



ST. FRANCIS  
CATHOLIC

# THE BULLETIN

DECEMBER 21, 2025 - JANUARY 3, 2026



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## OUR MISSION

St. Francis Catholic exists to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bring all people into relationship with God, and form the next generation of evangelical Catholics. We do this by means of 4 pillars: welcoming community, engaging liturgical prayer, doctrinal formation, and commitment to growing in personal holiness.

## MASS SCHEDULE

### Saturday Vigil

4:00 pm at St. Jerome

### Sunday

8:30 am at St. Maurice

10:30 am at St. Francis

### Daily Mass

8:00 am Monday – Saturday at St. Francis

6:00 pm Wednesdays at St. Francis

### Confessions

7:30-7:50 am Monday – Saturday at St. Francis

5:15-5:45 pm Wednesdays at St. Francis

3:00-3:30 pm Saturday at St. Jerome

### Adoration

5:00-6:00 pm Wednesday at St. Francis

## OUR PARISH CHURCHES

### St. Francis of Assisi Church

1755 Stanley St. New Britain, CT 06053

### St. Jerome Church

1010 Slater Rd. New Britain, CT 06053

### St. Maurice Church

100 Wightman Rd. New Britain, CT 06052

### St. Joseph Church

195 South Main St. New Britain, CT 06051

### St. Peter Church

98 Franklin Sq. New Britain, CT 06051

*St. Joseph and St. Peter Churches  
are no longer used for regular Masses.*

## PARISH LEADERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION



### Rev. Michael Casey

*Pastor*

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### Rev. Sean Yates

*Parochial Vicar*

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### Deacon Alan Bielawski

*Deacon*



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### Katie King

*Faith Formation Coordinator*

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## WHERE TO FIND OUR PARISH OFFICE

**Address:** 1010 Slater Rd., New Britain, CT 06053

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

**Phone:** 860-224-2411

**Fax:** 860-224-6838

**Email:** [parishoffice@stfranciscatholic.org](mailto:parishoffice@stfranciscatholic.org)

**CONNECT ON SOCIAL**

**MEDIA & ONLINE**



[www.stfranciscatholic.org](http://www.stfranciscatholic.org)

## FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

*Due to early submission deadlines, Collection and Attendance statistics for December 14th were not available at the time of printing. They will be published in our next issue.*

### Weekly Collection

**December 7, 2025: \$12,356.67**

*This amount includes the basket, mail in and online donations.*

### Mass Attendance

**December 7, 2025: 753**

### Online

Visit [www.stfranciscatholic.org](http://www.stfranciscatholic.org)

Click Donate to launch the Parish Giving website

Select Give Now for a one time donation or create an account to set up recurring contributions

### Venmo

@StFrancisCatholicNB

Please Note: Venmo should be used for donations to the church.

Mass Intentions must be paid cash or check to St. Francis Church



*Thank you for faithfully using the gifts God has generously given you!*

## IN LOVING MEMORY

*We pray for:*



**Lillian Morales Lopez**

*Passed away  
November 27, 2025*



**Wendy Derosier**

*Passed away  
December 2, 2025*



**Louis Tarca**

*Passed away  
December 5, 2025*



**Arthur Jordan**

*Passed away  
December 6, 2025*

*May the souls of the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace.*

## 2025 Annual Collection



Collected:  
\$28,215



Goal:  
\$50,000

This collection is to fund quality improvements that enhance our parish life experience beyond routine maintenance. Our goal for this year is \$50,000. Some projects envisioned include updates to the St. Maurice Church sanctuary flooring and St. Maurice Hall stage curtains, painting St. Francis Church Hall, and upgrades to restrooms at all campuses. Checks should be made payable to St. Francis of Assisi Parish with "Annual Collection" in the memo line, or scan the QR code/visit our website to give electronically.

December 21 & December 28, 2025

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

All weekday Masses are at St. Francis

Please note the schedule changes due to Christmas and New Years.

