

# St. Junípero Serra Parish

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WWW.SAINTJUNIPEROSERRA.ORG | (860) 644-2411 MONDAY-THURSDAY: 9AM-3:00PM | FRIDAY: 9AM-12PM



# THE HOLY FAMILY

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He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

#### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

673 Ellington Road

South Windsor, CT 06074

Sunday Mass: 7:30 am & 9:00 am Weekday Mass: Wednesday 8:00am

Weekday & Weekend Masses are Live Streamed at www.saintjuniperoserra.org

**DECEMBER 26, 2021** 

### ST. MARGARET MARY CHURCH

80 Hayes Road

South Windsor, CT 06074 Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm Sunday Mass: 11:00 am

Weekday Mass: Monday, Tuesday &

Thursday-8:00 am

Confessions: Monday 6:00pm-7:00pm

Monday after 8:00am Daily Mass

Adoration & Holy Hour: Monday 6:00pm-7:00pm

WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS, NEW MEMBERS, AS WELL AS ALL PARISH MEMBERS.

### **GOSPEL MEDITATION**

### ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

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 Goo's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.
- Lk 2:51-52

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass @2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

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# WELCOME TO ST. JUNÍPERO SERRA PARISH

We extend a special welcome to new parishioners. We hope you will find our parish community a place where your faith-life will grow. We also hope you will share your special gifts with your parish family. Your presence, your talents and your prayers are always welcome. Please introduce yourself to Fr. Castro, after one of the Masses and also please formally register with the parish through our website at <a href="https://www.saintjuniperoserra.org">www.saintjuniperoserra.org</a> or by contacting the office.

# The churches are open for private devotions:

St. Francis of Assisi: Monday thru Friday 9:00am-4:00pm St. Margaret Mary: Monday thru Friday 9:00am-3:00pm, Saturday 10:00am-5:30pm

#### Pastoral Staff

Offices located at 80 Hayes Rd, Hours are Monday thru Thursday 9 am to 3 pm Friday: 9 am to 12pm | Parish Office: 860-644-2411 Fax: 860-644-5765

#### Administrator

Reverend Jorge Castro Phone: 860-644-2411 ext 109 fr.castro@aohct.org

#### **Deacons**

Deacon Edward J. Giard Deacon Michael D. Haines

#### **Communication Coordinator**

Anton Miranda stjuniperoserra@gmail.com

#### **Administrative Coordinator**

Ginger Bilas Phone: 860-644-2411 ext 101 ginger@southwindsor.cc

#### **Director of Music Ministries**

Robert Dolan robert.dolan@uconn.edu

#### St. Vincent de Paul

Phone: 860-648-0216

#### **Business Manager**

Laura Pastula Phone: 860-644-2411 ext 103 business@southwindsor.cc

#### **Bulletin Coordinator**

Audrey Miranda bulletin@southwindsor.cc

#### **Faith Formation Staff**

Offices located at 80 Hayes Rd, Hours are Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9 am to 2 pm Parish Office: 860-644-2549 Fax: 860-644-5765

#### **Director of Faith Formation**

Sister Karen Skurat Phone:860-644-2549 ext 106 srkaren@southwindsor.cc

# Faith Formation Admin Assistant

Maria Rosati Phone:860-644-2549 ext 107 faithformation@southwindsor.cc

# Youth Ministry

Emily Golec Phone:860-644-2549 ext 108 youthministersjs@gmail.com

# **Important Information**

**Baptisms:** Parents must attend a pre-baptismal class and sponsor certificates for the godparents must be received before a baptism can be scheduled. Please call the parish office to register.

**Prayer Line:** For prayer requests or to join the Prayer Line, please call Donna, 860-938-4864, Ida, 860-289-2826 or Mary, 860-644-0766.

Weddings: At least six months preparation is necessary. Please call Fr. Castro at x109

**Ministry to Those in the Hospital or Homebound:** Your parish priests, deacons and ministers are eager to help anyone who is unable to celebrate with us because of age, illness or handicap. There is no problem visiting private homes if we are notified. If you, or a relative living in the South Windsor Catholic Community would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick or would like to receive Communion, please call the parish office so that we may be of assistance.

Winter Snow Policy: Please check our website or Facebook page for possible cancellation.

