

*John the Baptist Preaching  
in the Wilderness*

Gustav Doré

(French, 1832-1883)

1867

nickolae/Adobe Stock

I am baptizing  
you with water,  
but one  
mightier than I  
is coming.  
I am not  
worthy to  
loosen the  
thongs of  
his sandals.

*Luke 3:16*

*Third*  
Sunday of *Advent*

December 12, 2021



# *The Church of the Incarnation*

544 Prospect Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109

## *Rectory Phone*

(860) 529-2533

## *Rectory Fax*

(860) 721-6595

## *New Church E-Mail*

incarnationrectory@gmail.com

## *Church Website Address*

www.thechurchoftheincarnation.com

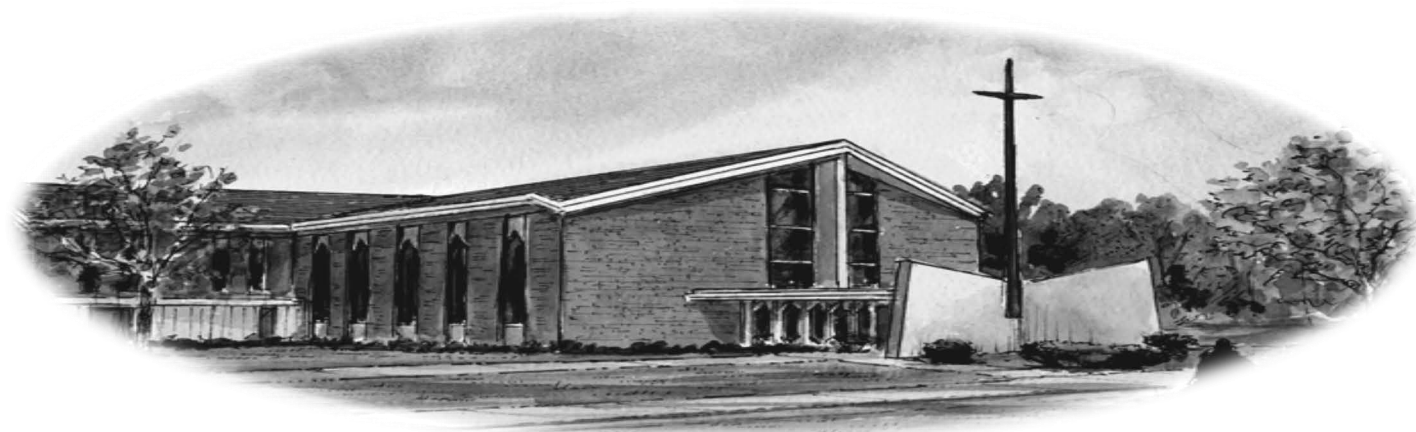
## *Faith Formation* (860) 529-6765

## *Filomena Marinelli's E-Mail*

lightthewayincarnation@gmail.com

## *Gina Burby's E-Mail*

Gina10272@gmail.com



## *Pastor*

Rev. James M. Moran

## *Pastoral Associate*

## *Director of Faith Formation*

Mrs. Noranne Wamester

Gotellit15@gmail.com

## *Pastoral Assistant*

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, December 11th

5:00pm—Christine & Paul Console & Dominick Console

## Sunday, December 12th

8:30am—Josephine Vignone

10:30am—Jim & Marge Amodio

## Monday, December 13th

9:00am—John A. Vignone, Sr., John A. Vignone, Jr. & John Pontillo

## Tuesday, December 14th

9:00am—Nancy & Elio Cavallaro

## Wednesday, December 15th

9:00am—Pietro G. Cieri & Salvatore Santilli

## Thursday, December 16th

9:00am—For all our parishioners

## Friday, December 17th

9:00am—Arthur Boudreau & Jeannine Boudreau

## Saturday, December 18th

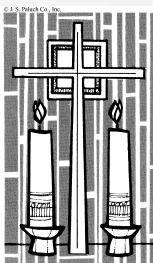
5:00pm—Virginia Nesta & the deceased members of the DeRose Family

## Sunday, December 19th

8:30am—Anton Begusch & Stefanie Begusch, Richard Cornelio & Jason DeLucco

10:30am—Quintino DiCioccio

**The Sanctuary Candle** will burn from 12/13/2021–12/19/2021 in memory of The Deceased members of the Brazel, Carter & Moquin Families.



