Offering every person in our community a life-changing encounter with Jesus



A Roman Catholic Community in Shelton

50 Fairmont Place [†] Shelton, Connecticut 06484 [†] Tel: 203-924-8611 [†] Fax: 203-924-9446 [†] www.SJCshelton.org

Pastor Rev. Michael Dogali

Weekend Assistants Rev. Msgr. Matthew Bernelli Rev. Raymond Petrucci

Permanent Deacons Guillermo Bernal

Bradford Smythe

Religious Education Dept.

Mr. Joshua St. Onge, Director Tel.: 203-924-9677 Email: RelEd@sjcshelton.org Classes for all ages are held weekly during the academic year. Contact the Religious Education Dept. for more information.

Lay Members of the Parish Corp. Mr. Joseph Kudravy Ms. Mary Jane Paris

Finance Council Chairperson Mr. John Lawrence

Parish Membership

Through baptism we become God's sons and daughters, and brothers and sister of each other in Christ. We ask that every family in the Parish be registered. Registration forms may be acquired at the Parish Office. This registration is our only means of certifying anyone as a member of our Parish Family.

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

www.SJCshelton.org

www.Instagram.com/sjcshelton

www.Twitter.com/sjcshelton

St. Joseph Church is wheelchair accessible. Accessible parking is located in the rear parking lot. We thank you for turning off all personal electronic devices before entering the church.

Mission Statement

We, the members of St. Joseph Parish, are an open and inviting Roman Catholic Family of Faith centered in the Eucharist, nourished by God's Word and faithful to the sacramental life of the Church. We strive to imitate Christ in all that we say and do. We are committed to teaching and sharing the Faith, supporting one another in prayer and action, and to reaching out to those in need. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we seek always to be just, gentle, and forgiving as we walk humbly with our God.

Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday through Friday 7:00 am Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm Sunday 7:30, 9:00 a.m., 10:30 am, 12:00 pm (Spanish)

Holy Day Mass Schedule 5:30 pm Vigil Holy Day 7:00 am, 12:05 pm, 5:30 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturdays 3:00 to 3:45 pm

Devotions

The Rosary is prayed on Thursday evenings 7:00 to 8:00 pm in chapel. Stations of the Cross on Lenten Fridays at 7:00 pm

Anointing of the Sick If you know a parishioner who is seriously ill, please contact the Rectory.

Baptism

Pre-Baptismal class is held once a month on a Sunday at 1:00 pm. Pre-registration is required. Please call the Parish Office for information. Baptisms are celebrated Sundays at 1:00 pm.

Marriage

Registered parishioners should make arrangements at least nine months in advance. There are no Sunday weddings.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.)

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The Rite of Initiation of Adults is available year round to anyone who wishes to inquire about our Faith, baptism, or completing their initiation as Roman Catholics with Eucharist and/or Confirmation. Please telephone R.C.I.A. Coordinator Elizabeth Anderson-Zaczkowski at 203-924-9677 for more information.

Catholic Elementary School Holy Trinity Catholic Academy (Grades PreK-8) 503 Shelton Avenue, Shelton 203-929-4422

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK MONDAY, DECEMBER 20th

7:00 a.m.	†James Oram
	(req. by the Oram Family)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21st

7:00 a.m. †Theresa Kofarago (req. by the Oram Family)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22nd

7:00 a.m. **†**Concepcion Sosa (req. by Hector Rosario)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23rd

7:00 a.m. †John Verderosa (req. by the Doyle Family)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24th: CHRISTMAS EVE

- 4:00 p.m. Church: †Steven & Irene Rindos (req. by Margie Rindos)
- **Church Hall:** †Carol Boland Pagliaro & 4:00 p.m. John Boland (req. by Gary Valinsky & Lauren Casalvieri)
- 6:00 p.m. **†**Frank J. Dogali
- (Children's Liturgy) (req. by Maria Dogali)
- 10:00 p.m. **†**Tyler Field Stevens (req. by Aidan D. Peluso)
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25th: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
- For Protection of All Unborn and 7:30 a.m. Newborn Babies (req. by St. Joseph Respect Life Ministry)

No 9:00 a.m. Mass

- 10:30 a.m. **†**Maria, John, Michael & Robert Lojo (reg. by Dee Kopchik)
- †Joao Coelho 12:00 p.m. (req. by Maria Jardim)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26th: THE HOLY FAMILY

