



St. Junípero Serra Parish

We are baptized to serve and celebrate

WWW.SAINTJUNIPEROSERRA.ORG | (860) 644-2411

DECEMBER 24, 2023



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.
What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race.

- Jn 1:3-4



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

Sunday, Dec 24, 2023

4:00pm Vigil Mass SFA

4:00pm Vigil Mass SMM

10:00pm Vigil Mass SMM

Christmas Day

Monday, Dec 25, 2023

9:00am Christmas Mass SFA

11:00am Christmas Mass SMM

New Year's Day

Monday, Jan 1, 2024

9:00am Mass SFA

11:00am Mass SMM

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

673 Ellington Road

South Windsor, CT 06074

Sunday Mass: 7:30 am & 9:00 am

**Weekday Mass: 8:00 am-Monday &
Wednesday**

ST. MARGARET MARY CHURCH

80 Hayes Road

South Windsor, CT 06074

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm

Sunday Mass: 11:00 am

**Weekday Mass: 8:00 am-Tuesday &
Thursday**

Confessions: Monday 6:00pm-6:45pm

Adoration & Holy Hour: Monday 6:00pm-7:00pm
(except Holy Days & Holidays)

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



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



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

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 www.saintjuniperoserra.org or by contacting the office.

The churches are open for private devotions:

St. Francis of Assisi: Monday & Wednesday 9:00am-3:00pm

St. Margaret Mary: Monday thru Friday 9:00am-3:00pm, Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm

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@aohct.org

Administrative Coordinator

Ginger Bilas
Phone: 860-644-2411 ext 101
admin.coord@sjs-sw.org

Business Manager

Laura Pastula
Phone: 860-644-2411 ext 103
business@sjs-sw.org

Deacons

Deacon Edward J. Giard
Deacon Michael D. Haines

Communication Coordinator

Anton Miranda
stjuniperoserra@gmail.com

Bulletin Coordinator

Audrey Miranda
Phone 860-644-2411 ext 102
bulletin@sjs-sw.org

Director of Music Ministries

Robert Dolan
robert.dolan@uconn.edu

Facility

Jose Andrade
Steven Barile

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@sjs-sw.org

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

Faith Formation Admin Assistant

Maria Rosati
Phone:860-644-2549 ext 107
faithformation@sjs-sw.org

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 Homebound: Your parish priest, 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@sjs-sw.org

St. Vincent de Paul: 860-648-0216

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



SATURDAY VIGIL, December 23

4:00 p.m. Joseph Cardini, 13th Anniversary
by John & Doreen Blondin

SUNDAY, December 24 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

NO 7:30 am Mass

9:00 a.m. Edward J. Gallagher, 1st Anniversary
by Family

11:00 a.m. Aida Morales & Edwin Castro

Christmas Eve- Vigil Masses

4:00 p.m. | SFA| St. Junipero Serra Parish Families

4:00 p.m. | SMM| St. Junipero Serra Parish Families

10:00 p.m. | SMM| Intention of the Flower Donors

MONDAY, December 25 |The Nativity of The Lord

9:00 a.m. | SFA |St. Junipero Serra Parish Families

11:00 a.m. | SMM | For the Intentions of those in the
Christmas Card Enrollment

TUESDAY, December 26

8:00 a.m. Willard Hauck by Cheryl & Roy Hauck

WEDNESDAY, December 27

8:00 a.m. Mary Lou Kupchunos by Annamae Davis

THURSDAY, December 28

8:00 a.m. Wedding Anniversary Blessings for
Cheryl & Roy Hauck

SATURDAY VIGIL, December 30

4:00 p.m. Kristina Guay by Mother, Irene Guay

SUNDAY, December 31| The Holy Family

7:30 a.m. Anthony Mercadante by Vicky Vecchiolla

9:00 a.m. John Kelleher, 35th anniversary by Daughters

11:00 a.m. Carmelo Testa by Family

SANCTUARY LIGHTS

St. Francis of Assisi's Sanctuary Light burns this week for
JAMES & JOAN GERRITY

St. Margaret Mary's Sanctuary Light burns this week for
HURLEY & PEPIN FAMILY MEMBERS

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.

