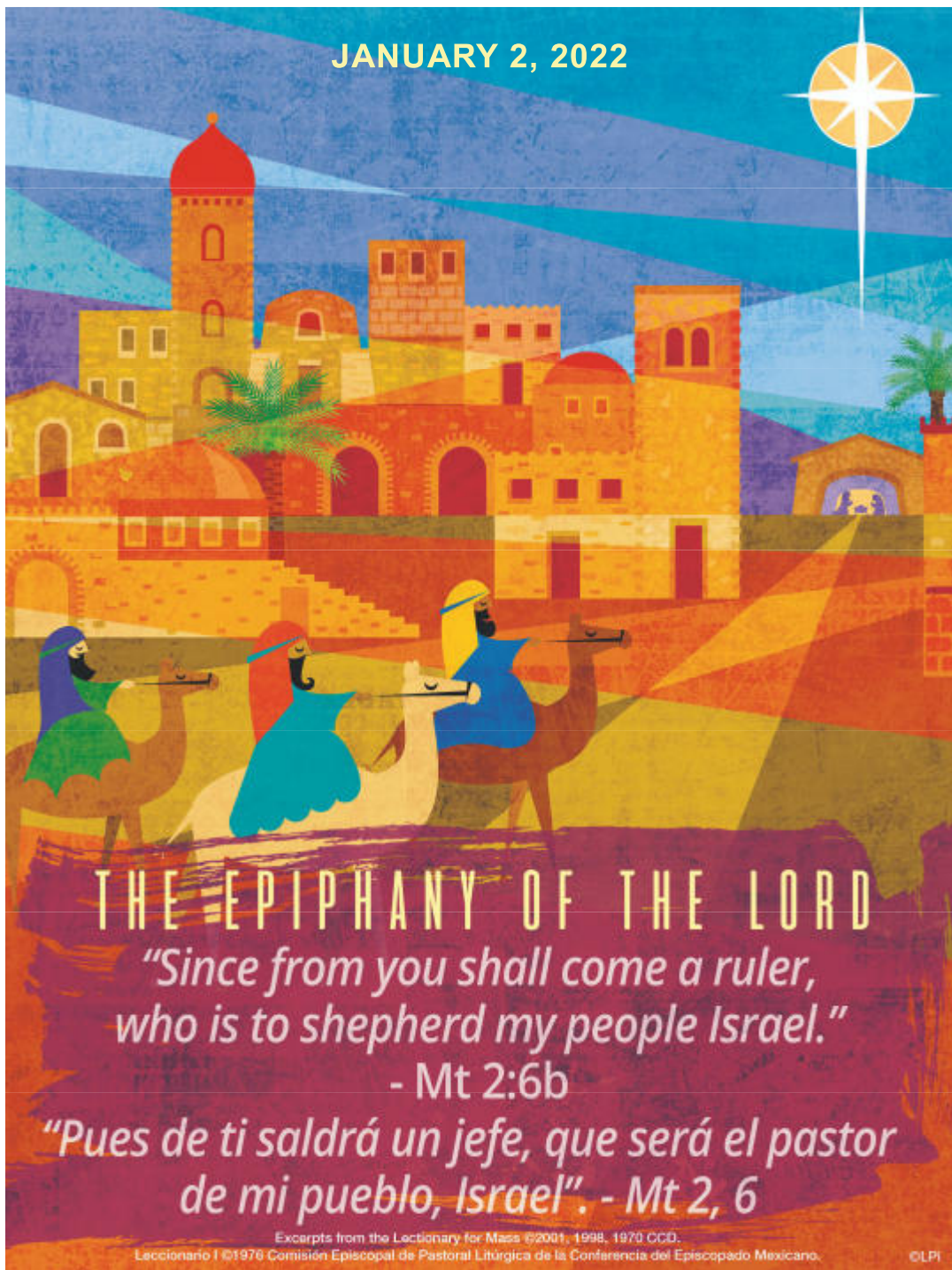


JANUARY 2, 2022



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

*"Since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel."*

- Mt 2:6b

*"Pues de ti saldrá un jefe, que será el pastor
de mi pueblo, Israel". - Mt 2, 6*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
Leccionario I ©1976 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano.

