



Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 31, 2021

**YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD
WITH ALL YOUR HEART,
WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND,
AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.**

Mark 12:30

THE CORE OF GOD'S COVENANT

In today's First Reading, from Deuteronomy, we hear the great summary of the very core of God's covenant with Israel, its title taken from its opening word, the *Shema* ("Hear!"). The *Shema* is at once a doctrinal summary of Israel's faith and the personal/corporate prayer of Israel's sons and daughters. To this day, devout Jews inscribe the *Shema* on parchment and enclose it in the *mezuzah* that adorns the doorways of so many Jewish homes. The residents kiss the *mezuzah*, and thus the Word of God, upon entering their homes and when going forth from them into a world that often acknowledges neither God nor the covenant. Recited several times daily, Deuteronomy's "formula" comes alive as a vivid reminder to devout Jews that their personal relationship with God is both source and safeguard of their public identity as members of God's chosen people.

EDITING THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Today's Gospel shows Jesus as fully part of Israel's covenant tradition: he responds to the scribe's question by proclaiming Deuteronomy's *Shema* which both of them would have revered and recited since childhood: "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:4-5). But note the "editorial changes" both Jesus and the scribe make to the *Shema*. To Deuteronomy's heart, the Biblical seat of the will and affections, and soul, the deepest part of the human person, and strength, encompassing both physical ability and material treasure, Jesus adds "with all your mind," a phrase the scribe changes to "with all your understanding" (Mark 12:30, 33). Perhaps Mark, the author of today's Gospel, wanted to consecrate to the kingdom's service the philosophical reflection and intellectual exploration so valued by the Greco-Roman world—and our world—in which the Gospel would be preached.

KNOWING AND DOING

Jesus makes a further change to Israel's *Shema*: to the Deuteronomy text Jesus adds Leviticus 19:18: "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." For Jesus, these commandments cannot be separated. The scribe, delighted at Jesus' answer, goes on to indicate that he has grasped one of the central tenets of Jesus' kingdom: ritual worship and practical charity toward one's neighbor are twin expressions of love for God. This insight places the scribe "not far from the kingdom of God," says Jesus (Mark 12:34). But is "not far" close enough? For the scribe, as for the rich would-be disciple from a few Sundays ago, as for each of us, it is one thing to know what we ought to do and quite another actually to do it. So, then: what about us? How do we live out, in daily practice, the covenant whose words we know so well, but whose deeds we so often find a challenge?

TODAY'S READINGS

Deuteronomy 6:2-6 31:7-9
Psalm 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 12:28b-34

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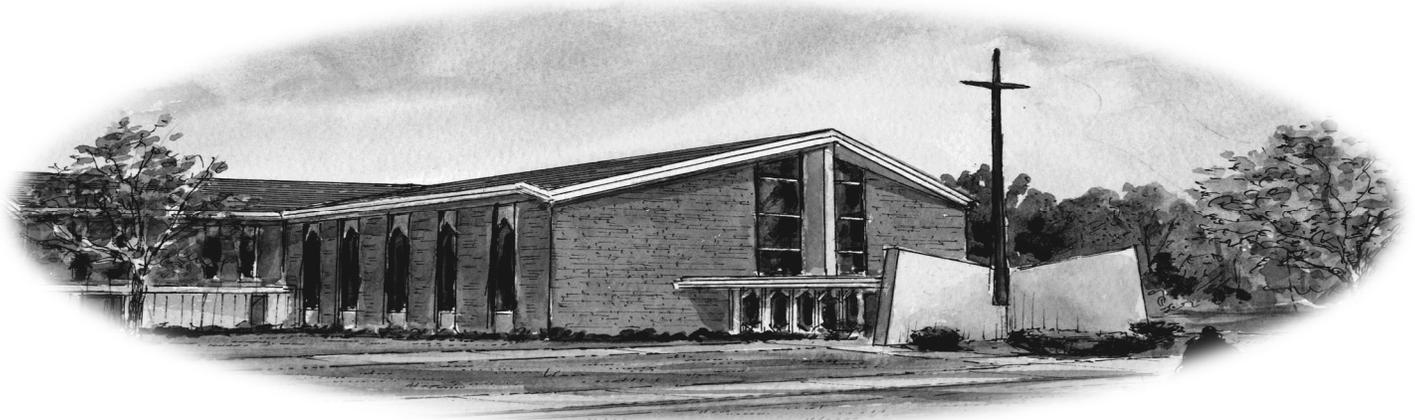
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Mrs. Audrey Saharek

