

December 26, 2021



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The Holy Family

OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

After three days Jesus' parents found him in the temple,
sitting in the midst of the teachers,
listening to them and asking them questions.

Luke 2:46

The Church of the Incarnation

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Pastor

Rev. James M. Moran

Pastoral Associate

Director of Faith Formation

Mrs. Noranne Wamester

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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

Sunday, December 26th

8:30am– Tommaso & Maria Maccarone & Roger & Gisele Cyr

10:30am–Miguel & Mariana Gaspar

Monday, December 27th

9:00am—Sarah Ann Marie Privitera, Tina & Myles Connolly Sr., Carmelo Privitera, Nicholas Damato Jr., & Sr., & Mark Rioux

Tuesday, December 28th

9:00am– Mark Campitello

Wednesday, December 29th

9:00am– George Clark

Thursday, December 30th

9:00am– For all our parishioners

New Year's Eve.....

Friday, December 31st

9:00am– For all deceased members of the Men's & Women's Club

New Year's Day.....

Saturday, January 1st, 2022

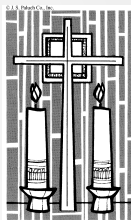
9:00am—For all our parishioners

Sunday, January 2nd, 2022

8:30am–A Special Intention for Harold Walmsley

10:30am–Anthony Melillo

The Sanctuary Candle will burn from 12/27/2021–1/2/2022 in memory of Anthony Melillo.



The Blessed Virgin Mary Candle

will burn from 12/27/2021—1/2/2022 in memory of the deceased members of the Forgetta, Labbadia & Davia Family.



Next weekend the church continues our Christmas celebration with the Feast of the Epiphany, marking Jesus' being made known to people in every part of the world.

The crèche, while a depiction of Jesus' birth in a manger, also reflects the people who created that particular crèche. As a result, every crèche is unique and different, and tells a story about the people in the region it is from. We invite you to bring a Nativity from your home to be blessed at Mass next weekend. If it is too large, you can bring just the Baby Jesus. During Mass we will say a special prayer of blessing & sprinkle them with holy water, so that you can bring that blessing back home with you.



Wishing everyone a Joyous Christmas season & a Happy, Healthy & Holy New Year!

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

2022 NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 1, 2022, The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. We will celebrate a 9am Mass on Saturday morning, 1/1/2022.

There will be NO Vigil Mass on Saturday, January 1, 2022 for Sunday, January 2, 2022. Masses on Sunday, January 2, 2022 will be at 8:30am & 10:30am.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. 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.

FAQS: Building a new Parish from Incarnation and Christ the King

Q: Will the parishes of Christ the King and Incarnation be merged to create a new, combined parish?

A: As of January 1, 2022, Fr Nick will be pastor of both Christ the King and Incarnation. He will be the pastor of the new combined parish. We are hoping that the official merger of the two parishes will be effective by July 1, 2022.

Q: Why are the parishes being merged?

A: To reflect changing realities of diminishing church attendance combined with a shortage of priests. The merger is designed as an important first step to better position our local church to meet the current & future needs of Wethersfield.

Q: What is the vision for the merger?

A: To establish a new, vibrant, welcoming, dynamic and growing parish, one which loves and honors God, respects, loves and welcomes all people, & makes disciples who change the world.

Q: What will be the name of the new combined parish?

A: To be determined. When Corpus Christi, Sacred Heart and St. Luke merged into Christ the King in 2017, we knew the possibility of further consolidation existed. And so while it makes sense to see this merger as having Incarnation join with Corpus Christi, Sacred Heart and St. Luke as Christ the King, and while it makes sense from a legal and canonical perspective as well, the Transition Team will have input into the final decision.

Q: Will the name of our churches change?

A: No. The names of the church buildings will remain the same, and will be used to identify the campus locations that form the one combined Parish.

Q: Will the churches of Christ the King and Incarnation remain open?

A: Yes. Both church buildings will remain open. Each church building will be a campus of the combined Parish. The current Mass schedules at each church will continue for 2022, but will be streamlined for 2023.

Q: What priests will staff the new parish?

A: We will be fortunate to have three priests ministering during 2022. Fr. Nick will be the Pastor. Fr. Moran will be the Senior Parochial Vicar, and Fr. George will be the Parochial Vicar. Fr. Moran will retire in February 2023, at which time only Fr. Nick & Fr. George will serve our new Parish.

Q: Which church(es) will be available for sacraments and funerals?

A: Sacramental life will be available at Corpus Christi, Incarnation, and Sacred Heart churches.

Q: Will offices at both campuses remain open?

A: Yes, for now. As the merger evolves and progresses, office hours, availability, and locations will be developed to ensure the best possible service to our new parish community.

Q: What happens to the parishes' financial resources?

A: The financial resources of both parishes will be combined, and the Finance Councils, along with Archdiocesan guidance, will provide oversight of these processes.

Q: What other changes can we expect?

A: The merger will entail a number of 'behind-the-scenes' as well as more visible issues. For example, the Transition Team is serving as the Pastoral Council for the immediate time, and we will then hold an election to create a new Pastoral Council. The Finance Councils of both parishes are already meeting to prepare budgets for 2022. Because we have not legally merged yet, separate budgets need to be prepared, but in doing them together, they are anticipating one joint budget going forward. The Faith Formation programs have merged for Middle and High School, and the Elementary School programs will merge for the Fall of 2022. Mens' and Womens' groups, Social Action, and Building Committees are already joining forces as well. The intent is to have stronger and more efficient sustainable resources to carry us into the future. Pastoral, administrative and ministry functions will be streamlined to more efficiently serve and support the combined parish.