CLPI



ST JOHN PAUL THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

PASTOR: REV. EMMANUEL I. IHEMEDU

PAROCHIAL VICAR: REV. CARLOS ZAPATA

DEACONS: ROY DUNGAN (SENIOR STATUS), ANGEL LUIS GARCIA JR.,
RICHARD HAMEL, PETER HYDE (SENIOR STATUS)

OFFICE — Pope St. John Paul II Pastoral Center
160 Main Street, Torrington, CT 06790

The parish office is currently closed to the public. We are available by phone, email and fax:
Monday thru Friday, 9 am - 4 pm | PHONE 860-482-4433 | FAX 860-489-4070
SaintJohnPaulTheGreatParish@gmail.com

Saint John Paul the Great Parish OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*We are a Catholic
community united by faith in
God, nourished by Jesus
through the Word and the
Eucharist and empowered
by the Holy Spirit to meet
the spiritual and physical
needs of our parish family
and community through
prayer, faith formation,
stewardship, fellowship
and outreach.*

OUR DOORS ARE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

MON.	St. Francis	Jan. 3, see page 2
TUE.	St. Peter	8:30 am - 4:00 pm
WED.	St. Francis	8:30 am - 4:00 pm
THU.	St. Peter	8:30 am - 4:00 pm
FRI.	St. Francis	8:30 am - 4:00 pm
SAT.	St. Peter	10:00 am - 5:30 pm

OUR WORSHIP SITES

*Masks are recommended regardless
of vaccination status.*

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

160 Main St.

Masses:

Sundays 7:00 am, 10:00 am
Weekdays (M, W, F) 8:30 am

ST. PETER CHURCH

99 East Main St.

Masses:

Sundays 4:30 pm (Sat. Vigil)
8:30 am, 11:30 am (*Español*)
Weekdays (Tu, Th) 8:30 am
& (Tu) 6:30 pm (*Español*)

SACRED HEART CHURCH

116 Grove St.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS (Eng/Esp)
St. Francis • 2:00-3:00 pm

TUESDAYS (Esp/Eng)
St. Peter • 5:30-6:00 pm

*Confession is available face-to-face
as well as behind the privacy screen.*

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH? WELCOME!

Please contact the parish office
to register.

Making New Year Resolutions? Consider Church Volunteering!



- ◆ Volunteering in the parish can give our lives greater purpose.
- ◆ We often learn new things while volunteering.
- ◆ Volunteering can help to provide a broader perspective of life.
- ◆ Serving others provides hope and improves the quality of other people's lives.
- ◆ Volunteering can give us lifelong friendships.
- ◆ There is a healthy sense of pride which comes from serving others.
- ◆ Volunteering lets us pass on a legacy of service to the next generation.
- ◆ One day our Heavenly Father will say, "Well done my good and faithful servant."

Interested? Call Chris Delgrande, Director of Ministries, at 860-482-4433 for more information.

THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

Sunday, January 2

The Epiphany of the Lord, Masses Pg 4

Monday, January 3

8:00 am, bulletin submission deadline for January 9 bulletin
8:30 am, Mass @ St. Francis, church closed following the Mass
Parish offices closed in observance of New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 4

8:30 am, Mass @ St. Peter, open for private prayer until 4:00 pm
4:15 pm, Legion of Mary @ Pastoral Center
5:30 pm, Exposition, 6:15 pm Benediction @ St. Peter (Spanish)
5:30-6:00 pm, Confession @ St. Peter (Spanish/English)
6:30 pm, Santa Misa @ St. Peter (Spanish)
7:00 pm, Reunión de Juan XXIII en el Salón de San Pedro

Wednesday, January 5

8:30 am, Mass @ St. Francis, open for private prayer until 4 pm
4:30-5:30 pm, Eucharistic Adoration @ St. Francis (English)
5:00-6:30 pm, Father Carlos office hours (Spanish)

Thursday, January 6

8:30 am, Mass @ St. Peter, open for private prayer until 4 pm

Friday, January 7

8:30 am, Mass @ St. Francis, open for private prayer until 4 pm
6:30 pm, Adoration & Community Prayer @ St. Peter Church

