



Sacred Heart Parish

The United Parish Family of Sacred Heart and Saint Joseph

446 Mountain Road ✱ P.O. Box 626 ✱ Suffield, CT 06078

(860) 668-4246 Fax: (860) 668-1337

Email: SacredHeartSuffield1@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook at Sacred Heart, Suffield 

Website: SacredHeartCT.com

Office Hours: Mon. thru Thurs, 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Office Closed on Friday

Mass Times:

Weekends: Saturdays: 4:00pm **Sundays:** 8:00am, 9:30am and 11:00am.

Summer Hours: June through August: **Saturdays:** 4:00pm **Sundays:** 8:30am and 10:30am

Daily Mass: 8:00AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday (NO Thursday Mass)

Holy Day: Please consult the Bulletin.

Sacraments:

Confessions: Saturdays 2:30 - 3:30pm or by appointment.

Baptisms: Sundays after the last Mass. Please call the Rectory to schedule a date.

Holy Matrimony: At least six months of notice should be given to arrange for weddings.

Anointing of the Sick Please call the office.

On going devotions:

Weekly Morning Rosary: Tuesdays at 7:30 AM

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Mondays 3 to 4 PM, Fridays 7:30 to 8 AM

Parish Staff

Pastor: Fr. Joseph Keough Email: frjfk@aol.com

Administrative Assistant: Jackie Dion email: SacredHeartSuffield1@gmail.com

Religious Education:

860-668-7766 Fax: 860-370-5164

Director: Miss Donna M. Swols email: shc_dre@sbcglobal.net

Assistant : Jackie Dion email : reledaa22@proton.me

Directors of Music

Floyd Higgins & Gretchen Collins floydandgretchen@comcast.net

***Please note that neither Fr. J Keough nor any staff member, volunteers, or members of Sacred Heart Parish will ever call or text requesting donations of gift cards online, bitcoin or electronic transfer of funds.**

Please report any suspicious activity to the parish office and/or Suffield Police.

To report an incident of sexual abuse in the Archdiocese, visit our website or the archdioceseofhartford.com

December 8, 2024 The Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 7

4:00 PM Carolyn Stack
Brother Eugene Sheehan

Sunday, December 8

8:00 AM Peter Beneski
Diane Mballa(L)~Birthday Intentions
9:30 AM Brother Eugene Sheehan
11:00 AM Janice Smith
James H. Wessling

Monday, December 9

8:00 AM Intentions of Dorota Maliszewski
3 – 4 PM Holy Hour

Tuesday, December 10

8:00 AM Francis Anderson
Albert Helmke

Wednesday, December 11

8:00 AM Special Intention of
Fr. Peter Totleben O.P. (L)

Thursday, December 12

8:00 AM **NO MASS**

Friday, December 13

8:00 AM Michael Patnaud
Angela Burkman
Raymond B. McKay

Saturday, December 14

4:00 PM Nicholas Silvestri
Louis Brechue
Joseph Falkowski

Sunday, December 15

8:00 AM Roy Family
Louis Madore
9:30 AM Ed & Peg Shaughnessy
11:00 AM Alexander Ehongo
Raymond Stearns
Bland & Ducharme Families

***Apologies for any misspelled names**

Our Weekly Offertory

On **December 1**, **570** members and visitors worshipped with us at Sacred Heart Parish.

December 1, 2024, Parish Support:

\$7,917.13	Offertory
\$839.13	Online Giving
\$8,756.26	Total

Thank you for your support!

FAIR TRADE SALE

Fair Trade items will be available after all Masses next weekend, **12/14 & 12/15**. Please stop by and pick up some items and support the farmers. Great Christmas gifts!

***Sorry for the confusion with the date in last weekend's Bulletin.**

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, Dec. 16th at 7:00PM Confessions.

***Mondays after morning Mass.**

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2024

**CHRISTMAS EVE: 4:00 PM AND 10:30 PM
(MUSIC BEGINS AT 10:00 PM)**

CHRISTMAS DAY: 10:00 AM

From our Human Needs Ministry

Many thanks to our parishioners for all their help and more!!