- 7:30 a.m. [†]Darren Aubin (req. by Margie Rindos)
- [†]Louis Bove 9:00 a.m.
- (req. by the Rectory) May All Families Look to the Holy 10:30 a.m. Family for Strength and Guidance (req. by St. Joseph Respect Life Ministry)

12:00 noon †Segundo & Gloria Brito Spanish (req. by her Family)

VIGIL OF THE FOURTH SUNDAY **OF ADVENT**

DECEMBER 18, 2021

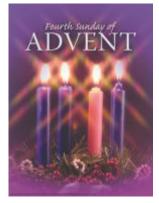
Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph:

Jesus Christ is the same Yesterday, Today and Forever (Heb.13:8)! Let me take this opportunity to congratulate everyone. While every year in the life of a parish is special, 2021 was extra special as we celebrated 115 years of Catholic Faith with the blessing of our new church pews and renovation. The blessing today by Bishop Frank Caggiano is a reminder of those who have gone before us, leaving a splendid example of faith, prayer and stewardship.

We truly give thanks to God for the parishioners and benefactors of today and in the past who have donated time, talent, treasure, prayer, advice and hard work to build up our parish family and facilities. As we pass the Catholic Faith on to our children, may they see us recommit ourselves to the work of evangelization. love of neighbor and a more fervent celebration of the Holy Eucharist. May St. Joseph, patron of the Universal Church, intercede for us with his prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Michael F. Dogali Pastor



	91. JU
Ann Baker	Bookkeeper
Katie Conti	Parish Office Assistant
Daniel Horstmann	Director of Music

St. Joseph Parish Staff

(203) 924-8611 (203) 924-8611 (203) 924-9677 finance@sjcshelton.org rectory@sjcshelton.org Dan@SJCshelton.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 19th, 2021

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



If you have a child entering First Grade in public school in September, it is time to enroll them in Religious Education classes for them to be eligible to receive First Holy Communion at the end of Second grade.

To register or for more information, please call the Religious Education Office (203-924-9677) or visit our website at <u>http://www.sjcshelton.org</u>

We offer K-8th grade Faith Formation. Our students receive 1st Sacraments in 2nd grade and Confirmation in 8th grade. Two years of faith formation are required prior to receiving a Sacrament. If your student is in Public school between the grades K-8th please give us a call at 203-924-9677 or email RelEd@sjcshelton.org

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

If Shelton Schools are **Cancelled** or if they have an **Early Dismissal** due to weather conditions, then the Religious Education classes are cancelled.

If schools have a **Delayed Start**, then Religious Education classes **will be held**.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DATES TO REMEMBER IN 2022

- January 4: Classes resume
- **January 9:** Mass 3rd & 4th grades
- **February 13:** Mass 6th & 7th grades

VIRTUS Online

Do you want to get more involved in the church? The first step to volunteering at our parish is taking the VIRTUS youth protection training which is mandated by the Diocese. Every volunteer must go through this training before they are allowed to volunteer in any capacity. Depending on your role, there is a five or ten year renewal. You can find out more information at: **www.virtusonline.org**

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

- 20th Comunidad de Oracion y Evangelizacion Hijos de Maria Santisima (5:30 p.m., Religious Ed. Meeting Rm.).
 - Advent Penance Service (7 p.m., Church).
- **21**st Eucharistic Adoration (1-7 p.m., Chapel).
- 23rd Carpool to Pray for Life near Planned Parenthood (2 p.m., Church Parking Lot). Miraculous Medal Novena (7 p.m., Chapel).

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

23rd T.O.P.S. (6 p.m., Pastoral Center Mtg. Rm.).

Please Note: There is no Adoration on Friday, December 24.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Parish Office will be closed Friday, December 24th in observance of Christmas. The office will re-open on Monday, December 27th at 9:00 a.m.



DATES TO REMEMBER

December 20: Advent Penance Service, 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming in 2022

March 8:Lenten Speaker Series:
Dr. Joan Kelly, 7:00 p.m.March 15:Lenten Speaker Series:
Rev. Brian Konzman, S.J., 7:00 p.m.March 22:Lenten Speaker Series:
Sister Sally Norcross, C.N.D.,7:00 p.m.March 11, 18, 25:Fish FryMay 13, 14, 15:Sell Your Old Gold



Have a new email address? New phone number? Moved to a new apartment or house? Make sure you update your contact information so you can receive infor-

mation, news, daily inspiration and upcoming events at our parish. Call the office at 203-924-8611 to update our records. Thank you!



