



FIRST

Sunday
OF

Advent

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars.
When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads
because your redemption is at hand.

Luke 21:25, 28

A NEW BEGINNING

Today, whether at evening, morning, or midday, in many communities of different churches around the world, the first candle lighted in each Advent wreath silently but beautifully announces the beginning of a new liturgical year. This new beginning presents a grace-filled opportunity for us to resolve to live not simply according to the secular calendar of our commercialized society, but according to the spirit of the liturgy. There's nothing wrong—indeed there can be something quite holy—about planning to celebrate God's surprising gift of the Son by surprising our loved ones with thoughtful gifts at Christmas. But how important, amid the rush of holiday preparations, to take the time and to make the effort to appreciate Advent's early twilights and later sunrises, awash in the purples, deep blues, and even the dusky rose colors we associate with Advent. Thus we let nature's own "Advent" prompt reflections on the "Advent" that Jeremiah saw coming.

IMAGES OF THE END-TIMES

How forcefully today's scriptures challenge us to attend to the ominous nature of the Kingdom's definitive in-breaking! The call echoes through Jeremiah's prophecy: "In those days, in that time" and in Paul's letter: "at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen." The theme intensifies toward a crescendo in Luke: "there will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth . . . dismay and perplexity." People will be scared to death—literally—"in anticipation of what is coming upon the world," as "seas and waves roar" and "the powers of heaven will be shaken." And all of this will be just a prelude to "the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." In the face of this "awful" (that is, filled-with-awe) ending, Jesus warns his disciples to guard against two equally debilitating extremes, both of which seem to be trademarks of our contemporary culture: deadening diversion on one hand, and frantic anxiety on the other.

PREPARATION FOR THE END-TIMES

In light of these predictions of frightening end-times, Jesus advises us to embrace his three-fold "Preparation for the End Program": (1) "Beware!" that is, be aware of what really matters, life's true priorities. (2) "Be vigilant at all times," that is, watchful for Christ's coming not only at the end but in the meantime, in family and neighbor, friend and stranger. (3) Above all, "pray." Prayer, communion with God, will help us to remember that for faithful disciples, The End of this world—or our own lives, whichever comes first—will be The Beginning of a joy no one can take from us, fullness of life that will never end. How lovely if this Advent's renewal prepared us to look forward to the moment of Jesus' coming—in his glory or our death—not as a cataclysmic disaster, but as a reason for which to "stand erect and raise (our) heads (in joyful expectation) because (our) redemption is at hand."

TODAY'S READINGS

Jeremiah 33:14–16
Psalm 25:4–5, 8–9, 10, 14
1 Thessalonians 3:12 — 4:2
Luke 21:25–28, 34–36

The Church of the Incarnation

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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

MassSchedule



Saturday, November 27th

5:00pm—John Robinson & Baby Sienna

Sunday, November 28th

8:30am—Edward & Bertha Bezruczyk

10:30am—Michael & Joan Riccio

Monday, November 29th

9:00am—For all our parishioners

Tuesday, November 30th

9:00am—Vincent Diana

Wednesday, December 1st

9:00am—James Noonan

Thursday, December 2nd

9:00am—Rita A. Ware

Friday, December 3rd

9:00am—Alessandra DiMattia

Saturday, December 4th

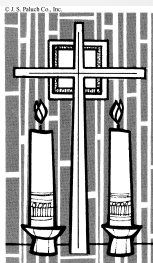
5:00pm—Flora Colasacco

Sunday, December 5th

8:30am—Michael J. Rizzo

10:30am—Raymond C. Esposito

The Sanctuary Candle will burn from 11/29/2021–12/5/2021 in memory of Pietro G. Cieri & Salvatore Santilli.



The Blessed Virgin Mary Candle will burn from 11/29/2021—12/5/2021 in memory of Raymond C. Esposito.

Christmas Flowers: In your packet of December collection envelopes you will find an envelope to provide Christmas flowers in memory of loved ones. Kindly return it before Christmas. Thank you!

Thanks to all who donated to the Campaign for Human Development last weekend.

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 should have received a letter & donation envelope in the mail. If you need a letter/envelope please call the rectory.

"Reaching Out, Healing Together" This weekend is the 2021 Archbishop's Annual Appeal Commitment Weekend. Achieving the 2021 Appeal goal will make it possible for us to sustain the many ministries, outreach and good works carried out in our name throughout the three counties of the Archdiocese of Hartford. Local organizations like; Cathedral of St. Joseph Food Pantry, South Park Inn Homeless Shelter, Imma Care, Catholic Worker House, the Wethersfield Food Bank or Birthright of Hartford, all of which, in different ways, provide our neighbors with material, spiritual and social help. Thank you!

