

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

St. Joseph Church is a welcoming Catholic Christian community, called by God, baptized in Christ, and guided by the Holy Spirit to proclaim God's steadfast love.

As a parish in the Archdiocese of Hartford, we share in the mission of the universal church. Sustained by God's grace, we strive to reflect on the continuing presence of Jesus in the world. Therefore, under the guidance of the Spirit and relying on God's grace, we propose to:

become a people sanctified and enlivened by the power of Christ in the liturgy and worship of the Church, especially at the weekly Eucharistic meal, the Mass;

commit ourselves to Christian stewardship in all aspects of life;

recognize and affirm the gifts of each member while fostering a shared ministry acknowledging that the leadership of the parish is the responsibility of the entire community of faith;

create a community of charity based on the gospel imperative to love and care for one another;

nurture the gift of faith in the young people of our community;

seek and promote justice and peace in all areas of life;

work with other Christian churches to promote a spirit of unity in prayer and service.

Please Pray For.....

ST. JOSEPH PRAYER LINE

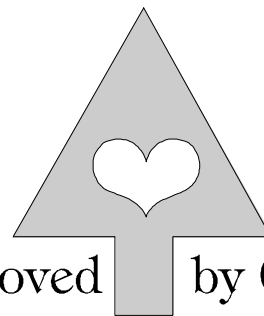
Anyone needing to activate the prayer line or who wishes to join the prayer line, please call the numbers below:

SANDI – 585-1028 – DAYS
BARBARA – 589-3239 - ANYTIME



STEWARDSHIP

The first reading today provides a challenging guideline for the **good stewardship** of our family relationships. How do I measure up?



Loved by God

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY DECEMBER 31, 2006

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2006

8:00 AM LOUIS & MARGARET BACHMAN REQ. BY FAMILY

2:30 PM CONFESSIONS

4:00 PM ISADORE AUBIN REQ. BY WIFE & FAMILY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2006

7:30AM LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH

9:00 AM CHARLES & ELIZABETH MCLAUGHLIN REQ. BY FAMILY

10:30 AM ESTHER GODREAU REQ. BY LEO & ISABELLE VIOLETTE

12 N SPANISH MASS – TERESA CABRERA REQ. BY FAMILIA FAICAN/CABRERA

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2007 – NEW YEAR'S DAY – MASS IN CHURCH

9:00 AM FRANCES NOCERA REQ. BY FAMILY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2007

9:00 AM LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE ROBBINS/LEVINS FAMILY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2007

9:00 AM LUCILLE BUSH – 3RD ANNIVERSARY – REQ. BY HERBERT BUSH

7:00 PM SPANISH MASS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2007

9:00 AM FRANCIS KINSELLA REQ. BY FAMILY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2007

9:00 AM JAMES DONAHUE REQ. BY FAMILY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2007

8:00 AM

2:30 PM CONFESSIONS

4:00 PM STEPHEN MCCORMICK REQ. BY FAMILY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2007

7:30 AM LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH

9:00 AM MORTON LIBBEY, SR. & SHAWN GRANGER REQ. BY FAMILY

10:30 AM MERVEN ROSS REQ. BY HIS WIFE CONFIRMATION I IN ATTENDANCE

12 N SPANISH MASS – ROSA SANTIAGO REQ. BY PARENTS, SISTERS AND DAUGHTERS "THREE KINGS" CELEBRATION TO FOLLOW



Do you have a **FAMILY MEMBER** who has been hospitalized? Is someone homebound or in an area nursing home? **PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE** and let us know - (583-1369)

✓ Mark Your Calendar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2006
MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2007 – NEW YEAR'S DAY
PARISH OFFICES CLOSED
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2007
SCHOOL RESUMES
4:00 PM CHILDRENS CHOIR, PC CHAPEL
4:45 PM CHILDRENS HANDBELLS, CH
6:00 PM CHOIR GATHERING. PC
7:00 PM REL. ED. CLASSES, (Gr. 7 & 8), SCH
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2007
6:45 PM BINGO, GH
7:00 PM SPANISH MASS, PC CHAPEL
THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2007
FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2007
SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2007
9:00 AM CUB SCOUT PINE DERBY (CUTTING), GH
9:30 AM ATRIUM CLASSES – I & II, PC
9:30 AM REL. ED. CLASSES (K-6), SCH
8:00 PM AA MTG., PC HALL
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2007
10:30 AM CONFIRMATION I TO ATTEND MASS,
FOLLOWED BY CLASS
"THREE KINGS" CELEBRATION,
FOLLOWING THE SPANISH MASS, GH
5:00 PM YOUTH BELLS, CH

