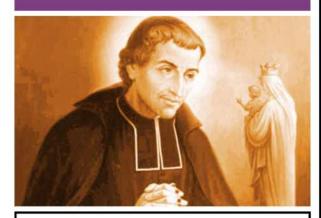


## SAINT LOUIS DE MONTFORT PARISH

## December 14, 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



# Third Sunday in Advent

#### PARISH STAFF AND MINISTRIES:

P.O. Box 97, Litchfield, CT 06759 860-567-5209 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

<u>Property Manager STV</u>: Doug Corwin <u>STV Altar Guild</u>: Dolores Marshall <u>SAP Altar Guild</u>: Anna Wilson

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#### ST THOMAS OF VILLANOVA CHURCH

71 North Street, Goshen, CT 06756



#### OUR LADY OF GRACE CHURCH

715 Bantam Road, Bantam, CT 06750

## Third Sunday of Advent - December 14, 2025



<u>Pope Leo's Prayer Intention For December</u>: 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 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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM + Deceased Members of Leduc Family

~ By the Leduc Family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM + W. Lee Clark  $\sim$  By the Clark Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM + Joan Slick  $\sim$  By the Barra Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM + John Barret

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM + Kathy Martin  $\sim$  By the Barra Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2025

OLG 4:00 PM + Anne Ascolese ~ By Her Sisters

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM + Mary & Ben Cardillo ~ By the Cardillo

Family

STV 9:15 AM – Angeline Carisio ~ By Henrietta Horvay SAP 11:00 AM + Tim, Leo, & Louise Moynihan ~ By Family

#### Please add the following people to your prayers

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



Collections: THIS Weekend's will be the Parish Weekly.

NEXT Weekend's will be the Parish Weekly and

Retirement Fund for Religious Collections.

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

WEEKLY: ...... \$ 3,961.00

ONLINE GIVING: ...... \$ 2,204.25

MONTHLY:.....\$1,587.00

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



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.



Grand Knight Michael Barrachina mbarrachina59@gmail.com



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

Call or email for more information or to join!

## Thank You

Thank You to all who participated in our Holiday Celebrations this past weekend. Thank you to all who donated and bought cookies from our cookie fair, and to all those who volunteered to help with our "Parade of Lights" Nativity float.

# 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 third talk, the topic will be: "The Repentant, from the Exile to Christ." All are welcome to come as we prepare for Christmas.

### 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

This weekend is our Second Sunday Parish Social Weekend.
As always, each of our churches will take up the collection of canned goods and non-perishables to help our neighbors in need in addition to sharing fellowship and friendly talk after Mass in a spirit of welcome here at Saint Louis de Montfort. - Fr. Matt





## 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)
9:00 (STV) - 11:00 - (SAP)

\*Correction\* Christmas Mass at STV will be at 9:00 AM



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

 ${
m F}$ or Omar Acosta, every nail driven and every beam aligned is an act of prayer. A self-employed contractor from Windsor and a third-year candidate in the Archdiocese of Hartford's Diaconate formation program, Acosta views his craft as a way to glorify God—and to draw others closer to him.

This Advent, parishioners and passersby at Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield will encounter one of Acosta's most heartfelt creations yet: a handcrafted manger that stands as both an artistic and spiritual expression of love.

"I wanted to build something that pointed people to God," he says. "Beauty can quietly draw the passerby-even for a momentthat's what this is about."

The manger at Sacred Heart is the third one he has built within the archdiocesefollowing earlier ones at St. Francis Church in New Haven and St. Gabriel Church in Windsor. Each is unique, but all share a singular purpose: to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation with reverence and beauty.

Yet for Acosta, the story begins long before the first piece of wood is cut.

Born and raised in Hartford and a graduate of Prince Tech, Acosta's childhood was framed by survival and grace.

"My faith is that of a peasant," he explains. "I didn't attend Catholic schools or have formal faith formation. But I was blessed with a relationship with God from the time I was 5 or 6. I spent so much time talking to him-it was truly a grace."

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## **BUILT BY FAITH: HOW ONE CRAFTSMAN USES HIS SKILLS TO GLORIFY GOD**

His early years were shaped by hardship his father's struggle with addiction and his mother's quiet, heroic perseverance.

"My mother was the instrument God used in my life," he says. "She was my hero. She showed us mercy by visiting strangers in nursing homes, just to bring them company. That planted something deep in me."

As a teenager, Acosta became an altar server and later a youth minister at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Hartford. A pivotal experience came when he attended the Steubenville retreat, hosted by Franciscan University.

"It was amazing to be surrounded by a couple thousand people in attendance radiating zeal for our living faith," he says. "My heart caught the scent of something I wanted deeply more of. Soon after, I applied and took a road trip to visit the Steubenville, Ohio, campus. Months later, I was a student there. The greatest gifts that came of it were not even on my radar."