Sacristan

Toni Munoz

Coordinator Elementary Faith Formation Gr. K-6

Mrs. Filomena Marinelli

Coordinator Middle School Faith Formation Gr. 7-12

Confirmation Coordinator

Gina Burby

Director of Music

Mrs. Theodora Niver

Cantors

Vanessa Crowley.....Lorissa Heath
Rosanne Sweeney Gowdy.....Andrew Russo
Heather Picard.....Gianna Bielenda

Rectory Staff Assistant

Mrs. Marguerite Devitt

Rectory Assistant

Marguerite Heinemann

Mass Schedule

Confessions on Saturdays from 3:30 - 4:15pm

in Father Crawford Hall

Vigil Mass: Saturday at 5:00pm

Sunday Masses: 8:30 & 10:30 am

Daily Mass: (Mon. - Fri.) 9:00 am

Recitation of the Rosary for Peace before

9:00 am daily Mass

Sacrament of Baptism

By previous appointment by calling the rectory.

Sundays at 12:30 pm

Weddings

Please contact a priest 6-10 months prior.

New Parishioners - Faith Formation Registration

The Church of the Incarnation

welcomes new parishioners.

Forms are available at the
main entrance of the church.

Please mail or drop off at the rectory.

You may also visit our website for printable forms at:

www.thechurchoftheincarnation.com

Rectory Hours

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Mass Schedule



Saturday, October 30th

5:00pm—Neil R. Esposito

Sunday, October 31st

8:30am— Dolly LaCava

10:30am— Joseph Ed Burke

Monday, November 1st

9:00am—For all our deceased
parishioners & benefactors

Tuesday, November 2nd

9:00am— For all the souls of the faithful
departed

Wednesday, November 3rd

9:00am— Angelo & Angela Nicotera &
the Deceased members of the
Orsini Family

Thursday, November 4th

9:00am— Salvatore Amenta

Friday, November 5th

9:00am— For all our parishioners

Saturday, November 6th

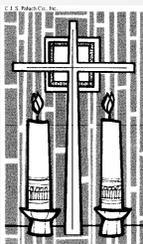
5:00pm— Richard Zablocki

Sunday, November 7th

8:30am—Pasqualino D'Appollonio &
Patty D'Appollonio Glass

10:30am— Jeannine Boudreau

The Sanctuary Candle will
burn from 11/1/2021–11/7/2021
in memory of Beth Phillips
Kempf & the deceased
members of the Burgie &
Phillips Families.



The Blessed Virgin Mary Candle will
burn from 11/1/2021—11/7/2021 in
memory of Alice & Frederick Sanders Sr.

Monday, November 1st is All Saints Day. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 9am.

Incarnation Women's Club Cooking Team will meet this Monday, November 1st from 1-3pm, Fr. Crawford Hall.

There will be a Drive-by House of Bread Collection next Sunday, November 7th from 8am—11am outside of Fr. Crawford Hall. Coffee & sugar are requested. Thanks for your support!

Dear Parishioners: Due to the rescheduling of the Hartford Bishops' Foundation Forward in Faith Campaign, which has been rescheduled to next year, the **2021 Church of the Incarnation Annual Collection has been reinstated** and will be held **during the month of November.** You will receive a letter & donation envelope in the mail soon inviting you to participate in this collection. Thank you.

Thank you to all who donated to the Mission Sunday Collection last weekend.

The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others and defend values in a busy and changing world. Our local council, James J Gannon #4193 will be holding a membership drive at all Masses this weekend, October 30/31. Whether you become an individual member or a member of our council you will find that Knights of Columbus membership brings Catholic men together in a powerful way. If you would like to join today, simply go to KofC.org/joinus and enter your info. or talk to one of the Brothers at the Membership Drive.

A message from the Archdiocese of Hartford:
Due to a further threat of the spread of COVID-19, the archdiocese is requiring the wearing of masks in church for everyone.



BAPTISM

Azianna Kortright

Incarnation Women's Club: The 2021-2022 membership drive is currently underway. Women beyond high school age are eligible for membership. If you need an application, please call the Incarnation rectory at (860) 529-2533, and one will be mailed to you. Thank you.

We thank our **Incarnation Women's Club** for their \$796.64 donation to our parish from the proceeds of this past program year.

The Incarnation Men's Club will be holding their Election of Officers for 2022 in November. Any member interested in running for office call Nominating Committee chairs; Jim Pettit (860) 402-3074 or Henry Perucki (860) 205-6581. Candidates must have been a club member for at least 2 years to run for office.

We wish to thank our Incarnation Garden Ministry Committee under the direction of Tony Colasacco and his crew. The garden flowers were just beautiful this season. We appreciate all of the planting, weeding and watering. Thanks also to Mike Stefano for his expertise at the Chapel entrance! The flowers made our Blessed Virgin Mary Statue even more lovely.

