

St. Francis Xavier Parish

December 14, 2025



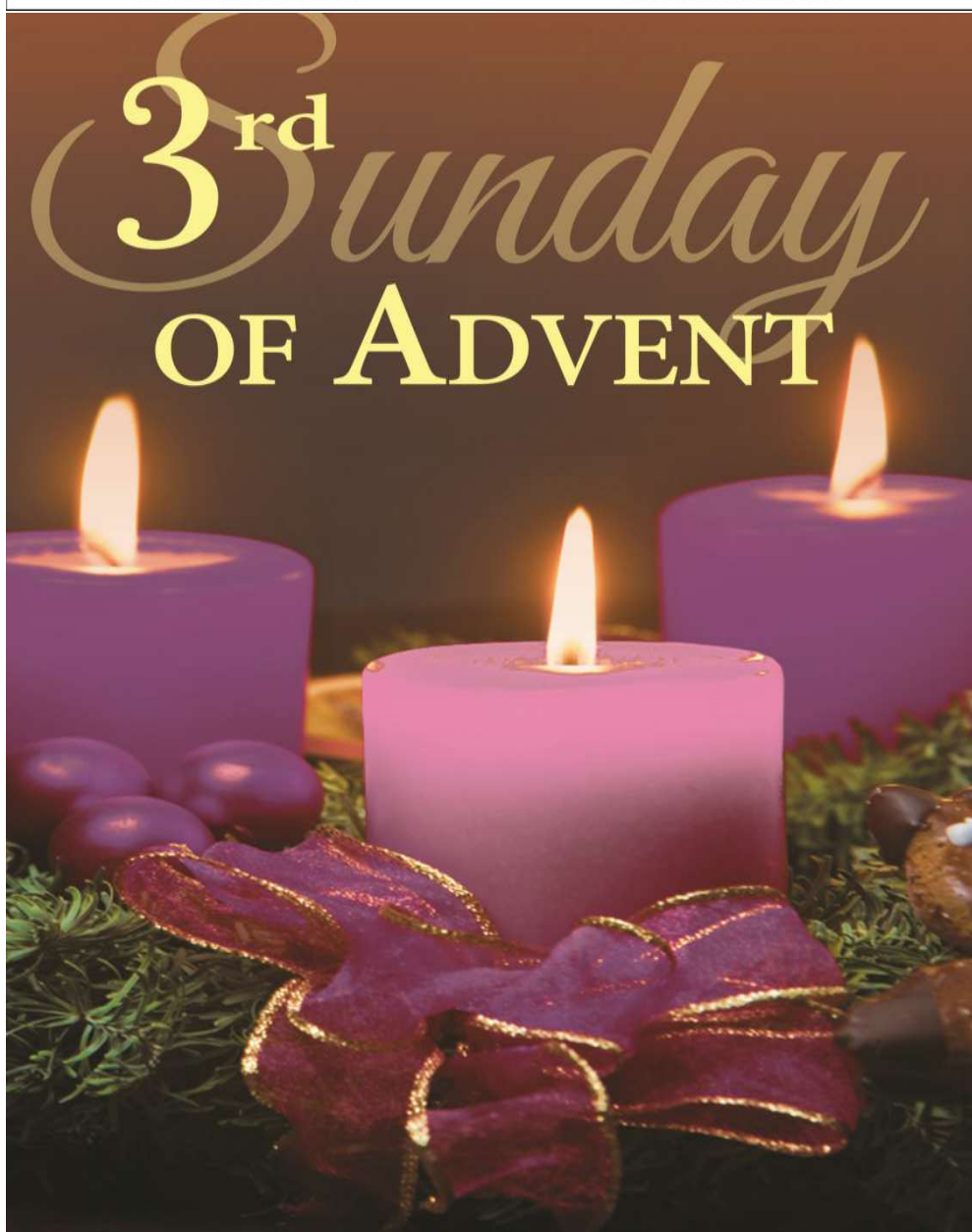
Our Lady of the Lakes Church
30 Sullivan Road
New Milford CT 06776