Saturday, January 8

10:00 am - 5:30 pm, St. Peter open for private prayer
2:00-3:00 pm, Confession @ St. Francis

Sunday, January 9

The Baptism of the Lord, Masses Pg 4
Community Meal - See Kevin's Place on page 6.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 19, 2021: \$11,606.55

ONLINE GIVING

December 13-19, 2021: \$2,663.05

LAST WEEKEND'S OFFERING TOTAL:

\$14,269.60

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO
ST. JOHN PAUL THE GREAT PARISH

Thank you for your continued generosity

ST. JOHN PAUL THE GREAT 2021 Annual Parish Collection Update

AS OF DECEMBER 28, 2021:

Total pledges: 534 Total paid: \$97,925.00

We are very grateful for the generosity shown by so many parish families to our Annual Collection. If you have not yet had an opportunity to return your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible.

Every gift is welcome and sincerely appreciated.



Dear Parishioners, we depend totally on your weekly offerings for the upkeep of our parish. I thank you for your continued generosity in supporting St. John Paul the Great Parish.

God Bless You, Father Emmanuel

MAKING DONATIONS AND OFFERTORIES IS EASIER THAN EVER. Sign up for **ONLINE GIVING** on our easy-to-use platform! *The Benefits of Online Giving: It's fast and easy.* Once your account is set up, you don't have to do a thing. You can start, stop, and change your gift-giving at any time for any reason. It's automatic, fully secure and confidential. You have total control.

Set Up Your Online Giving Account today. Simply visit www.johnpaulgreatparish.com and click on the online giving link to get started. *For questions, contact anitaressel@yahoo.com or call Anita at (860) 482-4433.*

ONLINE GIVING IS PROVIDED BY OUR SUNDAY VISITOR, A CATHOLIC NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION SERVING PARISHES FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS.



Advertising makes our bulletin successful and it helps our sponsors attract new customers.

We are grateful for our advertisers and ask that when you do business with them, please say, 'THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR PARISH!'

OWN A BUSINESS? To place an ad or for more information, CONTACT MARY HOFFMAN 860-836-8486 or mhoffman@4LPi.com.

See the list of current advertisers here:
<https://tinyurl.com/sjgpg-advertisers>

**The next bulletin submission deadline is
8:00 am • MON., JANUARY 3
FOR JANUARY 9 bulletin**

Submissions cannot be accepted over the phone. Please submit no later than deadline by email to: saintjohnpaulthegreatbulletin@gmail.com

Late submissions will be considered only if space allows.

**FATHER EMMANUEL'S
WEEKLY PRAYER**

**My prayer for you this week is
Jeremiah 29:11.**

**IT SAYS: "I know the plans I have for you,
plans of peace and not of calamity,
to give you a future and a hope."**

This word of God came when the people of God were down and broken. It came when they felt as if the plans God had for them were finished.

Maybe you are feeling like the people of God, down, broken and downcast. Worry no more for God is the Master Weaver. He knows the plans He has for you. They are not just good and beautiful plans, but intricately woven plans already worked

out. May God take every thread of your life, every joy, mistake, falling, victory, defeat, gain, loss, regret, wound, and question and knit them to become a perfect tapestry of woven love, *Amen*.

As God has woven the threads of your life together in the past, may He do the same with the present threads in Jesus' name. *Amen!*

– **Father Emmanuel**



**In observance of New Year's Day,
parish offices will be closed
Monday, January 3.**

Brothers and sisters,

With a heart filled with joy and gratitude, I introduce our new music director/organist/, Dr. Konstantza Chernov. Dr. Konstantza brings a wealth of experience and is poised to be a great asset to our Parish. Her official starting date is Monday, January 3rd, and I am looking forward to having her join our SJPTGP family. Please say hello, and welcome Dr. Konstantza to our Parish. — Fr. Emmanuel

Dear parishioners,

I feel humbled and honored to step into the Music Director position at St. John Paul the Great Parish.

My music ministry began in 1996. Since then, I've been serving continuously as an organist, pianist, music director, choir director, youth choir director, and bell choir leader in numerous churches in the United States. My theological explorations include taking courses at the Yale Divinity School Center for Continuing Education.

