

Saint Nicholas Parish

December 7, 2025

Seymour, Connecticut



Parish Staff

Rev. Thomas J Cieslikowski, Pastor
Natalie Aspinwall, Office Manager
Michael Bylo, Bookkeeper
Denny McNamara, Cemetery Director
Debi Durette, Coordinator of Religious Education
Glenn Durette, Director of Music (Good Shepherd)
Allan Dabkowski Organist (St. Augustine)
Frank Parda, Building and Grounds (Good Shepherd)
Michael Vignola, Bulletin Editor, Webmaster Parish Website



Church of the Good Shepherd
135 Mountain Road

Vigil Mass Saturday 4:30 pm
Sunday Mass 11:00 am
Weekdays (M,T,W,Th,) 9:00 am
Sat. Confession 3:30 - 4:00 pm



St. Augustine Church
35 Washington Ave

Sunday Mass 9:00 am
Handicap Accessible Side Entrance

Parish Website www.stnicholasct.org
Email - stnicholasct@comcast.net
Telephone 203-888-9243 - Fax 203-888-6016

Rectory Office Hours

Good Shepherd	Mon. to Thur.	9:00am - 3:00pm
	Fri.	Closed

Baptisms

Registration is required.
Please call the rectory office.

Marriages

Please contact rectory office at least six months in advance.

Office of Vocations

Phone: 860-242-5573
Web site: www.vocationshartford.org

Sick Calls

We are happy and honored to visit the sick or homebound.


Second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 2025

Good Shepherd	Mass Intentions
Sat. 12/6 4:30 pm	✠ Basso & ✠ Cortello Families (Cortello Family)
Sun. 12/7 11:00 am	Mass Available
Mon. 12/8 9:00 am	Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation
Tue. 12/9 9:00 am	✠ Katherine Andrew (Barbara & George Junko)
Wed. 12/10 9:00 am	Parishioners of St. Nicholas Parish
Thur. 12/11 9:00am	✠ Charles Tarby (Wife & Family)
Fri. 12/12	No Mass
Sat. 12/13 4:30 pm	✠ Pontillo & ✠ Spadaccino Families (Cortello Family)
Sun. 12/14 11:00 am	✠ Phyllis & Philip Howley (Family)
St. Augustine	Mass Intentions
Sun 12/7 9:00 am	✠ Maceyunas Family and ✠ Mary Ellen Slywka (Kubik & Maceyunas Families)
Mon 12/8 6:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation
Sun 12/14 9:00 am	✠ Bernardino Urbano (Family)

Readings for the week of December 7, 2025
 Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
 Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15
 Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
 Next 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

Observances for the week of December 7, 2025
 Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent
 Monday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Tuesday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin
 Wednesday: Our Lady of Loreto
 Thursday: St. Damasus I, Pope
 Friday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Saturday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
 Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

©LPI

December 2025	St Augustine	Good Shepherd
	The Knights of Columbus	The Knights of Columbus
	In Memory Of Jachimowski & Gioielli Families Jean E. Jachimowski Kathleen E. Jachimowski Jamaitis Edward J. Jachimowski Requested by Jachimowski Family	
	The Knights of Columbus	The Knights of Columbus

P A R I S H G I V I N G	Thank You for your Generosity	
	November 2	\$4,485
	November 9	\$5,123
	November 16	\$4,681
	November 23	\$5,058
	November 30	\$5,389
	OnLine Giving November	\$4,365
	Fuel Collection	\$1,938
	Total Collections	\$31,039
	Cathderaticum Fee	\$2,173
	Total Stay in Parish	\$28,866

**Masters Table
December 14th**
 Time: 2pm to 3pm or
 until the food runs out!
 Drive Up Only
 Assumption Church
 Hall 61 N. Cliff St,
 Ansonia
 Cost: Free, open to the
 public, no rsvp, Phone:
 203-732-7792
 Website:

www.masterstablemeals.org



To Join the Parish E-Mail list, send me your name and email address to mvignola@me.com and you will be added to the list

Second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 2025



Wish Tree Labels

Wish Tree Labels are available in the back of both churches for items for the Wish Tree. PLEASE use these labels on your wrapped gift as they are marked for distribution. If you give an item other than what is on the label then you may use your own label. However, it would be helpful if you only purchase the items requested. PLEASE NEW ITEMS ONLY. Please have as many gifts to the church by December 14th. THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 17TH.