St. Francis Xavier Church
26 Chestnut Land Road
New Milford CT 06776



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
34 Green Hill Road
Washington CT 06793



PASTORAL TEAM:

Fr. Carlos Castrillon Castro
Pastor
fr.castrillon@aohct.org
860-354-2202

Fr. Lijo Thomas
Parochial Vicar
fr.thomas@aohct.org
860-354-2202

Deacon Alfred "Al" Gambone
Deacon.al.sfx@gmail.com
860-946-9776

PARISH OFFICE:

Web site: www.sfxnewmilford.org
Email: sfxparish@sfxnewmilford.org

Office Hours: 9:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
Mon.—Thurs. (Closed on Friday)
Mailing Address & Office Location
1 Elm Street
New Milford, CT 06776

SUPPORT STAFF:

Chris Grenier
Administrative Assistant
Parish & Faith Formation Offices
CGrenier@sfxnewmilford.org
860-354-2202

Jocelyne Verrastro
St. Francis Finance & Cemetery Office
Manager
JVerrastro@sfxnewmilford.org
860-350-6753

FAITH FORMATION

Karen O'Donnell, Director
ololreled@gmail.com
860-354-5372

HOLY INFANT NURSERY SCHOOL
HolyInfant@sfxnewmilford.org
860-354-7284

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 13

SAINT LUCY VIRGIN AND MARTYR

SFX: 8:30 AM + For the deceased of our Parish

SFX: 5:00 PM + George Thomas Barta

VIGIL Requested by his family & friends

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 14

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GAUDATE SUNDAY

LOL: 8:30 AM + Heather Bogues (37th aniv.)

Requested by Diane Cnningham

SFX: 10:00 AM + for the deceased children & staff & for the surviving children, staff & their families & friends of Sandy Hook Elementary School (13th anniversary)

OLPH: 10:00 AM + for the children & parents of Sandy Hook

Requested by Bob & Pat Corvello

SFX: 11:30 AM + Por los fallecidos de nuestra parroquia

MONDAY - DECEMBER 15

SFX: 8:30 AM + Lauretta McNichols

Requested by her family

TUESDAY - DECEMBER 16

LOL: 8:30 AM + Jeronimo Santos

Requested by Soraya Carratto

WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 17

SFX: 8:30 AM + June Wendler

Requested by Ann Margaret Donnelly

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 18

LOL: 8:30 AM + Rudolf C. Hafkemeyer

Requested by the Hickey family

FRIDAY - DECEMBER 19

SFX: 8:30 AM + Jim Reynolds &

Erin Reynolds

Requested by his wife & her mother

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 20

SFX: 8:30 AM + For the deceased of our Parish

IN MEMORIAM

St. Francis Xavier Parish Churches pray for the repose of the soul and sends a final farewell to our dearly departed:

Gertrude Voggel

J. Gilbert Roy

Luz Evangelina Tapia Zuniga

John Lombardo

Keith Chausse



The Sanctuary Candle at St. Francis Xavier Church for this week burns in memory of:

Steve Ledewitz

Requested by:

Gerry Monaghan



The Memorial Window at St. Francis Xavier Church for this week is lit for the special intentions of:

Keith McConnell

Requested by:

Gerry Monaghan

BREAKING



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH HAS ADDED A 6:00 PM MASS & A 8:00 PM BI-LINGUAL MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE!!

CONFESSION

LA RECONCILIACIÓN

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Will be offered as usual on Saturday's at 4:00 pm at St. Francis Xavier Church and also offered on Monday, December 15th & 22nd during Advent from 6:00—8:00 pm. As always you may also call the office to schedule an appointment with our priests.



CONNECTICUT BRASS BAND

Will hold a performance on Sunday, December 21st from 2:00—3:30 pm at Our Lady of the Lakes Church.

HOLIDAY CAROLS AND OTHER FAVORITES!