**Bulletin Submissions:** The deadline for the bulletin articles is noon on Friday. Email your submissions to: bulletin@southwindsor.cc

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#### SATURDAY, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 a.m. SFA: St. Junipero Serra Parish Families 11:00 a.m. SMM: St. Junipero Serra Parish Families 4:00 p.m. NO Vigil Mass

SUNDAY, December 26 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 7:30 a.m. Agnes Turci by Sandi & Michael Armentano

9:00 a.m. George & Marie Irene McAndrews by Mimosa Pham 11:00 a.m. James M. Gerrity, Sr. by Family

#### MONDAY, December 27

8:00 a.m. Special Intention of The Pancras Family TUESDAY, December 28

8:00 a.m. Richard Blakesley by Tuyet Hoang

WEDNESDAY, December 29

8:00 a.m. Paul Sullivan by Family

THURSDAY, December 30

8:00 a.m. Kristina Guay by Mother, Irene Guay

FRIDAY, December 31

New Year's Eve Day

9:00 a.m. SMM: Special Intentions by Laura & Frank Phillipe

### SATURDAY VIGIL, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

4:00 p.m. Carmelo Testa by Testa, Reale & Rizza Families

SUNDAY, January 2 Epiphany of The Lord

7:30 a.m. Muriel Parille by Don Parille

9:00 a.m. Andrew Fulop by Parents

11:00 a.m. Carole Snyder by Kathy & Tony Phillips

#### SANCTUARY LIGHTS

St. Francis of Assisi's Sanctuary Light burns this week for THE HUPPE & JACQUES FAMILIES

St. Margaret Mary's Sanctuary Light burns this week for TEOFILA & STANISLAW GOLAS

If you would like to have the Sanctuary Light burn at St. Francis of Assisi or St. Margaret Mary Church for the intention of a loved one,

#### **STEWARDSHIP**

Total Offertory including Online Giving: 12/12/2021 Weekly Collection \$11,062.50 These numbers will fluctuate due to monthly and quarterly donations.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



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 ©LPi

Please remember in your prayers the following parishioners who are ill Thomas Russo, Giacomo



Ghasa, Scott Mosher, Anne Mosher, Rosemary Saad, Lydia Mele, Barbara Mansini, Tammy Cross, Mary Caswell,

Pratson, Beth Jamieson, Helen Palmer, Teresa Foran, Marie Donnelli, George Rousseau, Charles Flick, Joyce Abrahams, Kay Vuono, Pat Hendrickson, Carmen Rosa Chilicki, Karen Cerrato, Bertha Brasfield, Mark Weyrauch, Robert Billig, Adam Johnson, Taina Marquez-Johnson, Luca and Nicolas Marquez-Johnson, Simone Tedford, Frances P. Medina, Paula Musgrave, Richard Mazur, John Ferrante, Michael Chappell, Rebecca-Lynn Scullion, Dylan McBreen, Susan Degennaro, Lisa Feinstein. Please call the parish office to add a loved one to our parish prayer list.

End of year contribution statements for parishioners who participate in our envelope system or online giving. Those who received statements last year will automatically receive their statements by end of January by email, or mail, if there is no email on file. Please contact Ginger at ginger@southwindsor.cc if your email has changed, if you have email and prefer a hard copy, or if you would like to request a statement for the first time.

Thank you for your generosity in helping us provide gifts for children and families served by Head Start in Vernon and Department of Child and Family



Services in Manchester as well as for all ages of children and teenagers among local families in need and families at Our Lady Queen of Peace and Our Lady of Sorrows for Christmas and Three Kings Day, both in Hartford. Additionally thank you for your generosity in helping us feed others for Christmas. Headstart and DCF families all received food for their tables as did many local families and Sacred Heart Church families Your continued generosity in helping in Hartford. those less fortunate is so appreciated!



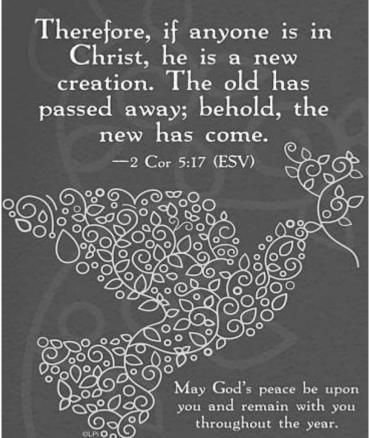
Volunteer opportunities for the St. Vincent de Paul Soci-ety include helping with the UNTEERS monthly collection on the weekend of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of

the month, unless it is Thanksgiving, Christmas or Easter, selling raffle tickets at Knights of Columbus Bingo on Friday nights 4:45 - 7 pm at St. Margaret Mary Church Hall, sorting clothing on occasional Monday mornings, and pickup and delivery of kitchen items and used furniture in good condition on Saturday mornings on the truck. The St. Vincent de Paul Board meets at 7 pm on the second Tuesday of the month, all are welcome to attend and see what the St. Vincent de Paul Society is all about. Currently we are meeting by conference call. If you would like more information about volunteering or attending a meeting please email president@societyhelpline.org and if you have kitchen items or good used furniture to donate please post your donation at www.societyhelpline.org

If you need help or know of someone else who needs help, let us know by posting a request for assistance on our website www.societyhelpline.org or by calling 860 648-0216.