### Saturday, December 20

**8:00 am:** St. Francis: +Vincenca & Gennaro Colino,  
and +Amato Feola

**4:00 pm Vigil:** St. Jerome: +Tom Trainer

### Sunday, December 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

**8:30 am:** St. Maurice: Deceased Members of the  
DeSimone & Bedard Families

**10:30 am:** St. Francis: +Bill & Barbara Libby

### Monday, December 22

**8:00 am:** St. Francis: Pro Populo

### Tuesday, December 23

**8:00 am:** +Mario John Caggiano

### Wednesday, December 24

**8:00 am:** St. Francis: Intention of the Celebrant

#### Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 24 *Christmas Eve*

**4:00 pm:** St. Jerome: Intention of the Celebrant

**10:00 pm:** St. Jerome: Intention of the Celebrant

Thursday, December 25 *Christmas Day*

**10:00 am:** St. Jerome: Intention of the Celebrant

### Friday, December 26

**9:00 am:** St. Francis: Intention of the Celebrant

### Saturday, December 27

**8:00 am:** St. Francis: Intention of the Celebrant

**4:00 pm:** St. Jerome: +Nicholas J. Salerni, Jr.

**Sunday, December 28** *Feast of the Holy Family*

**8:30 am:** St. Maurice: +Paolo & Angelina Fisicaro

**10:30 am:** St. Francis: +Irene & Armand Audette,  
and +Michelle St. Hilaire

### Monday, December 29

**8:00 am:** Pro Populo

### Tuesday, December 30

**8:00 am:** Deceased Members of the Rizzo, Carlina, &  
Koley Families

### Wednesday, December 31

**8:00 am:** St. Francis: Intention of the Celebrant

**4:00 pm:** St. Jerome: Intention of the Celebrant

**Thursday, January 1** *Feast of Mary, Mother of God*

**10:00 am:** St. Jerome: Intention of the Celebrant

### Friday, January 2

**8:00 am:** Special Intention

### Saturday, January 3

**8:00 am:** St. Francis: Sanctification of the Bishop &  
priests of the Archdiocese of Hartford

**4:00 pm Vigil:** St. Jerome: +Eileen Centurelli

**Sunday, January 4** *Epiphany of the Lord*

**8:30 am:** St. Maurice: Intention of the Celebrant

**10:30 am:** St. Francis: Intention of the Celebrant

*Note: The Sunday 10:30 am Masses are ASL interpreted.*



## AND THE WORD *Became Flesh*



By Monsignor Frank Matera

Christmas fills us with so many emotions. Christmas carols evoke memories of Christmas past. The creche and the scenes of the manger touch our heart. At this time of year we are filled with renewed hope and expectation. Perhaps things will be different this year. Perhaps there will truly be peace on earth. Christmas fills us with so much hope and expectation because it is a mystery beyond our comprehension.

The mystery is this: the Word became flesh. The eternal Word of God became flesh. In the Christ child, lying helplessly in the manger, God entered our world. And because God has entered our world, we can no longer say, "God does not know what it means to suffer. God does not know what it means to be poor. God does not know what I feel and experience." The Word became flesh, and so God knows our joys and sorrows, our hopes and disappointments because in Christ Jesus the Word became flesh.

Because Christmas is a mystery beyond our understanding, the church presents us with four different Gospels at Christmas, each Gospel shedding its particular light on the mystery of Christmas. On Christmas Eve, we hear the genealogy of Jesus that roots Jesus Christ in the history of his people, Israel. Jesus is the royal Messiah, the

son of Abraham, the son of David, the Son of God. Born of the Virgin Mary, he is the culmination and climax of his people's history. Read Matthew 1:1-15.

At the Mass at Midnight, we read the traditional Christmas story of Jesus's birth in Bethlehem. Because there was no room for the family in the inn, Jesus is born in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes. The first to learn of his birth are not kings and nobles but shepherds watching over their flocks. It is to them that the angel proclaims "Today, in the city of David, a savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord." Read Luke 2:1-14.

The Gospel for the Mass on Christmas day at dawn is also taken from the Gospel of Luke. It is the continuation of the Gospel at Midnight and narrates how the shepherds visited the child in the manger. Read Luke 2:15-20.

