

Divine Providence, St. Francis of Assisi, Holy Apostles, St. Katharine Drexel Parishes



The Nativity of the Lord
December 25, 2022



Pastor
Rev. Michael Casey

Parochial Vicar
Rev. Eduar Gutierrez

Deacons
Alan Bielawski

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

Office Hours
Monday-Friday,
9:00a.m. - 4:30p.m.

Tel: 860-224-2411

Fax: 860-224-6838

Email: parishoffice@stfranciscatholic.org
www.stfranciscatholic.org

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EMAIL NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Please join our email notification system which alerts parishioners to changes or cancellations in scheduling due to inclement weather or other unforeseen events. This will be the primary way to communicate to our parishioners. To opt in, email your request with your full name and email address to: notification@stfranciscatholic.org Please note: We do not send texts and cannot make phone calls.

Divine Providence Parish at St. Joseph Church

195 South Main St.
New Britain, CT 06051

Holy Apostles Parish at St. John the Evangelist Church

655 East St.
New Britain, CT 06051

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1755 Stanley St.
New Britain, CT 06053

St. Katharine Drexel Parish at St. Jerome Church

1010 Slater Rd.
New Britain, CT 06053

SATURDAY VIGIL

4:00p.m. at St. Jerome

SUNDAY

8:00a.m. at St. Francis
9:00a.m. at St. Joseph
10:00a.m. at St. Francis
11:30a.m. at St. Jerome

DAILY MASS

8:00 am Monday – Saturday at St. Francis
6:00 pm Monday-Friday at St. Francis

Confessions

7:30-7:50 am Monday – Saturday at St. Francis
5:15pm-5:45pm Monday-Friday at St. Francis
3:30-3:50 pm Saturday at St. Jerome

Adoration

5pm-5:45pm Monday-Friday at St. Francis

St. Andrew, St. John, St. Peter and St. Maurice Churches are no longer used for regular Masses.

Prayer Line

In need of Prayers? Please Call Mary M. at our Prayer Line between 2 and 4pm 860-225-3890

December 11, 2022: \$ 15,203.15
Retired Religious Fund: \$3,412.76

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

**Mass Attendance for the weekend
of December 11, 2022: 668**

Thank you to all who support our parish.

Holiday Schedule

The weeks of December 26-30th and January 2-6th There will only be 8am Morning Mass and 7:30am Confessions.

There will be Adoration Wednesday, December 28 and Wednesday, January 4th from 5pm to 6pm



**We will return to our normal
Schedule January 9th**

Please be advised, there will only be **One Collection** on Christmas Day. All weekly and Christmas Donations should be put in the same collection basket.

Important Parking Notice

The public parking lot across from St. Francis Church will be closed until summer due to the city's long awaited dredging of the pond. This will make Mass parking significantly more difficult. Please obey all laws when parking on public streets and leave a little extra time when you attend Sunday Mass at St. Francis.

There will be **No Faith Formation**, December 25 and 26 in observance of the Christmas Holiday. There will also be **No Faith formation** January 1 and 2 in Observance of the New Year Holiday.



Saturday, December 24

8am: St. Francis: Intention of the Celebrant

4pm Vigil: St. Jerome: Intention of the Celebrant

10pm: St. Francis: Intention of the Celebrant

Sunday, December 25

9:00 am: St. Joseph: Intention of the Celebrant

10:00 am: St. Francis: Intention of the Celebrant

All weekday Masses are at St. Francis:

Monday, December 26

8:00 am: Pro Populo

Tuesday, December 27

8:00 am: Intention of the Celebrant

Wednesday, December 28

8:00 am: Intention of the Celebrant

Thursday, December 29

8:00 am: +Wilford Beloin

Friday, December 30

8:00 am: +Vivian Kron Crabtree

Saturday, December 31

8am: St. Francis: Intention of the Celebrant

4pm Vigil: St. Jerome: Intention of the Celebrant

Sunday, January 1

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

9:00 am: St. Joseph: Intention of the Celebrant

10:00 am: St. Francis: Intention of the Celebrant

11:30 am: St. Jerome: Intention of the Celebrant

Please be advised, the parish office will be **CLOSED** December 26 and December 27 in observance of Christmas

From Fr. Casey

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Lk 2:10-12

Merry Christmas! This weekend, we celebrate the good news announced by the Angel, that Christ the Lord is born for us! Jesus, who is 100% God, consubstantial with the Father, became a small infant for us. Many people think God is unapproachable, God is too big, too important, too busy. At Christmas, we celebrate that we don't believe in a God who is too big, too important, too busy, too removed from us. God became one of us. He became a little baby, so that if we were afraid of Him, we could be won over by love.

Babies are loved almost by instinct. A new mom from our parish recently commented to me that the biggest surprise in the birth of her baby was how incredibly in love she felt and how she knew, from that moment on, she would do anything for the well-being of her child. And this is the relationship God invites us into at Christmas. God wants us to follow Him not out of servile fear, but rather because we have fallen in love. But then, having fallen in love, we are also invited to find something deeper within ourselves empowered to live differently because of the Baby at Bethlehem.

The greatest Christmas gift any of us could receive this year is to welcome Jesus into our lives and allow ourselves to fall deeper in love with Him. He doesn't want to intimidate, bully, or guilt us. He wants to attract us by His overwhelming love for each of us, personally, by name. I hope that each of us is able to find and experience this joy this Christmas and to share it with those around us. So again, from the bottom of my heart, Merry Christmas, and may the joy of the Newborn Christ be with you this season.



The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day

Christmas is the night the future begins. The Christian God became a man, not a book. And He did not come just to end mythology but in order to die. God came so close to us that we killed Him. God became man, paradoxically, so that He could cease to be God and taste death. Without this sacrifice, without this being-for-death, we would be unable to interpret nature, suffering, love, death, or war.

We did nothing to merit such a generous, self-emptying God. There is nothing here but grace. At Christmas, then, we commemorate not our search for God but God's search for us. His searching and finding were His first mission. It is our duty to respond to this mission. God's search for us does not cease as December rolls over into January. Christ's voice never quiets and His steps never pause. Every day of every year, He is walking by our side, waiting for our response: "Yes" or "No." And with that "Yes" or "No," our eternity hangs in the balance. A small God is an attractive God. Christmas is the day of days for this reason—it is easy to believe in God today. Christmas makes it simple to say "Yes" to God's plan for our lives. Yet that baby, like all babies, grows up. And as He grows, He will become more demanding and more specific in His expectations of us. And our responses to Him will become nuanced and more complex. He will be a bit harder to love and much more challenging to serve. Christ will not judge us from a crib at the end of time. When His eyes sparkle like diamonds and His voice crashes like thunder at the Last Judgment, He will be the towering Christ. So while we fall in love with the Babe in the manger, we must mature with Him as the years pass.

Credits to: <https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/25-december-nativity-of-the-lord--solemnity/>

A Year in Blessings





AA Meetings

Wednesdays at 7pm
St. Francis Church basement
Fridays at 7pm
St. Joseph School
(Spanish speaking group)
Saturdays at 7pm
St. Jerome Church Hall



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www.abcwomenscenter.org

St. Joseph's Food Pantry

Tuesdays 9:30 am - 10:30 am

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Canned Meat/Tuna
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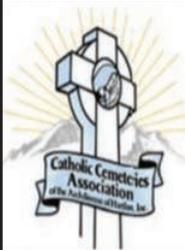
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