



# SAINT LOUIS DE MONTFORT PARISH

December 7, 2025



## Weekend Masses

Vigil at Our Lady of Grace Church – 4:00pm

Sunday at St. Anthony Church – 8:00am

Sunday at St. Thomas Church – 9:15am

Sunday at St. Anthony Church – 11:00am

## Daily Masses

Monday – Friday at

St. Anthony Church – 8:00am

## Confession

Saturdays at Our Lady of Grace Church –

3:00 - 3:45pm

## Adoration

Mondays at St. Anthony Church –

7:00 - 8:00pm – with the  
Sacrament of Confession



## *Second Sunday in Advent*

## **PARISH STAFF AND MINISTRIES:**

P.O. Box 97, Litchfield, CT 06759

860-567-5209 [office@stlouisdemontfortparish.org](mailto:office@stlouisdemontfortparish.org)

The Main Office is located at 49 South Street, Litchfield

Monday - Thursday 9am-1pm, Friday 9am-12pm

**Administrator:** Rev. Matt Collins

**Pastor's Assistant:** Aidan Stewart

**Pastoral Associate:** Anthony Belske

**Business Manager:** Cate Corwin

**Coordinator of Parish Cemeteries:** Bob Zavagnin

**Property Manager STV:** Doug Corwin

**STV Altar Guild:** Dolores Marshall

**SAP Altar Guild:** Anna Wilson

## **PARISH CAMPUSES**



### **ST ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH**

49 South Street, Litchfield, CT 06759



### **ST THOMAS OF VILLANOVA CHURCH**

71 North Street, Goshen, CT 06756



### **OUR LADY OF GRACE CHURCH**

715 Bantam Road, Bantam, CT 06750

## Second Sunday of Advent - December 7, 2025



### Mass Intentions

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention For December:  
*For Christians in areas of conflict.*

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

*LDM – St Louis de Montfort Parish; SAP – St Anthony of Padua Church;  
STV – St Thomas of Villanova Church; OLG – Our Lady of Grace Church*

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025

OLG 4:00 PM + *Paul Evans* ~ By Mary Jane Evans

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM + *Thomas O'Hare* ~ By Lisa Bauer

STV 9:15 AM + *Angelina & Lodovico Pedone & their daughters Camella, Rose & Louise* ~ By the Pedone Family

SAP 11:00 AM + *Jane Moraghan* ~ By Janet Berlet

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM Living & Deceased of the Parish

STV 6:00 PM Living & Deceased Priests of the Archdiocese

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM + *Sally Slick* ~ By the Barra Family

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM + *Tish Sampenaro*

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM + *Barbara & Evan Williams*

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM + *Sandi Pieger*

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025

OLG 4:00 PM + *Candace Romano* ~ By George Romano

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM + *Jack & Matt Donohue* ~ By the Donohue Family

STV 9:15 AM *Gary Hough, Norman Daley, Bernard Richards & Robert Johns* ~ By their Families

SAP 11:00 AM + *Robert Adams* ~ By Family

*Please add the following people to your prayers*

- ♥ Marie Sanford ♥ Lois Buchanan ♥ Gordon Hills
- ♥ Fiona Riley ♥ John Pelchat ♥ Eileen Proveaux
- ♥ Bob Grosclaude ♥ Liz Carter ♥ Ed Perry
- ♥ Mary Corbo ♥ Tracey Bassos ♥ Stephen Foster
- ♥ Lacey G & Elliott ♥ Briar Stack-Sweeney
- ♥ Chris Dole ♥ Bernard Harrington ♥ Fr. Josh Wilbur



*Collections: THIS Weekend's will be the Parish Weekly and Monthly. NEXT Weekend's will be the Parish Weekly.*

### Saint Louis de Montfort Parish November 22nd & 23rd

WEEKLY: ..... \$ 4,590.00

ONLINE GIVING : ..... \$ 862.75

### November 29th & 30th

WEEKLY: ..... \$ 4,303.00

ONLINE GIVING : ..... \$ 1,145.00

*Thank you for Your Continued Generosity to  
Saint Louis de Montfort Parish.*

### Online Giving **IS HERE...**

Saint Louis de Montfort Parish's Online Giving tool for contributions. Go to our Parish Online Giving website at [www.osvhub.com/stlouisdemontfortparish/giving/funds](http://www.osvhub.com/stlouisdemontfortparish/giving/funds)



**Plenty of slots are open for Mass intentions!**  
**Please call or visit the office for more information or to schedule.**

#### Sacraments At Our Parish

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Call the main parish office for more information.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Every Saturday at Our Lady of Grace Church (3:00--3:45pm); during Adoration on Mondays 7:00--8:00pm at St. Anthony's Church

**Sacrament of Matrimony:** Please call the main office at least six months in advance before making any other arrangements.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Please call the office.