I was born in Sofia, Bulgaria, and received my initial music training. Consequently, I earned my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in piano performance from Queens College at the City University of New York and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

As a concertizing pianist, I've performed in solo and chamber music concerts throughout the United States and Europe.

I've also been the music director and pianist for several musicals at Queens College's Theatre Department, at the Dramatic Society at Stern College of Yeshiva University, and most recently, in December 2021, at Queens Opera Theatre, in collaboration with the Astoria Performing Arts Center in NYC.

I enjoy teaching, and for the past ten years, I've been on the music faculty at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College.

I believe in the power of music to bring light into peoples' souls at any stage of their lives, especially at the end of life of the terminally ill. Therefore I'm currently a volunteer pianist at The Connecticut Hospice in Branford, CT. This is a position with a weekly commitment, which I take deeply to heart.

I very much look forward to embracing the Music Ministry at St. John Paul the Great Parish. I praise the Lord and thank Fr. Emmanuel Ihemedu for this opportunity. I pray that I will be a blessing to the Parish.

Yours in Christ,

– *Konstantza Chernov*

<http://www.konstantza.com/>



Konstantza Chernov

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 1st

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
9:00 am St. Peter
For the intentions of all parishioners

4:30 pm St. Peter
† John Sorvillo *by wife Marlene & Children*

Sunday, January 2nd

7:00 am St. Francis
Pauline Sartori, Happy 94th Birthday, *with love from your family*

8:30 am St. Peter, live-streamed
† Michael Walsh, 7th Anniversary *by Mom*
† Deceased members of *The Holy Name Society*

10:00 am St. Francis, live-streamed
† Eugene F. Zordan *by Wife & Family*

11:30 am Mass in Spanish, St. Peter, livestreamed
For the intentions of all parishioners

Weekday Masses

MONDAY 1/3 8:30 am St. FRANCIS
† John & Johanna Meyer and Joan Bertoli *by Edward & Lois Asklan*

TUESDAY 1/4 8:30 am St. PETER
† Michael Walsh, 7th Anniversary *by Mom*
Mass in Spanish 6:30 pm St. PETER
For the intentions of all parishioners

WEDNESDAY 1/5 8:30 am St. FRANCIS
For the intentions of all parishioners

THURSDAY 1/6 8:30 am St. PETER
† Joseph DiLullo *by the Holy Name Society*

FRIDAY 1/7 8:30 am St. FRANCIS
For the intentions of all parishioners

Saturday, January 8th

4:30 pm St. Peter
† Farkas & Gentile Families *by the Family*

Sunday, January 9th

7:00 am St. Francis
For the intentions of all parishioners

8:30 am St. Peter, live-streamed
† Dennis M. DeFranceschi *by sister Claudia*

10:00 am St. Francis, live-streamed
† John Hudach *by Tim & Liz Nardi*

11:30 am Mass in Spanish, St. Peter, livestreamed
For the intentions of all parishioners



IN NEED OF PRAYERS?

Please call Cheryl at our Prayer Line.
860-960-4805 ...completely confidential

4 | January 2, 2022
The Epiphany of the Lord

SUNDAY 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 am (Spanish)
Masses are live-streamed.

Online Masses and services can be accessed by using **Facebook** and **YouTube** links on our website under *Mass Schedule* at:
<https://johnpaulgreatparish.com/masstimes>
(Please note: Facebook link is live and YouTube link is recorded video).
Our YouTube channel is [SJPTG Parish](#).

For those who do not have access to the internet
optimum. but who would like to watch the Sunday Mass:
a brand of attlice **CABLE 5 broadcasts a recording** of the St. John Paul the Great SUNDAY MASS each week, premiering Fridays, with repeats on the following Mondays and Wednesdays:
MASS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 2
will air Friday, January 7 @ 2 pm; repeating
Mon., Jan. 10 @ 4 pm; AND Wed., Jan. 12 @ 3:30 pm

Also, a television Mass produced by the Office of Radio & Television is aired **DAILY AT 10 AM** on WCCT-TV (CW20) and WCTX-TV (MyTV9), and also at 5 am Saturday and Sunday on WCCT-TV. <https://ortv.org/mass.html>



SANCTUARY CANDLE is burning this week
at St. FRANCIS in memory of
CAROLYN GLUZ

Parishioners may request that Sanctuary Candles be lit for one week in memory or in honor of a loved one. For more information, please contact the parish office at 860-482-4433.