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, Teresa Foran, Marie Donnelly, George Rousseau, Charles Flick, Joyce Abrahams, 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, Donna Smutney, Richard Holtz, Maureen D. West, Sophie Myzuzikevik, Tracy Robinson. Please call the parish office to add a loved one to our parish prayer list.

ST. JUNÍPERO SERRA PARISH

The Nativity of the Lord

Our hearts are aglow with the joy of Christmas! Our senses are alive with the season, from the rich smells of evergreen and gingerbread to the feel of crisp air on our skin and the warmth of a loved one's embrace. At some point in the holiday hustle and bustle, take a few moments of quiet. In the silence, reflect on the other senses of the season. Imagine the cool damp of an animal stable, the earthy smell of hay and feed, and the crisp night air blowing in softly. Imagine kneeling beside an exhausted, joyful mother and a relieved, protective father. Imagine an infant wrapped in cloth scraps held out to your open arms. Imagine holding the infant Jesus. As his eyes meet yours, welcome into your heart the greatest gift of Christmas.



STEWARDSHIP

Total Offertory including Online Giving:

12/10/2023 Weekly Collection \$11,320.00

Religious Retirement Collection \$2,890.00

These numbers will fluctuate due to monthly and quarterly donations.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



Our Office Hours Monday, 25th thru Friday 29th

Office Closed: 25th & 26th

Open until noon: 27th, 28th & 29th

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

There will be **NO Confession**, Holy Hour, Adoration
Monday, December 25th.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

We have early transmission deadline due to the Christmas & New Year Holidays. Bulletin articles must be received **no later than noon** Wed, Dec 27th for Sun, Jan 7th. Email your submissions to:
bulletin@sjs-sw.org

The Mass Intention Calendar is open for 2024! Mass offerings are \$25 for weekends and \$20 for weekdays. Beginning this year, when there is an overlap on requested dates/times on the weekends, up to 2 families may share the date/time.

To view the calendar, go to our website www.saintjuniperoserr.org and click on Church Calendar, Mass Intentions. Contact Ginger to reserve your Mass at 860-644-2411 x101.

FROM THE
PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Christmas celebrates the Birth of Christ and New Year is the birth of a new hope. Christmas is a time of togetherness, of being with family, of decorating the tree, the house, illuminating the streets with light and exchanging gifts. Family and friends gather around a hearty meal and offer best wishes for the coming year. If you don't know what gift to give your loved ones at Christmas, I know one: your love! May Christmas help you fulfill all the dreams in your heart, may it bring you joy for every day of the new year and may you share all this with the special people who are part of your life. God bless you!

Merry Christmas!
Rev. Jorge E. Castro

Want to help your Parish and save on taxes? Make a gift tax-free from your IRA. If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make a gift from your IRA to a qualified charity, like St. Junipero Serra Parish. An IRA gift, otherwise known as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), is not included as taxable income to you. It can also be used to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution – the legal amount that must be withdrawn from your IRA each year. Contact your financial advisor for details.

Let Us Prepare!

Children of St. Junipero Serra Parish,

Help us prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. We need you to help us get the manger ready for the baby Jesus, during the season of Advent. Advent is the time for all of us to get ready for Jesus by praying and helping family and friends by doing good deeds.



Each week of Advent, before or after Mass, you will be able to add some hay to the manger in front of the altar, to show that you are doing good deeds and getting ready for Jesus. As we prepare for Jesus' birth, let us all help together and be kind to one another.