The Gospel for the Mass on Christmas Day is the highlight of the Christmas Gospels. Taken from the opening chapter of Saint John's Gospel, it proclaims the great mystery of the incarnation, the mystery of the Word made flesh. Read John 1:1-18.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.*

In these verses we find the full mystery of Christmas: the Word was God and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Who could ever fathom the depth of this mystery? God has entered our lives in Jesus Christ. To see Jesus is to see God incarnate. To hear Jesus is to hear the Word of God. God dwells among us and our lives are forever changed. Nothing can ever be the same. All is new, all has been transformed. Merry Christmas!

*“Christmas FILLS US WITH SO MUCH HOPE AND EXPECTATION BECAUSE IT IS A mystery BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION.”*

December 21 & December 28, 2025

# THANK YOU TO

## *Hartford Healthcare & New Britain Police Department*

for your generous donations in support of our St. Joseph Food Pantry



# Christmas Mass Schedule

Wednesday Dec. 24

**4pm**

Christmas Eve

St. Jerome

Wednesday Dec. 24

**10pm**

Christmas Eve

St. Jerome

Thursday Dec. 25

**10am**

Christmas Day

St. Jerome

Join us for our Christmas Music Program

**9:30 pm on Christmas Eve at St. Jerome**

Featuring our Choir and Instrumental Ensemble

## FEAST of *Mary* MOTHER OF GOD

A Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

4:00 pm at St. Jerome

Thursday, January 1, 2026

10:00 am at St. Jerome

December 21 & December 28, 2025

# ADVENT CONFESSiON

*This will be the last opportunity for confession  
before Christmas*



MONDAY & TUESDAY  
DECEMBER 22 & 23  
6:30 - 8:30 PM  
ST. FRANCIS

FIRST  
FRIDAY  
ADORATION

2 JANUARY | ST. FRANCIS CHURCH | 5 PM TO 10:00 PM



## PARISH OFFICE & SCHEDULE UPDATES

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

- The Parish Office is closed
- There are no confessions

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

- The Parish Office is closed
- Mass is at 9:00 am at St. Francis
- There are no confessions

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

- The Parish Office is closed
- Mass is at 9:00 am at St. Francis
- There are no confessions

**Family Adoration**  
AND SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

17 JANUARY | ST. FRANCIS CHURCH | 9 AM TO 11 AM

CALLING ALL FAMILIES WITH  
CHILDREN! CHECK OUT THE  
SCHEDULE & RESERVE YOUR  
SPOT WITH THE QR CODE  
(RSVP IS REQUIRED):



# COMMUNITY

## Snapshots



*Our choir spent time at the Archdiocesan Office of Radio and TV to film a segment for their Christmas Music Special! Look for it on Christmas Day on ORTV after the Christmas Mass!*



*Happy Birthday Deacon Al!*



*Baptism of Mark Anthony Thompkins, III*

December 21 & December 28, 2025

# CAPTURING *the heart* OF PARISH LIFE



*Ladies Guild Christmas Party*



*Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation  
of Isaiah Rios*



*December Faith Formation middle school class*



*First round of items collected for our Giving Tree*

# 2025 VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS PARTY



December 21 & December 28, 2025

# THIS WEEK IN SAINTS

*"All you holy men and women pray for us"*



## Feast of SAINT STEPHEN FIRST MARTYR

Celebrated on: Friday, December 26

## Feast of SAINT JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

Celebrated on: Saturday, December 27

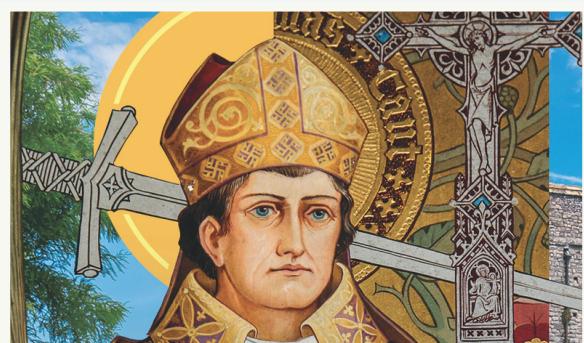


## Feast Day of THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Celebrated on: Sunday, December 28

## Feast Day of SAINT THOMAS BECKET

Celebrated on: Monday, December 29



## Memorial of SAINTS BASIL & GREGORY THE GREAT NAZIANZEN

Celebrated on: Friday, January 2

# ONGOING MINISTRIES

## AA MEETINGS

*The Bulletin*  
Wednesdays 7pm: St. Francis Church basement

Fridays 7pm: St. Joseph School (in Spanish)

Saturdays 7pm: St. Jerome Church Hall

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Meets Mondays, 6:30pm at St. Francis School. Led by Deacon Al, participants will learn Catholic Apologetics and how to defend our faith.

