



A VOICE CAME
FROM HEAVEN,
“YOU ARE MY
BELOVED SON;
WITH YOU I AM
WELL PLEASED.”

LUKE 3:22

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 9, 2022

A MODEL FOR OUR PRAYER LIFE

The Advent/Christmas cycle that began on November 28 ends with the Baptism of the Lord. We likely have an image in our minds (based on details from the Gospels and works of art) of what that scene looked like. We might wonder, “Who else was there and who wasn’t?” No disciples were present because Jesus had not yet begun his ministry. They would have to wait until the Transfiguration to hear a similar message. However, the three persons of the Blessed Trinity are accounted for: the Father (the voice from heaven), the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Interestingly, Luke alone notes that it was after Jesus had been baptized and while he was praying that the voice was heard. All of the Gospels show Jesus praying at turning points in his ministry; this is but the first example of Jesus’ need to root himself in prayer throughout his life—a model for us to follow.

ON THE CUSP OF A NEW CREATION

It was on the Fourth Sunday of Advent this past December that we first heard of the two cousins, John and Jesus, meeting. Then it was in the womb of their mothers, Elizabeth and Mary. Now the cousins meet again on the shore of the Jordan River. John is already well known—so much so that people had begun to wonder if he was the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus, on the other hand, is about to begin his ministry. One could say that Jesus entered the waters of the Jordan as a private person and came out of them as a public one. The voice from heaven left no doubt about that. As we come to the end of the Christmas season our readings echo Isaiah and Titus (see Advent and Christmas Day readings) and together with today’s Psalm 104 they point us to Pentecost. We are on the cusp of a new creation.

JOHN THE BAPTIST: PATRON SAINT OF LITURGICAL MINISTERS?

John the Baptist was what we might call today a “social influencer.” People paid attention to what he had to say. And what he said affected the choices people made. Yet today’s Gospel reminds us of John the Baptist’s ultimate goal: “One mightier than I is coming.” The Baptizer walks the fine line between drawing attention to himself with his fiery preaching and then re-directing that attention to Jesus, the “beloved Son.” John the Baptist could be considered the “patron saint” of those who minister as lectors, extraordinary ministers of the eucharist, cantors, greeters, acolytes, and musicians. Isn’t John’s teaching a good goal for a liturgical (or any!) minister? Rooted in the graces of their own baptism, ministers must be skilled and confident enough to draw people’s attention (or, at least, not turn them off!) and then gradually re-focus that attention on Jesus. It is a dynamic and awesome responsibility.

TODAY’S READINGS

Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11
Psalm 104:1b–2, 3–4, 24–25,
27–28, 29–30
Titus 2:11–14; 3:4–7
Luke 3:15–16, 21–22

The Church of the Incarnation

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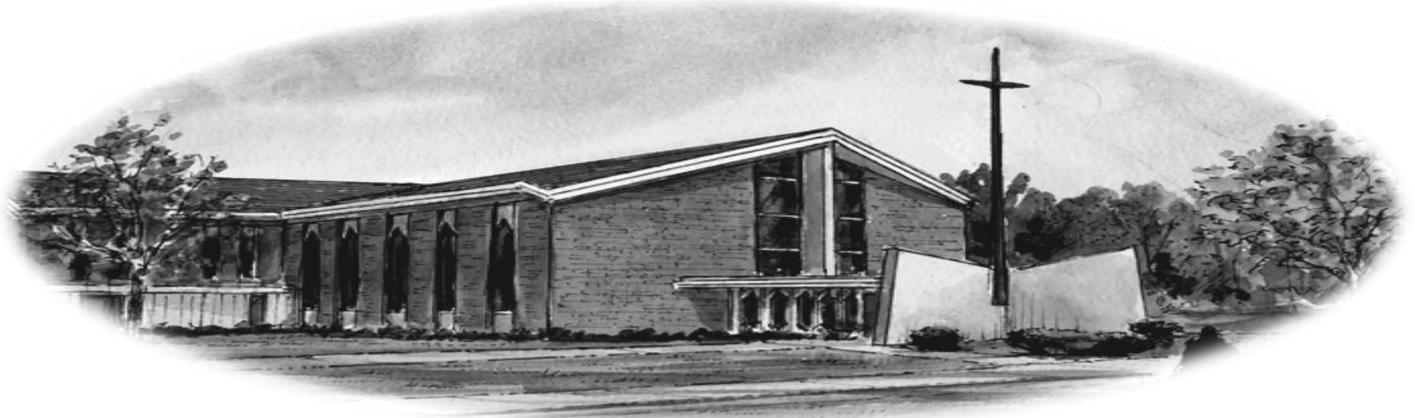
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Faith Formation (860) 529-6765

