

# St. Junípero Serra Parish

# We are baptized to serve and celebrate

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



# THE HOLY FAMILY

610-

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

- Lk 2:40

# 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

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

# 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)

**DECEMBER 31, 2023** 

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

# Feast of the IVIOTINE OF GOD

Every year on January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, our Mother, the Holy Father marks the World Day of Peace with a special message inviting all people to reflect on the important work of building peace. And so, we pray:

Mary, Mother of God, mother of all, who bore and raised the Son of God, who sought to bring peace into the world. You treasured all you saw in your heart, as the fruit of your womb poured out love and mercy to each of us in our own personal way. Pray for us and be with us, that we may remember that we are also treasured in your heart. Help us to a l w a y s remind others that they are just as treasured, that the world may know a true and just peace. Amen.



# Worship & Meditation



# Gospel Meditation Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

Father John Muir

NEW YEAR MASS
SCHEDULE
Monday, January 1st
9:00am at SFA
11:00am at SMM

# 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 & 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

### 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 admin.coord@sjs-sw.org

# **Communication Coordinator**

Anton Miranda stjuniperoserra@gmail.com

### **Facility**

Jose Andrade Steven Barile

# **Business Manager**

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

### **Bulletin Coordinator**

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

# 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

# **Faith Formation Admin Assistant**

Maria Rosati Phone:860-644-2549 ext 107 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

# **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 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

MONDAY, January 1

9:00 a.m. SFA | Lai Le by The Hauck Family 11:00 a.m. SMM | Henry Ruiz, Sr. by Aurea Ruiz TUESDAY, January 2

8:00 a.m. Daniel DeMartin by Annamae Davis

WEDNESDAY, January 3

8:00 a.m. Fred Sauer by Friends from the Women's Club THURSDAY, January 4

8:00 a.m. Patricia Smith by Lagasse Family

SATURDAY VIGIL, January 6

4:00 p.m. Laurette D. Billig by daughter, Carol Billig/ Vincent Attianese & Janet Giordano by Family

SUNDAY, January 7

The Epiphany of The Lord

9:00 a.m Muriel Soucy by Her Son, Warren/Matthew Marianella by Family

11:00 a.m. Stephen Wisneski by Family/Sebastiano & Maria Milluzzo by Santo & Alfina Milluzzo & Family

### SANCTUARY LIGHTS

St. Margaret Mary's Sanctuary Light burns this week for EDWARD, RUTH & PAUL SULLIVAN

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 Donnelli, 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.



# Why do we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family?

This feast day honors Jesus, the Blessed Mother, and St. Joseph as the holiest of families, and therefore a model for all Christians families. They were holy because they placed God at the center of their family life, they loved and sacrificed for one another, and they radiated that love to others in the redemptive mission of the Word Incarnate.

Pope St. John Paul II said, "The Redeemer of the world chose the family as the place for his birth and growth, thereby sanctifying this fundamental institution of every society" (Angelus message, 30 December 2001).

Our Office will be Closed Monday, Dec 1st.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
There will be *NO Confession*, Holy Hour, Adoration Monday, December 1st

Parish Keys – If you, or a family member, have keys to ANY-THING at the parish and are no longer using them, please put an indication as to what they are for



and return them in an envelope to either the office or the collection basket at Mass. Thank you!

# **STEWARDSHIP**

Total Offertory including Online Giving: 12/17/2023 Weekly Collection \$13,237.00 These numbers will fluctuate due to monthly and quarterly donations.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

# WINTER SNOW POLICY

Weekdays: When school is canceled or delayed there will be NO Morning Mass.

Weekends: Please check our website, or Facebook page for possible cancellation.

4

# PASTOR O

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Now that we have reached the end of this year that God has given us, we raise our prayers of thanksgiving for all that we experienced during this year that is ending. The New Year is a celebration that unites all humanity, it is a moment that marks the end of the past and the beginning of a new opportunity.

May this new year bring to our lives new happiness, new goals, new achievements, many new inspirations, and new blessings. May all our hopes come true and all our dreams come true. It is under the Divine Providence of our Lord that we begin this new year 2024, and we ask for the intercession of our Holy Mother to guide our steps and grant us her infinite blessings.

I thank God for all of you, for your presence and support in the parish, for your devotion in our loving Father and for your journey in faith.

