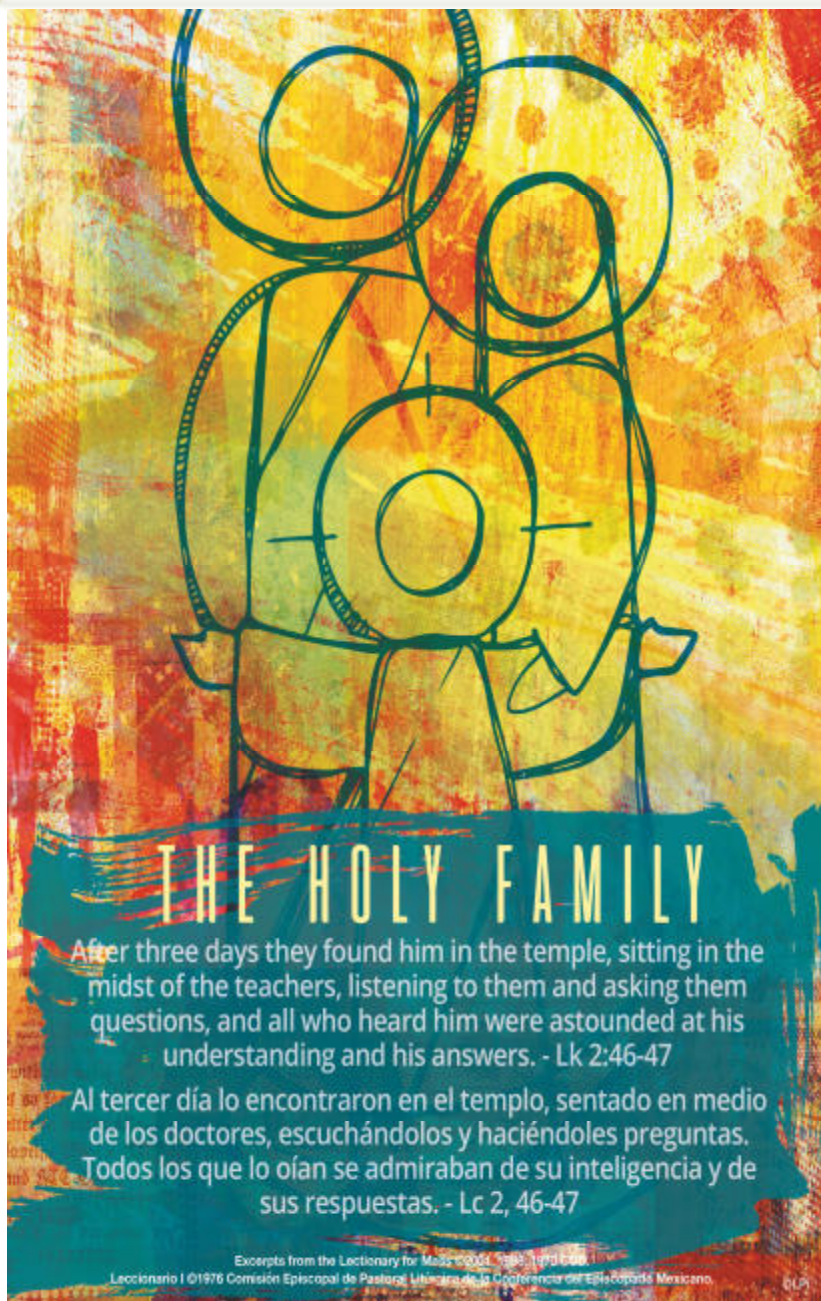


ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

10 Elm Street. Middletown, CT. 06457.
Website: www.stfranciscct.com

Telephone: (860) 347-4684
office@stfranciscct.org



Father Kennedy Cell: (860) 334-8925
E-mail: fruss2x@gmail.com

Deacon Octavio Flores, Cell: 860-685-1104
E-mail: oflores@wesleyan.edu

Hispanic Ministry:
Sr. Gloria Saldarriaga, Cell: 860-949-1554

Secretaries:
Judy Wright & Paola Rodríguez.