Gina Burby's E-Mail

Gina10272@gmail.com



Pastor

Reverend Nicholas P. Melo

Senior Parochial Vicar

Reverend James M. Moran

Pastoral Assistant

Mrs. Audrey Saharek

Sacristan

Toni Munoz

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, January 8th

5:00pm- Rose L. Cecere

Sunday, January 9th

8:30am- Robert & Anna Liegl

10:30am- John Biancamano

Monday, January 10th

9:00am—Special Intention for James & Diane Allen & Family

Tuesday, January 11th

9:00am- Special Intention for Jen & Ted Jasmin & Family

Wednesday, January 12th

9:00am- For all our parishioners

Thursday, January 13th

9:00am- Joanne & Fred Lepore

Friday, January 14th

9:00am- John L. & Angela D'Onofrio

Saturday, January 15th

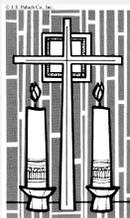
5:00pm—Paul D. Console

Sunday, January 16th

8:30am-Rita, Robert & Christopher Sulick

10:30am-Lidia DiCioccio

The Sanctuary Candle will burn from 1/10/2022–1/16/2022 in memory of Gerald N. & Selma W. Sciarra, James P. Ridolfo, Jr., & Angelo Tomasso, Jr.



The Blessed Virgin Mary Candle will burn from 1/10/2022—1/16/2022 in memory of Flora Salvatore.



QUINN ANNE ALLISON



The Second collection this weekend is the monthly collection.

Thank you for all of your generous donations to our 2021 Annual Collection. We have reached our Goal of \$100,000.

We will not begin accepting 2023 Masses, Sanctuary & Blessed Virgin Mary Candles until further notice. Please check the bulletin after Easter for more information. Thank you for understanding.

If you are leaving Wethersfield for the winter, please notify the rectory so that we can place your envelopes on inactive. When you return, kindly call & we will re-activate. Thank you!

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

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.

It is with mixed emotions that we have been informed that Archbishop Blair has transferred Fr. George Vellapackil from our parishes here in Wethersfield to Branford, and is moving Fr. Zacharias Pushpanathan from Oakville to Wethersfield. We thank Fr. George for all he has done since the inception of Christ the King Parish. His enthusiasm, his willingness to serve the spiritual needs of our community, and one cannot forget his weekly jokes in the bulletin will all be missed.

We also welcome Fr. Zacharias who will be part of our team as we transition into a single parish for our community. He will begin on Monday, January 10th.

Pastor's Corner

At Mass last weekend, I prefaced my homilies with the following comments, and thought I would include them for the bulletin this week for those who were not able to make it to Mass for the Epiphany:

First and foremost, a heartfelt appreciation goes out to Fr. Moran who has led this community for so many years, and before that, having served across town when it was known as Corpus Christi Parish. I knew Fr. Moran way back when I was in seminary. His dedication and faithful service as God's priest is an inspiration to me. I appreciate his willingness to continue to lend a hand as we go forward with this merger. Not all priests in my situation are fortunate to have the backing and assistance that Fr. Moran is extending. I am most grateful for his friendship and support.

We have the opportunity to make the very best parish possible. I am excited by the possibilities of what we can do united as the Catholic Community of Wethersfield.

It is not a coincidence that we begin this process on the Feast of Epiphany, for we do indeed follow a star. We follow the Light, who is Jesus Christ. We allow the Holy Spirit to show us the way.

Fr. Richard Rohr's 'Prayer for our Community' is an appropriate prayer for us. It expresses well what some of the temptations are, and where we need to go. We will pray it after every Mass this year, but I encourage you to use it in your personal prayer as well.

I am encouraged by the efforts of our Transition Team. There are 5 members from Incarnation Parish and 5 from CTK. They have formed three committees and are looking for help with those committees. There is a dedicated email address in this bulletin where you can offer help or ask questions.