🏠 School News 🏠

~~~SCRIP Certificates available on  
Hospitality Sundays~~~

## Bingo 🎰🎰🎰 Bingo

TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS!!! THE 'BEST BINGO IN BRISTOL' BENEFITING ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE GUILD HALL ON WEDNESDAY, WITH DOORS OPENING AT 5:00 PM AND GAMES STARTING AT 6:45 PM. COME AND JOIN THE FUN AND REMEMBER TO BRING A FRIEND!

## OUR LADY'S VIGIL

### Ancient Prayer to the Virgin



We turn to you for protection, Holy Mother of God. Listen to our prayers and help us in our needs. Save us from every danger, Glorious and blessed Virgin.

December 24-31 – In Loving Memory of Grace & Tommaso DiSabato

List Intentions: \_\_\_\_\_  
Requested By \_\_\_\_\_  
Date/s Requested: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Nights: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Donation, \$2.00 per night, per intention)  
Amt. enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Publish in the bulletin? YES\_\_NO



St. Paul Catholic High School is offering a Placement Exam on January 20, 2007 at 8:00 AM. Please register for the Exam by calling 860-584-0911, ext. 15 or by downloading the form (which can be found in the admissions section) on-line at [www.spchs.com](http://www.spchs.com). If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.



**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
**Monday, January 1, 2007**  
**Feast of Mary, the Mother of God**  
**Mass: 9:00 AM**  
**in Church**



### A Family Perspective

In today's gospel, communication problems and a teenager caused Mary and Joseph's three-day "sorrowful search." Did they feel negligent or blame each other? Did they reprimand or ground Jesus? Every family is challenged to search for Jesus in the normal bruises and disappointments of family life.

## Vocation + Reflections

Jesus was born into a Holy Family, not a storybook family. Today, pray for married couples and for parents, who strive to remain faithful to their commitments in a changing and challenging world. If God is calling you, call Father Al Fontana at the Archdiocesan Vocation Office, St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield, CT 1-860-286-7670 or visit us on the web at [www.vocationshartford.org](http://www.vocationshartford.org).



We're On The Web :)

Check out our web site -  
<http://www.stjosephbristol.org>



We're On The Web :)

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

Our Lady of Calvary Retreat, Farmington, hosts its annual "Celebration of Giving", Sunday, January 7, 2007. Individuals and families are invited to a special Mass at 3:30 PM celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany. A reception with refreshments will follow. Retreatants from the area are hosting the event, and guests are asked to bring a non-perishable food item, a dessert or finger food, and-if you wish-a grab bag gift (\$5-\$10 value). For more information, contact OLC @860-677-8519 or visit [www.ourladyofcalvary.com](http://www.ourladyofcalvary.com).

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Women: Are you Stressed? Out of balance?

Why not give yourself the gift of a **Spa Weekend** at Our Lady of Calvary Retreat in Farmington. You're invited to relax in a peaceful setting and discover new ways to nurture yourself with gentle exercise, yoga, guided reflection and prayer. Massage, reiki and reflexology also available. January 5-7, 2007. Cost \$185 includes private room and all meals; special services extra. For more information call OLC @860-677-8519 or visit www.ourladyofcalvary.com

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### A Mother/Daughter Weekend January 12-14, 2007

Mothers and adolescent daughters, aged 13-17, are invited to explore issues relevant to their relationships. Activities include games, crafts, movie night and time for moms and teens to reflect and share. Cost \$280 for mother **AND** daughter. For more information call OLC @860-677-8519.

# Happy New Year!



The Monthly Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration will be held on Friday, January 5, 2006 at 8:00 PM at St. Stanislaus Church, 510 West Street, Bristol.

*Take note of this!*

St. Mathew School Gym will be hosting **Life Line Screening** on January 15, 2007. **Life Line Screening** will offer four screenings using Doppler Color Flow Ultrasound:

- 1) Carotid Artery Screening
- 2) Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
- 3) An Ankle Brachial Index
- 4) Bone Density