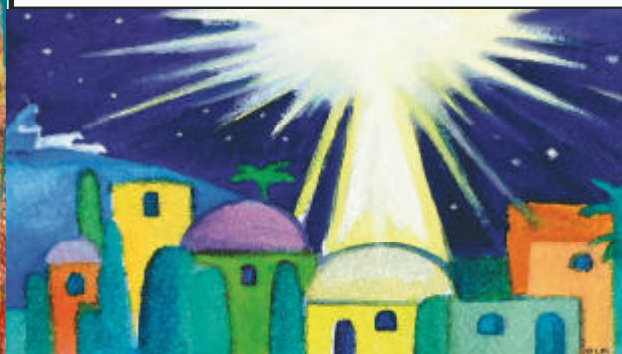
President of Finance Committee:
Peter Sipples

President / Co-President of Parish Council:
Frank Pizzaro / Xiomara Campos

Director of Religious Education
Iolani Peterson, Cell: 860-462-0306

Confession/ Confeion :
By Appointment only/ Con Cita Previa
@ 860-334-8925

Office Hours/ Horario de oficina:
Monday/Lunes-Friday/Viernes
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



 **Welcome**

Whatever your current status in the Catholic Church, whatever your current family or marital situation, whatever your past or present religious affiliation, whatever your personal history, age, background or ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, whatever your own self-image or esteem, you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi. **KEEP IN CONTACT:** If you know a parishioner who is now unable to attend mass for whatever reason, please call the office so we can send them a bulletin and bring them Holy Communion.

La Sagrada Familia



Hoy es un día para celebrar a la familia - a la nuestra y a las familias de todo el mundo, de celebrar y gozar a los hijos, nietos y parientes cercanos y lejanos. Dios quiso nacer en una familia y por medio de ella, se nos ofrece una oportunidad para conocerle mejor y amarle más. Recordemos que es en la familia donde se forjan los santos y santas de Dios. Y es también en ella donde están los vicios y malas acciones. ¡Cuidado padres de familia! Aprender de la familia de Nazaret es importante.

Cada día del año es una oportunidad para continuar la búsqueda de Dios, de Jesús, en nuestro hogar. Podemos vislumbrar, en la Liturgia de hoy, a tres figuras importantes del hogar de Nazaret: una mujer con su pequeño y su esposo, listos para hacer la voluntad de Dios, para orar y platicar en familia. El papa Francisco nos dice que: *“Realmente, hoy es un día hermoso... hoy celebramos la fiesta de la Sagrada Familia de Nazaret. El término sagrada coloca a esta familia en el ámbito de la santidad, que es un don de Dios, pero, al mismo tiempo, es una adhesión libre y responsable al plan de Dios” (12-29-2019). Sé, y busco cuál es el plan de Dios para mi hogar o ¿ni siquiera me importa ese diálogo entre esposa, esposo e hijos? El tiempo de confinamiento debió ser una oportunidad para crecer en gracia y sabiduría en la familia. ¿Lo ve usted así? Padres de familia, la mejor herencia para sus hijos y nietos es fomentar la fe, la educación, el amor y la unidad en el hogar.*

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph



Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the “light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families.” While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

JORNADA MUNDIAL DE LA PAZ

World Day of Peace

 **Mass Intentions
for the week** 

Saturday/ Sábado Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Christmas Mass-Bilingual

Sunday/Domingo, Dec. 26,

9:00 a.m. Mass (English)

† **Truska & Sauv  Families,**

R/B Don & Donna Grisham

† **Joseph Bibisi, Jr., 1st Anniv.,**

R/B Family

11:00 a.m. Mass (Espa ol)

Monday/Lunes, Dec. 27, 5 p.m.

† **Rev. Msgr. Michael T. Donohue,**

R/B Diocese of Norwich

Tuesday/Martes, Dec. 28, 5 p.m.

Wednesday/Mi rcoles, Dec. 29, 5 p.m.

Thursday/ Jueves, Dec. 30, 6 p.m.

Holy Hour

Friday/Viernes, Dec. 31, 4 p.m.

New Year's Eve Mass

Saturday/ S bado Jan. 01, 4 p.m.

Solemnity of Mary Mass

Sunday/Domingo Jan. 02

9:00 am Mass (English)

11:00am Mass (Espa ol)

**12/26/2021: SECOND COLLECTION
IS FOR CHRISTMAS**

**1/1/2022: SECOND COLLECTION
IS FOR SOLEMNITY OF MARY**

CEREAL: 61 LBS

Weekly Offering – Ofrenda Semanal

(Wk-24) Dec. 6-12, 2021

Dec. 11/12, 21: \$ 4,340.00

Online: \$ 765.00

\$ 5,105.00

Y.T.D. 06/2022: \$ 83,147.00

Dec. 12/13, 2020 : \$ 4,252.00

Online giving: \$ 845.00

\$ 5,097.00

Y.T.D. FYE 06/2021: \$ 84,079.25

PRAYER REQUESTS 

RECUERDE ORAR POR:

Edward Rosado, Frances Berger, Theresa Enis, Paul Grochowski, Wilma Atanasoff, Ann Rau, David Monte, Beverly Sullivan, James Silverman, Jackeline Carrero-Mendez, Rita McNamara, David Smith

**WATCH
MASS ONLINE**

LIVE TRASMISSION

9:00 AM - Facebook Live

Visit www.stfrancisct.com and
click **LIVE MASS**

HORA SANTA - HOLY HOUR

...A Solas con El Se or

**Que bueno es venir a Saludarte o Jes s m o,
que te has hecho tan humilde y peque o
para permanecer en m .**

JUEVES 6:00 p.m.