Happy and blessed new year! *Rev. Jorge E. Castro* 



Immacare Homeless Shelter Meal – January 9, 2024 – needs list can be found on the parish Facebook page the week before meal preparation begins. Donations to get supplies for the preparation, for the 75-80 men in

the shelter would be greatly appreciated also. If you prefer to make a donation, please make sure to make it out to St. Junipero Serra and clearly note on an envelope that it is for the shelter meal. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support Charlie & Maryellen Brennan.

# Give blood. Help save lives.

Blood Drive St. Margaret Mary Church

Church Hall 80 Hayes Road, South Windsor Wednesday, January 10 | 11am to 4pm

Sponsored by St. Junipero Serra Parish & SW Knights of

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: SWKofC to schedule an appointment.

Columbus

# Christmas Flowers

Poinsettias that graced the sanctuaries this season will be given away Only After the 9:00a.m. Mass at St. Francis and II:00a.m Mass at St. Margaret Mary on Sunday Jan. 7.



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.



Thank you for supporting our drive to provide gifts for local children in need, Head Start children in Vernon, DCF children in Manchester and gifts for children and teens at Our Lady Queen of Peace and Our Lady of Sorrows parishes in Hartford for Christmas and the feast of Three King's.

Thank you also for your generous donations to our December Food Collection. With your help we provided food for local families, the Little Free Pantries in South Windsor, as well as nearby Head Start Families and DCF families and St. Anne's church 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 en
  - trance 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
    - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
  - 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 <u>president@societyhelpline.org</u> 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

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.

# Work is for the Good of Man!

Saint Joseph is often celebrated as 'The Work-

er'. Work surely can be holy. But as the Catechism of the Catholic Church says -"Work is for man, not man for work!" Work done for the wrong reason can be very unholy.

CCC2428 In work, the person exercises and fulfills in part the potential inscribed in his nature. The primordial value of labor stems from man himself, its author and its beneficiary. Work is



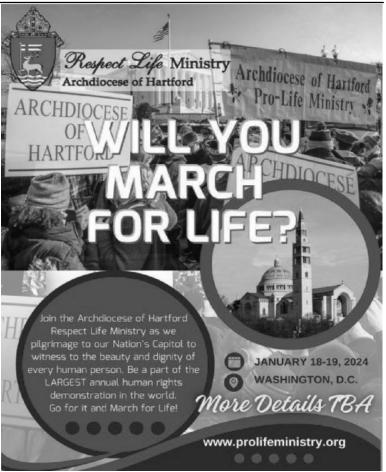
for man, not man for work. Everyone should be able to draw from work the means of providing for his life and that of his family, and of serving the human community.

Saint Joseph Protector of the Family Pray for us!

Dear Saint Joseph, you knew the sound of pounding nails. And about the value of work and making it good. Though those who worked for evil, would pound in steel nails that looked as yours did, no holy sounds were heard, poundings and jeers, they nailed Him to the cross, Hammer to Nail Did he remember you Through pain filled thoughts? God willed you foster father Joseph, To raise Jesus with humble work Watch over all the fathers Hammer to nail, And Make their sounds very good, May their offerings, be given, through your holy hands, And protect all families from evil, Across every earthly land.

"Truly, I doubt not that the angels, wondering and adoring, came thronging in countless multitudes to that poor workshop to admire the humility of him who guarded that dear and divine child, and labored at his carpenter's trade to support the son and the mother who were committed to his care." St. Francis de Sales

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





# St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Celebrate the first Americanborn saint! St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was born in New York City in the late 1700s and raised Episcopalian. She married William Seton. Together they had five children. He fell ill, and the family moved to Italy for his health. While there, Elizabeth discovered Catholicism. Her husband eventually passed away, but God had more plans for the Seton family. Elizabeth felt a further stirring in her heart. She opened a school for girls in 1808. The calling grew.

Within a year, Elizabeth had founded the Sisters of Charity, the first community for religious women established in the United States. Their work established the first Catholic school system in the country. On her feast day this January 4th, pray for our teachers and students!

FRIDAY KNIGHTS BINGO at St. Margaret Mary Church Hall | Doors & Kitchen open at 5:00pm Bingo starts at 6:30pm. 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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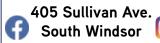
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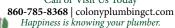
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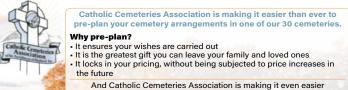
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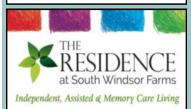
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