includes \$500 in Online Giving



Curiosity Corner



Q: At my grandson’s Baptism, the priest put a bib on the baby. I do not remember seeing this before. Why is this done? Is it something new?

A: When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head. Others are simply placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: “See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity ... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven.” In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers and this is symbolized by the white garment.

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**IS YOUR CHILD READY TO LEVEL UP THEIR FAITH GAME IN 2022??
 WE INVITE THEM TO JOIN ONE OF OUR AMAZING YOUTH GROUPS—SEE BELOW FOR MORE INFO.
 YOUR CHILD, AND THEIR FRIENDS, ARE ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

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

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

Our next Ignite night is Friday, Jan 14 @ 6:30pm at the SJC School Gym.



Monday, January 10

7:45 AM - Intentions of All Our Parishioners

Tuesday, January 11

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

Wednesday, January 12

7:45 AM - Intentions of St. Joseph's Staff, req. by Doug Tricarico

Thursday, January 13

7:45 AM - Regina Gregory, req. by Pat Smith

Friday, January 14

7:45 AM - Andrew Hill, req. by The Vitetta Family

Saturday, January 15

8:00 AM - Intentions of Gerry Hatcher, req. by Respect for Life Committee

5:00 PM - Julius & Marianne Van Overwalle, req. by Jim & Pat Tharrington

Sunday, January 16

7:30 AM - Breda Walsh, req. by Matt & Maureen Farrell

9:00 AM - Edward Parker, req. by his friends

11:00 AM - Adam J. Keller, req. by The Nilson Family



SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS

Our Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in memory of Anna Schrier.

Requested by Jim & Pat Tharrington

PARISH MINISTRIES

Liturgy

Altar Servers203.775.1035
Choir Director - Arianna Carlo203.775.1035

Faith Formation and Sacraments

Religious Education Coord. - Ms. Pat Smith 203.775.1035, ext. 107
RCIA 203.775.1035
Scheduling Baptisms – Mrs. Rita Golaszewski. . . 203.775.1035, ext. 101
Marriage Scheduling/Prep203.775.1035

Prayer & Devotion

Men's Retreat – Mr. Peter Brady 203.740.1243
Women's Retreat – Mrs. Barb Roeder203.470.3832
Men of St. Joseph
Jim Steffen203.775.8676
George Lauri 203.775-1531

Parish Councils and Administration

Parish Council – Mr. Andy Pacuk, Chairman.917.514.5974
Finance Council – Mr. Frank Cavalea, Chairman.203.482.5563

Other Ministries & Organizations

8th Station Bereavement Ministry
Mrs. Mary Shaughnessy..... 203-775-9138
Mrs. Pat Tharrington.....203-775-4836
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 . 203.470.3832
Outreach to Sick/Shut-In – Sr. Mary Ann Socha, CMGT .. 203.794.1486



Ladies, do you desire to live in greater freedom? Are you longing for an authentic encounter with your true feminine identity? Join us for the **Undone Women's Conference** where you will experience a weekend of truth, beauty and transformation, as the knots of Eve's disobedience are "undone" through Mary's model of radical receptivity.

Bring yourself, your mother, your sister, your adult daughters and friends. This is a weekend you won't want to miss!

Undone: Freedom for the Feminine Heart will be held at St. Pius X Parish in Fairfield, CT March 31 – April 2, 2022. This event is being offered in person OR virtually via livestream! Register online for either experience at www.jp2healingcenter.org. Scholarships, student and missionary discounts available. Contact JP2RetreatFairfieldCT@gmail.com for more information.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS
I Hope I Am Like Him

"Who is this Christ? Is he like you?"

Perhaps you've heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

"He is nothing like me," the saint is said to have answered. "But I hope I am like him."

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist – a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power – a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ – and this is exactly as he wanted it. "One worthier than I is coming," he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God's will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament – he baptizes the Son of God.

Let's examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God's plan?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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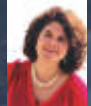


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