**. Ven trae tu biblia y un coraz n abierto para
llevarte del amor de**

**Cristo te espera con sus brazos Abiertos
La Adoraci n se celebra cada 3rd domingo del mes,
despu s de la misa de las 11 a.m.**

***Sr. Gloria lidera esto y es sobre todo en
espa ol ***

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AT

ST. FRANCIS:

**How good it is to come and say hello or my
Jesus, that you have become so humble and
small to remain in me.**

Thursday from 6pm -7pm.

Bring your bible and an open heart.

**Adoration is held every 3rd Sunday of the
month, after the 11 a.m. Mass.**

Everyone is welcome.



HINKA'S

Our major fundraiser is coming up on February 5th... **Hearts for Hinka**. It is a pasta dinner and tickets will be on sale for \$15. It will be in the church hall but if you would like it take out, that is possible. Please support us by buying a ticket. We need to sell 100 tickets.

Thank you to all our donors.

BANCO DE ALIMENTOS

Nuestra principal recaudación de fondos se acerca el 5 de febrero ... **Corazones para Hinka**. Es una cena de pasta y las entradas estarán a la venta por \$15. Será en el salón de la iglesia, pero si desea que lo saquen, eso es posible. Por favor, apóyanos comprando un boleto. Necesitamos vender 100 entradas. Agradecer

Muchas gracias por sus donaciones.

Coming Back to Church

Question:

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

Answer:

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

St. John Paul II Catholic School



Face masks are required while inside the building

Volver a la Iglesia

Pregunta:

He estado lejos de la Iglesia durante unos años y realmente quiero volver a estar activo, no tanto por mí, sino por mis hijos. ¿Es esta una mala razón para volver a la Iglesia?

Respuesta:

Si estás de camino al supermercado y te ves obligado a desviarte de tu ruta habitual debido al trabajo en la carretera, ¿la comida que compras tiene un sabor diferente? ¿La comida es menos abundante? ¿Son las verduras menos sabrosas? Claro que no. En nuestro viaje de fe, hay muchos desvíos llamados pecado. Algunos son más grandes que otros, algunos son incluso un poco más largos. Pero la gracia de Dios viene a nosotros de maneras que entendemos, reconocemos y necesitamos. Que tus hijos te lleven de vuelta a la Iglesia no es tan importante como el hecho de que hayas vuelto. Esta es una oportunidad para que renueven, fortalezcan y profundicen su fe. Independientemente de cómo lleguemos a la Iglesia, o lo que nos acerque más a Dios, el hecho es que estamos allí. Haz lo que necesites hacer para estar bien con Dios y la Iglesia. Vaya a la confesión, comience buenas prácticas religiosas familiares y participe en los ministerios que ofrece su parroquia. Sé más que un feligrés tibio. Sé el tipo de católico que quieres que sean tus hijos.

4th Annual Young Adult Mass with Bishop Cote

On Sunday, January 30th, St. Thomas Aquinas in Storrs is delighted to host Bishop Michael Cote for the 4th Annual Diocesan Young Adult Mass & Reception. All Young Adults (ages 18 - 39, single and married) are invited and encouraged to attend! Young Adults are welcome to invite friends to join us! Mass with Bishop Cote will begin at 7:00pm and there will be a small reception in the Catholic Center following the liturgy.

Liza Roach

(860)848-2237 ex.305

4^a Misa Anual de Jóvenes Adultos con el obispo Cote

El domingo 30 de enero, Santo Tomás de Aquino en Storrs se complace en recibir al Obispo Michael Cote para la 4^a Misa y Recepción Diocesana Anual de Jóvenes Adultos. ¡Todos los adultos jóvenes (de 18 a 39 años, solteros y casados) están invitados y animados a asistir! ¡Los jóvenes adultos son bienvenidos a invitar a amigos a unirse a nosotros! La misa con el obispo Cote comenzará a las 7:00 pm y habrá una pequeña recepción en el Centro Católico después de la liturgia.

Liza Roach

(860)848-2237 ex.305





Todos en la familia



A primera vista, a menudo podemos encontrar intimidante la imagen de la Santísima Madre, San José y el Niño Jesús: ¿quiénes somos para aspirar a ese nivel de discipulado? ¿Cómo podríamos esperar conformarnos a ese molde? A veces, incluso puede ser doloroso, tal vez provenimos de una familia rota o luchamos con una relación rota dentro de nuestra familia, o tal vez anhelamos ser madre o padre nosotros mismos y ese estado en la vida nos ha eludido.