ATTENTION: Please note that the Our Lady of Perpetual Help office is now **CLOSED**. All calls and business will now take place at the St. Francis Xavier Parish offices 1 Elm St. New Milford, CT 06776. Any problems call

Chris at 860-354-2202 for Church related questions. Call Jocelyne at 860-350-6753 for bookkeeping and cemetery related inquiries. Also note the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church doors will continue to close daily at 6:30 pm.



A Rosary for Peace is said every Sunday at 9:30 am at Our Lady of Perpetual Help before Mass begins at 10:00 am. Now, more than ever, won't you come and pray with us?

WEATHER POLICY

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As winter is HERE, the following inclement/bad weather protocol is in place for the 2025-2026 season in regards to delays and cancellations of parish activities.

As always your safety is of the utmost importance to us.

WEEK DAY DAILY MASS, FAITH FORMATION CLASSES AND EVENTS, MEETINGS, GATHERINGS, ETC. will be cancelled if New Milford Public Schools are cancelled.

Sunday Mass will be celebrated unless the Governor declares a State of Emergency.

School delays will NOT affect our schedule, but always call first to make sure the offices are open.

We will post notifications on the local TV stations, the app and our facebook page too.

NORMAS DEBIDO AL MAL CLIMA

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Como el invierno está AQUÍ, el siguiente protocolo contra el mal tiempo y el mal tiempo está en vigor para la temporada 2025-2026 en relación con retrasos y cancelaciones de actividades parroquiales.

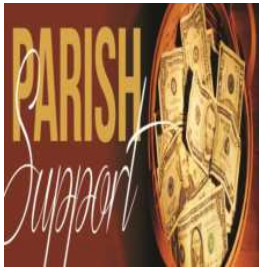
Como siempre, su seguridad es de suma importancia para nosotros.

LA MISA DIARIA ENTRE SEMANA, LAS CLASES Y EVENTOS DE LA FORMACIÓN DE FE, REUNIONES, REUNIONES, ETC., se cancelarán si se cancelan las Escuelas Públicas de New Milford.

Se celebrará la misa dominical a menos que el gobernador declare el Estado de Emergencia.

Los retrasos en el colegio NO afectarán a nuestro horario, pero siempre llama antes para asegurarte de que las oficinas estén abiertas.

También publicaremos notificaciones en las cadenas de televisión locales, en la app y en nuestra página de Facebook.



OUR COLLECTION TOTAL
FOR SFX & OLOL FOR THE
WEEK ENDING:

12/7/25 \$.00

Our Lady of Perpetual Help:
12/7/25 \$.00

Thanksgiving Day: \$ 791.00

Other collection totals will be in the next bulletin due
to early deadlines.



The second collection for
THIS weekend, 12/13 &
12/14 is for the Retirement
Fund for Religious.

*We thank you in advance for your continued
generosity towards our Parish and other endeavors.*

They gave their lives in service—now they need your help. For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation—it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong serve. Please give...

As winter settles in and our communities gather close in faith, it is a season to embrace the warmth that generosity brings. Just as the colder weather can challenge us, consistent giving sustains and strengthens our parish—supporting ministries, nurturing outreach and providing for those in need. We have available Online Giving cards at each of the doors to our Churches. Please take one and after careful consideration visit our church website to sign up and get started. Thank you for all each of you do to help lead our Parish in faith and generosity.

ATTENTION:

If you donated a small statue to St. Francis Xavier Church and would like it back, please call or come to the office for pick up. We appreciate your gift, but we only have so much room and need to return some. Thank you for your understanding. God bless.



