

ST. JAMES CHURCH

12 FRANKLIN STREET - DANIELSON, CONNECTICUT 06239



*St. James Church is staffed by
the La Salette Missionaries*

PASTOR

Rev. John J. O'Neill, M.S.

SENIOR PRIESTS

Rev. John E. Welch, M.S.
Rev. Thomas Sickler, M.S.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Roy Parayil, M.S.

DEACON

Rene N. Barbeau, Jr.

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Rectory Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm (*Emergencies anytime*)

MASSES

Saturday Vigil ----- 4:30 pm

Sunday ----- 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 am

Weekdays ----- 9:00 am

Holy Days ----- 7:00, 9:00 am & 6:00 pm

Religious Education Director

Mrs. Bev. Richardson
860-792-8054

St. James School Principal

Linda Marie Joyal
860-774-3281

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

Please call the Rectory to register for the Preparatory Class & Baptism. Baptisms are held on the third Sunday of every month at 12:00 noon.

WEDDING

Call the Rectory at least six months prior to your wedding date. If not confirmed, one year.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 3:45 to 4:15 pm in church, or by appointment.

HOSPITAL & HOME VISITS

Please notify the priests of family illnesses.

DAYDREAMS OF A PASTOR...**BECAUSE OF THE VIRUS EVERYTHING IS closed what to do...?**

It is a great idea to take some time for ourselves and God. **Make the most of this precious commodity ...Time.** Sometimes, as I close my eyes to pray...for that one brief, glorious moment, time seems to stand still and the peace of eternity breaks on my soul.

Time is our most precious asset. And each year is an added treasure. How can we hold on to our most valued community, making the most of the time we have, while not wasting a second?

One of the answers, I believe, is in the words of a dear friend of mine who said, "Time is relative to our obedience to God. He can stretch it, as we obey His will." The value of time isn't in how many years we have on earth, but what we do with our years.

By putting God first in our lives and walking with Him according to His plan, we are living a life that is full of purpose. He can take a second and turn it into eternity. Make having a close relationship with Him a priority.

Set time aside to express your own thoughts and feelings. Take just five minutes to pray and ask God to expand your hours. As you go about your day, if a worry or problem arises, stop for a moment and think, "Father, is this the right thing to do?" Then, leave the issue in His hands. Hour by hour you will feel relieved, loved and protected.

Take a moment before every meal to say "thank you" for the food on the table. Things always turn better when we begin our day with prayer and thanksgiving. Live each day as though your life had just begun. There are no dress rehearsals for life. Consider a gift. Cherish this moment. Every second is a new opportunity to live a better way. When do you start? The time is now. Do not be careless. Spend your minutes wisely. When you are tempted to speed recklessly, remember this advice from a reader. "Go slow, take your time. It is better to lose one minute in your life than to lose a life in one minute. You create your future by what you do in this day. The best preparation for tomorrow is the right use of today.

You will find out that God knows how busy and rushed you are. But know that you can have enough time for all you have to do by reading Ecclesiastes3: 1-8.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to wound and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them. A time to embrace and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."

Make every moment with your loved ones a time of sparkling joy. Take time to look deep into the eyes of love, to embrace the beauty all around you, and for singing and laughter. Take time to heal...and if you yield to Him your trust and obedience.

Ecclesiastes3: 11 says, "He has made beautiful in His time."
Please pray for those affected from the Coronavirus...Thanks

DAYDREAMS...

Guest Writer for the Day dreams is Jeena Ann Kidambi (4th Grade at St. James School - *SPELLING BEE CHAMPION*). She wrote the article for the Diocese of Norwich. Take a Listen!!!

The Work of Christ Being Done Around Me
Christ's Compassion in Connecticut

At every corner you turn in Danielson, somebody is doing Christ's work. At my school/parish, we donate many goods to the poor such as clothing, toys, canned food, and even warm clothes! We also make cards for the elderly, but this is not all we do.

Across from my school/parish, there is a food pantry known as St. Francis of Assisi food Pantry. At the food pantry, many people, regardless of race, gender, or religion, get food. Each day, people in need are given a menu of food options. Then, they circle the things they want and give the menu back to the staff. The staff members put all the items in a bag and hand the bag to the person who ordered the food. Finally, those people who order food take it home, cook it, and feed themselves and/or their families.

It is very nice of the staff members to take time out of their daily lives to make sure that everybody has food to eat, but Jesus said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God' (Mathew 4:4). This is why the food pantry also has a room where the staff will sit and pray with the people waiting for their food. While people are waiting they may also talk about their problems to the staff in a private room, as if they were taking to a Therapist. If they did not have someone to talk to before, they might have felt overwhelmed, sad, or maybe even lonely. I think many people feel relieved that they have people to confide in at the food pantry.