One of the major issues facing us as a parish, but also as a diocese, is how to get people back to church every week – not just once in a while, not just at Christmas and Easter, not just when they have time – but every week. After all, what we do here week after week is what nourishes and strengthens us to do everything else we do, and it is what leads us, as you will hear me say at every Mass, ever closer to our ultimate goal of spending eternity in the Father's Kingdom of true and lasting peace.

We will keep the Mass schedules of both parishes for the foreseeable future, but in 2023 (when there are only two priests to serve the Town) the number of Masses will be reduced. Which Masses remain and where will be determined by your attendance!

In the meantime, I look forward to meeting you, worshiping our God with you, and doing the work of the Lord with you. May our newborn Savior bless our endeavors today and always.



“After many years of devoted service to the Christ The King Social Action Committee Food Drive, Catherine Curran and her husband have decided to take a well deserved break. We are now in need of a food deliverer for the 3rd week-end of the month to the Wethersfield Food Bank. Please call MJ Densmore if you're able to serve this worthy cause (860)529-9928.”

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Hartford Division 2 is sponsoring a Food Drive on Sunday, January 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Christ the King (parking lot that is between the church and middle school.) This drive is part of the regular parish food collection. We will be available after 10:15 a.m., Mass on 1/16 for anyone who wishes to donate. All food will be donated to the St. Augustine Church Food Pantry in Hartford. Please donate non-perishable food items. Canned meats, soups, pinto & pink beans are of greatest need. Also requested is cooking oil, spices & condiments. The need for pantry donations is high in the winter months after the holiday drives are over. Thanks for your generosity!



PRAYER CORNER

BAPTISMAL DEATH AND RESURRECTION

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, we also honor our own baptism as our initiation into the Christian life and community. In the Gospel, the baptism of Jesus, with his immersion and then emergence from the water, points to his later submission to God at his death, and his emergence from the grave at his resurrection. This pattern of death and resurrection is our path too, as followers of Jesus. Throughout life, often in small ways, we learn to surrender our limited and self-centered agendas. This surrender often feels like death. The sacrament of Baptism ritually enacts this pattern to remind us of Jesus' death and resurrection, so that we too might embrace the deaths and resurrections of our own lives. As Jesus emerged from the water, he encountered his Father and the Holy Spirit. Like Jesus, we can know we are God's beloved, empowered by the Spirit.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Isaiah speaks of the Servant whom the Lord upholds; he shall bring forth justice to the nations

(Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7) or Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11.

Psalm — The Lord will bless his people with peace (Psalm 29) or Psalm 104.

Second Reading — Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit; he went out healing and doing good

(Acts 10:34-38) or Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7.

Gospel — A voice comes from heaven proclaiming Jesus as the beloved Son, with whom God is well pleased (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17

Sunday: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord
 Monday: First Week in Ordinary Time
 Thursday: St. Hilary
 Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

The Baptism of the Lord
 Almighty ever-living God,
 who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,
 solemnly declared him your beloved Son,
 grant that your children by adoption,
 reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
 may always be well pleasing to you.
 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.

The Baptism of the Lord January 9, 2022

He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.— Titus 3:5

Reflection question:

What can I do this week to be well pleasing to God?

Beyond Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 7pm via Zoom. Contact Deacon Michael Cassella for Zoom link - mecassella@gmail.com or call (860) 965-2526.

Pastor's Corner – January 9, 2022

Today the Church ends our celebration of Christmas with the Baptism of Jesus, a recalling of the beginning of Jesus' public ministry – doing the work his Father sent him to earth to accomplish.

It is a good time for each of us to recall our own baptism, and to realize it was on that day that we began our faith life – a journey that has brought us to this day. It is a great time to reflect on how our relationship with our God has grown since that day, to give God thanks for that growth, and to ask for the strength to continue to nurture our relationship with Him.

Fr. Richard Rohr recently blogged about 'practice'. He said that practice is "an essential *re-set button* that we must push many times before we can experience any genuine newness. Whether we're aware of it or not, we are practicing all the time.