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- Mon., 12/15 Rosary - 8 am - SFX Church
Mass 8:30 am SFX Church
Prayer Shawl Ministry 1 pm P/C
Portuguese Rosary 5 pm—OLOL Church
Novena to Baby Jesus 6:30 pm SFX Church bi-lingual
Choir Practice 7 pm SFX Church
Choir Practice - en Español - 7 pm SFX Church hall
- Tues., 12/16 Mass 8:30 am OLOL Church
Rosary - 9 am - OLOL Church
Knights of Columbus 7pm SFX C/H
- Wed., 12/17 Rosary - 8 am - SFX Church
Mass 8:30 am SFX Church
OCIA 7—8:30 pm SFX C/H
- Thurs., 12/18 Mass 8:30 am OLOL Church
Rosary - 9 am - OLOL Church
Our Lady Queen of Peace Prayer Group 1 pm SFX Church hall
Choir Rehearsal 7 pm OLOL Church
- Fri., 12/19 Rosary - 8 am - SFX Church
Mass 8:30 am SFX Church
Adoration 9 -10 am SFX Church
Choir Rehearsal 7 pm SFX Church
- Sat., 12/20 Mass - 8:30 am - SFX Church
Funeral Mass—1 pm @ OLPH
Baptism at 1 pm
Confession - 4 pm - SFX Church
Vigil Mass - 5 pm - SFX Church
- Sun., 12/21 Mass - 8:30 am - OLOL Church
Faith Formation 8:30—9:45 am P/C
Rosary - 9:30 am OLPH Church
Mass - 10 am - SFX Church
Mass - 10 am OLPH Church
Faith Formation 11:15 am—12:30 pm P/C
Mass - 11:30 am SFX Church - en Español
Latino Community Christmas Pageant 1:00 pm SFX Church
Connecticut Brass Band 1:30-4:00 pm at OLOL Church



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will hold their next meeting on Monday, December 15th at 1:00 pm at the Parish Center.

All women of the parish are invited. Bring your needles.

Any question call Maura Pauli at 860-690-1882.



At Christmas Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church supports community families through the Town of Washington Social Service and their Senior Center's Seniors Fuel Fund.

Our Giving Tree will be in the church on Sunday, November 29th. Tags on the tree will note specific donations of gift cards and opportunities to donate to the Seniors Fuel Fund. Each gift should be placed in the basket next to the tree by Sunday, December 14th. For more information, please call the parish office at 860-354-2202.

Thank you!



Por favor, únete a nuestra comunidad latina mientras presentan la Natividad el domingo 21 de diciembre tras la misa de las 11:30 de la mañana en la iglesia de San Francisco Xavier.

The "Feed the Hungry" Ministry of St. Francis Xavier Church is continuing the Food Drive. All donations collected at St. Francis Xavier Church will be donated to Loaves & Fishes. Please drop off your donations in the Church hall at SFX (ask Bob Greco if you have any questions). Donation of reusable bags accepted too!



Mother Mary's Cupboard

The next Love In Action Sunday is Sunday, December 21st. Donations collected at Our Lady of the Lakes Church will be donated to New Milford Food Bank. Please drop off your donations in the Atrium at OLOL.

(if you have any questions ask Sal Guagenti).

P.S. We are also in need of reusable bags!



We at St. Francis Xavier Church are once again asking everyone to make a financial contribution to our Martha and Mary Community Care program, so that we can assist each of the NINE community agencies in giving out gifts and gift cards for Christmas.

If you would like to make a donation to help us offset the cost, we will accept any all amounts offered. Every dollar counts.

Please mail to: St. Francis Xavier 1 Elm St. New Milford, CT 06776 Attn. Chris or put in the collection baskets to my attention or come and see me in the office Monday—Thursday 9am—5 pm. Any questions call me at 860-354-2202.

Thank you in advance for your continued generosity in helping us to help others. God bless!!



We will also be having a giving tree at Our Lady of the Lakes Church that will support the Danbury Youth Services (which serves ALL the surrounding towns). The gifts will need to be wrapped and returned to Our Lady of the Lakes by Sunday, December 14th with the tag attached.

Call Karen at 860-354-5372 with any questions.

Your support touches so many lives. We can all use "A Little Christmas".