You must pre-register by calling 1-800-324-1851. These screenings are completely painless, non-invasive, and each test requires ten minutes or less to complete. The cost is \$35-\$45 each or all four for \$129.00

### Retrouvaille of Connecticut

If your marriage has become troubled and stressed, unloving or uncaring, or cold and distant, even if you are divorced or separated but you want to try again, then the **Retrouvaille** program can help you. The next **Retrouvaille Weekend** will take place January 19-21, 2007. For more information please call our confidential number 1-800-470-2230 or e-mail us at [3001@retrouvaille.org](mailto:3001@retrouvaille.org).

**Shannon's: Diamonds and Fine Jewelry.**  
Owned and operated by parishioner **Scott Fournier**. Please support our local businesses that advertise in our weekly bulletin.

## Pastor's Corner

It is almost hard to believe that 2006 is ending and a **new year** is beginning. Each year brings us greater earthly experiences and many challenges. From these experiences and challenges I hope that we have all gained a little wisdom.

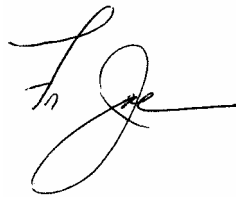
The **New Year** is also a time for resolutions. Most will be broken within 36 to 48 hours. Maybe resolutions are something we should resolve not to make.

Maybe there are other ways for us to begin the **New Year**. Look over the past year. What has been good? What are you grateful for? What or who has touched your life?

What are you looking forward to this coming year? What is your hope or desire for this **New Year**?

More than likely tonight will past just like every other night. Quietly the moon will rise and the stars twinkle. Then, the sun will rise. In between there will be a lot of parties and much revelry, but a new day and a **New Year** will come.

With Christ and with a spirit of solidarity with all of humanity may we begin again and be true instruments of **Christ's Peace**.



This Christmas season, **thanks** to all our **Secret Santas and generous parishioners**. We gave gifts out to:

- \* ten different families: 9 adults, 24 children and 2 seniors

- \* gifts & gift cards were donated to the men at The Elms

- \* 15 food orders were picked up as well

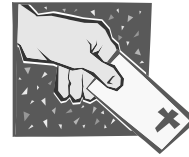
So you can see how wonderful your generous "**spirit of giving**" was appreciated! We put all donations to good use! **Thank you all** for helping to make their Christmas so very special this year!

We wish to express our appreciation to **Bristol Central High School** who helped with 3 families. We are very grateful for their continued involvement and support.

**God bless you all.**

**Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!**

## PARISH FINANCES – 2006



Figures will not be available for the next couple of weeks due to early bulletin deadlines and the close of the calendar year. A full report for **2006** will be mailed out with your statement.

## Right to Life

### March for Life

The annual **March for Life** is scheduled for Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> in Washington, D.C. Anyone interested will have 2 options:

(1) **A 2 day pilgrimage** that leaves from the Franciscan Life Center in Meriden at 7:30 am on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. After attending the 8 PM Vigil Mass for Life at the National Shrine, and an overnight stay at the Washington Plaza Hotel, morning Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Mansell in that hotel at 8 AM on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. A breakfast then follows at which Dr. Marie Hilliard will speak. Contact the Franciscan Life Center at 203-239-0833 for more information.

(2) **Another bus** will leave from St. Mark the Evangelist Church in West Hartford at 11:00 PM on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> and will arrive at the Washington Plaza Hotel for the 8 AM Mass with Archbishop Mansell. The cost is \$35.00. Reservations and/or more information are available at St. Mary Church 203-878-3571.

For those unable to travel to Washington, a Mass for Life will be celebrated at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Hartford at 9 Am on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Rosary for Life and Divine Mercy Prayer will be held at the CT State Capitol at 11:30 AM.



~~~~Please approach an usher if anyone needs assistance coming into the church or requires the services of a Eucharistic Minister~~~~

**We extend a warm welcome to all visitors sharing the liturgy with us.
May you feel Christ's peace and love.**