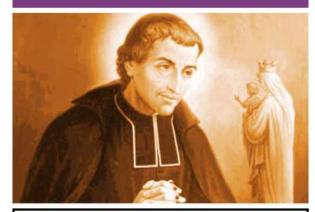


SAINT LOUIS DE MONTFORT PARISH

December 21, 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



Fourth 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 litchfieldhillscatholic.org

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

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 21, 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 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 Henrictta Horvay

SAP 11:00 AM + Tim, Leo, & Louise Moynihan ~ By Family

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM + Barbara Vallely, Joseph Vallely, & James

Stewart ~ By Family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM + Mary & Larry Cianciolo ~ By Anne & Sarah

Cianciolo

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM Living and Deceased of the Parish



THE CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Dec 24: Christmas Evc - 4:00 (OLG) - 4:30 (SAP)
Dec 25: Christmas Day - 12:00 Midnight (SAP)
9:00 (STV) - 11:00 (SAP)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM + Mary Fabbri \sim By Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2025

OLG 4:00 PM + PJ Zguzenski \sim By Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

SAP 8:00 AM + Betty & Emil Block ~ By Daughter and

Son In-law

STV 9:15 AM + Leo & Leonette Clement & Ginette Clement

~ By the Clement Family

SAP 11:00 AM + Josephine & Victor Antonini ~ By Family



Collections: THIS Weekend's will be the Parish Weekly and Retirement Fund for Religious Collections.

NEXT Weekend's will be the Parish Weekly.

Saint Louis de Montfort Parish December 13rd & 14th Due to submission deadlines, last weekend's collection totals wil be in next weekend's bulletin.

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



Sacraments At Our Parish

Sacrament of Baptism: Call the 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 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.

Please add the following people to your prayers

- ♥ Marie Sanford ♥ Lois Buchanan ♥ Gordon Hills
- ♥ Fiona Riley ♥ John Pelehat ♥ Eileen Proveaux
 - ▼ Bob Groselaude ▼ 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



Grand Knight Michael Barrachina mbarrachina59@gmail.com

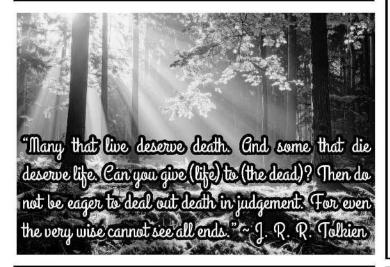


Grand Knight David Poirier 860-248-9489 poiriersax@aol.com

Call or email for more information or to join!

Advent

Thank you to all who attended, participated, and volunteered in our Advent Mission Series. Thank you to Knights of Columbus Council 56 for supplying the bread and soup and for sponsoring the event.



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

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





Call for Artist & Sculptors

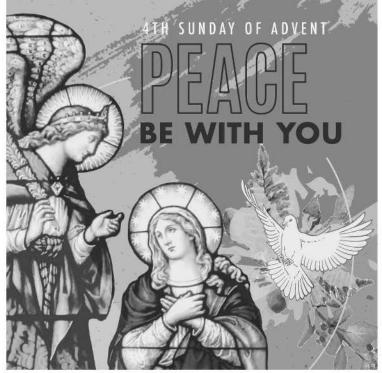
2026 Montfort Sculpture Exhibition
Contemplation <> Reflection

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





AVON TEENS JOIN IN SENDING GIFTS TO

MILITARY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Branches on the Vine

On a Saturday in November, 15 teens from St. Ann Parish in Avon spent their morning serving the men and women who protect our country far from home.

In the gymnasium of New Britain High School, they joined hundreds of other people from throughout Central Connecticut in wrapping and packing food gifts for military members in time for the Christmas holiday.

"It's important to help. Some deployed members don't have family looking out for them," says Victoria Borisov, a St. Ann Youth Ministry member who is in the eighth grade. "A big part of our Catholic faith is helping others, and this fits with that. It's a good cause."

"Service work is important when you're Catholic," adds Henry Madison, a seventh grade youth ministry member. "We're here to support the men and women overseas, so they can have the holiday spirit. I wish I could do more."

This service activity is one of many good works performed by the St. Ann Parish Youth Ministry. The Avon teens were escorted by Caroline Mascoli, the new director of youth ministry for the parish as of last September.

Mascoli is encouraging the youth ministry members, especially those who are

confirmation candidates, to put in at least eight hours of service for the year. "For confirmation candidates, we're trying to follow the Corporal Works of Mercy and find events and activities related to that," she says.