Looking for that perfect gift? A gift that's "one size fits all?" A gift that won't be returned? How about a gift that is "set in stone"? It's not too late to order your brick for the Pastors' Memorial Garden. Pick up a brochure at one of the entrances at our churches or order on-line at bricksrus.com/donorsite/sjs This is a great way to remember a loved one or to celebrate your family name. If you have any questions, please call Mary Leslie at 860-614-5011.



Thank you for your generous donations to the December Food Collection. With your help we provided grocery bags to local families, the Little Free Pantries in South

Windsor, Head Start Families in Vernon, DCF families in Manchester and the St. Ann's Pantry in Hartford.

Looking for a way to help us help others?

- 1) Hand our empty grocery bags after Masses 1/20 and 1/21/2024
- 2) Roll a bin full of donated items from the main entrance at St. Margaret Mary to the garage for storage after 4:00 pm Mass on Saturdays or 11:00 am Mass on Sundays – check in with Joe or Catherine or an usher if you are able to assist.
- 3) Join a group of volunteers to sort donations on occasional Monday mornings at 9 am in the St. Margaret Mary church hall.
- 4) Attend our monthly board meeting, 7 pm, the second Tuesday of the month in the St. Francis of Assisi church basement.

Email president@societyhelpline.org if you would like to know more about these or other ways to volunteer with the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Have kitchen items or good used furniture to share? Please post your donation at www.societyhelpline.org



Divine Mercy Cenacle



INCREASE YOUR FAITH Come to our Cenacle which meets every other Tuesday night. *Our next meeting will be on*

Tuesday, December 26th at 7:00pm at SMM Chapel. For more information call Mike Cianciolo 860-604-1745.



Perseverance

“Say the Rosary every day to obtain peace for the world.”

-Our Lady of Fatima

There is a man who lives in my neighborhood who walks every day rain or shine. Some days I will see the sun shining and think what a wonderful day for a walk. But he catches my attention most on those hot and humid days or frigid winter nights because there he will still be steadily taking his walk.

And so it is that I am reminded to persevere in prayer. I can do this by practicing a good habit of daily prayer so that when the storms of life approach I can keep on as Saint Ignatius of Loyola would instruct in his 5th rule - In the Discernment of Spirits - Keep and go even just one step more. If you pray one hour usually pray instead one hour and 1 minute, when you are tempted in the storm not to pray.

Fifth Rule. “although in desolation we should not change our first proposals, it is very advantageous to change ourselves intensely against the desolation itself, as by insisting more upon prayer, meditation, upon much examination, and upon extending ourselves in some suitable way of doing penance”

Perseverance

In the gray, cold, early, evening hours -
Most hurried on their way,
But he walked steady as expected,
Beneath the winter skies of gray -
Even the leaves had told their branches,
Tis cold - I mustn't stay -
But there the old man walked still,
With his back crooked as a cane -
And though the evening fast approaches,
And none would judge him either way,
Not snow, not ice, not cold, would change him,
His quiet footsteps seemed to say-

At times the tree's brittle branches,
Would creak and snap and say- no way -
But even the gale of winter wind mixed in,
with wet and cold winter rain,
Never doubted for a moment,
His loyal footsteps as they came,
And a great tall pine bowed heavy,
with white snowdrift,
swore once to his great name,
That none the difference,
did the weather change him,
but made him whistle down the lane...

CCC2742 "Pray constantly . . . always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father." St. Paul adds, "Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance making supplication for all the saints." For "we have not been commanded to work, to keep watch and to fast constantly, but it has been laid down that we are to pray without ceasing." This tireless fervor can come only from love. Against our dullness and laziness, the battle of prayer is that of humble, trusting, and persevering love. This love opens our hearts to three enlightening and life-giving facts of faith about prayer.

“To begin is for everyone. To persevere is for saints.”-Josemaría Escrivá

One day through the Rosary and the Scapular I will save the world.”-Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Dominic

By Maria Rosati – Faith Formation Administrative Assistant /860.644.2549/ faithformation@sjs-sw.org



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.

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