Now married for 17 years, Omar and his wife, Julie, have five children—Analia, 13; Camila, 11; Mariela, 9; Lucas, 8; and Tobias, 1. Their home life, like his craftsmanship, is rooted in prayer.



January 16-18, 2026 Pilgrims of Hope Men's Retreat Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center West Hartford, CT

Faith is a journey! Last year, just months before his passing, Pope Francis called for a jubilee year, and he announced the theme would be Pilgrims of Hope. As "pilgrims of hope," we must be willing to take risks, to make the effort to understand God's call, and to grow in our faith. The pilgrim doesn't travel aimlessly but allows God to be the North Star, leading us to discover that God is at the heart of our journey. We invite you to join us this year at Holy Family for your annual retreat as we celebrate our 75th anniversary of ministry. Together, as part of God's beloved creation, we can pursue that blessed goal - life with God as beloved companions and pilgrims of hope.

Contact Russ Duffy at (203) 272-9912 or Neil Bradley at (203) 260-4957 for more info. Or visit holyfamilyretreat.org/themed-retreats or call 860.760.970° to radio

"One of my vocations is living the sacrament of matrimony," he says. "The other is my faith and both are grounded in service."

That spirit of service has guided his 17 years working with people with disabilities in the Hartford area—helping others live with dignity, joy and faith.

Whether serving others or shaping wood, Acosta finds God in the work of his hands.

"I'm an artisan," he says simply. "I dream of designing church furnishings, grottos, Stations of the Cross—anything that glorifies God through beauty. The manger is just one small way to offer that."

As the Christmas season approaches, Acosta hopes his latest creation becomes a place of encounter.

"The idea of being able to build a manger is to capture someone's mind, eye, and attention," he adds. "They're looking up at God whether they know it or not."

- Story by Jim Tierney



#### 12/17 WEDNESDAY 10:15AM POLISH CHRISTMAS CONCERT (KOLENDY)

Sacred Heart Church, 446 Mountain Rd. Suffield

A celebration of Polish culture and history, this concert features local musicians performing some of the most beloved Polish Christmas Carols. This annual concert is offered by Sacred Heart Parish and the Suffield Polish Historical Society. Sacred Heart church is handicapped accessible. This event is free and open to all!

## SAVE THE DATE

The Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office is encouraging participation in the Annual Pro-Life March in Washington, DC.

The bus will leave the Franciscan Life Center in Meriden on January 22nd at 6:00a.m. and return to Meriden January 23rd at 11:00p.m. Cost, hotel, and other details will be forthcoming.

Questions? Please contact Fr. Walsh fr.walsh@aohct.org



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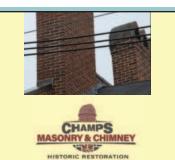
#### THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Joy! That's all I can say- JOY! Why? Well for one thing, to be joyful we must have a reason; and for all of us, that reason is because Christmas is approaching. But where does that 'joy' come from? It can come from the excitement of the gifts we might get for other people and their reaction to what we got them; or us being able to see some family members we have not seen in a while; maybe we are preparing for the places we will be traveling to; or it could be that last minute project at school or work was just completed for the year. Whatever it is, joy is kicking in.

In our Gospel, we see the excitement of the disciples of John the Baptist. They go to Jesus as John instructs and asks if he is the Christ. Jesus's response is to report to John what they see and hear- and they witness and listen too so much of what Jesus does. Their joy came from finding Jesus; however, that joy is short lived because their search for the Messiah only leads them so far. What I mean by this is that they only go to Jesus in search of answers, and not also for a relationship with Him. This is where our 'joy' needs to come fromour relationship with Jesus. Our relationship with Christ is everything and it to be the center of our lives- no exceptions. Although we continue to hound this idea, it's the truth. As the Prophet Isaiah says in our First Reading, "Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak. say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you." What makes you feel feeble or weak? Is it the fear of acting or being a Christian? Are you afraid of what your family or friends will think of you? Or could it be that our true joy is paralyzed because we continue to search, but not find it? That is exactly what the disciples of John did. They found Christ, but did they truly find him or just see and hear what they have been waiting for?

To truly be in a joyful relationship with Jesus, we need to constantly seek him, otherwise we will never be prepared for Christ's second coming. They 'joy' of this season is fed by us searching for the newborn Christ, who is for us a reminder of a new beginning, a chance to start a new. Jesus came into this world to give us an unlimited 2<sup>nd</sup> chance at anything and everything, especially though the Sacraments of Baptism, Confession, and Holy Communion. So for us to be full of joy in our relationship with Him really makes a difference, and helps us to realize that although stillness is good, our leap for joy in Jesus truly makes us eager and ready for when He comes again.

-Fr. Matt





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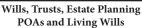
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