OFFERTORY

Weekend of December 11th – December 12th 2021 Sunday Offertory \$ 7,034.00

Sunday Onertory\$ 7,034.00Online\$ 3,095.00Immaculate Conception Env.\$ 1,486.00Retirement Fund for Religious\$ 673.00Extra\$ 6,934.00

For those watching our online Masses, please remember to mail in your contributions .



Please remember St. Joseph Parish when preparing your will. A legacy to the church eases your tax burden and helps continue the good works of our Parish.



If Shelton Schools are **delayed** or **closed** due to inclement weather, our 7:00 a.m. Mass is automatically cancelled. This is to provide for the safety of everyone. Attempting to drive in such weather or navigate the parking lot before it is plowed or

salted has potential risks and creates certain liabilities for the Parish. If the weather is severe enough to necessitate the cancelling or delay of school, local radio and television stations will note the cancellation or delay and the 7:00 a.m. Mass is also cancelled.



To help meet current needs in our parish, the Altar Server Ministry extends an invitation to all children to join our ministry, learn its duties and participate in the Mass. This is a great ministry for children and youth to serve the Lord, grow in their faith, build relationships as well as fellowship with other servers. Com-

munity service hours can also be earned.

Requirements: Children must have received their First Holy Communion and have their parent's permission.

Please contact the Rectory at 203-924-8611 and leave a message for Mrs. Leslie Allaire.

SPONSOR CERTIFICATE GUIDELINES

Our parish receives a number of requests for Sponsor Certificates from people who have been asked to be a Godparent at a Baptism or a Sponsor at a Confirmation. This certificate verifies that you are an active Catholic, a member of this parish and eligible for this honor. Being a Godparent or a Sponsor is not just a family or social relationship, as important as these may be. It is a profound spiritual responsibility which entails witness and commitment and there are several requirements:

The Godparent/Sponsor is to be at least sixteen years old.

He/she is to have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation.

If married, the Sponsor/Godparent must have been married according to the laws of the Church.

For the Pastor to issue a Sponsor Certificate:

You are a currently registered member of the parish. You worship here regularly.

You are requesting the Sponsor Certificate yourself; please do not ask a parent, spouse or another person to do this for you.

No Sponsor Certificates will be signed or issued before or after weekend Masses.

Please call the Rectory to make an appointment with Leslie Allaire at 203-924-8611.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel on Tuesdays from 1-7 p.m. and Fridays from 1-7 p.m.

You are cordially invited to come and spend some time with our Eucharistic Lord.

Please Note: There is no Adoration on Friday, December 24.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The Red Sanctuary Lamp, signifying the Eucharistic presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ, burns this week in memory of Louis Skrovanek requested by Diane Sentner.

Our Lady's Blue Memorial Lamp burns this week in memory of AnnaMaria Valeri requested by the Montanaro & Valeri Families.

St. Joseph's Green Memorial Lamp burns this week for Francis Becher requested by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Becher.

If you would like to memorialize a Lamp, please send your name and telephone number along with a check for \$25.00 made out to **St. Joseph Church**. *Thank you!*

Readings 🛄 Wéëk

Monday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c	
·	and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38	
Tuesday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3,	
v	11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45	
Wednesday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd	
	[cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56	
Thursday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10	
· ·	and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66	
Friday:	<i>Morning:</i> 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/	
Ps	89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79	
Saturday:	<i>Vigil:</i> Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27,	
v	29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25	
	or 1:18-25	
	<i>Night:</i> Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12,	
	13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14	
	<i>Dawn:</i> Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti	
	3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20	
	Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6	
	[3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14	
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf.		
Ttext Sunday	1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52	
	or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6,	
	9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-	
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Observances for the week

Tuesday:St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of
the ChurchThursday:St. John of Kanty, PriestFriday:Christmas EveSaturday:The Nativity of the Lord

Next Sunday: The Holy Family

The **2022 and 2023** Mass Books are in the Rectory Office. Please see Rose in the Rectory at 203-924-8611 to reserve Masses.

Christmas Shop at Amazon Smile!

The Amazon Smile Program donates 0.5% of the price of your purchases to St. Joseph Church. To start helping St. Joseph Church, go to the Church website: www.sjcshelton.org and look for the link to the Amazon Smile Program. Go to smile.amazon.com and choose "St. Joseph Church of Shelton" as your charitable organization who should receive charitable donations from Amazon. Thank you!!