Every so often, my school sends two students to help fill food bags according to what is circled on the menus. I myself have had the honor of helping the food pantry and can say that both the staff and the people getting food are very kind and generous. When I first helped, I was very surprised at how many people cannot afford food in Danielson itself. Helping people have food makes me feel as impactful as sunlight when there is a power outage at school. I always want to go back.

Overall, I see Christ's work being done all around me, especially at St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry in Danielson, Connecticut. Christ said, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink" Mathew 25:35). Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. (Mathew 25:40). This is exactly the food pantry is doing.../

Jeena Ann Kidambi (St. James School)



Pope at Urbi et orbi

Pope Francis meditated on the calming of the storm from the Gospel of Mark during the prayer service over which he presided on the steps of St Peter's Basilica on Friday evening. Here is the full text.

“When evening had come” (Mk 4:35). The Gospel passage we have just heard begins like this. For weeks now it has been evening. Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice in people’s gestures, their glances give them away. We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying “We are perishing” (v. 38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this.

It is easy to recognize ourselves in this story. What is harder to understand is Jesus’ attitude. While his disciples are quite naturally alarmed and desperate, he stands in the stern, in the part of the boat that sinks first. And what does he do? In spite of the tempest, he sleeps on soundly, trusting in the Father; this is the only time in the Gospels we see Jesus sleeping. When he wakes up, after calming the wind and the waters, he turns to the disciples in a reproaching voice: “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” (v. 40).

Let us try to understand. In what does the lack of the disciples’ faith consist, as contrasted with Jesus’ trust? They had not stopped believing in him; in fact, they called on him. But we see how they call on him: “Teacher, do you not care if we perish?” (v. 38). Do you not care: they think that Jesus is not interested in them, does not care about them. One of the things that hurts us and our families most when we hear it said is: “Do you not care about me?” It is a phrase that wounds and unleashes storms in our hearts. It would have shaken Jesus too. Because he, more than anyone, cares about us. Indeed, once they have called on him, he saves his disciples from their discouragement.

The storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities. It shows us how we have allowed to become dull and feeble the very things that nourish, sustain and strengthen our lives and our communities. The tempest lays bare all our prepackaged ideas and forgetfulness of what nourishes our people’s souls; all those attempts that anesthetize us with ways of thinking and acting that supposedly “save” us, but instead prove incapable of putting us in touch with our roots and keeping alive the memory of those who have gone before us. We deprive ourselves of the antibodies we need to confront adversity.

In this storm, the façade of those stereotypes with which we camouflaged our egos, always worrying about our image, has fallen away, uncovering once more that (blessed) common belonging, of which we cannot be deprived: our belonging as brothers and sisters.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” Lord, your word this evening strikes us and regards us, all of us. In this world, that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: “Wake up, Lord!”

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you. This Lent your call reverberates urgently: “Be converted!”, “Return to me with all your heart” (Joel 2:12). You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing. It is

not the time of your judgement, but of our judgement: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others. We can look to so many exemplary companions for the journey, who, even though fearful, have reacted by giving their lives. This is the force of the Spirit poured out and fashioned in courageous and generous self-denial. It is the life in the Spirit that can redeem, value and demonstrate how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people – often forgotten people – who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines nor on the grand catwalks of the latest show, but who without any doubt are in these very days writing the decisive events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, religious men and women and so very many others who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves. In the face of so much suffering, where the authentic development of our peoples is assessed, we experience the priestly prayer of Jesus: “That they may all be one” (Jn 17:21). How many people every day are exercising patience and offering hope, taking care to sow not panic but a shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines, lifting their gaze and fostering prayer. How many are praying, offering and interceding for the good of all. Prayer and quiet service: these are our victorious weapons.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith”? Faith begins when we realise we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we flounder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars. Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God’s strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.

The Lord asks us and, in the midst of our tempest, invites us to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering. The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith. We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love. In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side. The Lord asks us from his cross to rediscover the life that awaits us, to look towards those who look to us, to strengthen, recognize and foster the grace that lives within us. Let us not quench the wavering flame (cf. Is 42:3) that never falters, and let us allow hope to be rekindled.

Embracing his cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring. It means finding the courage to create spaces where everyone can recognize that they are called, and to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity and solidarity. By his cross we have been saved in order to embrace hope and let it strengthen and sustain all measures and all possible avenues for helping us protect ourselves and others. Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith”? Dear brothers and sisters, from this place that tells of Peter’s rock-solid faith, I would like this evening to entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and Star of the stormy Sea. From this colonnade that embraces Rome and the whole world, may God’s blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace. Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: “Do not be afraid” (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, “cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us” (cf. 1 Pet 5:7).