Please pray for recently deceased members of our parish...

LORRAINE CASTELLI
EDITH A. LOPARDO
ANTHONY SCIFO

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
ST. FRANCIS CHURCH

SATURDAYS • 2:00-3:00 pm



Confession is available face-to-face as well as behind the privacy screen. All must wear masks regardless of vaccination status.
See directives at johnpaulgreatparish.com.

ATENCIÓN PASTORAL EN ESPAÑOL

Martes - 5:30 pm: Exposición del Santísimo
5:30 - 6:00 pm: Confesiones
6:15 pm: Bendición
6:30 pm: Santa Misa
7:00 pm: Reunión de Juan XXIII en el Salón de San Pedro

Miércoles - 5:00 - 6:30 pm: Atención de oficina. Confesiones, consultas sobre sacramentos y orientación espiritual. Para citas en otros días u horas, por favor de llamar a la oficina o hablar con el padre Carlos.



PASTORAL CARE IN SPANISH

On Tuesdays: 5:30 pm: At St. Peter's. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Confessions available from 5:30 to 6:00 pm. Benediction is at 6:15 pm and Mass at 6:30 pm, followed by the John the XXIII meeting at St. Peter Hall.

On Wednesdays: Office Hours from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. For appointments at another day or time, please see Fr. Carlos or call the office.

Saint Peter's Holy Name is now

ST. JOHN PAUL THE GREAT HOLY NAME SOCIETY



Please pray for our deceased members from 2020 and 2021.

2020

Daniel DiGiovanni
Joe Gelamino
Stephan Matey
Michael Mazzini
Leno Trivella
Sergio Trivella

2021

Addo Bonnetti
Raymond Carmignani
Leon Catey
Joe Dilullo
Ralph T. Sabia
Jack Stinson
Joseph Torlai

Our monthly meetings are now livestreamed on the parish Facebook page: www.facebook.com/JohnPaulGreatParish the last Monday of the month at 7:00 pm and remain posted for later viewing.

All men of our parish are invited to join at our next meeting on Mon., January 31st at 7:00 pm in St. Peter Hall.

Contact Michael Yuchunas 860-309-0448 for more information.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Wednesdays ~ English
4:30 – 5:30 pm • St. Francis



Our 2022 Mass Books are open for the first 6 months of 2022 January 1 - June 30, 2022.

Due to COVID our parish office is closed to the public. We are accepting PHONE CALLS ONLY from 9 am – 3 pm. We will allow 2 daily and 2 weekend Masses to be booked.

Masses can be requested in memory of your deceased loved ones, or for those who are sick or suffering, or in celebration of an anniversary, sacrament or birthday.

The Church considers the Mass the greatest possible prayer of intercession because it is the perfect offering of Christ to the Father by making present the Paschal Mystery of His death and resurrection.

Join us Fridays, 6:30 pm
St. Peter Church
for DIVINE MERCY
CHAPLET / ADORATION
COMMUNITY PRAYER!

Open to the Public. Masks are recommended for everyone regardless of vaccination status.

Livestream: facebook.com/JohnPaulGreatParish



New Year Wish List for Parish
Our aging parish truck is a 1997 Dodge Ram in poor condition and we need to replace it with something newer.
If you have a used truck to donate to the parish, we would be very grateful!

— Fr. Emmanuel



Please contact the office at 860-482-4433.

Urgent Need for Volunteers! ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE OUR PARISH?

At St. John Paul the Great, we've been able to provide the Mass virtually for parishioners since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020 and we are committed to continuing the livestreamed Masses for as long as the need exists.



To accomplish this, we urgently need additional volunteers. We're looking to train a number of volunteers from each Mass (especially daily Mass) so that we can alternate who will be running the livestream and to ensure we always have a member available.

There's no age requirement or age maximum. The volunteer needs to arrive a little early, run the livestream on a laptop and stay a few minutes after. If you're good with technology or a quick learner, this will be easier for you; training will be provided for all volunteers.