Q: Where can I find updated merger information?

A: The Transition Team has a Communications Committee. They will be sharing information via the bulletin, the websites, Facebook (facebook.com/ChristtheKingCT), email, and announcements at Mass. If you have questions, please send an email to incarnation.ctk@gmail.com.



PRAYER CORNER

FAMILY LIFE

Christmas celebrates the Incarnation, the “en-flesh-ment” of God as a human person. In Jesus, God is bodily present in the human story. Today we honor the Holy Family, helping us to see that God is active in daily family life. God is near at hand, amidst the tensions, joys, and uncertainties of family life. As our Gospel passage describes, even with family miscommunications and with limited understanding of Jesus’ mission, the Holy Family persevered in their life together. Like many family conflicts, there was no immediate or clear resolution of the issues raised by Jesus and by Mary. God’s intentions for the family, and for Jesus, were still unfolding. They continued to stay connected with each other and with God. Within the turbulence of family life, they trusted God to actively sustain and guide them into an uncertain future. We are invited to follow their example.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Hannah gives her son Samuel back to the LORD, leaving him in the temple at Shiloh: “As long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD” (1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28) or Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14.

Psalm — Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord (Psalm 84) or Psalm 128.

Second Reading — We are children of God when we believe in the name of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us (1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24) or Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17].

Gospel — Joseph and Mary find the lost Jesus in the temple in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking questions (Luke 2:41-52).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Monday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Tuesday: The Holy Innocents

Wednesday: Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket

Thursday: Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

Friday: Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Sylvester I; New Year’s Eve

Saturday: The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; Mary, the Holy Mother of God; World Day of Prayer for Peace;

First Friday; New Year’s Day; First Saturday

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 \$89,00.00 toward our goal of \$100,000.00. Donations will be gratefully received through 2021.



Luke 1:31-32 "Behold, (archangel Gabriel) you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, Good and gentle Father, thank you for giving us your son, Emanuel, and entrusting St Joseph, his earthly father to protect and nurture him.

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.

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.

Notes from Fr Nick.....December 26, 2021

I hope and pray that you had a wonderful start to your Christmas season. That's right, Christmas is not over, even though you could never tell by looking at our society. In fact, we celebrate Christmas for TWO more weeks. Make sure you leave your tree up as well as the lights and decorations until **January 9th**! Continue to play those Christmas carols as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior.

Today the church does that with the Feast of the Holy Family. We reflect on Jesus' supporting cast when he came into this world – the influence and role of Mary and Joseph. Without them, Jesus would not have been able to grow into the man he did. We look to the Holy Family for the example of how we can and should live as holy families as well. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

As a side note, unfortunately, St. Stephen gets the overlooked this year because it falls on a Sunday. His feast day is December 26th. Stephen was a deacon of our church, and the first martyr, giving his life for Jesus Christ. Let us pray that through his intercession, we too might always and everywhere give witness to the world around us to Jesus and his Gospel! St. Stephen, pray for us!

Next Sunday the Christmas celebration continues with the Feast of the Epiphany, recalling Jesus' being made manifest to the entire world. God sent His Son not just to save a few close, chosen people. He came so that **everyone** could have the hope of a new and eternal life. When you come to church next weekend, we invite you to bring your Nativity from home to be blessed during Mass. If it is a large set, simply bring the baby Jesus. During Mass you will be asked to hold the Nativity as we say a prayer of blessing and sprinkle them with holy water.

And finally, we will conclude the Christmas season the following Sunday – January 9th – with the celebration of Jesus' baptism. This marked the beginning of his public ministry, doing the work which his Father sent him to do. We recall, at the same time, our own baptism, and the work **we** were asked by God to do here on earth. As we conclude the calendar year, let us give thanks to God for all the blessings of 2021, and let us ask Him to open our hearts to receive all that He will give us this coming year. Happy New Year to all!

Christ The King/Incarnation Merger

The Transition Team encourages all parishioners to refer to this bulletin for the FAQ's regarding the merger that will be taking place within the Christ the King and Incarnation communities. In addition, if there are any questions or concerns that you would like to share with the Transition Team you may e-mail them to the team at the following e-mail address: incarnation.ctl@gmail.com

The websites can be found at:

<https://www.thechurchoftheincarnation.com>

<https://www.christthekingparishct.org>



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 **Jan. 2, 9, 23, and 30.**

Confirmation Grade 9: Sunday from 6:30-7:30pm at Corpus Christi School on **Jan. 2, 9, 23, and 30.**

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, January 9** from 11:30-12:30 pm in Fr. Crawford Hall.

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated on **January 9 and 23** at the 10:30 am Mass.



Advent Angel Tree of Giving Outreach:

Thank you to all our parishioners and in particular our faith formation families for their generous toy donations to CT Children's Medical Center (CCMC) in honor of Elizabeth Carcia. The outpouring was a wonderful testament to our most giving parish. A special and most gracious thank you to the Carcia family who has coordinated the Angel Tree Project at our church for the past 23 years.



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: Fr. John Crawford, Fr. John Edwards & Fr. 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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