Limited Edition of Commemorative Ornaments of Incarnation Church will once again be available the first weekend of November in the narthex/Fr. Crawford Hall. Sponsored by Incarnation Men's Club. Ornaments are \$5 each, are shatter resistant and will grace any Christmas tree.

Christ the King Parish (Corpus Christi Church), Wethersfield will be adding a 5:15pm Mass the 1st Sunday of each month throughout the school year beginning 10/3.

Corpus Christi School of Wethersfield, a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, will host a special Election Day Open House Tues., Nov., 2nd from 8:30–10:30 AM, Corpus Christi School, 581 Silas Deane Hwy. Prospective students & their families are invited to attend while classes are in session. Corpus Christi offers personalized attention with an average class size of 16 students, specialized after school help, & more! Tours will be available; teachers, students & parents will be on hand to answer questions. The school encompasses Pre K-8th grade. Visit our website <https://corpuschristischoolct.org/> or call 860-529-5487.

East Catholic High School: With the Open House and the first Entrance Exam behind us, there is still a chance to be considered for Merit Scholarship while taking our November 13th Exam. It starts at 8:30 a.m. and continues for about 2 ½ hours. For pre-registration please go to: <https://east-catholic-high-tuition.square.site/>

We invite you to join us for our second "drive thru" version of our beloved House of Bread tradition, the 36th Annual Hunger Banquet! Please join us on Wednesday, November 17, from 11:30am -1pm in the parking lot across from St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church, 285 Church St., Hartford. Meals will include a bowl of soup, a 40th Anniversary mug, and additional goodies as we raise money to benefit our programs. The cost is \$30 per person. Those planning on stopping by to pick up meals can RSVP at info@hobread.org. More info. at www.hobread.org.





PRAYER CORNER

LOVE GOD

As we near the end of the liturgical year we listen to Gospel readings from the final stage of Jesus' ministry—his teaching in Jerusalem. This Sunday Jesus is in conversation with one of the scribes of the temple. In a rare occurrence Jesus and the scribe agree on the two greatest commandments—to love God with all your being and to love your neighbor as yourself.

In today's selection from Deuteronomy Moses gives this teaching to the Israelites as the core of their life of faith and prayer, and Psalm 18 echoes this prayer with the words, "I love you, O LORD, my strength" (Psalm 18:2). Jews and Christians agree that our greatest responsibility is to love the one and only God, and that we cannot claim to love God without loving our neighbor as ourselves.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The LORD, the God of your fathers, will give you a land flowing with milk and honey (Deuteronomy 6:2-6).

Psalm—I love you, Lord, my strength—Psalm 18

Second Reading — Jesus is always able to save those who approach God through him (Hebrews 7:23-28).

Gospel—To love God with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices Mark 12:28b-34.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a

Tuesday: Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-6; Rom 5:5-11 or 6:3-9; Jn 6:37-40, or any readings from no. 668 or from the Masses for the Dead, nos. 1011-1016

Wednesday: Rom 13:8-10; Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9; Lk 14:25-33

Thursday: Rom 14:7-12; Ps 27:1bcde, 4, 13-14; Lk 15:1-10

Friday: Rom 15:14-21; Ps 98:1-4; Lk 16:1-8

Saturday: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Ps 145:2-5, 10-11; Lk 16:9-15

Sunday: 1 Kgs 17:10-16; Ps 146:7-10; Heb 9:24-28; Mk 12:38-44 [41-44]

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time; Halloween

Monday: All Saints

Tuesday: Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day); Election Day

Wednesday: St. Martin de Porres

Thursday: St. Charles Borromeo

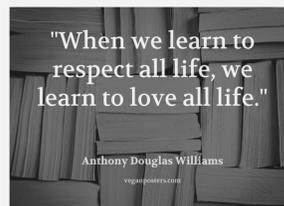
Friday: First Friday

Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time October 31, 2021

**You shall love the LORD, your God,
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your strength.**

— Deuteronomy 6:5



RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Geraldine & Noranne

The Fall Campaign for the 40 Days of Life continues September 22 through October 31. This year the 40 days of Life Prayer Vigil is being held at Planned Parenthood, 1030 New Britain Ave., West Hartford. Parking is available in the fast track lot on New Park Ave. around the corner. Vigil hours begin at 6 am and end at 6 pm everyday from 9/22 -10/31. Call Teresa at (203) 314-9816 for info. Please be in prayer during these days to change hearts and save lives!