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY:

Geraldine & Noranne

Proverbs 22:6 "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." Loving Father, equip every parent with the Spirit of wisdom, counsel, and understanding to teach and guide their children toward the perfect path and will of their Creator, established before the foundation of the Earth.

A statue of Our Lady of Fatima (the patron Saint of Portugal) is now on display outside the eastside entrance of the church. This beautiful statue was donated to the church in the loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather who had a deep, devoted faith to this patron Saint.

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

BAPTISM



**ARQYN
AERODHYELLE AGUILAR**

Women's Club: The 2021-2022 membership drive is winding down. Please return your application form as soon as you can. If you need a form, call the Incarnation Rectory at (860) 529-2533.

The Incarnation Men's Club held their Election of Officers for 2022. We thank and congratulate the following officers:

President:	Joe Agiato
Vice President:	Jeff Lojko
Treasurer:	John Ewaski
Secretary:	Bob Caron

Limited Edition of Commemorative Christmas Ornaments of Incarnation Church are available in the narthex/Fr. Crawford Hall. Sponsored by Incarnation Men's Club. Donation is \$5.00 per ornament.

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.

EAST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Our Entrance Exam will take place on Saturday, December 11th @ 8:30 a.m. To pre-register, please go to:

https://www.echs.com/Visit_ECHS

Our Shadow Day program is back!!! If your 8th grader would like to discover the "taste of East", please go to https://www.echs.com/Visit_ECHS to begin the process of scheduling a visit. It's also a perfect time to fill out the admissions application by visiting our website, the Admissions tab. #WeAreEC!

News from Fr. Nick

It is my distinct privilege to announce to you the formation of our Transition Team for our pending merger.

The ten members – 5 from Incarnation and 5 from Christ the King – are:

Debbie Abbate, John Ewaski, Jen Faenza, Mike Fote, Jim Gorman, Tom Mahar, Paula Melillo, Ken Mendoza, Sal Santapaola, and Nora Uricchio.

I thank them wholeheartedly for agreeing to serve as an initial Pastoral Council to bring feedback from you to the table, and to help communicate where we are going as the Catholic Church of Wethersfield.

At the time of this writing (the bulletin needs to be submitted a week early because of the Thanksgiving holiday) we are preparing for our initial meeting with Deacon Jim McCormack of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning Team on November 22nd. He will outline for us the next steps, and we will be sharing more of the process with you as this unfolds, seeking your input.

In the meantime, please join me in praying daily for our community.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

First Sunday of Advent

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.



PRAYER CORNER

WATCHFUL CONFIDENCE

We the Church enter into Advent and the new liturgical year with a call for a watchful confidence. Our readings were originally addressed to communities undergoing great loss and confusion. Jeremiah speaks confidently of God fulfilling the ancient promises to Israel, even during a time of foreign invasion. Paul speaks of God leading the Church into holiness, while the community longs for the coming of Jesus. In the Gospel passage from Luke, Jesus speaks of powerful signs and of great confusion to come, but emphasizes that we may look forward knowing that God brings not cause for despair, but hope. We celebrate Advent to remind each other of God's faithfulness. We are to be watchful, to see how God is stirring up our world. God disturbs both our pride and our complacency, and brings us healing and justice. We prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus, confident that God indeed fulfills all these divine promises.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The days are coming when the LORD will fulfill the promise made to Israel and Judah (Jeremiah 33:14-16).

Psalm — To you, O Lord, I lift my soul (Psalm 25).

Second Reading — May the Lord make you increase and abound in love that you may be blameless in holiness; conduct yourselves so as to please God

(1 Thessalonians 3:12 — 4:2).

Gospel — There will be signs and you will see the Son of Man coming with power and great glory. Be vigilant (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36).

First Sunday of Advent November 28, 2021

I will raise up for David a just shoot;
he shall do what is right and just in the land.
— Jeremiah 33:15

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6;
Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent;
Tuesday: St. Andrew, Apostle
Wednesday: World AIDS Awareness Day
Friday: St. Francis Xavier
Friday: St. John Damascene; First Friday
Saturday: First Saturday

Dear Parishioners,

During the Advent Season we have the following books available from Dynamic Catholic:

This year we are featuring our Christmas gift book "Life is Messy" by Matthew Kelly from Dynamic Catholic. We also have some books available with quotes from Fulton Sheen entitled "The Wisdom of Fulton Sheen: 365 Days of Inspiration" That book is a limited supply. We have 325 copies of Life is Messy. All books are a gift from our parish. I am very grateful to a Faith Formation parish family who generously donated 125 Life is Messy books.