It is strange", he says, "that we have come to understand the importance of practice in sports, in most therapies, in any successful business, and in any creative endeavor; but for some reason most of us do not see the need for it in the world of religion, where it is probably more important than in any other area. 'New wine demands fresh skins or otherwise we lose both the wine and the container,' as Jesus put it (see Mark 2:22; Luke 5:37–38). Practices, more than anything else, create a new container for us, one that will protect the new wine we wish to take in."

As we reflect on our baptism, let us ask ourselves how we have allowed those graces to flow and grow within us in our practice of the faith. We must ask ourselves how these practices draw us closer to our God, and what is needed in our practices to draw even closer than ever before.

One of the reasons for the consolidation of parishes throughout the archdiocese is the fact that so many people no longer see the need to 'practice' their faith on a regular basis. With so few people coming weekly for Mass, for instance, it no longer makes sense to have as many parishes and/or Mass times. Over the course of this year, we will be looking at the number of people practicing Catholicism here in Wethersfield, and, based on those numbers, draw up a new Mass schedule for 2023.

May we thank God for the gift of baptism, and pray that the graces we received on that day will strengthen us to continue to practice our faith, allowing Jesus to lead us ever closer to our ultimate goal of spending eternity in the Father's Kingdom of true and lasting peace.

**We thank the Kuo Family for placing
the infant Jesus in our beautiful
outdoor crèche on Christmas Eve
morning.**





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, & 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, 6-7pm at Corpus Christi School on Jan. 9, 23, and 30.

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

Family Mass for Middle School & Confirmation Grade 9 students & families will be held the 1st Sunday of each month, Christ the King Church, 5:15pm. Next date: Feb., 6th, 2022. All families are welcome.

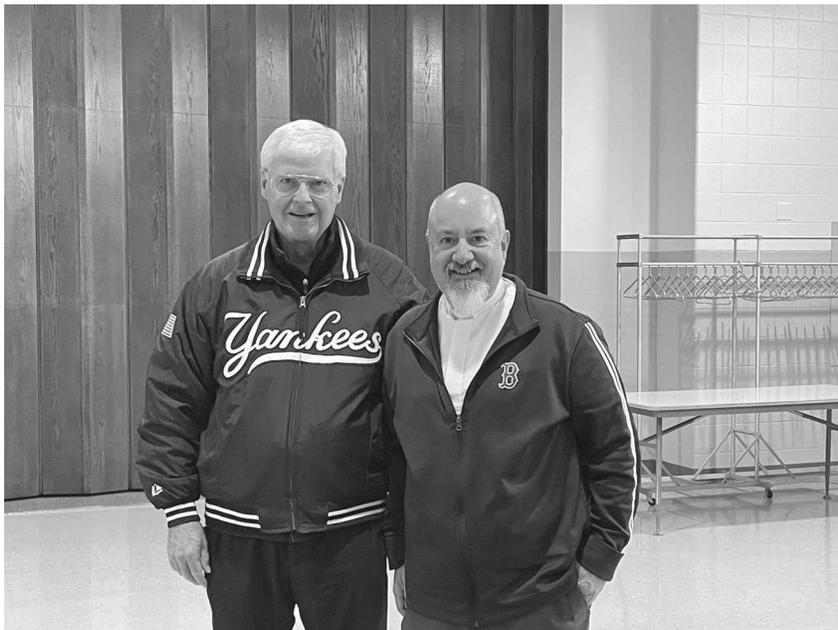
Pflaum Elementary Family Gathering **will NOT be held this Sunday, January 9th** from 11:30-12:30 pm in Fr. Crawford Hall. Thank you.

Children's Liturgy of the Word has been cancelled for all of January due to the higher positivity rate. Please see this bulletin for the February schedule. Thank you!

"The ABCs of Annulment" Saturday, January 22nd, 10AM-Noon, Church Hall of St. Margaret Church, 24 Academy Street, Madison. Open to all at no cost. Participants will receive a folder with the required printed materials. No registration required. Call Br. Larry at (475) 221-8464 or email brolarlus300@gmail.com.

Dear Fr. Nick:

Incarnation Parish Family welcomes you as our new pastor. Please be assured of our commitment to join you in building a strong faith filled community here in Wethersfield. We appreciate your outreach to us through your messaging filled with words of encouragement and dedication. Let us pray confidently for one another! God bless you and God bless us, one and all.



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