Isaiah 54: 13-14 "All your children shall be taught by the Lord. And great shall be the peace of your children. In righteousness you shall be established: you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; And from terror, for it shall not come near you." Loving Father, surround your children with your protection from the Prince of Peace to keep us during these challenging days.

Message from Fr. NickNovember 7, 2021

As you know, Pope Francis has asked every diocese throughout the world to begin a three year journey entitled a Synod on Synodality. Its goal is to reach out to and listen to people everywhere to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us as a church. The Pope wants to hear from everyone, and even if a particular diocese is not participating in this Synod (ours is not), the Vatican has set up a website for anyone to provide their input before April 22, 2022. Contact information can be found at the bottom of the Synod webpage: <https://www.synod.va/en.html>.

In coming weeks I will share with you some of the questions raised for the Synod for us to ponder, not only for our church-at-large, but for our Wethersfield Catholic Community as well.

The Prayer of the Synod: Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

Attributed to St. Isidore of Seville (560- 636), it has been traditionally used at Councils and Synods for hundreds of years. It was recited before every session of every major Council including the Second Vatican Council. The version below was specifically designed for the Church's Synodal journey from 2021 to 2023.

This prayer invites the Holy Spirit to operate within us so that we may be a community and a people of grace. We will be using this prayer in 2022 for our merging parishes here in Wethersfield as well.

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.
All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.*



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission



Church of the Incarnation Faith Formation

Elementary Grades K-6: Our Elementary Faith Formation Program has embarked on a new family structured model. Individual families gather at home to pray, learn, and share their faith. They come together monthly at church for fellowship, to share experiences, and to engage in community outreach.

Elementary Family Gatherings: The second Pflaum Family Gathering K-6: (Parents & Children) - Sunday, November 21st from 11:30-12:30 pm in Fr. Crawford Hall.

Pathways Second SEEK Family Gathering K-6: Mon., November 8th, 6-7pm Fr. Crawford Hall - Group 1 & 2 and Wed., November 10th, 6-7pm, Fr. Crawford Hall - Group 3 & 4

Middle School Grades 7 & 8: Sunday from 6-7pm at Corpus Christi School on November 14th & 21st.

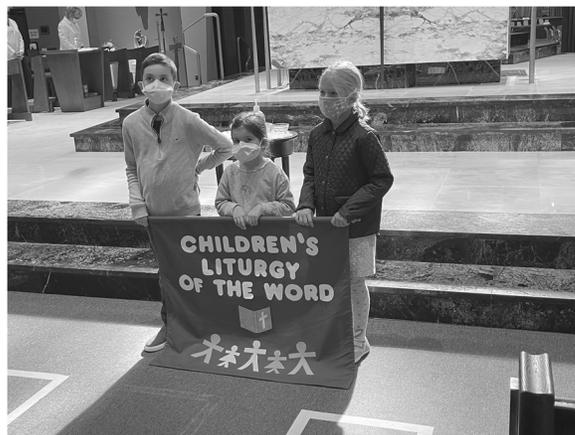
Confirmation Grade 9: Sunday from 6:30-7:30pm at Corpus Christi School on November 14th & 21st.

The Sacrament of Confirmation for Grade 10 will be celebrated on Saturday, October 30th at 11am St. Joseph's Cathedral, Hartford. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit fills the hearts of these young adults.

Family Mass for Middle School & Confirmation Grade 9 students & families will be held the first Sunday of every month, Christ the King Church, 5:15pm. Next Mass is Sunday, Nov., 7th. **All families welcome.**



Reunion picture: Filomena Marinelli & Paula Houlihan's Elementary Faith Formation class gathered for a reunion last Sunday in Fr. Crawford Hall to reflect on and pray together as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on October 30 at St. Joseph's Cathedral. These students were together as a parish faith formation "family" from 1st to 6th grade (2012-2018)! We wish them & all 2021 Confirmation Candidates many blessings as they embark on a new journey as faith-filled young adults inspired by the Holy Spirit to spread the Good News and serve others. Please pray for our young people!



CLW picture: Michael & Elena Campailla & Milena Chudy carry the Children's Liturgy of the Word banner as Elementary Faith Formation Families gathered for Opening Day Mass October 17. This was the very first CLW since the start of the pandemic in March of 2020. Since 2021, CLW has been an integral part of our Sunday liturgy bringing the Gospel message to our children at their developmental level!

Thank you to all Faith Formation Families who joined us on Sunday, October 17 at 10:30 a.m. for our Opening Day Mass and CLW celebration. It was such a warm and wonderful welcome to have our families back with us as we begin a new and exciting "family" faith formation program this year. We ask God's blessings on our children and their parents as they continue to grow in faith.

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