## BINGO

Sunday Afternoons at St. Joseph School, 29 Edson St., New Britain. Doors open at 11:30am, Games begin at 2:00pm

## CROSSROADS 4 CHRIST

Meetings Tuesdays 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Adoration & Confession 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
All young adults are welcome!

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Meetings are monthly on the second Tuesday of the month, from 6:30-8:00 pm at St. Joseph School

## MINGLE

The Mingle is looking for volunteers **Tuesdays 5:00-6:30 pm** at St. Joseph School to help with feeding the less fortunate. Volunteers will help with setup, serving, and cleanup. Please call the Parish Office at 860-224-2411 with questions or to sign up.

## NA MEETINGS

Narcotics Anonymous meets **Tuesdays at 6:00 pm** in the St. Francis Church basement

## SFC YOUTH

Faith-based community for high school students in the New Britain area with a focus on formation, prayer, community, food & games. Meets Monday evenings. Contact [youth@stfranciscatholic.org](mailto:youth@stfranciscatholic.org) or call the Parish Office for more details.

## ST. JOSEPH FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry opens Tuesdays at St. Joseph School from 9:30 -10:30 am. Please see the shopping list below for our most needed items. Monetary donations or gift cards also appreciated. Donations may be brought to any of our open churches.

## SHOPPING LIST

*in support of the St. Joseph Food Pantry*  
**The item most needed this week is:**

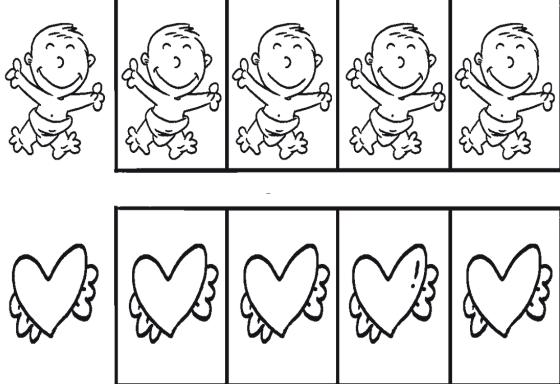
Cereal

*thank you*

<input type="checkbox"/> Cereal	<input type="checkbox"/> Canned Meat/Tuna
<input type="checkbox"/> Pasta/Pasta Sauce	<input type="checkbox"/> Instant Potato and Rice
<input type="checkbox"/> Canned Soup	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixes
<input type="checkbox"/> Instant Oatmeal	<input type="checkbox"/> Ramen Noodles
<input type="checkbox"/> Canned Fruit &	<input type="checkbox"/> Mac and Cheese
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables	<input type="checkbox"/> Snack Items:
<input type="checkbox"/> Peanut Butter & Jelly	<input type="checkbox"/> Cookies, Crackers, etc.

## PUZZLE

In each series color the image within the box that is identical to the one outside the box. Make sure to notice all the details



## MISSION

Tonight after dinner, ask your family to light some candles, turn off the lights, and sing some of your favorite Christmas songs about Jesus.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent • Matthew 1:18-24

## PUZZLE

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

listed	engaged	sheep
Joseph	traveled	Savior
Mary	baby	angels

lsted*i*

byab \_\_\_\_\_

Jephos \_\_\_\_\_

shepe \_\_\_\_\_

Mrya \_\_\_\_\_

Siorav \_\_\_\_\_

enagedg \_\_\_\_\_

anlsge \_\_\_\_\_

traledve \_\_\_\_\_

## MISSION

If you were not safe, and if you had to move away in the middle of the night, list three small things you would want to bring along.