If you're interested in joining the livestream team, please contact the parish office at 860-482-4433

Livestreaming of daily Mass has been suspended until volunteers come forward.

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED!



ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED
ONCE A MONTH
to transport bottles & cans
for redemption.



If you have an SUV, a van or an enclosed truck, and a bit of time to lend a hand, please call the parish office: 860-482-4433.

THANK YOU for your continued support through donations of Redeemable CANS & PLASTIC BOTTLES

Drop off 24/7 in front of St. Francis Garage

Please note: We no longer accept glass bottles.

St. John Paul the Great Parish Ministries & Volunteer Opportunities

"It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be grounded down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal." — ST. JOHN PAUL II

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Server Coordinator	Nicole Fragione
Eucharistic Adoration	860-482-4433
Eucharistic Minister Coordinator	
St. Francis	Gail Marchand
St. Peter	Pat Fairchild
Eucharistic Minister Training	Mary Ann Seiser
Lector Coordinator	
St. Francis	Peg Doyle
St. Peter	Brian Tutt
Liturgical Decorating Ministry	
St. Francis	
St. Peter	Pat Fairchild
Music Ministry	
Sacristans	
St. Francis	Dave Neri
St. Peter	Louise Binelli

MINISTRIES/CLUBS/SOCIETIES

Bereavement Ministry	Mary Ann Seiser	860-482-4433
Holy Name	Michael Yuchunas	860-309-0448
Holy Rosary	Claudia Guisti	860-307-9696
Homebound Visits	Mary Ann Seiser	860-482-4433
Knights of Columbus #55	David Mwanza	203-419-6144
Legion of Mary		860-482-4433
Family Life Ministry	Jen Owens	860-307-2291
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Joan Colangelo	860-482-6294
RCIA		860-482-4433
Scripture Discussion	Mary Cashman	860-489-7568
Social Ministry	Maria Daddario	860-482-4433
St. Anne's, Mother Cabrini & Franciscan Societies		
.....	Jacqueline Stefurak-Harms	860-482-7791
Virtus Training		860-482-4433
Welcoming/Hospitality		860-482-4433

GRUPOS APOSTÓLICOS Y COORDINADORES PASTORAL HISPANA

Movimiento Juan XXIII	Fani Orellana	336-695-3672
Preparación para el Bautismo		
.....	Diácono Ángel García	203-577-7130
RICA (Rito de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos)		
.....	Diácono Ángel García	203-577-7130
Preparación para el Matrimonio		
.....	P. Carlos M. Zapata	860-482-4433 (Ext. 16)
Evangelización	Orlando Orellana	860-806-4522
Pastoral de Vida Matrimonial y Familia		
.....	Yuneris Owens	860-307-2291
Pastoral Social	Doris Ramírez	860-459-6658
Preparación de Quinceañeras		
.....	Yuneris Owens	860-307-2291
Ministros Extraordinarios de la Comunión		
.....	Carmen Fernández	860-921-3408
Lectores	Sonia Sánchez	860-307-8349
Ministros de Acogida	Rubén De La Roca	860-459-6845
Sacristán	Roberto Castillo	860-309-2316



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS® SOLIDARITY COUNCIL #55

Knights Council #55 was formed with the purpose of helping and sustaining our parish. We are looking for more men to help us in our task of supporting our pastor and the parish.

JOIN US! Get more information by calling or texting 860-307-5204 or e-mail to kocsolidarity55@gmail.com

You can also join the Knights Online:
<https://www.kofc.org/un/joinus/en/index.html>

FOOD PANTRY

If you, a family member or elderly neighbor are in need of food, come to FISH NW CT Food Pantry, 332 South Main St., Torrington or call the office 860-482-7300, 9 am - 5 pm and we will provide you with information. **Everyone is welcome!**



Kevin's Place Provides a FREE COMMUNITY MEAL on the 2nd and 4th WEEKENDS of each month.

Until further notice, Kevin's Place will not hand out meals at the hall. We will deliver a meal to FISH and/or Friendly Hands on our normal monthly schedule. Thank you for your understanding and for your continued support.