Students fulfill three categories of service: (1) individual, (2) with family and (3) with a group.

Mascoli chose the "Boxes to Boots" group event, which she had heard about from other high school groups. "It was top of my list because I knew it would be a great way to get kids involved in the community," she says. "And, I have two brothers in the Marines, so it hits close to home for me and will for the students here as well.

The "Operation Cares 2025—Giving Thanks to Our Troops" event was sponsored by "Boxes to Boots," a nonprofit started in 2015 by Karen Cote, a military mom in Berlin. At the 2025 event, the Avon teens and hundreds of others worked at 90 tables packing care packages of breakfast treats and snacks, and fun gifts such as Frisbees, for 1,800 to 1,900 service members.

"It was so nice that active military were here to make it even more meaningful," Mascoli notes. Some local military members, such as the ROTC and the Connecticut National Guard, were present packing boxes, receiving boxes and loading the trucks.

Mascoli's fiancée, Sean Murphy, accompanied the Avon teens. "It's wonderful," he says of the event, which also included a DJ playing popular dance music. "It's such a fun way to get them involved with community and start them out."

Mateo Garza, a senior in high school, recently joined the St. Ann Youth Ministry. "I just learned about this group and events and want to go to more. I felt connected to the people and the others but also to God himself," he says.

"We were writing Bible verses on cards," Garza adds, "and if one of those verses can get along to a soldier, it can bring faith to them as well."







Tuesday Nights for 7 weeks beginning February 10 6pm-8pm | St. Bridget of Sweden Parish Center

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12/22 MONDAY 7PM MASS FOR THE GRIEVING

St. Mary's Parish, 942 Hopmeadow St, Simsbury

St. Mary's Parish, Simsbury invites those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, to a Quiet Advent Mass on Monday, December 22 at 7pm with a light reception to follow in the Magowan Center. All are welcome. Questions to St. Mary's at 860-658-7627.



THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Over these past few weeks, we have been reflecting on the verse from Psalm 46, "Be still, and know that I am God." Be still —has this been something we have been practicing this Advent season amidst the secular disruptions and noise due to preparing for Christmas- gatherings, gifts, Christmas dinner planning, etc...? The main goal of this, however, is not just for the Advent and Christmas season, but rather for everyday life. By practicing 'being still' we not only put a pause in our daily lives but also place ourselves in the presence of the Lord as he touches our hearts and speaks to us in the sound of His silence. In 2020-2021 Pope Francis instituted a year dedicated to St. Joseph. In his document inaugurating the year Patris Corde-With a Father's Heart, Pope Francis reflects very compassionately on St. Joseph. However, there are two traits, other than his fatherhood, of St. Joseph that stand out more than all the rest- Joseph's courage and his silence. In the Gospel of Matthew, Joseph is seen as a 'just and righteous man', meaning that in the eyes of the law, and eyen God, he was a devout and honest man. When it was found that Mary was with child, although unknown by the power of the Holy Spirit, Joseph's intention to divorce her quietly would hinder his 'just and righteous' status. Nevertheless, with courage Joseph took Mary into his home and became the foster father of Jesus. Joseph's courage extends even beyond his most challenging moment in the Gospel, too, fleeing to Egypt after Jesus is born to escape Herod's persecution and eventually returning to Nazareth and raising Jesus as his legal son. Joseph had the audacity and courage to stand up to both Herod and his own kin in order to do what is right according to God's plan. Pope Francis writes, "God acted by trusting in Joseph's creative courage... God always finds a way to save us, provided we show the same creative courage as the carpenter of Nazareth. who is able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting always in divine providence."

St. Joseph's silence also is one of his greatest traits because it reveals to us not only his absolute and total trust in God but also his own self-giving to Mary and Jesus. "The logic of love is always a logic of freedom, and Joseph knows how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the center of things. He did not think of himself but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus. Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice, but in self-giving. In him, we never see frustration but only trust. His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust." St. Joseph focused not on himself, but on his mission in this world- to be the obedient fatherly figure for Jesus to learn from. Mary and Jesus were his focus- his life. His silence helps us to understand that the fruit of our 'being still' is trust in what God is doing in our life.

May it be through the intercession of St. Joseph that we all may. with courage and silence, allow for our trust in God to growamidst moments of triumph and challenge- and truly understand that He is God, Emmanuel, and He is with us to the end of the age.

-Fr. Matt



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