**Religious Education:** Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation:  
Please call Cate Corwin.

**Adult Sacraments:** Any adult wishing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communions, and/or Confirmation are welcome to join the OCIA and Adult Confirmation process. Please call the office for more information.





**Knights of Columbus Council 56 next meeting:** December 11, starting at 6:30 pm with pizza. All current Knights and those interested in joining welcome to attend. If you are attending, RSVP to the Parish Office.



**ST. ANTHONY'S COUNCIL 56**

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*mbarrachina59@gmail.com*



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*Grand Knight David Poirier*  
*860-248-9489*  
*poiriersax@aol.com*

**Call or email for more information or to join!**

## Advent

During Advent, the Pastoral Team will be giving a series of lectures on the genealogy of Jesus according to the Gospel of Matthew to prepare for Christmas. The talks will be on November 30 and December 7, and 14, all at 6pm at St. Anthony Church Hall. Knights of Columbus Council 56 will be providing a soup dinner to go along with each of the talks.

This week, for the second talk, Anthony Belske will be speaking on "The Sinners, from David to the Exile." All are welcome to come as we prepare for Christmas.

**\*Correction\* Last weekend's bulletin had incorrect dates for December. The next two talks will be on the 7th and the 14th.**

Litchfield Friends,

As we enter the exciting season of giving, there are Litchfield families that need help! The Litchfield Children's Fund has helped provide clothing for children in need since the 1950's! The fund provides monies exclusively for warm clothing for Litchfield children. This year we have eighty children who are in need of help. I am reaching out, once again, to ask for your help with our on-going efforts. Any help, large or small, will help local families purchase warm winter clothing. 100% of the donations benefit the children since the fund is managed completely by volunteers. Thank you, in advance, for any help you can give and for your continued support on behalf of our community! Donations can be made to:

The Litchfield Children's Fund

PO Box 774

Litchfield, CT 06759

With thanks,

Denise Parker, Coordinator  
The Litchfield Children's Fund



## 2025-26 How We Worship

**December 7th - Starting at the 9am Mass**  
**at St Thomas of Villanova Church, Goshen**

**Family Session #3 Sacraments . . .**  
**Baptism & Confirmation**



*Come and grow your faith with us...*

**to register: email [stlouisdemontfortparish@gmail.com](mailto:stlouisdemontfortparish@gmail.com) or call 860-491-2756**



### THE CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

**Dec 24: Christmas Eve - 4:00 (OLG) - 4:30 (SAP)**

**Dec 25: Christmas Day - 12:00 Midnight (SAP)**  
**9:30 (STV) - 11:00 - (SAP)**

## The Shrine of Lourdes

IN LITCHFIELD

Volunteer students are wanted for the Living Nativity at Lourdes in Litchfield. We are looking for high school aged volunteers to participate. For more information, contact  
Theresa Simaitis - email: [tsimaitis@rsd20.org](mailto:tsimaitis@rsd20.org)  
Phone: (860) 567-7429

Call for Artist & Sculptors

2026 Montfort Sculpture Exhibition

Contemplation & Reflection

Lourdes in Litchfield is sponsoring an outdoor sculpture exhibition, encouraging Silent Contemplation and reflection as a practice to pray and connect with God. The exhibition will run from the Opening Reception, May 16, 2026 to November 30, 2026

Collaborating sponsors are:

Northwest CT Arts Council

Connecticut Society of Sculptors

New England Foundation for the Arts

New England Sculptors Association

Applications can be completed online now or before

January 18, 2026;

[www.shrinect.org/sculpture](http://www.shrinect.org/sculpture)

# Branches on the Vine

DECEMBER 6 - 12, 2025

When Father Joseph Keough, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Suffield, traveled to Mexico City earlier this month, he expected a meaningful pilgrimage. What he didn't expect was how his visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe would impact him and shape his plans for the parish's upcoming feast day celebration.

"It was something I always wanted to do," he says. "My dad always had a strong devotion to the Blessed Mother. It's an image of her I wanted to learn more about, especially the Miracle of the Tilma."

Keough joined a group organized by Verso Ministries, traveling with two parishioners and others from across the United States. The group spent five days exploring the sacred sites connected to the apparitions of Our Lady to St. Juan Diego. To understand the significance of these sites, it helps to recall the story at the heart of the devotion.

In 1531, Juan Diego reported apparitions of the Virgin Mary on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico City, who asked for a shrine and proved her message by imprinting her image on his tilma when he presented miraculous winter roses to the bishop. The image -- unchanged

## HOW A PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO SPARKED A PRIEST'S PASSION FOR THE GUADALUPE FEAST

for centuries despite its fragile material -- carries indigenous symbols, accurate constellations from the day of the apparition, microscopic human reflections in the eyes, and scriptural parallels, leading many to see it as a miraculous, divinely created sign.