**The Blessed Virgin Mary Candle** will burn from 12/13/2021—12/19/2021 in memory of the Deceased members of the Bulanti & Goodsell Families.



**The Second collection this weekend** is the Retired Religious collection.

**The Second collection next weekend** will be the monthly collection.

**Women's Club Cooking Team:** Monday, December 13th, 1-3pm, Fr. Crawford Hall.

**Men's Club Meeting:** Wed., Dec. 15th, 7pm, Fr. Crawford Hall.

**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.** So far we have collected \$78,165.00 toward our goal of \$100,000.00. Donations will be gratefully received through 2021. If you need a letter/envelope please call the rectory.

## **2021 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE CONFESSIONS AND MASSES:**



**Christmas Confessions** will be offered on Monday, December 20th from 7-8pm only.

**Christmas Eve this year is Friday, December 24th.** Daily Mass will be held at 9am.

**Christmas Eve Friday Evening, December 24th** we will offer a Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 5pm and a Mass During The Night at 10pm.

**NOTE:** There will be NO 12:00 MIDNIGHT MASS on Christmas Eve.

**Saturday, December 25th, Christmas Morning Masses** will be held at 8:30am & 10:30am.

**There will be NO Vigil Mass on Saturday, December 25th for Sunday, December 26th.**

Sunday, December 26th Masses will be held at 8:30 & 10:30am.

Rectory closed at noon on December 24th.  
Emergency calls only please.

Wishing everyone a Joyous Christmas!

## **BAPTISMS**

**ANTHONY DOMENICO  
KARANDA**



**Women's Club News:** Thank you to everyone who's joined the club this year. To date, we have 200 members. If you haven't already signed up, we're still welcoming additional members. Thank you also to those who came to the October and November General Meetings. It was great to see members in person! There is no Christmas party this year. The cooking teams will continue meeting through the winter, while the next General Meeting will be in March 2022. Check the bulletin in February for updated information about the club's spring schedule.

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

<b>President:</b>	<b>Joe Agiato</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Jeff Lojko</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>John Ewaski</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Bob Caron</b>

**Limited Edition of Commemorative Christmas Ornaments of Incarnation Church** will not be available until next weekend, December 18th & 19th in the narthex/Fr. Crawford Hall. Sponsored by Incarnation Men's Club. Donation is \$5.00 per ornament. This will be the last weekend that the ornaments will be available.

**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.

**We are blessed to have a beautiful outdoor Nativity Scene.** We invite parishioners to take pictures with your family. It is located outside in front of the main entrance of church.



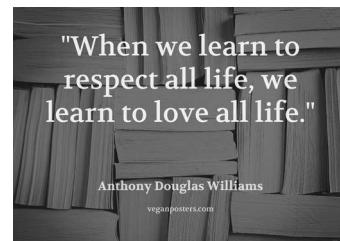
### **News from Fr. Nick**

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. Please join me in praying daily for our community.



**SNOW CANCELLATIONS:** will be announced on WFSB, WVIT & WTIC and also via our website. Please do not call the rectory regarding class cancellations. Thank you.

**Thank you to all who donated to the Drive by House of Bread collection.**

**Xavier Catholic High School will have two Winter Open Houses**, one in December and one in February.



## PRAYER CORNER

### REJOICE

The prophetic writings we hear in today's scriptures call us to rejoice and celebrate the goodness of God. Zephaniah, Isaiah, Saint Paul, and John the Baptist in Luke's Gospel all follow the rich tradition of the Biblical prophets, a tradition that reaches full expression in Jesus. The prophets warn that human failings have truly disastrous consequences. All are summoned to repent, and to change their lives. Today we hear the Good News that God's gracious love exceeds and overcomes all human corruption. God has not given up on us. Indeed, God keeps pursuing us, and eagerly seeks to reconcile with us. God's initiative to set the world aright culminates with Jesus, whose coming John the Baptist announces. John's prophetic message summons us to join in God's reconciling work, by living generously and justly in our daily lives. As we rejoice in God's grace, we then extend the fruits of this grace to all.

### TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Be glad and exult! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

Psalm — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12).

Second Reading — Rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests known to God (Philippians 4:4-7).