REASONS TO REGISTER AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

- 1. Enables you to obtain sponsor certificates, release letters, or any other documentation needed from the Church.
- 2. Enables you to have your children registered to become eligible for any of the Seven Sacraments.
- **3.** Enables you to have your children registered in our Religious Education program or Holy Trinity Catholic Academy.
- 4. Gives you a sense of belonging to our Parish Family.
- 5. Helps support the Church. There are several ways to support our Parish. You may use the envelope system for weekly contributions or through our on-line giving system.



Interested in becoming Catholic? Are you an adult who was baptized in another faith tradition but would like to become Catholic? Do you want to receive the sacraments you

missed? Do you have questions about what Catholics believe? Then, RCIA might be just what you are looking for. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process set up to prepare adults to join or re-join the Catholic Church and receive the sacraments.

The sessions include prayer, teachings on different topics, along with time for questions and answers. There are no textbooks and no test!

Call the R.C.I.A. Coordinator, Elizabeth Anderson-Saczkowski at 203-924-9677 for more information.



You can now donate to our Parish without writing checks or worrying about cash donations! This service lets you set up automatic contributions and change the timing or amount of your gift at any time. It's simple and secure.

Online Giving is easy for you and it helps us. When travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from coming to Mass, Online Giving allows your weekly offering to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

Benefits to you as a Parishioner:

No more check writing, no cost to participate, confidential and secure, app for smartphones, easy updates and changes, weekly/monthly/quarterly and one-time donations, accommodates special collections, printable reports for tax purposes.

Benefits to our Parish:

Creates a more consistent cash flow so the Parish can more accurately budget for expenses, safely secures transactions with no need to share personal info with staff, reduces administrative costs, simplifies adding, changing or discontinuing donations, increases recurring gifts, reduces liability.

Offertory Envelopes

Offertory envelopes are available for our Parishioners. They are dated and preprinted with your name, address, and Parishioner number. Contributions can be put in the collection basket at weekend Masses or mailed to the Parish Office.

Stock Gifts

When making stock donations (transfers) to St. Joseph Parish, please advise our Parish Accountant ahead of time to ensure proper and timely handling of the transaction. She will provide you with information needed to perform the transfer.

IRAs

You can designate your IRA distribution or a portion of it to St. Joseph Parish. PATH Act of 2015 makes permanent the ability for taxpayers who are 70 $\frac{1}{2}$ or older to exclude from income (up to \$100,000) distributions made from a traditional IRA that are made payable to a qualified charity. Please contact the Parish Office to expect distribution.

Matching Gifts

Many companies allow their employees to make donations to charitable organizations through payroll deductions, and some will match the gift dollar for dollar. Ask your employer's human resources, matching gift or payroll department if there is a matching gift program. St. Joseph Parish is an approved tax-exempt organization by the I.R.S. under section 501©3.

see next column



Online Giving (continued)

Wills and Bequests

Once you have taken care of your family, please consider a bequest to St. Joseph Parish. The best wording to use is "The St. Joseph's Church of Shelton, CT." If you decide to name St. Joseph Parish in your will, please notify our Pastor so we can thank you. It is a good idea to consult an attorney before writing your will.

Tribute Gifts ("In Memory of" and "In Honor of") Tribute and memorial donations provide a unique opportunity to remember family and friends. When you make

your gift, we will send a notification of your thoughtfulness to whomever you designate. Please contact the Parish Accountant for more information. As always, please consult your tax advisor or financial planner prior to making financial decisions.

REMINDER

Advent Penance Service

Monday, December 20th, 7:00 p.m.



PLEASE NOTE: The next Coffee Café will be Sunday, February 6thafter the 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Masses.

No Coffee Café on January 2.

Please join us in February!

DIOCESAN MARRIAGE FORMATION

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-prepreimagined/

Devotions

January	The Holy Name and Childhood of Jesus
February	The Holy Family
March	St. Joseph
April	The Blessed Sacrament
May	Mary
June	Sacred Heart of Jesus
July	The Precious Blood
August	Immaculate Heart of Mary
September	Seven Dolours (Sorrows) of Mary
October	The Holy Rosary
November	Poor Souls in Purgatory
December	The Immaculate Conception
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