"What moved me most was seeing how the apparition brought unity," Keough says. "Our Blessed Mother spoke to both the native people and the Spanish explorers, and her message -- 'I am your mother, and you are my son' -- led to conversion and healing. It really was an important trip. Americans need to see this, experience it, and learn about it."

He was also struck by the symbolic depth of the image.

"Everything on the tilma has meaning -- the stars on her mantle reflect the night sky of Dec. 12, 1531," Keough explains. "There's a heavenly message embedded in every detail."

The experience inspired him to create a more intentional and joyful celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Sacred Heart this year on Dec. 12. Before leaving for Mexico, he asked parishioners if they had prayer intentions he could bring to the Basilica.

"More than 200 people responded," Keough says. "When I came back, so many thanked me. There's a real excitement about it in the parish."

Sacred Heart Parish's Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Sacred Heart Church on Dec. 12 will begin with Eucharistic Adoration from 7:30 to 8 a.m., followed by Mass at 8 a.m., which will be livestreamed on the parish Facebook page. Father Keough will preach a special Guadalupe-themed homily, reflecting on his pilgrimage and the message of trust and closeness to Christ through the Blessed Mother.

An image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, provided by a parish family, will be displayed prominently.

In the afternoon, the parish hopes to host a brief devotional program highlighting key moments from the pilgrimage and the history of the apparition.

The simple, but profound message behind the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe resonates in the lives of parishioners today. "That message of trust and drawing closer to our Lord through his mother," Keough adds. "I am your mother, you are my son."



12/10 & 11 WEDS / THURS 10AM-4PM  
**ADVENT BAKING RETREAT:**  
**CARDAMOM BUNS AND CINNAMON ROLLS, WITH PAM HARDIMAN**  
Holy Family Retreat Center, 303 Tunxis Rd, West Hartford

On December 10th or 11th, come join us at Holy Family Retreat Center, to take a break from the holiday rush and bake fresh, warm cardamom buns and cinnamon rolls to enjoy on Christmas morning. We will make ornaments for our trees while the dough is rising. \$75, includes lunch. **860-760-9705**.



12/9 TUESDAY 7:30PM  
**AMARCORD CONCERT**  
St Peter Claver Church  
47 Pleasant St, West Hartford

Saint Peter Claver proudly presents the world famous German a cappella vocal ensemble, AMARCORD, in a very special Christmas program on Tuesday, December 9 at 7:30 PM. General admission tickets available at \$40. Please join us at one of their rare American appearances for an unforgettable musical event. Tickets are sold on-line only at [spcknightsfundraiser.ludus.com](http://spcknightsfundraiser.ludus.com)

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## Navigating the New Year

Mercy by the Sea Retreat Center, Madison, CT  
January 10-12, 2026  
Saturday 4:00 PM - Monday 10:00 AM

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## THE PASTOR'S CORNER

My friends, last week we began the Advent Season with a new series of Homilies reflecting on "Be still", which comes from Psalm 46 which says, "Be still and know that I am God." We all know of the 'noise' of the holiday season, and for all of us we tend to get caught up in the moment. However, the 'noise' we need to listen to as it echo's throughout this season is the words of John the Baptist where he preaches, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" fulfilling the words of the Prophet Isaiah, "A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

John the Baptist is seen as the voice- the loudest person in the Gospel because his mission was to help the people of Israel to repent and prepare the way of the Lord. His voice disrupted their lives- but in a good way. It helped them to reorient themselves from viewing their lives as if God had abandoned them to Roman oppression and focus on what truly matters- the coming of the Christ.

The thing is my friends, Advent and Christmas are times when our lives are disrupted by the sound of silence. Yes, the sound of silence. When God created the world He did not do so with a 'big bang', but rather in silence. He sent the angel Gabriel to Mary in a very quiet and still way and asked her to be the mother of God. He sent the angel to appear to Joseph in a dream, in the quiet moment of night. And he came into this world in the most humble and silent moment that first Christmas night, with Mary and Joseph in a manger. God's voice is not loud. His actions, yes are noisy, but His voice is simple and quiet.

So, let's let Advent and Christmas be a disruption for us; but a disruption that will allow us to hear the voice of God in the sound of silence. We need to silence ourselves from the noisiness of the secular dimension of the season and focus internally on the voice God echoes within us. We do this by simply closing our eyes for 30 seconds, 1 minute, 5 minutes, etc... and breath in and imagine Christ coming too you and placing His hand on your shoulders. And all he says is "Be still"- for it is only in the stillness of our hearts where we can hear the silence of God's voice.

-Fr. Matt



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