Gospel — John tells his hearers to share their possessions with the needy; be honest; do not threaten or accuse others falsely (Luke 3:10-18).

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent  
Monday: St. Lucy  
Tuesday: St. John of the Cross

### Reflection question:

**How am I faithfully awaiting the Lord's Nativity?**

## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Third Sunday of Advent

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30

Friday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Saturday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

## AN ADVENT PRAYER

**May the God of peace make us completely holy.  
May God keep us blameless in spirit, soul and  
body for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Forever faithful is the One who calls us  
God our Father!**

**Expectant, let us live in joyful hope  
for the revelation of the glory  
of our God and Savior, Christ Jesus!**

**To him be glory forever!  
Come, Lord Jesus!**

**Your grace be with us all.**

**Notes from Fr Nick.....December 12, 2021**

Happy Gaudete Sunday! Gaudete is Latin for 'rejoice'! It reflects the joy we should feel in our hearts as our Messiah is drawing close, now that we are more than half way through Advent. That is also why we light the rose candle and wear rose vestments on this day. But while we are urged to recognize that joy within us, we are also reminded that there is an urgency to continue to prepare a place in our hearts and in our lives for Jesus to dwell at Christmas. If we don't take the time to prepare, Christmas will not be any more special than any other day of the year. May we heed John the Baptist's call and 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord!'

Also drawing near is the coming together of the entire Catholic community of Wethersfield. Our Transition Team has met and, under the leadership of Deacon Jim McCormack of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning Committee, have put together three committees of our own.

The Pastoral Care Committee will work to help us understand the need for the changes we undergoing and the opportunities this will give to our town. Debbie Abbate, John Ewaski and Paula Melillo have agreed to lead this committee.

The Communication Committee will be responsible for sharing up-to-date information about the merger, correct misinformation that may be circulating, and dispel rumors by providing accurate responses to questions and concerns. Jen Faenza, Jim Gorman, and Nora Uricchio have formed this committee.

The Finance Committee, because of the confidential and sensitive nature of financial data, is made up of current members of each of our Finance Councils – Mike Fote, Tom Mahar, Ken Mendoza, Sal Santapaola, and Nora Uricchio. They are meeting to plan how to merge budgets and charts of accounts. While the financial piece is confidential, they will be reaching out to the Building & Grounds committees of each of our parishes for input into what capital is needed for improvements/maintenance of our facilities.

Each of these committees will be looking to expand its membership to provide everyone with the chance to have input into the formation of our new parish. If you would like to be part of one of these committees, please reach out to members on the committees, or call either of the rectory offices and leave your name and contact information.





## **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: 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 this Sunday.

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

November 15, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

There is a verse in the Book of Ecclesiastes 3 which says "There is an appointed time for everything and a time for every affair under the heavens." Within this scripture are two more phrases "A time to end" and "A time to keep."

For me, it is time to end my time at the Church of the Incarnation. I have been privileged to work for the Archdiocese of Hartford for 43+ years. I have served here for 38+ years and also served for five years as a teacher at St. Augustine School. It is time to retire. My retirement date is scheduled for December 31, 2021. My heart is filled with gratitude to our loving God for guiding me on this incredible journey.

It is time now to keep and reflect on all of the beautiful blessings that I have experienced. I will treasure these memories all the days of my life. From the children, to the teens, to the young adults, to the families, to the wonderful coordinators of Faith Formation, to the catechists and mentors, to the bereaved and to the lonely and to my dear FFAB sisters, I say thank you for sharing your stories (joy-filled and sorrow-filled) of life that have touched my heart deeply. You are all God's treasures and celebrate that each and every day.

Needless to say, this is a bittersweet moment in time, but through prayer and discernment, the time is right and in God's plan.

I am so grateful to have served with wonderful Pastors: Father John Crawford, Father John Edwards and Father James Moran. Their leadership and guidance for the people of Incarnation will forever be appreciated. I wish also to thank the entire staff, both past and up to the present for their faithfulness to our parish family.

I thank my dear husband Bill for his love and support throughout all of these years and my dear family who have always been there for me in support of my ministry.

I would like to leave you with my favorite quote from Micah 6 "This is what God asks of you: only this: to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God."

*Love, Blessings & Peace, Noranne S. Wamester, Pastoral Associate/Director of Faith Formation*



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