**OUR 2025-2026 FAITH FORMATION,
aka RELIGION CLASSES (CCD)
ARE:**

- *SUNDAY 8:30—9:45 AM AND
- *SUNDAY 11:15 AM—12:30 PM
DECEMBER 21st
- *MONDAY 6—7:15 PM
DECEMBER 22nd

**IF YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN ARE IN GRADES
1—5 THEY SHOULD BRING THEIR BIBLE,
BOOK AND BAG WITH THEM TO ALL THEIR
CLASSES.**

**CHILDREN IN GRADES 6—8 SHOULD ALSO
BRING THEIR BOOKS TO ALL CLASSES.**

**SHOULD YOUR CHILDREN BE
ABSENT PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT
860-354-5372 OR 860-354-2202 AND LET US
KNOW. THEY MUST DO THE WORK ON
THEIR GRADE LEVEL CALENDAR.**

NEXT CLASSES:

- *SUNDAY 8:30—9:45 AM AND
- *SUNDAY 11:15 AM—12:30 PM
JANUARY 11TH
- *MONDAY 6—7:15 PM JANUARY 12TH

***The Archdiocese of Hartford announced last
year about a new program for all the children
called:**

“EMPOWERING GOD’S CHILDREN”.

**It will be presented to the grade 6 children on
Sunday, 1/11 and Monday, 1/12.**

**Any questions, please contact Karen, the Faith
Formation Director.**

Karen O’Donnell - Director
860-354-5372 or
ololreled@gmail.com

Please make sure to **add** Karen’s email
address, so that you receive your emails.
All communications are sent via email
and posted in this bulletin and put on the
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page and Instagram page too!

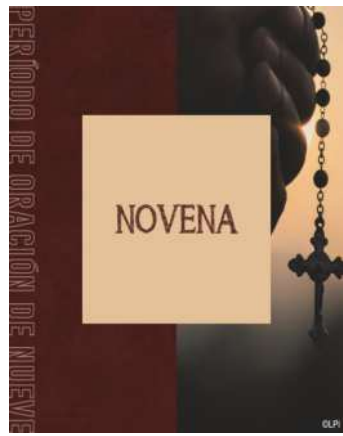
OLPH DATES:

Family Catechesis: Saturday, January 10th at
5:00 pm “Hail Mary”
Any questions contact Christine Kersten
ckersten71@gmail.com

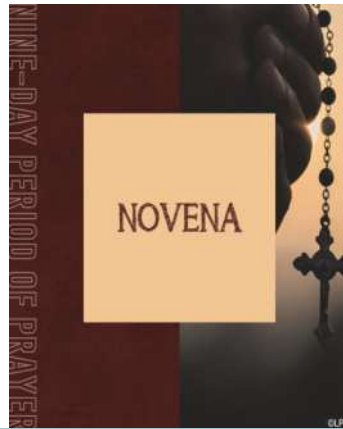
Reconciliation and Communion:
Sunday, January 18th from 8:45—9:45 am
“Preparing”
Any questions contact Annie Haddad
anniehaddad@sbcglobal.net

Confirmation: Sunday, January 18th from
11:00 am—12:15 pm “Anointed by the
Spirit”
Any questions contact Marcella McVay
mcvaymarcella@gmail.com or Christine
Kersten ckersten71@gmail.com

Life Teen: Any questions contact Shannon
Kozak shamako4@yahoo.com



Para el Niño Jesús comienza el lunes 15 de diciembre hasta el martes 23 de diciembre a las 18:30 en la iglesia de San Francisco Javier es bilingüe.



For Baby Jesus begins on Monday, December 15th through Tuesday, December 23rd at 6:30 pm at St. Francis Xavier Church it is bilingual.

THIS WEEK' READINGS:

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
 Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32
 Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
 Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
 Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
 Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
 Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

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Paul James Garlasco

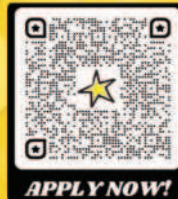
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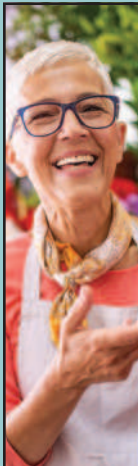
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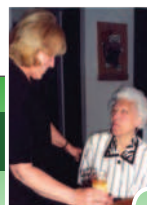
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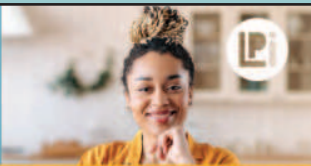
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