Life is Messy: "Born from the three most devastating years of Matthew's life, it has the power to walk and talk with people in their messes and remind them of their deep spiritual needs."

"The greatness of the human spirit often shines brightest when the world is darkest." Quotes from Matthew Kelly.

"The Wisdom of Fulton Sheen is a powerful collection of writings that will encourage you to think differently about who you are, how your life is unfolding, what God is calling you to next and what priorities will lead you to that peace and purpose you desire." These books are free of charge. They will be available at stations in Fr. Crawford Hall, the Narthex and at all church entrances.

*Blessings & Peace, Noranne S. Wamester,
Pastoral Associate & the Dynamic Catholic
Parish Team.*

Message from Fr. NickNovember 28, 2021

As we begin this holy season of Advent, we pay special attention to the ways we are preparing for the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You are invited to a special Advent Mission on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday evenings beginning at 6:30 in Corpus Christi Church, led by Fr. Kingsley Ihejerika, Pastor of St Justin-St Michael Parish in Hartford.

I continue with the themes Pope Francis is encouraging all Catholics around the world to pray on. As I have said, they are most relevant for us here in Wethersfield as well as we are about to merge into one parish and need the Holy Spirit's guidance for direction.

The sixth theme is **Dialogue in Church and Society**. Dialogue requires perseverance and patience, but it also enables mutual understanding. To what extent do diverse peoples in our community come together for dialogue? What are the places and means of dialogue within our local Church? How do we promote collaboration with neighboring parishes, religious communities in the area, lay associations and movements, etc.? How are divergences of vision, or conflicts and difficulties addressed? What particular issues in the Church and society do we need to pay more attention to? What experiences of dialogue and collaboration do we have with believers of other religions and with those who have no religious affiliation? How does the Church dialogue with and learn from other sectors of society: the spheres of politics, economics, culture, civil society, and people who live in poverty?

The seventh theme is **Ecumenism**. The dialogue between Christians of different confessions, united by one baptism, has a special place in the synodal journey. What relationships does our Church community have with members of other Christian traditions and denominations? What do we share and how do we journey together? What fruits have we drawn from walking together? What are the difficulties? How can we take the next step in walking forward with each other?

There is a lot in these questions to think about and pray over. But, only if we immerse ourselves in this discernment process will our new parish become to very best it can be, and truly carry out the work of Jesus in our community. I will conclude with the final three themes next week.





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.

Middle School Grades 7 & 8: Sunday from 6-7pm at Corpus Christi School on December 12th.

Confirmation Grade 9: Sunday from 6:30-7:30pm at Corpus Christi School on December 12th.

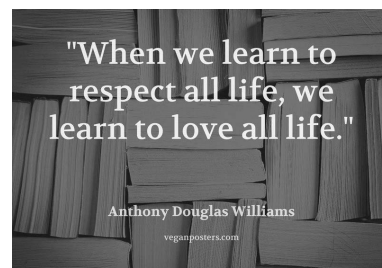
Family Mass for Middle School & Confirmation Grade 9 students & families will be held the 1st Sunday each month, Christ the King Church, 5:15pm. Dates: Dec., 5th & Jan., 2nd, 2022. All families welcome.

Pflaum Elementary Family Gatherings: The next Pflaum Family Gathering K-6: (Parents & Children) will be Sunday, December 12th from 11:30-12:30 pm in Fr. Crawford Hall. Children's Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated at the 10:30am Mass that Sunday.

Pathways Third & Fourth SEEK Family Gathering K-6: Mon., November 29th and Mon., December 13th from 6-7pm Fr. Crawford Hall for Groups 1 & 2 and Wed., December 1st & 15th from 6-7pm, Fr. Crawford Hall for Groups 3 & 4.

Thank you to all who donated to the Thanksgiving Family Event and Outreach!!

Please enjoy some pictures of our Elementary Faith Formation families in the Pathways program this year as they gathered together to begin the first portion of the program entitled SEEK. Parents as well as children gather to discover their relationship with the Lord. Through interactive play & activities, the children learn about God's abundant love for them while parents reflect on the same.



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