

# St. Junípero Serra Parish

# We are baptized to serve and celebrate

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# 4<sup>™</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

000

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
- Mt 1:21

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

CLP

# 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 18, 2022** 

# 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-6:45pm

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

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

# Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood

Heavenly Father, You have created us for a definite purpose.

Grant us the grace to know the path You have planned for each of us in this life, and to respond with a generous "Yes."

Make my parish, my home and my heart fruitful ground for Your gift of vocations to the priesthood of Jesus Christ. May our young men respond to Your call with courage and zeal. Stir among them a desire and the strength to be good and holy priests.

We make our prayer for priestly vocations to You, Father, in the Holy Spirit, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us. Saint Joseph, Patron of our Archdiocese, pray for us. Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us.

# ST. JUNIPERO SERRA PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE St. Francis of Assisi Church Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24, 2022 Vigil: 2:00 p.m. Christmas Day Sunday, December 25, 2022 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. St. Margaret Mary Church Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24, 2022 Vigils: 4:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. Christmas Day Sunday, December 25, 2022 11:00 a.m.

All the Masses will be Live-Streamed

# 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, Office Hours Monday-Thursday 9 am to 3 pm Friday: 9 am to 12pm | Phone: 860-644-2411 Fax: 860-644-5765

#### **Pastor**

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

#### Deacons

Deacon Edward J. Giard Deacon Michael D. Haines

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

Robert Dolan robert.dolan@uconn.edu

## **Administrative Coordinator**

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

#### **Communication Coordinator**

Anton Miranda stjuniperoserra@gmail.com

### **Facility**

Jose Andrade Steven Barile

## **Business Manager**

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

#### **Bulletin Coordinator**

Audrey Miranda Phone 860-644-2411 ext 102 bulletin@southwindsor.cc

# Faith Formation Staff

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am to 2pm | Phone 860-644-2549 Fax: 860-644-5765

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

Anton Miranda Phone:860-644-2549 ext 106 faithformation@southwindsor.cc

## **Faith Formation Admin Assistant**

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

# Coordinator of Youth Ministry & Catechist

Ronald Audette Phone:860-644-2549 ext 108 youthministersjs@gmail.com

## **Confirmation Coordinator**

Sister Karen Skurat Phone:860-644-2549 ext 107 confirmationcoordinatorsjs@gmail.com

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# **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

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

St. Vincent de Paul: 860-648-0216

Winter Snow Policy: Please check our website, channel 3 or Facebook page for possible cancellation.

ST. JUNÍPERO SERRA PARISH \_\_\_\_\_



### SATURDAY VIGIL, December 17

4:00 p.m. Eileen & Alvin Kendall & Mary & Henry Faignant by Sister & Daughter, Mary Faignant

#### SUNDAY, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent 7:30 a.m. JoAnn Mecca by Her Sister 9:00 a.m. Dan & Clare Stefko by Robinson Family 11:00 a.m. Tom Mazza by Teresa & Family

#### MONDAY, December 19

8:00 a.m. Maria Brandi & Malvina Russo by Granddaughters & Nieces

## TUESDÁY, December 20

8:00 a.m. Mary & John Taylor

by Rosaleen & Ed Meyer & Family

## WEDNESDAY, December 21

8:00 a.m. Catherine Daley by Ted Horan

#### THURSDAY, December 22

8:00 a.m. Josephine Lentini-2nd Anniversary by Family

## SATURDAY VIGIL, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

2: 00 p.m. St. Junipero Serra Parish Families 4:00 p.m. St. Junipero Serra Parish Families 10:00 p.m. Intention of the Christmas Flower Donors SUNDAY, December 25

# CHRISTMAS DAY

The Nativity of The Lord 7:30 a.m. St. Junipero Serra Parish Families 9:00 a.m. St. Junipero Serra Parish Families 11:00 a.m. For the Intentions of those in the Christmas Card Enrollment

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, Linda 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, John Ferrante, Michael Chappell, Rebecca-Lynn Scullion, Dylan McBreen, Susan Degennaro, Lisa Feinstein, Sylvia Gonsalves, Louise Hynes, Ginette Collin, Laurie Gilligan, Joan Paterna, Linda Nott, Ron Krug, Roy Hauck. Please call the parish office to add a loved one to our parish prayer list.

# GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 18, 2022 | 4th Sunday of Advent An entire town is wiped out by fire, a tornado rips

through several neighborhoods, a bomb claims a maternity hospital and a sudden heart attack takes the life of a soul mate. Life is unpredictable and dramatic. Many buy into the



sad illusion that the securities and familiarities we see around us today will remain forever: our homes, our friends, our spouses, our churches, and even our health. We are stunned and shaken by a sudden change, finding ourselves bewildered, mortified, and even embittered. We do not like change, especially change driven by sources beyond our control. Are there any guarantees in life? We often live as if our lives come with lifetime warranties. When they break, they can be fixed or replaced. Such is not the case. Many things are irreplaceable and unable to be fixed. During life's inevitable chaos, God says: "Do not be afraid." Seriously? How can one not be afraid when things are falling apart?

Fear is normal and it has a purpose. It is unrealistic, and somewhat unhealthy, to strive to live without any fear. Fear teaches us lessons and can be a catalyst to discovering more profound things. What we do with fear and how we understand it is critical. Fear can either cripple us or move us forward. God does not want fear to cripple us. If we look around at all that can change in our lives and consider what we might have to do, we can easily wallow in the mire of self-misery. Or we can step up to the challenge, as Mary did, and do what needs doing! We can stand tall, as did Joseph, and do the right and just thing! What gives us this courage? Faith.

God is with us. This is the focus of our Advent preparations. We need to be reminded that we are not in this alone. God not only made us and loves us, but God keeps us! In the person of Jesus Christ, God is the sign we need to persevere! Do not be afraid and do not be unbelieving! Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. God has blessed us with the birth of His Son. Trust that He is with us and will not abandon us, even in death. ©LPi

# SANCTUARY LIGHTS

St. Francis of Assisi's Sanctuary Light burns this week for

## LORRAINE ARGO

St. Margaret Mary's Sanctuary Light burns this week for

#### **BARBARA GILLAN**

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, please call the parish office 860-644-2411.

# Christmas singing

There will be an opportunity this Christmas for our parish youth to sing at Holy Mass!

Where:

Saint Francis of Assisi

Church

When:

2pm 12/24 Christmas Eve

(Ī:30 call-time)

Rehearsal: 12pm-lpm Sunday 12/18 upstairs in the SFA choir loft. Please contact:

Sarah Blackwell by text message (860)335-3407 for any questions



Christmas Giving trees have been set up at our Churches and decorated with tags for suggested age appropriate gifts for children and teens. We will be accepting <u>un-</u> wrapped gifts and gift cards for local families in need. Head Start Families in Vernon and DCF Families in Manchester and for infants, toddlers and

children of all ages and teenagers for families at Our Lady Queen of Peace and Our Lady of Sorrows Parishes in Hartford. Please consider helping if you can and bring gift cards and unwrapped toys until December 25 because Our Lady of Sorrows distributes gifts for the feast of three kings in January.

Thank you for your generous contributions to our monthly food collection. With



your help we are providing food to local families in need, Head Start Families in Vernon, DCF Families in Manchester and the emergency pantry at St. Ann's Church in Hartford.

- Want to know more about volunteering or attending a meeting? Please email president@societyhelpline.org.
- Have something to donate? Please post your intended donation on our website www.societyhelpline.org.
- Need help or know someone else who needs help? Post a request for assistance on our website www.societyhelpline.org or call 860 648-0216.

Christmas Cards for enrollees in the parish Mass held 11 am on Christmas Cards Christmas Day will be available ARE NOW for sale after all weekend Masses and at the office. Please



note the cover artwork is by children of the parish. Sales will continue up until December 23.

# Who are you O Immaculate Conception? And What would you have me do?

An angelic voice rings this out song in a Saint Luke's one-man production depicting the saint, Maximilian Kolbe who was martyred in a WWII concentration camp.





Dec 8th was the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Often this feast is confused with the Virgin Birth. So let us ask the question with Saint Maximilian Kolbe - Who are you?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says;

CCC491 Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God,134 was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854:

The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved im-

mune from all stain of original sin.

Saint Maximilian Kolbe knew that in order to understand, we must first ask the question. When the Blessed Mother appeared to Bernadette in Lourdes, France, she announced herself, "I am the Immaculate Conception." Bernadette who was not educated told her parish priest and he knew that she did not know her catechism and so therefore could not come up with such a name herself was both baffled and stunned at this declaration. And so, we can ask along with this priest, with Saint Maximilian Kolbe, With Saint Bernadette, all who asked this question. Who is she? And then What would she have us do?