Donations to support Kevin's Place are welcome and appreciated. Please make payable to St. John Paul the Great and put "Kevin's Place" in memo on checks. Mail to parish office: 160 Main St., Torrington, CT 06790.

*For more info or to volunteer, contact Chris Delgrande
860-307-2969 / christine.delgrande@gmail.com*

Courage & EnCourage Support Groups – January 2022

January 5 & 19, 2022 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Courage: Wed. January 5th at 7 p.m.

EnCourage: Wed. January 19th at 7 p.m.

Courage International is a Catholic network of confidential support groups for men and women who experience same-sex attraction and seek to live chaste lives in Christ. Courage International also sponsors separate confidential support groups (called "EnCourage") for those who seek to gain greater understanding and acceptance of their loved-one's same-sex attraction, while honoring chastity. For meeting locations and additional information, contact Fr. Robert Landback, Chaplain at 203-934-6357 X2 or aohctcourage@gmail.com. The website for Courage International is courage.org.

It may be hard to ask for help, but you are not alone...

Litchfield County Opiate Task Force is here to help you find the resources you or your loved one needs to support their substance use disorder treatment and journey through recovery.



**LITCHFIELD
COUNTY
OPIATE
TASK FORCE**

860-496-2100 • <https://www.lcotf.org> Offices are located at the McCall Center for Behavioral Health, 58 High Street, Torrington.

There will be no meetings of the
HOLY ROSARY SOCIETY
 OF ST. JOHN PAUL THE GREAT PARISH

in the months of January,
 February, and March, 2022.

God Bless and have a safe winter.
 See you in the spring!



The Holy Rosary Society is open to all women of St. John Paul the Great Parish and all area Catholic Churches. If you are interested in joining, please contact Claudia Guisti at 860-307-9696, or Bette Cantu at 860-485-9560 or any current member.

“The ABCs of Annulment”

Sponsored by the Metropolitan Tribunal, Bloomfield

Father Philip Schulze, pastor of **Saint Margaret Parish, 24 Academy Street in Madison**, in collaboration with Father George Mukuka, the Judicial Vicar of the Metropolitan Tribunal in Bloomfield, Connecticut, will host “The ABCs of Annulment” on **Saturday of January 22nd, 2022, from 10 am to 12:00 pm**, in the Church Hall at the address above. Updates of the process initiated by Pope Francis as well as those made in the Archdiocese of Hartford will be presented by Br. Larry Lussier CSC, and Jim Tottenham. **Follow-up Annulment Workshops** to help participants write their applications will be held at the same address on Saturday January 29th, and February 12th and 19th, from 10 am to 12:00 pm. Br. Larry, Jim Tottenham, and other members of the Annulment Team will be present for the workshops.

The “ABCs of Annulment” event is open to all at no cost. Participants will receive a folder with the required printed materials. No registration is required. For further information call Br. Larry @ 475-221-8464 or email him at brolarlus300@gmail.com.



The World Day of Peace is a feast day of the Catholic Church dedicated to universal peace, held on January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

Pope Paul VI established it in 1967, being inspired by the encyclical *Pacem in Terris* of Pope John XXIII and with reference to his own encyclical *Populorum Progressio*.

The day was first observed on 1 January 1968.

World Day of Peace often has been an occasion on which the Popes made magisterial declarations of social doctrine. Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II made important declarations on the Day in each year of their pontificates regarding the United Nations, human rights, women's rights, labor unions, economic development, the right to life, international diplomacy, peace in the Holy Land (Israel), globalization, and terrorism.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Day_of_Peace

Welcome the New Year
 with a Generous Donation
 to the First Saturday



MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE
 for the FOOD BANKS

Next collection:
JAN. 1st • 9:30-11:30 am

Drop off is main entrance of St. John Paul the Great Academy, 360 Prospect St. We are collecting **NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS AND CLEANING SUPPLIES** for local food pantries.

Items such as pasta, pasta sauce, rice, tuna, mac & cheese, canned fruits & vegetables, instant potatoes, side dishes, beans, juices, peanut butter, jelly and cereal. Donations of baby food are also needed.



Please remember that food banks cannot accept expired food.

Monetary donations will also be accepted. Please make any checks out to **FISH, Friendly Hands or The Gathering Place**.