We are truly thankful for the very generous participation in our Thanksgiving Basket program and with a late turkey day this year, we are moving right into our Christmas food and gift distribution. We had fourteen families for Thanksgiving and there will be sixteen families for Christmas.

For those parishioners who missed picking up a Christmas Wish List but still want to participate, gift cards from Target, Walmart or grocery gift cards are always needed!

PARISH REGISTRATION/UPDATE

NAME/s: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

EMAIL: _____

☐ New Registration ☐ Request Envelopes

☐ Change Address, E-Mail, Phone Number

☐ Moving out of parish.

STATUS: Single, Married, Divorced, Widowed (circle one)

Would you like to receive ENVELOPES: YES NO

You may leave it in the marked basket in the church lobby or drop it in the mailbox outside the rectory office.

Second Sunday of Advent



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Office hours: Tuesday 10am-12noon and by appointment only

Closed holidays and school vacations

Donna Swols, DRE: shc_dre@sbcglobal.net

Jackie Dion, Adm. Asst.: reledaa22@proton.me

Please use voicemail, email, or our handy outdoor mailbox as necessary to conduct Religious Ed business.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES RESUME TODAY, for grades K-9. Hope everyone had a great holiday!



NEXT SUNDAY! - "AWAY IN A MANGER" 1st, 2nd, and 3rd GRADE CHRISTMAS

PRESENTATION: Sunday, December 15th at 9:45am and 11:15am in Fr. Ted Hall, everyone is invited to our Christmas Program – "Away in a Manger" presented by our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders. Come witness our "little children" as they welcome Baby Jesus this Christmas.

NEXT WEEK! - BAKE SALE - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th: to benefit local charities. Visit us from 8:45am-12:00pm in Fr. Ted Hall! Bake Sale sponsored by Mrs. Lombardo and Mr. Upton's grade 6 classes. Pick up some goodies for Christmas!



ATTENDANCE POLICY - IMPORTANT: When your child is sick or not able to attend their Religious Education class, **please be sure to call or email the Religious Ed office** and let us know for attendance records. **This is very important!** We can also work with you to make arrangements for your child to attend a make-up class, if available. A 48-hour notification is required for a make-up class request outside of illness or emergency. Thank you.

Retired Religious Collection

Support those who have given a lifetime. Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service – praying, teaching, and caring for those in need – usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Please give generously. Thank you.

Bible Study Tuesdays at 6:30pm, Fr. Ted Hall

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Ministry will meet the 1st Monday of each month 4-5 PM in the Children's Chapel, Sacred Heart Church.

Come Home for Christmas! Our annual Advent program to pray our loved ones back to the faith has begun. Simply write the initials or first name of someone who for whatever reason is not practicing the faith, on a star which will be hung on our Christmas trees in the church. We will be praying for them all through the Advent and Christmas seasons in the hopes that they join us for Christmas and remain with us.

Everyone can sing Christmas Carols! Join us this Sunday in the church at 5:15 PM for our Carol Sing and then outside for the Blessing of the Creche and Lighting of the BIG tree! Cookies and hot chocolate in Fr. Ted Hall, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. FREE and fun for all. Santa will stop by IF you're good!

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, Dec. 16th at 7:00PM Confessions.
*Mondays after morning Mass.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: Second Sunday of Advent:

Matthew 3:1-3: "John the Baptist said, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand! A voice of one crying out in the desert. Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Romans 15:5: "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus." Want to think in harmony with one another? What to answer God's call as he asks you to "Prepare the way." Check out a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME.org). It can help you to grow in intimacy and grow in faith with one another. Some of the dates to sign up are: **January 7-February 18, 2025, Virtual 3RE, NY** **January 24-26, 2025, in North Easton, MA** Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsors a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call Frank & Margie Pearson at 860-337-2447 or <https://wwmectw.org/>.