Pero la imagen de la Sagrada Familia es, en realidad, una hermosa invitación para todos nosotros, sin importar nuestra vocación o nuestro estado de vida, y el ejemplo de María, José y Jesús es rico en el simbolismo de la corresponsabilidad.

No necesitas ser una madre biológica que ha llevado a un niño en su vientre para ser una madre en espíritu. ¿Quién en tu mundo necesita que los ames con el corazón de una madre?

Lo mismo ocurre con la paternidad. La Iglesia y el mundo claman por el valiente testimonio de cristianos como San José. ¿A quién puedes amar con la protección inquebrantable y desinteresada de un padre?

¿Quién en tu vida necesita que lo ames con el amor fiel e incondicional de un hijo? ¿Quién necesita tu amor suave y constante como hija?

Nosotros somos el Cuerpo de Cristo, amigos. Los que nos regocijamos en el cielo, los que sufrimos en el purgatorio y los que luchamos aquí en la tierra. Somos la gran familia. Amémonos bien.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



All in the Family



At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

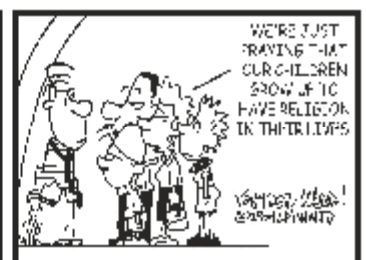
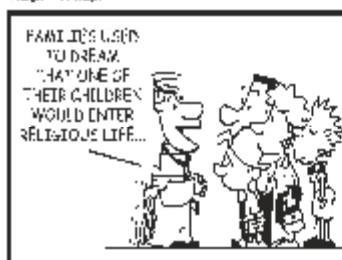
The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

- HOLY FAMILY



BARBARA PUORRO
 Broker/Owner, ABR, Accredited Home Stager,
 CDPE, Homes for Heroes Affiliate, MRP, SFR, SRES
 (860) 558-9740
 75 Berlin Rd, Suite 104, Cromwell, CT
 barbara@puorrorealttygroup.com
 www.puorrorealttygroup.com
 "Taking You
 Beyond the Expected"




ADT-Monitored Home Security
 Get 24-Hour Protection
 From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide




ADT Authorized Provider | SafeStreets | 1-855-225-4251

St. John Paul II
 Regional Catholic School
 87 S. Main St.,
 Middletown, CT
860.347.2978
 office@jpii.org • www.jpii.org



WE'RE HIRING
 AD SALES EXECUTIVES
 BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION.
 WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Paid Training
- Some Travel
- Work-Life Balance
- Full-Time with Benefits
- Serve Your Community



LPi Contact us at careers@4lpi.com
 www.4lpi.com/careers

FREE AD DESIGN
 WITH PURCHASE OF THIS SPACE
LPi CALL 800.477.4574

SALCAL
 REAL ESTATE CONNECTIONS
Shawna Kelly
 SalCal Real Estate Connections
 (860) 841-4642
 shawna@salcal.com
 Contact her today!



RIVER VALLEY
 OIL SERVICE | RIVER VALLEY
 PROPANE
 310 SOUTH MAIN STREET
860-342-5670



AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!
ADVERTISE HERE NOW!
 Contact **Justin Cooper** to place an ad today!
 jcooper@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x7903

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Middletown TOYOTA
 "The People Pleasers"
 I LOVE My Intention
 Love the Price, Love the Deal



**Sales • Service • Parts
 Rental • Body Shop**
 634 Newfield Street, Middletown
860-347-7294
 Sales: M-Th 9-8:30, F 9-6, Sat 9-5
 Service: M-Th 7-7, F 7-5:30, Sat 7-2
Middletown Toyota.com
 Serving the Community for over 22 years

LPi

Celebrity Shuttle
 Transport with Homecare
 Convenient 24/7 Shuttle Service • Homecare
 Sunday homecare and shuttle - We can accompany you and shuttle you to church!
 Senior Transportation to Pharmacy & Errands
 Pet Transportation & Homecare
 Companion and Home Making \$16.50 - 18.50 per hour
 PCA/HHA/CNA/24-Hour Live-in Service \$18 per hour, live in \$180-\$220 a day
 Grocery Pick-up • Private Wheelchair
 Restaurant Deliveries • Crubside Pick

Download our App on Android and iOS
 App Store | Google Play

877-550-2353 • 203-440-9744
www.celebrityshuttle.com
 HCA.0001670



FREE CONSULTATIONS - RELIABLE & AFFORDABLE