Thank you for continuing to support St. John Paul the Great Social Justice Ministry outreach projects.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

Please call Chris: 860-482-4433 ext. 23
 or email: stjpgdirectorofministries@gmail.com

Beginning Saturday, January 8th, 2022,

The Grotto Gift Shop

at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield, 53 Montfort Rd., Rte. 118 will be open weekends only from 11:30 am-4:00 pm, weather permitting. A 30% discount will be offered on selected Christmas items during this time.

Regular hours will resume in March.

For further information,
 email: lourdeshshrine@gmail.com
 or call 860-567-1041.



New Day Bereavement Workshop

In-person, beginning January 6, 2022 @ 6:30 pm

SOUTHINGTON CATHOLIC PARISHES will be offering an in-person bereavement workshop for those who are in the earlier stages of grief. It consists of 10 facilitated meetings beginning Thursday, January 6 at 6:30 PM. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** To enroll, or for more information, contact the parish office by telephone 860-628-4713 or by email: stthomassouthington@gmail.com.

NEW DAY MEETING DATES, WINTER 2022

1. Thu., Jan 6, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: *introduction*
2. Thu., Jan 13, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: starting p.9
3. Thu., Jan 20, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: starting p.17
4. Thu., Jan 27, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: starting p.25
5. Thu., Feb 3, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: starting p.33
6. Thu., Feb 10, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: starting p.39
7. Thu., Feb 17, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: starting p.47
8. Thu., Feb 24, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: starting p.53
9. Thu., Mar 3, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: starting p.61
10. Thu., Mar 10, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: starting p.69 (*Final session*)



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St. John Paul the Great Alumni Association was established in 2021. The committee is comprised of alumni volunteers. The group's primary objective is to support the Academy through fundraising, promotion and volunteerism.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO PROVIDE TESTIMONIALS of their unique experiences while attending and/or supporting Catholic school education. See:

www.stjohnpaulthegreatacademy.org/testimonials. Kindly forward your response to: admin@spsfschool.org. Be sure to include your name, the Catholic school from which you were graduated, and year of graduation with your testimonial. **THANK YOU!**



Support the Academy easily through your regular purchases. Information and order forms are on the academy website:

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December at the Academy!

Future Leaders Alert! SJPTGA Student Council members served hot chocolate at the local Christmas Village.



Welcome home to Madalyn's mom from active duty. A wonderful surprise during the fifth grade Christmas party. There's no better present than family!



First graders enjoyed opening wrapped Christmas books daily. Several students are shown at right and below.





In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, “Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed

encounter with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being.”

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved. ©LPI

SACRAMENTS / SACRAMENTOS

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS: For adults who wish to become Catholic or for Catholic Adults who have not yet received the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation. Please contact the Parish Office.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: For baptism prep class in English, please call Kate at 860-307-7432 to register for class. Baptism prep class in English is held the first Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm at the Pastoral Center. For Baptism prep in Spanish, please call Deacon Angel Garcia at 203-577-7130.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Arrangements for Marriage are made by calling the Parish Office (860-482-4433) to schedule an appointment with one of the priests at least six months in advance of desired wedding date.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: Anyone who is seriously ill, advanced in age or preparing for surgery may receive. Please call the Parish Office to arrange.

PARA EL BAUTISMO: Para preguntas sobre el bautismo y la clase pre-bautismal, favor de llamar al Diácono Ángel García al 203-577-7130.

CEREMONIA DEL BAUTISMO EN ESPAÑOL- CUARTO FIN DE SEMANA DEL MES: Sábado a la 1:00 pm y domingo dentro de la misa de las 11:30 am, en la iglesia de San Pedro.

CELEBRACIÓN DE QUINCEAÑERAS: Requisito: La preparación debe comenzar al menos tres meses antes de la fecha de la celebración y la familia debe ser miembro activo de la parroquia con participación activa en la Misa Dominical. Para más información o preguntas, póngase en contacto con Yuneris Owens llamando al 860-307-2291.

† EUCHARISTÍA DOMINICAL 11:30 am En la Iglesia de San Pedro

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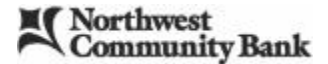
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