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Suffield Council # 6281

Ed McAnaney, Grand Knight

Important Upcoming Dates & Knights News:

- The Knights of Columbus will host a reception with light refreshments on **December 8th**, following the blessing of the creche, tree lighting ceremony and Carol Sing (**scheduled to start at 5:15 p.m.**). Come join the fun!
- Plan a visit to the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center, 1 State Street, New Haven, open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. With **free admission and free parking**, don't miss out on the current special exhibits: Christmas in Africa, Christmas Tree Festival, and Away in a Manger, all for your enjoyment from **now until February 2, 2025**.
- Santa is Coming to Town on the **3rd weekend of December**, home visits available (schedule in advance at www.SuffielddontheGreen/Santa).
- Another 4th degree exemplification ceremony has been scheduled for **Saturday, January 11th** at St. Sebastian Roman Catholic Church, 155 Washington Street, Middletown. Any Suffield Council # 6281 member interested in participating in this event, will need a completed **Form 4 and \$60 payment** (payable to: our Assembly). Please contact our local Grand Knight, Ed McAnaney (at commodore25@sbcglobal.net) for additional information and/or to get the required signature/verification of your 3rd Degree status.

The deadline for your application and reservations is January 6, 2025.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

White candles on the Advent wreath???

Yup. There is no set color requirements for the candles. If I wanted to be more extreme, they would be the golden yellow of pure beeswax candles, but I didn't feel like spending close to \$1000.00 on them. Many are familiar with the traditional three purples and a pink, which coincide with the priest's vestments for the season, while others also use four reds or three blues and a pink.

The white candles in the wreath are marked with purple and pink decoration and offset with the matching bows. What about the rest of it? It is a wreath, a circle without beginning or end, like the Kingdom of God. The evergreen boughs represent eternal life. The tradition was most popular in the northern territories of Europe where the long winter nights were soon to be vanquished by the winter solstice and the coming of more daylight and the Light of Christ.

The placement of the wreath is all wrong! The Advent wreath should be suspended from the ceiling over the congregation. (maybe next year). The congregants would look up through the wreath to catch a glimpse of the heavens.

Have a blessed Advent (regardless of the color of your candles)!

Fr. Joe Keough frjfk@aol.com

Advent Household Prayers:

Week 2: Blessing for the Christmas Tree

When the tree is decorated, the family gathers around it and makes the sign of the cross. One member of the family recites the following: This tree is a blessing to our home. It reminds us of all that is beautiful, all the is filled with the gentleness and the promise of God.

It stands in our midst as a tree of light that we might promise such beauty to one another and to our world. It stands like that tree of paradise that God made into the tree of life, the cross of Jesus Christ.

(optional reading from Psalm 96:11-13)

God of all creation, we praise you for this tree which brings beauty and memories into our home. May your blessing be upon all who gather around this tree, all who keep the Christmas festival by its lights. We wait for the coming of Christ, the days of everlasting light, justice, and peace. You are our God, living and reigning forever. Amen.

**From the Catholic Household Book of Blessings and Prayers, USCCB*

Feast of the Immaculate Conception is moved to Monday because it falls on a Sunday. The obligation, USUALLY is not transferred due to a decision about 30 years ago by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This is why holy days are sometimes obligatory and other times not. However, for some reason, the Bishop's Conference decided that it would not be the case this year, as this the title of our Blessed Mother as patron of the United States. However, all the liturgical calendars, directories (ordos), and mass books were already published, printed and in the pews. Archbishop Coyne has written extensively about it in this month's Catholic Transcript about it. In a nutshell, it is both a holy day and day of obligation BUT he has granted dispensation to anyone who cannot attend Mass on Monday. NOTE if you are from Massachusetts, it might not apply to you. There is Mass here on Monday at 8:00 AM.

ADVENT RESOURCES: Prayer/Mediation resources are available in the vestibule as well as online at FORMED.org.

It is a new liturgical year! This is your invitation to participate in our parish liturgies as a reader, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, altar server or usher. Please check with Fr. Joe for more information.