For Gifts going to a resident at **Shady Knoll** please remember:

Gifts should be returned to the church by December 14th no later than 17th of December.

DO NOT Wrap the gift, It can be placed in a holiday bag. The tag you took must be attached to the gift or bag as it has a code on it as to who the gift belongs to.

We sincerely Thank You for once again helping Santa bring joy and smiles to many.

Any questions call Carmie at 203-888-5396. Thank You.

Please pray for the health and wholeness in body, mind and spirit for:

Greyson H	Ryleigh H	Jeff	John Christopher D	AG
Jim H	Kristen O	Grace F	Ernestine G	EG
Diane C	Ruth S	Linda A	Greyson H	Henry D
Richard D	Carrie D	Paul S	Sean R	Kelly K
Ernest B	Frank S	Mike M		

Please Note:

That we are only reporting first and initial of last name. We ask that if you have a name (1st name and 1st initial of last name) that you would like on the list, you must call the rectory 203-888-9243 - Good Shepherd and resubmit the name. The name will stay on for **2 months** and then be removed unless their name is resubmitted. Using this method we can keep names current. Thank you for your cooperation.

Religious Education Class Registration 2025-2026

More info on Parish Website

<https://stnicholasct.org/religious-education-2/>

The Seymour/Oxford Food Bank will be placing boxes in the back of both churches for food donations during the holiday season to support those in need. Your generous contributions are greatly appreciated.

New Day Bereavement Program

St. Thomas the Apostle Church
733 Oxford Rd. Oxford, CT 06478

Those who are grieving the death of a loved one need to proactively work through their grief. One way that may be helpful is to participate in the bereavement support group called the New Day Program. This program consists of ten two-hour weekly meetings. During each meeting, participants work through one component of the grieving process, guided by the New Day Journal. We will be offering the ten week New Day Bereavement Program beginning on Sunday,

December 7th from 6:30-8:30pm. The program is free. Registration is required. Must RSVP by

December 1st. If you would like to register, please contact Maryjane at 203-888-2382 ext 104 or pastoralcare@stthomasoxford.org



The Church of the Good Shepherd will host the Griffin Health Annual Holiday Concert, titled "Valley Soul," on Tuesday, December 9, at 6:30 PM. This cherished community tradition brings together voices from diverse backgrounds to foster

understanding, trust, and mutual respect through captivating music. We cordially invite you to join us for this musical presentation and savor the delectable desserts that will follow the concert.

Branches on the Vine

DECEMBER 6 - 12, 2025



This image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be on display in the sanctuary of Sacred Heart Parish from Dec. 7 to 14. Pictured, from left to right, are Father Joseph Keough, along with Caroline and Mike Alexopoulos, members of the Sacred Heart Parish family who were among those who went on a pilgrimage to Mexico City. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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

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.



Hundreds of people are dancing to drums in traditional native dress in the plaza in front of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. PHOTO BY FATHER JOSEPH KEOUGH

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

"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."

- Story by Jim Tierney



Upcoming Events



13 Day Greece & Turkey Pilgrimage

Athens ♦ Greek Isle Cruise ♦ Istanbul



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**.



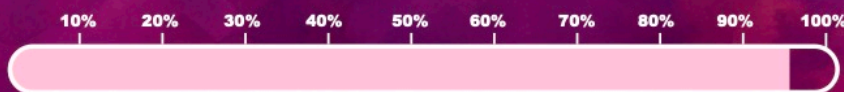
12/9 TUESDAY 7:30PM
AMARCORD CONCERT
St Peter Claver Church
47 Pleasant St, West Hartford

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



2025 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Scan the QR code to learn how you can make a lasting impact!



Total Goal: \$10M 96.59% as of 11/25/25

\$9,658,529.00 pledges from 28,923 generous donors



www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal

Archdiocese of Hartford | 467 Bloomfield Ave, Bloomfield, CT 06002 | 860-541-6491