#### Dear Parishioners.

We unfortunately had a few volunteers drop out of helping with our 7th Grade class that meets 2 Tuesdays a month from 4-6pm at the Saint Francis of Assisi Church Hall. If you or anyone you know can donate your time to help teach our 7th graders, please reach Emily Golec at vouthministersjs@gmail.com We need 2 or 3 volunteers. I wish you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!



### Leadership Team Needed SUMMER BIBLE CAMP



Leadership Team of 3 Individuals Needed to and coordinate other adult and teen volunteers for the Summer Bible Camp of 2022 (If interested please call or email or call the Faith Formation Office faith-

formation@southwindsor.cc | 860-644-2549 ext.

107 by Jan. 8)

St. Francis Church Hall | July 11 - 15 9:00 am – 12 noon (for Children Ages 5 – 10)

KNIGHTS HELPING NEIGHBORS, a program supported by the Knights of Columbus at St. Junipero Serra Parish, is designed to support those in our community with help that they cannot otherwise provide for themselves. Some examples



might include general yard cleanup, light tree and shrub trimming, correcting safety issues in the home or points of entry, or moving furniture or help in decluttering. If you or someone you know could use help of this kind, please contact the Knights at 860-648-0216; and select Option 3, or send us an email at knightshelpingneighbors@yahoo.com.

Anyway

She is at the foul line.
The room has gone quiet,
except for the silent energy that screams and hopes for her failure.
Others hold their breath,
Since this next shot could close the chasm,
Sustain hope for the game!
She does not shoot the ball for herself,
But for the team.
It's pressure bends her knees,
Her focus springs and bounces her toes,

But if she listens to the words of her foes,
She will doubt what she knows and needs to do,
To push through.
She thinks instead on what she has been coached,
Though her team is outmatched,
She pushes on anyway!



We know in sports that it is important to shut out all of the noise and to focus. We know that people are not always routing for us to succeed. We know that sometimes we will miss the mark. We know that if we win, someone may lose. But yet, we also know, we must play the game as best as we can and just as the Nike Slogan said - just do it!

Mother Teresa - knew that in the Spiritual life - we would encounter many of these same mental and physical struggles when we tried our best - and she also said to her sisters - Do it Anyway!

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self centered;

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God; It was never between you and them anyway.

Try to keep your soul always in peace and quiet, always ready for whatever our Lord may wish to work in you. It is certainly a higher virtue of the soul, and a greater grace, to be able to enjoy the Lord in different times and different places than in only one.

Saint Ignatius

CCC1810 Human virtues acquired by education, by deliberate acts and by a perseverance ever-renewed in repeated efforts are purified and elevated by divine grace. With God's help, they forge character and give facility in the practice of the good. The virtuous man is happy to practice them.

CCC1811 It is not easy for man, wounded by sin, to maintain moral balance. Christ's gift of salvation offers us the grace necessary to persevere in the pursuit of the virtues. Everyone should always ask for this grace of light and strength, frequent the sacraments, cooperate with the Holy Spirit, and follow his calls to love what is good and shun evil.

By Maria Rosati – Faith Formation Administrative Assistant 860.644.2549/ faithformation@southwindsor.cc

#### SAVE THE DATES

Holy Family Retreat – January 14 – 16, 2022 Retreat Theme: In the Spirit of Trust Covid vaccination and restrictions apply Contact Holy Family for information or to register Phone: 860-760-9705 Web site: www.holyfamilyretreat.org Email: info@holyfamilyretreat.org

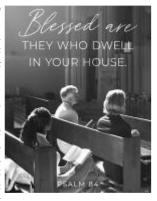
#### Coming Back to Church

Ouestion:

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. ©LPi

Because of the unsettled situation with Covid, the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of Hartford

will NOT be sponsoring buses to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. in January 2022. We will miss making this pilgrimage with you.

Stay tuned for 2023!

Year of St. Joseph St. Joseph, Defender of Life, *Pray for Us!* 

Respect Life Ministry | Archdiocese of Hartford

#### FRIDAY KNIGHTS BINGO at St. Margaret Mary Church Hall Doors & Kitchen open at 5:00pm

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"KNIGHTS" Bingo.

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