I must die to myself continually and accept trials without complaining. I work, I suffer and I love with no other witness than his heart. Anyone who is not prepared to suffer all for the Beloved and to do his will in all things is not worthy of the sweet name of Friend, for

here below, Love without suffering does not exist.

#### Saint Bernadette

"A man cannot rise any higher than this. The Immaculate is the highest degree of perfection and sanctity of a creature. No man will ever attain this celestial summit of grace, for the Mother of God is unique. However, he who gives himself without limits to the Immaculate will in a short time attain a very high degree of perfection and procure for God a very great glory.'

St. Maximilian Kolbe

O Mary, Conceived Without Sin, Pray for Us Who Have Recourse to Thee!

Miraculous Medal Praver

Maria Rosati – Faith Formation Administrative Assistant |860.644.2549| faithformation@southwindsor.cc 5

# Fourth Sunday Advent 2022

A seminary professor of mine once said, "Don't confuse enthusiasm for a virtue with the virtue itself." How easy it's been in my life as a priest to talk about the greatest of virtues - love - and totally fail to live up to its concrete demands!

Fortunately, our religion is not mainly about ideas or virtues but about persons. The angel of the Lord says to

Joseph, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit" (Mt.1:20). We don't know exactly why Joseph was scared to receive Mary and therefore Jesus. We do know the solution: take Mary home. It's so concrete. Look at her. Listen to her. Talk to her. Protect her.



Help her. Laugh with her. Eat with her. Rest with her. Christianity begins here for Joseph, so it must with us,

New year challenge: This week I challenge you to choose a concrete way to "take Mary into your home." Praying a weekly or daily Rosary is a proven way. Perhaps for you it's making a little shrine with a statue or image. Maybe it's praying a weekly Litany of Our Lady on Saturday night. Whatever it is, make sure it is a concrete action and do it. She will be there. Soon her virtues will follow, especially love.

by Father John Muir ©LPi

## EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

We have early transmission deadlines. Bulletin articles must be received no **TURN IN YOUR ARTICLES** later than noon Tuesday, 20th for Sunday, January 1st, 2023 & Monday 26th for Sunday, 8th. Please Email



your submissions to: bulletin@southwindsor.cc



# A Hyundai car key found. Contact the office.

Our newly formed bimonthly Men's Prayer Group to let God encourage a deeper personal understanding of his message to us.



Men's prayer group will meet Thursday 12/29/2022. We'll be reading and discussing the following Sunday 1/1/2023 Mass reading. Come join us! Bring your bible or a copy of Sunday's 1/1/2023 Mass reading. For more information contact Jozef Chilicki at jchilicki@cox.net

# FRIDAY KNIGHTS BINGO at St. Margaret Mary Church Hall | Doors & Kitchen open at 5:00pm Bingo starts at 7:00pm



Higher payouts – play for \$25 – all games. Help support local charities, have loads of fun and eat some delicious food when you come to Friday "KNIGHTS" Bingo.

#### **STEWARDSHIP**

Total Offertory including Online Giving: 12/4/2022 Weekly Collection \$10,465.00 Monthly Collection \$4,335.00

These numbers will fluctuate due to monthly and quarterly donations.



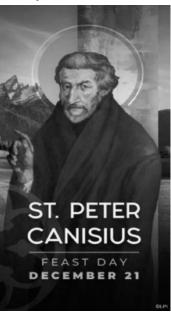
# St. Peter Canisius | Feast Day December 21

Born in Holland, St. Peter Canisius (May 8, 1521 – December 21, 1597) was a preacher, teacher, and writer throughout his whole life. At the age of 19, he received a master's degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards, St. Peter met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced him so much that he eventually joined the Society of

St. Peter Canisius founded colleges and seminaries, served as a missionary, cared for the sick or imprisoned, and wrote close to

eight volumes of letters — many about St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great.

A man blessed with many talents, St. Peter Canisius is a wonderful example of a man who developed his talents to further God's work here on earth. ©ĹPi



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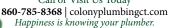
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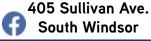
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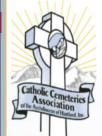


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